



Galashiels Old Parish and St. Paul's Church

Newsletter ♦ July/August 2006

Minister: Rev. Leslie Steele, Manse, Barr Road ♦ 752320 ♦ Leslie@oldparishandstpauls.org.uk

Session Clerk: Hugh Bain, 11 Langhaugh Crescent ♦ 756615 ♦ hugh.bain@virgin.net

Treasurer: David Leckey, Dove Cottage, 69 Melrose Road ♦ 757631

'Newshound': Jim Tennant, 43 Kilnknowe Place ♦ 751003 ♦ godiswireless@btinternet.com

Layout: Peter Sandison, Lynhurst, Abbotsview Drive ♦ 758634 ♦ psandison@aol.com

Letter from Leslie

Dear Friends,

Last month I was speaking of the huge influence of the media on our thoughts. The drip, drip, drip effect of repeated ideas, which gradually come to be accepted, even with grudging groans. We've seen it in a number of ways with various pressure or self-interest groups.

One of the areas where a dripping effect is at work is in what is called Multiculturalism. Britain is a multicultural society (more so England, actually) in that there are a multiplicity of peoples from different backgrounds who now live here - a result of much easier travel, and a legacy of the Empire. Multiculturalism in this sense, as a fact about population statistics, is unobjectionable, but there is something more to the usage of the word than just that.

We are expected now to believe in multiculturalism as the self-evidently good way ahead through which all cultures will be treated equally, a view based on a philosophy of cultural relativism: the denial that any culture can be said to be better than any other.

Saul Bellow, the novelist, fell foul of this when he was severely criticized after saying "find me the Tolstoy of the Zulus and the Proust of the Papuans and I would

be happy to read them". It caused outrage, and he was called bigoted and astoundingly racist for it; however, he was not saying that they were incapable of producing a Tolstoy or Proust - that **would** have been bigoted - but just that they hadn't. By airing the possibility that some cultures had contributed more to "the dining table of civilization" than others he was raising the taboo of cultural superiority.

There is a fine line here that has been blurred by the media hype of multiculturalism, and it is that individuals from all sorts of cultures can and do excel, but it is undeniably true that some cultures seem to have assisted their members to excel more than others.

Dinesh D'Souza, in a lecture on Multiculturalism, calls the modern obsession which seeks the equal validity of every culture "the application of the Declaration of Independence to Groups". What he means is that the equality of individuals is taken and applied to cultures, whilst failing to see that there is a very great difference between the two: issues attaching to individuals are dealing with *people* "made in the image of God", whereas *groups* are merely man-made. A respect for individuals,

whether understood this way or not, is an honouring of God, their maker; a respect for groups merely honours Man - and we all know what happens when **he** takes the throne.

"Let's stand up for the freedom of the individual."

We must stand up and refuse to accept this tyranny. There *is* a difference in cultures: some *are* better than others, better to live in, better to grow up in and better to develop one's talents and abilities in; and some *are* worse, crushing the God-given beauty of their members or citizens. Let's stand up for the freedom of the individual and resist the tyranny of faceless groups. There is such a thing as truth, and it comes from the mouth of God - not from the mouth of Man.

Yours in Him, Leslie Steele.

Minister on Holiday

The Minister will be on holiday from 21st July to 18th August. The services on 23rd and 30th July will be taken by the Rev. Milton and Mrs. Margaret Cashman; the services on 6th and 13th August will be taken by the Rev. Warner Hardie.

Tribute - Shona Smith

After a long and difficult struggle, Shona Smith passed away on 21st June. A quiet, gracious and warm person, Shona's presence and work amongst us as a congregation was probably best known by the children of the Sunday School and at many Holiday Clubs. Shona was always willing to support and encourage all who needed it, despite the fact that she struggled with various illnesses for many years. Her faith and trust were undiminished, and she bravely bore ill health till she finally passed into the presence of the Lord in the Borders General Hospital in the early morning of 21st June. We remember in our prayers and with our sympathy our Elder, Gordon, and his family, Andrea, Samantha and Kimberley.

BIBLEWORLD COMES TO GALA

[The Scottish Bible Society's Bibleworld](#) mobile classroom took up residence outside Old Parish and St. Paul's from June 19th to 23rd.

Children from at least one class in every primary school in Galashiels came to experience it first hand, with more coming along on Wednesday evening for the Youth Night, and on Thursday for the Open Night.

The main complaint from children and teachers alike was that the 70 minute sessions seemed all too short, and they wished they could have stayed for longer!

In the Bus the children got to sample 3 out of the 6 Media Centres that looked at many different aspects of the Bible in a very modern, technical and 'hands on' kind of way.

