

3rd Sundays

The Bathgate Churches Together “3rd Sunday” series continues this autumn in October and November. In the High Church Small Hall, on October 16th, Billy Millan will lead our thinking on the subject of James Young Simpson: “the blessed doctor” as Queen Victoria called him, on the 200th anniversary of his birth. Then on November 20th, in St. Mary’s Hall, Livery Street, Rev. Robert Philip will speak on the subject of ‘Christian Peace-Keeping in Israel/Palestine’. Both meetings will start at 6.30 p.m.

Autumn Show

The Autumn Show was a great success, judging from the many comments made, both immediately upon leaving the show and on the streets in the following days, it would seem that, once again, Patsy with the music and Angela with the play were between them responsible for producing ‘the happiest show in town’. We are very grateful to both of them, and to all the cast, for all their hard work over many months. The financial result is that £1160.56 will be donated to the general funds of the church. Another great show!

Now is the time to put the **Celebration of Christmas** in your diary – December 8th at 7 p.m.



Church Flower Rota

October	2nd	Mrs M Smith
“	9th	Mrs M Stewart
“	16th	Mrs M Haddow
“	23rd	Mrs R Clarke
“	30th	Mrs A Lauder



Items for the next Newsletter should be with the minister by October 31st.

Bathgate EU United Reformed Church

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

Newsletter October 2011



Contacts

Minister: Revd. John S. Bremner, 2, Church Park, Bathgate,
EH48 1AT, tel. 01506 656662
President: Mrs. Molly Millan, tel. 01506 652268
Secretary: Miss Aileen Baird, tel. 01506 632047
Treasurer: Mrs. Eilidh Young, tel. 01506 631094
Website: www.BathgateEUURC.org.uk

From the Minister – October 2011

‘Then the king commanded, and Daniel was brought and cast into the den of lions. The king declared to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, deliver you!”’

(Daniel 6 v16)

My friends,

We have all, at some point, done something which we deeply regret. It may be a word said, that ought not to have been said; it may be the refusal to do something which we know we ought to have done; in the case of King Darius, it was the acceptance of sycophantic advice, advice which he knew was aimed at his own self-glorification, advice which, in retrospect, he realised, was aimed also at the destruction of Daniel, one of his chief counsellors.

Daniel was not popular with many leading courtiers. He refused to use his position within the king’s exchequer for personal gain, and he refused to turn a blind eye to corruption or any mismanagement of income from taxes. How could Daniel be removed from the scene? Only through an attack on religious grounds, was the answer. So those who wanted to abuse their own positions of power came to the king and proposed a new law: that, for a period of thirty days, anyone offering prayers or petitions to any god or man, except the king, should be cast into the den of lions. The king, delighted with this opportunity for self-glorification, passed the law without any delay, and without any consideration of the consequences.

Daniel, of course, refused to obey the law. He continued to worship God, as, indeed, the other courtiers had known full well he would. So he was cast into the lion’s den, despite the king’s attempts to save him; for the king was deeply upset at what he had done, and attempted to save Daniel, but ‘the law of the Medes and the Persians’ could not be revoked. The king had brought this sorrow on himself, and he spent the night in sleepless worry, before going at dawn to see if Daniel were still alive.

So where are we in this story? We may wish to see ourselves in the character of Daniel. We probably suspect that, sometimes, we are like

King Darius. We may even be forced to admit that, sometimes, we are like the wicked counsellors who wanted to do away with Daniel. Whatever we may have said or done, however, we may be sure that, just as the king’s prayer was answered in the case of Daniel, so, too, in our own case, God is able to deliver us from our past errors. That might not be a painless process, but it is a liberating one. For, as Daniel already knew, and King Darius found out, God is able to deliver us from past mistakes, and set us on the road to life in all its fullness; for in Jesus Christ he has taken upon himself the sin of the world, and, through the cross and resurrection, has conquered evil.

Your friend,

John Bremner

~ooOoo~

Anne Reid

Over 200 people gathered in the church, and over 80 had already attended the graveside, on September 16th in order to honour the memory of Anne Reid, who died on September 9th, and to commit her to God’s keeping. Anne had been a member of our church for only five years, and yet in that short time she had contributed a huge amount, not only to the life of our own congregation, but also, via the Christian Bookshop, of which she was the Secretary until last April, to the life of Bathgate and surrounding areas. She had been called to the Eldership, and had been due to be ordained on September 11th.

Our sympathy and prayers go to her family, to Jim, and to all those who will miss her dearly, not only within the churches but in the wider community.

Evander Innes

Although not a member of our congregation, Evander Innes, Mrs. Watt’s brother, was a ‘kent face’, not only amongst us at church but in and around the town of Bathgate. His passing, on September 15th, was sudden and leaves a large gap in the life of those who were close to him. To Mrs. Watt and her family we extend our prayers and sympathy.