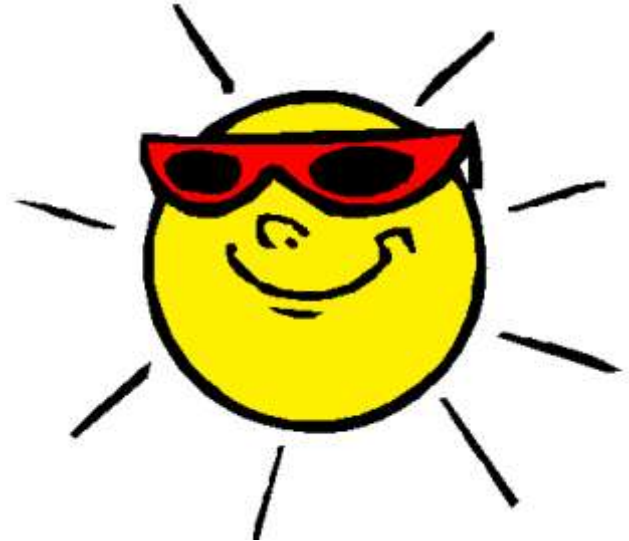


St John's News

The newsletter of St John's Church of Scotland, Carlisle

Summer 2010



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Reflections

The following is based on part of what Pastor Roy said in his Reflections on the Assembly in church on 30 May.

Since returning to Scotland from Canada, Edinburgh's transport system has impressed me. Delegates to the General Assembly last month were able to get around Edinburgh in what must be the most modern, plentiful and clean fleet of buses in Scotland, although there was also a plentiful supply of taxis. One way by which they **couldn't arrive was by tram. At least not yet. Probably only the** Scottish delegates would have the faintest idea why there is a tram sitting in Princes Street for all to see, but not going anywhere.

There was a number of Assembly delegates who felt, at times, that the Church of Scotland was like that tram. It appeared to them **that the church itself didn't seem to be going anywhere; bogged** down in committees and commissions and not really reaching the **people of Scotland. On several occasions, I heard the phrase "We** need to get out of committees and commissions and simply get out **on the street and tell the people about Jesus." The tram is cer-**tainly there for all to see. If they like, they can even get in to see what it looks like on the inside. You can do the same with the General Assembly. There is a public gallery. People came to take in a debate or two, or experience the morning worship which Glenn and I found exhilarating. I did keep my eye on the public gallery. Many famous church people from Canada and the United States come to Edinburgh and visit the Assembly. As it was, I saw no-one I knew.

There was much debate on the future of the Church. When I graduated in Glasgow, I was one of 30 graduates. This year, there are less than 20 graduating from the 5 colleges in Scotland. This is just one aspect of the serious financial straits the Church of Scotland finds itself.

This year, the Church is celebrating 450 years of Scottish Reformation. A special service was held on 23 May and this was captured on DVD. When I return from holiday, we plan to take the opportunity to view this DVD and celebrate, in our own way, our heritage.

Worship Diary

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:

Summer Services 2010

St John's will join with other congregations in the town for joint worship during the summer.

All services at 11:00 am

- | | | |
|----------|--------------------|--|
| 4 July | St Andrew's | <i>Rev Helen Jamieson</i> |
| 11 July | St Andrew's | <i>Rev Iain Cunningham</i> |
| 18 July | Kirkton | <i>Rev Iain Cunningham</i> |
| 25 July | URC | <i>Rev Roy Cowieson</i> |
| 1 August | St John's | <i>Rev Irene John</i>
<i>Communion will be celebrated at this service</i> |
| 8 August | St John's | <i>Rev Roy Cowieson</i>
<i>Holiday Club Thanksgiving service</i> |

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Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be held on Sunday, 5 September 2010.

By the way...

The Guild

The Guild held their Annual Outing on 8 May. This year, our destination was Alnwick Castle and Gardens in Northumberland. All the ladies enjoyed their day out despite the cold wind. High tea was served in the King's Arms Hotel, Berwick.

