

Word For The Week

23 August 2019

Preaching Dates

23 August 2019

Hazel Brooks (pm) at Woman2Woman,
Ardgowan Evangelical Church, Greenock

24 August 2019

Arthur Jones at
SU Scotland's Big Day seminar

25 August 2019

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

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

Gordon Dickey (am) at
Galashiels Baptist Church

James Ewen (am) at
Maryhill Evangelical Church

Nigel Johns (am) at
Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria

Arthur Jones (am) at Arran Baptist Church

Andrew Roffey (am) at
Granton Baptist Church, Edinburgh

Charles Sommerville (am) at
Kelty Evangelical Church, Fife

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Shettleston Baptist Church

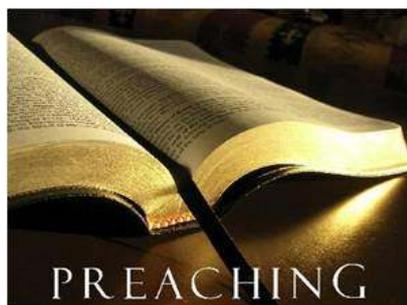
Jim McNulty (am + pm) at
Islay Baptist Church

26 August 2019

Charles Sommerville (pm) at Bellshill Baptist
Church Ladies' Fellowship

28 August 2019

Charles Sommerville (pm) at
Shettleston Baptist Church



“Anyone for Jesus?”

By Stan Paliwoda

At some point in time, we are going to look back and ask ourselves: ‘how did we get it so wrong?’ Why are attendances failing? Why would people choose to go anywhere but listen to someone spouting about Jesus? Why are the humanists now accounting for more weddings than the churches? What are the churches doing to relieve homelessness and poverty in the community? There are some fundamental questions here that are not being asked and where they are being addressed, there are not the resources to tell others about it, forgetting that word of mouth is still the most highly regarded form of communication.

Young people, in general, regard the church as irrelevant and church services as boring. The list goes on... Yet, if you look at what is popular in the cinema, the most commercially successful film series has been the Captain Marvel series. People in difficult times look for excitement and adventure and for release, an alternative to life as we know it, That is what the people in the cinema receive. It may be short lived escapism but what about the people sitting in the pews? I have heard the church referred to as the 4th emergency service but it is far from that although this is not to diminish the sterling work that is being done, but do many people ever get to hear about it? There are many organisations and activities that are designed to cope with the problems of modern society and Scotland has more than its fair share, being nominated recently as the drug capital of Europe. Too many people are falling by the wayside in despair because they feel there is no future. Huge amounts of money are being spent on illegal drugs and the NHS is constantly spending more than is budgeted to wean people off drugs, drink and tobacco. This is a cycle of despair. By way of contrast, we need a greater effort in all of these areas. Food Banks are a symbol of our times, homelessness on the streets, senseless violence fueled by drink and by drugs. This is not a hope for the future.

I have a suggestion that we set ourselves a task to learn about one charity per week and then tell someone else about it. If you do not have a charity in mind then perhaps start with Christians against Poverty or Street Pastors. We could change perceptions and we could increase volunteering and actually do something for the betterment of our society. Remember the two great commandments of Jesus in Mark 12: 30-31 (NIV):

³⁰ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. ³¹ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.’

In Matthew 22:40, Jesus explains the reason behind these being the greatest commandments; one, or both are the root of all the other commandments given to His followers. You can start anytime you want and do as much as you like and we will all benefit!