

### Preaching Dates

**31 July – 23 August**

**Jonathan Groves** in Malawi with  
The Kerusso Trust

**5 August 2018**

**William Henry** (am) at  
Vale of Leven Baptist Church

**Eric Macarthur** (am) at  
Stranraer Baptist Church

**Jackie Macdonald** (am) at  
Sheddocksley Baptist Church, Aberdeen

**Dawn Martindale** (am) at  
Rosyth Baptist Church

**Adam Renberg** (am) at  
Tobermory Evangelical Church

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

**George Hunter** (am + pm) at  
Helensburgh Baptist Church

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

**7 August 2018**

**Ian Stephen** (am) at monthly service at  
Galashiels Baptist Lunch Club.  
LAPWING- Looking After People With  
Individual Needs.

**8 August 2018**

**Jonathan Groves** at planning meeting for  
the launch of publishing church leader  
training books in the Chichewa language.

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) at  
Shettleston Baptist Church



### “The Main Thing”

By **John Mark Donaldson**

Stephen Covey, the American management guru, businessman, educator and author famously said, “The main thing is to keep the main thing, the main thing.” As I consider what it might look like for each of us, as SBLPA members - in the varied, itinerant preaching opportunities we are afforded - to ‘keep the main thing the main thing’; I’m drawn to the Apostle Paul’s exhortation to his young lieutenant, Timothy: “Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Tim 4:2)

Surely then, as Baptist lay-preachers, the ‘main thing’ for us must also be to preach that inerrant, inspired and infallible Word of God? For in doing so, the Holy Spirit, in power, will use the truth of His living and active sword to penetrate deeply into the hearts and minds of our listeners to accomplish His holy purposes for God’s eternal glory as it points them to Jesus Christ - their only hope. Such faithful proclamation of God’s written revelation, regardless of the so-called wisdom of the current age, must be our ‘main thing’ - since only its teaching can correct the wayward, rebuke the proud and encourage the faint-hearted. It is Christ alone who provides the desperately needed antidote of truth to the all pervasive lies of our culture which lead to idolatry, immorality and chaos. And it is Scripture alone which so powerfully and reliably contains His truth; revealing God’s glory, majesty, power and authority in Jesus Christ throughout its pages.

Let us not become side-tracked from this ‘main thing’ through the negligence of inadequate preparation, the inclusion of triviality, the indiscipline of straying from the text or the intimidation of opposition. But rather, let us commit to keeping “the main thing as the main thing” - preaching the whole counsel of His word - through diligence in our study of His word; that we may carefully handle and thereby correctly and unashamedly present its precious, gospel truth with godly wisdom, patience and courage; doing our best to present ourselves to God as approved workmen and so fulfil our calling as preachers of the holy Word of God.