

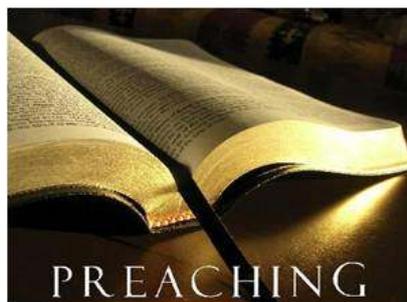
Preaching Dates

5 May 2019

Ian Barr (am) at
Kilinside Evangelical Church, Paisley
Glen Cartwright (am) at
Fusion, Newton Mearns Baptist Church
Brian Crockett (am) at
Crookston Baptist Church, Glasgow
Gordon Dickey (am) at
Selkirk Baptist Church
Jonathan Groves (am) at Mitsidi Zambezi
Evangelical Church, Blantyre, Malawi.
Douglas Inglis (am) at
Wishaw Baptist Church
Aubrey Jamieson (am) at
Lerwick Congregational Church, Shetland
Charles Sommerville (am) at
St Nicholas UF Church, Broxburn. .
Gordon Dickey (pm) at
Moffat Christian Fellowship
Alistair Mackay (pm) at
Dumfries Baptist Church
John Bingham (am + pm) at
Mustard Seed Fellowship, Glenrothes
Nigel Johns (am + pm) at
Stranraer Baptist Church
Phill March (am + pm) at
Alloa Baptist Church

11 May 2019

Charles Sommerville at Prophetic Witness
Movement International, Barnards Court
Mission Greenock (2pm and 3.30pm)



“Grand Designs”

By Glen Cartwright

Notre Dame, the majestic, medieval, 12th century cultural masterpiece, rich in gothic architecture, with its enormous, colourful rose windows, sculptural decoration, iconic spire and island setting, us one of the great cathedrals of the world. Yet the recent fire which ravaged Notre Dame means it will take at least 5-6 years to rebuild it to its former glory. A grand design on an epic scale if ever there was one!

St Martin’s Church, Tipton in the Midlands was restored from an 18th century crumbling, derelict building over a period of 2 years to a unique family home in the TV documentary, ‘Grand Designs’. The restoration was without doubt a grand design borne out of the vision, passion and resilience of Dean Marks who made it happen!

Much more important though is God’s grand design for our lives and for His church, that we be good and faithful servants and labourers, restoring not a majestic cathedral or a disused church, but in helping to build His church of which we’re a part. It’s a ‘grand design’ which hasn’t changed in 2,000 years and defined in the call for good and godly leadership we read of in Acts 6:3 - to be leaders and people who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom. Full of the Holy Spirit expressed in a reliance on God’s enabling and the Spirit’s fruit in our lives, and wisdom, possessing the ability to see things from God’s point of view. Put simply, Spirit-filled and Word-filled believers are the building blocks for spiritual maturity and godly leadership. As preachers we need to be Spirit-filled and Word-filled to bring others to maturity in Christ and to help the church grow.

Is there any greater privilege as a labourer, leader or lay preacher than helping build for time and eternity? Jesus said He would build His church, and that the very gates of hell would not be enough to stop it! Despite the statistics telling us that the church is in apparent decline in Scotland, God is building His church and as the master architect has invited us to be part of helping build it!

With this in mind, Richard Baxter in his classic, ‘The Reformed Pastor’, closes with these challenging yet encouraging words: *“And now brethren, the work is before you. Others have borne their burden and played their part, and now comes in yours. The harvest is great, but the labourers are few. The beauty and glory of the Church is desirable. To be co-workers with God and His Spirit is not a little honour”*.

Rebuilding the majestic Notre Dame or restoring St Martin’s Tipton really do pale into insignificance in comparison what God wants to build in us (our character) and build through us (His church). So let’s be good and godly labourers - labourers, leaders and lay preachers who are if nothing else, simply full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.