

St John's News

The Newsletter of St John's Church, Carlisle



Autumn 2013

Pastoral Letter

Dear Friends

I suspect for the good folks of St Johns this time feels rather like the turning of summer into autumn. There is a mixture of sadness and pleasure as the beauty of autumn brings pleasure yet sadness that the wonderful heat of summer (and wasn't it a good one?) has passed and winter seems just a breath away. We have enjoyed a number of years of fellowship, friendship and leadership under the care of Pastor Roy and Christine and of course, we wish them well in their retirement (though I suspect they will be busy!). But rather like the Israelites we find ourselves journeying once again not quite sure where we are going but well aware of where we have been.

Scripture is full of stories where God's people are on journeys. Noah in his boat and settling in a new world, Abraham and Sarah or the Israelites fleeing the Egyptians or Daniel taken captive into Babylon there are stories galore in the Old Testament. And the New Testament is no different – Jesus walking for miles all over the place, Paul on his missionary journeys the disciples being sent out there are always journeys, always new challenges, and always new people. However one thing remains constant and that is God's presence. Perhaps as a pillar of fire or cloud in the desert or as the presence of the Holy Spirit witnessed both by Jesus and by the apostles God is always with us. He promises us again and again never to leave us or abandon us. Jesus even taught his disciples to take nothing with them for their journey but to rely solely on God who is faithful.

St John's is journeying again and though there are concerns about the direction or even the speed know this for sure – God is with you and he has plans for you, plans to prosper you. Pray for discernment, for courage, for wisdom, for God's presence and know He is with you always even until the end of the age.

May God richly bless you in your journey and may you learn new things, appreciate those within and welcome other travellers along the way. I look forward to sharing the journey with you also.

Warm regards



Worship Diary

Normal Sunday Services are held at 11:00 am. Once per month, there is an afternoon service, with prayers for healing, at 2:00 pm. A short, mid-week service is held on Thursdays at 10:30 am.

Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday in March, June, September and December.

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

October Harvest Thanksgiving
Date to be finalised

Sun 10 November Remembrance Day
10:45 am Open air service at Market Place, including
2 minute silence at 11:00 am
11:30 am Morning Worship in St John's

*Times of these services still to be confirmed.
Please refer to local press and/or St John's website for updated details.*

Celebration of Holy Communion will next be held on
Sunday, 1 December 2013

Youth Church

We are very excited to be back at youth church after the summer break and it has been great to see all the kids back with lots of news and enthusiasm. This session we will be looking at the life of Samuel and what we can learn from his example! There is sure to be something for us all. We have also enjoyed getting news from Halima, the little girl whom we support in Malawi. We sent her some gifts of new clothes and toys and photos of us all and it was great to see pictures of her with them.

We have started collecting our things for our shoe boxes and we are also going to be visiting the folk who can't manage to church at Harvest time again with a little gift of fruit so we have a busy session planned.

If you could help with Youth Church, even once a month then we would love to have you on Board. Please get in touch with Karen Gillon.

KG

Are you a Handy Person?

Are you capable of performing simple DIY tasks around the house?

Are you available, from time to time, to help keep the church buildings in a good state of repair?

The Property Team of the Board of Management is keen to have new members.

If you think you can help, or would like more information, Tom Ord would be happy to hear from you on 752292.

Malawi

Firstly, thank you to everyone who made our life changing visit to Malawi possible. We were simply overwhelmed by the amazing support that we received from everyone and to raise £10,000 was unbelievable.

Leaving for Malawi was in itself slightly unbelievable but we made our way to the Warm Heart of Africa without any hitches although getting into the country itself was our first real test! After some careful negotiation we managed it and were soon meeting up with our hosts, Neville, Enipher and the amazing people at Open Arms.

Our first day was fairly relaxed but next morning we were up early and on our way to start work at Tsekwe house, one of the 5 foster homes run by Open Arms. We had the challenge of painting the house inside and out and we were doing really well until the houses residents returned from school! Well then it was chaos and Sam, Eric, Ephriam and the girls took over. As the day drew to a close we packed up and headed back to our wee house, tired but having our first full day.

Saturday was great fun! A soccer school, rugby school than a party that started with 40 children and we are sure finished with at least 60 and us trying to teach them musical bumps! Sunday saw us enjoying church Malawian style! Throughout our visit, I think we all appreciated the deep sense of God that was around us. People, who know that faith mattered. It was a special time in many ways but for our faith particularly. Sunday also saw us enjoy another biblical custom, **LOCUSTS**. Well enjoy was stretching it for some of us but we all tried them.

