

### Preaching Dates

**Sun 15<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Charles Sommerville** (am) at  
Carbrain Baptist Church  
**Chris Townsend** (am) at  
Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria  
**Gordon Dickey** (am) at  
Galashiels Baptist Church  
**Brian Crockett** (am) at  
Maryhill Evangelical Church  
**Andy Bell** (am) at  
Campbeltown Community Church  
**George Thomson** (am) at  
Uddingston Baptist Church  
**David Craig** (am) at Wigtown Baptist Church  
**David Rathel** at  
Whyte's Causeway Baptist Church, Kirkcaldy  
**David W. Andrew** (am) at Tillycoultry  
Evangelical Union Congregational Church  
**Hugh Tannock** (pm) at  
Drumchapel Baptist Church.  
**John Bingham** (pm) at Westwoodhill  
Evangelical Church, East Kilbride  
**David Mitchell** (pm) at Airdrie Baptist Church  
**Douglas Inglis** (pm) at  
Newton Mearns Baptist Church  
**Jonathan Groves** (am + pm) at Hillbank  
Evangelical Church, Dundee.  
Preaching and Kerasso Trust update.  
**Jim McNulty** (am + pm) at  
Islay Baptist Church

**19 April**

**Hazel Brooks** (pm) at  
Charlotte Chapel, Edinburgh



**“Trusting in the dark”**

**By Florence MacKenzie**

I once needed an operation on my foot and was dismayed when the surgeon told me this would require a general anaesthetic. I'd hoped to have the procedure carried out under local anaesthetic because I'd then be conscious of what was going on. With a general anaesthetic, I wouldn't be able to see what was happening! Now, for many people, being unconscious during an operation is preferable to being awake. Well, I didn't see it this way...

Funny, isn't it? I trusted my surgeon's competence – or at least, I **said** I did – but was initially reluctant to **act** on that trust by wholeheartedly committing myself to him if it meant giving up control, even if that control was illusory rather than real. After all, I could no more direct the operation by being conscious than I could by being unconscious!

There's a striking parallel here with Christian experience. As followers of Jesus Christ, we have no problem saying that we trust him. That's okay as long as we think we're in control of the direction in which our lives are going. But then life takes a down-turn and we find ourselves plunged into the dark, not knowing what's going on or why. Perhaps we ask, where is God in all this? We can't see him and we tell ourselves that, if only we could see what he is doing, perhaps our difficulties would be more bearable. In effect, what we're saying is similar to my attitude towards my operation. As long as I can see what the surgeon is doing, that's okay, even if the procedure is unpleasant. Similarly, as long as I can see what God is doing in tough circumstances, then I can trust him...

Hey, some faulty thinking going on here! I'm mistakenly making myself the reference point – if *I* can see, if *I* know what's going on... But whether or not someone is worth trusting doesn't depend on my perspective, but on the person in whom I place my trust. I'm learning that God is trustworthy – always – even when I can't see him. 2 Corinthians 5:7 talks about living by faith, not by sight. This certainly challenges my tendency to do the opposite – to live by sight, not by faith!

Yet, so much of life involves trusting in what we cannot see. For example, during the dark days of winter, there's no sign of the snowdrops and daffodils that I believe will emerge from my garden soil in early spring. But activity is still going on beneath the surface, even though I can't see it. Growth is taking place in the dark! I don't know about you, but I find this a very helpful principle when I think about the times when I can't see what God is doing in my life. Much of his activity is “below the surface” or “behind the scenes” and, as such, is “out of sight”. This can present a challenge to our faith, right?

But, as I make a conscious decision to act on 2 Corinthians 5:7, I become increasingly convinced that I don't need to see what God is doing in my life to be able to trust him, to place my confidence in him, and to depend completely on him. How about you? Are you ready to trust him for that situation that perplexes you today?