



Bon Accord Free Church N e w s l e t t e r

Glorify God. Be like Jesus. Change the world.



October 2017

Editorial

The Reformation and marriage

We all love a good wedding! Since our return to our building we have enjoyed a couple of weddings; back in July the marriage of Anthony & Enid and just this past week the marriage of David & Cassia. In parallel to these events we have been focusing on Sunday mornings and at our Neighbourhood Fellowships on the five 'solas' of the Reformation in celebration of the 500 years since the start of the Protestant Reformation.

You might not immediately imagine that there is much of a connection between the Reformation and marriage. But there is! In the 16th century church the married state was viewed as very much second best to celibacy; hence the unbiblical obligation of priestly celibacy. This error was grounded in an understanding of salvation as being – at least in part – earned. The man or woman who denied themselves the pleasures of marriage or the married state earned '*merit*' as a result of their supposed greater purity and self-sacrifice.

The Reformers, on rediscovering the Biblical truth that we are saved by grace alone and through faith alone, rightly rejected the superstitious notion that our salvation can be earned by self-denial or any other '*work*'. This discovery also allowed the Reformers to embrace marriage and family life as a gift of God to be enjoyed and lived to God's glory.

Luther encouraged this development by instruction and example. In 1523 he helped arrange the marriage of nine nuns who had escaped from a convent near Wittenberg. Of the nine eight were happy to concur with the choice of groom suggested to them but one – Katherine von Bora – refused her proposed groom. Luther quickly identified a solution; he married her himself!

His marriage was a happy and fruitful one and he loved Katherine deeply. Evidence of his love for Katherine is to be seen in the curious nickname that he coined for his favourite epistle - Galatians – he called it '*...my Katherine von Bora*'!

Esteem for marriage and family life and commitment to the Biblical and Reformation conviction that all is to be done '*...to the glory of God*' even informed Luther's attitude to family chores. Listen to what – for his day – must have been seen as a quite outrageous proposition:

'When a father washes nappies or performs some other mean task for his child... God with all His angels and creatures is smiling'.

I trust all Bon Accord dads are taking note!

We have good reason then not only to celebrate and thank God for marriage but also to thank God for the Reformation and its rediscovery of marriage as a precious gift of God not to be shunned but to be embraced.

David

Bon Accord News

Engagement

Congratulations to Iain Smith and Rebecca Macleod on their recent engagement.

Wedding

Congratulations to David and Cassia Boyd who were married here in Bon Accord on 30 September.

Condolences

All at Bon Accord extend our heartfelt sympathy to Sarah Coghill following the death of her father on 23 September. Please remember Sarah, George and the girls in your prayers along with the rest of Sarah's family.

Cassia Martin

While we have had the opportunity of acknowledging Cassia's service as Youth Worker in the traditional manner of a card (actually two cards!) and a small gift we have not, as yet, done so in print... until now!

Thank you Cassia for these past two years of service as our Youth Worker in Bon Accord. We are very grateful for your gifts and experience and your evident and longstanding loyalty and commitment to Bon Accord. The great thing is that, in God's good providence, you will be hanging around for a little longer (hopefully a lot longer)!

Congratulations

Well done to Joseph MacPherson who has been called up for Peru U-18s.

Church Hall Acoustics

The Deacons' Court are aware of the difficult noise conditions in the church hall when full of people, for example at coffee after the morning services. This is a common problem in buildings and a wide range of sound-absorbing products are available to dampen noise levels. In order to solve this problem effectively, the Court decided to have a specialist measure the current acoustic properties of the hall, and to recommend the type, number and placement of sound absorbers required.

During September, four acoustic consultancies were invited to quote for the work. Based on these quotations, the Court has now engaged a contractor to carry out the study. We expect their work to be completed during October, after which we anticipate purchasing and installing suitable acoustic absorbers on the walls and ceiling. In the meantime, thank you for your continued patience with this issue.

Norman Laing

Building Matters

We've been back in the building for a few weeks now but there remain quite a few niggly matters that are being resolved by the contractor.

