



Message from Rev. Jonathan Humphrey, Minister for Kirkhill and Kiltarlity

I love church. I love it because Jesus invented it and I love it because Jesus chose to involve us in building his church despite all our shortcomings and imperfections. He said to Peter one of his closest disciples (along with James and John) – “And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it” (Matthew 16:18).

Over the past couple of weeks on Sunday mornings we have been learning from John’s gospel (Chapter 10) about Jesus the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and calls them by name. He knows each one of us, loves and cherishes our company, but also “the other sheep too, that are not in the sheepfold yet” (John 10: 16). It’s an exciting prospect to know that in our community and beyond, Jesus has his “sheep” that are not yet part of his fold – his church.

So... if Jesus says he will build his church and he has sheep that are not yet added to it, then we should expect church to grow numerically. Hell (or Hades), won’t get in the way, because Jesus has defeated evil on the cross, so there shouldn't be anything that stops God “adding to our fellowship those who are being saved” (Acts 2: 47). Of course it’s not just numerical growth we expect to see but also growth in faith, maturity, renewal and Kingdom impact since building is not just about adding bricks !

Truth is though that while we might believe that church growth is possible, we also need to position ourselves to be used effectively in the same way that Jesus used Peter and the rest of the apostles in his building programme. In these days, I believe God is about the business of “healing us for the harvest;” showing us how to overcome the impact of negative thought patterns, fear, anger, unforgiveness, etc., on our ability to share our faith, welcome and love others into His Kingdom. If we are not full of peace and joy, and regularly settle our differences with others, then it’s difficult to convince anyone that getting to know Jesus is a good idea !

If this all seems a bit daunting then I would recommend starting with one of the simplest things we can do, which is to wake up every day and invite the Lord to fill us with his Holy Spirit. This was what happened to Peter and his friends at Pentecost, when the power of God transformed cowering, fearful, ordinary people, into brave, empowered, ordinary people, but effective communicators of the gospel. Kate and I want to join with you in praying this prayer, and I look forward to hearing your stories !

Blessings

Jonathan



Stamp Appeal 2015



This year the Stamp Appeal will support the work of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme which aids partners both in Scotland and overseas to support those infected and affected by HIV. HIV and AIDS do not often make the headlines these days. Many people think that the problems caused by the global epidemic are things of the past. Unfortunately, it is still an issue, particularly for our partner churches in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia.

There is still no vaccine against HIV, and while retroviral treatment is available for those lucky enough to access it, there is still no cure. Each year over 1.5 million people die of HIV - and AIDS - related illnesses, and over 2 million new infections are recorded. There are still a huge number of children who have lost one or both parents to HIV, and who are reliant on the

extended family or community to care for them.

For over 12 years, thanks to the generosity of church members and their fund-raising, the Church of Scotland HIV Programme has been able to offer support to partner churches overseas as they engage with the reality of HIV and AIDS in their communities; nearer to home, we also support local organisations in Scotland who are reaching out to families infected and affected by HIV.

The projects we support at home and overseas run education awareness programmes, support orphans and vulnerable children, train volunteers to provide home-based care, facilitate support groups for people living with HIV so that they can live positively in every sense of the word. They also challenge the stigma and discrimination which so often accompanies an HIV+ diagnosis.

How the scheme works - Used stamps are gathered in, sorted and sold to collectors. Administration costs are minimal as the skilled work of preparing and selling the stamps is undertaken by teams of home workers. The success of the scheme depends on the support given to it by congregations, organisations and individuals throughout Scotland who regularly send in packets of used stamps.

How you can help - While contributions from individuals are most welcome, much time and effort can be saved by organising the collection of stamps throughout a congregation. We, Wardlaw Church, have created a 'post box' in the Church entrance for you to leave your old stamps. Margaret Birkbeck periodically sorts them and sends them to Church of Scotland, World Mission in Edinburgh.

