

Pastor Roy writes...

Dear Friends

As I was growing up and into my early adult years I used to hear the phrase being used a lot, that the *customer was always right*. I do not hear that as often nowadays. Maybe it has been replaced with one of to-day's key components of commercial trade, that being *Customer Care*. I was made very aware of *customer care* recently from a business here in Carluke and was hugely impressed. While my wife, Christine was in Canada for two weeks, I had received an invitation to a home for an evening of a bought in Chinese Meal. On the phone earlier that day, I had been asked by the host, what Chinese dish I would like, and I informed them, making sure that there were NO onions in the dish.

Yes. You got it right! When it arrived, there were onions. Now, the point of this article is not to debate the demerits or benefits of onions. My argument is with God: he made them. Suffice to say that my host immediately called the restaurant, informed them of the error, and within 10 minutes, the owner of the Chinese Restaurant herself, drove up to the door to deliver the corrected item. In that home, we were aware, that evening, of excellent, personal, *customer care*.

Part of our personal customer care for you is that you receive, often hand delivered, this magazine. Now, to begin with I must say that we do not in any way think of you as a customer. Not at all, but we do see you as a very much valued member of our *family of faith* at St Johns. Therefore we want you to be involved and know what is happening, both in the immediate past and future.

If there is any way that we can be of assistance to you as your church family, please do not hesitate to inform us. We can be contacted either by e-mail at office@carluke-stjohns.org.uk, or by telephone (01555)752519.

Many Blessings

Roy and Christine

Autumn Services

Normal Sunday Services are held at 11.00 am. Once a month, there is an evening service, including prayers for healing. A short mid-week service is held on Thursdays at 10.30 am.

*Special services between now and the next issue of **St John's News** will include:*

October 18 Harvest Thanksgiving

November 8 Armistice Day Service

December 6 Communion Sunday

Details of these, and other services will be available on the church website: www.carluke-stjohns.org.uk

The **Street Level AGM** takes place on Thursday 1st October 2009 at 7:30 pm.

Anyone interested in hearing about progress made and future plans are welcome to attend I understand that it will take place at St Athanasius Church Hall

Contributions for the next issue of St John's News, **or for the website**, can be submitted to the editor **at any time** but no later than **Sunday 22 November 2009**.

Contributions may be hand-written, typed or emailed to [**editor@carluke-stjohns.org.uk**](mailto:editor@carluke-stjohns.org.uk)

Church organisations

3rd Carluke Boys' Brigade

The new session will have started by the time you read this. Anchor Boys, Junior and Company Sections meet on Friday evenings. Any boy interested in joining the appropriate section should contact **Captain Richard Allan** on **771679** for more details.

The Guild

The new session of the Guild starts on **Wednesday 7 October** at the usual time of 1.15 pm.

We have a varied and interesting syllabus compiled which, we hope, you will enjoy. Our Guest Night will be held on Thursday, 29 October, when our guest will be My Way, a Christian singing group.

We look forward to welcoming old and new friends, so come along and give us a try. Remember, the Guild is not a ladies-only group. Men are also welcome.

We look forward to seeing you all on the 7 October

**Helen Wyper
Convenor**

Youth Church

I feel very privileged to have been asked to take on the role of Sunday School Superintendent and thank all those who have offered me their good wishes.

The Youth Church new session began with a 'Round Up' Sunday on 23rd August. We had around 28 children in total, with 23 of them (plus leaders) being old enough to enjoy hotdogs. Our thanks go to Tom for cooking and serving these. This was a big success again this

year and was a great way of getting the children back together after a long summer break away from our own church.

I am fortunate to have a very loyal and fun loving group of leaders working with me. **May Kydd** and her team of **Angela Campbell**, **Susan Jackson** and **Sharon Struthers** very ably take care of the ever increasing group of children we have in the crèche. **Wilma Cringles** and **Amy Wyper** currently have three lovely children in Beginners, **Shona Keay** is aided by **Rosemary Leggate** and **Carolyn Watson** in the Junior section (where you are always guaranteed entertainment - and not only from the leaders!) and **Karen Gillon** and **Jean Watson** will very capably take on the responsibility of the more mature, questioning minds of the children in Seniors and Link, which (following discussion with the girls in Link) we have decided to amalgamate.

