

# Church Matters

West Kilbride Parish Church Magazine

Issue No. 10 September 2011



A Misty Evening on the Road to Portencross

# Contents

## Page

3	Minister's Letter
5	Editorial
6	Dates for Your Diary
7	Church Register/ Thank You Letter
8	Rainbows, Brownies, Guides
10	Boys Brigade
11	Tearfund
12	Men's Fellowship/ Guild
14	Prayer Diary
17	Prayer/ CLAN
18	Session Snippets/ Blythswood
19	Recognising a Stroke
20	Church Administrator Post
21	Take the Son
23	The Handwritten Bible
25	Helen Scott – Malawi
26	C in the Park

*I would appreciate articles for the next issue of Church Matters to be emailed to me at [brianseamill@aol.com](mailto:brianseamill@aol.com) by 17<sup>th</sup> September or, if you do not have access to email, to be handed in to Jo in the church office by 14<sup>th</sup> September.*

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# What is a Christian?

These last few weeks in church we have been thinking through the basics of the gospel. At the most basic level comes the question 'What is a Christian?' – which, being a church, you would hope we would know the answer! And yet because of a culture that simply equates a 'Christian' with a 'good' person - sometimes even in the church we lose our focus as to what a Christian actually is.

Sometimes we think that a Christian is someone who tries harder to be good. Who tries harder not to do 'bad' things. Who tries to be more educated and more informed. But in fact, however laudable these efforts might be on our part - all we are in fact doing is adding to our nature and trying to improve. Sadly, this will lead to a cycle of failure - as no matter how much we try to improve ourselves, we simply can't attain the heights of God - and so we begin to feel guilty.

In reality, Christianity is not about self-improvement. It is not even about being 'good' (though that may come with the territory). Rather, it is about being completely transformed - being a new creation. Or as Jesus said to Nicodemus - 'We must be born again!' (see John 3).

In other words, there is no point in trying to improve ourselves as we are in our natural selves. Rather, we must be changed completely from the outside in - relying on the grace of God that comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

In so many ways, it seems so simple - that rather than even trying, all we have to do is to believe - and yet that is the gospel. That is the good news that gives us freedom and peace.

A Christian is someone who believes and trusts in Jesus for their salvation - literally, 'Christian' means 'follower of Christ'. We cannot earn our salvation - rather we must be changed through the grace of God.

It takes courage to give up trying to earn God's approval. After all, it is an assault on our pride that we cannot earn our salvation. And yet, when we do - we find that Jesus already has God's approval - so is it not best simply to trust in him?

Then rather than feeling guilty, you will know forgiveness, peace, hope and joy!

Your friend and minister,

*James*

PS - Don't forget that our Alpha Course begins on Monday 12th September. Come along sometime between 6.30 and 6.50pm. A meal will be served at 7pm, followed by a DVD presentation and then discussion in small groups. We plan to finish at 9.30pm. This is a really good opportunity to think about the basics of the Christian Faith (Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the Bible and Prayer are just some of the topics).

If you would like to come along, either to explore these issues or as a refresher to your faith, then it would be great to have you! Please also think of those among your neighbours and friends whom you might want to invite along! Book your place by phoning the church office on 01294 829902.

**Please remember...**

**The Prayer Chain** is available for urgent prayer requests.  
Contact 07826652331

If you know of anyone in hospital who would like a visit, please speak to the minister. Don't assume he already knows about someone who has been admitted. Many thanks!

Join the 'West Kilbride Parish Church and Friends Facebook group.  
Search for the group or go to <http://on.fb.me/jFFai>

Follow the church on Twitter: @WKPC

## EDITORIAL

Well, here we are, ready to start a new session in our church life. All the organisations are starting back and you will find details of most of these inside.

We are blessed to have so many under 5s on a Sunday that we now have Crèche for babies to two years old and Treasure Seekers for three and four year olds. Older children are in Junior church. Youth Fellowship starts back on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> August and this is for Secondary age young people. If you feel that God is calling you to offer your help in our children or youth ministry then please speak to our minister, James.

I would like to thank everyone who has donated items for Mary's Meals Backpack Project. Each time I look at the growing amount, in the box and around it, in the Lower Hall it cheers my heart and there is still time to donate. There is a list of needed items beside the box if you have forgotten.

