

Summer on the way

No doubt, since this month is May, we are thinking about the summer that we hope will come later this year. Perhaps we have a special holiday planned, or maybe we are going to do some rearranging in the garden since there will be more hours of daylight. The summer is useful for many things and people usually feel better during it.

Samuel Rutherford once described heaven as the place where there are four summers in the year. In saying that, he meant that heaven is always bright, with plenty time to fulfil whatever activities are intended. If it is good for us to plan our annual, shortish summer, it is also good to think about the land of permanent summer.

What makes heaven the place of such delight? There are many reasons such as the absence of sin, the reunion with friends, and the fullness of joy that envelops all there. The primary reason is the presence of God, especially known there through the activities of Jesus as he continues to function as the shepherd of his people.

We can imagine walking down the street of a foreign city that we may visit on holiday. And we should imagine walking down the streets of heaven, because unlike the visit to a foreign city, it will be permanent. It would be good to meet each other on those heavenly avenues.

Car Wash and Breakfast Morning



Last year we had the Fund Day but this year Andrew came up with a new idea. He suggested that the Youth Fellowship would do a Car Wash in the car park of the church. Andrew and his team enlisted the help of some of the adults in the congregation

(those with car washing skills and those with cooking skills) and thought it would be sensible to combine this event with a breakfast/coffee morning so that folks could have something to eat whilst they waited for



their car to be washed. They approached Mission In Need who agreed to have a baking stall at the event and it was agreed that all proceeds would go to the Mission In Need projects.

The event took place on Saturday 28th April. There was an excellent turnout and the weather was very kind to us – although some of the young





(and not so young) still managed to get soaked!

Those who came along to have their cars washed (and those who did not come to get their cars washed) were all given

the opportunity to have a full Scottish breakfast, a filled roll or tea/coffee and cakes.



There were about 30 cars washed and the whole event raised over £670.00.

Thanks to the Youth Fellowship team who did a wonderful job and to all those who came along and helped out washing cars and thanks to those who worked very hard in the kitchen keeping everyone fed. ●



General Assembly



Towards the end of May, our annual General Assembly will meet over a period of four days in Edinburgh. It will begin on the Monday evening when there will be a short sermon by the retiring Moderator, Derek Lamont of St Columba Free Church in Edinburgh. His sermon will be followed by the installation of his successor, Angus MacRae of Dingwall Free Church. After that, the Moderator's reception takes place, usually in the City Chambers, and is an opportunity to meet up with friends old and new.

Tuesday morning begins with an address by the new Moderator. Usually, the rest of the day is taken up with discussing the annual report of the Board of Trustees. It looks after financial and legal matters that affect us as a denomination.

The rest of the time is spent considering reports from the other three boards connected to the church. The Board of Ministry

looks after preparation for the ministry by Free Church students, the Mission Board is responsible for new congregations, church plants and youth work, as well for any foreign mission work, and the Seminary Board is concerned with the work of Edinburgh Theological Seminary. Sometimes, visiting delegates from other churches bring greetings from their denominations.

Those attending the Assembly are called commissioners and they represent their respective presbyteries. Some will be present for the first time and may find it all a bit daunting. Yet those meeting there are all brothers in the Lord and their main aim is the glory of Christ. It would be very difficult for our denomination to function without the General Assembly and therefore it is important that we pray for those present that they would have the wisdom to make decisions and the courage to vote according to their opinions. ●

Malcolm Maclean

Starting a church



Sometimes people discuss the kind of persons that could be used in a church plant or in a new congregation to get it going. I doubt if many follow the model found in the church in Philippi. Yet Luke tells us about the first three members.

One of them was a business woman called Lydia. She was seeking God and had concluded that the Jewish religion was the best. So she joined a small prayer group of Jewish women who met at the riverside. One Sabbath, Paul and his friends joined them and he was asked to speak. During his talk, the Lord opened Lydia's heart and she discovered that she now loved Jesus. The first member had been found.

Each day Paul and his friends took a walk, usually to the synagogue. They passed a woman who was employed as a fortune teller. Each time, she announced who they were. Paul realised that

she was under demonic influence and he delivered her from that bondage. She became a Christian and the second founding member was converted.

