

METHVEN MESSENGER



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MARCH 2018

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WELCOME BACK TO THE...

METHVEN MESSENGER

Thanks for taking the time to read the first **Methven Messenger** of 2018! The magazine is produced by **Good News Perthshire** (which was set up in 2017 by some of the Christians who meet at **Perth Gospel Hall**).



In this edition you'll find a series of short but interesting articles as usual, including some information about our soon to re-commence **'men's football group'** in Perth (p3) and a topical **'big question'** relating to the resurrection of Jesus Christ as we approach Easter (p4).



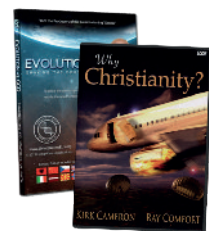
On *page 5* we give a round-up of our recent activities across **Perthshire**, followed by a fascinating article relating to **gravestones** on *page 6*! We've another **recipe** for you to try on *page 7*, alongside some advanced notice of our **Good News Hall** possibly returning to the village later in the spring.



On the back page you'll find details about this month's **Good News Giveaway**, which is a range of interesting **DVDs** we'll be happy to deliver to you upon request.



We hope that you enjoy the magazine. Please **get in touch** and let us know what you think.



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INTRODUCING...

MEN'S FOOTBALL GROUP

**THE VIEWPOINT
FITTIS RD, PERTH
TUESDAYS
7.00 TO 8.30PM**

**ALL AGES
WELCOME
MID-TEENS &
UPWARDS**

**END OF SEASON
AWARDS
NIGHT IN
SEPTEMBER**

For several years we've organised a weekly **football group** in Perth, running from April to September.

More than **200** different people have joined us over the years for a semi-serious kick about for an hour or so, followed by a short '**thought for the day**' from the Bible and some **free refreshments**.

The group consists mainly of men in their late teens and twenties, but we welcome any males from their mid-teens upwards (there's no upper age limit!)

At the end of the season we round things off with an eagerly anticipated **Player of the Year Awards** night in **Perth Gospel Hall** when we have food, games, trophies and a special guest speaker. Over the winter we also arrange indoor games on a more ad hoc basis.

We expect to start this year's football group on **Tuesday 10th April**. So if you want to show off your skills, or just get a bit more exercise, get in touch and come and join us some Tuesday evening.



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THE BIG QUESTION...

DID JESUS REALLY RISE FROM THE DEAD?

The Christian Gospel centres around **two** key events that took place on the very first **Easter** weekend: that “*Christ died for our sins...*” and that “*He rose again the third day...*” The Bible states that if Jesus **didn’t** rise from the dead, Christianity is pointless.

THE PROOF OF RESURRECTION

THE EMPTY TOMB: On the **third** day after Jesus’ death, visitors to the tomb found it **empty**. Cynics suggest that Jesus’ followers bravely **stole** the body. However the Bible records them hiding away, **fearing** for their own lives.

It was actually Jesus’ **enemies** who paid the soldiers to spread rumours that His body had been stolen.



THE EYE WITNESSES: In a court of law only 2 or 3 **eyewitnesses** are required to present a watertight case. The Bible records that Jesus appeared to over **500** people during the **40 days** after His resurrection. When **Paul** wrote about these things years later, most of these eyewitnesses were still alive and their accounts could be scrutinised.

THE TRANSFORMED LIVES: When Jesus was arrested His terrified followers **abandoned** Him. Some even **denied** that they knew Him. However, something **changed**. A few weeks later

they were willing to risk their lives whilst fearlessly preaching about Jesus in the very city where He had been crucified. **Why?** They had seen Jesus **risen** from the dead! He had **conquered** death and they no longer **feared** death themselves!

THE POWER OF RESURRECTION

What difference does Jesus’ resurrection make to us today? Christianity is based upon the principle that God can **forgive** our sins because they were **paid** for in full by Jesus on the cross. When you go shopping, the cashier totals up the price and asks for **payment**. You hand over the cash. The transaction is **done**. They then give you a **receipt** as **proof** that the price has been **paid in full**.



This is what the resurrection means for us today. It is God’s way of **proving** to us that Jesus fully paid the price required for our sin when He died upon the cross. Forgiveness, eternal life, and a home in Heaven are available today if we are willing to **turn** from our sin and put our **trust** in Jesus.

Christianity is not about following the teachings of a **dead leader**. It is all about enjoying a day-to-day **relationship** with a **living Saviour**. Because Jesus defeated death and is alive today, there is **hope** beyond the grave for all who put their trust in Him.

GETTING THE GOOD NEWS OUT...



We've been busy in the last couple of months sharing the good news of Jesus Christ in several places around Perthshire. Here's a round-up of some of our recent activities...

Seasonal Services & Festive Food...