Here are some comments from some of the children from Langlee Primary...

- ◆ "I liked doing the clay writing" - in the printing section where children learned about how the Bible came to be printed.
- ◆ "I liked the plane and the music best" - the in-flight video with lots of information and the Music Centre that all had direct biblical links.
- ◆ "I enjoyed the space one best because you got to travel back in time like Dr. Who".

Well, I guess to understand most of these comments - you had to be there to experience it yourself!

At the end of their session, the children all received a copy of Luke's Gospel to take home, as well as all their workbooks and things they had printed during their visit.

Many thanks to all who contributed towards the £1000 needed for this venture - we have raised £530 so far with £285 of that from St. John's! - and many thanks to all those who helped out on the bus with the children.

Please pray that the seeds sown in these hearts will grow to bear fruit one day.

Anne Noble



Holiday Club 2006

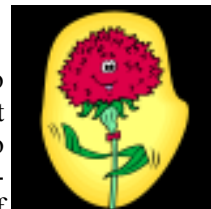
We need your help! Urgently!

If you could do some baking at home, or knit a long multi-coloured scarf, the Holiday Club team would like to hear from you. Please speak to Louise Johnston or Gail Fox URGENTLY.

Thank you!

Spring has sprung

Thank you to all who bought the quizzes; so far the magnificent amount of



£130 has been raised, but unfortunately there were no correct entries - the answers can be found on the notice board outside the Halls.

Looking ahead - one day, two events!

For all you budding athletes or keep-fit fanatics, there is a 10k sponsored run, with only 1500 spaces available. "Running the Race", which aims to raise £100,000 for Tearfund, is to be held in Strathclyde Country Park on September 9th.

You can register NOW at www.runningtherace.co.uk

On the same day at the same venue is "Praise in the Park", featuring headline acts Origin Scotland, Superhero and Ian White, from 12 noon until late afternoon, seeking to attract over 2000 people joining together to worship and praise God.

Further details are available at www.praiseinthepark.info

Tearfund Borders Support Group expect to be attending these two events, so if you would like to go, please contact Jim Tennant as soon as possible to book seats on

Prayer Vigilantes

Give thanks for answered prayer!

The Palestinian Bible Society bookshop re-opened on Monday 3rd April after a five-week closure in response to militant threats to bomb the building.

Pastor Hanna Massad, whose wife, Suhadi, is the Bible Society bookshop's Director, said that the shop re-opened with permission from the Gaza Interior Ministry. "Today was a very special day for us after we faced pressure and the power of the kingdom of darkness face to face, especially in the last four days" the Pastor wrote in an email to prayer partners. We experienced the power of answered prayer - **thank you for praying for us and with us.**"

The re-opening comes after a false report that the authorities had

captured a small group responsible for the threats. "It wasn't true, so the threat is still on" Pastor Hanna wrote, "we don't know who is behind it".

On 3rd February, unidentified militants exploded two small pipe bombs in front of the bookshop, and further threatened to kill the landlord and others occupants of the building, unless the Bible Society vacated the premises by 28th February. Staff repaired the damage and carried on working until increased death threats led the directors to close the shop temporarily.

Pastor Hanna, who leads the Gaza Baptist Church, asks for **ongoing prayer**: "The situation in Gaza is still very dangerous, and the threat remains, the evil one has tried everything he could to stop us from doing what God has called us to do".

Death - June 21st 2006

Shona Smith, 8 Stobshaw Place, Tweedbank, Galashiels

"I am the Resurrection and the Life" said the Lord.

[Tribute on page 1]

Traidcraft - Alternative approach gains Royal accolade

[Traidcraft](#), set up to change the way business works, has collected the ultimate business accolade - a Queen's Award for Enterprise. Traidcraft plc has been granted the Sustainable Development award for its pioneering work on using social accounting and a partner review process to promote dialogue with all its stakeholders.

Set up in 1979 with a mission to fight poverty through trade, Traidcraft grew into the UK's leading fair trade organisation. Currently, the trading company and its associated Charity, Traidcraft Exchange, are working with over 100 producer groups in more than 30 developing countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Chief Executive Paul Chandler said: "We believe fair trade is integral to sustainable development, and that fair trade rests upon honest dialogue and transparency between all parties. Traidcraft has always pursued a stakeholder approach in fulfilling its mission of using trade as a means of fighting poverty in the developing world."

In practice this has meant regular dialogue with a stakeholder community which includes overseas partners and suppliers, as well as UK customers and suppliers, shareholders (of the plc), funders (of the Charity), public and governmental institutions, and staff. "For more than a quarter of a century Traidcraft has pioneered an approach to business which challenges the mainstream to adopt ways of doing business that are both equitable and sustainable," said Mr Chandler.