Dr Ann and Joy shared a great deal with us of their time in Malawi before we left and on Monday we had the chance to spend time in Mulanje, seeing for ourselves the place that they had called home for so long. Wow! It is so beautiful and it has certainly changed but the Christians who have followed on in their footsteps continue to provide first class health care just as they did. It was one of the real highs of our trip.

Tuesday saw us out and about again this time to the village of Namalo and to the primary school that is twinned with Carluke Primary, Makacesi. We met the teachers and pupils and saw the school for ourselves. In Namola, we shared in a traditional meal of nsima, chicken, and rice and also had the pleasure of meeting the chief, a remarkable 96 year old, who puts her long life down to the grace of God, and a good clean life.

Our major task was to renovate the GEM day care centre.



GEM is a Christian charity Open Arms works with and who provide nursery education for 70 kids in a very run down centre. We spent three days there, giving the place a total make over inside and out including having some new concrete flooring laid, some plaster work done and lots and lots of painting and glossing all under the careful eye of Bruce our Malawian pal. The transformation was amazing and it is fair to say this was the most rewarding part of the visit.

We spend the weekend at the National Park, spotting elephants and hippos, before heading to Lake Malawi to help with the construction of a feeding station. It was warmer at the Lake and it is a very beautiful part of the world.

We were also able to take gifts to Hailma, the little girl supported by the Youth Church. She is lovely and her granny is now looking after her and 3 other children so the support is much needed and really appreciated.



It's hard to believe we squeezed so much in or that the time went so quickly. All of us had an amazing time, got on really well and would recommend it to anyone. Malawi is a fantastic country, people with so little make the most of what they have and are so grateful for what we give. We have learned a huge amount and are all the better for our visit. Thank you again for helping to make it possible.

We know that another group hope to go next year and we hope that they gain as much as we have from the experience.

Carolyn, Dave, Fraser, Fraser, Karen

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C.A.E



Holiday Club 2013

Well....what can I say about Holiday Club this year?? Did I really think I would be spending the week in a bright orange Teflon suit? Jumping around for an hour and a half each day to fantastic Fischy music and the 80's classic Star Trekkin'? Trying to convince a crowd of over 130 children that I really did look like Rhianna?



Well it all was true and what a FANTASTIC week we all had, from the oldest to the youngest! This was my second year of being up front along with Karen as we took on the roles of Spaceman Sam and Astronaut Alice, and together led the Holiday Club each day through the book of Daniel and his journey.

It's an amazing thing to be part of...not just for that one week. The team we have who start preparing for next years adventure, our first meeting is September this year. The crowd of young and slightly not so younger folk who give up willingly a week out of their summer. Some like me take a week's holiday from their work because they love the Holiday Club so much! And especially the children from all over Carluke, Law, Lanark, one from as far away as Ireland and the 2 kids who nagged their Mum to come home early from their holiday...you made the Holiday Club the wonderful place it was this year and I can't wait to see you all next year!!

Lesley Ewing A.K.A: Astronaut Alice

xxx

Time for Fellowship

By the time you read this, Time for Fellowship will have started up again after the summer break.

We have a very dedicated team who help on Sundays whom I would like to thank for their very valuable assistance. The team is, currently, quite small and we would welcome anybody - female OR male - who might be willing to help out on a rota basis. Please speak to me on a Sunday, or phone 750915.

During the joint summer services, on 7 July, a donation was received from my grand-daughter, ***Sarah Braynion*** and her friend, ***Holly O'Neill***, who held a Cake and Candy Sale. These girls are only 8 years old and their sale raised £205, which, together with a £25 donation on Sunday 7 July, has been sent to Ninewells Hospital, Dundee to enable the purchase of highchairs, baby buggies, DVDs and books for the children's ward. Sarah and Holly send a big "thankyou" to all who supported their efforts. Time for Fellowship invites everyone to come round to the Large Hall, after Sunday morning worship, to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and fellowship with one another.

*Yours in Christ
Moira Braynion.*

Young Person's Group

This is the new, PC name for the Young Woman's Group. The Group meets on a Tuesday afternoon between 1:30 and 3:00 pm. We have a lot of interesting speakers, plenty of coffee and chat and numerous lunches! If you are interested, come along and find out what a friendly group we are!

MD/SK

Christian Aid

Christian Aid HQ has acknowledged receipt of Carluke's cheque for £12,250, representing monies raised during Christian Aid week 2013 and the offering taken at our Christmas Service in December 2012. They report that they are confident that the final total raised in Scotland in CA week 2013, will as in 2012, once again exceed 1.2 million pounds.

Across the country, through house-to-house, street and church collections, sponsored events and fundraising events, like our Christian Aid cafe, the vital network of churches and groups has once more brought the opportunity to support Christian Aid's work to hundreds of people.

