



The passing of Billy Graham

There are some individuals who leave little mark on others, even although a lot of people know who they are. In contrast, there are other individuals who affect countless others because of their character and their actions. High among the second group is Billy Graham.

It says a lot for a person when even those who disagree with him on some things still insist on commending him highly. Over the years, Christians disagreed with some of his choices, but they all acknowledge that the Lord used him to bring spiritual blessing to millions. Perhaps he is the individual who brought the gospel to most people in all of history.

What marked Billy Graham? First, he was courteous with all. Second, he was consistent - no one has ever accused him of wrong behaviour. Third, he was

Christ-centred - his aim was to tell people about Jesus. Fourth, he was courageous - he was not afraid to remind people in high places of their responsibilities. Many other commendations could be made.

I first heard him in 1973 at an event in London called SPREE73, which was arranged by his organisation. A bus load travelled to it from Inverness. I don't remember much about it apart from the number of people who were there. It was the first time that I saw a gathering of thousands of young Christians determined to spend their lives devoted to Jesus. This ability to persuade others to serve the Lord is a legacy from Billy Graham that we have no way of estimating until the Lord reveals it all on the Great Day. But I am sure it will be amazing. •

Malcolm Maclean

Living in a changing world

Paul was an observant person. He noticed what was taking place around him, even if his eyesight was not very good. Some people cannot see trees even if they are standing in a wood whereas others can see the small acorns that eventually may become a forest. Christians are meant to see the times and understand the age in which they live. Such a way of seeing is more than observing the obvious.

It is obvious that we live in a non-Christian society. There is nothing new in that because that is the kind of society in which most Christians live today. It is also the kind of society in which the church has been usually found ever since Jesus sent out his apostles with the gospel.



In Britain, the church has been living in a non-Christian society for at least a couple of centuries, probably since the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. Perhaps bizarrely, much of the Enlightenment influence that affected the world arose in Edinburgh through the likes of David Hume (whose statue is turning blue outside St Giles). Yet, at least, they were rational in their proposals and the church was able to interact with and critique their propositions.

Today, the worldviews that we encounter usually avoid logic. For the last half-century, many people have adopted the idea of doing their own thing, without any thought as to whether they are pleasing God or anyone else. Such an outlook is basically selfish and is usually connected to the moment, which means

that it can often be impulsive and without any thought for consequences. We can read of numerous examples every day in the newspapers.

How do we as Christians live in such an era? Do we need new insights that no one has thought of before? While it can be helpful to have new initiatives, the fact is that we must follow the teachings of the Bible if we want to have true success. And what does the Bible tell us to do? Simple things, and quite basic. It tells us to put Jesus first always, it tells us to pray fervently and often, it tells us to love others, and it tells us to witness to the gospel to those we know who are strangers to it. If we don't do them, all other activities will fail to have an effect for good. But if we do them, who knows what the effect will be? ●

Malcolm Maclean

Ladies Dinner

What is the recipe for an enjoyable evening?

Take 68 ladies,

add a selection of main courses and a table of sweets.

Mix these with lots of friendship and laughter.

*Leave to set as you sit back with a cuppa
and let God's word speak to your soul.*

Top off with a singing of that same word.

That, pretty much, sums up the wonderful evening which the ladies of the congregation, along with some friends, enjoyed on the evening of Tuesday 13th February 2018.



Some ladies had prepared a wonderful selection of main courses and others, various sweets - an impressive display. When we had all had our fill of earthly food, we were treated to a banquet of spiritual food, a very personal message based on Psalm 23 by Joan Hamilton.

Joan took us through each verse, sharing her own experiences of being led by the shepherd, passing through the valley of the shadow of death, of her cup running over and finishing by commending her saviour to all those present that they too might look forward to a future in heaven.

The evening came to a close with the singing of the Stuart Townend arrangement of Psalm 23, led by Alex MacQueen (who also helped out in the kitchen!).

Thank you to all those who contributed to the success of the evening.



What is God looking for?

What does God want? The place to find the answer to that question is in the Bible. It provides a very clear answer. God wants worship. This is the case wherever we look in the Scriptures and it remains his desire throughout all the periods of history.

When God made humans at the beginning, they were able to worship God. Indeed, the account of the garden in Eden in Genesis is a description of a temple in which God met with Adam and Eve. Even after they rebelled against him, he revealed to them how they could worship him through the promise of a future Deliverer.

