



Strathaven

# *IN THE LOOP*

Inspiring Hope, Sharing God's Love

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## New Series - Jude - **A challenge in the modern world**

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This weekend Calum began a new series taking us through the book of Jude throughout the autumn and the early part of 2027. This little one chapter book, he explained, holds many challenges for us in our society today. Written near the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the Church was at risk of losing sight of the Gospel and allowing itself to be influenced by the culture around it, becoming a church without spirituality.

On Sunday he laid down the challenge for us to be contenders for the Gospel and to start by getting in (spiritual) training. We must root ourselves in scripture and remember that the beginning of our faith is entirely due to grace.

The key words on Sunday were :

**THANKFUL.** For our salvation

**VOCAL.** Our faith must be spoken out

**DEPENDENT** We cannot rely on ourselves - but learn to rely more on God

**FOCUSED.** On Jesus

We ended with a new setting of the challenging old song "Turn your Eyes upon Jesus". This reminded us of the need to be focused and dependent on Jesus. You can revisit this setting with this link : [TURN YOUR EYES](#)

Lastly please take time to think about this weeks' questions below. You can do this yourself or with a friend or in one of the church home groups.

**PAUSE**

*(for thought)*



## Jude 1 - Become a contender Part 1

Think of a time you set out to build a new habit — maybe it was an exercise regime, a diet, learning a musical instrument but you struggled to stick with it.

What got in the way?

What does that tell us about the gap between deciding and doing?

What about times when you have been successful in these areas, [exam study!!!] what helped you?

How can you build that into your spiritual life of prayer and bible reading?

NOW READ THROUGH JUDE - it's short and won't take long!

1. What does verse 4 tell us about how false teaching entered the church?  
Does anything about that pattern look familiar in our culture today?
2. Look at the images in verses 12–13 — clouds without rain, uprooted trees, wild waves, wandering stars. What do these pictures have in common?  
What do they reveal about faith that looks impressive but has nothing behind it?
3. What decision does Jude call the believers to make in verse 3? In what ways might this challenge be relevant for you today?

Main points from message with biblical references....

**1. BE THANKFUL** — Faith Is a Gift Ephesians 2:8–9 and Philippians 1:29. How does it change things to know that even the faith you have is a gift, not something you generated yourself? Why might gratitude rather than self-criticism be the healthier response to feeling like your faith is weak? What's one thing about your own faith journey you could thank God for today, even if it feels small?

## **2.BE VOCAL — Faith Should Be Declared Psalm 42:5, 11 and 43:5.**

Why do you think the psalmist speaks truth to his own soul out loud, rather than just sitting with how he feels? How is this kind of declaration different Jude 1 Become a contender Part 1 "manifesting" or wishful thinking? Is there a truth from Scripture (e.g. Romans 8:1, or "my grace is sufficient for you") that you need to say out loud to yourself this week, rather than just know in your head?

## **3.BE DEPENDENT — Faith Grows Under Pressure James 1:2–4.**

How does this compare with your natural instinct when a trial hits? What would it practically look like this week to "turn to God" in a hard moment, rather than just push through it on your own?

### **Bringing it together —**

## **4.BE FOCUSED**

Hebrews 12:2. Why might "fixing" our eyes on Jesus — rather than glancing — be the thing that actually makes the other three possible? Of the three — thankful, vocal, dependent — which comes most naturally to you, and which is hardest? What might that reveal about where you need to grow?

### **Reflective Questions**

- **What kind of spiritual shape am I actually in right now — not where I was a year ago, but today?**
- **Is there any area where I've quietly let culture, comfort, or my own preferences reshape what I believe, rather than holding firm to the word of God?**
- **When did I last thank God for the faith I have, rather than criticising how small or weak it feels?**
- **Is there a truth I know in my head but haven't actually spoken out loud to my own soul in a long time?**
- **What current pressure in my life could be an opportunity for growth, if I turned to God instead of just gritting my teeth through it?**
- **Is there something I can take from the message and apply this week?**



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> November is the last day for collection.  
any questions to Alison McKinlay or Lynn Dyer.

To save you waiting till next week, click [HERE](#) to view the leaflet which explains what to do.

There were 42 young folk at October's Haven Hangout. This is fantastic and encouraging but comes with the pressure of making sure there's plenty on offer and plenty of helping hands at the event.

Please pray for the teams as they put together and manage this programme.

## NOVEMBER 22



Shoeboxes are delivered through our trusted partners to people in Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. Once your box has been checked, Blythswood will also add a Bible storybook for children, a story of a life transformed by Jesus for teenagers or a calendar with Bible verses for adults.

## NOVEMBER 6

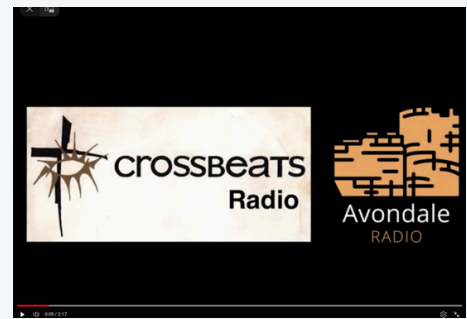


Next Messy Church is on 22 November. Please spread the word and invite folk to come as we build this important part of our family ministry

lots of fun with crafts , games, singing and of course the legendary meal. For all families - parents along with children- and it's Free.

