

St John's News

The Newsletter of St John's Church of Scotland: Carluke

St John's Church of Scotland: Carluke, is a registered Scottish Charity, No SC004066



Issue 2016-2 (June)

Pastoral Letter

Dear members

I would want to begin this pastoral letter again by saying ‘thank you’ to members of St John's Carluke and beyond, those who we have met, and to those we have not yet met, who we know have been faithfully praying for us as we have moved and begun the settling in process. My family and I are deeply amazed at the passionate ways in which many of our members are involved in our church life and in the provision of care and support within the community. We are very grateful to God for you all! I guess that at this early stage of our ministry, many might still be wondering what kind of ministry we are going to bring, the nature of our preaching programme and priorities in ministry. We hope that over the coming years we will be able to share our lives with many of you, and so give you the opportunity to find out much more about us as we get to know you in return.

Our ministry focus, and ministry priority is the Lord Jesus in and through whom our gracious God has revealed himself to us, and through who's death and resurrection, we have been reconciled to God and offered eternal salvation. It is the Lord Jesus who rules his church, by his word, opened to us by the Holy Spirit. And it is through Jesus that we are able to come to God in prayer, confident that he delights in hearing and answering our prayers. We have begun and concluded our series of sermons on the Lord's Prayer and have begun another series of sermons on the Fruit of the Spirit. We do hope that beginning with prayer and the Fruit of the Spirit will challenge all of us to examine again the person and character of Jesus whom we worship, and the nature of the shared ministry to which he calls us. My prayer is that we will continue to respond in faith, as God challenges us by his word and that we will continue to reach out to those around us with the love and compassion of Jesus.

May our God bless you.

Rev. Dr. Elijah Obinnna

Worship Diary

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 and a Praise Service on the last Sunday of the month, also at 7:00 pm. 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:

United Summer Services

26 June: Kirkton Church

3 July: Kirkton Church

10 July: St Andrew's Church

17 July: St Andrew's Church

24 July: URC

31 July: St John's Church (Communion)

7 August: St John's Church (Holiday Club Service)

Please watch Sunday bulletins, local press or visit the church website for and changes and more information as it becomes available.

Celebration of Holy Communion will next be held on
Sunday, 4 September 2016

Material for the next edition of St John's News should be in the hands of the editor NO LATER THAN Sunday 21 August 2016.

Used Stamps Appeal

Many thanks to everybody who donated their used stamps to support the above appeal for the year ending in March 2016. The final total raised was £3511.00. This sum was used to support the Church of Scotland HIV Programme.

The new Used Stamp Appeal has now been launched and all money raised will go to support the *Eco-spirituality Centre Othara*. This centre was recently opened by the Church of Scotland of South India(CSI) in Kerala. The aim is to educate local people about climate change and the importance of conservation.

Projects such as the following will be carried out:-

- The Harvesting and reuse of Rain Water.
- The Establishment of a Biogas Plant to Power the Kitchens.
- The Development of a Small Dairy and Chicken Farm for Native Breeds.

In order to keep supporting the above good work your **Continuing Support** is greatly needed.

Due to the continuing rising cost of stamps people are in general reducing the number of stamps purchased which makes used stamps all the more valuable.

Please, Please, Please, continue to Support the Appeal and also please ensure that used stamps Have a minimum of 1/4 inch (5 mm) all the way round the stamp. Don't worry if there is more left around the stamp, since this can be trimmed off before submitting for sale.

GS/JS



3rd Carluke Boys' Brigade

On 13 May, the Company held its end of session Parents' Night. After a varied programme of activities, with parents participating, the boys were presented with their awards by Mrs Favour Obinna.

Anchor Boys

First Year Badge and Service: Max Elliot, Finlay Obinna, Kyle Sommerville and Andrew Watson.

Second Year Badge and Service: Orrin Hendrie and Gordon Prince.

Third Year Badge and Service: Ryan Allan, Ryan Hunter and Kyle Thomas.

Ryan Allan, Ryan Hunter, Finlay Obinna and Kyle Thomas were promoted to the Junior Section.

Junior Section

First Year Bronze Badge and Target Award Badge and First Year Service: Brandon Sommerville.

First Year Bronze Badge and Target Award Badge and Third Year Service: Brandon McIntosh and David McIntosh.

First Year Bronze Badge and Target Award Badge and Fourth Year Service: Jayson Smith.