In this issue I have included an item on how to recognise the signs that someone has had a stroke. This is very relevant as we know of a few members of our church family who have suffered strokes. If this article saves even one person from the effects of a stroke it will be well worth your while reading and remembering this.

Could I remind all that a website has been set up to affirm the Biblical position regarding same sex relationships and the ministry. To sign up log in to [www.dissent.uk.com](http://www.dissent.uk.com)

Last of all, an apology from Brian for mistakenly titling the cover photo in the last magazine as Ardneil Bay. Thanks to those who pointed out his mistake!

*Deirdre Murray*

## September dates for your diary

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am Communion and dedication service 2.30pm Communion service at Headrigg Gardens
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm Church prayer meeting and Bible Study
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am Morning worship
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm Men's Fellowship meet in the Session Room. Speaker: Rev James McNay 7.00pm Alpha Course starts in the Bill Penny Hall
Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous
Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm Church prayer meeting and Bible Study
<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am Morning worship
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup>	7.00pm Alpha course continues
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous 2.00pm Guild recommences
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup>	7.15pm Church prayer meeting and Bible Study
<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am Morning worship 6.30pm Evening Service
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup>	Alpha course continues
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am – 12 noon Rendezvous 2.00pm Guild meets in the Lower Hall 7.00pm Men's Fellowship meets in the Bill Penny Hall 7.30pm Team Leaders' meeting
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup>	7.15pm Church prayer meeting and Bible Study
<b>Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	10.30am Morning worship 2.30pm Age Concern service at Headrigg Garden

# Church Register

## Baptism

Cooper Young, son of Colin and Susan Young of Heritage Park.

## Deaths

Mrs Eleanor Kavanagh of Headrigg Gardens

Mrs Carol Anne Sharp of Dorchester (parents live on Meadowfoot Road)

Mr Murance McKinnie of Kirkton Avenue

Mrs Mina Millar of Yerton Brae

Miss Mae Kellock of Well Street

Mr Arthur Allan Deans of North Kilruskin Farm

*Please remember family and friends in your thoughts and prayers at this sad time for them.*

## **Thank you!**

Now that Peter is so much better after his stroke at New Year we want to say thank you to the church family and to village friends who showed us so much love and kindness during a very difficult time.

Thank you for your cards, letter and messages, your encouraging chats and phone calls and all the practical things you did for us – visits to Peter and to Eileen, lifts to the hospital, gifts of food and flowers. But most of all thank you for your prayers, praying with us and praying for us. And to James, our minister, who has faithfully visited Peter from the first uncertain days in the Southern Hospital, and been a valued support to Eileen, we say thank you very much.

The Lord has blessed us through you all. We give Him the glory and trust Him for the future which will be different except that “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, to-day and forever”.

*Eileen and Peter Hinde*

## **RAINBOWS**

Rainbows are having a registration night on Wednesday 7th September and starting on 14th September, 5pm to 6pm.

West Kilbride has never had a Rainbow Group so it's brand new for the Village. We are all very excited about it.

**Rainbows** is for girls aged five to seven.

They follow a programme called the Rainbow Jigsaw, which involves a wide range of activities and games. Being a Rainbow is all about learning, developing self-confidence, building friendships and, of course, having lots of fun!

The Rainbow Jigsaw has four areas:

### **Look Learn Laugh Love**

**Look:** We encourage girls to look around them and learn about their own environment and community. We also help them understand that they are part of a wider world, perhaps through crafts or games from around the globe, or learning about festivals from other cultures.

**Learn:** Rainbows learn by taking part in a wide range of activities such as trying out crafts and recipes, playing games and visiting local places of interest. A representative from the RSPCA might come to a meeting to talk about looking after pets or a police officer might come to explain to the girls about road safety.

**Laugh:** Rainbows have lots of fun. Meetings involve games, songs, parties, celebrations and making a mess!

**Love:** Through Rainbows, girls learn about caring and sharing with family and friends, working together, fair play, and being considerate and helpful to others.