A short time later, Paul and Silas were arrested. They discovered that the roughest man in the jail was the jailor. A strange earthquake happened. While all the ground shook, none of the prisoners could move. The jailor was impressed and after some time interacting with Paul was also converted. His way of life changed immediately. He might not have washed himself often before, but now he was washing the wounds he had caused on Paul and Silas. And the third founding member of the church was found.

Not much of a beginning we might say. Yet that church became one of the best mentioned in the New Testament and supported Paul financially for years. And his letter to them shows the great affection they had for one another. •



*Congratulations to Rev. Andy Longwe who married
our very own Marina MacDonald
(daughter of Norrie and Mairi)
on Friday 20th April.*

*The couple met whilst leading a Free Church Camp last summer
which was attended by a number of our Youth Fellowship!*

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Kidzone Puzzle Page

Jonah Learns a Lesson (Jonah 1:1-2:10)

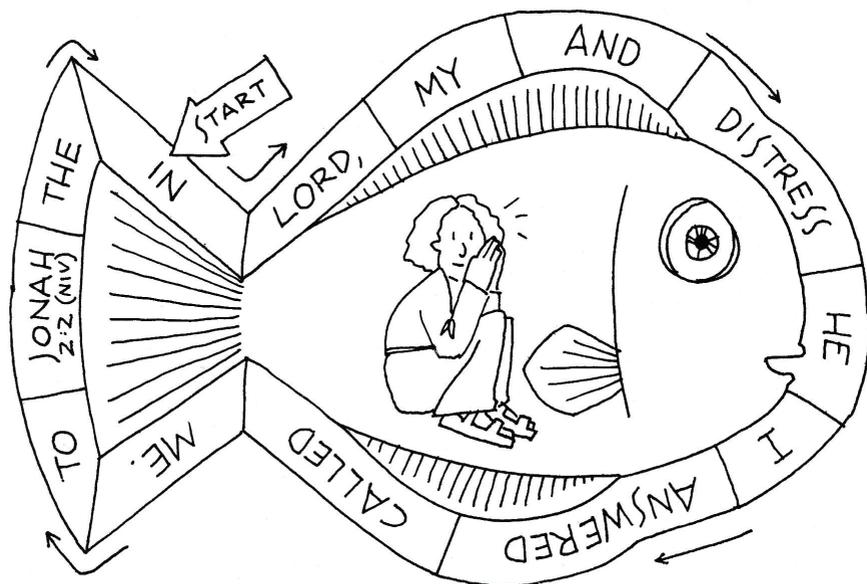
God told Jonah to go to Nineveh, but Jonah didn't want to go. He got on a ship headed in the opposite direction.

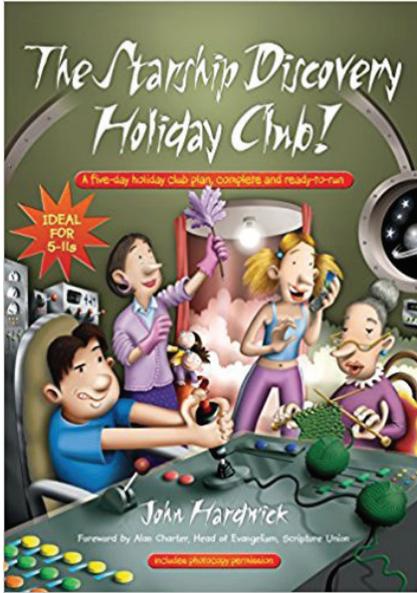
God knew what Jonah had done, so He sent a terrible storm that scared the sailors. Jonah made the captain throw him overboard so God would stop the storm.

A fish swallowed Jonah. Not just a regular fish. This was a huge fish. Jonah was inside the fish for three days and three nights, just like Jesus spent three days in the grave before He rose on Easter.

Deep inside the fish, Jonah was afraid and very sorry for trying to run away from God. Do you know what he did? Jonah prayed.

To find out what happened when Jonah prayed, begin at **START** and write down every other word as you follow the arrows around the fish. You'll go completely around the fish twice. The next time you pray, remember Jonah and trust that God hears and answers your prayers and forgives you because of Jesus.





Holiday
Club
2018
13th - 17th
August
10:30 - 12:15

Note the change of date!