"This award recognises that achievement and reinforces our message that if a small organisation like Traidcraft can do it - and benefit from it - then so can everyone." In 1993, Traidcraft was the first plc in the UK to publish a fully audited set of social accounts, a practice it has maintained ever since.

"They are a source of valuable feedback which better informs our organisational strategies and management, and that allows us to achieve a more satisfactory balance of our commercial sustainability and the aspirations of our stakeholders," said Mr Chandler. "Our social accounts are further bolstered by our continual Partner Review process, which examines key areas of our relationship with our producers.

"Reporting on the process is built into the organisational learning programme for each quarter, allowing us to make practical and timely contributions to the sustainable development of our network of partners." Traidcraft's contribution to the practice of social accounting has been recognised by the Association of Chartered and Certified Accountants. This year they were the outright winner of the ACCA Best UK Social Accounts Awards - the third year in succession they have won or been runner up.

There is a Traidcraft stall running in the Church every four weeks, after the Sunday morning service, which will recommence after the summer break, on August 6th.

Jim Tennant



News from Cathie Aberdour

Claudio is a young Apurina man with kidney failure who has been living in the city of Manaus for about 4 years, having dialysis and awaiting a kidney transplant. His brother is prepared to donate but the process is long –

Cathie writes:

"Claudio was at the doctor's the other day and unfortunately he still has to undergo 4 more examinations before he can undergo the transplant surgery. He was disappointed that there's still a further delay. Judy and I go off to Monkey River [an Apurina village] on Monday [30th April], God willing. We will be having a teachers' training course for about a dozen Apurina. While in Manaus I've run off all the revised primers and work-books that we are going to be using. The Apurina are going to be building a new school as the old one needs repairing. We trust that they've started on that by now. We'll be taking in the roofing material for it. During this time in the village we hope to also do a read-through of the translated Genesis, and check some of the translated Exodus. We also hope to check the Apurina script to accompany the Jesus film! Please give my greetings to your fellowship.

Love, Cathie."



1st Galashiels Boys' Brigade

This year, 12 boys from the Company Section attended **CROSSOVER 2006** for their annual camp. This is Scotland's biggest and best Christian Youth Festival and is run by several different Christian Organisations.

Crossover has been running annually since 1999 and this year's event took place during the weekend 16th – 18th June 2006 at Broomlee, West Linton.

This year's theme was "Escape", and we were encouraged to escape from our comfort zone, and were challenged to try something new or to push the boundaries of our own Christian Faith.

There was no escape for the boys this year, as they had the title of "Olympic" champions to retain after winning the Olympics competition last year, which was the first time this event had been held at Crossover.

This year, they had to make up their own country with its own flag.



They named their country "Keegan" (don't ask!) and the flag consisted of a branch with their boxer shorts hanging off it. After the rallying call, "You may take my freedom, but you will never take my Keegan!!", the boys went out and crushed all opposition and retained their title as the Sports Champions. The picture shows the boys celebrating their victory after each of them was awarded a 'Crossover Cup' and a frisbee.

The Tweedbank Guides were also at Crossover under the leadership of Gail Fox. If you have access, check out the Crossover web site to see pictures of the event at <http://www.crossover.org.uk>, or at our own Company Website at <http://1galashiels.boys-brigade.org.uk/crossover.htm>.

Robbie Noble

Treasurer's Report - May 2006

| Income | £ |
|----------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Offerings—5 weeks (Weekly average £736.65) | 3,683.27 |
| Dividends—Emma J. Turnbull | 15.91 |
| Gift Day | 200.00 |
| Retiring Offering—Church of Scotland Mission | 88.84 |
| Fundraising—Quiz Sheets & Plant Sale | 31.25 |
| Donation—Badminton Club | 192.00 |
| Donation—Lunch Club | 500.00 |
| Short Term Loans—Interest | 202.18 |
| Short Term Loans—Repaid | 200.00 |
| Fabric Fund—Church Heaters (March) | 249.69 |
| Permanent Fund | 60.00 |
| Church of Scotland—Energy Survey Grant | 92.38 |
| Bank Interest | 8.89 |
| Total Income | 5524.41 |
| Expenditure | £ |
| NPower (Gas) | 527.37 |
| British Gas (Electric) | 126.28 |
| BT—Church Telephone Rental | 13.00 |
| Border Weeklies | 43.56 |
| Frank Wright Mundy & Co.—Communion wine | 46.50 |
| H. Bain—Church Awning | 30.00 |
| H. Bain—Church Diary | 5.99 |
| Gas Force Ltd. (Annual Service—parts) | 363.91 |
| Repayment of Short Term Loan | 200.00 |
| Lynch McQueen—Paper | 25.85 |
| Astral Hygiene—Cleaning Materials | 37.43 |
| L. Steele—Manse Telephone | 35.99 |
| P. Sandison—Toner Cartridges | 89.98 |
| Standard Monthly Expenditure | £ |
| Stipend | 4,348.70 |
| Organist | 125.00 |
| Cleaners (4 weeks) | 32.00 |
| Total Standard Monthly Expenditure | 4,505.70 |
| Total Monthly Expenditure | 6,051.56 |
| Offerings | £ |
| 2nd | 514.75 |
| 8th | 542.34 |
| 15th | 617.20 |
| 22nd | 592.19 |
| 30th | 464.79 |
| Total Weekly Offerings | 2,731.27 |
| Paid through Bank | 952.00 |
| Total Offerings | 3,683.27 |

