

Word For The Week

8 January 2021

Preaching Dates

Friday 8 January 2021

Elizabeth de Silva (pm) at Aglow
International Britain Zoom Leaders' Summit.

Sunday 10 January 2021

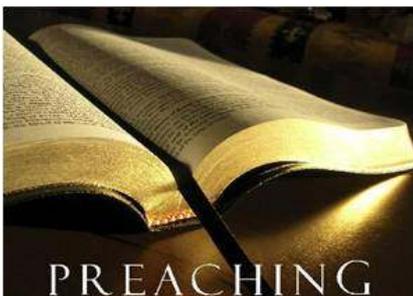
Frances Bloomfield (am) at
Giffnock United Reformed Church
Gordon Dickey (am) at Wooler Evangelical,
Northumberland, live by zoom
Stephen Ilett (am) at
Dingwall Baptist Church

Monday 11 – Friday 15 January 2021

Glen Cartwright, Monday to Friday -
Teaching Truth - via YouTube link

Thursday 14 January 2021

Charles Sommerville, Truth to Live by
Ministries, a Bible teaching hour every
Thursday evening at 8pm on Zoom



“Good relationships are key”

By Andrea Mill

One thing chimes out from 2020 - just how important relationships are to us. Restrictions on meeting face-to-face and physical contact caused sadness for many, but thankfully video calls helped to maintain connection and intimacy. Of course, we are designed for relationship in the image of our relational God, who taught us that loving Him and loving others as ourselves are the most important “rules” to follow.

Extroverts feel the pain of the restrictions more than self-contained introverts, but some people choose to avoid relationships out of fear of being hurt, placing a wall around their heart. However, this is not living a godly life and hurts often arise through misunderstandings. How often do we make assumptions about other people? About why they behave the way they do or speak to us a certain way? Are we quick to take offence or judge without taking time to ask questions and attempt to understand the other’s point of view?

Jesus taught us to love our “enemies” – and here I will define enemies as anyone who thinks differently from us or disagrees with us or who has said or done something to upset or wrong us. Therefore, it is vital that we work hard at maintaining good relationships with everyone. We do our best to talk, listen and understand the point of view of the other without jumping to conclusions. We put forward our point of view in a loving, matter-of-fact way, treating other people as equals and with respect, not allowing our prejudices to influence our thinking. We do our best to sort out differences face-to-face (Matthew 18:15-17) and not by email or messaging!

The way that we relate to one another, inside and outside of the home, inside and outside of the church is an important part of our witness. *(By this everyone will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. John 13:35 IV UK)*

Many people are searching, seeking answers only God can give after nine months of various degrees of lockdown. Many are grieving for loved ones as well as for the lives they once led. Many are lonely and depressed and need the love and comfort of our Saviour.

So as we begin 2021, let us resolve to relate well, to let the light of our love shine out; to seek God like never before and the infilling of the Holy Spirit; to love like never before and to preach in creative ways like never before.

Wishing you a happy, blessed and fruitful New Year!