Gold Badge and Sixth Year Service: Aaron Henderson.

Aaron is promoted to the Company Section.

Company Section

First Year Badges, Compass Badge and Seventh Year Service: Greg Allan.

Second Year Badges, Discovery Badge and Eighth Year Service: Ryan Sloan.

Third Year Badges and Service: Jamie McLaren.

Third Year Badges and Sixth Year Service: Lloyd McIntosh.

Third Year Badges and Ninth Year Service: Matthew Gillon and Jamie Stevenson.

Seniors Bronze Badge and Seventh Year Service: David Henderson,
Aaron Lindsay and Aaron Ramage.

Seniors Bronze Badge and Tenth Year Service: James Gillon.

Seniors Bronze Badge and Eleventh Year Service: Callum Sloan and
Michael Stevenson.

At the Wishaw and District Battalion Cross-country event, the Company was represented by a team from each of the Junior and Senior Sections. The Seniors won the cup for their race and the combined scores from both Sections won the cup for the event overall.

During the session, the two helpers, Jacqueline Henderson and Allison Lindsay, completed their basic training and are now full lieutenants.

Next session will begin on Friday 26 August from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. All boys from P1 onwards will be made most welcome. For further information regarding new members, please contact Richard Allan (contact details on inside back cover), or use the church website feedback page, with “BB” in the subject field.

RA



Budapest, April 2016

In April, Jennifer Paisley and I had the privilege of joining Rev Susan Cowell and a group of 9 Kirkton members on a trip to Budapest. Susan had spent four years there as minister in St Columba's Church of Scotland and because she has a great love and connection with the country, she proved to be an excellent guide.

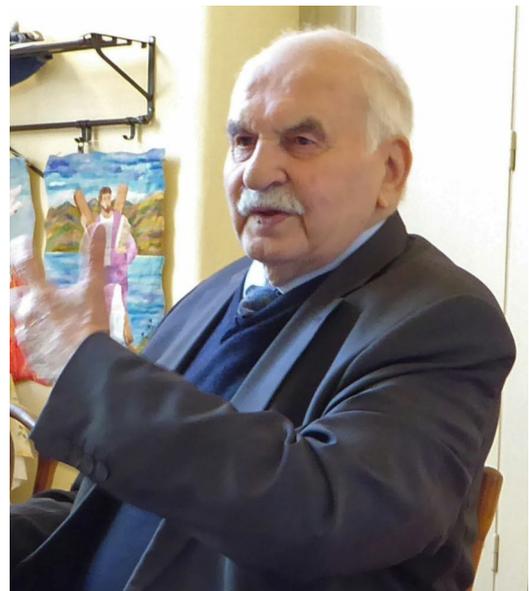
We arrived in Budapest on Tuesday 27th and as soon as we had settled into our rooms we set off on a preliminary exploration.

Wednesday was spent in exploring further using a hop on, hop off bus tour which took us to some excellent vantage points with great views over the city. The architecture is stunning and as the weather was excellent we certainly saw the city in a good light. In the evening we had a cruise of the River Danube which gave us a different perspective on the city.

Thursday was devoted mainly to Jane Haining, the Scots matron of the school next to the Scots Mission, who refused to leave her Jewish girls when the Nazis invaded and who eventually was arrested and died in Auschwitz. At the church we were met by Rev Aaron Stevens who conducted a short service and who told us a little about Jane's life.

Also attending the service was Dr Janos Horvath. He is a most remarkable man and we all wished we could have spent much longer with him. Born in 1921, he was the youngest member of parliament in Hungary in 1945. From 2003 till his retirement in 2014, he was the oldest member of parliament. He belonged to the Hungarian Reformed Church and his faith led him into joining the resistance to the Nazi occupation.

He was in reserved occupation and was able to set up a printing operation in a hidden basement from which he and some friends produced information leaflets which they distributed in any way they could. He was arrested and held



prisoner in the Scots Mission which had been taken over by the Germans. Within hours of being sentenced to death on 14th January 1945, he managed to escape along with two of his friends along basement corridors. In 1947 he was arrested by the communists and spent four years in hard labour. After his release in 1951 he re-entered politics and was one of the leaders of the revolution which was crushed in 1956. He managed to escape to the USA where he worked as a professor of economics and was active in politics. After the fall of communism in 1989, he was able to return to Hungary and continued to serve his country till his retirement in 2014. All he did was driven by his deep faith and the comment he made which touched us all so deeply was: "*Hitler didn't like me, Stalin didn't like me but the Lord Jesus loves me.*"

Later we visited the school next door which having been taken over by the communists remains a state run school. We were made very welcome and allowed to sit in on English classes before being treated to a Hungarian school lunch. Jane Haining is held in high regard in the school and we met one teacher whose mother had been one of Jane's girls. It was mentioned several times that she could have escaped but chose not to.

