



Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

The following is my version of a well-known passage generally referred to as "One Solitary Life".

"Here is a man who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another village. He worked in a carpenter's shop until He was thirty and then for three years was an itinerant preacher.

He never owned a home. He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never raised an army and he never travelled 200 miles from where he was born. In fact he never did any of the things that usually accompany greatness.

He had no credentials but Himself...

While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against him. His friends ran away. He was turned over to His enemies and went through a mockery of a trial. He was nailed to a cross between two thieves and when He was dead, was laid in a borrowed grave. He rose again.

TWENTY CENTURIES HAVE COME AND GONE, YET I AM FAR WITHIN THE MARK WHEN I SAY THAT ALL THE ARMIES THAT

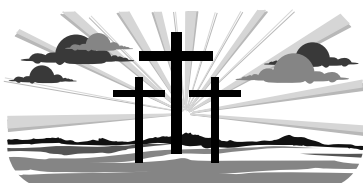
EVER MARCHED, ALL THE NAVIES THAT WERE EVER BUILT; ALL THE PARLIAMENTS THAT EVER SAT AND ALL THE KINGS THAT EVER REIGNED, PUT TOGETHER, HAVE NOT AFFECTED THE LIFE OF MAN UPON THIS EARTH AS POWERFULLY AS HAS *THAT ONE SOLITARY LIFE.*"

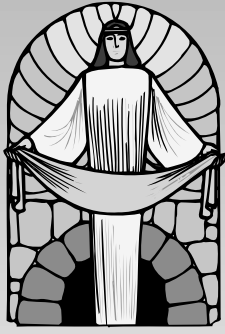
For long enough it was attributed as anonymous yet the original came from Dr. James Allan Francis, who had written it as a part of his 1926 book, "The Real Jesus". Francis died in 1928 but what he wrote captivated many for its simple statement of the truth about Jesus as viewed from the outside. And yet, and yet people in the streets of Galashiels seem to be able to ignore that life. "I'm a celebrity, get me out of here" filled with minor (exceedingly minor) luminaries fills the attention in a way that makes one wonder what kind of madness has gripped the populace? Straining at gnats and swallowing camels has nothing on this. I hope you will take time to join us again to look at that *one solitary life* this Easter time?

Yours Sincerely, Leslie Steele

Holy Week and Easter

Maunday Thursday 24th March	7.00 p.m.	United Service of Holy Communion in St. Paul's Church
Good Friday 25th March	7.00 p.m.	United Service in St. John's Church
Easter Sunday, 27th March	7.30 a.m.	Open Air at Cauldshiels Loch (See separate notice)
	9.30 a.m.	Easter Communion Breakfast in St. Paul's Hall.
	11.00 a.m.	Easter Morning Worship in St. Paul's Church
	6.30 p.m.	United Easter Praise in St. John's Church





Easter

*Man of Sorrows! Wondrous Name
For the Son of God, who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim!
Alleluia! what a Saviour!*



Prayers for Easter

Eternal God and Father, by whose power our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead: with the whole company of your people in heaven and on earth we rejoice and give thanks that he who was dead is alive again and lives for evermore; that he is with us now and always, and that nothing can part us from your love in him; that he has opened the way to your kingdom and brought us the gift of eternal life. All glory, praise and thanksgiving, all worship, honour and love, be yours, almighty and everlasting God, in time and for all eternity.

New Every Morning

O Christ, risen and Glorified, reigning at God's right hand, but still our Friend and Saviour, abide with us this Easter, so that by the loving influence of Your Spirit on our own, we may become more like You; until our unkindness and selfishness are purged away, and we become the kind of people You can use in your work. Take possession of us now, and use us henceforth for your glory. For your name's sake,

Leslie D. Weatherhead



The Guild

Grateful thanks to all who supported the Soup and Sweet Lunch on Sunday, 27th February. All those who attended, and all who contributed soup and desserts helped to once again provide a very enjoyable time of fellowship, as well as raising money for church funds.

