

Morning Service 10.30am

Date	Subject	Speaker
Series: Bearing the Right Kind of Fruit (Studies from Galatians 5:16-26)		
1st Oct Communion	The Fruit of the Spirit: Kindness - 5:22	Eoghan Paterson
8th Oct IP AAT	DBC All AGE Harvest service	Eoghan Paterson & All Age Team
15th Oct Communion	The Fruit of the Spirit: Goodness - 5:22	Alistair Purss
22nd Oct AAT	The Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness - 5:22	Alistair Purss
29th Oct Communion	The Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness - 5:23	Eoghan Paterson
5th Nov Communion	The Fruit of the Spirit: Self-control - 5:23	Alistair Purss
12th Nov IP All Age Talk	Mission Focus: NEPAL	Joy Ransom
19th Nov Communion	151st Anniversary Weekend Service	Mark Greene
26th Nov All Age Talk	Keeping in step with the Spirit - 5:24-26	Alistair Purss
Advent series: The Heart of Christmas		
3rd Dec Communion	Hope is at the heart of Christmas	Eoghan Paterson
10th Dec IP All Age Talk	Love is at the heart of Christmas	Alistair Purss
17th Dec	ALL AGE Discoverers Nativity Service	Eoghan Paterson
24th Dec	ALL AGE Christmas Eve Service	Alistair Purss & Eoghan Paterson
25th Dec	Christmas Day Service	Alistair Purss & Eoghan Paterson
31st Dec	ALL AGE Hogmanay Worship Service	Alistair Purss & Eoghan Paterson

Evening Service 6.30pm

Date	Subject	Speaker
Series: Wearing the Right Kind of Armour (Studies on the Armour of God from Ephesians 6:10-20)		
1st Oct	CENTRE POINT	Eoghan & Debbie Paterson
8th Oct Communion	The Breastplate of Righteousness - 6:14b	Alistair Purss
15th Oct	Feet Fitted with the Gospel of peace - 6:16	Alistair Purss
22nd Oct IP Communion	The Shield of Faith - 6:16	Alistair Mackay
29th Oct	The Helmet of Salvation - 6:17a	Alistair Purss
5th Nov	CENTRE POINT	Alistair Purss & Alistair Mackay
12th Nov Communion	The Sword of the Spirit - 6:17b	Eoghan Paterson
19th Nov	151st Anniversary Service	Alistair Purss
26th Nov IP Communion	Prayer - 6:18-20	Eoghan Paterson
Advent series: The Heart of Christmas		
3rd Dec	Joy is at the heart of Christmas	Eoghan Paterson
10th Dec Communion	Peace is at the heart of Christmas	Eoghan Paterson
17th Dec	DBC Carol Service	Alistair Purss

All Age Talk = Service includes an All Age talk
IP = Service includes an Intercessory Prayer

Important Contact Details

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Bearing the Right Kind of Fruit – Studies on the Fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5:16-26

30 years ago when Sharon and I lived in Enfield we had a dear friend who bought a plum tree for the garden. The first two years the tree produced no fruit and the third year it produced one plum...I kid you not...one! During the first two years, unless you were a keen and knowledgeable gardener, you would not have known that it was a plum tree because there was no ‘fruit bearing’ evidence! Surely fruit trees are supposed to bear fruit?

Just as plum trees produce plums and apple trees produce apples, so Christians are to bear the right kind of fruit. In Galatians 5:16-26 Paul tells us all about the fruit that we should and should not bear when he talks about the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit.

Pauls teaches us that the acts of the sinful nature (the flesh) are obvious and they cover every kind of impurity and sin imaginable. It’s interesting that it is a list with many vices which reminds us that we would do well not to grade our own or other people’s sin. Are the less obvious sin’s that no one can see (apart from God) worse than the sins that are obvious in everyone’s sight? No! The ultimate outcome of sin reigning and ruling in our lives is shocking and disturbing. Paul says; *‘those living like this will not inherit the kingdom of God’* – v21.

In contrast to the ‘fruit of the flesh’ Paul goes on to talk about the ‘fruit of the Spirit’. Notice that he talks about ‘fruit’ and not ‘fruits’. The Greek word for ‘fruit’ is singular. This means that the fruit of the Spirit is ‘one whole’ and not separate or independent characteristics or virtues. As we grow as Christians the whole fruit should be developing, growing and manifest in and through our lives. We need the help of the Holy Spirit in our lives to get rid of the weeds of sin so that we cultivate the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Wearing the Right Kind of Armour – Studies on the Armour of God from Ephesians 6:10-20

When a soldier is at war they must remain vigilant at all times, watching and listening for the enemy. This helps them to attack, defend and protect themselves. They must also have the right kind of equipment and wear the right kind of clothing and armour. All of this can save their lives in the midst of battle. It is like this for the Christian, we are engaged in a spiritual battle and need to be watchful, have the right kind of equipment and wear the right kind of clothing and armour to attack, defend and protect ourselves against the devil and his schemes.

