

Date	Speaker	Sunday Morning	Sunday Evening	Other info	
July	6	Al H	Karen	-	Matt 4:23-5:6
	13	Gilbert	Kristyn	-	Matt 5:7-16
	20	Gilbert Foster	Al H	-	Matt 5:17-32
	27	Paul	Al B	-	Matt 5:33-48
Aug	3	Paul	Surgi	-	Matt 6:1-18
	10	David	Suz	-	Matt 6:19-34
	17	David	Al H	-	Matt 7:1-6
	24	Gilbert	Al B	-	Matt 7:7-11
	31	Gilbert	Sarahanne	-	Matt 7:12-29
Sept	7		Suz/Karen	-	
	14		Al B	TBC	
	21		Sarahanne	-	
	28		Al H	Al B	

'Incomparable' by Andrew Wilson

Imagine someone asked you to describe God. What aspects of his character would you first think of? What parts of his personality would strike you above the rest? Could you single out what God is like? In this book, Andrew Wilson takes on the mammoth task of describing and exploring the character of God.

The beauty of God, as shown through the book, is that He is so complex and amazing that He cannot be fully described. In the introduction, we are told about the human understanding of knowledge - how we automatically associate descriptions with things we already know. This works for ordinary objects, but not for describing the Living God...there is nothing earthly we can compare Him to.

In overcoming this problem, we are taken through 60 descriptions of God from scripture, which are separated into four sections: The Being of God, The names of God, God in three persons and The Attributes of God. Each section is packed full of eye-opening characteristics of God and the amazing thing is that our God is all of these things, and more, at the same time!

Through the book we explore God the creator, God Most High, God the faithful, Yahweh-will-provide, Yahweh-my-shepherd, The Word became flesh, The Lion and the Lamb, The Grace of God and The Glory of Yahweh to name but a few... Each short chapter gives a Biblical passage exploring the characteristic of God and a short description usually with a humorous anecdote and a deep revelation of a part of the character of God.

This book is a very easy read, a must for those of us guilty of dipping in and out of books - each chapter is only 2-3 pages in length but vast in meaning. It is essential that as Christians, and as true worshippers, that we understand the Object of our worship, God. When we understand who He is, then there is 'no greater inspiration, no other reason for worship and no stronger motivation to live well'. 'To whom then will you liken God, or what likeness compare with him?' Isaiah 40:18. The answer in short, he is incomparable!

Reviewed by Rachael Hamilton



transformation

worship that shapes and sends

July 2008

glenabbey music

the resource portal to inform, equip & inspire you for worship service

What's new

Featured resource



To help you discover the range of materials on offer here, we'll be featuring a different resource each week.

This week, it's the **Worship Lounge**

After months of preparation and great anticipation (well, with me at least), **music.glenabbey.org.uk** was launched on 1st June. In the past three weeks, we've had over 4000 different page views by nearly 250 visitors ranging from USA & Canada, through Europe, all the way to China and Singapore. And most of this before the search engines had found the site!

As the site's tag line suggests, our goal is to provide a *resource portal to inform, equip and inspire you for worship service*. There is already a wide range of resources designed for this purpose. But the site is designed to allow us to update it with new content regularly up to next September and beyond. This is going to be a growing and developing resource, a site that it will be worth your while dipping into in a regular basis to see what's new.

Music resources

As you would expect in a music website, there's a variety of music resources that will help us to grow and develop in our skills and gifting as musicians and help us develop as we lead in corporate worship.

More than a song

But just as worship is much more than the songs we sing, so you'll find a lot more than just music on this site. God wants our service of music to emerge from hearts that are increasingly conformed to his standards of godliness. He is, in other words, seeking worshippers, not worship events. So you'll find a lot of multi-media content that will challenge us to grow in this vital area of our lives.

Most fundamentally, of course, true worship has God as its object. We are committed through this site to provide resources that will encourage you to grow in you knowledge of the Object of our worship. It's as we grow in our relationship with him through a deepening knowledge of him that our worship of him will become richer and more God-honouring.

So visit often; delve deeply into the resources; spread the word to others who might be interested and find the site useful.

to paint a compelling picture of the glory of God in Christ



sign up for
e-news

Add your email address here to receive updates straight to your inbox keeping you informed about new material & resources added to the site.

