

# REIDON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH E-MAGAZINE

## 5 MARKS OF MISSION



**TELL**



**TEACH**



**TEND**



**TRANSFORM**



**TREASURE**

**OCTOBER 2022**

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# ROAD TO NOWHERE

*That is the title of the first single released from the Talking Head's album Little Creatures; released in 1985.*

David Byrne the singer-song writer, whose name suggests, was born in Dumbarton, Scotland but has spent most of his life in USA. David's explanation is that he wanted to write a song that presented a resigned, even joyful look at doom. I am sure with all that has happened in the last few years with Covid lockdowns, war in Ukraine and now the rocketing inflation, many can relate to the title of the song and perhaps even David Byrne's sentiment. Situations and circumstances that we took for granted and relied upon have changed dramatically. Doom and gloom seem to be all around. As a country, community and even as individuals, certain constants in which we found our security have been turned upside down. Some would say we are living in extremely turbulent and uncertain times, while others will argue that uncertainty and change are always part of our experiences. Even the Church of Scotland finds itself in a place of extreme change and turbulence, on the road to something but uncertain of the path and the outcome.

Church, the very places that should keep us grounded has become a source of change and uncertainty. It reminds me of the epic saga of the Israelites leaving Egypt after 400 years of slavery. They were headed for the promised land but found themselves in the Sinai desert, in what some have called the Land-in-between. We find ourselves in an unfamiliar place where we'd rather not

be, resulting in frustration and demotivation. Recently, as a church community our series of sermons focused on the vision and the mission of the Church. A clear vision and mission allow us to focus our energy and efforts on achieving our goal. There are many good things that we can spend our time, energy, and resources on, and that offer us clarity to say no to certain things. Having a clear vision and mission keeps us motivated and determined when obstacles are in our way. In these uncertain times it is important to acknowledge our primary focus. In our relationships, finances, careers, and faith, regular reminders of what is truly important are essential. There are many benefits gained from following a clear mission and the last one I will mention, is that it helps us to stay the course when things get tough. It helps us to persevere and fight for what we truly believe is our purpose.

The recent sermon series on the five-Marks of mission were intended to keep us moving forward with purpose, unify us and focus our energy on what is truly important. The list below is in the order that we covered them in the services but they are usually presented Mark 1 to 5. Alex and I, emphasized repeatedly that they are integrated and interdependent. The challenge to each individual is to consider how we can increase our involvement in each one of them. We will be partnering with God and our faith will be stretched and grown in a holistic way.

### **FIVE MARKS OF MISSION**

***Mark 5 (TREASURE) - To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth***

***Mark 4 (TRANSFORM) - To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation***

***Mark 3 (TEND) - To respond to human need by loving service***

**Mark 2 (TEACH) - To teach, baptise and nurture new believers**

**Mark 1 (TELL) - To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom**

These will help us to fix our eyes on God in the Land-in-Between. The story of the Israelites leaving Egypt shows us that the land between can be a very fertile place for complaint. Over and over again they complained, questioning why they were brought into the desert to die and suggested that they go back. There is an amazing human propensity to want to go back - to hold onto the past, even if the past had elements of bondage. There is always the pull of the comfort of familiarity. It often blinds us, not only to our present blessings but also the promised future. It robs us of the hope of things to come and the joy of giving thanks for the present blessings.

As I end, I want to remind you that the Land-in-between can also be fertile ground for real soul-searching change, both for organisations and individuals. Often it is when things are really tough and uncertain that we are forced to look at ourselves, a task we tend to avoid at all costs. The Exodus story seems to indicate that they needed to learn to be more dependent on God before they could face the real challenges that stood between them and the promise. Often the Land-in-between is where we grow so that we are prepared for the next season. It can cement our purpose and steel our resolve. We are definitely not on the Road to Nowhere. God has placed the Church in the world to be his hands and feet, to bring hope and to share love. May we all keep our eyes fixed on God and remind ourselves daily of the mission God has entrusted to us as the Church.

