

*Old Parish and St. Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels*

*Newsletter ♦ April 2008*

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## LETTER FROM LESLIE

Dear Friends,

What would you say if you knew your child was going to die? During the Christmas week the eleven year-old nephew of Richard Cunningham, Director of the Universities and Colleges Christian Fellowship, was told by a hospital consultant that he was going to die. A scan had just revealed the sudden and aggressive spread of multiple brain and spine tumours. The young boy, David, looked into the doctor's eyes and said: "I'm not afraid of dying – I have a friend called Jesus who will take me to be with Him forever". The doctor smiled warmly and said, "David, I'm so glad you know Jesus, for He is my Friend and Saviour also". Regardless of belief, none can fail to be moved by such an interchange at such a critical time in a young life. Stepping back from the scene, though, there is something equally remarkable in it, namely that the Christian gospel had found kindred spirits in a dying child from a Christian home and a Consultant Oncologist with Chinese, Buddhist parents. No wonder Paul speaks so highly of the gospel, saying that it is "the power of God for salvation" for people from all sorts of backgrounds: not only for Jews and Gentiles in Romans 1:16, but also for peoples of quite disparate backgrounds and beliefs from all over the world. Age, culture, race and religion show no barrier to the power of the unchanging gospel of Christ to save and unite.

On a less than happy note, on my desk at the time of writing is a copy of the Independent newspaper with the cover headline of the day, "Why are children so unhappy?" It was referring to a motion to be debated at the Annual Conference of the Association of Teachers and Lecturers which said, "Conference notes with deep concern that many child-

ren in our schools appear unhappy and anxious". Teachers in schools have been constantly bringing to our attention that the state amongst children is not the happy scenario that we all wish it was. Professor Robin Alexander in his review of Primary Education said "anti-social behaviour, materialism and the cult of celebrity" engulfs many schools. UNICEF's Global Report on Child Welfare said that of 21 countries surveyed in the Western world, schoolchildren in the UK were the unhappiest, blaming a lack of social cohesion and poor parenting for its findings. However, where does social cohesion and good parenting come from - does it not come from a shared belief and common hope in an overarching truth that forms the backbone of a society? When that is taken away do we wonder at the crumbling of a society? Every generation complains about its up-and-coming generation but isn't there something even more depressing about our present period in history than others?

We have just passed Easter time and Churches have been celebrating the head of the Church who is alive – Jesus Christ. It is Christ who makes the difference in the lives of young boys and mature immigrants, who reconciles people to God and each other and gives hope even in the face of the darkest periods in human life. It may be that our people aren't listening just now, but for those who believe and know Him, "Jesus Christ is alive" is not some kind of spiritual slogan for the unlucky in the world but the wonderful proclamation of the greatest truth in the world - and not even death itself can cast a shadow over it! Do you believe that?

With Rejoicing,  
Leslie Steele

### Minister on Holiday

The Minister will be on holiday from 14<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April. The Services on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> will be taken by Stuart Cashman in the morning and John Breeding in the evening – Leslie's thanks to them both. Pastoral needs will be attended to by Milton Cashman who can be contacted on 752711.

### New Sound System

You will see over the last few weeks that a new sound system has been installed in the Church. Thank you for your patience whilst this system has been installed and your continued patience whilst the multi-media team learn how the system works.

One of the advantages of upgrading our sound system is that we have been able to record the minister's sermons, which you will now find online at [www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk/sermons.htm](http://www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk/sermons.htm). They have been saved as MP3 files. If you have any problems listening to the sermons, or you require a different format, please speak to someone at the multi-media desk or send an e-mail to [robbie@oldparishandstpauls.org.uk](mailto:robbie@oldparishandstpauls.org.uk), and we will try to help you.

Please tell your friends far and near to log on and join us for our Sunday morning service!

## Deaths

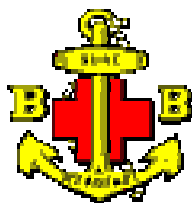
17<sup>th</sup> March: **Mary Anne Curran (Anita) Moffat**, Oakwood Park, Livingstone Place, Galashiels.

