

OUR PARISH NEWSLETTER



from the Reformed Presbyterian Church | Summer 2025



CONTENTS

<i>You Need a Rest!</i>	3
<i>How did you become a Christian? - Jimmy Fisher</i>	5
<i>What to Expect</i>	6
<i>Our Work in Wishaw</i>	8
<i>Dates for your diary</i>	10



@AirdrieRPCS



@AirdrieChurch

EDITORIAL

Dear neighbours,

One of society's tensions is the demand for 24-7 services vs. desires and proposals for workers to work less. The rates of work-related stress paint a sorry picture, as people suffer physically and mentally. The problem is that our society does not have a communal day of rest. Some may say that this difficulty is overcome if individuals ensure they take time to recharge. However, there are more benefits to society resting on the same day.

The Bible shows us the blessing of the day of rest right from its first pages. The Sabbath helps us recharge the batteries from six days of labour. Without rest we potentially burn out. Without rest we have a work-life imbalance. Without rest we lose social cohesion.

The Bible also shows us that the Christian day of rest looks backwards and forwards. It looks back to the day when Jesus rose from the dead and so we call it the Lord's Day. Interestingly, the Russian word for Sunday literally means "resurrection." His resurrection gives hope for everlasting life and so Sundays also look forward to heaven, the future for those who know and love Jesus, the risen Saviour.

Society would greatly benefit from turning back to the Lord's Day – not in a joyless and austere way but rather appreciating the fullness and richness of the blessings that Jesus gives.

Every blessing,
Stephen (Minister)



You Need A Rest!

Has anyone ever told you that you need a holiday? We look forward to getting away for a few days for some rest and relaxation. But the topic of rest is bigger than holidays. Jesus once gave this invitation, “Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28). What does he mean?

1. The Invitation

The invitation is not to come to an idea (to explore Christianity as a philosophy) but to come to a person (to come to Jesus who knows our fundamental problem and can deliver us from it). At the heart of Christianity is the person of Jesus Christ. His life, death, and resurrection are powerful – you only have to read the claims he makes about himself in the Bible to see that. Christianity is not about trying to be a better person. It is all about the Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Who does Jesus invite?

In short Jesus invites everyone. More specifically we can say that he invites:

- (i) Those who are labouring for happiness, peace, and satisfaction. Such happiness will never ultimately be found in the things that the world offers. Nothing here satisfies for long.
- (ii) Those who are labouring to become a better person. Self-help books are in abundance. But there are no easy fixes. You may want to be

different, but can you really change yourself?

(iii) Those who are heavy laden with burdens, particularly with the burden of sin, shame, and guilt. We have broken God's law and we can't undo our past sins.

Everyone is invited to come to Jesus.

3. The Promise of Rest

Jesus promises rest from the sin's guilt, curse, burden, and reign. He promises peace and joy. He promises an end to striving after the wind – seeking satisfaction in the emptiness of this life. He promises a real rest – not a holiday to help us temporarily. He promises us everlasting life if we will only come and take him at his word. He is a Saviour who is willing to save.

SPREAD LOVE, NOT HATE

How the message of Christianity is needed today



**VIDEOS OF THE SERMONS
FROM OUR RECENT
MISSION ARE AVAILABLE
ON OUR YOUTUBE**



How did you become a Christian?

Jimmy Fisher



If you asked me years ago if I was a Christian, I would have said with all sincerity, yes. My mother was a Christian and I attended church until I was a teenager. Then friends became more important, but God understood that, right? I went along occasionally as an adult. I didn't read my Bible every day and maybe I only prayed when I needed something, but I believed in God and was generally a good person, so I was okay.

My brother-in-law had been reading *The Da Vinci Code* and asked me if I wanted to visit Rosslyn Chapel, which features in that book. I didn't know a great deal about the place, but it looked interesting, so we went. We had the usual guided tour and afterwards split up and had a wander around ourselves. After a while I sat alone in one of the pews.

Sitting a few rows in front of me was a young man who got down on his knees and was praying fervently, oblivious to the tourists around him. A strange feeling of fear came upon me. It wasn't panic, but a deep, worrying concern about my relationship with God. Here was a man with a personal relationship with God, totally unconcerned about anyone around him. I thought, why am I not like that? Maybe the little understanding I had with God wasn't enough?

I went home that day, set about looking at church websites, and came across the RP Church. God made sure I was at the service that next Sunday because that day when I walked in for the first time, the minister was beginning a series of sermons on Hell. I know that it is not the most pleasant of subjects, but God's timing is always perfect, and I left that building under no illusion as to my situation as a sinner, my need of a Saviour, and the terrible fate that awaited me if I did not get right with God. That night that sermon was exactly what I needed to hear, no messing about, just the plain truth. I saw clearly how wrong I was before.

God changed my life that day in Rosslyn chapel, it wasn't an amazing flash of light, but He definitely grabbed me by the scruff of the neck and gave me a shake. The love and fellowship we have received from His people from the moment we set foot into that church building in North Bridge Street and the plain, true, Biblical preaching we receive, is a testament to the amazing work that God is doing there, because in there you will find ordinary people worshipping an extraordinary God.