The rest of the afternoon was spent in the House of Terror, a very sobering museum devoted to the period spanning World War Two and the Communist era. It is housed in a building used by the communists to imprison, torture and execute their opponents.

On Friday we were off on a two and a half hour train journey to Debrecen, close to the border with Romania. We met the pastor of the Great Church of Debrecen who took us to see the Emmanuel School which the church runs for physically and mentally handicapped pupils aged 7-30. It impressed us greatly with its happy family atmosphere. We had lunch at the University, followed by a tour of the Great Church, a talk by the President of the Women's Association of the HFC (equivalent of the Guild) then back to Budapest.

Another train journey on Saturday but only 40 minutes this time to Szentendre to the north of Budapest. This was a very pretty little town,

home to a museum of ceramics dedicated to the work of Magrit Kovacs and also a museum of marzipan which had to be seen to be believed!

A big treat awaited us on our return to Budapest when we went to see the ballet, *Sleeping Beauty*, at the Opera House. Everything about the evening was magical from the Opera House itself to the music and the costumes.

On Sunday we went to worship in the Scots Mission where we were able to participate in the communion service. Afterwards we split into groups of 2 or 3 and spent the afternoon with members of the congregation.

Jennifer and I spent the afternoon with the Kearstin, an American girl who is working as an intern with the Hungarian Reformed Church and Dia, a Hungarian girl who also works for the HRC in the ecumenical department. They were delightful hosts and we had fun visiting the City Park, Heroes Square and the St Stephen's Cathedral.

Monday should have been a free day for everyone but we all started with a trip to the Great Market. Later most of the group were off to the places we had seen with the girls on Sunday afternoon so we did our own thing, in my case finding a fabric shop!

We had a chance on Tuesday morning before we left for a last walk round the neighbourhood and twenty minutes sunbathing on the roof. This felt all the more precious when we emerged from Edinburgh airport to snow and hailstones!

A wonderful trip which has left us with lots of great memories and new friendships. Thank you, Susan!



LB

Christine Stone

The last message we received from Christine is dated 3 April. In it, she described the effects of the chemo she was treated with.

One drug, administered by drip resulted in tingling fingers and numbness to face and throat outside. A second, planned as a 15-day course of tablets left her wiped out, both mentally and physically, so that by day 9 it was suspended.

Recovering with her friends Debbie and Stephen in Strontian, with much help from MacMillan Nurses Christine prayed about what she should do next. On advice from two doctors whom she respects, Christine has decided to stop the chemotherapy. There had only been a possibility of delay to secondary cancers in the best case. She is happy to leave things in God's hands and use the time now for the things she feels God still has for her to do.

She is happy with her decision and, although she still had some of the effects from the chemo with her, they were going and she felt quite well, with the joy of Easter in her heart. She says: *"The world speaks of 'end of life'. Christians can say 'beginning of life'"*

LizBeeSewing



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Safeguarding

The Church of Scotland has a Safeguarding Service and set of guidelines to which all congregations must comply and here in St John's, we take this very seriously.

Church of Scotland Safeguarding Policy Statement 2010

Ensuring a Safe Church for All

The Church of Scotland has a deep concern for the wholeness and well-being of each individual. Through its congregations, working together with the Safeguarding Service and statutory agencies, the Church seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people who come into contact with the Church and its services.

The Gospel proclaims that it is the responsibility of everyone within the fellowship of the Church to prevent harm, be it physical, sexual or emotional and we will always seek to reduce risk.

The Church's commitment to safeguarding reminds us that God cares passionately about the welfare and well-being of all people.

In order to ensure all safeguarding procedures are carried out and in keeping with Church of Scotland recommendations, the Kirk Session in St John's has appointed two Safeguarding Coordinators and a Safeguarding Panel. Our Safeguarding Coordinators are **Margaret Houston** and **Janette McPhail**.

The Safeguarding Panel is a group of at least three people appointed by the Kirk Session to manage Safeguarding matters on its behalf.



