

IS OUR  
WORLD A  
GONER?

SEE PAGE 3

EQUALITY,  
COMMON  
SENSE?

SEE PAGE 4

HOME SWEET  
HOME

SEE PAGE 2

# BRIGHT STREET BEACON

LOCHEE LOCAL NEWS

Autumn Edition

No. 2

FREE!



Scottish Bible  
Podcast

SEE PAGE 3



How to build a  
resilient high  
street

SEE PAGE 2

## LOCAL STORIES MAKE US? I HOPE NOT!

Recently, next to the D.C. Thomson building in Meadowside, I got on a bus home and was struck by an advert printed on the side of it, which said: 'Local stories make us'. It was advertising The Courier - a local newspaper produced in the building next to my bus stop. I don't know if you have read it, the Evening Telegraph or any other publication emanating from this local institution recently, but I don't want to be shaped by its content - crime, drugs, paedophilia and perversion. It seems every other story is about you know who looking at you know what.

BY EWAN GURR Sr.

For two centuries, journalism has been a revered industrial pillar and one of Dundee's three J's, alongside jute and jam. Established in 1801, The Courier was to be illuminating in content and local in scope. I found a copy in my house from 15 years ago, priced at 44p and most of the news was bad. A copy will now cost you £2.20 - a 400% price increase. However, at least that edition in the late noughties in the old broadsheet format, was full of local stories

Continued on page 2



Continued from page 1

about business development, council politics and fixing potholes. There was even a farming section.

Local news now is more like a travel guide for Sodom and Gomorrah, filled with utter mind-rot you would rather not be shaped by. What changed, you may ask? I suspect D.C. Thomson's shift from print-to-digital in 2016 was pivotal. As more people use their laptops and phones to access content, it is easier for editors to assess what readers read and stories are driven more by algorithms than what is beneficial societally. This is careless because, surrounded by a citizenry with a shrinking attention span, we often pursue the sensationalised rather than the informed.

It has been said: 'Journalists give a voice, lend an ear and shine a light'. If only this were true. Imagine being on your deathbed, reflecting upon your legacy only to realise you spent the gift of life watching other people live theirs, titillating the mob with your elaborate 'exclusives' and 'scoops' and providing an ever-shrinking cohort with a banquet of psychological gruel. You did so whilst sitting in the shadows as mythical white knights of righteousness interrogating the private lives of imperfect beings yet you would squirm if only subjected to a similar level of scrutiny.

Healthy foods are not always the most attractive and it takes self-control to reject an unfulfilling cake and reach instead for a satisfying steak. However, as you do, your palate shifts and starts to seek the good rather than the crude. Do we really need to know all the bad stuff that takes place? What added value is offered to us by the content of scoops? Does it make us better people? There has never been another time in history when there has been so much information vying for your attention that demanded so much of your soul.

Imagine this: there is a healthier buffet available, full of the greatest delicacies and finest cuisine which, upon consumption, nourishes and satisfies – wouldn't that be good news? Friends, the Bible contains that good news, it has nourished generation after generation and is still the world's bestseller. It is faithfully declared every week at Lochee Baptist Chapel, that though we are errant and fallible humans, there is a God who loves us and, if we offer ourselves to Him, He will reform us and shape us by His story – the best story.

The Courier will pass away, but His words will never pass away.

# A longing for home



## All humans want to find a home.

A place where we're loved, secure and welcome. Home is a place of order, not disorder, where we flourish rather than wither and where we can be our true selves. We all desire a place where we're fully known and fully loved. For some of us the idea of this is distant. For others we're tired of trying to force it. For others we're scared of finding home because we know that home isn't always comfortable; we may have to face up to our shortfalls. The story of the Bible is that, when we are truly at home, we will be at peace.

Jesus told the story of two sons, who were greatly loved by a good father. The first one rejected his father, left home and began a search for excitement. To begin with, he was suitably amused and looked like he was living the lifestyle we're all looking for. As, he came to the end of his funds, he realised he'd walked away from his true home.

BY DAVID HOLT

The second son stayed with his father but was resentful of his brother and father. His sense of duty kept him physically at home, but he had wandered off in his heart. When the first son finally came to his senses, he returned to his father, remorseful and willing to become a house-servant. His father welcomed this son with open arms, threw a huge party and demonstrated his unconditional love towards him, not as a servant, but as a son. In that moment we realise how far the second son had wandered. Instead of joining the party he angrily takes himself away.

The story is left somewhat open-ended. Did the second son come home? Did he turn and run? Jesus wants us to ask that question, "Will we run from the one place where we'll really be at home?"

## Businesses at the heart of the high street



On the upper stretch of Lochee High Street resides the Cobblers Neuk, which has been saving shoes for 34 years. Alongside shoe repairs, the shop offers key-cutting, engraving and watch repair services, as well as various accessories for sale.

Dundee local Brian Wright, the shop's proprietor, was working for Timex as a mechanical engineer when the opportunity arose to become a cobbler. Initially, Brian learnt his trade from his brother-in-law with the help of a friend, a retired Timpson's worker.

Over the years, Cobblers Neuk has had to keep up with the changing nature of passing trade in Lochee. In order to keep up with the modernisation of products, Brian must keep experimenting with his methods, which keeps the work interesting. When he retires in around five years time, he will need to find someone to continue his work.

Despite its modest size, the shop serves clients from all over Dundee and the surrounding countryside and is widely known for its excellence. Seeing this small business thriving after so many years is a wonderful strength for Lochee. May we all help to continue its legacy.





# You looking for a fight?

BY PASTOR TIM

If so, we've got some armour that might just fit you. You see, the Bible is the story of a fight from start to finish. It's really God's fight: the fight to win back his world from the power of death. Although He doesn't need any help winning that war, He's opened up recruitment to His army for those who want to fight on his side.