*'<sup>22</sup>And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup>which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.'* (Ephesians 1:22-23, NIV)



*'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,<sup>21</sup> to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.'* (Ephesians 3:20-21, NIV)

## MANY BLESSINGS **REV. DEAN L BATCHELOR**

*Bible Quotation taken from New International Version Bible: right © 1973, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc. Used by permission. All rights reserved.*



*'The Bible is meant to be bread for our daily use, not just cake for special occasions.'* - Unknown

*'All things desirable to men are contained in the Bible.'* - Abraham Lincoln

*'The Bible never claims to be one holy book among many, but the holy book above all.'* - Brian H Edwards

*'My message to everybody is to read the Bible out loud, quietly to yourself. Never, never, never read the word silently... Let it go into your body, absorb it. And let it come out, so you continue this wonderful, wonderful relationship you can have with God and his Word.'* - David Suchet

# ALL IN THE MONTH OF **OCTOBER**

**IT WAS 200 YEARS AGO**, on 20th October 1822 that the Sunday Times newspaper was first published in the UK.

**175 YEARS AGO**, on 6th October 1847 that Charlotte Brontë's novel Jane Eyre was first published, under the penname of Currer Bell.

**150 YEARS AGO**, on 11th October 1872 that Emily Davison, British suffragette, was born. A militant fighter for her cause, she died after being hit by the King's horse at the 1913 Derby.

**100 YEARS AGO**, on 18th October 1922 that the BBC was officially founded as the British Broadcasting Company (now the British Broadcasting Corporation.)

**ALSO 100 YEARS AGO**, on 24th October 1922 that George Cadbury died. He had transformed his father's chocolate and cocoa business into one of the world's most successful companies. He also provided low-cost housing and improved working conditions for his employees.

**80 YEARS AGO**, on 30th October 1942 that crew members from the British destroyer HMS Petard retrieved codebooks from the German submarine U-559, enabling cryptographers at Bletchley Park to decipher the version of the Enigma code used by U-boats.

**70 YEARS AGO**, on 6th October 1952 that the world premiere of Agatha Christie's play, The Mousetrap opened in Nottingham. It then opened in London on 25th November, and is still running, making it the world's longest-running play. It has been performed more than 28,000 times.

**65 YEARS AGO**, on 9th October 1957 that the Lovell Telescope began operating at the Jodrell Bank Observatory in Cheshire. At the time it was the world's largest steerable dish radio telescope. Now it is the third largest. It played an important role in the early days of space launches, as it was the only radio telescope that could detect the weak signals from rockets, satellites and space probes.

**40 YEARS AGO**, on 11th October 1982 that Henry VIII's flagship the Mary Rose was raised from the bottom of the Solent, off the coast of southern England, 437 years after it sank.

**30 YEARS AGO**, on 13th October 1992 that the British Government announced that 31 of the country's 50 remaining deep coal mines would close by March 1993, putting 31,000 miners out of work. Six mines were closed immediately.

**20 YEARS AGO** - on 4th October 2002 that American terrorist, Richard Reid, 'the shoe bomber', pleaded guilty to trying to blow up a transatlantic flight using explosives hidden in his shoes. In January 2003 he was sentenced to life imprisonment.

**10 YEARS AGO**, on 22nd October 2012 that the American cyclist Lance Armstrong was banned from competitive cycling for life and stripped of all his titles including his seven Tour de France titles, for using illicit performance-enhancing drugs. After first denying the charges, he admitted he had used drugs throughout most of his career.

OCT





## **PARISHES FACE SOARING BILLS FOR ENERGY**

***As churches do not qualify to the cap on energy bills, they have seen prices soar to hitherto unimaginable heights in recent months.*** Some examples:

- a church in Andover whose bill went from £70 a month to £1,000 a month - and could rise to £4,000 a month during the coming winter months.
- a church in Wendover whose bills have gone from £8,248 a year to £22,500 a year.

But they are only two among thousands of churches across the UK who this autumn are desperately looking at how to make savings. Ideas range from the installation of LED lights, to turning the heating down so low that all midweek and community use of the building is suspended, to putting insulation into the church hall.

***Vicar (benevolently): 'And what is your name, my little man?'***  
***Small boy: 'Well, that's the limit. It was you who baptised me!'***

# A LONG LIFE IS ENDED

*An aged heart flutters  
And ceases to beat  
A long life is ended  
But not in defeat!  
For ninety-six years  
Of duty and love  
A long life inspired  
By her God above!*

*For seventy years  
The crown she did wear  
And "Long live the Queen!" -  
God answered our prayer!  
But now she is with Him  
God's true to His word  
We'll ask Him for guidance  
For King Charles the Third!*

BY **NIGEL BEETON**

# WINTER CHALLENGE FOR



# UKRAINIANS

***Eight months since Russia's invasion, Christian Aid is warning that millions of Ukrainians face a bleak winter in temporary shelters and damaged homes.***

Christian Aid is working hard to help Ukrainians get through the cold months, when temperatures can plunge to -20C.

