



Galashiels Old Parish and St. Paul's Church

Newsletter ♦ June 2007

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LETTER FROM LESLIE

Dear Friends,

What do you remember from your childhood days? Are there things that have stayed with you and strengthened you down the years? Let me tell you a bit about my childhood. I was born in Edinburgh in 93 Bellevue Road and grew up in that street until I was seven, when we flitted to 20 Warriston Avenue, near my School's playing fields, Goldenacre – yes, like my father, I am a Herioter. We lived there until my parents flitted to 1a Inverleith Terrace whilst I was at University. My next home was with my wife in Ramsay Garden, just off the Mound. Each place has different memories.

When we moved to Warriston Avenue I felt slightly lonely, having lost some of my friends, and being of an introspective nature anyway I played a lot on my own, though not unhappily I may add. I went to Church with my father morning and evening and gained a lasting appreciation of the power of the preaching of the Bible under the ministry of Rev. James Philip but that is a story for another day... I gave up Sunday School shortly after the age of seven, but on Sunday afternoons went to a Crusader Class in the Trinity area of Edinburgh. The leader there was Alasdair Macdonald, a long standing Stalwart of Scottish Crusaders, for whom I grew to have a great respect, seeing in him the marriage of a pin-stripe-suited, bald-headed, respectable elder of the Kirk but with an enthusiastic evangelical heart.

As we all know when it comes to memory, the things we sing about we remember the best, and plenty of things I sang in those days at Crusaders and elsewhere stuck in my heart as a boy. I can remember singing "Onward Christian soldiers" to myself walking back home after Church; I can remember also the Crusader chorus "The Lord hath need of me" and "When the Road is rough and steep, fix your eyes upon Jesus". I wonder if you who read this have any special memories of childhood like that? I'm sure you must, if you think.

All of those songs were about summons, challenge and the call to service, but let me tell you about another chorus that meant a great deal to me. It goes like this:-

*He giveth more grace when the burdens grow greater
He sendeth more strength when the labours increase
To added affliction He addeth more mercy
To multiplied trials His multiplied peace.*

I can still hear Alistair McDonald with his deep bass voice singing it.

It seemed to me with my mathematical bent that God had all the angles covered there, and that there was nothing in my life that could take Him by surprise, or that wouldn't be supplied by His abundance. Let me tell you now that that has been absolutely true in all my years' experience. I am not old – yet! – but I can well understand the testimony of David, who said, "I have been young and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken." (Psalm 37:25)

Why do I go to Church today? Because I am a minister? No, I will always be found in Church because God is worth praising and His people worth serving. The answer is that God met me in those childhood days and set my course.

Are any of your childhood memories things that call to you now? Sometimes the call of God in childhood is departed from as years pass, but the remembrance of the reality of that call can come back as a challenge to the present., not because of nostalgia, but because the God who was there is the God who is now and is "still on the throne" *. May that God's call be heard by you now as then.

With every blessing, Leslie Steele.

* *God is still on the throne and He will remember his own
Though trials may press us and burdens distress us
He never will leave us alone
God is still on the throne and He will remember His own
His promise is true, He will not forget you
God is still on the throne.*

DEATHS

15th May: Robin Cockburn,
11 Abbotsview Court, Galashiels

15th May: Alison Shepherd,
10 Forest Place, Galashiels

We lost another two of our members during the past month in Robin and Alison.

Robin Cockburn was born in Glasgow, but found his subsequent life here as a result of being evacuated to the Borders during the war, and his parents came to Innerleithen. He trained in Agriculture first and worked on a number of farms, but in mid-life took extra training and became a teacher of General Science at Earlston High School. He was married to Evelyn with whom he had two boys, Robin Junior and Roger. Robin was a regular attender at worship in St. Paul's and served in the past on the Session and Board, and in

many other practical ways. In latter years his health caused him a lot of worry, and sadly it was in such uncertainty about his future that he died. We will remember him within our fellowship and pray for his sons and wider family in their grief at his passing.

Alison Shepherd was born and educated in Gala. Though quiet and homely, taking care of her brother John with whom she lived until his death a number of years ago, she will be best known to all those who frequented Frater's the Chemists in Bank Street, where she served for many years. Alison did not have the best of health, and after retiring struggled somewhat on her own at home. However, it was after a long spell of illness in the Borders General Hospital that she died peacefully on May 15th, and we commend her cousin, Margaret Dickson, and those who knew her well, to God's grace and peace.