The role of the Safeguarding Coordinator

The Safeguarding Coordinator is appointed to act on behalf of the Kirk session to help to ensure that the instructions, recommendations and legislation relating to safeguarding practice in the church are implemented.

The main duties of the coordinator are to:

- ensure all volunteers (eg Youth Church leaders, Pastoral Care Team etc.) are safely recruited
- ensure that all volunteers and paid staff working within the congregation have completed the relevant PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) application forms.
- verify the identity of the applicant and submit the forms to Church of Scotland Safeguarding Service.
- ensure all volunteers have completed appropriate forms outlining duties to be undertaken
- ensure all volunteers have provided references
- maintain accurate records of all volunteers
- promote attendance of volunteers at Safeguarding training
- report to every meeting of the Kirk Session on safeguarding matters

Question : “What is meant by a vulnerable group?”

Answer: “A child or adult at risk of harm or abuse.”

A child is a person under the age of 16 years. An adult at risk includes a person affected by physical disabilities, learning disabilities, mental health difficulties, dementia, long term illness or is unable to safeguard his/her own well-being.

This is only a short introduction to Safeguarding in the church. More information can be found on the Church of Scotland website or if you have any concerns or questions about Safeguarding in St John’s, please contact Margaret or Janette.

MH & JMcP

Grace Notes

On Sunday, 10 April, Grace Notes hosted a Soup and Sweet Lunch after morning worship. Donations from the lunch will be used towards the costs of their visit to RockNations 2016 - a Christian Youth Conference to be held in Bradford later this year. Grace Notes Leader, Janis McBride, gives us more about RockNations:

Rocknations is the largest Christian youth gathering in the UK. It attracts over 2000 teenagers and leaders every year. This year, the interest is so great that they are holding the whole event twice! They expect over 4000 young people to be there.

The girls and leaders have already paid their own conference fees. However the cost for travel by train to and from Bradford and three nights food and accommodation still needs to be covered. The donations from the Soup and Sweet lunch, together with support from the Kirk Session, will go a long way towards covering these expenses.

Rocknations is a marvellous event for young people. There are lots of activities geared towards teenagers. There are young Christian bands and singers who are delivering the Christian message through modern worship music. There are a whole range of speakers delivering inspirational and motivational seminars over the three days. These events are designed to inspire and motivate teenagers and to deliver Gods message in a way that they can relate to.

The enthusiasm and uninhibited celebration of God's love is very different to the way I was able to worship as a teenager. However, I think it's wonderful to look at an event where thousands of young people are free to thrive in an environment that encourages such an open expression of faith, away from peer pressure.

It is actually really cool to be a Christian!!!

JMcB

Parish Grouping

The following is an account of the report, given by Liz Barthram to the Kirk Session on Monday 16 May, 2016:

Clydesdale Food Bank

Referrals are up by 47% to end of April compared with same period in 2015. Main issue seems to change to Universal Credit with some clients left with no money for 4-6 weeks. At present physical donations are not keeping pace with demand so goods are being bought to replenish supplies. While there is adequate money to cover this at present, it will require careful monitoring. It was decided that on 12 June there would be a special appeal to the congregations to alert them to the present situation and also to remind them to continue with donations over the summer when there is often a drop in supply.

Holiday Club

The Holiday Club will be held from 1 to 5 August. Material prepared by Karen Gillon for World Mission will be used this year. It links Bible stories to present day situations from around the world. A list of volunteers is being drawn up. There will 2 training sessions for volunteers, one week night and one Saturday morning.

Mission Priorities

It was felt that there is a need to review the Mission Priorities. The main one, planning for the Touching Place has lost its way despite a huge input of work by the steering group. Listening has been established and the Funeral teas system is in place. Time for Prayer, whose function is to underpin all the work of the Church in Carlisle, is now only supported by a small group in St John's. It was suggested that this should be rotated around the three churches in an effort to engage more support. It was also proposed that a review of the Mission Priorities should be the topic of a joint session conference in the autumn.

LB

Kwai River Christian Hospital

Our friends, the Murray's, in the Kwai River Christian Hospital send out a regular newsletter. The latest was the May edition. Here are the highlights.

In response to the Murrays' requests for prayer, a number of doctors have shown interest and Scott is hopeful that some of these will come. They need 12 doctors to run the hospital, and currently have 5. AS always, there is an ongoing shortage of Thai nurses.

