

### Preaching Dates

#### Saturday, 28th November 2020

**Elizabeth de Silva** (am) at zoom outreach meeting of Aglow International Paddington/Tottenham

#### Sunday 29 November 2020

**Gordon Dickey** (am) pre-recorded at Wooler Evangelical Church

**Matthew Edmonds** (am) via Zoom at Castlehill Baptist Church on Hebrews13.

**Jonathan Groves** (am) at Cowdenbeath Baptist Church with Kerusso Trust update

**Stephen Ilett** (am) at Dingwall Baptist Church

**Dawn Martindale** (am) pre-recorded on YouTube at Rosyth Baptist Church

**Andrea Mill** (am) at Bristo Baptist Church

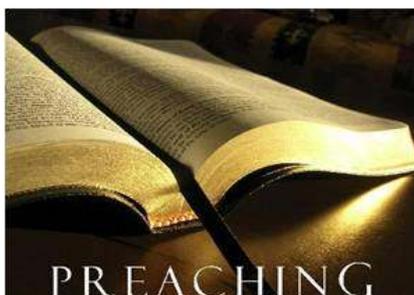
**Andrea Mill** (am) pre-recorded at KCF, Glenrothes.

#### Thursday 2 December 2020

**Andrea Mill** (am) taking a funeral at Houndwood Crematorium, Eyemouth.

**Charles Sommerville** (pm) via Zoom, Thursday evenings Bible Study on Ephesians. For

details: [drcharles.sommerville@sky.com](mailto:drcharles.sommerville@sky.com)



### “HOLDING FAST

(Hebrews 10v23)”

By Alistair Mackay

Isn't Scripture amazing? It permits the forbidden, and encourages the unthinkable. Two thousand years ago each one of us would have been stoned to death for blasphemy for what we do and what we say each and every day. Each day we enter the Most Holy Place, and we speak directly to Almighty God; we even speak with familiarity, calling Him 'our Father', 'Abba'. And we speak with confidence (Hebrews 10v19), unashamed, because of the enabling with which our great High Priest, unashamed of us (Hebrews 2v11), empowers us.

Of course, this is all possible only because of the Lord Jesus shedding His blood for us on Calvary – the veil of the Temple, that impenetrable curtain separating us from communion and relationship with God, torn asunder from top to bottom as Jesus' body was broken for us and as He 'breathed His last' (Mark 15v37,38). Who indeed could have known the mind of God and contemplated the immeasurable love and pain behind this salvation plan? But what privilege is ours – restored by the power of the Cross – 'Christ became sin for us', and now in Him 'we have become the righteousness of God.' (2 Cor 5v21). Hebrews 10v19-25 takes hold of us, affirms our extraordinary privilege, and encourages us to do five things, five 'let us' ('lettuces' if you like). Abbreviated, they are:-

1 Draw near to God sincerely and assuredly v22

2 Consider how to spur each other on v 24

3 Continue to meet together (did I imagine that I saw a Greek word for Zoom?) v25

4 Encourage one another v25

5 Hold unswervingly to the hope we profess v23.

Now that is a joyous thought - holding fast, not deviating! The word used there is from the same root as we find in Acts 27 v 40 when Paul and his company were caught in that ferocious storm. As they neared land, they cut loose the anchors, untied the ropes that held the rudder, and hoisted the foresail to the wind, and 'held course', indeed held unswervingly, for the shore, but completely out of control, humanly speaking. What a glorious way to hold unswervingly to the faith we profess! Cut those man-made functions which we use to stabilise and control our lives, and hoist instead the topsail where God's Holy Spirit carries us along on the crest of the waves of the storm, to where God wants us to go, holding fast not just to hope but to the person who is our hope, the Lord Jesus Christ. And amazingly as we hold fast to Him, we find He is already holding fast to us.

**'He will hold me fast, He will hold me fast;  
For my Saviour loves me so, He will hold me fast' (Getty)**