Through your involvement in Christian Aid Week this year, you have helped to offer the hope of a future without hunger to many people.

Thank you for being part of the continued success of Christian Aid.

IN

The Guild

The new session of the Guild starts on Wednesday 19 October at the usual time of 1:30 pm. The theme for 2013/14 is "a fellowship to build". We have an interesting syllabus for the session, and look forward to seeing you there. New members welcome.

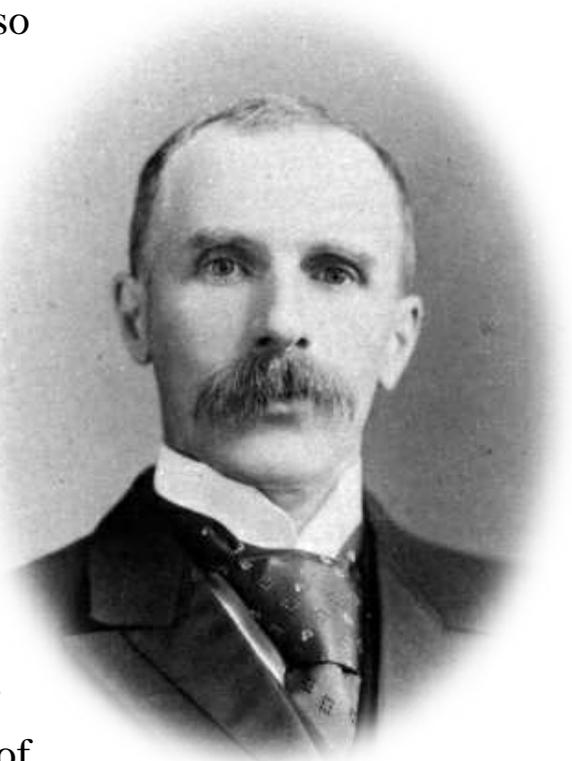
HW

Boy's Brigade

"He built better than he knew for he started, not only a great movement, but one from which all our present widespread youth training was to spring."

These words were spoken about William Smith, founder of the Boys Brigade, by King George VI at the Boy's Brigade Diamond Jubilee in 1943.

William Smith was born in 1854 in Thurso into a military and devoutly Christian household. At the age of 13, when his father died, William had to leave home and go to live with his uncle in Glasgow to complete his education and start his business career. In 1874, he joined the Free College Church in Glasgow and also became a Lance-Corporal in the 1st Lanarkshire Rifle Volunteers. That same year, as secretary to the Church Sunday School in North Woodside Road, he had the idea of a young men's society. The minister, the Rev George Reith (father of Lord Reith, who was to be the first head of the BBC) gave his approval for the formation of a YMCA.



During his time as a Sunday School teacher, and despite putting in many hours of preparation, thought and prayer, the Sunday School then, as now, was not holding on to the older boys. William wondered why, as an officer in the Volunteers, he could control over 100 men on a Saturday, yet not a handful of boys on a Sunday. The answer he came up with was "Discipline and Esprit de Corps". Thus the seeds of the Boy's Brigade

were sown. Many disagreed with the idea but William persisted and was granted reluctant permission to make a trial.

So with two other friends from the YMCA, who were fellow Sunday School teachers, William formulated the methods, organisation, rules and other details for their venture. One night, when everything seemed settled, William said to the others: "This is going to be a great thing. Let us put it in God's hands" and so the Boy's Brigade had its baptism in prayer. The crest was to be an anchor with the words "*Sure and Stedfast*", deriving from Hebrews 6:19 (King James' Version):

"Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil".

William saw the Boy's Brigade swell in numbers and, on one morning, while strolling through St Paul's Cathedral in London with some fellow officers and his eldest son, Sir William (he was knighted in 1909) remarked "I can imagine nothing more impressive than to see this wonderful building overflowing with boys, all singing praise to God!" Exactly one week later, St Paul's was filled with boys, but they were singing praise to God for the wonderful life and example of their founder whose sudden death four days earlier on 10 May 1914 was a tragic loss to the nation and its youth.

The Company will meet at 6:30 pm on Friday nights. All boys from Primary 1 onwards are most welcome. Further details from Captain Richard Allan on 771679.

Kettle's On

In October 1982, the then minister, Rev Bill Peat, started a short service of worship on Thursday mornings. In 1986, a "Drop In" centre was started by Rev William Storrar and the teams were given training to listen and give counsel where needed. In 1991, Rev Mike Frew suggested the name change to "Kettle's On". In that year, records show that 945 attended for tea and coffee and chat during the year. In 2012, 2,437 were served by the Kettle's On teams.

