

# Prestongrange Church Newsletter

Summer 2022

Dear friends,

Our bible readings on Sundays from Isaiah have been a great joy to us and have ministered deeply to our souls. I trust that the Lord has spoken clearly to each one of us regarding his plan and purposes for our lives as individual believers and for his church. We have seen how (in Ch.58) God calls us to turn away from anything that is a pretentious sham as far as worship is concerned and to engage with God in a way that shows radical discipleship and service. God's prescriptive worship is an authentic and living fellowship with Him that "gets real with Him" and seeks to please His heart and honour His holy name. The way that we regard God will directly affect the way we treat others and the reward of living and passionate faith is rich indeed. In the New Living Translation of the bible, we read the following:

***The LORD will guide you continually,  
giving you water when you are dry  
and restoring your strength.***

***You will be like a well-watered  
garden,***

***like an ever-flowing spring.***

***<sup>12</sup> Some of you will rebuild the  
deserted ruins of your cities.***

***Then you will be known as a  
rebuilder of walls  
and a restorer of homes.***

***<sup>13</sup> "Keep the Sabbath day holy.***

***Don't pursue your own interests on  
that day,***

***but enjoy the Sabbath***

***and speak of it with delight as  
the LORD's holy day.***

***Honour the Sabbath in everything you  
do on that day,***

***and don't follow your own desires or  
talk idly.***

***<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD will be your delight.***

***I will give you great honour  
and satisfy you with the inheritance I  
promised to your ancestor Jacob.***

***I, the LORD, have spoken!"***

What wonderful promises God gives his people. He will guide, refresh and strengthen us and make our lives effective and fruitful in His service when we are

resolute and eager to do his will. His Holy Spirit filling our hearts will be a constant source of blessing and renewal. We are reminded of Jesus who said, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." (John 7:37-38).

The task we are given is to be rebuilders and restorers (see v.12). Anyone can tear down and demolish but only those who are instructed by God and who are careful in living out and speaking out God's word can build and restore the church to be the great force for change that we are called to be. This will cost us everything and is the task of every believer; to make a difference where God has placed us- with the help and encouragement of each other as well as the empowering of the Lord and the Holy Spirit. It has often been said that we are either part of the solution or part of the problem. Far better that we go forward together than stand idly by with an indifferent or critical spirit that brings death and discouragement in its trail.

V.13: Is all about giving God his place and honouring and glorifying God through worship. Requoting John Piper, "God is most glorified in us when we are most satisfied in Him."

The Lord's day for every believer is something we treasure and look forward to each week as we come together. If our desire to physically meet with believer's on the Lord's day for worship and fellowship and to give and receive encouragement is low in our priorities, does it not say something about us? When the Lord is our delight, he promises to honour and to satisfy us and to greatly bless us. (see v.14) Is that not an incentive for seeking the Lord together and seeking to do His will? Let me encourage you to be in earnest about worshipping and serving our wonderful Father and our glorious Saviour. Time is short and the need is great.

Prayerfully yours,

*Kenneth Donald*

## Holiday Club

At the end of July, 30 children enjoyed the "Seaside Rock " Holiday Club with its varied programme of activities. The life of Peter, the disciple of Jesus was looked at and the excellent team of leaders brought to life how we can be Jesus' followers and friends also.

The X- Mark programme for young folks in the evenings, was enjoyed by all and the application and relevance of the songs of David ( from Psalms) was well explored and applied to the lives of the young people.



We express our thanks to Chris and Lindsay for all the work that they and their large team of leaders brought to the exciting week. We greatly appreciate their wonderful inter-church project under the auspices of Scripture Union. It was also a great joy to welcome back Colin and Pauline Forster with Lucy, Cara and Andrew who for many years have shared their family and their gifts with us in their eager support of the work.

Pray that the word of God planted in the minds and hearts of young people may take root and grow.

### Funerals:

**Norma Dickson.** We give thanks to God for Norma's role as an elder of our church over many years and for all that she meant to us. We remember John and the family at this sad time.

### Church Gardens:

We are very grateful for those who have been looking after our gardens. It is quite a task to keep the area weed free and to trim the shrubs and tend the plants. Free to help out? Speak to Linda or Jane.

## Open Day Prestongrange Church

**Saturday 27th August 1.30 - 2.30 Private Tour** for East Lothian Antiquarian Society and open to the community from 2.30 - 4.00 pm.. Free entry and free tea, coffee and cake. See posters for further information. If you would like to help on the day with making the teas, being a welcomer at the door or the many other jobs please talk to Jane after church or on 07599193544 or 610758

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**Scripture Union: Afternoon tea Sat. 27th August at 2pm in St Andrews High Musselburgh in aid of Scripture Union East and Mid Lothian.**

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**We are interested in contacting Ukrainian families who may be staying in Prestonpans. Pray that the Lord may help us to forge relationships and friendships with refugee families. We have some free Ukrainian bibles which we can distribute to those who would value a bible.**

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## TRAUMA HEALING IN SCOTLAND

In 2017 the Scottish Bible Society, alongside the Trauma Healing Institute and Scottish church leaders, joined together to consider whether a Bible-based Trauma Healing programme would be a useful addition to the ministries of churches in Scotland today. Since the first training session in January 2018, 180 people have been trained to lead groups, 60 healing groups have been established, and over 260 people have attended groups.

25 online groups have been running during the pandemic. But in 2022 some of the courses are being run in-person, as well as continuing online training. Interested? Have a word with us.

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Bible Reading Week 1: Alistair Begg - Monday 18 July - Keswick Convention 2022

<https://youtu.be/FcogtGihgrc>

Keswick Convention this year had Alastair Begg giving the bible talks based on 2 Timothy. Start the YouTube video at 10.00 mins.