

# CONNECT Newsletter

the baptist union of scotland



## “Power of his Resurrection”



*“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death...”*

*Philippians 3v10*

It's a while since the day when a deacon in the Dumfries Church drew my attention to the phrase at the heart of

Philippians 3:10: “To know the power of his resurrection.” But since that day, when I face challenges, times of despair, where hope seems gone, this phrase often comes to mind.

“The power of his resurrection” was clearly the power to change death to life.

This Easter as every Easter we celebrate that Christ is alive.

We rejoice together in the presence of the risen and exalted Jesus.

Like the disciples on the road to Emmaus we recognise that resurrection has the power to transform deserters to followers.

Like Peter we see it has the power to change Deniers to

proclaimers and, in Thomas, we are reminded that doubters can have faith, such is the power of the resurrection.

However, for me, the surprising thing about this phrase is its position in the verse. It precedes a reference to Jesus' suffering and death. It feels that it is the wrong way round chronologically.

Yet Paul places things in the order that the believer experiences them today.

I believe he is saying that those who know Christ and experience the power of the resurrection can now share in His suffering. In other words any suffering can be entered into in the context of resurrection and therefore with hope.

More than that, it also means that the power of his resurrection equips and enables us to choose the descending way of Christ, outlined in Philippians 2.

As each of us seek to live under the rule of Christ, and as churches we seek to live under the rule of Christ, His risen power is made available to strengthen us, keep us and lead us in His ways

**Alan Donaldson**



## New life in Buckie

Buckie Baptist Church building has undergone a complete makeover this past winter. Gone is the old vestibule, the pulpit, pews and dark interior and as spring breaks the congregation are rejoicing at the transformation and new life the refurbishment has brought.

Rev Alan Donaldson was the guest preacher at the first service held in the newly refurbished building where the congregation expressed their appreciation to the

family of churches for a £10,000 gift and a further loan both made from the Union's Church Extension Fund.

New life is also reported to have come to many people in Buckie in this past year with 19 believers being baptised. Rev Alan Donaldson commented, “The power of the resurrection to change people's lives and to transform communities continues to fill me with hope for our future together.”

**Remember to catch up with ALAN DONALDSON on his Blog at <http://bustravellingtogether.blogspot.com/>**



## Prayer Link for April

### Sunday 3rd

**Renfrew: Rev Brian Luse.** Please pray:

1. That God's glory would be seen, heard and sensed in all that occurs within the walls of the church. (1 Cor 10:31)
2. That the members would be strengthened by the Holy Spirit to embrace the call to disciple by the Lord Jesus Christ and that each member would hear from God who He wants them to walk with in this manner. (Matt. 28:18-20)
3. That the Word of God would spread rapidly through Renfrew and that many would come to salvation in Jesus Christ. (2 Thes. 3:1)

We praise God for the many new young children we have worshipping with us. I am told that about two and a half years ago there was maybe one young family in the church. Recently, we have seen 20 creche to primary aged kids on Sunday and we could not be more excited that God has blessed us in this way! (Matt 19:14). Thank you for your prayers, we greatly appreciate them!

**Rosyth: Rev Gilmour Lilly.** We praise God: for many contacts with people who don't know Jesus; for Our "Gateway" coffee shop, which continues to be well attended, and a couple of Ceilidhs in the past six months which have been great relationship builders with the community; for those who recently committed themselves to Church membership; that, almost a year in, house groups are proving beneficial; for the increasing sense of freedom and joy in our worship.

However, the challenges we face are significant. Please pray with us about: our building - in particular the condition of the older part, where we gather for Sunday worship, which is causing concern. We have important and potentially far-reaching decisions to make about this; for plans for using the "Try Praying" booklet as an outreach tool during the run up towards Easter - along with other Baptist

Churches in Fife. Pray that the venture will release church folks to engage in sharing their faith. Pray for courage and sensitivity; pray for the possibility of an inter-church act of witness on Palm Sunday and for developing creative and appropriate ways of engaging spiritually with visitors to our Thursday "Gateway" coffee shop.

### Sunday 10th

**Rothsay.** We give thanks to God for guidance and provision for us during our year of vacancy. We ask for your prayers for our new vacancy committee, when they have their initial meeting, on 26th March. Pray too for guidance and wisdom as we select a new Diaconate

We are most grateful to those who have led our Sunday services and midweek Prayer and Bible Study. We also give God thanks for the united services we share with the other Churches on the Island.