Old stamp collections - If you have an unused stamp collection lying in a drawer, why not consider donating it to the World Mission stamp centre? It would not only contribute to the World Mission work, but would also find a home with an active collector who would treasure your collection. Further details from Margaret Birkbeck on how to proceed further on this matter.

Helpful tips :

Inform others, spread the word and get collecting !

Please cut the stamps from the envelope or parcel leaving at least a quarter of an inch of paper all around.

Please do not attempt to remove the paper from the back of the stamps.

Remember - damaged stamps have NO value.

It would also be helpful if you could sort the stamps into British and foreign.

Fear not !

The phrase 'Be not afraid' occurs 366 times in the Bible – a reminder for every day of the year, plus one for a leap year.



Afraid, alone, in pain

Be the answer to Loko's prayer this Christian Aid Week.

This Christian Aid Week, you can help transform the lives of women like Loko. From 10th to 16th May, churches the length and breadth of Britain and Ireland will come together to pray, campaign and raise money to improve the lives of people like Loko.

Loko's choice in life is simple: 'If I can't collect firewood, my children will die.'

Four times a week, in a remote corner of Ethiopia, Loko makes a back-breaking eight-hour trip to gather wood. It's a task she dreads, but she steels herself to do it because if she doesn't her children will starve.

She prays to God as she walks. 'I ask Him to change my life and lead us out of this,' she says.

Just £5 could give Loko a loan to start her own business buying and selling tea and coffee, freeing her from her desperate task and allowing her to spend more time caring for her family.



Jesus challenges us to love our neighbour. At Christian Aid, they believe He meant our global neighbour too. We can't sit back and allow poverty to thrive. So together, as thousands of Christian Aid churches, supporters, partners and staff, they work hard to transform people's lives now and inspire lasting hope for the future.

Christian Aid Week is the single biggest act of Christian witness in Britain and Ireland. We each bring what we have – our energy, our voice, our influence, our money, our time, our talents, our prayer, and our worship – and use them to work for a world that looks more like God's Kingdom.

A prayer of thanksgiving for Christian Aid week.

Loving God, we give thanks for the strength of women doing two-thirds of the world's work, raising children, feeding families, caring for the most vulnerable, often in the most difficult circumstances. We give thanks for men who are open to change, respecting the equality and dignity of women in the most practical ways; and for communities coming together in mutual support and learning to build a new future. May our joy be complete.

We give thanks for the people of Ethiopia, for the pastoralist communities of the Borena in southern Ethiopia, and for the work of Christian Aid partner HUNDEE, bringing change to entire communities. We give thanks for Christian Aid supporters across Britain and Ireland, for all who this week will raise money and awareness by their efforts, and for all who will respond to this great need. May our joy be complete.

Most of all, we give thanks that, in Christ, you have loved us, called us your friends and laid down your life for us. May our joy be complete. Amen.

Moderator asks congregations to play their part in democratic process

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Reverend John Chalmers, has written to every congregation about the General Election on May 7th. Mr Chalmers told parishioners there is a real opportunity for the Church to share its vision for society and to talk with candidates and campaigners about the issues which go to the heart of the Church's work in seeking the common good.

“Our voice is often strongest and most real where the Church is working at a local level, in communities and neighbourhoods,” said Mr Chalmers, “it is also in these communities and neighbourhoods where MPs are elected to represent a particular constituency. I am asking Ministers and members to consider how they will constructively and positively engage during this election campaign.”

The Church of Scotland is a broad church with many diverse views and opinions represented in its congregations. This was particularly highlighted during the independence referendum when Christians united through their shared faith participated in conversations about what is the best direction for our common future. This was witnessed at work in the lead up to, and in the aftermath of the September Referendum. Mr Chalmers said: “There will be many issues important in this election and you will be the judge of what is important, and which party is best aligned with your view. Vote, if you are eligible, no matter which party you support. It is important to play your part in the democratic process. A government elected on a low turnout will have less moral authority than one where there has been strong participation.” In his letter to congregations, the Moderator encourages members to attend local hustings meetings, or to arrange their own, either as congregation, Presbytery, Churches Together Group or local organisations.