What To Expect

We consider the worship of God to be our greatest privilege and joy. On Sundays (which the New Testament calls ‘the Lord’s Day’) we meet together for worship at 11am and 6pm. The morning service is about an hour and a half and the evening service lasts about an hour. After the evening service we stay around for tea and coffee and a chat.

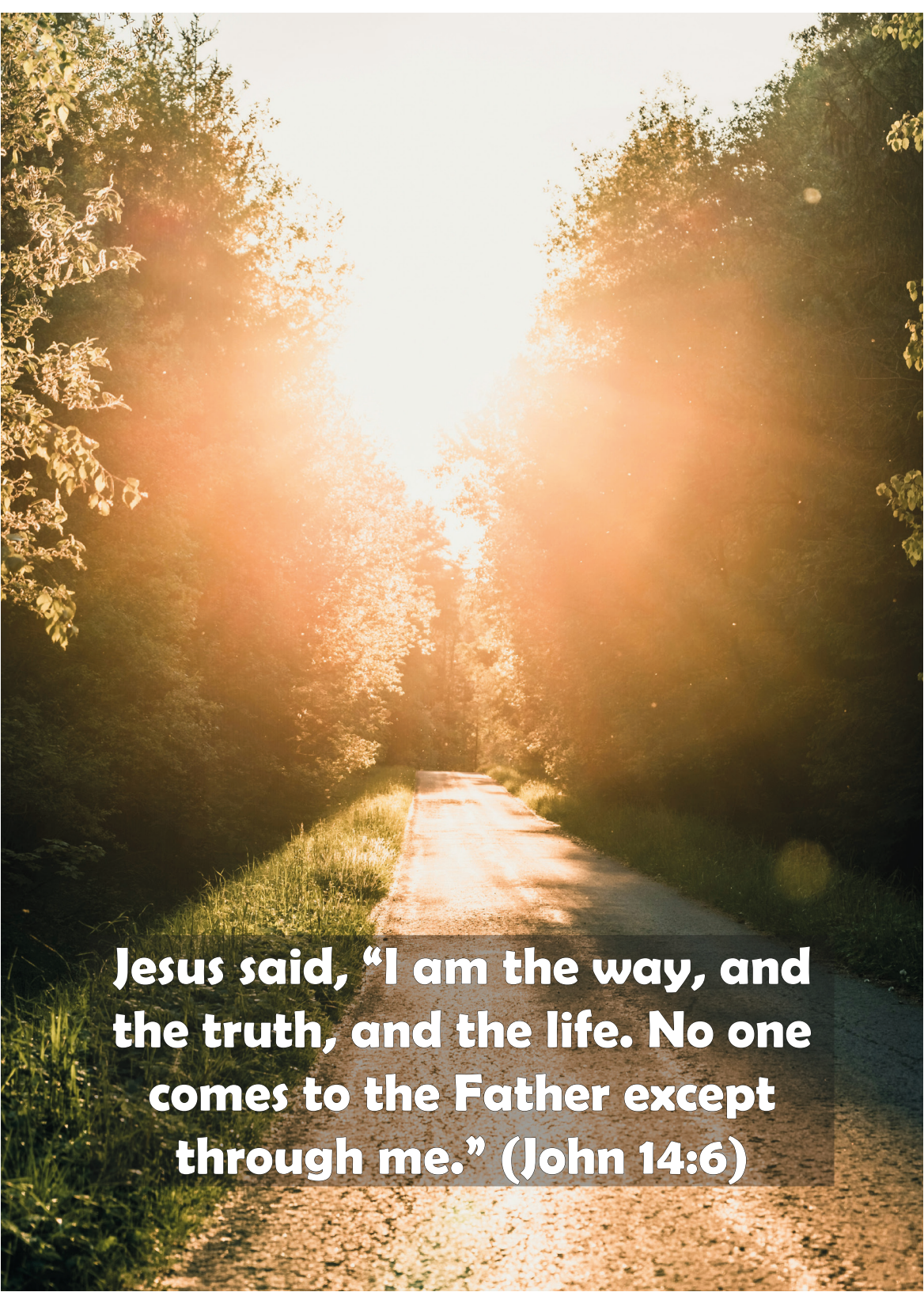
We are always glad to welcome visitors. It may be your first time in our church or your first time in any church – it doesn’t matter because we would love to have you. You won’t be asked to do anything you don’t want to do. Just come and hear what God’s Word says – it could change your life!

The Bible is at the centre of what we do as a church. The main part of our Lord’s Day services is listening to a message from the Bible. We also sing to God using the psalms. The psalms are hymns written by God in the Old Testament in preparation for the coming of Jesus. They were the hymnbook of Jesus, the early believers in the New Testament, and most Christians ever since.

We believe that children are part of the church, and so we encourage parents to keep their children with them in the worship service as much as possible. If children need to be taken out at any point, the audio from the service is relayed into the church hall.

