



# St John's News

*The Newsletter of St John's Church, Carlisle*

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***Summer 2014***

# Pastoral Letter

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**Dear Friends,**

I can hardly believe that I have been with you as your Locum Minister for 4 months. The last letter I wrote to you was for the spring edition of the magazine and now here we are at the start of summer and we are looking forward to a well-earned break. I hope that the weather will be kind to us and that summer suns will indeed glow.

As a Locum I can never take the place of a full time minister but I can offer you some consistency during the vacancy and I feel that this is happening. I am enjoying the chance to lead and share worship with you Sunday by Sunday as well as the occasional Thursday morning service.

As a congregation we are moving forward under the leadership of the Kirk Session. The Nominating Committee are now working hard to find your next minister. Keep them and all our leaders in your prayers.

I find going round Tesco's a much slower business these days as I begin to recognise more and more of you. Please don't let me walk past you, introduce yourself!

In my sermons during the Easter season I have been looking at God's call to us all to stand up and speak out for him. We need to be doing this as we see our society becoming more secularised and all we believe in, being ridiculed and called into question.

Perhaps you don't think God is calling you! Perhaps you don't think you are worthy to be called or that you have little to offer! If this is how you feel can I suggest that you read the book of Jonah. It's a very short book and one of its most appealing features is the character of Jonah himself. Here is a very reluctant prophet. Someone who is so human.

Many of the characters we meet in the Old Testament are a bit too good to be true and we can feel daunted by their piety, devotion and commitment. Jonah is different, he is bad tempered, cold hearted and petulant. Just about the last person you would expect God to call into his service. The beauty of the story is that through Jonah we see God's grace in action. No one in the story deserves God's blessing but they all receive it in spades.

*(Continued on [page 3](#))*

# Worship Diary

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Normal Sunday Services are held at 11:00 am. A short evening service, with prayers for healing, is normally held on the second Sunday of each month at 7:00 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:***

*As is the norm, there will be United Summer Services in July and the first two weeks in August. They will all begin at 11:00 am in the churches indicated below. Watch the Sunday Bulletin for any changes.*

**July 6 St Andrew's Church**  
**13 St Andrew's Church**  
**20 St Andrew's Church**  
**27 URC**  
**August 3 St John's Church**  
**10 St John's Church (includes Communion)**

***Celebration of Holy Communion will next be held on***  
**Sunday, 7 September 2014**

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*(Continued from [page 2](#))*

Make no mistake God is calling on us to help him. He needs us to speak out for him. We are unworthy, we all have faults and yet God will bless us over and over again.

Enjoy the summer and come back refreshed ready to work for God in our community and in the world.

Your friend in Christ.

**Bill**

# Young Person's Group

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**It is with great sadness that I write to inform you that the Young Person's Group (still known by many as the Young Woman's Group - or even Young Wives!) is being disbanded due to falling numbers.**

The Group was started on 10 January 1956 under the leadership of the then minister's wife, Mrs Goring, and was initially called the Young Mother's Fellowship. The name changed a few times over the years, and became the Young Woman's Group around 1980.

We met on Tuesday afternoons and our children were well looked-after by our "Aunties", who gave up their time to look after them. We really appreciated this. Sadly, only three are left to thank: Una Brownlie, Mollie Bulloch, and Nan Forrest.

Over the years, we have had many interesting speakers, numerous days away, nights out and lunches. I cannot forget to mention the Senior Citizens' Supper, which was enjoyed by the Group as much as our guests! Although Liz McGuinness worked us hard (but in vain) at rehearsals, I don't think they would have been as good if we had been perfect!

**MD**



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# Bible Study Groups

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**Three Bible Study/Fellowship groups have been meeting regularly during the course of the last year.**

The Tuesday morning group, meeting in the small hall and led by Ann Jackson, has attracted a faithful following of up to 17 participants. Topics including the Lord's Prayer and the Sermon on the Mount have formed the basis for discussion and in depth study.

Wednesday evenings have seen a group of up to 11 people gather in the small hall for a time of study and prayer. This group started the session by looking into the Book of James and the practical challenges confronting present day Christians in following the lessons taught there. In the remainder of the year, the life of the early church as recorded in Acts has provided much thought and inspiration for group members.

A regular Fellowship group has met on Thursday evenings in the home of Janice and Charlie Webster. In the autumn of 2013 this group looked at a 6 week DVD presentation entitled When God's Spirit Moves giving valuable insight into the presence of the Holy Spirit in today's world. During Lent 2014 they looked at material entitled Jesus' Final Week which provided a thought provoking focus in preparation for Easter.