Moderator calls for humanitarian action to solve migrant crisis

The Church of Scotland Guild is supporting initiatives in Malta which are helping alleviate the suffering of refugees. The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is urging the UK Government to take meaningful humanitarian action to help solve the migrant crisis. Rt Rev John Chalmers says the Government must give its support to European Council proposals to tackle the unfolding tragedy in the Mediterranean. As well as more effective action to combat the people smugglers, the Moderator wants to see the Government commit to humanitarian assistance including participation in the proposed resettlement initiative to offer sanctuary to refugees in need of protection.

Mr Chalmers says "Like many people I have been devastated by the news of the hundreds of deaths of refugees seeking peace during the dangerous crossing of the Mediterranean from Africa into Europe. The decision by EU Governments, including the UK Government, last year to cut back the humanitarian search and rescue mission was roundly criticised at the time. It saddens me greatly that the unheeded warnings about the consequences of not helping those in desperate need have been proven right." The Moderator says migrants seeking to reach Europe from Africa and the Middle East are fleeing from man-made disasters including war, desperate poverty and persecution and deserve our help. "These innocents are seeking sanctuary. As human beings, made in God's image, they have the same value as you or me, and so we must do all we can to offer love and practical support." The Moderator is calling on the UK Government to work with partners in:

Providing unconditional humanitarian aid to refugees.

Developing a long-term strategy to combat the criminal gangs who are smuggling people.

Actively building peace and safety throughout Africa and the Middle East.

Mr Chalmers says "For too long we've wilfully ignored the cries of those in the world that are at the very bottom," he said. "It is a tragedy that it takes deaths on such a scale to get us to realise what is going on. May it also give us hope that there is a possibility that something can be done. I urge the Government to contribute to meaningful action when the European Council meets on 23rd April."

BBC highlights award winning CrossReach dementia project



The amazing work by staff at Cameron House using Gaelic in helping residents with dementia was featured by BBC Scotland on 8th April. This dementia project aims to increase the wellbeing of the residents and to help the youngsters develop their Gaelic and social skills.

Native Gaelic speakers with dementia are being helped to remember their lives and early memories through conversations in their language with school children, at Cameron House, Inverness, run by CrossReach, the Church of Scotland's social care provider.

The project is helping older people living with dementia by breaking down language and generation barriers.

Residents are visited weekly by pupils from Bun Sgoil Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis School. Margaret Morrison, activities co-ordinator at Cameron House, said the conversations give the residents a 'sense of purpose.'

Speaking on BBC Scotland's Good Morning Scotland on 8th April, Margaret said: 'The objectives of the project are primarily to enable our Gaelic speakers to converse in their native tongue and to enable the children to develop their language skills by using it conversationally. It gives our service users a sense of purpose and usefulness by assisting the children with their language.'

Described as an 'excellent platform to break down prejudices and misunderstandings about dementia' the partnership between Cameron House and the primary school last year won the Best Innovation in Continuing Care' category at Scotland's Dementia Awards. Scotland's Dementia Awards showcase the creativity, innovation and dedication of staff, which impacts the daily lives of people living with dementia, and their families. The awards show how, across Scotland, policy is being sustainably put into best shared practice.

Cameron House was also featured on the lunchtime and evening bulletins of BBC Scotland's Reporting Scotland on the 8th April.

14th May - Ascension Day

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to his disciples, following his death and resurrection. The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those forty days.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: "When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up his hands - and blessed them." As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to his Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles – persecution and death – and resurrection ! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: "While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven." (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: "I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God..." (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: "they worshipped Him - and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God." (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God ! They knew they would see Jesus again one day ! "I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am." (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

Canadian Forestry Corps in the local woods

This is an extract from a blog written on 31st March 2011 by a lady called Sheila, although some of you may know her from various discussion forums as swanscot/swan-scot. Sheila has a great passion for our countryside, especially here in the Highlands of Scotland.