We celebrate the Lord’s Supper four times per year – on the last Lord’s Day in February, May, August, and November. The Lord’s Supper is a special occasion for believers because we remember the death of the Lord Jesus. We invite to the Lord’s Table all those who have been baptised and are members of Bible-believing churches. We would ask visitors in this category to meet with the elders before the service.

If there’s anything that you don’t understand or you want to know why we do things the way we do, feel free to ask. There are no silly questions! We hope to be able to give Biblical reasons for all that we do.

A photograph of a narrow, paved path leading through a dense forest. The sun is shining brightly from the end of the path, creating a strong lens flare and illuminating the scene with a warm, golden light. The trees on either side are lush and green, with some leaves showing signs of autumn. The path is made of light-colored gravel or small stones, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and serene.

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." (John 14:6)



Our Work in Wishaw

About a year ago, our congregation began trying to start another congregation in Wishaw. We've been hugely encouraged by how things have gone, and we wanted to share with you what's been happening.

Why Wishaw? There are a few ways we can answer this question, but the main one is because Jesus told his church to go out with the good news of salvation and to preach it to everyone. North Lanarkshire is the fourth most populated council area in Scotland, with around 341,000 people. The towns of Wishaw and Motherwell sprawl into one another and are so densely populated that there are over 125,000 living in this "settlement". We have a huge population right on our doorsteps – and the Bible tells us that they need the Gospel!

There used to be a flourishing Reformed Presbyterian congregation in Wishaw. It's first minister was ordained in 1787 and it has been served by 12 more ministers. Sadly, though understandably, the church was closed in 2005 when its minister moved congregations to Ireland. The Wishaw members and property (church building and manse) were transferred to Airdrie RP.

In January 2023, the Airdrie Session began praying for wisdom regarding what to do with the property in Wishaw. We recognised our responsibility for the maintenance of the property, yes, but furthermore the tremendous opportunity to reach out to another part of North Lanarkshire. God has given us the desire to see a Gospel preaching church in Wishaw, if only the Lord would see fit to open that door. Subsequently, the congregation joined us in this prayer.

Over the past year we have been having monthly services in Wishaw where Stephen (our minister in Airdrie) has been preaching through parts of Matthew's Gospel, introducing people to Jesus – his power to save, his invitation to faith, and his teaching about the Kingdom of heaven. We have been very encouraged by the attendances so far.

To take things up a step, since January of this year we have been having a weekly Bible study there (we already have four weekly Bible study groups in Airdrie). There is a fantastic group of people who come together to discuss a part of the Bible that we read separately during the week. It's a simple gathering but hugely encouraging.

What will God do in Wishaw, we don't know. There, just like in the Monklands, many churches are being closed because of declining church attendances. In Scotland today, more than 60% of people aged 49 and younger say they have no religion. The steep decline of Christianity, as recorded by the past few national censuses, would seem to say that trying to open up churches is impossible. However, we continue to trust in the promise Jesus gave – "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it" (Matthew 16:18).

If you are interested in watching any of the sermons from Wishaw you can find them on YouTube.



For 4-11 year olds

HOLIDAY BIBLE CLUB

Monday 30th June - Friday 4th July 10am-12pm
at Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

Come learn about Jesus through games, crafts, songs, and stories.
It's all completely free.

All our staff are PVG checked.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."
(Matthew 19:14)

*Struggling with
reading the Bible?*
Why not try...

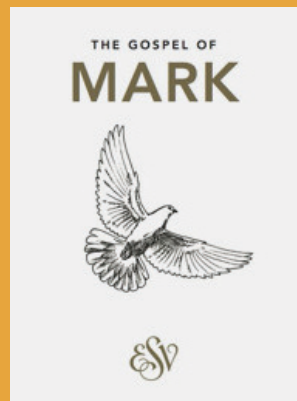
Let's Worship God

A weekly booklet to help you
get the most from the Bible.

Read daily or download the
notes for the week at
www.LetsWorshipGod.org

Alternatively, get in touch
and we will send you
a copy each week.

airdrierpcs@gmail.com
01236 620107



Do you want a free copy
of the Gospel of Mark?

Afterwards, we would
be happy to talk about
what you have read.



**As a Bible-believing church, we take the Bible seriously.
You're welcome to come and hear for yourself.**

**Current preaching series:
11am - 2 Chronicles
6pm - 1 Peter**

DROP-IN CAFE



**Hot food
Warmth
Chat**

**Completely
Free**

**Watch for the banner at the front of the church
to see when it starts again this winter.**



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church
Come hear God's Word -
It could change your life!

All Welcome!

Lord's Day (Sunday) Worship
11am and 6pm

Weekly Bible Study Groups as announced
Kids Club Fridays at 6pm (term time)

🚩 **48 North Bridge Street, Airdrie, ML6 6NE**

☎ **01236 620107**

💻 **airdrierpcs.org**

✉ **airdrierpcs@gmail.com**