

### Preaching Dates

**23 June 2018**

**Gordon Dickey** speaking at the Men's Curry Night in Hawick

**24 June 2018**

**David W Andrew** (am) at Dumbarton Baptist Church

**George Hunter** (am) at Campbeltown Community Church

**George Thomson** (am) at Linwood Baptist Church

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at Barnards Court Mission, Greenock

**Andrew Swanson** (pm) at South Beach Baptist Church

**Tony Walters** (pm) at the Community Centre, Kinlochleven

**Jim Ewing** (am + pm) at Ardbeg Baptist Church, Rothesay

**James MacKenzie** (am + pm) at Peterhead Baptist Church

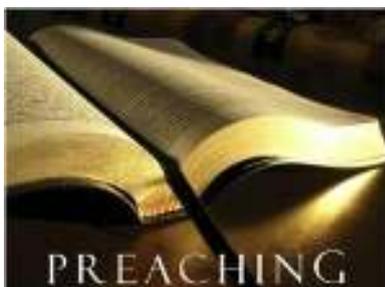
**Jim McNulty** (am + pm) at Islay Baptist Church

**27 June 2018**

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at Dykehead Mission

**29 June 2018**

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



**"We Love because He First Loved Us."**

**By Dawn Martindale**

Psalm 18 begins with love for God:

*'I love you, LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer; my God is my rock in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.'* (Psalm 18:1-2)

The reason that the Psalmist is able to say these words is because he is looking back on a recent incident where he could see the hand of God giving him safety and freedom from difficulty.

*'He [the LORD] reached down from on high and took hold of me; he drew me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy, from my foes, who were too strong for me... He brought me out into a spacious place; he rescued me because he delighted in me'* (Psalm 18:16-19)

The Hebrew word here for 'spacious' can be taken literally or figuratively. Figuratively it is a place of freedom and safety from distress.

When we read the story of the Good Samaritan we see that the Samaritan didn't just administer medical treatment by the side of the road, but rescued the traveller from danger by taking him to the safe space of the inn where he could recover properly.

*'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he was attacked by robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead... But a Samaritan, as he travelled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, brought him to an inn and took care of him.'* (Luke 10:30, 33-34)

In both those passages the act of being rescued is combined with an act of 'hospitality'. That is being taken away to a place in which there is safety and space to heal and be cared for; well away from the difficulties and/or the enemies who attacked.

Both passages also focus on love as the result. In Psalm 18 the psalmist says that he loves the LORD because God himself is that safe space and the one who rescued him. And the whole context of Luke 10 is about loving: *'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and all your strength and with all your mind; and, love your neighbour as yourself.'* (Luke 10:27).

Just like the Psalmist could say he loved the LORD because he rescued him, so too we say we love you, Lord, because you have first loved us. He rescues us and gives us safe spaces to grow in him. That forms the basis of our love for God which, in turn, form the basis of our love for our neighbour. It is being loved that enables us to love. Can you remember any time you feel you were rescued and protected as you travelled through life?

*'Go and do likewise'* (Luke 10:37)

*We love because he first loved us... And he has given us this command: anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.* (1 John 4:19-21)