Last week I went to a very interesting talk about the Canadian Forestry Corps in the Highlands of Scotland. I was interested to learn more about this as the CFC worked locally - both here at Kiltarlity and where I work at Glenmore. The Canadian Forestry Corps was composed of professional woodsmen and was first organized during World War One at the request of the UK to help meet Britain's timber needs during that war. It was re-formed in World War Two to play the same role. Most of its activities were centered in the Highlands of Scotland during the latter conflict. There were 33 camps scattered in north-eastern Scotland.

Last winter (2010 / 11) I had taken a walk to a local former sawmill and accommodation block in the forest, which housed some of the CFC. I first explored this building about 20 years ago when it was much more intact than it is now. The track along to it is very overgrown now and I had to cross an old wooden bridge with a sign saying "Danger Do not Cross." As the bridge was pretty much covered in snow it was a wee bit tricky to see where the holes were and where the planks were still intact, but I reckoned that if the worst came to the worst and I fell through it wouldn't be a big fall and it was only a wee burn.

Records of the local camps are patchy and for the one closest to the village is further muddled by the fact it is known by 3 different names. The official war record name is "Lovat No 1, Teanacoil" - there was also a Lovat No 2. Following the war it was passed to the Polish Resettlement Corps and became known as the Poles Camp and /or Paterson's Camp as it became a sawmill run by a Polish gentleman who took his wife's surname. Unfortunately they are no photos of what it looked like during the war.



In some places the work camps were set up ready to receive the forestry workers, but in others one of the first tasks for the CFC was to build their accommodation block and sawmill. They'd use a mobile sawmill to obtain the timber for the building projects. These were built rapidly and as temporary structures - as were the timber mills - and as concrete was in short supply, they were mainly built from wood with no foundations. This means there is very little evidence of these in the woods now. Being constructed of thin timber construction, the accommodation must have been cold in winter.

In addition to meeting its primary objective the Canadian Forestry Corps' presence in Scotland was influential in other ways: as a defensive element in the earlier years and as a social factor in many smaller communities. It was common practice for the forestry workers to pilfer some of the vehicle fuel ration to give to the local taxis in exchange to a lift to the village to the bar and dances.

Other structures which were associated with the CFC were narrow gauge railways and aerial ropeways or Blondins which were used to transport the cut logs. Locally it is known that several narrow gauge railways transported the timber from the forest to the sawmills in Beaully and the mainline railway station at Beaully. From here it went south to be used for pit props and for ammunition boxes, buildings and props for the trenches during WW1. There is an archaeology group currently working in the woods hoping to trace the line of some of these railways.

One of the local guys at the meeting I attended remembered the camps. He spoke about him and friends playing on the zip-lines and the railways wagons when the forestry workers were off duty. It is known that a number of LumberJills worked in the camps in the Highlands of Scotland. They were mainly involved in measuring the timber as the landowners were paid for the timber removed from their land.