At present we are running the *Alpha* course and pray that this may result in some coming to know the Lord Jesus.

As a fellowship, we give thanks to God for His provision in the past and the sense of His presence now as we trust the future to His love and care.

**Rutherglen: Rev Ken Coulter.** We give thanks for the ongoing development of ARK Out of School Care, providing care for over thirty children every day after school and at school holidays. Please pray for the five staff who run this under the guidance of Katie Paterson. Sadly we had to make one of our full time employees - David Geddes - redundant in January because income did not meet expenditure. Please pray for David and his wife Lockhart as they seek God's future. As a church we look to the future with excitement at the possibilities before us for mission and would ask for guidance for the Leadership Team as decisions are made focusing where energy, prayer and funding should go.

### Sunday 17th

**Saltcoats, South Beach: Rev Vince Jennings.** Give thanks with us for Steven, our new Youth Worker, and for what he's doing in schools and

the community. We thank God too for the progress of our *Alpha Express* meetings; for the *Little Stars* Parent and Todder Group in the Star Inn building in the town and for *Sunday at Six*, our special guest services.

**Sanquhar: Mr Philip Usher.** Please pray for our elderly village congregation who continue to hang in there especially as we seek ways to reach out to the local community. Pray for patience and perseverance during these challenging times. We give thanks for Philip Usher our pastor as he faithfully leads our Sunday Morning worship and midweek prayer and Bible study. Pray for wisdom to discern what we can do in the early summer to serve our neighbours and reach out in Christ's name.

### Sunday 24th

**Scarfiskerry: Rev Stuart Dunnett.** We give thanks for new people attending our services (Sunday congregations got very low last year), and for the good numbers at the Ladies Meeting. We pray that as several new houses are being built in the village, the new residents may join with us as well. Please also pray that we may be able to restart our Sunday School.

**Selkirk: Revs Brian Talbot and Michael McLeister.** Praise God for renewed zeal for prayer, especially corporate prayer within the church. Pray that a new prayer-walking initiative in the town will lead to opportunities to pray with people and share the gospel.

Praise God for the work being done amongst young people. Pray for the *Impact* team who entertain 40-50 teenagers every Wednesday - for opportunities to share life together, and the gospel. Pray for contacts being made resulting from work in the local High School.

Rental charges for community facilities we use every Sunday morning are rising steeply. Pray that we would know God's leading either in the extension of our own building or in the acquisition of another building.

We have recently discovered that only around a dozen primary aged children in Selkirk attend church or Sunday school in the town. This has been a shock! Pray for us as we try to enlist God's help to reach the town's children.

## April Engagement Diary

**2** Anne Martin, President of the Scottish Baptist Women's Fellowship (SBWF) attends the Ayrshire Rally in Saltcoats

**3** Union Ministry Advisor Andrew Rollinson preaches this morning in Ladywell Baptist Church, Livingston.

**4** Union Mission Advisor Andy Scarcliffe attends 4 days of meetings on mission networking. Anne Martin attends the Hawick Baptist WF.

**6** Anne Martin attends the ladies' Fife Rally, in Dunfermline.

**7** Our Union's Core Leaders have their Business meeting this afternoon.

**10** Andrew Rollinson preaches in Cathcart Baptist, Glasgow, today.

**15** Our Union's National Strategy Group meets.

**16** Anne Martin attends the Renfrewshire Rally

**17** Our General Director, Rev Alan Donaldson, preaches in Wishaw Baptist Church today.

**21** Our Union's Core Leaders have their Business Meeting. The leaders of the SBWF meet today.

**22** Andy Scarcliffe is at a joint church event in Helensburgh

**24** Andrew Rollinson preaches in Westgate Road Baptist Church, Newcastle.

**25** Anne Martin visits Peterhead WF

**28** Andy Scarcliffe leads worship at the Baptist Union of Great Britain Assembly, which runs until 2nd May. Our Union's Convener, Dr Jacqueline Primrose, will also attend.