That said folks in the congregation may, in the normal course of using the building, identify issues or have ideas as to how we can improve the operation and functionality of the building (this could be to do with signage, or power points that don't seem to work, or gaps in furnishing that need to be filled etc.).

At the Deacons' Court it was agreed to encourage the congregation to communicate any issue/idea to any of the deacons who will, in turn, pass them on to members of the building team / committee for consideration/ resolution.

Bon Accord Website

The Bon Accord website is currently unavailable due to a hacking problem. The team hope to have it up and running again as soon as possible. Apologies for any inconvenience this has caused.

Bon Accord Lunch Club

Thursday 21 September saw the re-launch and re-branding of our Senior Citizens Fellowship as the Bon Accord Lunch Club! What we actually do is unchanged – we eat (usually soup and sandwiches), chat, sing a psalm, and listen to our guest speaker but now we do it twice as often! The lunch club is now every fortnight rather than monthly. The other difference is that we are making a decided effort to invite friends and neighbours from out with the congregation. In that regard we were delighted to have a few folks from the neighbourhood along for the first time who, together with our regulars, made up for a gathering of 27 people... a great start.

On this occasion the broth was prepared by Anne Smith and the unanimous opinion of those tasked with preparing the soup for subsequent gatherings was that the bar has been set very high indeed!

Our next gathering is on Thursday 5 October (12:30pm in the small hall) and all over 55's are welcome to come along (we don't check ID's so if you're under 55 and can't resist homemade soup just come along as well!)

Next dates – 5 October, 19 October and 2 November

Morning of Prayer

All in the congregation are invited to participate in a Morning of Prayer on Saturday 7 October from 9:00am to 12:15pm.

The format of the morning will be such that folks will be able to come and go as time permits – very similar to previous occasions when we have had a similar time of prayer. The purpose is to spend a time in praise and prayer where we can focus with a little more time and attention on prayer for the world, our nation, our city, and the congregation.

The morning will also provide an opportunity to share with the congregation some of the outcomes / actions that have arisen from the Strategy Process that we began last year.

Date for your Diary

Communion – Sunday 12 November at the morning service.

Preparatory services will take place on the previous Friday and Saturday evenings (10 and 11 November) at 7pm in the church.

Ladies' Support Group

The Ladies' Support Group will meet on Monday 9 October at the manse at 8pm. This meeting is open to all female members of the congregation.

Please speak to Martha for more details.

First Aiders

Just to inform everyone that our first aiders are Wilma Nicolson, Fiona Meredith, Cath Gilbert, Gillian Martin, Mairi MacRae and Julia Mackintosh.

There are 2 first aid boxes - one under the sink in the foyer and the main one on the serving counter in the hall downstairs. Please fill in the accident book in the main box downstairs in the event of any incidents. If any stock is used please inform myself (Julia) or Wilma or leave a note in the box to ensure that we restock.

Thank you.

Julia Mackintosh

Sign-in Book for Bon Accord Key-holders

The sign-in book has been reinstated at the back door of the church. Please remember to use this when you are entering the building out-with the usual church events.

Explore Reading Notes

If you ordered a copy of Explore (Oct – Dec) it is now ready for collection from Rob Grant. The price is still £4.50 and it will be available before and after the morning and evening services. As always, it would be helpful if you were able to tender the correct amount.

Church Cleaning Rota

CHURCH CLEANING ROTA							
SEPTEMBER		OCTOBER		NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Sat 9 th	Team 1	Tues 3 rd	Team 5	Sat 4 th	Team 9	Tues 5 th	Team 2
Fri 15 th	Team 2	Sat 14 th	Team 6	Sat 11 th	Team 10	Tues 12 th	Team 3
Tues 19 th	Team 3	Tues 24 th	Team 7	Tues 21 st	Team 11	Tues 19 th	Team 4
Tues 26 th	Team 4	Tues 31 st	Team 8	Sat 25 th	Team 12	Sat 30 th	Team 1
Gallery	Team G1			Gallery	Team G2		

Please take a note of your Team and the dates you are down for. The idea is that each team works out what time would suit them to meet for cleaning. If the date you are allocated doesn't suit you at the time, please swap with someone from another team (this system works well for the Crèche Rota and Little Lambs Coffee Rota). The person named at the top of each team is responsible for ensuring they have a key to get in the back door and signing off the checklist of cleaning tasks.

