

Douglas & Marion Young

6 Westfield, Kilbirnie, KA25 7EF

☎ 07515 435497

I'm sure we are all feeling relieved that the restrictions are easing, and feeling optimistic that we are coming out of lockdowns hopefully never to return to Covid restrictions again. The Open-Air Mission have taken the view that if non-essential retail are permitted to open then it is appropriate for us to be out on the streets preaching the gospel, but if non-essential retail are not permitted to open, then we should follow this pattern too. My colleagues south of the border have been back out for a few weeks now, and I have been looking forward to Monday 26th April when Scotland also opens up again too; the last time I was able to be preaching out in the open-air was on Christmas Eve (see photo on the right where I'm talking to a couple who had listened to the preaching). It seems such a long time ago now. In an interesting quirk of circumstance, the Open-Air Mission team event in Yorkshire starts on Monday 26th April and I am scheduled to be on that team. So, although allowed back out in Scotland, I will in fact be starting in England!



Our Yorkshire outreach will have open-airs each day from Monday through to Friday in Leeds city centre and will be run by half the team. The other half of the team will be in various places in Yorkshire, including York, Wakefield, Huddersfield and Bradford.

Over the past few months I have been 'preaching to the lens'. I find preaching to a camera is very different to having a live audience. It takes a lot more preparation in setting up equipment and editing the recordings before it is ready to be viewed. One I did this past week for our own church fellowship included a few words that were something of a tongue twister. As I only discovered that when I came to say them, I recorded it several times before managing to say it correctly! I don't have a collection of out-takes, but if I did I can imagine that most people would enjoy laughing at me. However, we do what we can and trust the Lord to bless our efforts. It is all of Him after all. Zoom meetings are a bit easier as there is a live audience. It really makes a big difference to be able to see the people you're speaking to.



Another thing I was involved in earlier this year was the production of a Virtual Bible Workshop for Bethel Church in Ripon. Normally I am there with one of the OAM Bible Exhibitions and some schools send classes to the church and at other times we take the exhibition to the schools. This is normally well received and, as the church were doing virtual school assemblies, it seemed a good idea to have a virtual exhibition. So, I was recorded doing the narration in front of the



display boards, the 'characters' who tell the story of a bible character told their story in front of a green screen and using technology these stories appeared in the final production as though they were there in Israel at the time. This was sent to five schools in the area and in each school they could watch the video, engage in small group activities in their classrooms at the appropriate time before going on to watch another part of the video. It finished with a quiz/worksheet for the children to complete.

Have a look at my proposed diary for the next few weeks and pray for the various events that are planned. The Tislington Well Dressings are cancelled again this year, but we plan to release a video in the same way as last year. We are encouraged that there have been over 900 views of last year's video, so please pray that this would be a useful outreach tool again this year.

Hopefully by the end of May it will be clearer what we can do in the summer. Meanwhile, patience is important.

We always say that our plans are subject to the Lord's will, and the past year has shown that we have no real control over our plans. We simply have to trust the Lord that He will make His plans succeed as He promised he would.

Thank you for all your prayers and fellowship. May the Lord bless you all.

26-30 April	Yorkshire OAM Team Event
2 May	Johnstone pre-recorded video Chapelton pre-recorded video
3-7 May	Preparation of video for Tislington Well Dressings and refresh of Amazing Acts Bible Exhibition
11 May	Kilmarnock open-air
12 May	Ayr open-air
13 May	Glasgow open-air
14 May	Paisley open-air
17-19 May	Study leave
20 May	Glasgow open-air
21 May	Kilmarnock open-air
23 May	Dumbarton on Zoom Stevenston pre-recorded video
25 May	Ayr open-air
26 May	Kilmarnock open-air
27 May	Glasgow open-air
28 May	Falkirk open-air
30 May	Johnstone pre-recorded video Burnbank on Zoom