Coffee Morning

In September, a coffee morning will be held to help raise funds to support one of our young people, Cari McIntyre, as she plans a visit to China and Mongolia. Watch out for further details closer to the time

Jar of Grace

Thank you to all in Kirkton, St Andrew's and St John's who responded to this year's UNICEF Jar of Grace appeal to help children in Mozambique. The sum of £1520.21 has been sent to UNICEF. Of that amount, £756.32 qualified for Gift Aid and a further almost £200 will be reclaimed from Income Tax.

NA,AP,CS

Trekkers June Walk (Girvan on 19 June 2010.)

A circular walk of just under 11 miles. Leaving Girvan seafront, we make our way up and through the hills behind Girvan past the tiny Laggan Loch and Dalfask Farm to the pretty village of Pitmore. We go back part way of the route already walked and then take an alternative path back to the start point at the sea front car park. Height gained approx. 200 metres. Fairly good paths on various surfaces with some road walking. Suitable footwear recommended as it can get muddy in places.

Anyone wishing to go should contact *Rae Warnock* on 770536

New Trekkers always welcome.

Management Team Changes

Joe Bradley has stepped down as co-convenor of the Property Committee. We are grateful for all Joe did while in office and thank him for his service to the congregation.

Helen Wyper has moved from Hall Lets to Housekeeping and Hall Lets will now be dealt with by Donald Frame, to whom all requests for lets should be addressed.

David Lindsay has taken up the new role of Safety Officer. Safety in all aspects of life is becoming more and more important and it has become necessary to appoint someone to have a general over-sight **of Health and Safety issues in St John's. Note that David will NOT** be responsible for ensuring activities are carried out in a safe manner—that is the responsibility of the group undertaking the activity, but he will advise anybody who may have questions.

I dreamt death came the other night
and heaven's gates swung wide
With kindly grace an angel came
and ushered me inside.
And there to my astonishment
stood folk I'd known on earth;
some I had judged as quite unfit-
or of but little worth.
Indignant words rose to my lips,
but never were set free,
for every face showed stunned surprise-
for no one expected me!

Youth Church

During this session we were grateful to Karen Gillon for showing us a DVD of her trip to Malawi and telling the children about the way in which their donation would benefit the lives of so many. The huge smiles on the faces of the Malawian children when they were given gifts of pencils, sharpeners, erasers etc. donated by our children made us all feel very humble. Two more charities which have **benefited from the children's collections** are *Smile Train* (changing the world one smile at a time) and **Mary's meals** (a simple solution to world hunger - www.marysmeals.org). The children will let you know a bit more about these charities during their promotion service on 20th June.

The LINK group and their leaders, Jean and Tracy, arranged a lunch for the younger children, followed by a very enjoyable Easter egg hunt and mini disco. LINK are now preparing to have a fundraising sleepover on Saturday 19th June in aid of The Peruvian floods, CHAS and Friends of Malawi. They shall be inviting the congregation to fill out **'count your blessing' cards on Sunday, 13th June** and they will **pray about these at the "Big Sleepover"**.

As always, I would be delighted to hear from anyone who feels they may be able to assist within any department of the Sunday school. It would be great to have a few more helpers by the start of next session and this would be a good time to start disclosure procedures.

Finally, please continue to pray for all those involved in Youth Church and we wish everyone a very pleasant and safe summer break. Holiday Sunday schools will be running during the summer **when worshipping in St John's.**

JO

Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade held their Parents' Night and Presentation of Awards on Friday 7th May. After a display of figure marching we moved onto games, which involved a parents team against a boys team - needless to say despite some cheating by the parents - the boys were the winners.



Presentation of Awards

Junior Section

2nd Year Achievement Badges and Service Badges were awarded to Calum Sloan, Adam Pollock, Michael Stevenson and James Gillan

1st Year Achievement Badges and Service Badges were awarded to Aaron Ramage, Aaron Lindsay and David Henderson.