All groups that use the church weekly are responsible for leaving the premises as they found them – so please clean up and tidy up and that will ensure the weekly cleaning tasks are less onerous and will get completed quicker!

Church Cleaning Rota Teams

<p>TEAM 1</p> <p><i>Rachel Stewart</i> Ken Stewart Kenneth Stewart Mairi MacLean Janice Stewart</p>	<p>TEAM 2</p> <p><i>Isobel Morison</i> Val Buchanan Norman Buchanan Shirley Gillies John Gillies</p>	<p>TEAM 3</p> <p><i>Martha MacPherson</i> David MacPherson John MacPherson Judy/Norman Laing Gavin Graham</p>
<p>TEAM 4</p> <p><i>Wilma Nicolson</i> Sarah Coghill Alex Valverde Thaisa Valverde Murdo MacKenzie</p>	<p>TEAM 5</p> <p><i>Anne Smith</i> Donald Smith Stephen Duncan Julia MacKintosh Seoras MacKintosh</p>	<p>TEAM 6</p> <p><i>Catriona MacLeod</i> <i>Matthew MacLeod</i> Fiona Ferrier Gordie Crichton Carol/Eugene Ong</p>
<p>TEAM 7</p> <p><i>Iain Meredith</i> Fiona Meredith Christine Couper Anthony Fong Enid Fong</p>	<p>TEAM 8</p> <p><i>Angus MacIver</i> Mary MacIver Jennifer/Murdo MacLeod Sophie/Chan Rachel Stewart</p>	<p>TEAM 9</p> <p><i>Margaret/Gordon Ferguson</i> Calum MacDonald Janet MacIver Marion/John Campbell Jane Connell Margaret MacIver (Balmedie)</p>
<p>TEAM 10</p> <p><i>Steve Inglis</i> Cassia Boyd David Boyd Wilma Morrison Linda Stephen</p>	<p>TEAM 11</p> <p><i>Rob MacDonald</i> Rob Grant Mairi MacLeod Andy MacAulay Dawn MacAulay</p>	<p>TEAM 12</p> <p><i>Iain Murdo MacMillan</i> Iain Smith Ian Bowman Catriona MacLeod Cath Gilbert</p>
<p>GALLERY</p>		
<p>TEAM G1</p> <p>Dougie Longmuir Lorraine Longmuir</p>	<p>TEAM G2</p> <p>Jonathan Bremner Ali Mather</p>	<p>TEAM G3</p> <p>Chris Campbell Hamish MacDonald</p>

PASSION FOR THE UNREACHED

One man took God at his word and stepped out in obedient faith...



**FREE
ADMISSION**

An offering will be taken for the work of Africa Inland Mission

A dramatic presentation of the life story of Hudson Taylor, with Alan Cousins, AIM Mobiliser for Ireland, and music from Ruth Box, AIM's Mobiliser for Scotland. Come, bring your friends, be inspired, be challenged, be prepared to step out in faith...



Saturday 7th October	7.30pm	Lennox Evangelical Church, Dumbarton
Sunday 8th October	11.30am	West Glasgow New Church, Clevedon Secondary School
Sunday 8th October	7.00pm	Strathaven Evangelical Church
Wednesday 11th October	7.30pm	Buccleuch Free Church, Edinburgh
Thursday 12th October	7.30pm	Calvary Motherwell
Friday 13th October	7.30pm	Gilcomston Church, Aberdeen
Saturday 14th October	7.30pm	Tain Parish Church
Sunday 15th October	6.30pm	Findlay Church, Glasgow

For further information, please contact Ruth Box, AIM International, 72 Westermains Avenue, Kirkintilloch, G66 1EH. Tel. 0141 776 1562 / 07913 097346. Email ruth.box@aimint.org



Christ-centred churches among all African peoples

Africa Inland Mission International, a company limited by guarantee (04598557), a registered charity in England and Wales (1096364) and a charity registered in Scotland (SC037594). Registered Office: Halfax Place, Nottingham NG1 1QN.

