

### Preaching Dates

#### 1 April 2018

**Mark Laing** (am) at  
Shettleston Baptist Church  
**Irene Campbell** (am) at  
Westwood Baptist Church  
**Peter Trotter** (am) at  
Friendship Church, Carand, Romania  
**Gordon Dickey** (pm) at Selkirk Care Home  
**Cheryl Leckie** (pm) at Ayr Baptist Church  
**David Mitchell** (pm) at  
Airdrie Baptist Church  
**Jim McNulty** (am + pm) at  
Islay Baptist Church

#### 2 April 2018

**George Sprott** (pm) at  
Baptist Women's Fellowship in Hawick  
**Stanley Bonthron** (pm) funeral service  
at Seafeld Crematorium, Edinburgh



### “Good Friday?”

By Bob Ferguson

“Good Friday’ – seemingly that’s what you call it! Well it is Friday but **Good** Friday!?! You must know something we don’t! Try putting yourself in our place.

It’s fine for you folk sitting there in 2018, on the other side of Calvary. But not here, not now. Not here, not now after Judas and that kiss, who would have believed it .....and the arrest last night – despite Peter’s heroics with that sword he was carrying, trust Peter - and the early morning trial and the baying of the mob in the streets. And it doesn’t look like its going to get any better. We hear the leaders are pressing for the maximum sentence, ‘the full might of the law’ is the phrase being used, petitioning Pilate they are, for the death penalty. They want to end it now.

We thought it would have gone so differently but the opposition has been growing and now it seems to be coming to a head. Jesus was never their favourite, he ruffled their feathers too much. I think it was because he made them see themselves as they really are not as they want folk to see them, all dressed up in their finery.

But it was Sunday that really clinched it. That donkey, the adulation, the crowds out on the streets, the ‘Hosannas’ and palm branches. That gave them a right fright. You can imagine them saying in their self-righteous way ‘*If we don’t get a hold of this it’s going to get out of hand. They’ll bring the Romans down us. It has to end now!*’. Mind you, what he did on Monday didn’t help either – you want to have seen their faces as the tables fell and money scattered over the floor and doves flew everywhere.

I could feel they weren’t going to stand for it. He’s in there with Pilate just now. Maybe Pilate will see sense and release him. But you know him - he’ll do anything to keep things quiet. If he thinks he’ll get in trouble with Rome there’s no chance. And they’ll be keen to get this finished today. Sabbath tomorrow and nobody wants this business of ‘God’s Son’ getting in the way of worship, do they? Unless something miraculous happens it’s not going to end well. Life’s not going to be the same again.

Good Friday you say? Aye right! Maybe for you - but not for us.”

*Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. Mark 15:15*