**30** Grant Hamilton is inducted to Carbrain Baptist Church today.

### Scottish Baptist History Project

**The Project will meet on Saturday, 30th April, at Morningside Baptist Church, Morningside Road, Edinburgh. The programme features papers by Christine Lumsden, on 'Adam Black- A Political Dissenter 1784-1874'; Derek Murray, on 'Alexander Anderson and the Chanonry House School, Aberdeen' and Tom Lennie, on 'Revival'**

**The cost is £3, including coffee, tea and biscuits (no lunch). Directions to the church may be obtained from the church website [www.mbc.org.uk](http://www.mbc.org.uk) To book, contact Rev Dr Brian Talbot ([briantalbot@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:briantalbot@hotmail.co.uk) or 01382 779364) by Thursday 28April. although you can register and pay on the day.**



## Dalkeith Baptist Church Appoints Youth Pastor



Kenny and Ashley McCartney

Prior to his academic studies, his practical work experience included working as an Energy Distribution Lineman (working on high-voltage lines and equipment), gaining some experience in graphic design, and also working as a volunteer driver with the YMCA in North Carolina.

In 2007, he gained a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies and has served as a Lay Youth Leader in Braggtown Baptist Church, North Carolina, and also undertook an Internship in Fellowship Raleigh Church, North Carolina.

Kenny's laudable aims are to "proclaim the good news of God's love, help others experience Him, and make disciples that will honour Him with their lives". A new, challenging and exciting chapter in the life and work of Dalkeith Baptist Church is anticipated as Kenny takes over the youth work of the church.

During the service, a presentation was made to former youth leaders, husband and wife team George and Cheryl Murrie, in recognition of their many years of faithful service. This was accepted by Cheryl, due to George's unavoidable absence.



Jeremy Shaw with Cheryl Murrie

On Sunday, 13th February, Dalkeith Baptist Church commissioned Kenny McCartney, from North Carolina, USA, as Youth Pastor.

Officiating at the service was Dalkeith Baptist Church pastor, Rev. Jeremy Shaw and included in the "commissioning" was Kenny's wife, Ashley.

Kenny graduated as a Master of Divinity at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, North Carolina, before moving to Scotland.

Article and photos by Adam Ramsay

## Kirkie Baptist Member Leads PR Campaign for "The Glasgow Passion"



The Glasgow Passion is a new, ambitious and exciting production being staged right in the heart of Glasgow on 6th October 2011. It'll bring the story of Jesus right up to date using a contemporary script and setting and aims to connect with a generation who are increasingly Biblically illiterate. Locals will act alongside more famous and established faces in the hugely anticipated drama, created by award winning Scottish playwright, Rob Drummond.

There are lots of ways you can get involved - pray for the play; join the cast; become part of the crew, costume or catering team or offer financial support. Rehearsals are already underway on Tuesdays at Destiny Church, 70 Cathedral Street, Glasgow, from 7-9pm, but there's still plenty of time to go along and join the cast. See [www.glasgowpassion.co.uk](http://www.glasgowpassion.co.uk) or contact [jill@jillbrownmedia.co.uk](mailto:jill@jillbrownmedia.co.uk) for more info on a unique and fantastic opportunity to share the Gospel with people who haven't heard it!

## 4 new ways to connect with BUS!

Over the past few months we have been working hard to make communicating with the members of our churches much easier. There are now 4 new ways for you to keep up-to-date with BUS news and information.

### New Website!

We are pleased to announce that our new look website has gone live! Our new website is more user friendly, has the latest news and information and has downloadable resources. You can catch up with the latest thoughts from our General Director, Alan Donaldson, on the link to his blog. Why not visit our new look website and see for yourself at [www.scottishbaptist.org.uk](http://www.scottishbaptist.org.uk)

### Want to be our Friend?



Facebook is now a social networking phenomenon! So, we thought we should have our own Facebook group where you can catch up with the latest news and maybe even find out what the Core Leaders are up to! So if you are on Facebook, we invite you to be part of this group!

### YouTube

Want to find out more about our pioneer planting initiative called *Prism* or resources for *Lifesize*? See (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drQ7IU8GUXI>) and (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mwpNj5VyUyE>) These videos are available to download on YouTube. This is where you will find video resources that we will make available to our churches.

### Tweet Tweet!



For those who like their news in bite-sized chunks, we now have a Twitter page and will regularly Tweet our latest updates. You will find us listed as 'scottishbaptist' on Twitter.