Teens Group

Events for the coming term are:

13/10	Games night (church)
4/11	Bonfire night (to be confirmed)
17/11	Trampoline Park
1/12	Ginger bread baking (church)
8/12	Teen panto
15/12	Teen party (location to be confirmed)

Leaders this term are Catriona and Matthew Macleod, Anthony and Enid Fong, John MacPherson and Jonathan Bremner. Please speak to any of them for more info.

Youth Work

Please keep a look out over the next few weeks for information regarding student hospitality and Cords (formerly known as prayer triplets). As we currently do not have a Youth Worker the "Youth Elders" are doing their very best to cover the duties that our previous Youth Worker would have organised.

There will also be information about a "weekend away" which this year will be in the form of a "staycation" at Bon Accord itself.

There's lots going on for new and returning students at Bon Accord - FCYA, YF, Guys' Bible Study, Girls' Bible Study as well as the regular church activities such as Neighbourhood Fellowships and the Prayer Meeting.

To get involved with any of the above or to join Facebook pages please speak to Ian MacLeod and he will gladly point you in the right direction or to the right person! There is also an email mailing list for students which you can be added to.

Foodbank

As part of the Aberdeen North Foodbank, Bon Accord will be running a weekly distribution of food to those in urgent need. We are hoping to start on 4 October, and will operate from 1pm to 3pm each Wednesday. We are very grateful to all those who have volunteered to serve in this way. The large brown box will be back in the hall to accept donations, and we will keep you informed of the need for donations of any specific types of food as and when required.

Please pray for wisdom and grace for those serving and that those using the foodbank will be touched by the love of Jesus. For any queries or if anyone would like to help, please speak to Anne Smith or Gordon Ferguson.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Yes it's that time of year again! We will be collecting Christmas shoeboxes over the next few weeks so please think about participating and bringing joy to someone this Christmas. Last year *Blythswood* sent over 121,000 boxes providing both practical and personal aid to deprived children and vulnerable adults across Europe and Asia. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. Hats and gloves make the winter more bearable; toiletries improve the personal hygiene of many; and toys and sweets are a special treat for children who have nothing of their own. In addition *Blythswood* add Gospel calendars for adults and children's books which tell of the love of Jesus.

Leaflets with full instructions are available at the entrance and look out over the next few weeks for wrapped boxes which will be available for those who require this service! As before, folks who do not wish to make up a box can donate items from the checklist in the leaflets.

Filled boxes must be returned no later than **Sunday 4 November**.

The Reformation in Scotland Lecture

**JOHN
KNOX**

**The Reformation
in Scotland**



REFORMATION
500TH ANNIVERSARY



**An Historical Devotional
Lecture**

by
Dr Iain Murray
Banner of Truth Trust
on

Saturday 14th October 2017

7.00pm

Banchory Christian Fellowship Church
Burn O' Bennie
Banchory
Aberdeenshire
AB31 5QA

Refreshment available after the talk

Banchory Christian Fellowship Church is a charity registered in Scotland, No SC034377

Charity Box

It has returned! The box is back and has an even more voracious appetite than last time! If you have any unwanted items from home that could be passed onto a charity shop, please add them to the large brown box in the hall downstairs.

Every so often Stephen Duncan will empty it and distribute the items to either the YMCA charity shop or the Blythswood container at Hazlehead Park.

Thank you

Stephen Duncan

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday school on the following dates. Under 7s will take place in the very small hall instead:

15 October October holidays
22 October October holidays

Memory Verses

Up until Christmas the children will be learning The Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-12

1 October

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. (v6)

8 October

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. (v7)

15 October

Holiday

22 October

Holiday

29 October

Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. (v8)

5 November

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (v9)

Please speak to Judy Laing or Anne MacDonald for any more information.