Anchor Section

3rd Year Achievement Badges and 3rd Year Service Badge were awarded to Matthew Gillan and Jamie Stevenson.

These two boys were also promoted to the Junior Section.

2nd Year Achievement Badge and 2nd Year Service Badge were awarded to Ryan Sloan.

1st Year Achievement Badge and 1st Year Service Badge were awarded to Greg Alan and Michael Taylor.

Any boy aged 5 or older who may be interested in joining the Boys **Brigade at St John's should contact the Captain, Richard Alan, on 771679**

HW

Long Service Awards

During his visit to Lanark Presbytery recently, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev William Hewitt awarded long service certificates to several Elders, including 5 from St John's Church, Carluke at a service in Greyfriar's Church, Lanark on Friday, 12 March 2010.

On Sunday, 21 March, Pastor Roy, presented certificates to a further 2 Elders unable to attend the official event. The Elders: Richard Allan, Alex Elliott, Alan Grant, Clara Kay, Nancy Logan, Bill Russell and Robin Urie were all ordained on 16 September 1979. They received certificates for 30 years of service.

Pastor Roy informed the congregation that, between them, the active Elders in St John's amassed 899 years of service. This is in addition to 250 years represented by several Elders who had retired from active service. In praying over the Elders, he thanked God for their committed service and prayed that their example would encourage younger people to aspire to called to the Eldership.



Christian Aid

POVERTY LET'S END IT

I pray for change.

I pray to live a clean

Comfortable life with privacy

Most of all, I pray for clean water.

Catherine Kithuku, Matopeni slum, Nairobi

In response to Catherine's prayer, the churches of our town came together during Christian Aid Week, to raise money to lay drains and improve the water and sanitation facilities in the forgotten slums of Nairobi.

How much did we raise? More than in any previous year - £11,732 - **this will go a long way to answering Catherine's prayer and giving** hope to the people living in her neighbourhood.

How much did it cost us to raise that amount? A few hours of our time and so little money that we hardly noticed the difference to **our purses. So, on behalf of the United Churches' Christian Aid** Group, thank you for what you do, for the inspiration you give us to carry on fundraising, as well as for the funds you raised last month. Each of you is helping to alleviate poverty and we remain determined, with your help, to make the very best difference we can.

IN



The Wooden Bowl

A frail old man went to live with his son, daughter-in-law, and four-year-old grandson. The old man's hands trembled, his eyesight was blurred, and his step faltered.

The family ate together at the table. But the elderly grandfather's shaky hands and failing sight made eating difficult. Peas rolled off his spoon onto the floor. When he grasped the glass, milk spilled on the tablecloth.

The son and daughter-in-law became irritated with the mess.

“We must do something about father,” said the son. “I’ve had enough of his spilled milk, noisy eating, and food on the floor.”

So the husband and wife set a small table in the corner. There, Grandfather ate alone while the rest of the family enjoyed dinner. Since Grandfather had broken a dish or two, his food was served in a wooden bowl. When the family glanced in Grandfather's direction, sometimes he had a tear in his eye as he sat alone. Still, the only words the couple had for him were sharp admonitions when he dropped a fork or spilled food.

The four-year-old watched it all in silence.

One evening before supper, the father noticed his son playing with wood scraps on the floor. **He asked the child sweetly, “What are you making?”**

Just as sweetly, the boy responded, **“Oh, I am making a little bowl for you and Mama to eat your food in when I grow up.”**

The four-year-old smiled and went back to work.

The words so struck the parents so that they were speechless. Then tears started to stream down their cheeks. Though no word was spoken, both knew what must be done. That evening the husband took Grandfather's hand and gently led him back to the family table. For the remainder of his days he ate every meal with the family... And for some reason, neither husband nor wife seemed to care any longer when a fork was dropped, milk spilled, or the tablecloth soiled.

