

### Preaching Dates

#### Saturday 26 May

**Hugh Tannock** (am) at Prayer Meeting,  
Drumchapel Baptist Church

#### Sunday 27 May 2018

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

**Charles Sommerville** (am) at  
Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife

**Nigel Johns** (am) at  
Vale of Leven Baptist Church

**John Bingham** (am) at Westwoodhill  
Evangelical Church, East Kilbride

**David Andrew** (am) at  
St Mungo's Church of Scotland, Alloa

**Jonathan Groves** (am) at Mull Baptist  
Church with Kerusso Trust presentation.

**James MacKenzie** (am) at  
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship;

**James MacKenzie** (pm) at  
Portlethen Christian Fellowship

**Jim O'Hara** (pm) at Airdrie Baptist Church

**Hugh Tannock** (pm) at  
Drumchapel Baptist Church

#### Wednesday 30 May 2018

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

#### Thursday 31 May 2018

**Phill March** at Woman's Fellowship,  
Independent Methodist Church, Stockton  
Heath, Warrington



### "The Church – An Object Lesson"

By Willie Henry

Sometimes our perspective on God's purposes can be extremely limited. We see the Christian message as being about individuals and their relationship with the Lord and, if we think of the Church at all, we see it in terms of the local church, or, of us as part of a particular denomination.

I was recently reading Ephesians 3 and I was struck by the wonder of the Church. Not your local Baptist Church or even the Baptist Union but the Church Universal – the Body of Christ. By creating this Church, the Lord unveiled a mystery – a secret that had been hidden in ages past and was now being revealed through the apostle Paul and his apostolic colleagues. And that secret was that Jews and Gentiles could be members of one body, through faith in Christ, with no distinctions or hierarchies between them; all members of that body are on an equal footing. What a contrast with the past, when Gentiles were "without hope and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12). The only way a Gentile could become a member of God's people was by becoming a Jew or a proselyte. Yet God has now created, out of the two, one, and has destroyed the barrier between them in Christ.

Why has He done this? Well, it was a major aspect of His plan to reconcile the world to Himself, but Ephesians 3 gives us another reason. He did it to use the Church as an object lesson: His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Ephesians 3:10-11) By creating this universal group, bound together by love, the Lord was revealing His wisdom to these great spiritual beings, who had never seen this purpose before. And they watch in awe as Jews, Gentiles, Scots, Italians, Africans - men and women from every culture and tradition, are brought together into one body in the bond of love. That love is the love of Christ, flowing out to all.

As John said:

... if we love one another, God lives in us, and His love is made complete in us. (1 John 4:12)

God's love reaches its consummation, its completeness, when it flows from the Father, through the Son to us and out through us to one another and the people beyond.

As Bishop Michael Curry said at the royal wedding last weekend, that redemptive love has the power to move and change the world and he called the congregation to imagine a world driven by that love.

The Church is an object-lesson of that love and its effects – an object-lesson to spiritual powers. You and I are part of the working out of God's cosmic plans. What an incentive that is for us to go out and show the love of Christ on a daily basis.