All these groups are characterised by friendship, support and openness leading to meaningful discussion and sharing of how we learn from God's word and direct our lives accordingly. Biscuits, cake, tea and coffee are integral parts of the meetings and must surely aid the thought processes and the discussion.

The three groups have gathered together socially for pot luck suppers at Christmas and in May helping us all to share and learn more of each other's journey.

**GW**

**Material for the next edition of St John's News should be in the hands of the editor NO LATER THAN Sunday 24 August 2014 (or Sunday 31 August 2014 by email).**

# Jim McCall - a tribute

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**Jim McCall: February 6 1924 - April 14 2014**

**Jim lived and grew up in Motherwell where he attended Dalziel High School. As a lad, he joined the local Boy's Brigade Company where he learned to play the pipes, which, as most of us know he loved playing.**

In his early career, he worked in sugar refining where his particular expertise was recognised and resulted in a spell in London during the War years, a time when sugar was a vital commodity. He later moved to the emerging electronics industry where he began working with Honeywell as a Design Engineer. He also taught Maths at Evening Classes.

Jim and his family moved to Carluke in 1980. Very quickly he and, of course his pipes, were welcomed everywhere. Carluke Highlanders became part of his life and he enjoyed his ceilidh dancing. He joined the Probus Club becoming one-time President. He even managed to fit in a little bowling. His boyhood association and interest with the BB continued through his life although some may say he never really left. At 90 years of age, he must have been amongst the oldest BBs in the country!

Originally ordained an Elder by Motherwell South Dalziel Parish Church around 1957 he subsequently became part of St John's Kirk Session. As a church member and Elder Jim was dedicated, enthusiastic and committed.

He was a man who liked to do things properly and well. His attitude was that if something was worth doing, do it properly. There could be no half measures. He had the ability to focus on what was to be done and, occasionally, could be quite single-minded.

Jim has regularly been described as “*a gentleman*” and “*a lovely man*”. He was someone who had time for, and was interested in, others. He was blessed by a caring family, by good friends and good neighbours.

I think we were all shocked and surprised when we heard of Jim's passing . We pay tribute to Jim and thank God for his life, service and witness.

Paul, in his 2nd Letter to Timothy, wrote (4:7), “*I have fought the good fight. I have finished the race. I have kept the faith.*” I think that can apply to Jim.

**AG**

# Deferred Union

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**On Sunday 6 April, 2014, the congregations of St John's and St Andrew's elected their representatives to the Nominating Committee which will seek and present a Sole Nominee to the United Charge of Carluke: St Andrew's in Deferred Union with Carluke: St John's.**

The eight members from St John's are Moira Elliott, Joy Fraser, Karen Gillon, Andrew Kerr, David Lindsay, George Reid, Ann Walker and Janice Webster.

The five members from St Andrew's are Laura Barclay, Fiona Bryan, Gordon Bryan, Alan McPheat and Libby Muir.

The two non-voting members from Kirkton are Ian Arbuckle and Elizabeth McLachlan.

Our Interim Moderator, Bill Love, is also a non-voting member, acting as Assessor to advise and ensure that the business of the Committee is conducted in accordance to procedures.

The Committee met for the first time on 1 May. At that meeting, Bill Love described the work that the Committee would undertake and gave encouragement for the daunting task ahead. Also at this first meeting, office bearers were elected: Convenor (George Reid), Vice-Convenor (Libby Muir) and Clerk (Andrew Kerr).

The first order of business is to take the Parish Profiles of the two churches and combine them into a single document, which will then go to the joint Kirk Sessions for final approval before being published on both churches websites. Only then can the vacancy be fully advertised in such places as *Life and Work*.

The business of the Nominating Committee is, of course, confidential. You are asked not to ask members of the Committee about its work. Any information which you should know will be given out from the pulpit and reported in **St John's News**.

In the meantime, the Committee asks that you keep them and their work in your prayers.

**GR**

# Christian Aid

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**For almost 70 years, Christian Aid Week has brought churches and communities together to fight poverty, strengthen the poor and turn hope into action.**

In the aftermath of World War II, British and Irish church leaders met, determined to do everything possible to help European refugees who had lost everything. The name they gave themselves was Christian Reconstruction in Europe. Their purpose was not to evangelise, but to alleviate the suffering of ordinary people, no matter their faith. Later they were renamed the Department of Interchurch Aid and Refugee Service.

Janet Lacey became their president in 1952. Some thought her views too radical, but Lacey was not going to allow faint hearts to get in the way of her aim to 'combat poverty across the world' She made sure that the public was aware of continuing problems throughout the whole world by organising the first Christian Aid Week in 1957.