Alongside its local partners and other charities, the programme for winter includes insulating shelters, restoring toilet and shower blocks, and handing out cash, food, blankets, toiletries and other essentials to support 57,000 people.

Christian Aid CEO Patrick Watt said: "Thanks to the unprecedented generosity of the British people, Christian Aid is helping local people to take the lead in tackling their own priorities. But with disrupted power, freezing temperatures lie ahead for conflict-hit Ukrainians already struggling with trauma and a lack of medical treatment. We must do more, and quickly.

"One helpful measure would be for the Ukrainian government to lift the tax on humanitarian aid. We urge the UK government to use its relationships in Kyiv to achieve this. We want to complement state activities - not replace them."



# DOOR DUTIES



## **SUNDAY 2nd OCTOBER**

Lesley Beckett, Siobhan Gilliland

*In charge: Ian Beckett*

## **SUNDAY 9th OCTOBER**

Mary Allan, Elizabeth Clark

*In charge: Stevie Douglas*

## **SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER**

Gillian Brown, Alison Macleod

*In charge: Stephen Thomson*

## **SUNDAY 23rd OCTOBER**

Douglas Mathieson,

Sheena Richardson

*In charge: Lindsay Wood*

## **SUNDAY 30th OCTOBER**

June Wylie, Richard Black

*In charge: Linda Farrer*

## **A PRAYER FOR McDONALD'S**

*'As my five-year-old son and I were heading to McDonald's one day, we passed a car accident. Usually when we see something terrible like that, we say a prayer for whoever might be hurt, so I pointed and said to my son, "We should pray." An instant later a fervent prayer was heard in the back seat. "Dear God, please don't let those cars block the entrance to McDonald's."*

## **HENRY FORD'S SECRET**

*When the late Mr and Mrs Henry Ford celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, a reporter asked them: "To what do you attribute your fifty years of successful married life?" 'The formula,' said Ford, 'is the same formula I have always used in making cars - just stick to one model.'*

christians  
against  
poverty

CAP

# CHRISTIANS AGAINST POVERTY SUNDAY 16th OCTOBER

Everyone is feeling a bit poorer this autumn, as the cost-of-living spirals upwards at an alarming rate. For people who are already in financial difficulties, the cost of living will probably be at crisis point already.

And so, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) says: 'It's more vital than ever that the Church shines God's love brightly in the darkness. You can do this by signing up to hold a CAP Sunday service this year, and by equipping your church to respond to your community's needs, bringing hope in the midst of pain and helplessness.'

The theme this year is 'lament to hope'. And CAP is certainly bringing hope to thousands of people. In 2021 it counselled 13,452 people in desperate need and helped 1,877 people become completely debt free. CAP also provided 1,091 families in critical need with emergency support.

CAP can provide a revealing insight into the reality of UK poverty and offer ideas of how local Christians and churches can respond to some of the needs in their area.

CAP says: 'We see local churches becoming beacons of hope and light in their communities. We're so proud of our partnership with local churches. It's because of them we can run services that give people the tools to break free from poverty. And it's because of them we can offer emergency support to those in urgent need of essentials like food and heating.' [capuk.org](http://capuk.org)



## BLYTHSWOOD CARE **SHOEBOX APPEAL 2022**

***It's that time of year when we ask for your support for this worthwhile appeal.***

Shoeboxes will be delivered to vulnerable people in Ukraine, Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania and Serbia.

There will be a supply of leaflets from Blythswood in church for you to pick up and complete the checklist if you intend filling a shoebox. Please wrap the box and lid separately with Christmas paper. For further information please see the **Blythswood website**

**Essential Items** Toothbrush & paste; hat, scarf & gloves; soap; underwear/socks/tights; small toy; sweets (no chocolate or any other food) - "Best Before" date no earlier than 31 March 2023.

**Other suggested items** toiletries such as shampoo/shower gel, deodorant, shaving foam/razors, brush/comb; household candles; sewing equipment; stationery such as pens/pencils; notepads; colouring books; rulers/rubbers.