1. What is the only sport to have been played on the surface of the moon ?
2. **In what sport might you adopt the 'egg position' ?**
3. How many players are there on a volleyball team (not beach volleyball) ?
4. **In the Bible, what is the name of King Solomon's mother ?**
5. In which country do cricket teams compete for the Sheffield Shield ?
6. **In 2004, who finally had his wish granted and had the words 'I told you I was ill' inscribed on his tombstone in Gaelic ?**
7. Where in the body is the bone known as the patella ?
8. Who was the first woman to be awarded the British Order of Merit in 1907 ?
9. When did the construction of the Berlin Wall start ?
10. Ethiopia is one of 16 landlocked countries in Africa. Of the remaining 15, name 3 ?
11. **Which flower gets its name from the Turkish word for 'turban' ?**
12. Which vegetable is Sir Walter Raleigh often credited with first bringing to Britain ?
13. The teak tree is native to which continent ?
14. Which planet in the solar system is closest to the sun ?
15. Which animal has eyes bigger than its brain ?
16. Which cartoon character owns Gnasher and his son, Gnipper ?
17. **Which film featured pop group Berlin's hit 'Take My Breath Away' ?**
18. In which film did George Lazenby replace Sean Connery as James Bond ?
19. In *'Only Fools and Horses,'* what is the name of Del and Raquel's son ?
20. Which is the only country crossed by the equator and a tropic ?
21. In Tandoori dishes, what is a tandoor ?
22. Lusaka is the capital of which country ?
23. Appenzeller cheese comes from which country ?
24. Ethiopia is the birthplace of which beverage ?
25. **What was the Beatles' first chart entry ?**
26. Which Shakespeare play includes the character Launcelot Gobbo ?
27. Who painted *'Boy With a Pipe,'* which sold for a record sum (\$82.5m / £46m) in May 2004 ?
28. In which novel by Charles Dickens does the character Uriah Heep feature ?
29. What is the capital of Ethiopia ?
30. In the book of Acts, who met an Ethiopian eunuch ?

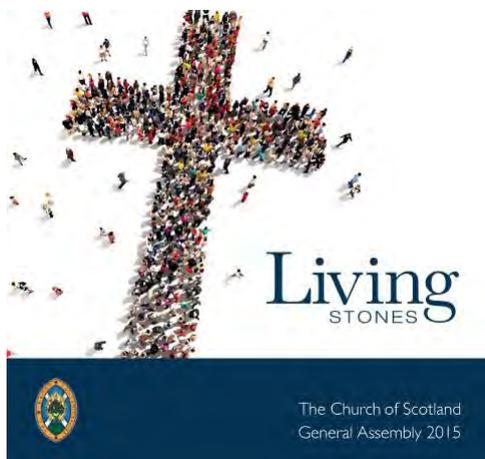
Thanks to Christian Aid for these questions – answers can be found on page 21.

General Assembly 2015

This year's General Assembly will take place from May 16th to 22nd in the General Assembly Hall on The Mound in Edinburgh. The General Assembly has met almost every year since its inception in 1560.

It is preceded by the Ceremony of the Keys at Holyrood Palace on 15th May. This colourful tradition marks the handing over of the keys of Holyrood Palace from the City of Edinburgh to the Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly. This year's Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly will be Lord Hope of Craighead KT PC, a distinguished retired Scottish judge. Lord Hope served as Lord President of the Court of Session and Lord Justice General in Scotland. He was also one of the first Justices of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, and its first Deputy President. Lord Hope will take part in a ceremonial procession on the morning of the first day of the General Assembly. As Lord High Commissioner, he will observe the Assembly as The Queen's representative, reporting back to Her Majesty what has been debated at the Assembly. Lord Hope will also attend this year's Heart and Soul festival on 17th May in Princes Street Gardens where the Church of Scotland is celebrating what it means to be living stones of faith in our communities and in the wider world.

During General Assembly week, this annual gathering of the Church of Scotland will engage in intensive deliberation on matters of social and national interest as well as on Church policy and governance.



The issues will be debated by around 730 Commissioners drawn from congregations across Scotland and beyond. The decisions made can have an historic and long-standing impact on the future of the national Church. Reports to the General Assembly are summarised in the Blue Book. The Blue Book can be downloaded from the Church of Scotland web-site – www.churchofscotland.org.uk

A mobile app is available for Apple iOS and Android tablets and smartphones. This allows users to access publications produced from the Assembly and provides other useful features including the order of business, as well as local information on travel, accommodation, entertainment and places of interest. It can / will be available for download from the General Assembly Publications website.

