

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

Old Parish and St. Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels, is a Charity registered in Scotland, No: SC010389

*Newsletter ♦ October 2009*

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**LETTER FROM LESLIE**

Dear Friends,

It was great to see those who came to Church on "Back to Church", Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> September, and we hope those of you who did for the first time in a while will come again!

We meet in Church for three reasons:-

The **first reason** is to set aside a deliberate time in our lives to come before God. It's so easy in the busyness of life to miss out on doing that. The little poem about the Sparrow and the Robin tells it well:

*Said the robin to the sparrow:  
"I should really like to know  
why these anxious human beings  
rush about and worry so?"*

*Said the sparrow to the robin:  
"Friend, I think that it must be  
that they have no Heavenly Father  
such as cares for you and me."*

The **second reason** is to be receptive to what God says. That's why we read from the Bible and consider what it says, because an attentive listening to scripture is much more than just hearing a piece of advice or reading an interesting story: it is tuning in to the very heart of God. The preaching or proclaiming of it is at the heart of Church worship.

The **third reason** we meet is to respond. That is what worship offers; as we sing, as we pray, and as we give our offerings we are helped to open out our lives and our words to God in thanks and action.

I said there were three reasons, and those are the three, but I wouldn't like you to go away forgetting that coming to Church is also an act with others, and that is for a very good reason: namely, God calls us into community with each other to become family, to become children of God, and brothers and sisters in Christ. "Wherever two or three are gathered together in my Name, there am I in the midst of them" says Jesus. There is something special about corporate worship that can't be repeated individually, be it on our knees at home, walking on the hills, or sitting in a little lonely chapel on our own. God never intended our lives to be like that, so coming together is encouraged in the Bible for our well-being.

Let me encourage you, then, to make a place for worship in your lives. Sunday morning or Sunday evening. Come. Come back to Church!

With Every Blessing,  
Leslie Steele

*A fresh start*

At the Back to Church Service the small book by John Chapman called *a fresh start* was given to everyone, and over the coming weeks in Church we will be using it as a guide in our worship. If you didn't get one – ask at the door any Sunday and we will be happy to provide you with one free.

## Deaths

17th September 2009: **Valerie Watson**, Cornmill Court (formerly 13 Langlee Drive)

18th September 2009 **Lilian Ralston**, 10 Bridge Place



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

**Valerie Watson** was born and brought up in Galashiels, the youngest of two daughters whose father had a grocery shop in Bank Street. A keen and organized mind took Valeria into secretarial work, becoming Secretary to the Director of Laidlaw and Fairgrieve, and subsequently to Borders Development Agency before retiring. The latter years found her health deteriorating such that she was not able to stay on at Langlee Drive, and moved into Cornmill Court. However, she was only there for a few weeks before returning to Borders General Hospital, where she died on 17th September. We remember her sister Sheila, brother-in-law Gerald, and their family.

**Lilian Ralston** was born at Edrom, and spent her early childhood there together with her brothers Kenneth and James. The family moved to Edinburgh, then Hawick, and finally Newcastle, where she worked in the Head Office of a local coal merchant. She was called up to serve in the WRNS and was based at Deal, on the south coast, where she trained as a writer - a role which was to serve her well when she came to Galashiels with her husband Harry in 1951. She joined the Border Telegraph in 1963, working for 23 years there before finally retiring. Our sympathies go out to her brother James and sister-in-law Anne and their family.

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## Boys' Brigade



Our Company, the 1<sup>st</sup> Galashiels Boys' Brigade, attended our annual Enrolment Service in our Church on Sunday 13 September 2009.

Despite some of the boys being involved in rugby that morning, there was still a very good turnout of boys - equally well supported by parents and friends.

Our Chaplain, the Rev. Leslie Steele, opened the service and asked the entire Company to stand whilst the Company Flag was marched to the front of the Church by a Colour Party consisting of three boys from the Company Section. The Flag was received by the Chaplain and placed on the Chancel.