# This month on Crossbeats

As well as the usual weekly fare the team are bringing some extra stuff to the airwaves in October. Next Sunday (11<sup>th</sup> October) Calum and Liz will be highlighting the annual Dove Awards looking at some of the best Contemporary Christian Music of 2026. Tune in at 9 for that.



And this week (Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of October) Murray broadcast a programme based on the history of St Columba while he was living in Ardnamurchan. With a mix of some more Celticky- sounding music he visited some landmarks of Columba's time in this part of the country.

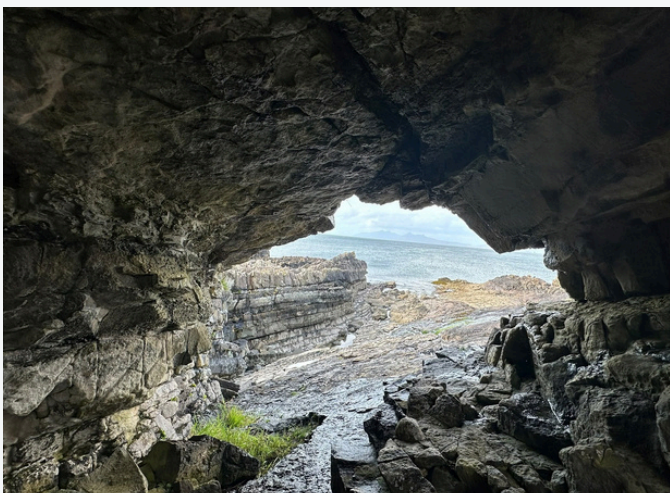
We get a glimpse of the impact this missionary had on Scotland through his determined ministry to remote parts of Scotland and and meet some intrepid modern pilgrims making their way from Iona to Inverness.

You can find this programme on this link to the listen again here and to help your minds eye - here's some pictures to go with the show. [CLICK HERE](#)

As always please spread the work about the show - it is such a great opportunity to showcase what we are about in the community.



Camas nan Gaell - landing place of Columba



Columba's Cave



# Family news

We want to support you. If you know of anything, particularly an illness, grief or other concern, contact Edith Scott at 07800 822223 or Ian Douglas at 07742 022423 so that information can be shared appropriately for pastoral support.

## *Congratulations*

60<sup>th</sup>

*Marshall & Mary Harkness  
Diamond Wedding Anniversary  
2<sup>nd</sup> October*



Many congratulations to Marshall And Mary Harkness on their diamond wedding.

We as a church family want to thank you both for your godly example and service in Avendale & Drumclog and hope you have had a lovely time celebrating.

## Sad news

It is with sadness that we learned about the deaths of **Drew Taylor** and **Margaret McClounan** - both very familiar faces in days gone by.

**A+D**  
Strathaven

# STUDY SUPPORT SESSIONS

Support with study and revision  
for prelims and exams

*Led by a team of retired teachers*

SUBJECTS INCLUDE:

- Maths
- Physics
- Geography
- Biology (Nat 5 only)
- Chemistry (Nat 5 only)

Thursday 22nd October –  
3rd December  
7pm – 9pm

For children  
**S4 – 6**

To request a spot, please email [sszone246@gmail.com](mailto:sszone246@gmail.com)

**"KEEP BELIEVING"**

HOPE CHURCH  
BLACKWOOD & KIRKMUIRHILL  
FREE CHURCH  
of SCOTLAND

## MEN'S BREAKFAST

WITH  
**MARVIN ANDREWS**

FAITH | ENCOURAGEMENT | FELLOWSHIP

*We invite you to hear  
the testimony and journey  
of faith from our  
guest speaker*

"The things  
that are impossible  
with men are  
possible with  
God."  
LUKE 18:27

**SATURDAY  
31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER**

**8:30AM – 10:30AM**  
(Breakfast from 8:30AM)

Hope Church  
Blackwood & Kirkmuirhill  
183A Carlisle Road  
ML11 9AT

**SCAN HERE  
TO BOOK YOUR  
FREE TICKET**

## Get it in the Diary

There will be a joint  
service on **Sunday 1  
November** at **11am** in  
**Drumclog Church**

These are exciting times as Lorna Wilkins takes on the role of leading Messy Church. It is really important that we support her in prayer and also her fantastic team of dedicated helpers who turn out faithfully to provide the food, craft support, chat and fellowship that makes Messy Church such a good connection point for our church.

A poster for Messy Church with a yellow background and radiating lines. At the top left is the 'A+D Strathaven' logo. To its right is the text 'Painting, crafts, and lots of fun! You even get your tea!!'. In the center is a large red splat shape containing the words 'Messed' in white and 'Church' in yellow. Below this, the dates and times are listed in red: 'Join us at Avendale, Sundays 4 - 6pm', '20 September, 22 November', '13 December, 21 February', and '25 April, 23 May'. Further down, in white italicized text, it says 'FUN AND FREE FOR FAMILIES WITH BABIES, TODDLERS AND PRIMARY AGE CHILDREN!'. At the bottom, the email address 'INFO@AVENDALE-DRUMCLOG.ORG.UK' is written in red.

**A+D**  
Strathaven

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fun! You even get your tea!!

**Messed<sup>®</sup>**  
**Church**

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