We have another couple of volunteers currently being disclosed and I would urge anyone who thinks they could offer their services, in any capacity, to our Youth Church to get in touch with me. Anyone with any musical talent would be made extremely welcome!! Our leaders also enjoy the chance to listen to Pastor Roy's sermons on the day and the more people we have involved in Youth Church the more opportunity we have to arrange alternate cover, obviously with our main concern being continuity, contentment and enjoyment for the children.

I hope this has given you a very brief overview of Youth Church at the moment and I shall keep you updated throughout the session. Please continue to keep Youth Church and its leaders in your prayers.

Janice Ord
Superintendent

HOST

Visits from strangers at Christmas began with the arrival of wise men from a foreign land. You could carry on this tradition, by inviting an international student to spend Christmas in your home. HOST is a well-established charity, backed by the Foreign Office and many universities, which links adults studying in the UK with hospitable volunteers throughout Britain. Guests come from all over the world, including many from China. They speak English, are keen to share their own culture, while longing to know more about our way of life. They are prepared to travel to stay with a host far from their university. Welcoming a student who might otherwise spend Christmas on a deserted campus, fosters international understanding, and will make Christmas special. See www.hostuk.org or call HOST's volunteer regional organiser in this part of Scotland, Anne-Marie Ringler, on 01698 386100. HOST arranges visits throughout the year, so if your 'inn' is full this Christmas, you can still offer an invitation at another time.

Are you creative and crafty...

...or would you like to be?

Come along and share ideas with like minded people.

The first meeting of St Johns Craft Group will be held in the Large Hall on Tuesday 20th October from 1:45 to 3:45 pm

The cost will be £2, to cover the costs of the make and take at each session, and there will also be a small charge for tea and church funds.

Basic supplies, equipment etc will be available for general use.

Other dates will be arranged depending on response.

Contact **Lindsay Smith** on **871162** for more details and to let us know you are coming.

We look forward to seeing you on the 20th.

Information Update Form

Are you about to change your name and/or address?

Please take a moment to complete, then return this form. You can hand it in at the door any Sunday morning, or post it to the church (see the inside back page for the address).

You can also email your details to office@carluke-stjohns.org.uk

My **current** details are:

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My **changed** details are/will be:

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Scottish Bible Society

In this, it's 200th birthday year, the SBS has been particularly busy.

Sat. 15th Aug was the Big Brazil Bonanza held at Donaldson's school Edinburgh, raising funds for bibles and bandages in Brazil. Their big marquee was filled with Brazilian band and dancers, Highland dancers and singers, puppets, magician, etc. Round about were too many stalls and activities to list! A great day was definitely had by all.

In the Edinburgh Fringe, productions included the Gospel According to Luke by Broadway actor Bruce Kuhn, and the Saltmine Theatre Co's The Hope Play about Joseph's coat and his big dreams. There was also a comedy caper called In the Beginning, Genesis as you've never seen it.

On Thursday 27th Aug the Bible Society included a DVD, 6 stories from The Glasgow Gospel, as a free gift with the Glasgow Herald. If you have one you are invited to pray about it and share it with friends and local groups. "Let Glasgow (Scotland) flourish by the preaching of the Word and the praising of God's name."

The SBS Youth update announces that it's youth fundraising target for Brazil was reached less than half way through the year - "an awesome answer to prayer."

Another highlight was the launch of a new youth website SBS-EXIT. A team went to the Frenzy Christian music festival to introduce EXITMAN, its dedicated website to the 6,000 young people there. SBS-EXIT encourages young people to go out and make a difference in their culture. It is equipping them for bible engagement and encouraging them to help others whose circumstances prevent them from reading God's Word. It is a challenge and an opportunity to be part of SBS-EXIT. See www.sbs-exit.org

This special website, and 6,000 youngsters at a Christian concert are both very encouraging happenings!

For further information about the Bible Society contact the SBS on 0131 337 9701 or online at www.scottishbiblesociety.org

Kirk Session News

At a meeting after morning worship on Sunday 23 August, **Glenn Walker** was presented to the Kirk Session as sole nominee for the post of Session Clerk, vacated by Graham Jackson in June. Session unanimously approved the appointment, and Glenn took up his duties immediately, with his first duty being to organise the celebration of Holy Communion on Sunday 6 September.