30<sup>th</sup> March: **Helen Pickavance**, 15 Oakwood Park, Livingstone Place, Galashiels

*We extend our sincere sympathy and prayers to the bereaved families.*



Anita Moffatt was born and grew up in Newtongrange living with her mother and sister Jessie. Along with her sister she worked in the laundry at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary for many years, but they moved to the Borders in the early 90s, living for a while in Tweed Road, when she joined us in membership. After the death of her sister Anita moved into Oakwood Park and enjoyed the company of the little community there in her later years.



## THE BOYS' BRIGADE

**Our Annual Display/Parents' Night was held in the Large Hall on Friday 28 March. Despite the school holidays starting that day we were pleased to see nearly all the boys on parade, supported by a large number of parents, relatives, friends and members of the congregation.**

The evening commenced with our Captain David Nightingale inviting our Chaplain the Rev. Leslie Steele to conduct the opening service. Following a reading and prayer, all joined in the singing of The Boys' Brigade hymn "Will your anchor hold". Our organist Rona assisted with the accompaniment. The Captain then invited the Inspecting Officer, the Rev. Norman M. Grant, to inspect the Company. The Rev. Grant had been a member of the 1<sup>st</sup> Galashiels Company from 1968 to 1975 and is presently the Minister of Limekilns and Cairneyhill Churches in Fife. His parents still live in Galashiels.

Following the inspection, the Anchor Boys enthusiastically took part in an obstacle race between two teams. At the end of the race they were all winners, giving a great performance. The Junior Section then took part in a drama telling the story of David and Goliath. The story was narrated by two of the boys with the others forming the armies of the Philistines and Israelites. The Philistines including Goliath were armed with spears and shields whilst the Israelites were armed with swords and shields. King Saul gave his armour and sword to David so that he could fight Goliath, but David was unable to move because the armour was too heavy. As everyone knows David killed Goliath with a simple catapult and with assistance given by the power of the Lord. All the boys acted well and with added humour made this well-known Bible story into a most enjoyable drama. The Company Section started off their display with a very funny sketch involving four of the boys, with one of the officers, Dr. Roger Glenfield, in charge. The entire Company Section then performed an amazing series of jumps over the 'horse'.

At the conclusion of the display I thanked the Rev. Grant and his wife for accepting our invitation and highlighted the fact that this year The Boys' Brigade would be celebrating their 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. I also mentioned that the Company had been involved in a "Bag Pack" at Asda along with members of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Galashiels Boys' Brigade Company, and that £1,150 had been raised for the funds of both Companies.

The Company then returned to the hall and the Captain invited the Rev. Grant to address those present. He gave a very interesting and entertaining speech on his time within the Company. He spoke of his attendance at Boys' Brigade Bible Class held each Sunday in the Boys' Brigade Chapel, where he had learned about God and which influenced his decision to enter the Ministry. He finished by congratulating the boys, Officers and Helpers for their appearance and thanking the parents for their support.

Mrs. Karen Grant then presented the awards and badges to the boys. The final presentation was made to Andrew Grieve. Andrew has been a member of the Company since starting as an Anchor Boy and achieved his Queen's Badge two years ago. Due to his age Andrew could no longer remain in the Company and was presented with a Leaving Certificate. Andrew then presented flowers to Mrs. Grant and a Boy's Brigade tie to the Rev. Grant.

Our Chaplain then thanked the Captain, his Officers and Helpers for all their dedicated work throughout the year. This was warmly appreciated by all present. The service was then closed with prayer and the benediction.

At the end of the evening, Rob Black, another former member of the Company, had brought along several photographs of the Company, one of which included Norman Grant and David Nightingale. This was a most enjoyable event, bringing the end of the session to a close.

The Company Section will continue to meet until their weekend Crossover Camp in June.

Our Church will host The Boys' Brigade Queen's Badge Ceremony during the evening of Wednesday 4th June 2008. Members of the Congregation are welcome to attend this service.

Ian Forsyth  
President

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



### ◆ Saturday 26th April ~ Christian Aid Sponsored Bridge Walk

This event is being supported by members of the UGC and the Focus Scripture Union Group. It is not exclusively for teenagers, and anyone who would like to join us is welcome.