In 1964, 50 years ago, on the back of that first Christian Aid Week, the name was changed to Christian Aid and the organisation began to look more deeply into the causes of poverty, not just dealing with its symptoms. But 60 years on from its founding, the fact that Christian Aid is still here isn't a victory. The world isn't getting any fairer. Christian Aid won't stop now. With your support, they'll continue to support their partners to deliver real practical change and work so that everyone can fulfil their right to a decent life.

Thank God for the vision, drive and determination that He bestowed on Janet Lacey all these years ago. She died in 1988. Her legacy has made Christian Aid the force for good that it is today, lifting us out of our comfort zones to go door to door with collecting cans, and compelling us to dig a little deeper into our pockets for Christian Aid.

This year, in Carlisle, Christian Aid Week 2014 was opened with an evening service at Kirkton Church conducted by the Reverend Iain Cunningham with an inspiring message that whatever we do for the Lord, we do it with a glad, joyful and generous heart.

During the Week, the churches in the town, working together, raised around £11,500.



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Ÿ Offering taken at the CA service in Kirkton - £438 (of which £329 was gift aided)

Ÿ Goods made and sold by Anne Forrest and Mary Ramage and sold in CHOICES throughout the year - £150

Ÿ Proceeds from the Cafe - £5513

Ÿ Door to Door collection - £3899

Ÿ Donation from CHOICES - £1500

Thank you to Margaret Gillespie and Ann Gilchrist from Kirkton for setting up their stall and donating their proceeds to the Cafe. And to Netta Allardyce for keeping Traidcraft at the front of our minds with her stall.

In whatever way you helped to raise money we say a heartfelt Thank You

**IN**

## **The Church Big Clean**

This will take place on **15 and 16 July 2014**. The times for each session will be as follows :-

Ÿ 10:00 am until 11:30 am

Ÿ 2:00 pm until 3:30 pm

Ÿ 6:30 pm until 8:00 pm.

**All volunteers are welcome. Further details can be obtained from Helen Wyper.**

# Boys' Brigade

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On Friday May 9 the Company held its end of session parents night at which the boys performed their various items with parents taking part. The evening concluded with the presentation of awards.

## Anchor Boys :-

**Ryan Hunter, Kyle Thomas, Nathan Downs, Ryan Allan, Daniel, Gibson, Brandon McIntosh, and David McIntosh** all received their 1st year achievements and service badges.

**Jayson Smith** received his 2nd year achievements and service badges.

## Junior Section :-

**Aaron Henderson** - Bronze achievement target badge and 4th year service badge.

**Greg Allan** - Silver achievement target badge and 5th year service badge.

**Ryan Sloan** - Gold achievement target badge and 6th year service badge. As Ryan has completed his three years in the junior section he is now promoted to the company section.

## Company Section :-

**Jamie McLaren and Lloyd McIntosh** - 1st year service, 1st stages in community recreation and skills awards.

**Eddie Gibson** - 2nd year service, 1st stages in community recreation and skills awards.

**James Gibson** - 2nd year service, 2nd stages in community recreation and skills awards.

**Luke Scroggie** - 3rd year service, 1st stages in community recreation and skills awards.

**David Henderson, Aaron Ramage and Aaron Lindsay** - 5th year service, 3rd stages in community recreation and skills awards, compass badge and discovery badge.

*(Continued on page 11)*

# Personal Information

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**St John's, in line with every other church, holds personal data in the form of the church roll. We use this data to communicate with you and, as in the recent ballot about the deferred union with St Andrew's, to check your status as a member of (or adherent to) the congregation.**

We are permitted, under the Data Protection Act, to hold such information and do our best to ensure that it is accurate and secure. The data we hold for every member and adherent are:

Title (Mr, Mrs etc), forname(s), surname, full postal address including postcode where known and status (ie member or adherent)

In *addition*, for *office bearers*, we also hold:

Office held, phone number and email address, where available.

The Data Protection Act entitles you to check that the information we hold about you is correct and current. If you wish to see an extract from our records containing your personal information, please write to, or email, the secretary (details on inside back cover).

Please help us to keep our records up to date by informing us of any change in your personal details.

**GR**

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*(Continued from page 10)*

**Matthew Gillon and Jamie Stevenson** - 7th year service, 1st stages in community recreation and skills awards.

**James Gillon** - 8th year service, 3rd stages in community recreation and skills awards, compass badge and discovery badge.

