

Connect



year of young people • 2018 •
bliadhna na h-òigridh •

January 2018



Behold, I make all things new!

(Revelation 21.5)

A New Year brings new opportunity!

Disintegration and dissolution is the experience of many a nation throughout its history. It often punctuates periods of political and economic crisis or decline. It is what many feel we are witnessing within our own country, in this present period of transition. Transitioning into what? We are unsure and uncertain.

Which is why this, for us, is a period of great opportunity. We can bring the blessing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the people of Scotland, in a renewed and profound way. Because of Jesus Christ, there is an opportunity to minister wholeness, healing and certainty. How do we do this?

First, we can each seek to maintain a vibrant and deep relationship with Jesus Christ. Jesus is alive and the Holy Spirit is a powerful presence. When each of us carries this in our hearts, and manifests it in our lives - a vital connection to God - it will make a difference. We are portals to the Kingdom of God, in all its beauty and redeeming power.

Secondly, we can convey grace in conversation. God does not change. The Bible does not change. God's truth does not change. As disciples of Jesus, we know we have been freed from sin into liberty: liberty to pursue the pleasure and purpose of our heavenly Father. Yes, people are confused. Clarity comes when we testify to God's love, expressed through the Cross. Each of us can speak of the love and purpose of God towards everyone.

Thirdly, we can model community. Church has to be far more than a Sunday drive-through. Healthy community. Righteous relationships, expressing forgiveness and reconciliation. Compassion and care shown in the way we relate together, and towards others. We need to keep working at this, to make it true of our local church.

Christian witness, in times of confusion, brings hope to people. Let us go on into 2018 with a commitment to bearing hope; and to sharing the good news of God's love and care, ministered through our participation in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Rev Dr Jim Purves
Mission and Ministry Advisor

Eden: Hillhead, Kirkintilloch

A few months ago we, as a family, had a chat with Kirkintilloch BC regarding what the future may look like in an area of great need in Kirkintilloch, called Hillhead. The area is like many across our nation with spiraling unemployment, addiction issues and an ever increasing distance from the support many of the local residents need.

After much prayer, discussion and wise advice we established Scotland's third Eden team. Eden believes in sending support to urban areas with high levels of deprivation and this is done in partnership with the local church to create a sustainable model of incarnational mission. Eden's drive comes from the words of Ezekiel 36:35: 'This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.' This is the vision we have for Hillhead.

My family and I have just bought a house and moved into the area. Another couple from church have done the same and another two people will be joining us in Hillhead in the coming few weeks. We are now part of this community and are seeking to build on relationships to find out how to serve the people of Hillhead as best we can with God's support.



So far we have bought some people Christmas trees, we have helped some people decorate, we are starting lunch clubs at the local primary school as well as hopefully completing painting the railings all around one of the local schools! We want to demonstrate the love of Christ in really practical ways to the least, the last and the lost. What could be more exciting or rewarding!

Dez Johnstone



year of young people bliadhna na h-òigridh 2018

2018 is the year of young people in Scotland. In a nut shell the "Year of Young People 2018 is an opportunity to celebrate the amazing young personalities, talents, and achievers that make up Scotland. It's all about inspiring our nation through its young people's ideas, attitudes and ambitions." (Quote from official YOYP website)

As a Union we also want to see our Union inspired and enriched by our young people. In 2018 we have many opportunities for our young people to gather to be inspired but also to sign up and use their talents and energies to help and serve people across the nation.

The future page on our website has some key dates across the whole of 2018 with events that are aimed to inspire and encourage our young people as they follow Jesus in the 21st century. They will all be fun, challenging and encouraging. So why not invite your youth group or a friends and come along? <https://www.scottishbaptist.com/bus-younger/>

What	Where	When
Powerpoint – A 1800 young people across 3 events joining together for worship, teaching, community, games, fun and far more. www.powerpointscotland.com	Aberdeen, Glasgow and Edinburgh.	Various – see website for dates.
Deep Impact – Conference for youth and children's workers both full time and voluntary. www.deep-impact.org.uk	Macdonald's Highland Resort, Aviemore	19th – 21st January 2018
ReBoot – A day conference by RZiM equipping young people in apologetics and teaching around some of the key questions that challenge our faith. www.tickettailor.com/checkout/view-event/id/116849/chk/2b05	Central Hall, Edinburgh	10th March 2018

<p>Youthwork Learning Community – Want to spend a bit of time working out how your youth group could work better? How to make disciples of Christ in 21st century Scotland? Then come along and let's learn together. For an idea about what will be happening watch the video here. www.timetorebuild.co.uk/what-we-do/learning-communities/</p>	<p>Stirling Baptist Church</p>	<p>20th – 21st April 2018 – Booking will open I the new year.</p>
<p>POWER G – An afternoon of Sports, creative arts and various seminars culminating in a massive outdoors Powerpoint event at Stirling Uni.</p>	<p>Stirling Uni Sports Grounds, Stirling</p>	<p>2nd June 2018 12 noon until 8pm</p>
<p>Soul Survivor Scotland – 1200 young people in a field worshipping Jesus and encouraging each other for 5 days. We as a union will be hosting a campsite at the event providing young people tents, food, tent leaders and a fun community. Booking information will open shortly.</p>	<p>Lendrick Muir, near Kinross</p>	<p>21st – 25th July 2018</p>
<p>Onelife – Young Leader Conference Are you aged 14-21? Do you want to invest in your future and your leadership? Do you want to see how your faith in God can dramatically impact society? Then sign up and come along? Booking happens here. www.onelifeleaders.com/conference</p>	<p>Queens Park Baptist Church, Glasgow</p>	<p>28th – 29th September 2018</p>

Opportunities to get involved in mission and service during summer 2018.