Later on, God created a nation in which worship of him was central. Israel, after they were delivered from Egypt, went to Mount Sinai to worship God. Bizarrely, while they were there they chose to worship an idol, the golden calf. Nevertheless, God gave them instructions

connected to his worship and it was practised in the tabernacle and the temple.

When Jesus was here on earth, he informed the woman of Samaria that the Father sought worship from people like her. Paul preached the gospel so that sinners would turn from idol worship and worship God instead. They became members of churches in which worship was offered to God. Again we find that those who should have worshipped him did not always do so.

Will God have a time and a place where perfect worship is given? We know that he will. The pictures we are given of heaven is that it is a place of worship. In the world to come, there will be perfect worship of God because sin will be gone. The Lord will have what he desires and will be satisfied. And so will we if we find ourselves there, made perfect in holiness and glad to be in his presence. ●

Kidzone Puzzle Page

Job's Test (The Book of Job)

One day Satan visited God. God said, "Isn't it wonderful how Job loves Me?"

Satan laughed his evil laugh. "Of course Job loves You! You always protect him and give him gifts. I bet he'd hate You if You didn't treat him so well!"

"Go ahead," God said. "Test Job to see if he really loves Me."

In each house, circle the word that doesn't belong. Then begin in the top left house and read the circled words to find out what happened to Job.

Car Truck Satan Van	red made blue green	Job penny dime nickel	cat dog lose bird	pencil pen crayon everything
1:00 he 2:00 5:00	owned. fish. whale. shark.	Ten Nine One Then	Shoe Sandal Sock Job	rain snow got wind
sick. chair. bench. sofa.	Sing Talk But Shout	Hammer Job Axe Shovel	still apple peach plum	top middle bottom loved
Sand. God. Waves. Sun.	Finally Chair Bench Sofa	Cow Pig Sheep God	warm cold gave hot	Job Tea Milk Soda
computer printer screen twice	run as skip jump	much ski swim run	nose mouth as chin	rope. before. string. yarn.

Church Website

Our new church website is now up and running. Many months of work have gone into creating the new website along with a new church logo. We wish to express our thanks to Murray and Donna Graham, and Daniel Macleod for all their efforts in producing it.

The website has many of the previous features along with a few new ones.

Sermons: Sunday sermons will be available immediately following each service with the midweek meetings now also being recorded.

Diary: Want to know what's on at Greyfriars each month? The church calendar is accessible to all.

Blogs: Malcolm our minister provides the written transcripts of all his sermons along with a daily devotional and other writings on a variety of topics from a Christian worldview.

Prayer: We have an email prayer group within Greyfriars who have emails sent to them regularly with any items identified for prayer. These could be items directly related to the congregation, the surrounding community, or indeed the City of Inverness where the Lord has placed us. There is now a page on the website where prayer can be requested by anyone. This is sent to an email address which is managed by Murray and Malcolm, and the request is then sent out to the group by them. We would urge people to use this page that we might be praying for one another and the church more frequently and specifically. If you wish to become a part of this prayer group, please email greyfriarsprayergroup@gmail.com either via your email or from the website page itself.

Grace and the Gap: Applications for help can now be made directly via the website. Please let people know about this fund and point them to the website for further details regarding who can apply and how they can go about this.

Newsletters: Finally, all our monthly newsletters such as the one you are reading right now are also available in digital format on the website.

The new website can be found at: www.greyfriarsfreechurch.com



Points for prayer in March

Worship Services

Pray that God would use our worship services on each Sunday for edification and evangelistic success.

Study Groups

Ask the Lord that the various Bible Study groups in the congregation would increase our fellowship as well as biblical understanding of the Bible passages that are considered.

Young People

Pray that God would bless the Sunday School, Bible Class and Youth Fellowship, and that all our young people would come to know Jesus.

Community

Ask God to use the copies of the Action Bible that were recently given to local children. Pray for the children who attend Kidzone. Also

pray for arrangements about this year's Holiday Club.

Our Neighbours

Pray that more local people would come to Connect and Kidz and Co, and that many would discover who Jesus is.

Several people had had contact with people in the community in unexpected ways. Pray that more would happen.

Grace in the Gap

Ask God to use Grace in the Gap to help needy people in a material sense and to also bring them to know Jesus.

