

# Word For The Week

## 2 October 2020

### Preaching Dates

#### Sunday 4 October 2020

**Frances Bloomfield** (am) at Uddingston Baptist Church  
**Stephen Ilett** (am) at Dingwall Baptist Church  
**Jim McNulty** (am) via YouTube at St James' Fuerteventura, Spain  
**Charles Sommerville** (am) via Zoom at Whitburn Christian Fellowship  
**Andrew Swanson** (am) at Coatbridge Baptist Church

#### Thursday 8 October 2020

**Tony Walters** (am) at Lochside Christian Fellowship (via Zoom)  
**Alistair Mackay** (pm) online evening reflection at Dumfries Baptist Church  
**Charles Sommerville** (pm) beginning a new weekly series of Bible Studies on Thursday evenings via Zoom on Ephesians



**“See, I am doing a new thing!”**

**By Bob Ferguson**

When the invitation came out last year to contribute to the weekly newsletter who knew what the next 9 months would be like. I chose the first weekend in October because it's the anniversary of the church in Broxburn. 74 years ago on 1<sup>st</sup> October 1946 Broxburn Baptist Church came into being. Those first 16 folk had met on 13<sup>th</sup> June 1946 and signed an agreement which read thus:

***‘We, the undersigned, being met in humble dependence upon the grace of God on this the Thirteenth Day of June Nineteen Hundred and Forty Six, solemnly form ourselves into a Christian Church of Baptist Believers and pledge ourselves to conduct our affairs according to the teaching of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, as contained in the Scriptures of the New Testament, and to dwell together in mutual esteem and brotherly love.’***

Their commitment came to fruition 74 years ago this weekend and this commitment has been kept. The way it has been lived out has changed little over the years. Despite the ups and downs I imagine the original 16 would recognise what we started this year doing as ‘church’. I don't think in that we will be unique or even vastly different from any other church. Since March we've had to adapt like every other church - doing things we couldn't have imagined 74 years ago; we're being church differently. This is one of the few occasions in the 74 years we have had a ‘break’; a hiatus; an opportunity to ask ourselves – if we were starting afresh now would church look like it did 6 months ago?

Is this an opportunity to re-imagine what the local church could be; what God had in mind when he sent his disciples out with the great commission ringing in their ears? Has this break given us a unique opportunity to move away from the norm, the traditional, the comfortable?

I wonder if this is how the Jewish followers of Jesus felt. For hundreds of years they had seen this pattern – God stepping in and causing a ‘break’. He stepped into Abraham's life – and he stepped out in faith. He took Joseph out of the ‘norm’, out of his family – and used him in the famine to save his people. He stopped Moses at the burning bush and stepped into his life – and he became the man who knew God's intimate presence. He plucked a young lad from the fields and he became Israel's greatest king. He sent a tyrant from a land to the east who took the people into captivity. He stepped in and sent a strange man in a hairy coat who called the people to repentance and He sent his Son to step in and fulfil a promise made so many years before.

Could God be saying to the church today, as he said through Isaiah 2,500 years ago:

<sup>18</sup>“Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.” <sup>19</sup>See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.

Well, could he?