**Michael Stevenson and Calum Sloan** - 9th year service, 3rd stages in community and skills awards.

The new session will restart on Friday 29 August 2014. Boy from P1 onwards who wish to join will be made welcome.

**HW**

# Kwai River Christian Hospital

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**The Kwai River Christian Hospital (KRCH), never with sufficient staff, had a bit of a crisis at the end of March when a staff nurse, due to have a baby in May gave birth prematurely. A new member of the nursing staff was able to start early, but took time to become adapted to life in the jungle. At the start of May, one of the two doctors, Dr Sha, was away for a week, leaving Scott Murray on his own.**

Plans for a new Out-patient Department building were agreed by the hospital board. The present building does not meet the Thai Ministry of Health Standards and it is expected that from December 2015, the hospital will need to meet the standards, so the new building is essential. The cost is estimated to be around £1.3 million, and, although a grant will be applied for from USAID, the staff are praying for funding. The deadline for the grant application this year was not met which, Scott feels, may be for the best given the current political unrest in Thailand.

as if the heavy day-to-day workload of the hospital is not enough, Scott was invited to be a guest speaker at a medical conference and to speak to church groups in California which will entail his being away from the hospital for 10-12 days in August. He has also been asked to give lectures on the surgical perspective to treating Diabetic Foot conditions, which will mean being away on 6 days in June/July.

As well as the medical work of the hospital, there is an Evangelist Team which currently has one full time member of staff, with the hope to employ more. The team has been joined part time by a Karen pastor 3 days a week and a young graduate of the Bible College in Chiangmai has shown interest in joining them.

Three long-term patients being treated for TB were baptised and have had some teaching in discipleship, together with other patients who have not yet made a step of faith, prior to discharge back to their homes. They will return to their villages, some of which are without churches.

The Murray's daughter, Cara has only one more year left of school. They are currently considering sending her to University in Scotland in Autumn 2015. To prepare for the culture shock, she is visiting Scotland this summer for a month. She will be based in Glasgow but has also been enrolled in a SU camp for some of the time.

# Jaffa Club

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**Jaffa is an acronym for ‘Jesus A Friend For All’, and during our meetings each week, this is the message the leaders try to convey to the children.**

The club was started in 2003 and is a mid-week club, reaching out to children in the community in P4 to P7. We meet each Tuesday during school term between 6:30 pm and 7:30 pm and have a relaxed but busy programme of games, crafts and Bible stories. At the end of the evening there is always a time for children’s news, juice plus sandwiches and prayer.

This year, 18 children enrolled with 12 to 14 attending each week. We have studied topics including: *What Jesus said about love and anger, Prayer, The birth of Jesus, Miracles of Jesus, The death and resurrection of Jesus.*

While the children meet in the large hall, the small hall is reserved for parents, grandparents and carers. This is a welcoming, listening space to have a coffee and relax.

Jaffa Club will be finishing soon for the summer break but we will restart in September. Please keep us in your prayers.

AW



# Jaffa 2

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**Many children are reluctant to leave Jaffa Club when they reach the end of their years at primary school. So, last year, it was decided to extend the age range to include young folk in S1 and S2. This older age group meet separately as Jaffa 2.**

Ten young people attend and we meet approximately 3 times per month on a Thursday, Saturday or Sunday evening.

The program on Thursday evenings is varied – perhaps craft, discussions, puzzles or planning nights for special events.

Saturday evenings are games nights with favourite games including table tennis and ‘Jaffa Ball’ – an in-house version of volley ball played with a 2 foot diameter, inflated soft ball.

Sunday evenings are reserved for Bible study and topics covered have included: *Love your Enemy, Forgiveness, Revenge, The Death and Resurrection of Jesus.*

Special events this year have included:

- ÿ A Christmas trip to bowling and McDonalds
- ÿ In March the young folk planned, cooked and served a very stylish dinner, hosted in St John’s large hall, for 24 invited guests. After dinner entertainment included games with guest participation and music provided by Cara and Cameron. Thanks to the ‘Friends of

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Jaffa' who helped on the night filling roles such as maître d' and dish washers. Thanks also to Rae for help in making the invitations.  
Y A sponsored climb of Tinto (2,333 feet) with proceeds going the Malawi Open Arms Project.



Next year we intend extending the age range again to include S3. Please keep all our young folk in your prayers.

AW

# Worth More than Gold

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*The following is an extract from the Spring edition of Alive and Active, the magazine of the Scottish Bible Society, and is used with permission:*

**A recent study by YouGov of children and parents in Great Britain shows that half the children surveyed had never read, or been read, Bible stories and more than a third failed to identify either the Nativity or the Good Samaritan as Biblical stories. However, 9 in 10 parents read, saw or heard Bible stories when they were growing up.**

Although 43% of parents surveyed think that Bible stories provide good values for life, they cite the biggest barrier to passing on Bible stories to their children is time. The research demonstrates a declining level of Bible literacy and engagement.

