

Preaching Dates

25 February 2018

Gordon Dickey (am) at Kelso Evangelical

George Thomson (am) at
Kings Park Baptist Church, Glasgow

Steve Taylor (am) at
Stonehaven Baptist Church

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

Charles Sommerville (am) at Kings
Covenant Christian Fellowship, Glenrothes

Jim McNulty (am) at
Islay Baptist Church, Port Ellen

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Shettleston Baptist Church

Paul Cairns (pm) at
Islay Baptist Church, Bowmore

David W. Andrew (pm) at
Stirling Free Church

Hazel Brooks (pm) at
Whitburn Christian Fellowship

Matthew Payne (pm) at
Lossiemouth Baptist Church

Stephen Ilett (am + pm) at
Wick Baptist Church

26 February 2018

Hazel Brooks (pm) at Olivetti Church, Falkirk

28 February 2018

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Dykehead Mission

Saturday 3 - Sunday 4 March 2018

Charles Sommerville at Shettleston Baptist
Church Anniversary Weekend



"Passing on the Baton"

By Jonathan D. Groves

As we read of the death this week of Dr Billy Graham, we recognise the passing of arguably the most influential Christian leader of the 20th Century. Globally, he preached a Gospel of love, grace, repentance and forgiveness to more than 200 million people. There are many in Scotland who testify to his part in starting them on their discipleship journey. We thank God for his long and fruitful Christ-centred life and faithful model of integrity and humility in Christian leadership.

Yet, Billy Graham was a gift from God to the world for only a season: he was a man for his day. We are to be the new voice of "Today" (Psalm 95:7). As preachers, we must exegete both the text and the culture. The days of mass evangelism "crusades" have gone from the UK; Billy Graham's leg of the relay race is complete. The baton of evangelism is now passed to us, and we must run with it.

Last week, an article appeared in The Guardian newspaper about the influence of Archbishop Justin Welby on the Church of England. The author, Andrew Brown wrote, "*The problem facing the Church of England is that it hardly ever makes converts of adults, while those born into it are not very concerned with passing the faith on to their children. In fact, for many congregants the church seems to be a place of refuge from the modern world... Changing that is beyond the power of any archbishop; it will require a profound cultural revolution that starts in the parishes.*" There is nothing uniquely Anglican in this; it is reflected in many congregations of the mainstream denominations.

St. Paul wrote to his young mentee Timothy, "*Be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others*" (2 Timothy 2:1-2). After our leg of the race is finished, what will we leave behind? Surely, we must be "*teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness*" (2 Timothy 3:16), and modelling a radical Gospel life of love, integrity and sacrifice to others – as Billy Graham has done; and we must selflessly mentor the next generation to reach out to the lost with the timeless Gospel, but using ways that freshly engage our rapidly-changing 21st Century culture.