

### Preaching Dates

**Saturday 3- Sunday 4 November  
2018**

**Charles Sommerville** at New Farm Chapel, Alresford, Hampshire

**4 November 2018**

**David Andrew** (am) at Tillicoultry EU Congregational Church  
**Glen Cartwright** (am) at Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church  
**Jonathan Groves** (am) at Mull Baptist Church, with Kerasso Trust presentation

**Bill Haining** (am) at Bridge of Don Baptist Church  
**Mark Laing** (am) at Vale of Leven Baptist Church, Alexandria

**Tony Walters** (am) at Salvation Army, Kinlochleven  
**Aubrey Jamieson** (pm) at Haroldswick Methodist Church, Unst,  
**Andrew Swanson** (pm) at South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats  
**Jim McNulty** (am + pm) at Islay Baptist Church

**Monday 5 November**

**Hazel Brooks** (pm) at Chryston Parish Church, Glasgow

**Tuesday 6 November**

**David Andrew** (pm) at Rainbow Hour, Denny Baptist Church

**Thursday 8 November**

**Andrea Mill** (pm) at Bo'ness Filling Station  
**George Thomson** (pm) Ladies Fellowship Meeting, Gorgie Mission, Edinburgh



**“Suffer the little children”**

**By Andrew McNeish**

Our four year old granddaughter Rebecca, is the oldest of three. Our son's family were going on holiday for a week to the Canaries. Rebecca wakes her daddy up at 5.30am, six days before departure. *“Daddy we must pack my case.”* Following an interesting conversation revolving around – not now - he for reasons of sanity - gives in. She gathers together all she says she needs – everything! That is; teddy, swimming costume, float wings and - one pair of pants! She was bright eyed and good to go! Simple!

...As was Jesus' instruction recorded early in the Gospels. *“Travel light on your journey: don't take a staff, backpack, bread, money or even an extra change of clothes”.* Luke 9v3. – In these terms, Rebecca was over-packed.

Up to this point in the NT the followers of Jesus were known as disciples, now Matthew 10v2 records them as apostles. Luke 9 vv2&3 records...*“He gave them power and authority to free people from all demonic spirits and heal them of diseases, preach the Kingdom of God and heal the sick.”* Whaoo! What a commission; how was your last Sunday morning...not like this? – Seriously, have you ever questioned why? Maybe you think there is some theology tucked away in the previous few lines that precludes this sort of happening today? Jesus seemed to have no doubt; and when the disciples returned from their trips, they too seemed to be 'new converts'.

They go on a retreat to Bethesda to excitedly tell all. But the crowds follow - some to criticise, others still curious, others ready to grasp it with both hands. After more sharing and healing, the hungry curious crowd has grown exponentially - five thousand men, as many women, or as today, perhaps twice as many women - and of course children. Do the math! The average season attendance when the top teams in the Scottish premiership play against one another is just short of sixteen thousand. The disciples said send them away. Jesus said...*as it were*, give them all a pie.

Luke 9v13&14 ..*“No - you give them something to eat – You feed them!”* What a challenge these words are to lay preachers. The task we have committed to is no game. Matthew 10 begins with a similar 'commission' text but in his account from v16 -39 the temperature he records heats up. Persecution is a very likely outcome, v34 soberly records *“don't imagine I have come to bring peace to the earth...”* read on for yourself, it gets worse and difficult. The harvest is plenty - *inside* and *outside* of the church! The gospel is the calling of all Christians, but whom in turn need to be fed and know the truth from the inside. The church of today needs the unambiguous truth, taught, understood and acted on – if we are to be bright eyed (*filled with the Spirit*) and good to go!