Prior to his election as Session Clerk, Glenn was the chair of the Management Committee in which post he has served St John's diligently for almost 6 years. Members should be confident that he will continue to serve the congregation in his new post as faithfully for many years to come.

Children Learn What They Live.

- ✧ If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- ✧ If a child lives with hostility, he learns to fight.
- ✧ If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
- ✧ If a child lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty.
- ✧ If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- ✧ If a child lives with encouragement, he learns confidence.
- ✧ If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
- ✧ If a child lives with fairness, he learns justice.
- ✧ If a child lives with security, he learns faith.
- ✧ If a child lives with approval, he learns to like himself.
- ✧ If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

Thank You Penny Savers

The Bible Society sends a big 'Thank You' to all the 'penny bag' savers in St John's. The money sent most recently has gone towards the Brazil project, marking the society's 200th birthday celebrations. As the society says: *You don't have to change the world, maybe just one person's world.*

Someone who:

- ✧ would love to have the good news of Jesus in their own language
- ✧ can't read but will respond to the message in audio form
- ✧ has lost their bible through war or national disaster
- ✧ is too poor to afford a copy of scripture even at cost price
- ✧ needs God's word delivered to their remote location

Here in Scotland that *someone* may be

- ✧ an asylum seeker with minimal resources
- ✧ a child with no knowledge of Jesus, the Bible or Christianity
- ✧ from one of our profoundly deprived communities

The Bible continues to have the power to change peoples' lives as they meet Jesus in its pages. Your pennies are doing that right now.

- ✧ In **Lebanon**: £5 provides a relief pack (including scriptures) for a child
- ✧ In **Romania**: £30 provides the New Testament on a mega voice audio player for a blind person.
- ✧ In **Malawi**: £50 provides 50 copies of The Good Samaritan booklets to educate Christians about HIV/AIDS
- ✧ In **Scotland**: £100 will provide 10 bibles for asylum seekers or needy people living in a priority area.

More 'penny bags' have been ordered. If anyone would care to join us by saving pennies and filling a bag, please let me know. Help us to change someone's life.

Sandra Peat

Improvements/Repairs

During the summer closedown a number of improvements and repairs were carried out within the Church buildings. The largest and most costly improvement was the replacement of the Heating System and this was done at a total cost of £26,580. The old pipework was seriously corroded and it was discovered that water had been leaking under the floor of the church for several years adding to heating costs and risks to the fabric of the building. Thankfully no damage was caused by water leaks and we now have a modernised system designed to improve the overall efficiency of the heating of Church and Halls. Additional roof insulation and reduction in draughts will also reduce our gas bills as well as minimising our Carbon Footprint.

An overhead air curtain has been installed above the church front door with the aim of reducing the draught level coming into the church when doors are opened prior to the service starting. Those inside the church should feel the increased comfort level while the people on duty at the door will definitely appreciate the lack of icy blasts. The total cost for this item was £1619.

The third and probably the most visible alterations are the newly installed video screens which are now being used to display church news items prior to worship and hymn verses during the service. It is planned that a camera will be added to allow more people to easily view activities taking place in the choir box. Costs for this complete system will be in the region of £7,000.

During the removal of the old heating system a number of items were found to be in need of repair or refreshing, including constructing new ends and legs for several pews, repairing damaged pews and making-good holes in floors and walls. Some painting was also required. In all, volunteers from the congregation spent almost 500 hours on these jobs.

The final clean-up involved squads of folk scrubbing, washing and dusting to bring the church back to a spic and span condition. So a **big thank you** is due to everyone involved in the planning, execution and tidying phases of this project.

JS

Champion's Challenge

The club was held in Crawforddyke Primary School from Monday 3rd August to Friday 7th August in the morning and was attended by about 100 children. The enthusiastic team was made up of 30 adults and 30 young people from the Carlisle churches.

Here is a selection of encouraging comments by some of the young people on the team.

Fraser D - Great fun as usual! It was really encouraging to have such high numbers all week. Thanks for everything.

Fraser R. - Another fantastic experience this year. The kids have been great and it's always good to see that the hard work has paid off!

Carlyn - Had great fun and it was very encouraging to see the children having fun too. It was fantastic to see so many children attending the club. It was also amazing that we managed to cope with everything that was thrown at us - including having to work in the other hall.