**If you would like to take part then please talk to Ishbel Adamson or one of the other leaders, or phone Ishbel on 01896-756032**

### ◆ Sunday 11th May ~ Gift Day

The Congregational Board have decided to hold a "Gift Day" in 2008 to help us cover our expenditure during this year. As with previous years, envelopes will be delivered by your Elder during visits for the May Communion Service, and they can be returned on Sunday 11th May onwards.

It is hoped that if the Gift Day is well supported, we will not require a second fund raising event during this year. If you pay income tax, please remember to fill in the "Gift Aid" form, as this will allow us to claim the tax back on the gift and increase the benefit to the Church.

### ◆ 11<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008 ~ Christian Aid Week

It won't be long until Christian Aid Week is here, and as usual I am looking for volunteers to help with the collecting. This year we are collecting in Tesco on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May and in Asda on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May. If you are able to help with the collection in these supermarkets please contact Harry Gillie on 759170 to book your slot. We are hoping to get two volunteers to work together to make life a little easier. The annual coffee morning is at Trinity Church Hall on the Saturday morning and - as usual - baking for this would be most welcome. Tickets for this fund-raiser will be available next month.

Christian Aid is known for its response to world disasters. Cyclone Sidr in Bangladesh and the devastating floods in South Africa are but two such tragic examples. Climate change and its impact on the world's poorest communities are likely to be another recurring theme over the coming months and years. Christian Aid supports millions of marginalized people around the world struggling to secure even the most basic of human rights.

This year is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, so it seemed appropriate to turn the spotlight on the work being done to help the disenfranchised and dehumanised fight for food, water, dignity, justice, education and healthcare – fundamental human rights that we so often take for granted. Please, look carefully at the many blessings that we enjoy in this country and consider doing what you can to help those, who through no fault of their own, struggle every day to find enough food to feed themselves and their families. **If you can help, please contact Angela Miller 01896 755316.**

### ◆ Sunday 25th May 2008 ~ African Children's Choir Concert

Many in the congregation will remember with pleasure the visit of the African Children's Choir to St. Paul's, where they gave a concert some three years ago now. Another visit is planned to the Borders and St. Paul's will again be privileged to host a concert on the evening of Sunday May 25<sup>th</sup> in the Church. Members of the Choir and their Leaders will then stay with host families in Galashiels until Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May, when they will leave for their next assignment. The children in the choir will of course be new to us, as they come from a different part of Africa each year, but the standard will be the same, and we will derive great benefit from their visit as we hear their inspired and delightful music.

Please keep this date in your prayers. Many folk will be needed to help with the event, so please watch out for requests nearer the time.

Milton Cashman (752711) will be heading up the arrangements, so please get in touch with him for further information, and watch the May Newsletter for full details.

### Annual Quiz 2008 – the results!

This year's quiz was run along similar lines to previous years - apart from the organisers' claim that it was the easiest yet! Well, if the scores are anything to go by, that certainly seems to have been the case. The winning team in the adult section scored 91%, and the other scores were equally impressive. The only slight note of controversy was when the Quizmaster gave an incorrect answer, but thankfully this didn't affect the overall result, which went as follows:

Team name	Team	Score + Prize
15 - 9	Nancy , Richard, Vi & Milton	91% - 1 <sup>st</sup> Adult team
Ex Factor	Colin, Gordon, Ishbel & Angie	88% - 2 <sup>nd</sup> Adult team
Late-comers	Leslie & Lillias Steele	62% - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Adult team + Wooden Spoon
The Reivers	Peter, Shirley & Duncan Sandison	86% - 1 <sup>st</sup> Family team
The Cheeky Monkeys	Steve, Gail, Kristen, Michael, Alannah & Robert Fox	79% - 2 <sup>nd</sup> equal Family team
Not So Smarty Pants	Robbie, Anne, Rachel, Peter & Anya Noble	79% - 2 <sup>nd</sup> equal Family team
Are We There Yet?	Ian Hanley, a friend, Neil, John & Molly Turnbull	80% - 1 <sup>st</sup> Children's team

A grand total of £64.50 was raised to go towards the work of Scripture Union in the Borders, and apart from the music round, everybody seemed to enjoy the evening very much!