There are going to be lots of opportunities to use your holidays to do something really meaningful. We are creating a palette of mission options for young people to get involved in from Eden Bus teams and creative arts teams, to serving at Soul Survivor and even to helping in the refugee crisis at Calais. Look out for more information coming soon.

Let's pray that 2018 is indeed the year of young people within our Union, that we see the young people who have faith empowered and encouraged to impact their generation with the life transforming good news of Jesus.

Ali Laing
Next Generation Development
Coordinator

Prayer Link

January

January 7th

- Abbeyhill Baptist Church
- Aberdeen Christian Fellowship
- Adelaide Place Baptist Church

January 14th

- Marylee Anderson (Chaplain, Aberdeen University)
- Airdrie Baptist Church
- Alexandria Baptist Church
- Alloa Baptist Church

January 21st

- Graham Bell (Chaplain, HMP Glenochil)
- Alness Baptist Church
- Alva Baptist Church
- Ardbeg (Rothesay) Baptist Church

January 28th

- Nick Blair (Chaplain, Merchiston Castle School)
- Arran Baptist Church
- Ayr Baptist Church
- Bearsden Baptist Church

Alexandria BC

Please pray for another part time pastor/preacher to join us again. Pray also that we can nurture our personal contacts in the community and that God would guide us in developing the ministry of the church.

Give thanks that occasionally a new person starts to attend and do pray that they may continue to seek fellowship with us.

Adelaide Place BC

Please give thanks for our growing culture of discipleship and mission. We are experiencing a growing sense of renewal in our worship and hunger to serve God. We are also beginning to see many new leaders emerge who carry a real breadth in terms of gifting.

Please pray that we are able to continue to discern where God is at work among those who don't know Jesus, and in particular that we would experience a greater in-breaking of God's kingdom in the city centre, through our missional communities.

Ardbeg (Rothesay) BC

Please pray for our deacons' elections in January and for the new team of deacons to work in unity and faith together.

Airdrie Baptist Church

Please give thanks for the strengthening of ties between ourselves and other local evangelical Churches in recent months. Please pray that we would continue to encourage one another as we seek to bear witness to Christ in our town together.

Please pray that the Lord would be pleased to bless us with the joy of faithfulness and fruitfulness in his service this coming year.

Alness BC

Praise: Give thanks for the connections being built and for the relationships that are being made amongst the local community and churches, pray for a Gospel impact and deepening of these relationships.

Prayer Points: Pray for discernment as we see God's way forward in year ahead, as we seek to share the hope of the gospel message with Alness and the Easter- Ross Area and as we try to live our lives for His Glory.

Ayr BC

Give thanks for the connections we've made and renewed over the Christmas season. Pray for opportunities to strengthen these links and build bridges within the local community.

Please pray for God's guidance as we seek to appoint another minister.

Arran Baptist Church

Praise God for our continuing ministry to holiday visitors, pray for us as we seek to welcome and be a blessing to those who join us for worship and fellowship whilst away from home.

Give thanks for those who come to our fortnightly Lunchbox and for the various speakers who have come and shared there. Pray that God will continue to bless this outreach into the community.

Abbeyhill BC

Give thanks for much blessing by God and recent encouragements in the Fellowship.

Please pray for continued blessing, for more outreach and for the Search Group and Congregation as we seek our next Pastor.

Bearsden BC

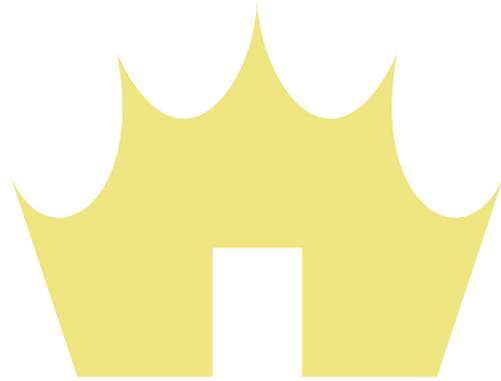
Give thanks for the recent baptisms with a wide age range, plus also our new cafe, the Barista, and the monthly youth led 2:42 evening services, which are proving popular.

Please pray for our ongoing participation in Lead Academy, that the leaders involved will get the maximum benefit from this two year programme.

Nick Blair (Chaplain, Merchiston Castle School)

Please pray for us as a family. Our children 15, 13 and 8 have lost all 4 grandparents in the last 10 years and this has been hard for them.

Give thanks that in the school we have been able to concentrate on the CU and open House meetings in our home 2-3 times a week. Since September we have had over 300 visits from over 80 individuals. Please pray for the school as a new Headmaster is chosen.



baptist union of scotland

Keep up to date with the Latest News and Events on our website

scottishbaptist.com



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