Pamela - This week has been brilliant. I really enjoyed working with the kids and helping to teach them was very encouraging and challenging.

Megan - I really enjoyed working with all the children and working as part of a team.

Cara-Lynn - I have had a great week and found it so encouraging how many children came and how much they enjoyed themselves, even with so many of them.

Laura W - It has been great fun all week! it was really encouraging to see so many children enjoying themselves.

David S - Very good, kept me busy, quite demanding but still fun!

Katie W - It was great, quite busy. All the children had fun.

Amy W - Great to have high numbers all week. It was fun as usual!! Everyone had a really great time. Thanks!!

Sarah W - I was not expecting so many children and I thin everyone

had a wonderful time.

Katherine - Once again the holiday club has been a huge success and I really enjoyed myself. Had a great few days!

Colette - I found the experience really enjoyable. I'll definitely be coming back, if you'll have me!

Islay - I found it great fun, almost enjoyed it as much as the children. Great experience.

David W. - I found the holiday club a very enjoyable and exciting experience and hope to come again.

Rebecca M. - This week has kept me busy. It's been a very busy year and it's been good fun.

Lauren - this week has been a good experience and very encouraging for the children.

Rachel - I found the holiday club very exciting and I think I enjoyed it almost as much as the kids. I would love to come again next year.

Frazer - once again, holiday club has proved to be successful in bringing the community together. As always it has been a very enjoyable experience.

Rebecca S. - the year has been full of challenges from the vast amount of children, burning buildings and most of all Roy and Karen having to keep up the "sporting" theme!

Steven - This year the holiday club has been as great as ever. I would be glad to be part of it next year because it's a privilege to take part.

Gordon - as usual, a good job all round. Well done everyone, whether they were in groups, on stage, or behind the scenes.

Laura - Champion's Challenge this year was fantastic. Everyone did a fab job of bringing everything together, even when "stumbling blocks" arose, the team's spirit couldn't be dampened! I love doing the holiday club and can't wait for next year!!

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EMMS Bike Ride 2009

Many readers of St John's News will be familiar with the work of EMMS in supporting the Nazareth Hospital in Galilee. Indeed, several people including Mike Frew, Catherine Clacher and Anne McFadzean have previously participated in Biblical Bike Rides and raised funding for hospital projects.



I have registered for this year's Bike Ride which is due to take place in November and to cover about 250 miles over 5 days along the Jordan Valley finishing in Nazareth. Along the way there will be opportunities to meet the people of the Holy Land of today who benefit from the services of the Nazareth Hospital, for which each Bike Rider is committed to raising at least £2500 in sponsorship. The Bike Ride promises to be exciting and challenging, with some magnificent scenery, some good off-road cycling and wonderful fellowship.

The Nazareth Hospital is a Christian hospital, owned by EMMS Nazareth, a partnership organisation to EMMS International. Since 1861, the Hospital has served the people of Galilee, regardless of race or religion. In that time, it has grown from a 4-bed clinic to a 136-bed District General Hospital, recognised by the Ministry of Health in Israel, and serving all the people of Nazareth and the lower Galilee.

The very special ministry of the Nazareth Hospital is of Christian love and reconciliation in a diverse community of Arab and Jew, Christian and Muslim. It is a place where all can work and learn together, to build peace and trust, and to heal differences between races and religions.

To ensure that this ministry continues at the Nazareth Hospital, the standards set by the Ministry of Health must constantly be maintained. This has meant rapid developments in recent years, with the addition of new buildings, the upgrading of old ones, and the development of new facilities. In Israel, funds for hospital development have to be raised by the hospitals themselves, whether they are Jewish or Christian. To achieve such developments, the Nazareth Hospital depends upon worldwide support, including the spon-

sorship raised from previous Bike Rides. This Bike Ride aims to gross a further £40,000 to support building works, and the replacement of the existing Mortuary. This will go some way to support the efficient, smooth running of the Hospital.

If you would like to sponsor my efforts in aid of the hospital, donations can be made in person at Time for Fellowship, by contacting me directly (**750335**) or via my Just Giving page (www.justgiving.com/Glenn-Walker). If you are a UK taxpayer and choose to have your donation treated as Gift Aid, a further 25p for every pound you donate will be available to the charity, at no additional cost to you. All donations towards my fund raising will go directly to the designated project as I shall meet associated travel and accommodation cost myself.