This year's Heart and Soul event will start at 13:00 hrs. on the afternoon of Sunday, 17th May in West Princes Street Gardens. The theme will be 'Living Stones', celebrating the way churches the length and breadth of Scotland, and beyond, play a vital part not only in sharing faith but also in supporting and serving the communities in which they are placed. Congregations, Presbyteries and organisations will share their stories, and there will be music, youth and children's activities and other events. A programme of entertainment at the Ross Bandstand will include a launch event for the 'Decade for Ministry' vocations initiative at 16:45 hrs., before the event closes with an uplifting open air service which begins at 17:00 hrs. More details at the Heart and Soul 2015 website.

Heavenly Father,

We need your wisdom at this Election time. There are so many issues, so many voices clamouring for attention, clamouring for votes, clamouring for power. Thank you that you give your people a different sort of power, the power of your Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. Help us Lord to receive your Spirit, to listen to him, so that we make good decisions on Election Day - and every day of our lives. Thank you for the wonderful gift of your Spirit, In Jesus name. Amen.

by Daphne Kitching



Please continue to come and put the world to rights at our coffee mornings, held each Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Wardlaw Church. The home baking is truly excellent, and you will receive a warm welcome every time.

Tuesday mornings at the Church have become a very popular event and attract folks from Inverness to Beaulieu. This is not **just for "Church" people, but for everyone who wants to come** and meet friends in a cosy environment. You are more than welcome to come along and bring your neighbours and friends. There is no fixed charge for the refreshments, but a donation towards the cost will be most welcome.

The Highland Piano Group



Tonya Clement is glad to announce that The Highland Piano Group is now alive and looking for members. The group was created in the first week of April and just in the first week Tonya was receiving a lot of interest and had three members join in that week. Please spread the word ! Just a few points about the Group:

- It is for piano enthusiasts of all abilities and levels - beginners, intermediate, advanced, professional, etc., and over 18 years of age.

- the group meet once every 4 to 8 weeks, Monday to Friday, in the evenings at the

following venues - The Music Station, Inverness, or Loch Ness Pianos, Dochgarroch, by Inverness. The venue owners were kind enough to let us use their premises free of charge.

- There is no membership fee ! It is free !

- We share our piano music with each other and socialise ! Any style / genre of music welcome. At the moment performances are limited to 10 minute duration per person and a maximum of 2 pieces.

- The very first meeting will take place at the Music Station in Inverness in May - the date TBC.

Tonya has created a Facebook page for the Group - please "Like!" and "Share" if you are on social media. This is the link - <https://www.facebook.com/thehighlandpianogroup> - or contact Tonya on 07853 776 519 for more details.

Two Rows by the Sea

The martyrdom of 21 Egyptian Coptic Christian young men in Libya on February 15th 2015 shocked the world. The Bible Society of Egypt subsequently sent out a Newsletter which included a very poignant poem, *Two Rows by the Sea*, which is reproduced below.

*Two rows of men walked the shore of the sea,
On a day when the world's tears would run free,
One a row of assassins, who thought they did right,
The other of innocents, true sons of the light,
One holding knives in hands held high.
The other with hands empty, defenceless and tied,
One row of slits to conceal glaring-dead eyes,
The other with living eyes raised to the skies,
One row stood steady, pall-bearers of death,*

*The other knelt ready, welcoming heaven's breath,
One row spewed wretched, contemptible threats,
The other spread God-given peace and rest.*

*A Question ...
Who fears the other ?*

*The row in orange, watching paradise open ?
Or the row in black, with minds evil and broken ?*

Source: Newsletter, Bible Society of Egypt, 19th February, 2015, Ramez Atallah, General Director.

'Flora MacDonald portrait' found in Florida



A previously unknown 18th Century painting of Flora MacDonald may have been unearthed by an art enthusiast in the US. Flora MacDonald famously helped Bonnie Prince Charlie evade capture after his defeat at the Battle of Culloden in 1746.