**“And what does the Lord require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy
and to walk humbly with your God.”**

Micah 6:8

Will you join with churches around the UK focusing on issues of global poverty and God's call to justice, mercy and humility? It is especially urgent, as by the time you read this, the G8 will be meeting in Germany! Please also pray for God to intervene with power, not only for the world leaders, but also for those who are victims as a result of the injustices we see, but feel powerless to address.

Blow the Whistle

In 2000 the world's leaders, including those of the UK, committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger by 2015, when they signed the Millennium Declaration. 2007 marks the half-way point to the fulfilment of the MDGs, and it's time to Blow the Whistle to ensure our Government and others the world over honour their promises.

Since 2000, poverty and poverty-related issues have sprung up on government agendas worldwide yet progress has been poor, and in many areas the situation is worse than before. Blow the Whistle is calling on our Government and the international community to look at the half-time scores and resolve to turn this match around so that extreme poverty and hunger really are halved by 2015.

There are five specific areas the campaign is focusing on at this time because they are urgent and because the British Government can do something to meet these requests. These areas are: **AIDS treatment, water and sanitation, climate chaos, trade justice and primary education.**

Join: with thousands of others and participate in the Blow the Whistle campaign:-

- ◆ **Send the Postcard for Justice to the PM**
- ◆ **Write a Letter for Mercy to your MP**
- ◆ **Offer Prayers of Humility** (six weeks of guided praying across the globe) 27th May to 07/07/07

To take part, or to obtain any of the resources, either visit the Tearfund website, at www.tearfund.org, or see Jim Tennant as soon as possible!

Micah Challenge

Micah Challenge UK is a coalition of Christian organisations and churches in Britain, united in their concern to fight global poverty. It is part of the international Micah Challenge movement of churches and Christian agencies uniting to hold their governments to account for the promises they made towards the fulfilment of the MDGs.

The challenge at the heart of the movement is Micah 6:8. “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”

Micah Challenge seeks transformational change in society, through the active involvement of the church with the poor and against the injustices of poverty. It seeks to sensitise and engage Christians into greater political and practical involvement with the issues relating to poverty by highlighting biblical truths which prompt a compassion of heart.

CHURCH VARIETY CONCERT

It seems a long time ago when Neil Miller said to Jim Tennant (during the Musicmakers Christmas party) "You know, I think you and I could arrange a concert, something like the one that happened two years ago." Of such acorns are mighty oaks planted! The feedback has certainly been very positive, so far, and even if the second half did over-run a bit, there were not too many people leaving their seats to go home before the end!

After a lot of organisation and hard work at rehearsal by all the performers prior to the event, all we needed was an audience to go with it, and there were an estimated 100 people, seated and milling around nervously, in the large hall as compère Ian Forsyth (immaculately attired) welcomed everyone in.

First on stage were Musicmakers, who certainly warmed



the crowd up, as they sang with gusto "Open the Doors of Praise", "Let everything that has breath", and ending with "And He Shall Reign".

They were followed by an carefully observed mime by the UGC, which involved hats.

The colour and beauty of the Irish Dancers' outfits caught the eye, but not so much as the precision and balance of their steps, as we were once again enchanted by their elegance while



they danced on soft shoes. Our gratitude to Alice Milivoyevich, Rebecca Frankland, Emalie Ness, Sarah Glenfield and Rachel Noble, who originally introduced us to this beautiful art form two years ago.

Nancy Bain brought an element of humour with her excellent recitation of the "Jeely Piece song" and some nostalgic audience participation in the "Wild Rover".

Jim Tennant followed, and boomed out a few quiet numbers in his own inimitable fashion: "Edelweiss", "Shenandoah" and "The Rose", which could have brought a tear to a glass eye. In more reflective mood, Ian Hanley brought a sense of calm with his skillful playing of "My Lady Vals", "The Last Rose Of Summer", "Young Jane" and "Van der Valk", the theme from the TV series. The Virginians (Neil Miller and Billy Hogg) entertained the audience with some foot tapping, hand clapping, sing-along popular tunes: "Rivers of Babylon", "Amarillo" and "This 'Ole House", leaving the crowd wanting more!

The final act of a packed first half featured the Sunday School, accompanied by Anne Noble on guitar, who sang a mini medley of "I am the Way" interspersed with "In the Name of Jesus", to tumultuous applause, which brought the interval for refreshments.



After a chance to stretch the legs and enjoy the magnificent selection of donated home baking, Jim Tennant took over as compère for the second half.

The Irish Dancers returned with a Hard Shoe Dance and set the standard for the rest of the programme, as excellent as the first.

The Virginians slowed the pace down, showing off their repertoire with "Could I have this dance?", "Something Stupid", and "Lucille", but their invitation to the audience to get up and dance to "The Walk of Life" proved to be dire straits indeed, as all the people with dancing feet suddenly developed clay bottoms!

