

### Preaching Dates

**10<sup>th</sup> December 2017**

**Tony Walters** (am) at Lighthouse  
Christian Fellowship, Mallaig

**Graham Horne** (am) at  
Blantyre Old Parish Church

**Irene Campbell** (am) at  
Westwood Baptist Church, East Kilbride

**Gordon Dickey** (am) at  
Peebles Baptist Church

**Andrew Swanson** (am) at  
Westwood Baptist, East Kilbride

**Fraser Allan** (am) at  
Strathendrick Baptist Church.

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

**Douglas Inglis** (pm) at  
Newton Mearns Baptist Church.

**Aubrey Jamieson** (pm) at Fishermen's  
Mission Christmas Nightcap Service,  
Lerwick Baptist Church

**David Rathel** (pm) at  
St. Andrew's Baptist Church

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



### “Bridge Over Troubled Waters”

By Dr Riaz Mohammed

It was a very interesting experience driving across from Edinburgh, where I now live, to the Kingdom of Fife, where I once lived some years ago. I drove over the river Forth using, for the first time, the newly opened Queensferry Crossing Bridge. This bridge was officially opened by Her Majesty the Queen on the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2017. She was accompanied by Prince Philip as she cut the ribbon on the £1.35bn road bridge - exactly 53 years after she opened the Forth Road Bridge.

It is interesting to note that there are now 3 bridges which cross over the river Forth and are quite close to one another. They are all, of course, very different. From now on, the Rail Bridge will continue to allow trains to go across the river and the Forth Road Bridge will now only allow buses and bikers and walkers to go across. The new bridge will take all other vehicles. There are now, therefore, three different ways that you can cross over the river Forth - assuming, of course, all the bridges are functioning well.

This situation brought to my mind the number of religions there are in the world that purport to say that their believers can cross “the bridge of life” to God. Of course, there are many people who do not believe that there is a bridge at all and no God to reach in any case. Others believe that any “religious bridge” will get you there and that the Christian religion is just another “bridge”, available to those interested in these things.

In the end of the day, in my view, religion - of any type- does not take anyone across the bridge of troubled waters to the Eternal God. Religion does not take anyone anywhere! Although it may make some feel that they are going somewhere!

Jesus said, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; No one comes to the Father, but by me”. (John 14:6) and the apostle Peter said, “And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12)

These are very profound statements. They clearly state that there is no other “bridge” over troubled water of life to God but Jesus Christ alone.

The cost of building that “bridge” was much more than anyone could have ever imagined. That cost was Christ giving himself on the cross to make the “bridge”. If it were possible to get to God by any other means, Christ would not have died on the cross. It would not have been necessary.

When preaching, I am beginning to think, more and more, how important it is to make it clear that it is not enough just to know that Christ is the only “bridge” to God. No! You don't get across the “troubled waters of life” just by having the correct information! You must firstly decide to go over that bridge and then, no matter how painful and difficult as it may prove to be, actually make that crossing.

Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