Please bring filled shoeboxes to church or any of the items listed above if you can't fill a shoebox. We can collect shoeboxes and other items **up to and including Sunday 30th October 2022.**

By contributing to this appeal you can bring hope this Christmas and bring joy to those who have very little. Thank you.

LINDSAY WOOD **WORLD CHURCH COMMITTEE**



# **SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE**

***Craigmillar Park, Marchmont St Giles, Mayfield Salisbury, Morningside United Priestfield, St Catherine's Argyle, Reid Memorial*** - these church communities represented within Southside Faith Care are already engaging successfully in a large range of initiatives alongside older people. However, the scoping exercise they undertook together has demonstrated the opportunities to provide better and more integrated care in the local community. The Covid pandemic and how we think about life have accelerated the rate of social isolation and loneliness and weakened community resilience.

It has become clear that the unique situation of these churches is their network of relationships and understanding of the individuals who are part of the church community. The community leaders interviewed have great sensitivity and awareness for the complex and specific needs of the people they work with. Their knowledge and care are invaluable in communities for more vulnerable people.

There is great potential for rebuilding community resilience, providing opportunities for individuals struggling with loneliness, addressing social isolation, collaborating with other local initiatives, and developing the work of current groups. Going forward we should aim to address the gaps in existing provision, whilst being alert to duplication of what is currently available.

These are the conclusions of the report from the consultant some of you talked to as she went about her research, and we thank you all warmly for your willingness to help. You can find the full report at **[www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)** It's short and very readable! More importantly you have been heard. They are quite comforting words, and they may reinforce what we already know.

Our reality! But it is not the reality for many.

In essence Southside Faith Care has vision that we build a society where every older person is enabled to have the care and support to live the life they choose. For each of us positive physical and mental health has an impact on how we are a part of our community. Evidence shows that those who have access to good social networks and support are more resilient and likely to recover when unwell. If like me you resist the "older" label, then perhaps we are looking for ways to kick away the stereotypes and images, grin instead of grimace when the knees creak, and just get on with it.

However, as members of a faith community we are very fortunate because we have opportunities on our doorstep to enable us to live the lives we choose. Armed with the evidence you have provided we are challenged as Southside Faith Care to widen our reach and find ways of working together. As part of the process, we are in becoming an independent charity.

We have secured most of the funding we need to establish a hub which will operate across the southside bringing on new projects and supporting existing ones, all the while listening to what you are telling us. You have asked for exercise classes; for information about many topics; help with the dreaded IT; opportunities to sing; a drop in place to meet and chat; a listening ear; coffee and chocolate biscuits; home security advice; day trips; and much more.

The Tor Christian Foundation has awarded to fully fund year 1 (£100,400) with future funding for years 2 and 3, dependent on 50% of costs being contributed/raised by the churches so Tor would fund £37,870 for year 2 and £39,665 for year 3.

We are working on it so watch this space!

# COLLECTING FIREWOOD

*It was April and the Aboriginals in a remote part of Northern Australia asked the new minister at their small church to ask God if the coming winter was going to be cold or mild.* The minister did not want to lose their confidence, as he had only just arrived, but when he prayed and looked at the sky, he had frankly no idea what the winter ahead would be like.

To be on the safe side, he told his congregation that the winter was indeed going to be cold and that the members of the tribe should collect firewood to be prepared. But after several days he had an idea. He called the Bureau of Meteorology and asked if the coming winter in his area was going to be cold. The meteorologist responded, "Yes, it looks like this winter is going to be cold."

So, the minister went back to his people and told them to collect even more wood in order to be prepared. A week later he called the Bureau of Meteorology again, to ask if it still looked like it was going to be a very cold winter. The meteorologist again replied, 'Yes, it's going to be a very cold winter.'

So, the minister went back to his community and ordered them to collect every scrap of firewood they could find. Two weeks later, and still concerned; the minister called the Bureau again. "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" he asked.

"Absolutely," the man replied. "In fact, it's looking more and more like it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever."

"How can you be so sure?" the minister asked. The sky didn't look any different to him.

The weatherman replied, "Our satellites have reported that the Aboriginals in the north are collecting firewood like crazy, and that's always a sure sign."

## 5 Marks of Mission

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To transform unjust  
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To proclaim the Good  
News of the Kingdom

The next issue of **REIDON...** will  
be November. Please  
send Linda any articles or  
notices by 22nd Oct. See  
page 2 for contact details.



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