As Peter warns us in 1 Peter 5:8; *‘Be sober minded; be watchful. Your*

adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour'. We are reminded in this verse that the devil (Satan) is not a cartoon figure, he is real and his one goal is to destroy us. The devil loves to tempt us to sin. This temptation comes in many different forms as we all struggle with different kinds of sin in our lives. The devil knows that sin leads ultimately to guilt, despair, defeat and death. This is why Paul says; *'We must not give the devil a foothold in our lives'* – Ephesians 4:27. We are in a battle! We need to wake up to and recognised what kind of battle we are involved in; *'For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms'* – Ephesians 6:12.

However we must remember that in this world there are not two equal powers. As Christians we do not believe in dualism. God and the devil are not equal in power. God is all powerful, the devil is not. This means that the devil can be resisted, and defeated. Christ has already done this through his living, dying and rising to life again. In Colossians 2:13-15 Paul says; *'When you were dead in your sins... God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, having cancelled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.'* Christ wins!

Of course, while we live our lives in this broken world we continue to struggle with sin. We are not sinless or perfect, but we can, with the help of the Holy Spirit resist and take our stand against the devil's schemes by living in Christ's victory, until the day when Christ returns and we live with him in the new heaven and the new earth. Until that day, we are to be *'strong in the Lord and in his mighty power'*. We are to *'pray in the Spirit... for one another... with all kinds of prayers... and PUT ON THE ARMOUR OF GOD'* – Ephesians 6:10-20. We are to be watchful and prayerful putting on the 'FULL' armour of God every day so that we have the right kind of equipment and wear the right kind of clothes to help us live the Christian life.

Advent Series:

I can just imagine some of the church family pick up this quarterly programme, look at the photo on the front cover and think to themselves; "Christmas? I don't want to think about Christmas yet, it's only October!". Of course this is very understandable because, let's face it, we don't want to think about Christmas shopping, card writing and food quite yet. It's such a pity that the cost, trappings and expectations around Christmas can cause anxiety when in actual fact it is meant to be a time of love, joy, peace and hope. It's not meant to be a time to run ourselves ragged, over spend and over eat!

The truth is, that for the Christian, Christmas ought to be something that we celebrate every day! The incarnation of Jesus

Christ, and his living, dying, rising and promised second coming is central to the gospel good news. In the words of the worship song that we sing:

From the squalor of a borrowed stable,
By the Spirit and a virgin's faith;
To the anguish and the shame of scandal
Came the Saviour of the human race.
But the skies were filled with the praise of heaven,
Shepherds listen as the angels tell
Of the Gift of God come down to man
At the dawning of Immanuel.

King of heaven now the Friend of sinners,
Humble servant in the Father's hands,
Filled with power and the Holy Spirit,
Filled with mercy for the broken man.
Yes, He walked my road and He felt my pain,
Joys and sorrows that I know so well;
Yet His righteous steps give me hope again -
I will follow my Immanuel.

Through the kisses of a friend's betrayal,
He was lifted on a cruel cross;
He was punished for a world's transgressions,
He was suffering to save the lost.
He fights for breath, He fights for me,
Loosing sinners from the claims of hell;
And with a shout our souls are free -
Death defeated by Immanuel.

Now He's standing in the place of honour,
Crowned with glory on the highest throne,
Interceding for His own beloved
Till His Father calls to bring them home!
Then the skies will part as the trumpet sounds
Hope of heaven or the fear of hell;
But the Bride will run to her Lover's arms,
Giving glory to Immanuel!

During Advent and Christmas we will be celebrating these great truths and giving thanks for the love, joy, peace and hope that can still be found today through faith in Jesus Christ.

Special Diary Dates

18th November: Day Conference with speaker Mark Greene, London Institute for Contemporary Christianity (LICC)

19th November: 151st Anniversary Sunday services

22nd November: DBC AGM

13th December: Seniors Christmas event 11am

17th December: Nativity Service 10.30am

Carol Service 6.30pm

23rd December: Christmas Family Event 2-4pm tbc

24th December: All Age Christmas Eve Service

25th December: Christmas Day Service

Dumfries Baptist Church

Worship | Grow | Reach | Serve



Dumfries Baptist Church Oct - Dec 2023 PROGRAMME



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Scottish Charity No. SCO21258

BAPTISM/MEMBERSHIP

If you'd like to be baptised or would like to find out more about baptism and/or church membership, please speak to Alistair Purss or Eoghan Paterson.