Thank you for your support

Glenn Walker

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Amy M - Champion's Challenge was a huge success! Everyone pulled their weight. What a team! Loved it!

Caitlin - Can't believe the week's gone already! I know I had a great time and I think the children did too. I enjoyed getting to know all the children in my group over the week. Everyone worked great as a team. A great success. Can't wait till next year!

Lucia - the Holiday Club this week has been GREAT. I have enjoyed every minute of it. I am sure the children felt the same. Getting to know the children and working within their groups has to be the best part of Holiday Club. I can't wait until next year and I am sure the members of the church will perform another great year of Holiday Club!!

A very big thank you to all who helped in any way to make this such and enjoyable and successful event.

Year of Homecoming...

...to St John's

In this year of Homecoming 2009, when we are invited to reach out to all those around the world with an interest in or affinity to Scotland, and for people to celebrate being Scottish, the Christian Church is an integral part of Scotland's story, past, present and future.

In recent weeks, I have had two experiences of opening the doors of St John's and inviting visitors to sit quietly in the sanctuary, reminiscing on their Christian roots and sharing their stories with me.

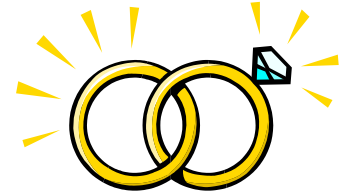
The first of these was a young woman, whom I came across taking photographs of the building on a wet and windy Monday morning. Her home is in British Columbia, but as she was on a work secondment in Brussels, she had taken some time off work to research her ancestry in Lanarkshire. Her name was Dianne Hall, whose great grand-parents, John and Margaret Smith, owned Callagreen farm in Kilincadzow in the late 19th and early 20th century. They had two daughters Mary and Isabella, both of whom grew up on the farm. Isabella, Dianne's grandmother, later married Alexander Steele in St John's in September 1922. The wedding was conducted by the Reverend Matthew Turnbull. A few years later the couple emigrated to British Columbia from where the family line has continued.

The second was a woman on holiday from Australia to visit her brother in Carluke. She had been trying unsuccessfully over several weeks to gain entry to St John's. Just as she was beginning to give up hope, I came across her one Friday morning outside the hall door. Her name was Yvonne Hyslop, originally from Braidwood, and later Airdrie Road in Carluke - a good friend and neighbour of the late Dolly Barr. Yvonne, who was a member of St John's, was married by the Reverend Jack Goring to James Nicol in 1960. They had two daughters before emigrating to Melbourne in 1964. Two more daughters were born in Melbourne, one of whom was with her mother on the visit to St John's.

Some members of Yvonne's generation may remember her, but I doubt there is anyone still alive to recall the family at Callagreen farm!

Congratulations...

...to **Fiona Mackie**, our organist, on the occasion of her marriage to **Russell Hobson**. The wedding service, conducted by Pastor Roy, took place on Saturday 29th August in St John's. We wish Fiona and Russell God's richest blessing as they embark on married life together.



...to **Lindsey Reid** (daughter of George and Anne) who will marry **Garry Stein** in Edinburgh on 19th September. The wedding service will be conducted by the Reverend Mike Frew who has known Lindsey since her Sunday School and Link Group days in St John's. We send her very best wishes and God's blessing as her wedding day draws near.

Both of these chance meetings dwelt on memories of the past, but what of the present and the future? Hospitality and welcome are at the heart of Christian life and so as we come to St John's Sunday by Sunday and on a Thursday morning, we all have a huge part to play. We should always be alert to visitors and strangers within our church, ensuring that they do not feel awkward or isolated. Above all, we must go out of our way to make them feel welcome and comfortable in our midst. We need to think with the mind of a visitor.

Don't let strangers into our churchMake friends with them!

Our church with its closed doors, apart from a brief spell on Thursday and Sunday mornings, does not give the impression of invitation and welcome. Perhaps in looking to the future, we need to consider opening the doors of St John's on a daily basis, not just for the benefit of visitors and those tracing family roots, but for the benefit of those in our community with whom we have never spoken and shared **our** story.

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