Rev. Duncan McCosh of St. Peter's Church has kindly agreed to come to our meeting on March 2nd to speak about his visit to Africa, and we much appreciate his help. This meeting will be over by the time you read this Newsletter. Sadly, we come to the end of our regular meetings for this session this month with our A.G.M. and Spring Tea on March 16th. We trust that the weather will be more Spring-like then than it is as I write with the snow falling outside!

Plans are being made for an outing on Wednesday, May 4th. Watch this space for further details!

The Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation will take place on Tuesday 22nd March at 7.00 p.m. A good attendance is requested.

Deaths

Feb 15th Patricia Sinclair, 43 Tweed Crescent.

Feb 15th Ian Johnstone, 24 Douglas Street.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and friends.

Presentation to Galashiels Primary Schools

Our church, in conjunction with Fellowship of Churches, has made a presentation to the Galashiels Primary Schools. The package contains the 'Easter Story Keepers' Video and the 'Christmas Story Keepers' video along with teacher's notes and follow up worksheets for the children.

The purpose of the package is to enhance the Religious and Moral Education Curriculum and to give teachers a specific resource focussing on the main Christian festivals of Easter and Christmas. RME can often be under resourced in Primary schools with so many demands on the school budget.

The 'Story Keepers' Videos are feature length films in animated style set in Rome AD64 and tell the story of Ben the Baker and other characters who meet together to pass on the stories of Jesus to other Christians and thus are the Story Keepers. They are based firmly on the gospels accounts of the Easter and Christmas stories.

Please pray for the use of these in our Primary Schools and for a positive reaction to them from both staff and pupils.

We are also hoping to host follow up activity afternoons for some of the children on Tues. 29th and Wed. 30th April in the church. If you feel you could be of assistance on either or both of these afternoons then please contact Anne Noble on 753936 (as soon as possible to aid planning) for more details.

OLD PARISH AND ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

CONCERT

Saturday, March 19th at 7.00 p.m. in the Large Hall

Come and enjoy a concert including Scottish Dancing, Irish Dancing (from a promising youngster), solo singing, recitations, music from a band, songs from the Music Makers and other delights. Refreshments are included in the price of the ticket – £3.00 for adults, and £1.50 for Primary School Children.

After refreshments, about 9.15 p.m. there will be music for dancing for all interested.

Quiz Night 12th February

Once more the Large Hall was the scene for the annual Battle of the Brains! Several teams of adults and also families competed with good humour and varying degrees of competitive spirit for the trophies at stake. The topics for each round varied greatly and some choice was available. There was indeed something for every one of whatever ability or interests – and it was great fun too! Oh yes, I nearly forgot – there were some winners who were presented with their hard won trophies – the Fox family team retained their title from last year, and new adult champions were Universally Challenged which had a Noble content with a little Vi and Ruth added for flavouring!

Our warm thanks to Jim Tennant and Gordon Smith for their hard work which made for a very enjoyable evening – and well over a £100 was raised too for the Tsunami Appeal.

The Road Less Travelled

To combat climate change, the Government has set the U.K. a target of reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 60% by 2050. To meet that target, we all need to act. In the following article, Matt Freer looks at alternatives to jumping in the car. In the U.K., the transport sector produces about one quarter of the U.K.'s carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. Changing the way we travel, therefore, is crucial when trying to reduce our contribution to climate change.

One in four car journeys is less than two miles

Cars alone account for around half of all CO₂ emitted by the transport sector – so what are the alternatives to jumping in the car?

On your feet

Walking is a great green alternative – not only does it cut CO₂ emissions, it also saves money and provides exercise! Are there times when you could walk rather than drive? What about trips to the local shop, going to church, getting to the gym and travelling to work? How about starting a 'walking bus' instead of the normal school run?

Pedal power.

If walking isn't your thing, how about trying two wheels? Cycling can be the fastest way to travel in urban peak travel times! Be imaginative: think how you can incorporate cycling into your usual journeys: a folding bike could enable you to combine cycling with public transport; an electric bike could transform longer journeys.

