

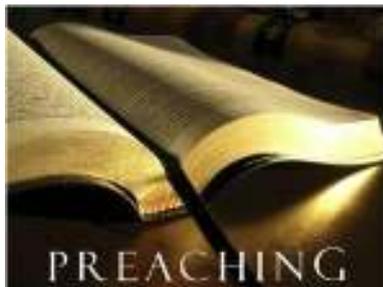
Preaching Dates

8 July 2018

David Andrew (am) at
Sauchie & Fishcross United Free Church
Irene Campbell (am) at
Westwood Baptist Church, East Kilbride
Gordon Dickey (am) at
Selkirk Baptist Church
Richard Fettes (am) at Kelso Baptist Church
Neil Fisher (am) at Hawick Baptist Church
Graham Horne (am) at
High Blantyre Baptist Church
Stephen Ilett (am) at
Forres Lighthouse Baptist Church
Nigel Johns (am) at
Coatbridge Baptist Church
Florence MacKenzie (am) at
Aberdeen Christian Fellowship
David Rathel (am) at
Broughty Ferry Baptist Church
Florence MacKenzie (pm) at
Portlethen Christian Fellowship
Jim McNulty (am + pm) at
Islay Baptist Church.

11 July 2018

Andrea Mill at funeral service, Bradwell
Crematorium, Newcastle-under-Lyme



“Time”

By Mark Laing

I need to start with a confession! When I have a preaching date in my diary, I often have very good intentions to start thinking and preparing weeks ahead so giving myself plenty of time to prepare and allow God plenty of time to speak to me and direct my thinking. That’s my ideal, but the reality is usually messier – sermon prep gets pushed out by other demands and then the deadline looms and I find myself running out of time. Or, worst case scenario, having to rehearse an old sermon and bring it back to life. Writing this short reflection has been no different!

This pattern of running out of time has made me reflect on time itself. Our society is characterised as being materially rich, but time poor. Reading an article recently in the Guardian was helpful. Like most busy people Burkeman (link below) acknowledges that the urgent and necessary often squeezes out the time we would like to devote to the things we are really passionate about. Burkeman compares how we use money with how we use time. The cliché “pay yourself first” works; putting aside a portion of your salary as soon as you receive it each month for saving or paying off a debt. If we wait until the end of the month we find that there is usually little money left to save.

So too with time. We sometimes think that further down the line we’ll have more time and then be able to invest our time in what we are really passionate about – but that seldom happens. Burkeman’s advice is, “If there’s something you’re passionate about the only way to make it happen is to do a bit of it now, no matter how many urgent tasks are pressing in”. This has made me evaluate how I prepare to preach. If I’m really passionate about preaching and want to grow and develop in my ability to preach then I need to “pay myself first”. Set aside time when I am at my most receptive and productive. Not so much for the end product of having a script ready for Sunday. But to give God time to get *me* ready for Sunday. “If you’re going to spend at least some of your time on the planet doing what matters to you most, you’d better actually start doing what matters most”.

Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.
Joshua 1:8

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2018/mar/09/invest-time-as-wisely-as-money-oliver-burkeman>