Leaders will be Angela Bamber, mother to 9 year old Megan, works in West Kilbride Post Office and got into Guiding when Megan started Brownies age 7 and they needed some helpers! Now jointly running Brownies with Susan Russell.

Nan McKay - Nan has been part of Guiding for 53 years! There is nothing she doesn't know about Guiding especially all the yucky songs!

Clair Gillespie was new to the village last year and met Nan through the Church, Nan invited Clair along to Brownies and she quickly became part of the team, Clair is a Nursery Nurse and currently works in the Village Nursery.

## **BROWNIES**

Brownies start back after the summer on the 31st of August at 6.15pm, when we welcome back all our Brownies (ages 7 – 10) with the Jelly Baby challenge and a pow wow.

Parents should also come in on this night to register their daughters and pay the Guide Association registration fee.

**Guides** will start back on Wednesday 24th August; this will also be the Registration night. Parents please come into Church, sign the registration form and pay the fee of £26 (this covers the insurance and membership to the Girl Guiding Association). We look forward to welcoming back all our Guides.

Older girls also remember the new **senior section** (for ages 15-25) will also be commencing this evening. It would be great to see you all back on the 24th.

## **FREECYCLE**

There are some jam jars in the Lower Hall if anyone can use them.

# **1<sup>st</sup> West Kilbride Boys' Brigade**

## **Session 2011/2012**

The new session of the Boys Brigade will begin with two enrolment evenings at the Parish Church. These evenings will allow you to enrol your son, collect uniforms, pay subscriptions, sign your son up for teams and find out further information about activities on offer within each section.

Please note that the enrolment evenings are not formal parade nights. The enrolments evenings operate on a drop in system and you can enrol your son between the times noted below.

Anchor Boys (P2 and P3) Thursday the 8th of September 6pm – 7pm

Junior section (P4 - P7) Friday the 9th of September 6.30pm – 8pm

Company section (S1 –S6) Friday the 9th of September 6.30pm – 8pm

The formal parade nights will begin the following week.

Thursday the 15th of September Anchor Boys 6.00pm until 7pm

Friday the 16th of September Junior Section 6.30pm until 7.55pm

Friday the 16th of September Company Section 8pm until 10.00pm

Other activities and times will be noted in the relevant handbooks. This year we hope to be able to offer the following activities:

1. Junior Section Football Teams
2. Company Section Football Team
3. Company Section Ten Pin Bowling Team/s
4. National competitions-chess, table tennis and master team.
5. Gardening Club
6. Hiking-monthly hikes as well as competition events.
7. District gymnastics competition and training.
8. Drumming
9. Chanter and Bagpipes
10. Junior Section Sports Club
11. Company Section Sports Club
12. Bogie building competition

As with all the activities your support is very much appreciated and I would ask you to consider volunteering to help. The increased number of registered helpers and instructors has allowed the company to increase the

range of activities on offer; we hope can continue with your support. The greatest level of support is gained by individuals who are willing to become registered instructors and officers. This does not commit you to every week but does allow for a greater level of flexibility for the other registered instructors and officers.

Further information is available from A Jack (johnalexanderjack@btinternet.com), L Richardson 822612 , N Armstrong 822864, Elizabeth McGillivray 829545 , Colin Gillespie (07599) 147385

## **TEARFUND**

The latest sum which I sent to Tearfund in July was £106.90, all of which was collected in our small boxes which are available on the shelf near the kitchen in the Lower Hall. Thank you so much all of you who collect your small change so diligently.

I also sent £280 from the plant sale in the early summer and £35 from the small one recently. Again, many thanks to all of you who purchased plants and gave donations.

Some of the money went to help orphaned children in Rwanda and some to Nepal where there is an oppressed, uneducated and outcast group of 300 families. Tearfund is working with the local church to set up a primary school and farming co-operative. Moved by the care and compassion of the church, sixteen families who were from Hindu background, have given their lives to Jesus, prompted by miraculous healings.

I have put the two letters into the slot beside the Tearfund board if anyone wishes to read them.

*Audrey Brown.*

# **The Men's Fellowship**

The Men's Fellowship resumes its activities for another year on Monday 12th September at 7.15 pm.