Jenny Wilson

### Job Opportunity at Campaigners Scotland

Fancy being a Development Officer with Campaigners Scotland? See details on [www.campaignersscotland.co.uk](http://www.campaignersscotland.co.uk) Closing date for applying is 31st March, 2011.

### PHATFISH at the Fellowship

Top Christian band *PHATFISH* will be playing Aberdeen Christian Fellowship on Friday 17th June. See <http://www.aberdeencf.com/712/frontpage/phatfish-17th-june-2011/> for more info or to buy tickets



# Salt and Light in the Political Realm

Are you already anticipating the wall-to-wall media reporting of the Scottish Parliament election on Thursday, May 5<sup>th</sup>? There will doubtless be, over three or four intensive weeks, detailed analysis of the policies and personalities of the political parties.

Perhaps you've already made a mental note to switch off from the election build-up as much as you can.

And yet we do have a responsibility to be making a distinctive Christian contribution to our nation and its political make-up.

Paul, in his first letter to Timothy, urges 'requests, prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for everyone – for kings and all those in authority.' So prayer should be the foundation of our involvement in our society and its government.

Jesus encourages us to be salt and light in all we do, and there's no mention that this excludes the political realm.

A number of Christian organisations produce resources which make it easier to understand and contribute to the political process. For this election a significant number of organisations and denominations have joined forces in an initiative called



Churches Vote ([www.churchesvote.org](http://www.churchesvote.org)) - a demonstration of the unity of the Christian Church in its desire to serve the nation.

The web site also contains a wealth of resources and information to help Christians know what the policies of the parties are, and to explain the political process – somewhat complicated because of the second, regional, vote. There are also film interviews with all the party leaders on the role of the Church in society.

CARE for Scotland's *Make the Cross Count* website ([www.makethecrosscount2011.net/scotland](http://www.makethecrosscount2011.net/scotland))

includes advice on running a hustings meeting, having a prayer calendar, and some intriguing policy suggestions from Christian leaders.



So why not commit to doing three things in the run-up to May 5<sup>th</sup>:

- Pray for God to guide the nation as it votes (hold a special prayer gathering on May 4<sup>th</sup>)
- Attend a local hustings, if there is one, to get to know your candidates as individuals (Host a hustings as a church for the local community)
- Really do try to get to know something of the policies of each of the parties and consider carefully how to place your second, regional vote.

And after the election why not invite your new MSP along to your church to find out how you can support him or her in prayer?

*Bill Baird,*

*on behalf of the Baptist Union of Scotland Public Issues & Social Action Group*

## Providing Support for Newer Ministers

Out of the 150 serving Baptist ministers in Scotland, approximately one-fifth are in the early years of ministry.

During the first three years (the *pre-accredited* years) we seek to support and encourage these ministers in a number of ways, including - mentoring, reflective study, pastoral visits, two reflection days per year, and an annual residential conference.

The latest conference was one of the best! Why? A number of factors helped in those three days in Pitlochry's Atholl Centre:

- The sense of unity that pervaded our time together
- The obvious passion for God's kingdom that these ministers share
- A relaxed atmosphere where people could think deeply and equally share informally
- Stimulating sessions and great prayers times
- An openness to God and to each other

Pray for these ministers as they serve all over Scotland: for deepening relationships, effectiveness in ministry, and hope for the future.

**John G. Greenshields:**  
Ministry Development Coordinator



**Back:** Gordon Jones (Gourock), Tim Power (Nairn), Alistair Cuthbert (Stirling), Keith Johnston (Dalkeith), Gavin Hunter (Westray)

**Middle:** Douglas Craig (WEC Scottish Secretary), David Fraser (Alva), Rae McKenzie (Lossiemouth), David White (Fort William), Peter Foster (Tillicoultry), Andrew Giffen (Kirkintilloch), Mark Schenk (Duncan St., Edinburgh) **Front:** James Faddes (Leslie), Peter Dick (Erskine), Ronnie Hall (Adelaide Place), Andrew Rollinson (BUS Ministry Advisor), Ross Murphy (Airdrie). **Not in picture** – Nick Blair (Merchiston Castle School, Edinburgh), Alan Donaldson (BUS General Director) and John Greenshields (BUS Ministry Development Coordinator)

**PLEASE NOTE: The events advertised in our publications or on our website cover the wider Christian scene in Scotland and do not necessarily reflect the involvement or endorsement of Baptist Union staff or any specific knowledge about content.**