The service then commenced with the singing of the Boys' Brigade Hymn "Will your Anchor Hold?".

Our Captain, David Nightingale, then called each boy, Officer and Helper to the front, where the Chaplain presented everyone with their Membership Cards. The Captain then informed all present that as a Company it had been decided to re-introduce a rank system. Most of the ex-members will be familiar with this system, which in the old days gave boys the opportunity to be promoted within the Company when they showed the potential to lead. Some years ago, Boys' Brigade UK encouraged Companies to stop the Rank System as they felt it made the Brigade too militaristic. I was never in favour of this decision and was pleased when this year the Captain and Officers agreed to give Ranks to boys who were worthy of leadership roles. The Captain and Chaplain then presented Stephen Glenfield, Gregor Purves and Keith Pflug with Corporal Stripes.

At this stage the Anchor Boys left the Church to spend time with the Sunday School. The Service continued with members of the Company supporting the service by reading passages from the Bible and prayers. The Chaplain used a video to highlight his address to the boys, which also included questions to the boys on the content of the video. My thanks also go to the boys who greeted the congregation on entering the Church and to those who uplifted the offering.

Now that the Large Hall roof has been repaired, the boys were delighted to once again have the additional space on a Friday evening.

From 25th to 27th September, the boys, Officer and Helpers attended a weekend camp which Lieutenant Robbie Noble will tell us about in a future Newsletter.

Ian Forsyth  
President

## Letter from Brothers of Charity (Scotland)

### About us

The Brothers of Charity (Scotland) is a voluntary organisation that provides services to people with a learning disability. This may be through our Care Home, Day, or Supported Living services.

Clients have a wide range of needs ranging from a few hours a week to a full support package provided all day, every day. We aim to support people to live as full a life as possible with the focus on promoting independence and choice.

As we support and care for some of the most vulnerable people in society, we must ensure that services are always available.

The current and predicted H1N1 (Swine Flu) outbreak has resulted in our preparing for a proportion of our workforce to be absent due to illness. We have a contingency plan which identifies the course of action to be taken as the percentage levels of staff absence rise.

We have also had to consider that we may reach a point where we have insufficient resources to provide even a skeleton service. In this scenario, we would be looking to volunteers to assist us in dealing with the situation.

All of our staff have an Enhanced Disclosure and this requirement will not be set aside by the Care Commission. However, we recognise that there are many people within the wider community who already have Enhanced Disclosures as part of youth/voluntary work. We are looking for such people to work with us on a voluntary basis should the need arise.

The work would be varied including:

- ◆ Collecting and delivering prescriptions to tenancies
- ◆ Shopping
- ◆ Delivering personal protective equipment to tenancies
- ◆ Answering telephones at HQ
- ◆ Assisting staff to deliver care home, day and supported living services

### Help!

If you feel that your particular church has potential volunteers who would be prepared to be included on our "Emergency Volunteer" list please could you contact me on 01896-661200 or email [emckie@bocscot.org](mailto:emckie@bocscot.org). This contact information can also be used if you would like more information or wish me to address a local group. Jim Tennant, Old Parish & St. Paul's representative on Galashiels Fellowship of Churches, will act as an alternative contact (the same telephone number and his email address is [jtennant@bocscot.org](mailto:jtennant@bocscot.org)).

Elaine McKie

## Better and Verse

Once upon a time a crabbit old miser of a shopkeeper in a Highland village finally 'saw the light and found religion'.

The villagers were naturally sceptical about how long this miraculous conversion would last. However, one day some children entered the shop with their meagre pocket money and spent a long time picking and choosing what to buy. The other customers remarked that the shopkeeper had not chased them out, as he usually did. "Ah!", said the shopkeeper, "the Good Book saith, 'Suffer the little children to come unto me ...'"