We now have 4 teams of 4 or 5 people (with 4 others on standby). People come to the Thursday service to praise and worship God and to hear the Gospel message. and Kettle's On provides a warm, friendly and welcoming space to continue fellowship, to meet friends and to enjoy company together. No charge is made for tea or coffee but everyone kindly donates and, at our last planning meeting on 25 May, £500 excess funds were distributed to various charities. There is a real, caring, family atmosphere on a Thursday and notice is taken of those who are ill, in hospital or have a Special Birthday or other celebration and cards are sent from the Kettle's On team.

A new initiative was approved at the May meeting was Christian Listening as a new resource to the ministry of Kettle's On. Many of the team members have attended the training course on Effective Listening and four have been trained to the level required to offer private, confidential listening. Where and when this new service will be offered is still to be arranged, but it will be available soon. Keep an eye on church notices.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Roy and Christine Cowieson for their service and ministry on Thursdays. We pray God's blessing on them in their new life in Canada.

Everyone is welcome on a Thursday. We are pleased to welcome members from other churches in the town and residents from Morningside Nursing Home. We extend a warm invitation to any who are unable to sit though a Sunday service and others for whom Sunday worship is not possible for one reason or another to come and join us at our "wee" Thursday service and meet the Kettle's On teams.

At our May meeting, Liz Jackson tendered her resignation as leader and organiser of Kettle's On. This was accepted, with great regret. Liz has given many years of dedicated and faithful service to this outreach project. The Thursday service and Kettle's On have gone from strength to strength and we thank Liz for her warm friendliness, her care and the easy way she has kept us all working effectively together over the years. We pray God's blessing on Liz and her family and hope she will be in a position to work with the teams again in the future. Helen Wyper, an Elder and a well-known, faithful worker in St John's Church, has agreed to take over as leader and organiser of the Kettle's On teams.

The next meeting of the Kettle's On team will be on Thursday, 13 September 2013.

AJ

EMMS International

EMMS provides health and education in Malawi, India and Nepal. They have teamed up with MAD (Make a Difference) Jewellery to provide two new, fund-raising ventures. MAD takes ethical trading very seriously and they endeavour to ensure that they exercise responsibility in sourcing and selling their jewellery.

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It's YOUR Newsletter

A newsletter is an important way for a church to keep contact with its congregation. News about the activities of the various organisations, upcoming events, “human interest” stories and informative features are the lifeblood of a healthy church newsletter. It is even more important, during a vacancy, that the congregation is kept informed of church activities.

I would be pleased to receive material for inclusion in St John's News AND on the church website. Items of interest, news and information can be passed to me at any time, not just before publication of the newsletter. They need not be long - a few sentences would do. If anyone feels able to write longer, informative articles on any subject from a Christian perspective, these would also be welcomed.

Ideally, I would like to have a steady flow of items - not just a rush in the last days before a publication deadline! Material received before it was time to prepare a magazine would be uploaded to the church website. When it was time to prepare the next edition of St John's News, everything received since the last issue would be collated to form the basis of news about congregational activities.

The preferred way to submit material is by email, although computer files on a flash drive and even hand- or type-written hard copy is acceptable if you are not “on-line”. Don't forget photos generate a lot of interest as well.

George Reid
Editor

Church website: www.carluke-stjohns.org.uk

Email to: editor@carluke-stjohns.org.uk

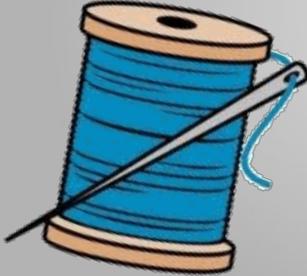
Many international students come to Scotland to study at our universities. Will they make contact with people and life beyond the academic environment? What will they do for a homely break if home is too far away?

For 26 years, national charity HOST has been linking students with volunteer hosts, who invite a student to spend a day, a weekend, Christmas or New Year in their home. Chatting; eating together; playing games; seeing the area; joining in with the local community; making friends - a HOST visit lays down wonderful memories to be re-lived in China, India, the USA and many other parts of the world. And hosts learn from their guests too.

If you could make a student welcome, please contact HOST at www.hostuk.org or call HOST's voluntary regional organiser in Scotland, Anne-Marie Ringler, on 01738 621633.

A rectangular advertisement for LizBeeSewing. The text "LizBeeSewing" is written in a large, bold, black, slightly curved font at the top. Below it, on the left, is a cartoon illustration of a spool of blue thread with a needle and thread. To the right of the illustration, the text "Bridal", "Curtains", "Alterations", and "Custom Wear" is listed in bold black font. At the bottom right, the phone number "(01555 771896" is displayed in bold black font.

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