Adam

Remember Adam and his various places of witness, whether in Asia or among refugees.

Men's Curry Night

(Saturday 10th March - 7pm)

Please add your name to the sheet in the fellowship lounge if you would like to attend. If you are able to make a curry for the night, please indicate this by putting a 'C' after your name.

Congregational News

Men's Meal

On Saturday, 10 March, there will be a Men's Meal. The speaker will be Innes MacSween, the assistant minister in Smithton.

Faith Mission

On Wednesday, 21 March, instead of the regular midweek meeting, the Faith Mission will be holding their annual event in Inverness. The main speaker will be the Principal of the Faith Mission Bible College in Edinburgh. In addition, reports will be given of some of their activities.

Gavino

On Friday, 23 March, Gavino Fioretti will give an update of his work in Italy. Gavino will be in Scotland for a brief tour.

Communion

The last weekend of the month is a communion weekend. There will be a service on Saturday at 7.30. The communion service is on Sunday morning. There will be a congregational fellowship after the evening service. The visiting preacher is Ian Watson, the minister of Kirkmuirhill Free Church in Lanarkshire. If you wish to know something about Ian, you can visit his blog at <https://kirkmuirhillrev.wordpress.com>.

Wedding

Alastair Cameron-Mackintosh is to be married to Lucy Robertson on Friday 30th March at 1pm in Inshes Church of Scotland.

Annual Congregational Meeting

The annual congregational meeting has been arranged for Wednesday, March 28th.

What is On in March 2018

Tuesday

14:00 *Ladies Prayer Meeting* (Monthly - 20th March)

19:30 - 21:00 *Mission In Need* (Monthly - 6th March)

19:30 - 21:00 *Gaelic Service* (Monthly - 27th March)

Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 *Kidz & Co* - Carer and Toddler group (Not on - March 28th)

12:30 - 14:00 *Connect* - Weekly (No Connect on 28th March)

19:30 - 20:45 *Bible Study & Prayer Meeting* - Weekly

Thursday

09:30 - 11:00 *Come Thirsty* - Bible Study Group (Creche available) - Weekly

Friday

18:30 - 19:45 *Kidzone* for Primary school children - Weekly until 23rd March

Sunday

11:00 - 12:15 *Morning Service*

18:00 - 19:15 *Evening Service*

19:30 - 21:00 *Youth Fellowship*

19:30 - 21:00 *Monthly Congregational Fellowship* - 25th March

Point of Contact for ...

Minister - Malcolm Maclean
- macleanmalcolmm@outlook.com

Unwell / In hospital - Norrie MacDonald
- norman.macdonald@orangehome.co.uk

Weekly Notices - Kirsti Paterson
- kirsti.paterson@btopenworld.com

Home Groups - Murray Graham
- murrayg1977@yahoo.co.uk

Come Thirsty - Heather MacAskill
- hmacaskill@uwclub.net

Sunday School - Kenny MacVicar
- kennymacvicar@yahoo.co.uk

**Kidz & Co / Connect / Bookings
/ Together Tuesday / Kidzone/**

Monthly Newsletter - Joan MacQueen
- macqueengreyfriars@outlook.com

Preaching Schedule for March 2018

Date	Time	Preacher
Sunday 4th	Morning 11am	TBA
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - <i>Studies in Matthew</i>
Wednesday 7th	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Elders
Sunday 11th	Morning 11am	Malcolm Maclean
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - <i>Studies in Matthew</i>
Wednesday 14th	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Malcolm Maclean - <i>Zechariah 5</i>
Sunday 18th	Morning 11am	Malcolm Maclean
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - <i>Studies in Matthew</i>
Wednesday 21st	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Faith Mission Annual Event
Friday 23rd	Preparatory Service	Gavino Fioretti
Saturday 24th	Preparatory Service	Ian Watson
Sunday 25th	Morning 11am	Ian Watson - <i>Communion</i>
	Evening 6pm	Ian Watson
	Fellowship 7:30pm	Congregational Fellowship
Wednesday 28th	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	A.G.M.

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- Creche available during the morning service for children under 3 years
 - Sunday school and Bible class meet during the morning service for children aged 3-14 years during term-time.
 - Youth fellowship meets immediately after the evening service for young people in secondary school during term-time (unless there is a congregational fellowship).