Anne Noble took to the stage next with her beautiful flute playing, featuring a piece called "Traumerel", before a young man who was almost making his public debut – Daniel Basak – came on stage to give an assured performance of "Wish You Were Here", "Hallelujah" and a Green Day song unfamiliar to your reporter (that's the generation gap for you!).

Rachel Noble and Sarah Glenfield had enough energy left to sing "Lord I Lift Your Name On High", to a rapturous reception once more: what a wonderful contribution all our young people and children made to the night - it's very encouraging!

The show closed with some "more seasoned" campaigners; Colette Lamb showcased her playing and writing skill, and her singing was complimented by her friend Rachel, whose harmony fitted beautifully through "Mountain Tops", "I Don't Know What Tomorrow Brings" and "One Hundred Miles". The musical comedy of "Cringe and Racket" had the audience enjoying their alternative "falsetto" harmonies and wisecracks, and so Musicmakers trod a little wearily back on to the stage to close the concert with "There's a place", "When I was lost", and "We'll walk the land".

After the vote of thanks, given by Ian Forsyth, Musicmakers led the audience and company with *Siyahamba* - "We are marching in the light of God" - to finish.

The main objective of the evening had been fulfilled: that all those who took part - performers, technicians, voluntary front of house and background helpers, as well as the audience - had enjoyed themselves. The fact that we banked almost £310 was a little incidental bonus. Thank you very much!

Report on Golf Dinner and Prize-giving

The evening of Monday 30th April saw the second annual golf prize-giving and dinner, held again in the comfortable surroundings of the Kingsknowes Hotel. Eleven survivors of last year's various rounds of golf had gathered, and although several others were either incapacitated or unavailable, the good natured banter around the table was only slightly diminished. It should be mentioned in dispatches that the Fisherman's Trophy is awarded to the player who takes the highest gross score for 18 holes. This year at least one player took the option of finishing after 9 holes while they were still in contention for that trophy: at least the good Doctor knows how to take his medicine, might be an appropriate observation!

The "serious" prizes were presented as follows:

Champion Golfer 2006: Derek Turnbull

Runner-up: Ian Forsyth

Handicap Trophy Winner: Peter Sandison

Fisherman's Trophy: Dr. Rodger Glenfield

Best Putter: Steven Fox

Nearest The Pin: Peter Sandison

Drama Cup: Richard Noble



The "Champ" receiving his trophy from Jim Tennant



A warm welcome to the following new members:

- ◆ Mrs. Doris Bowler
13a Abbotsford Road
- ◆ Mrs. Petra Cannon
5 Lochend, Tweedbank



Baptism on 20th May:

- ◆ Julian Michael Kurt Cannon

BECOMING REAL

That you may know how extraordinarily great is His power in us who believe
(Ephesians 1 18:19)

"What is REAL?," asked the Rabbit one day when he and his close friend the Skin Horse were lying side by side near the nursery fender. "Does it mean having things that buzz inside you and a stick-out handle?"

"Real isn't how you are made," said the Skin Horse. "It's a thing that happens to you. When a child loves you for a long, long time, not just to play with, but REALLY loves you, then you become Real"

"Does it happen all at once, like being wound up or bit by bit?"

"It doesn't happen all at once," said the Skin Horse. "You become. It takes a long time..... Generally, by the time you are Real, most of your hair has been loved off, and your eyes drop out and you get loose in the joints and very shabby. But those things don't matter at all, because once you are Real you can't be ugly, except to people who don't understand."

The Skin Horse was very wise and extremely accurate. "Real" is not how we were first made. It implies growth and maturing. We become 'real' through the patience of those who love us.

Most people admit that they want to be understood and cared for by someone else. This gives them permission to be 'real' with at least one other person in this brash, uncertain world.

Taken from Daily Readings and Meditations of Joyce Huggett

TREASURER'S REPORT – APRIL 2007

The Treasurer's Report for January to April is summarised below:

Targeted Budget Income (January to April)	£25,528.
Actual Income (January to April)	£21,840.
Deficit:	£3,688

It is of concern that we remain short of our budget.

The income for April included a bequest of £1000 from Miss E. Fox, and £1438 quarterly rent from the Manor School of Ballet. This has resulted in the deficit being slightly lower than last month, but can we depend on monies from outwith the Church to keep us solvent? It is encouraging that a small number of people have increased their offerings, and many thanks for this – your concern about the financial situation is appreciated.

For interest, the Gift Day in May has raised about £3000, although Gift Aid claims will increase this. More details will be in next month's Newsletter.