

Preaching Dates

3 December 2017

Glen Cartwright at Fusion (am) at
Newton Mearns Baptist Church.

Andy Bell (am) at
Lochgilphead Baptist Church

George Thomson (am) at
Maryhill Evangelical Church

Aubrey Jamieson (am) at
'Church in the Valley', Trondra, Shetland

Jim McNulty (am) at Islay Baptist Church

James MacKenzie (am) at
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship

Gordon Dickey (pm) at Selkirk old folks
home

Jonathan Groves (pm) at Skene Murray
Mission, Preaching and Kerusso Trust
presentation.

David Craig (am + pm) at
Westwood Baptist Church, East Kilbride



“Worth Waiting For”

By Glen Cartwright

As an activist by nature, who lives life zestfully, burns the midnight oil and relishes any challenge to 'get things done', waiting patiently isn't an activity I easily engage in! I'm happy to freely concede that. Yet in life, both humanly and spiritually, experience has taught me the wisdom of waiting, not least when that waiting is invited by God. God has had to teach me patience and that has often been hard, as I'm acutely aware love is patient and we're to 'be patient', for a patient waiting often leads to God's blessings.

When in June 2003, Adrienne walked into my life at a meeting in what was Borders Coffee Shop in Buchanan Street, there was a sense within me the period of waiting for God's choice of partner was over, and the rest is history for I couldn't have asked for a more beautiful, amazing wife. The wait, though difficult, was worth it.

When in June 2009, Lewis, our son, was born, like any dad-to-be, I waited anxiously in the theatre ante-room at the then Southern General for what seemed like an eternity, before I was invited in to be with Adrienne, as Lewis, a precious gift from God, was born. The wait, though difficult, was worth it.

When in June 2016, we flew to Malta for our summer holiday, Our flight departure was delayed for two hours from Prestwick. The excitement of flying, getting to our hotel and the pool, was hampered by having to wait. Yet when we arrived in Malta, the wait, though difficult, was worth it.

When Antoni Gaudi, architect of his day, was asked before his death in 1926 why it was taking years - work having started in 1883 - to build the Church of the Basilica in Barcelona, he famously remarked, "My client is not in a hurry"! Gaudi gave design to a church that has been described as structurally perfect and harmonious. For some, the wait, though difficult, was worth it, in that many from all over the world visit to admire its majesty.

However, there's a post-scriptum, for during Gaudi's life, only parts of the Basilica were finished. Artists today are still working on the sculptural decoration with completion not expected for another 8 years! Gaudi was right. His client was not, and is not, in a hurry.

In a world of instants - instant news, coffee, results, emails, food and more - the story of the Church of the Basilica and the story of Advent, that period of waiting before that baby, who would be Saviour of the World, was born in Bethlehem, reminds us that God takes His time, that God's not in a hurry and God's best gifts are always worth waiting for.

Let's permission ourselves as we enter what will become for us a period of rushing at a human level before Christmas, to engage this Advent a refreshing time of 'just waiting' at a spiritual level, secure in the knowledge that God's best gifts are always worth the wait.

Jesus, the Christ-child, was without doubt worth waiting for!