## Fairtrade Fortnight 2008

A huge "Thank you" to everyone who supports the Fairtrade stall in Church, and who also supported the other special events during the two-week period, which is designed to raise the profile of Fairtrade annually.

Now, I am not one who is prone to panic, but I have to admit that on the Thursday prior to the coffee evening having only one definite volunteer helper was beginning to cause just a little anxiety! Needless to say, one prayer and a few phone calls later, I had more than enough (see Ephesians 3:20!).

The figures from the events are impressive enough: a total of £843.62 was raised during the fortnight through sales and donations. Now you may say that's not all that much in terms of global poverty - and you would be correct - but if you take into consideration that there are now around 4,000 Fairtrade churches, you begin to realise how much difference is being made to the lives of individuals who benefit. Individuals like Chino Henriques from a beekeeping cooperative in Chile, who wanted to diversify into blueberry production, to supplement their income when the returns from honey production were not so good. Traidcraft were able to go the extra mile to help them develop and grow by obtaining a loan to plant the blueberry bushes, and then market the new blueberry Geobars which have proved very popular since their release. Twins Richard and Jonathan were very proud to see the picture of their Dad, Chino, on the reverse of the Geobar packet – it's their hope for the future too!

Thank you for playing your part in helping demonstrate God's love through your generosity.

### TREASURER'S REPORT

The Annual Accounts, along with the General Fund budget (shown below) were presented at the Church Annual Meeting in March. I now bring to the attention of the Congregation the financial needs for the present year.

The Ordinary General Expenditure anticipated is shown under four headings –

National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work:	£34983
Local Staffing Costs:	£ 3750
Building Costs:	£20390
Other Local Costs:	<u>£ 4650</u>
	<u>£63773</u>

Therefore our budgeted expenditure for 2008 is **£63773**, so we need **£5314.42** income each month to meet all these commitments. That is a weekly average of **£1226.40**.

#### OFFERINGS UPDATE

	2008		2007
January	£3833.68 (4 weeks)	January	£3813.09 (5 weeks)
February	<u>£3616.07</u> (4 weeks)	February	<u>£3585.23</u> (4 weeks)
	<u>£7449.75</u> (8weeks)		<u>£7398.32</u> (9 weeks)
<b>Weekly average</b>	<b>£931.22</b>		<b>£822.04</b>

#### INCOME UPDATE

	Targeted Budget Income	Actual Income	Outcome
<b>January &amp; February</b>	£10628.83	£15088.53	£4459.70 'surplus'

Although the Income Update shows a surplus of £4459.70, this includes a very generous bequest of £5000 from the estate of the late Robin Cockburn.

Also included is £1797.80 income tax recovered from Gift Aid offerings, which indicates the great benefit of members giving through the Gift Aid Scheme. If you do not already do so, please speak to Zena Forsyth about it as the Church can reclaim 28p for each £1 of your offerings. Remember, you do not have to be a wage earner to be paying income tax!

#### KEEPING OUR CHURCH SOLVENT

For January and February this year our budgeted necessary income was £10628.83.

Our actual offerings for that period (£7449.75) were short of that by £3179.08, i.e. by 30%.

This means that to cover the running costs of our Church with our offerings the following should apply:

<u>If you give</u>	<u>What the Church needs</u>	<u>If you give</u>	<u>What the Church needs</u>
50p	65p	£4	£5.20
£1	£1.30	£5	£6.50
£2	£2.60	£10	£13.00
£3	£3.90	£20	£26.00

Towards the end of last year the offering levels were increasing and it would be grand if this could continue so that our offerings could cover the Church running costs and still leave some excess to go towards God's work in the wider world.

With this in mind perhaps St. Paul's members might like to don their thinking caps and come up with ideas about where we might direct this cash. Remember that it is St. Paul's policy that 10% of any bequest goes into the Charity Fund to be used for worthy causes, and it would be very satisfying to see a set programme for using this fund. Any suggestions for this could be directed to Lynn Beswick for consideration by the Congregational Board.