It's not your average war, mind. No maiming or destruction or displaced millions. No murky motives and mindless murder. When God fights His wars, the results are health and peace. Remember, this a war against death, and once death's prisoners have been liberated from his dungeons, the big chief himself is going to get it in the neck — the Bible tells us that one day King Jesus is going to put death to death!

And the weapons which God uses to fight this war are also different. For more than 2,000 years, He's been fighting this crucial war with nothing more than words. Words of fire, steel and thunder, which for two millennia have been changing hearts, changing lives and changing civilisations. These words, where they have been properly used, have been reshaping cultures and rebuilding lives.

So, that's the war but there wouldn't be a war if there wasn't an enemy. In fact, the enemy is the reason the war started in the first place. You'll find it towards the beginning of the first

book of the Bible: a God-hating snake who engages in a war of words against his maker. You'll also find that very same snake in the last book of the Bible, tasting his final defeat but all the way through and in between those two books, there's an ongoing fight. Sometimes God's words are trusted and believed, bringing healing and life, and sometimes they're thrown out and trampled down with catastrophic results.

A weird war with weird weapons and God is looking for recruits to join his world-shaping, life-giving mission. But there's one catch: most of us have already picked a side, and it's the wrong one! The Bible tells us that by nature we're enemies of God, so before we can join His army, we need to be rescued from the one we've been drafted into, willingly or not.

Now most of us don't feel like we're serving an enemy general. We don't see ourselves as serving any master but ourselves. But Jesus said that "everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin", which means that we are on the wrong side, and we can't get off it without help.

Fortunately, rescuing enemy soldiers and signing them up to his army is exactly the kind of thing God loves to do.



Are you Struggling to find time to read the Bible? The Scottish Bible Podcast, hosted by Ewan Gurr Sr. and Jr., takes the listener through the entire Bible in just a year, alongside weekly interviews with pastors and fellow believers,

## Scottish Bible Podcast

BY BETHAN WRAIGHT

such as Rev. David Dickson, Andy Murray, Rev. William Philip, and John Mason MSP.

The Scottish Bible Podcast was started in 2025 by Dundee resident Ewan Sr. and his son, Iso Ewan. According to Ewan Sr. although he loved listening to the Bible being read, it was hard to find it read by anyone who wasn't American. With a bit of spare time on their hands and a keen understanding of Scotland's rich spiritual heritage, the Gurr's decided to take matters into their own hands, and started The Scottish Bible Podcast.

Ewan Jr., age 13, explained that co-hosting the podcast has been an excellent opportunity for him to meet older, more mature Christians, as well as providing a strong incentive to keep reading his Bible.

Moreover, Ewan Sr. observed that his discussions with pastors from around the country have served as a great encouragement, as all over Scotland, churches are seeing increased interest in the Christian message.

Although the two Ewan's will have read through the entire Bible by the end of December, they are considering following through with their plan of reading through the Bible again next year, as well as their weekly reflections with believers and pastors from around Scotland.

The Scottish Bible Podcast is available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, and other streaming services. [www.biblepodcast.scot](http://www.biblepodcast.scot)

# Equality, who could argue against equality?



## What is the value of an old worn pair of football boots?

If they were our boots used for a special match, they would have sentimental value. However, if we found them sitting by the bin on the street, they would hold no value. However, if these boots were a white and red Adidas pair previously worn by David Beckham, according to an online auction, the answer to the question of value is an estimated £16-18K!

Why so expensive? They are not considered of such value because of the cost of the material, unlike Rio Ferdinand's gold and diamond encrusted pair, but because of the story behind the boots. The value we attach to things and even to people come because of the stories we tell.

When we use a word like 'equality' we are talking about the equal value of every human being: man, woman, young, old, slave and free. Common sense, right? For

anyone to suggest different, or for us to even get the hint that they mean something different, we are quick to respond with a holy rage.

What seems like common sense to us is actually part of the story that has been shaping our culture for the last 2,000 years. If we were to have a discussion with a Roman from back in the day and suggest to him that all people were equal, he would stare at us blankly. Accuse him of having the same value as a woman, or a slave, and you would quickly discover some old-school holy Roman rage.

Why the difference? Why in our culture is equality common sense? It all has to do with Christianity.

The origin story of the Bible is a story that uniquely gives equal worth to every human because we are all made in the image of God. The Bible uniquely elevates men and women, young and old, slave and free, as equals in the eyes

BY PASTOR DAVE

of God. The idea of human equality, human rights and even humanism can be traced back to biblical roots.

As this story pervaded Western society, all the old equalities began to tumble. Slavery was abolished and women's rights, labour rights, racial rights were achieved. It brought a universal human dignity and moral responsibility that no one deserves to be trampled down simply because they are weaker, smaller, or poorer.

But there has been a shift in the origin story over the last 100-200 years. No longer is it universally agreed that we are made in the image of God as the Bible teaches, but rather that we came about by some cosmic accident. The problem with this story is that it gives no inherent value to humans. If we keep insisting on this origin story we will see more and more of the old inequalities emerge.

## What's on at Lochee Baptist Chapel over the Autumn?

A poster for a Ceilidh event. It features the word 'Ceilidh' in a large, white, cursive font on a dark teal background. Below it, in smaller white text, is 'Fun Community Ceilidh! A free event for all the family'. To the right, it says 'Saturday 13th Sept 7 - 8:30pm'. There are illustrations of people dancing and playing bagpipes.

**Ceilidh**  
Fun Community Ceilidh!  
A free event for all the family  
Saturday 13th Sept  
7 - 8:30pm

**Join us every  
Sunday at  
10:30am**