

The Free Church in Point

Serving the kingdom of God
with Knock Free Church and Point Free Church

All things new

We are always looking for something new. It is the default position of our restless hearts. No sooner have we got the last version of something than we want the latest.

The beginning of a new year is a time for new things too. We make resolutions for the improvement of our lives, and plan things that we will do in the coming year which will be new. New is not always bad, though: God is the God of the new thing.



God tells us that in Christ he has given us a **new covenant**. There was an older covenant which was written in the blood of bulls and goats, and expressed in external regulations. But this new one is better: in Christ God has secured a new covenant, in which he saves sinners on the basis of the finished work of the Saviour and writes his laws on their very hearts.

Paul tell us that if anyone is in Christ he is a **new creation**. God does not leave a sinner the way he finds him; he makes him new, re-creating him with new loves, longings and habits. Only grace can do this, when it regenerates a sinner and takes him from darkness to light. Have we been made new?

And the Bible also anticipates a **new heavens and a new earth**, in which righteousness will dwell. There is so much about it that we cannot begin to understand. Yet it is the hope of God's people that this world is not their ultimate destiny. All that God is and all that Christ has done secures a better home for us. At the beginning of this new year, do we trust to the new covenant? Have we been made a new creation? Are we looking for a new heavens and a new earth?

'Behold, I am making all things new'
Revelation 21:5

End of Term Events

Recognising the importance of our children and young people

Congregational Meetings

What they are for and how we should prepare for them

Thought for the month

Man made in the image of the Triune God

Prospectus

Updated service timetable for January

End of term events

It was good to be involved with some of the events that marked the end of 2016.

I spoke at a Gaelic Assembly in the Nicolson Institute on 16th December on the importance of light, and was very impressed with the behaviour and attention of the pupils.

That same day I attended Knock Free Church Hall where the parents and toddlers group had their Christmas party. It was quite an eye-opener to see how versatile a church hall can be, how beautifully decorated it was, and particularly how many young bodies were running around. The group is an excellent provision in the district.

On 18th December we had the final Sunday School of the year, and a huge thank you to all who waited behind to enjoy some refreshments and to hear the children sing. The Sunday School has been a delight, and it is wonderful to see so many attending the regular Sunday School as well as the holiday club.

The Carol Service in Ionad Stoodie was well attended and brilliantly planned, with children from ABC performing splendidly. They were a challenge to any speaker, but their 'interaction' with the minister added to the fun of the evening.

I couldn't help thinking how thankful we ought to be for the willingness of those who engage with our young people and who provide them safe places to have fun and to learn about Jesus. A huge thank you to our volunteers at creche, Sunday School, parent and toddlers, ABC, Scripture Union, Point2Life and in whatever



capacity you serve the kingdom of God. Jesus is still blessing our little children.

Thought for the month

“Let us make man in our image” (Genesis 1:26).

We are almost becoming immune to the assaults that are made on the doctrine of man as taught in the Bible. The re-definition of marriage as well as the attempts to flatten the distinction between the sexes is becoming the mantra of our age.

Our doctrine of man begins with the creation account of all things. God made man. He made humankind in two sexes, male and female, image-bearers of his righteousness and holiness.

If we lose this doctrine we diminish man's dignity. We were made by God and for God. We cannot allow the secular world to define who, or what, we are. Let us fight always for the high view of man which we find in the Word of God.

Congregational Meetings

As has already been intimated, the congregations of Knock Free Church and Point Free Church will meet in their respective church buildings on Wednesday 18th January 2017 at 7.30pm in order to vote on the way forward for the Free Church in Point.

After having a trial period of worshipping together and using both buildings, as well as prayerfully considering this matter, this will be an important decision which will have a bearing on the witness of the gospel in our district.

There are many practical issues that will need to be addressed whether or not a reunion of both congregations goes ahead; but all of these are secondary to the issue of whether the gospel will best be served by having one Free Church congregation in the district or two.

We all have our personal views on this matter, I am sure, and I do also. But as both minister and interim-moderator, and having invested a great deal of time and thought in organising the trial period of joint services, I want to say that I have no wish to impose my own will on the congregations. This is your decision, independent of my role as a local minister at present.

It is a decision for the future, for the legacy we leave to our children after us. We remain thankful to the past and to those who shaped our faith and our churches in the past. But we are to judge our present by Scripture, not by our past; and so we must ask what God has been saying to us by his Word, and how he has been leading us by his Spirit? His cause and glory are

greater than any preferences we may have in the matter.

For these reasons I shall not be present at either of the congregational meetings. I shall be making arrangements for the meetings to be chaired independently by other members of Presbytery, so that the meetings can take place simultaneously and free from any personal bias on my own part.

I am still available, of course, to meet with anyone who may have questions or points they wish to raise in advance of these meetings. From the outset I have sought to give everyone the opportunity to make their minds known, and from the outset I have sought to give this to everyone.

All I ask now is that you prayerfully consider, as many of you have been doing, how we can best honour our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the district of Point as this new year and this new opportunity dawns. Please pray:

- that God's will may be clearly known, that his glory will be at the forefront of all that is said and done, and that we will honour him by our decision;
- that we will pray for one another, respecting those who may have different views to us, and always willing to forego our own cherished preferences for the sake of others, as Jesus did for us;
- that a spirit of unity and brotherliness will prevail in the meetings and beyond; and
- that the Sessions of both congregations will be guided by the Lord in the practical arrangements to be made following the meetings on the 18th.

SERVICES JANUARY 2017

(please note there are some changes from the original prospectus)

Sunday 1st January

12 noon - English in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

6pm - English in POINT FREE CHURCH

Monday 2nd January

7.30pm - Bayble Mission House

Wednesday 4th January

7.30pm - Prayer Meeting in Point Free Church

Sunday 8th January

10.30am - English in POINT FREE CHURCH

6pm - English in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

Wednesday 11th January

7.30pm - Prayer Meeting in Knock Free Church

Sunday 15th January

10.30am - English in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

12 noon - Gaelic in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

6pm - English in POINT FREE CHURCH

Wednesday 18th January

7.30pm - Congregational Meetings in Point Free Church and Knock Free Church to decide on the future of the congregations

Friday 20th January - Joint Meeting of Kirk

Sessions of Knock and Point in Point Free Church Hall at 7.30pm to plan for services from February onwards

Sunday 22nd January

10.30am - English in POINT FREE CHURCH

12 noon - Gaelic in POINT FREE CHURCH

6pm - English in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP

Wednesday 25th January

7.30pm - Prayer Meeting in Knock Free Church

Sunday 29th January

10.30am - English in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

12 noon - Gaelic in KNOCK FREE CHURCH

6pm - English in POINT FREE CHURCH

For further information contact Rev Dr Iain D Campbell on 702924 or revdridc@gmail.com