Obstacles on the track

Walking or cycling not realistic? The next best thing is public transport. Public transport often gets a bad press, but considering the U.K. is among the most traffic-congested countries in Europe, it could be quicker than taking a car – it will certainly reduce noise and pollution and improve safety in your community. You may be surprised how accessible and cheap it can be. Look at combined travel, such as taking the bus, walking, and going by train or bike. If you find that public transport offers no realistic options, then contact your local council and ask them what they are doing to improve facilities.

What about a car share? You could set up a scheme with friends at work or school, or you may find a local car share is already organised by your local council.

Going on holiday?

Increasing air travel is dramatically increasing greenhouse gas emissions. Short haul trips are the most environmentally polluting per passenger per kilometre. Overcome this by taking one longer trip rather than a number of short trips. Not only will this cut your emissions, it should also make for a more relaxing holiday! Another way to cut your emissions is to use the train or bus for short trips, instead of flying or driving. If you must fly, look at 'offsetting' your emissions with organisations like Future forests (www.futureforests.com) and Climate Care (www.climatecare.org) They plant trees and invest in renewable energy projects, thereby counterbalancing the emissions from your flight. Costs range from around £7 for a European flight, to £15-£20 for a return trip to South Africa.

(From the magazine 'Whose Earth?')

Christian Aid

Christian Aid has asked me to thank you for your generosity in the Tsunami Appeal.

The Appeal has now reached £2.5 million. St. Paul's Church collected £991 plus tax reclaim as well as £140 from the underground church's sales table.

Christian Aid was able to provide immediate help from 26th December when the first emergency grants were sent out, and now continues to work in the region long-term with partner organisations in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Christian Aid continues in its work to expose the scandal of poverty in over 50 countries. Half the world's population are living in poverty and the gap between rich and poor is widening. But it doesn't have to be this way. We can change it – by making international trade work for the poor so they have a chance to work their way out of poverty. That's what the Trade Justice Campaign is all about. Kofi is a victim of free trade. He earns £1 a day breaking rocks to make gravel. He used to be a tomato farmer. But that livelihood, which bought food for his family and schooling for his children, has been taken away from him. Free trade means a country's economy is run without government intervention. It is a policy that rich country governments and international institutions are forcing poor countries to accept. Free trade is imposed on poor countries through:

- agreements between two or more countries
- conditions and 'economic advice' given to poor countries in return for loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank
- agreements at the World Trade Organisation.

The effects of free trade can be seen across the developing world. Millions of poor people's livelihoods are being threatened, and their governments are powerless to prevent it. If we are serious about having a world free from poverty, then poor countries must be given the chance to work their own way out of poverty. Trade could be that chance. Christian Aid seeks to persuade the UK government that, to end poverty and protect the environment, we need trade justice – not free trade.

They believe that there is a need to change the rules that govern international trade so that poor countries have the freedom to help and support their vulnerable farmers and industries. To do this we need to campaign to persuade the UK government to support trade justice not free trade. And they need to use their influence to call for change within the international institutions that govern trade policy. Christian Aid is also a member of the Trade Justice Movement – a broad and powerful coalition of charities and campaigning organisations who all believe it's time to change the way the world trades.

Christian Aid Week is 15th-21st May and if you would like to help in the fight against poverty by volunteering to collect in the house-to-house collections or at B&Q, Somerfield or Tesco's during that week please give me a ring.

Angela Miller (755316)

CHECK OUT FAIRTRADE HIGH STANDARDS. GREAT PRODUCTS. REAL CHANGE.

CHECK OUT FAIRTRADE, the theme for Fairtrade Fortnight (1-13 March 2005) is a call to consumers across the UK to find out all about the Fairtrade Mark – the only independent guarantee of a fair deal for producers in developing countries, and it's also encouraging them to take goods with the Fairtrade Mark to the checkout of their local shop or supermarket.