A clinic has been completed at three Pagodas Pass – a town on the Thai-Burmese border. An X-ray machine is installed, which requires the power supply to be upgraded to three-phase. Other furnishings are also coming. The clinic will operate under the medical licence of a Thai Christian doctor living in semi-retirement in Chiangmai.

(Continued opposite)



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UNICEF's Jar of Grace Appeal

We all know that, when an emergency hits, whether it is the result of conflict or a natural disaster, children's worlds are turned upside down. They can lose their families, their homes, their schools, even their lives unless help comes. UNICEF works on the ground, all over the world, to respond rapidly to deliver life-saving assistance and protection, so that children caught up in emergency situations receive the help they need as soon as possible.

In January we asked the folk in the Carluke Parish Churches once again if they would take part in this year's Jar of Grace appeal to help UNICEF in this vital work. We are delighted to tell you that a final total of **£1494.08** was sent to UNICEF in April and, since over £600 of this amount qualified for Gift Aid, the actual sum UNICEF received to help vulnerable children all around the world was **over £1600.**

Since 2008 your Jars of Grace have raised **£14905.47** and this amount has been increased by over **£1600** because so many of you were able to complete a Gift Aid form.

So thank you all once again for your continued support and for your generosity.

CS

(Continued from opposite page)

Scott fell off his bicycle at the end of a 40km ride. He hurt his right elbow and later found that he had, in fact, broken his radius – one of the forearm bones. Because of the large number of operations waiting, he has not been able to give it the proper treatment of a plaster cast and has worked on. It is getting less painful but is still quite stiff.

Scott and Nok ask for your prayers that more doctors will volunteer for the hospital, more Thai nurses will be appointed – and that Scott's broken elbow will heal properly despite the less than appropriate treatment it has received.

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week is over for another year. Two clear achievements can be seen. The first is that £12,623 has been raised to bring life, health and happiness to a vast number of our neighbours in Bangladesh (That does NOT include a sum to be claimed from the Tax Man through Gift Aid). The second achievement, a by-product of the first, is the binding together of not only those on the Christian Aid Committee, but also the churches in the town, under a common cause.

To those who worked in the Café in whatever capacity, to our customers, and to those who carried out the often unpopular job of door-to door collecting, go the united thanks of the Church in Carluke. More importantly, the hidden thanks of the families in Bangladesh.

What a difference 53 years makes! The total amount raised by the Churches of Carluke during Christian Aid Week in 1963 was £450 compared to the £12,623 raised by the five participating churches this year!

Offering from the Christian Aid Service	£591.00
Café including card & handicrafts stalls	£5798.92
Goods made and sold prior to Christian Aid Week	£200.00
Donation from Law Parish Church	£170.40
Donation from Law & Community Football Club	£240.00
Sponsored Silence by Kirkton Junior Church	£294.07
Door to Door Collection	£3768.73
Late donations	£60.00

Morsheda, and many others like her, living on the low-lying islands on the Brahmaputra River in Bangladesh, are going to benefit from the money you raised, which will be used by Christian Aid to provide Home Safety Packages. Their homes can now be raised on earth plinths, giving them a safe place to rebuild, keep livestock and grow crops without worrying they will be washed away.

You did indeed respond to Jesus' call to love our neighbour.

IN

Congratulations

Long Service Certificates

This item was omitted from the March edition of St John's News.

At the morning service on Sunday, 7 February 2016, a certificate was awarded, by worship leader Rev Susan Cowell, to **Mrs Doreen Green** to mark over 35 years of service as an Elder. Another Elder, Mrs **Betty Smith** had received her certificate previously in a private ceremony.

Citizen of the Year

There are many folk in our community, whether it be St John's or the wider town of Carluke who work quietly in the background, performing vital services for their fellow citizens and church members. Most, if not all, do this without any thought of recognition or reward, but it is always good for us to acknowledge the enormous amount of work done by these unsung heroes on our behalf.

One such person is our own Liz Barthram, who has been made Carluke Rotary Citizen of the Year for her work in many areas, including the Food Bank.

Congratulations, Liz. Keep up the good work!

The **BIG** Clean

This year's Big Clean will take place on

Wednesday, 22 June, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and
Thursday, 23 June, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm and
from 7:00 to 9:00 pm.



Volunteers will be most welcome for any length of time during any of these three sessions. All cleaning materials will be provided.

Please speak to either Jennifer Paisley or Anne Reid for more information.

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