This opening night will, as customary, be held in the Session Room when Rev James McNay will be our guest speaker. It generally is an informal meeting in which we never quite know what James is going to come up with, but he always produces something a bit different, so be prepared !

We will again be pursuing our usual activities, carpet bowls - games nights and competitions, - also looking forward to a number of interesting guest speakers. A coffee morning is planned for 8<sup>th</sup> October, and if possible may later try to arrange some evening of variety entertainment.

At the Men's Fellowship, we are open to all men, whether church members or otherwise, and would welcome anyone interested to come along and find out what it is all about. We are really in need of new members and would be glad to see some new faces. Why not give the TV a rest one night? Transport can be arranged.

Our games nights are not too serious and provide a platform of light hearted exercise and fellowship, where thanks to some "characters" the banter can be quite entertaining. Nevertheless we could be doing with some additional "talent" to counter some of our "professionals".

When guest speakers are involved we meet in the session room on Mondays, but for the remainder of this year please note our Games nights have to be switched to Tuesdays.

Syllabuses should be available later this month, and for any enquiries please contact Fred Baxter ( 822992 )

*Fred Baxter.*

## **GUILD**

The new session of the Guild starts on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30pm in the Lower Hall. All will be made very welcome.

Our opening meeting is an 'at home' when members and new members will register and receive a syllabus. Also at this meeting we will have a visit and chat from Helen Scott, our missionary partner, and I am sure this will be a very interesting time hearing about life in Malawi.

On 27<sup>th</sup> September Mr J. Steele will come and talk about Horse Island and on 4<sup>th</sup> October we will have a musical afternoon with West Kilbride Parish Church Choir.

So do come along for interesting Tuesday afternoons and meeting up with friends, old and new.

*May Paton.*

## Monthly Prayer Diary: September 2011

- Thur 1<sup>st</sup> We thank You for our Church Family and pray that all who enter West Kilbride Parish Church will feel welcomed and included.
- Fri 2<sup>nd</sup> James our Minister, Anna and their son John. We pray that You will continue to inspire James in his preaching.
- Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> We pray that You will give us teachable spirits Sunday by Sunday to hear Your word to us.
- Sun 4<sup>th</sup> Breathe on me, breath of God, fill me with life anew, that I may love what Thou dost love, and do what Thou wouldst do.**
- Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Our Session Clerks Carol and Graeme and all our Elders, remembering especially the Team Leaders.
- Tues 6<sup>th</sup> The Rendezvous Café, for good times of fellowship. Lord, please bless all who serve there.
- Wed 7<sup>th</sup> One month on we give thanks for C in the Park. We pray for God's leading and guidance for our future witness to the village.
- Thur 8<sup>th</sup> We pray for our brothers and sisters in St Brides Church.
- Fri 9<sup>th</sup> Local congregations who are facing major changes, Lord, may love bind them together.
- Sat 10<sup>th</sup> The Ardrossan Presbytery, Lord may Your wisdom guide them.

- Sun 11<sup>th</sup>      Breathe on me, breath of God, until my heart is pure, until with Thee I will one will, to do and to endure.**
- Mon 12<sup>th</sup>      A new Alpha course begins tonight. We pray there has been a good response and may everyone be keen to continue.
- Tues 13<sup>th</sup>      We pray for those in authority over us, our Queen, the Westminster Government, and The Scottish Parliament. All who represent us at whatever level.
- Wed 14<sup>th</sup>      All whose lives are torn apart by war, violence or natural disasters.
- Thur 15<sup>th</sup>      Servicemen and women. Peacemakers and Peacekeepers. We remember also our Police Force.
- Fri 16<sup>th</sup>      Aid Agencies and Rescue Services. We give thanks for their willingness to go and work in difficult situations and for their expertise.
- Sat 17<sup>th</sup>      The Persecuted Church. We pray for all whose lives are in danger because of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
- Sun 18<sup>th</sup>      Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am wholly Thine, until this earthly part of me glows with thy fire divine.**
- Mon 19<sup>th</sup>      Our Missionary Partners, we ask for Your protection over them and for encouragement. Lord please meet their every need.
- Tues 20<sup>th</sup>      All we know who are in hospital or hospice care. All who are undergoing treatment or awaiting test results.

- Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Our GP Surgery, Headrigg Gardens and local Care Homes.
- Thur 22<sup>nd</sup> All who are being cared for at home. We pray that they and those who carry out their care will receive all the support they need.
- Fri 23<sup>rd</sup> All who are sad and lonely – may they find hope for a brighter tomorrow.
- Sat 24<sup>th</sup> We pray for all who are trying to cope with grief. Lord, may they know Your comfort.
- Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Breathe on me breath of God, so shall I never die, but live with Thee the perfect life of Thine eternity.**
- Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Our local schools. We also pray for young people preparing to go to college or university.
- Tues 27<sup>th</sup> Our Crèche, Junior Church, YF and our youth organisations. May the young ones and their leaders be encouraged by our love and our support
- Wed 28<sup>th</sup> All who are struggling with addiction. Lord please be their strength in times of weakness.
- Thur 29<sup>th</sup> All who are struggling with debt or the fear of unemployment.
- Fri 30<sup>th</sup> We thank You Lord for the gift and the privilege of prayer. May we be known as a praying church.

**“The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.”  
James 5 v 16**

## ***A Daily Prayer***

Dear Lord, it says in your word in Proverbs chapter 3 verses 5 and 6 that if individually and collectively we, the church family, trust in You with all our heart and lean not on our own understanding, and if, in all our ways we acknowledge You, You'll direct our paths. So:

*Each morn, when we wake up from sleep,  
train our first thoughts on you, we pray,  
teach us to trust in you always, with all our heart  
and not to lean on self, each day, Your ways impart.*

*Each day, be we at work or play,  
teach us to honour all your laws.  
Work hard, play fair and then to pause and think of you.  
that we might further your great cause, Your will we'll do.*

*Each night when we lie down to sleep  
teach us to pray that we might rest  
in your abiding love, is our request, and not to roam.  
Direct our paths at thy behest, to your heavenly home.  
Amen. (Willie Jack)*

### **CLAN GATHERING 28th July – 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2012**

"Today is the day of Salvation"

Next year CLAN will start with Revolution@CLAN, a music festival with artists such as Tim Hughes, Ben Cantelon, LZ7, The Rend Collective, Trent, Pete James & The One Band.

Revolution@CLAN and CLAN Gathering 2012 will be a rallying point for all those in Scotland who long to see the Kingdom of God break out in our nation. Through teaching, training, worship and ministry we will be inspired, equipped and released to go and join in with all that God is already doing. He has declared that **TODAY** is the day of salvation!

Please speak to Brian or Deirdre Murray about discount booking. **You could save up to 20%!**

## Session Snippets

The summer has been a quieter period for the Kirk Session, though a couple of meetings were held earlier in the summer. The following may be of note:

The Session continues to grapple with the idea of refurbishment of the present building – and we currently remain in discussion with the Presbytery and the General Trustees to make sure that we have the appropriate approvals. We hope to bring something soon to the congregation on this matter.

Our treasurer, Mr Stephen Brown has resigned his post and this will now be taken on by Mr Shaun Lidbury. Mr Brown was thanked for his valuable contribution in ensuring the smooth transition of the finances following the Union of the churches.

We also approved two outreach projects – one which has already taken place - The People's Bible Project which is run by the Scottish Bible Society (which happened in the library on 18th/19<sup>th</sup> August) and the Alpha Course which will begin on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2011.

### BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL

Once again I hope to collect shoe boxes from our community for Blythswood Care to distribute to poor families in Eastern Europe and Asia. I have leaflets with information and which are to be used with the boxes so please contact me if you require one (or several for a group).

The contents are the same as last year with toothbrush and toothpaste, hat/scarf and gloves essential items for each box. Donations of separate items are also very gratefully received as are money gifts to help with the cost of transport of the boxes. I hope to be able to obtain a DVD showing last year's distribution of some of the boxes which I shall be happy to lend to anyone who would like to see it. The very last day for collection of the boxes is 4<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER but it would be helpful to have as many as possible by the middle of October so that I can take them to the pickup in Ardrossan then.

Thank you for your support.