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:

Title: _____

Forename(s): _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

My changed details are/will be:

Title: _____

Forename(s): _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

email address: _____

St John's Revisited

I find it interesting that, giving our new puppy his daily exercise **is a bit like “Zen and the art of Pooch Maintenance”...**

My mind works on separate levels. One part is watching out for the safety of the mutt, guarding against unfortunate encounters with **“dog mess”, dangerous broken glass and discarded “Carry Out”** food. The rest of my, now limited brain cells are free to roam over the past and the possible future. Walking the dog one sunny day I passed an edifice I remembered well from my childhood and early life. **The building has changed little from my first memories of it... The bold lettering on the side of the building boldly stated that “St John's Church” is still a living entity. My mind ran back to my last** duties within the sanctuary. At that time, I was Directing Television programmes for whoever would pay me for my skills. My task, on that occasion was to create two Sunday Morning Television Services for STV.

My memories of that occasion, as I strolled past, were a bit mixed but, in the main, they brought a smile to my face. I remembered, particularly, the member of the congregation who approached me in the High street the week after the first transmission. He took great **delight in pointing out to me the “disappearing Bible”.** He was quite **correct in his observation but I couldn't help but remember the** number of occasions when attending Stage musicals that I left the theatre humming the scenery. Life is all about perception. As always, in that kind of situation, I smiled benignly, thanked him for his comments, while my mind reminded me that I had not created a Cinema Feature film, had to stick to a tight budget which limited the time available to me in the edit suite, but had, instead, opened **an electronic portal to all the “Closet Christians” in the STV Catchment Area** who were reluctant or unable to attend services in person, so used the TV Services as their link with That Higher Power so essential to life. How do I know this, you ask? Well, over the ten years of making more than 250 TV Religious programmes, the large mail bag of viewers letters I received during that spell of my life, indicated the validity of my thoughts on this matter.

Needless to say, but I'll say it anyway, the thoughts of St John's galvanized my somewhat lethargic Sunday Morning inertia into action

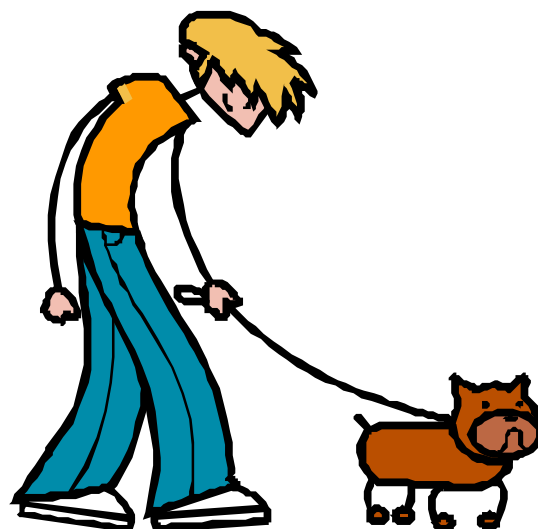
and I wandered down to Hamilton street a couple of Sundays later. Walking in through the front door, the memories again came flooding back. Not this time from my Professional involvement with the sanctuary, but in the company of my parents. I found myself automatically turning left, going up stairs and heading for, what was, the family pew close to the door to the belfry. In passing, I recalled **the number of occasions when it was my turn to be a “mini campaignologist”, doing the task for Dad, who was at the time The Beadle,** and welcomed some of the load being taken from his shoulders.

Looking around, and thanks to the perception I had to hone in my profession, I was so glad to notice and to absorb the feelings of belonging which were evident in those around me that Sunday morning.

Has St John’s changed? Physically, the structure has been gently modernised, though the Image of the “Playing Card King” is still there in the Stained Glass window. The atmosphere and the people are still as I remembered. Welcoming friendly and caring.

Will I become a regular visitor again? I do hope so, Sunday Morning Inertia permitting!!!!

JF



The magazines of the three churches of the Parish Grouping reach almost 1500 homes in Carlisle and surrounding area
To place a small ad, contact the editor, George Reid on 661742, or by email.

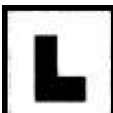

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