In **December** we conducted very well attended **Christmas services** in Perth, Bridge of Earn and Comrie. We also distributed around 150 **Christmas parcels** to Perth's homeless hostels, PRI's Tay Ward, and Perth Prison Visitors' Centre. Over 50 'bags of joy' were also distributed upon request in Perth and Methven.



Bridge of Earn Public Talks...

In **February** we conducted a short series of illustrated public talks in the **Bridge of Earn Institute**, entitled '**Christianity Under the Microscope**'. It was good to see a number of local people attending who found the presentations interesting and informative. We may run these talks in **Methven** at some point in the future - watch this space!

Good News Soup Kitchen / Food Bank...

Throughout the winter months we have continued to run a soup kitchen / food bank in the **Thimble row Car Park** in **Perth** every Monday night 7.30-8.30pm. Around 20-30 people come along each week to enjoy some company and receive some food. We've now distributed over **400 bags** of groceries since we began this outreach in November.



WRITTEN IN STONE...

Graveyards are fascinating places. Places which silently put life into **perspective**.

Virtually every village in Perthshire has its own cemetery. **Methven** of course has two.

The Methven churchyard cemetery contains some interesting graves, most notably that of **Sir Thomas Graham** (also known as Baron Lynedoch of Balgowan). Graham was born into a wealthy family in **1748** and went on to study at **Oxford University** where he became fluent in **4 languages**. He inherited a large area of land around Methven and having dabbled in politics, eventually joined the **British army** in **1792**. He became second-in-command to the **Duke of Wellington**, before later being **knighted** and elected rector of the **University of Glasgow**. Following his death in **1843**, his remains



were laid in the **L y n e d o c h Mausoleum** in Methven, where his wife had been buried 51 years earlier.

Most of us have very little in common with Sir Thomas Graham, other than the fact that one day, we too will find ourselves in a grave. Death is the unavoidable conclusion to life on earth for everyone, regardless of our position, power, or possessions.

On the road out of Methven lies another, more modern cemetery, containing the graves of those who have died in more recent decades.

Some of the headstones contain **Bible verses**, while one quotes from a **hymn**, simply stating that the deceased is now ***'Safe in the arms of Jesus.'***



When we die, what matters most is not **what we did** in our lives, but **where we are** for eternity. To be ***'safe in the arms of Jesus'*** in Heaven is of infinitely greater value than rising to great heights of **fame** and **fortune** during our time here on earth.

The Bible teaches that we won't get to **Heaven** through our attempts to live a good life, nor through our church attendance. The good news though is that a way to Heaven has been provided through the **death** and **resurrection** of **Jesus Christ**.

When He was asked for directions to Heaven one day, Jesus simply replied, ***'I am the Way!'*** (John 14:6)

If we **turn** from our sin and **trust** in Christ, personally **receiving** Him as Lord and Saviour, we can have our **sins forgiven** and the assurance that one day we will be ***'safe in the arms of Jesus'*** in Heaven.

KITCHEN CORNER...

The ladies from Perth Gospel Hall share some of their favourite recipes...



Lois' Mars Bar Crispies!

INGREDIENTS:

8 regular sized Mars bars
4oz butter / margarine
2 tablespoons golden syrup
Cornflakes (variable amount)



INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1) Chop Mars bars into smaller pieces.
- 2) Place Mars bar pieces, butter / margarine & golden syrup in a large pan.
- 3) Melt them together slowly and bring to the boil. (The quicker you bring to the boil & the longer you boil for the more toffee-like they become)
- 4) Stir in cornflakes to soak up chocolate mixture. (Amount can be varied depending on how chocolaty you want the crispies to be!)
- 5) Put mixture into cases and leave to cool.
- 6) Enjoy!

Coming Soon To Methven...

THE GOOD NEWS HALL



We're hoping to bring our **Good News Hall** back to Methven later in the Spring. Last year we had a great time with our **Community BBQ**, **Faith Factor Kids' Club** and adult Bible talks.



Look out for more details soon...

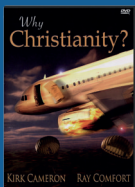
The Good News Giveaway...

We have a range of excellent **DVDs** to give away this month, absolutely **FREE** of charge! If you would like any of them, please **get in touch** with your contact details and request a copy today.



Evolution vs God

Has 'science' disproved the existence of God? This documentary provides some interesting insight.



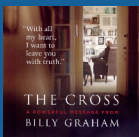
Why Christianity?

What's so special about Christianity? This film explores how Christianity differs from other religions.



Genius

This short film focuses on the life and death of John Lennon and his pursuit of satisfaction.



The Cross

Billy Graham gives his final message to the world - about the life-changing power of the cross of Christ.

GOOD NEWS PERTHSHIRE



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