Quiet Time: Stepping Stones of Faith

It has been said that the removal of small stones, which frequently encumber the fields, does not always increase the crop. In many soils they are an advantage, attracting the moisture and radiating the heat. In an experiment the results of removing the stones were so unfavourable to the crop that they were brought back again. We often cry to God as Paul did, for the removal of some thorn in the flesh. Later experience teaches us that it was better for it to remain.

Taken from *Each New Day*, by Corrie Ten Boom

Offerings Update

| | 2006 | | 2005 | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | Monthly Total/s (£) | Weekly Average (£) | Monthly Total/s (£) | Weekly Average (£) |
| January-April (17 wks) | 13,498.71 | 794.04 | 14,173.05 | 833.71 |
| May (5 wks) | 3,683.27 | 736.65 | 4,302.80 | 860.56 |
| Total (22 wks) | 17,181.98 | 781.00 | 18,475.85 | 839.81 |

MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY – ONE YEAR ON

By the time you read this, it will be over a year since 225,000 people gathered in Edinburgh to march around the streets, protesting over the 30,000 people who die needlessly as a result of poverty every day!

This article is to encourage you that although the fight against poverty is not over yet, the good news is that campaigning works and your ongoing prayer and financial support DOES make a difference.

The Zambian Government has just announced that it is making healthcare free in rural areas. This means many thousands of people will suddenly be able to have treatment they could never have hoped to afford, just as when the NHS was created in the UK. Zambia can do this because of the extra debt cancellation the G8 agreed last year – an agreement that would not have happened without our prayers and campaigning. Last year Christians led the nation in standing up for the rights of those living in poverty: in 2006-2007 Tearfund is following up **MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY** by campaigning on trade, on climate change and disasters, and by promoting the Micah Challenge. Tearfund is also watching very carefully to see that the G8 keep their promises on debt, aid and AIDS, as made at the Gleneagles summit.

Trade

While significant moves were made on debt and aid last year, little progress was achieved on trade. Ironically, trade has the potential to provide more ways out of poverty than debt relief and aid packages, so Tearfund will be working with the Trade Justice Movement to keep the pressure on for change.

The enclosed flyer, *poverty? not yet*, contains a summary of the points, and more resources that can be ordered if you are interested.

Climate change and disasters

Climate change has shot up the public agenda this year, and we have a real opportunity to turn the talk and interest into effective action. Many Christians want to make their own contribution to climate change, and the enclosed leaflet, *For tomorrow too*, is a handy sized outline to simple, practical action we can **all** take. Tearfund is also speaking to Government to make vital changes, too, because these issues affect poor people much more than us – just look at the impact of the Pakistan earthquake, and the ongoing drought and food shortage in East and Central Africa.

The **Stop Climate Chaos** pledge combines a commitment to personal lifestyle change with a message to the Government. People can sign up via the Tearfund website, but a postcard version will be available later in the year. The key event of the year will be a rally on 4th November as part of the **Stop Climate Chaos** coalition, ahead of the international climate change talks in Nairobi – an important opportunity to show the world that Christians care about being good stewards of the earth, and care about speaking up on behalf of the poor.

Micah Challenge

Tearfund are encouraging churches and individuals to join this global campaign, which unites Christians on both sides of the equator to call on world leaders to keep their Millennium promise, **to halve poverty by 2015**. You can find out more by going to www.tearfund.org/micah

Thank you! For any information on the above, please talk to your local Tearfund campaigns promoter, Jim Tennant. (tel.: 751003 / email: godiswireless@btinternet.com).

Jim Tennant