*Helen Ferguson*

## RECOGNISING A STROKE

A neurologist says that if he can get to a stroke victim within 3 hours he can totally reverse the effects of a stroke...totally. He said the trick was getting a stroke recognized, diagnosed, and then getting the patient medically cared for within 3 hours, which is tough.

Thank God for the sense to remember the '3' steps, STR.  
Read and Learn!

Sometimes symptoms of a stroke are difficult to identify. Unfortunately, the lack of awareness spells disaster. The stroke victim may suffer severe brain damage when people nearby fail to recognise the symptoms of a stroke.

Now doctors say a bystander can recognize a stroke by asking three simple questions:

**S** \*Ask the individual to SMILE.

**T** \*Ask the person to TALK and SPEAK A SIMPLE SENTENCE  
(Coherently)  
(i.e. It is sunny out today.)

**R** \*Ask him or her to RAISE BOTH ARMS.

If he or she has trouble with ANY ONE of these tasks, call 999 immediately and describe the symptoms to the dispatcher.

**New Sign of a Stroke ----- Stick out Your  
Tongue**

NOTE: Another 'sign' of a stroke is this: Ask the person to 'stick' out his tongue. If the tongue is 'crooked', if it goes to one side or the other, that is also an indication of a stroke.

## **CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

West Kilbride Parish Church is looking for a part-time Church Administrator.

The role of the Church Administrator includes :

- Ensuring the Church Office operates as the administrative centre for the church.
- Providing an administrative service to church committees and members of the church leadership team (working knowledge of Microsoft Office applications is essential).
- Ensuring that church records, including some book-keeping, are effectively maintained and available to appropriate people whilst respecting required confidentiality.
- Co-ordinating letting of the Church buildings for use by groups and individuals.
- Assisting the development and implementation of church communication strategy (working knowledge of e-mail and internet is highly desirable).

The Church Administrator, subject to overall direction from the Minister, acts under instruction of the Session Clerks and will work 12 hours per week (normally 0900h – 1200h on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday). Salary will be £5,100 per annum with paid leave of 28 days per annum (includes 8 public holidays). Employment is non-pensionable.

Please contact either Carol Fulton, Joint Session Clerk (01294 822832) or myself if you are interested in a very practical way of supporting the life of our congregation. Closing date is Sunday 18/09/11.

Colin McDougall, People & Policy Team Leader (01294 823288)

# TAKE THE SON

A wealthy man and his son loved to collect rare works of art. They had everything in their collection, from Picasso to Raphael. They would often sit together and admire the great works of art.

When the Vietnam conflict broke out, the son went to war. He was very courageous and died in battle while rescuing another soldier. The father was notified and grieved deeply for his only son.

About a month later, just before Christmas, there was a knock at the door. A young man stood at the door with a large package in his hands. He said, 'Sir, you don't know me, but I am the soldier for whom your son gave his life. He saved many lives that day, and he was carrying me to safety when a bullet struck him in the heart and he died instantly. He often talked about you, and your love for art.' The young man held out the package. 'I know this isn't much. I'm not really a great artist, but I think your son would have wanted you to have this.'

The father opened the package. It was a portrait of his son, painted by the young man. He stared in awe at the way the soldier had captured the personality of his son in the painting. The father was so drawn to the eyes that his own eyes welled up with tears. He thanked the young man and offered to pay him for the picture. 'Oh, no sir, I could never repay what your son did for me. It's a gift.'

The father hung the portrait over his mantle. Every time visitors came to his home he took them to see the portrait of his son before he showed them any of the other great works he had collected.

The man died a few months later. There was to be a great auction of his paintings. Many influential people gathered, excited over seeing the great paintings and having an opportunity to purchase one for their collection. On the platform sat the painting of the son. The auctioneer pounded his gavel. 'We will start the bidding with this picture of the son. Who will bid for this picture?' There was silence. Then a voice in the back of the room shouted, 'We want to see the famous paintings. Skip this one.' But the auctioneer persisted. 'Will somebody bid for this painting? Who will start the bidding? \$100,

\$200?' Another voice angrily. 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Goghs, the Rembrandts. Get on with the real bids!' But still the auctioneer continued. 'The son! The son! Who'll take the son?'