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter will be out Sunday 4 November 2017. The deadline for items will be Monday 30 October.

Items can be emailed to newsletter@bafreechurch.org.uk

Ladies' Book Study - Monday 30 October 7.30pm

We will be meeting at Linda's home on Monday 30 October to study lesson 8 (chapter 11) of the book 'The Pursuit of Holiness' by Jerry Bridges.

If anyone would like more details please speak to Wilma N.

CLC Bookshop

The CLC bookshop in Aberdeen moved to a new location recently. They can be found at:

Unit 14,
The Academy,
Belmont Street,
Aberdeen, AB10 1LB

Phone: 01224 641620

E-mail: aberdeen@clcbookshops.com

Opening times

Monday-Saturday: 9.30am - 5.30pm

Sunday: CLOSED

The shop located at the Credo Centre has now closed.

Stamps and Mobiles



Did you know that you could help us raise money for street children in Uganda by collecting your used stamps? It's that easy!

Just cut your UK or international stamps off their envelopes, leaving roughly 1 cm around the stamp. Then just pop them in the post, and send them in to the UK office and we receive money for Dwelling Places.

Please send your stamps to:

Dwelling Places UK
C/O The ARK
1484 Paisley Road West
Glasgow
G52 1SP

We can also recycle your old phones, and other collectable items. Please get in touch for more information!

www.dwellingplaces.org

Ladies' Bible Study

The October date for the Ladies' Bible Study is:

Wednesday 11 October

There will be no meeting on Wednesday 25 October due to the school holidays. The next meeting after that will be Wednesday 8 November.

All ladies are welcome to come along every second Wednesday at 10am in the small hall. We are about to begin a new study so this would be a great time for any newcomers to join.

Little Lambs Rota

6 October	Shirley	Julia
13 October	Cassia/Jennifer	Jane

Door Duty

Date	Door	Door	Door	Church Officer
01/10	Gordon Macleod	Angus Maciver	Mairi Macleod	Iain Meredith
08/10	Norman Buchanan	Donald Smith	Anne Smith	Ian Smith
15/10	Mike Bowman	Rob Grant	Margaret Ferguson	Gordon Ferguson
22/10	Kenny Maciver	Seoras Mackintosh	Isobel Morison	Gordon Ferguson
29/10	John Gillies	Murdo Macleod	Janice Stewart	Dougie Longmuir
05/11	Steven Inglis	Angus Maciver	Martha MacPherson	Dougie Longmuir

Crèche Rota

- 1 October Derin Nzonlie Fosso, Isobel Morison, Lorraine Longmuir,
Jennifer MacLeod
- 8 October Linda Stephen, Phoebe Graham, Claire Macdonald,
Rachel Stewart
- 15 October Wilma Morrison, Fiona Meredith, Fiona Bowman,
Christine Couper
- 22 October Janice Stewart, Marion Campbell, Sophie Tan,
Sarah Barrett
- 29 October Julia Mackintosh, Val Buchanan, Carol Au,
Wilma Nicolson
- 5 November Derin Nzonlie Fosso, Isobel Morison, Lorraine Longmuir,
Jennifer MacLeod

Neighbourhood Fellowships

Group	Leaders	Day/Time	Location
City North	Rob Grant	Wed 7:30	Rotates
City West	Steven Inglis	Thurs 7:45	Rotates
Deeside	tbc	Wed 8:00	Rotates
Westhill - Kingswells	Donald Smith & Norman Laing	Wed 7:45	Donald & Anne Smith
Shire North	Seoras Mackintosh & Norman Buchanan	Thurs 7:30	Rotates
City Centre	David MacPherson	Wed	Rotates

This term our home groups are studying the Reformation Solas. "These Truths Alone" leads us through why the Reformation Solas are essential for our faith today. The study guide is available from Rob Grant, priced £3.00.

Bon Accord Free Church of Scotland

Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen

www.bafreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Services – 11:00am & 6:30pm
Sunday School and Crèche – 11:00am
Wednesday Prayer Meeting/Bible Study – 7.30pm

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