NEWS

Transformation online

Transformation is available on the music website. At the moment, you can find it linked from the home page. I'm going to be using the website increasingly to distribute information and materials, so why not get into the habit of checking it out regularly?

Update about next year

I'm rapidly coming to the end of my year on staff in Glenabbey. I've greatly enjoyed the chance to invest time in the development of the ministry and of various people involved in serving in music.

I'd like to give you a very brief idea of what the arrangements for next year will be. We're in the process of setting up a team of people who will oversee various aspects of the music ministry in Glenabbey, such as youth, brass section and so on. I'm going to lead this team, keeping the strategic and developmental vision alive. Each team member will be responsible for looking after their area. I believe this is the best way for us to build on the progress made this year and to continue to see our area of service grow throughout the church.

As we get closer to September, more details about the team will be posted on the music website. Check it out then.

Finally, thank you all for your commitment, energy and passion that you've poured into serving God this year. I've had some great encouragements and feel it an honour to have been able to serve such a team of people in Glenabbey this year.

What is the essence of our task?

All of us who stand in front of people need to see ourselves as worship leaders. We're all much more than musicians – it's not just down to the 'spokesperson' of the band to lead worship. We all play our part. That said, what then is the essence of our task as worship leaders? There are all sorts of secondary things we're aiming for – musical excellence, cultural relevance and so on. But what's at the heart?

To answer this question requires us to step back for a moment and ask two related questions: what is the essence of worship? And what hinders us from worshipping?

What is the essence of worship?

In John 4 we get an invaluable insight into what is at the core of a true understanding of worship. In the middle of a conversation about worship, Jesus makes this radical statement to the Samaritan woman: 'true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth'. I've been too ready to jump to the *means* statement (spirit and truth) and too quick to overlook the *object* statement (worship the Father). According to this passage, true worshippers are defined in the first instance by the object of their worship; true worshippers worship God. So the essence of worship is acknowledging God as the central value of our lives, the centre of gravity around which everything else we say, think and do revolves.

What hinders us from worshipping?

We are all created with the urge to worship, to give ourselves to some value, to wrap our lives around it. Our problem is that we too readily give our worship away to things

other than God. In Romans 1, Paul outlines the nature of our problem, saying that we have 'exchanged the truth of God for a lie and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen!' Our issue is that we have sold ourselves short, we have given our worship away to trinket gods that rob and steal and lessen us, gods that we have to pursue with ever increasing vigour for an ever diminishing return. The sad truth is that we think that these will bring the deep satisfaction we're all seeking – of course, they won't. The prophet Jeremiah describes our situation like this: 'My people have changed their glory for that which does not profit. Be appalled, O heavens at this, be shocked, be utterly desolate, declares the Lord. For my people have committed two evils: they have forsaken me, the fountain of living waters and hewed out for themselves cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water.' (Jer 2:11-13). Can you feel the pitiful scandal of our predicament?

What is the essence of our task as worship leaders?

The essence of our task, then, is to point people back to the glory we've exchanged. It's to lift our eyes off the trinket gods we've become obsessed with, and to refocus us back on the incomparable glory of the God who has created us for relationship with himself, and who loves us and gave himself for us.

That's why we use the tag line 'to paint a compelling picture of the glory of God in Christ'. As worship leaders, in whatever context – Sunday mornings, youth, children's, home-groups – the core of what we are seeking to do is the same. To muster all finest our efforts – while being completely dependent on the work of the Holy Spirit – to portray God in such a way as people are awe-struck once again by his love, his glory, his grace, his holiness, his compassion, his power, his authority and so on and so on. The songs we sing, the prayers and readings we use, the way we sing or play our instruments is all fundamentally to this end. That we might see something more of who God really is; that we might see the pitiful nature of the trinket gods we have been worshipping; and that we might more fully worship the one true God with all that we have and are to the glory of his name and for his renown.

Alistair Hamill

to paint a
compelling picture
of the
glory of God
in Christ

"Instead of telling us a thing is 'terrible', describe it so that we'll be terrified. Don't say it was a 'delight', make us say 'delightful' when we've read the description."

C.S. Lewis