Finally, a voice came from the very back of the room. It was the long-time gardener of the man and his son. 'I'll give \$10 for the painting.' Being a poor man, it was all he could afford.

“We have \$10, who will bid \$20?” “Give it to him for \$10. Let's see the masters.” The crowd was becoming angry. They didn't want the picture of the son. They wanted the more worthy investments for their collections.

The auctioneer pounded the gavel. “Going once, twice, SOLD for \$10!”

A man sitting on the second row shouted, “Now let's get on with the collection!” The auctioneer laid down his gavel. “I'm sorry, the auction is over.” “What about the paintings?” said the man.

“I am sorry. When I was called to conduct this auction, I was told of a secret stipulation in the will. I was not allowed to reveal that stipulation until this time. Only the painting of the son would be auctioned. Whoever bought that painting would inherit the entire estate, including the paintings.

The man who took the son gets everything!”

God gave His Son 2,000 years ago to die on the cross. Much like the auctioneer, His message today is: “The son, the son, who'll take the son?”

Because, you see, whoever takes the Son gets everything.

**FOR GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD HE GAVE HIS ONLY  
BEGOTTEN SON, THAT WHOEVER BELIEVES IN HIM SHALL  
NOT PERISH BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**

## The Handwritten Bible 1989

The Handwritten Bible Project sponsored by the Scottish Bible Society and in which we have been participating recently took me back many years to a similar event in the late 1980's. At that time, Bettine Meney was Overton Church's Bible Society representative and I was St Andrew's. We worked together very well and when we were invited to take part in a nationwide handwritten Bible project and had the support of both Ministers, we asked the Bible Society if we could handwrite a gospel. Alas, all the more popular books of the Bible has already been "taken" and we were allocated the book of Leviticus! It was a daunting prospect, especially as we wanted to involve the Sunday School and young people. The book of Leviticus is full of rules and regulations particular to its time and which do not make interesting reading. (It does however contain the important words Jesus used "Love your neighbour as you love yourself" Leviticus 19 v 18).

In the event, the two congregations rallied to the support the project; we were supplied with numbered loose-leaf pages by the Bible Society – and we eventually completed the task. We gave the more interesting narrative passages to the young people, and the St Andrew's Young Women Group (which was very strong at that time) volunteered to write the more difficult verses about health and human relationships. People wrote their verses after Sunday morning services and we took loose-leaf pages to the homes of the elderly and housebound. In the end, at 50p a verse, we raised almost £500 for the Bible Society.

After several months, when the handwritten pages from all over Scotland had been assembled and bound, the Handwritten Bible went on tour. We had it displayed in both our churches as part of worship and raised more money for the work of the Scottish Bible Society.

*Eileen Hinde*

## Helen Scott – Malawi July 2011

Dear friends,

*Scratch..... scratch..... scratch..... madam, I can't sleep at night..... scratch.*

Yes, this last term we have had an outbreak of a very contagious itch – it wasn't chicken pox, scabies or any other identifiable thing – but within 36 hours it had disappeared. Environmental Health people came to check. I have been inspecting the hostels, writing passes so that girls can go and buy a pail and generally trying to ensure it doesn't return. Also a TB scare as one girl was identified as having TB but fortunately no-one else had contracted it.

We have a new headmistress, Evelyn Nyirenda, at the school. She was appointed in January after Mrs Chibaka retired in December. I have known her through Girls' Brigade since 2003. I am enjoying working with her; she has brought a lot of new ideas. Changes always create extra work as we get used to the new way of doing things so it has been a busy time. I have also had people staying with me for the last 4 months, but now can reclaim my home again. I enjoy visitors, but it is also nice to have my own space. My Malawian friends don't understand that and think I must be terribly lonely when I am by myself.

Last week we had the MSCE practical exams, so that was one of the busiest weeks of my year. I was running around looking for voltmeters and ammeters as well as bromine solution. In the event, the exam actually went smoothly – we didn't run out of chemicals or the ammeters conk out at the wrong time!