We have moved the holiday club to the last week of the school holidays as this suited most of the 'helpers' better. Please pray for this event and why not get involved?



Some of Andy and Marina's campers who came straight from school to attend their marriage ceremony.

Prayer for Spiritual Life

It is not enough to do good things. We need to be changed by doing them. Here are twenty matters to pray about, daily if you can.

1. Pray for the services each Sunday and Wednesday
2. Pray for the spiritual life of the minister
3. Pray for the elders as they serve in the congregation
4. Pray for the spiritual lives of the elders.
5. Pray for the Deacons as they make decisions about activities in the congregation.
6. Pray for the spiritual lives of the Deacons
7. Pray for those involved with teaching and leading young people in the congregation.
8. Pray for the spiritual lives of those involved with the activities for young people.
9. Pray for those leading and attending the various Bible Study groups.
10. Pray that the study groups would increase the quality of spiritual life among all who attend.
11. Remember those that take part in various prayer groups in congregation.
12. Pray that those taking part in prayer will develop spiritually.
13. Pray for those interested in mission activities.
14. Pray for an increased interest in mission activities.
15. Pray for all the members in the congregation as they represent Jesus wherever they are.
16. Pray for the spiritual life of all the members.
17. Pray for the adherents that they would embrace Jesus.
18. Pray for those that come to Connect and Kidz and Co.
19. Pray for the General Assembly this month.
20. Pray that the General Assembly would be a spiritual event as well as a decision-making event.

The Trinity

Recently I spoke at a conference in Harris (it is held annually and I last spoke there in 2005). The subject that I spoke about on this occasion was the relationship believers have with the Trinity. This is a very important topic because it concerns the greatest privilege we have as Christians, yet it is not one we think about very often.

What can be said about it in two or three paragraphs? The first detail may surprise you, but the relationship is elementary. It is so straightforward that even a child can understand it. Every believer can interact with the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit at any time. This does not mean that they can understand it fully, or can explain it, but they do experience it.

Moreover, this relationship is the greatest source of happiness that is possible for a person to have on earth. The reason why this is the case is because God is the source of all blessedness. Blessedness is another way of

describing his love, joy and peace. Because God is a Trinity it means that we receive each of these blessings in three ways. So we can know the love of the Father, the love of the Son, and the love of the Spirit. And we can do the same with other blessings such as peace and joy.

Moreover, we can say that the relationship is heavenly in the sense that it is a foretaste of what occurs in heaven. It is true that no one knows what heaven is like, apart from the fact that sin will not be there. Yet it is something that we can look forward to, based on the experiences we have now with the three persons.

How do we have a relationship with the Trinity? One way of doing so is by loving each of the three persons. Another way is by listening to what each of the three persons has to say in the Bible. A good way is to remind ourselves whenever we come to church that we are there to interact with each of the three persons. ●

Malcolm Maclean

What is On in May 2018

Tuesday

14:00 *Ladies Prayer Meeting* (Monthly - 15th May)

19:30 - 21:00 *Mission In Need* (Monthly - 8th May)

19:30 - 21:00 *Gaelic Service* (Monthly - 29th May)

Wednesday

10:00 - 11:30 *Kidz & Co* - Carer and Toddler group - Weekly

12:30 - 14:00 *Connect* - Weekly

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

Thursday

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

Saturday

19:00 - Prayer Meeting (Monthly - 26th May)

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* - 27th May - Blythwood

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 May 2018

Date	Time	Preacher
Wednesday 2nd	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Elders
Sunday 6th	Morning 11am	M. Maclean 1 Corinthians 15
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - Studies in Matthew
Wednesday 9th	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Malcolm Maclean. Zechariah
Sunday 13th	Morning 11am	M. Maclean 1 Corinthians 15
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - Studies in Matthew
Wednesday 16th	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Malcolm Maclean. Zechariah
Sunday 20th	Morning 11am	M. Maclean 1 Corinthians 15
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - Studies in Matthew
Wednesday 23rd	Prayer Meeting 7:30pm	Elders
Saturday 26th	Evening 7:30pm	Prayer for Communion
Sunday 27th	Morning 11am	M. Maclean 1 Corinthians 15
	Evening 6pm	M. M. - Communion
	Fellowship 7:30pm	Congregational Fellowship

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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).