Shortly afterwards, a little boy found that he was short of money to buy a present for his mother's birthday. "That's all right", said the shopkeeper, "you can have it for the money you've got". To the other customers he remarked, "The Good Book saith, 'Honour thy father and thy mother ...'"

A few days later a wealthy visitor rode up on a fine horse and demanded to see what the shop had in the way of travelling rugs. A 10 guinea rug was deemed inferior, as was one quoted at 15 guineas. "Have you nothing better than these?" asked the visitor. The shopkeeper then produced a rug which he said cost 20 guineas. "That's more like it!" said the visitor, and rode off well satisfied with his purchase.

The other customers, knowing that all the rugs were from the same batch, and had all originally been the same price, nudged one another and said, "Aye, we kent your religion widna last. Ye'll no find a text sae easy tae fit in wi' what ye've just done."

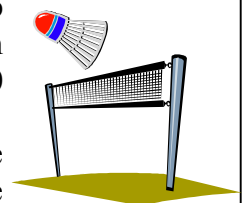
"Aye, I will", said the shopkeeper, and smugly quoted, "The Good Book saith, 'Lo! He was a stranger and I took him in.'"

From the Summer 2009 issue of *Roundabout*, the Newsletter of Hope Park Parish Church, St. Andrews.

## Senior Badminton Club

The Senior Badminton Club meets in the Large Hall on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m.

New members will be made most welcome, come and join us!



Margaret Waugh (Tel: 01896-752340)

## Gift Day

Along with Newsletters this month you'll find an envelope for Gift Day which we hope will be given prayerful consideration. These can be handed in any Sunday or posted to our Treasurer, Mrs Marjorie McKendrick - please note the enclosed Gift Aid slip, to be completed where applicable. Your continued support in our Service of God through the Church is greatly appreciated.

*"Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" - 2 Corinthians 9:7*

### Cake & Candy Stall – 25<sup>th</sup> October

As a general fund-raiser we shall be having a Cake and Candy Stall following morning worship on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

Our young folk from the Under Ground Church will be running things and look forward to receiving your contributions of baking, cake or candy, as well as preserves.

Produce can be brought along on the day or handed in at the Large Hall the evening before at 6 p.m.

Please come through to the Hall after the Service and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee as well as giving your support to this event!



### Overheard on TV...

Overheard on UCB TV ([United Christian Broadcasters](#)) on Sky Channel 586 recently:

"On the subject of the global financial recession, news has come in from Japan that the Origami Bank has folded. We hear also that the Sumo Bank has gone belly up and the Bonsai Bank is planning to cut back many of its branches. Karaoke Bank is up for sale and going for a song, while shares in Kamikaze Bank have nose-dived. Staff at Karate Bank have been given the chop and analysts suspect something very fishy at Sushi Bank, where customers are liable to get a raw deal."

The point is that the very real global financial crisis is just the latest thing which gives fuel for anxiety: a whole world of possible futures and failures can be imagined. Yet God asks us to entrust the future to Him at the same time as being satisfied (and confident) that if we ask, He will meet our needs for today, every day! Daily prayer is the perfect antidote for anxiety: "therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough."

### Treasurer's Report - August 2009

The figures for January to August are summarised below:

<b>Target Budgeted Income</b> (January - August)	<b>£49031</b>
Income from offerings to date (January-August)	£31109
Gift Aided offerings Tax recovered to date	£4440
Income from use of premises to date	£5471
Investment income from funds to date	£1091
<b>Total income</b>	<b>£42111</b>
<b>Shortfall (£49031 - £42111)</b>	<b>£6920</b>
Legacies to date (less 10% to Charity Fund)	£40500

The amount of tax recovered on gift aided offerings suggests that around 50% of our offerings are not covered by the scheme, so if you pay tax (remember that you don't have to be a wage earner to do so), please do consider signing up to the Gift Aid scheme by speaking to Irene Glenfield. **It would make a big difference to our church income!**

Marjorie McKendrick, Treasurer