Form fours, the exam classes had their farewell prize-giving two weeks ago, plus a hike up the local wee hill. I hadn't realised how this tradition was so important to them and we almost cancelled that part of the day – it nearly created a riot. In the end I took them up the hill where they spent half the time having a fine time of fellowship and prayer. It was great to see that as they leave us, their faith is important to them. I pray that it will remain firm as they go further in life. (“Into the world” as they

say). It also gave me a chance to have some good conversations with them, away from school and hear their fears and what they have found hard this past year. They, of the whole school have felt the changes most acutely – something I hadn't fully realised.

I will be coming home on leave in August and then 2 teachers and 5 girls will be visiting our twin school in September – a big excitement for us. Before then, however, there are two more events. On 9<sup>th</sup> July there is the selection exam for the next Form 1 intake. This time we have taken our time to formulate good exams which will test the calibre of applicants. We will also take time to mark. So that will occupy most of the next two weeks. Then from 5<sup>th</sup> - 7<sup>th</sup> August we have the GB rally which this year will be hosted by us in Ekwendeni.

There is a fuel shortage at present, frequent power cuts, sometimes no water and this is our cold season, so I am wrapped in two fleeces as I type this. However, there are lots to give thanks for too.

Join me in giving thanks to God for

- ✧ His protection against serious illness at school
- ✧ A good year in which we have known His guidance through all the changes that have come our way
- ✧ The Form Fours, many of whom are leaving with a strong faith
- ✧ Practical exams that went without a hitch

Pray too for the

- ✧ Form Fours writing exams until 26<sup>th</sup> July, then their future paths
- ✧ Upcoming school exchange as some of us come to Glasgow
- ✧ GB rally – that it won't be too much of a headache
- ✧ Next year's Form One intake
- ✧ New headmistress as she continues to find her feet
- ✧ Political situation as we experience a zero deficit budget

Lastly, please accept my apologies for being such a bad correspondent this year. I look forward to seeing you when I visit your presbytery on deputation.

With every blessing

*Helen*

## **C in the Park**

How good was it to see so many folk brave the rain in the Glen on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> August. Wonderful! Our marquee beside the sport's pavilion was just big enough with sufficient chairs to take the two hundred and five (ish) who attended the service at 11am plus the stage and, at the back, the tables laden with lovely food.

The Band "Sons of Thunder" (from Langside Parish Church, Glasgow) were not due to perform until after lunch, but they set up their PA system and sound desk before the service and one of their guitarists joined our Praise Group who sounded great. The audience singing was wonderful. The children all seemed to be very happy – much more exciting than sitting in the sanctuary! - and enjoyed the children's talk. James' talk to the big folk entitled "Are You Happy" was very appropriate for the occasion, definitely a made-me-sit-up-and pay-attention topic.

The prayer tent, kindly lent by Alex Jack for the event, was well used and people went there after the service to ask for prayer, plus further written prayer requests were placed in the prayer box at the marquee entrance. Prior to the service Alpha Course leaflets had been placed on every chair, About forty leaflets were taken away and hopefully some of these folk will attend the course in September.

The picnic lunch was five star even although the rain kept us in the marquee. And the weather improved briefly just at the right time for the mass release of the balloons. The adults seemed as excited as the children as the countdown proceeded and finally the balloons soared away. We know that two landed in Irvine.

After lunch the performance by the band was fantastic. Most of the songs were well known to our congregation, so the audience joined enthusiastically in the singing. I think the band were impressed and seemed reluctant to go home. The band also sang a few of their own compositions which were excellent and well received. The children happily became involved in crafts and face painting at the rear of the marquee. Also a few of the folk walking their dogs in the park poked their heads in the marquee door for a few minutes to see what was going on.

Last but definitely not least, the petrol/electric generator purred away reliably all day! ... so there was plenty of electric power available for the PA system, sound desk, keyboard and guitars.

The Lord's presence together with our fresh air venue in the Glen helped to make the whole event a unique experience, which I believe was greatly enjoyed by everyone right across the wide age range.

My own two abiding impressions were, firstly, that The Lord had made it all work perfectly – He seemed to say “you can trust me,” - and, secondly, how pleasant it was to have seen so many folk in the church family helping cheerfully with the various aspects of the event.

Thank you Lord for making it all fit together so well. Thank you Lord for all your servants who serve You cheerfully.

Duncan Ferguson

# C in the Park

