

### Preaching Dates

**16 September 2018**

**David Andrew** (am) at New Life Christian Centre, Hamilton

**Andrew Chalkley** (am) at Campbeltown Community Church

**Matthew Edmonds** (am) at Larbert Baptist Church

**Douglas Inglis** (am) at Cambuslang Baptist Church

**Andrea Mill** (am) at KCF Glenrothes Baptist Church

**John Perkins** (am) at Vale of Leven, Alexandria, Baptist Church

**Ian Stephen** (am) at Borders General Hospital

**Matthew Payne** (pm) at Lossiemouth Baptist Church

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

**Charles Sommerville** (am + pm) at PWMI, North Berwick Baptist Church



### “Bearing The Torch”

By Glen Cartwright

Famous last words and the legacy they leave are interesting, often revealing much about the one who is about to die. The final words of William Wallace in ‘Braveheart’ tell us much of Wallace’s desire in both life and death, and the lasting impact of his final call which resulted in patriots of Scotland, starving and outnumbered, charging the fields of Bannockburn in 1314 and fighting like warrior poets to win their freedom.

Paul, a true Christian braveheart, yet the one who sanctioned the civic death of the first known Christian martyr Stephen, placed great emphasis on the Word of God. His second letter to Timothy ends on a solemn note as he talks of his imminent departure. As he sits chained in his damp prison cell expecting Nero to hand him a death sentence, he wants to pass the torch of truth to Timothy while he still has time. Nero was about to snuff out the flame of Paul’s physical life but would never snuff out the legacy of faith he left. Writing in his prison cell Paul speaks with parental persuasion and wise words as he gives his final charge to and passes the torch of the gospel to Timothy (2 Timothy 4:1-3).

He also instructs Timothy to ‘continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of’ (2 Timothy 3:4). Timothy had been taught the truths of the Bible from infancy. His mother Eunice and his grandmother Lois faithfully passed on the faith to him. Eunice was a wise and spiritually strong mother. Her priorities were learned at her mother Lois’s knee and lived out and modelled for Timothy. Eunice led her boy to know the Lord Jesus Christ.

Timothy’s good reputation had its roots in the good reputation of his grandmother and mother. So Paul knew in choosing Timothy he would have no trouble with him. Often the best legacy we can leave to our children is not money or possessions, but a good name. In one way or another we will leave a legacy behind.

My late gran was a Lois who passed the Word to my mother, a Eunice. My gran loved the Lord and the Word of God. She came to know the Lord in a small gospel meeting in a tomato house (one of the big long greenhouses you see in the Clyde Valley). My gran treasured the Word, frequented the Tent Hall in its heyday, and taught it to my mum. When I was young, I often sat in my gran’s room talking about the Lord. As a small boy I used to go to three services on a Sunday in Carluke - I guess so that if the message at the first didn’t get through, they had a backup plan!!

The legacy of that ‘Lois and Eunice’ teaching is that, guess what - her grandson loves the Lord and is serving Him today, and her great-grandson, Lewis, loves to go to church every Sunday

Let’s be a Lois and Eunice in passing the torch of faith to others; for when we are faithful in sowing we may never know where the seed may fall.

Let’s leave a lasting legacy by telling the next generation the marvellous deeds of the Lord (Psalm 78). We’re to keep the faith, continue in what we’ve learned, perhaps from our granny’s or our mother’s knee, and have become convinced of. The hymn captures it well:

*We bear the torch that flaming, fell from the hands of those,  
Who gave their lives proclaiming, that Jesus died and rose,  
Ours is the same commission, the same glad message ours,  
Fired by the same ambition, to Thee we yield our powers.*