One of an estimated 7,500 events taking place during this year's annual two weeks of intensive awareness raising and campaigning will be in Market Square, Galashiels. Members of Old Parish & St. Paul's Church, a Fairtrade congregation and supporters of Tearfund Borders support group (Tearfund being one of a number of international development agencies who promote the work of the Fairtrade Foundation) will be running a stall, giving out leaflets about Fairtrade as well as a small selection of free samples of Fairtrade products.

Members of the public can win one of a hundred Fairtrade hampers by taking the postcard-size leaflet, and there will be a competition for local school children as well.

A 2004 MORI poll showed that the number of people who recognised the Fairtrade Mark had doubled to 39% since 2002. For those who buy Fairtrade products, 86% said the independent guarantee of the Fairtrade Mark is important to them.

Tadesse Meskela, General Manager of Oromia Coffee Farmers' Co-operative Union in Ethiopia, will be visiting the UK during Fairtrade Fortnight. Oromia's mission is to support small producers in becoming economically self-sufficient and ensuring their families have enough to eat in a country prone to famine. As Tadesse explains "With Fairtrade coffee, farmers in Ethiopia are getting their deserved reward. Fairtrade is not just a buying and selling process. It is creating a global family." With Africa holding the political spotlight in 2005, Tadesse will be touring the UK to highlight the importance of Fairtrade in tackling poverty.

"It's so quick and easy for shoppers to choose products with Fairtrade Mark, and yet the difference this makes to producers can be dramatic", says Harriet Lamb, Director of the Fairtrade Foundation. "The Fairtrade system demands huge efforts by farmers in Africa, Asia and Latin America as they organise into democratically run groups. This ensures that the gradual improvements which Fairtrade makes possible are sustainable, giving communities a real chance to build a brighter future – and MAKE POVERTY HISTORY!"

The guarantees behind the Fairtrade Mark are as follows:

- Farmers receive a fair and stable price for their products
- Farmers and plantation workers have the opportunity to improve their lives

Treasurer's Report

JANUARY 2005

Income

Offerings 5 weeks (Weekly average £791.72).....	£3,958.59
Dividends, Bank Interest, Retiring Officerings, etc	£280.98
Donations.....	£2,421.75
Transfers from CoS.....	£225.79
	<u>£6,887.11</u>

Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Church Telephone.....	£778.74
Organ Music	£410.00
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£83.98
Fabric, etc	£598.29
Donation	£118.97
Church of Scotland – Life & Work costs.....	£116.28
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	£110.00
	<u>£2,216.26</u>

STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OFFERINGS

Organist	£80.00	4th	£712.28
Cleaners (5wks)	£30.00	10th	£702.30
		17th	£524.04
		24th	£562.63
		31st	£440.34
			<u>£2,941.59</u>
			<u>£1,017.00</u>
			<u>£3,958.59</u>

OFFERINGS UPDATE

		2005	2004	
January	5wks	£3,958.59	£2,821.16	4wks
		<u>£3,958.59</u>	<u>£2,821.16</u>	

- Greater respect for the environment
- Small-scale farmers gain a stronger position in world markets
- A closer link between consumers and producers

BBC1's Heaven and Earth programme will run two special films on Fairtrade coffee from Rwanda on Sunday March 13, later in the day, Old Parish & St. Paul's will hold an evening service "Focus on Fairtrade" at 6:30 pm.

The most important thing is that we all take time to "CHECK OUT FAIRTRADE"

For more information, contact: The Fairtrade Foundation, Room 204, 16 Baldwin's Gardens, London. EC1N 7RJ. Tel: 020 7405 5942. www.fairtrade.org.uk. Patron: George Alagiah.

To find out about the local campaign, contact: Jim Tennant Tel: 01896 751003/07812 959435 Email: godiswireless@btinternet.com

Calling all young people (and the young at heart!)

Why not begin Easter day with some fresh air and exercise? Meet at 7.30 a.m. at the church, or 7.45 a.m. at Cauldshields Loch for Easter Praise worship to make a great start to this special day of celebration, when we remember again Christ's Resurrection. See you there!