This year, we have the opportunity to take action to reverse that trend as we join together with friends, relatives and visitors in celebrating the Commonwealth Games. During this sporting summer, we hope to see thousands of copies of our *Penny Gospel* distributed by churches and Christian organisations who have been ordering copies since the end of last year. They see this edition of Luke's Gospel, which also includes the real-life stories of five Christian athletes, as a great way to introduce people to the story of Jesus, Christian life and the local church community.

People have also been praying for the project, in particular to fund the production. Whiles retailing at only 1p (hence the name *Penny Gospel*), the actual cost of each Gospel is 20p. Through prayer and generous financial gifts, we hope to reach a quarter of a million people around Scotland (or 10% of Scottish households) with this book and we pray that God will use this project to change the lives of thousands of people.

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A big "Thank You" to all the "penny bag savers"! The latest contribution, amounting to £200, has been sent to the Scottish Bible Society to help with the printing costs of the *Penny Gospels*. Penny Bags are always available on the table in the front vestibule and on the display board across from the kitchen.

SP



# Clydesdale Food Bank

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**The work of the Clydesdale Food Bank continues as many people still struggle to put food on their tables for themselves or their families. The work is only possible because of your support so a huge “thank you” too all our supporters and volunteers.**

We now are in the fortunate position of getting “end of day” bread from Greggs. This has been an enormous help in reducing the cost of our fresh shop. The baked goods are frozen immediately and made up into bags suitable for one or two people ready then to be added to the food packs. In addition there are now trolleys available in Tesco Carlisle and Tesco Lanark for donations and these are also proving to be very useful.

Our stocks had become very depleted in early March but we were able to have a weekend of collecting donations at Tesco Lesmahagow which was wonderful and went a long way to restocking the shelves.

The management committee has been hard at work completing the application process for our independent charitable status. Opening a bank account is proving to be a long process. As soon as it is operational we will let you all know. Apologies to all who have generously written us cheques. They are in safe keeping and will be banked just as soon as the account opens.

We have been attending meetings with a subgroup of South Lanarkshire Financial Inclusion Network which is looking at food poverty and related problems and food aid provision in South Lanarkshire. This has been useful allowing us to meet with representatives of other food banks to share ideas and discuss the problems that we encounter.

I'll finish with a good news story which yet again demonstrates God's great blessing. Last week I was aware that our stocks of frozen bread were depleted due to a wee surge in demand and because Gregg's were closed for refurbishment I had not collected any from them. On Saturday I had a call from Nethan Valley food bank in Larkhall to offer us surplus bread which had been donated by the Coop there. Our deep freeze is once again full as I was given 70 loaves. God is so good!!

**LB**

# Carluke Listeners

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**Occasions arise when we need to tell our story, talk over our worries or voice our concerns. How do we feel when we are not given the opportunity to be heard? Hurt, frustrated and angry are words which may come to mind. How do we feel when we are given the time to be listened to? Perhaps now, words such as relieved, valued and understood would describe our feelings.**

Good listening gives people the space to say what they have to say.

Good listening gives value and respect to the speaker and is always conducted in strict confidence.

In spite of what we may first think, good listening does not come naturally but is a skill which can be learned. Listening is different from counselling and is a simpler technique to learn. The simplicity of the training however, belies the effectiveness of the process. Good listening can contribute to the health and well-being of individuals and society and many listening initiatives have been set up within organisations such as churches, GP practices, hospitals, prisons and universities.

Within the Church of Scotland in Carluke, 29 people have been trained as listeners, 14 to an advanced level.

Listening sessions are now available:

Y Each Monday in Kirkton Church at the 'Crossroads Café' between 11:30 am and 1:30 pm.

Y Each Thursday in St John's Church at the 'Kettle's On' between 10:00 am and 12:00 noon.

If you would like to find out more or make an appointment call 07796 808 561. All our listeners are trained and supervised through ***Listen Well Scotland***, a registered SCIO, Scottish Charity Number SC044382. Their website is at [www.listenwellscotland.org.uk](http://www.listenwellscotland.org.uk)

AW

Carluke  
Listeners

# Happy Birthday!

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Another of our congregation recently celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with the congregation. **Mamie Gilchrist** was the guest of honour at Time for Fellowship, where a specially produced cake was presented.





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