Raphael Jorge bought the oil painting from an art gallery in Florida. The signature on the work - A Ramsay - suggests the artist was Edinburgh-born Allan Ramsay, whose portraits included paintings of South Uist-born Flora MacDonald.

Another clue to suggest that the painting is of Flora MacDonald is a white rose, a symbol of Prince Charlie and his followers, which adorns her bodice.

Mr Jorge bought the painting for £1,000 and is having it professionally restored. He believes Flora Macdonald may have brought the portrait from Scotland to America. She emigrated to North Carolina in 1774 with her husband, Allan Macdonald, to run a plantation. The following year, the American War of Independence broke out between the

British government and American colonists. Allan MacDonald, Flora's husband, was an officer in the Loyalist forces fighting alongside

the British against the Patriots. A story goes that Flora Macdonald addressed a newly-raised unit of Highland Loyalists in Gaelic as they prepared for battle. She spoke of the loyalty, bravery and sacrifices of Scots.

Flora MacDonald later returned to Scotland. She died in 1790 and was buried in Kilmuir Cemetery on Skye.

Mr Jorge said: "I would go as far as to say this painting was brought over by Flora MacDonald from Scotland to North Carolina. She might have given it away, sold it or who knows exactly what transpired." He added: "I'm completely satisfied with the expert opinions I have that this is a Flora MacDonald portrait by Allan Ramsay from the early 1740s. I would like to know the exact year it was made, hopefully one day." Once restored, Mr Jorge plans to sell the painting.

Church Bulletin Notices *Some church bulletin notices have a charm all their own, where you know that they MEANT to say....*

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell ?' Come early and listen to our choir practise.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married last Saturday in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days

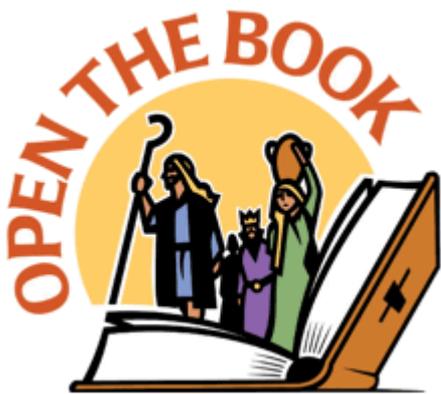
Please place your donation in the envelope, along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Sermon - A Minister, known for his lengthy sermons, noticed a man get up and leave during the middle of his message. The man returned just before the conclusion of the service. Afterwards the Minister asked the man where he had gone. "I went to get a haircut," was the reply.

"But," said the Minister, "why didn't you do that before the service ?"

"Because," the gentleman said, "I didn't need one then."

Presentation of Lion Storytellers Bibles at Kirkhill Primary School



During the course of this school session the Open the Book team have presented stories from The Lion Storytellers Bible at the Primary 1 to Primary 3 assembly on Tuesday afternoons. This is the sixth school session in which we have had the privilege of being welcomed into the school.

Over their first 3 school years the children who are currently in Primary 3 have heard all the familiar stories. This gives them grounding in God's story in the Bible. These stories are made more memorable for them because they are dramatised with the children themselves often being the actors. Sometimes there is whole audience participation. The text of each story is in terms young children understand. The programme is designed to give variety of style and presentation. Each story is followed by a short reflection and prayer which emphasises the

message of the story.

To round off our input for this session we were invited to take part in the end of term whole school Easter Assembly when we told the story of The Road to Emmaus. This was also our opportunity to present each of the twenty Primary 3 children with their own individual copy of The Lion Storytellers Bible. Week by week we are encouraged by the way the children follow and listen intently to the stories. To see the children open and use their very own personal copy with such enthusiasm (to the point, in some cases, of ignoring the other parts of the assembly !) was a joy to watch. The team would echo the thoughts of Bob Hartman, the author of the Storytellers Bible, who said "My hope.....is that having seen God in these stories, your children will learn to trust God and to listen for God's voice. And to love God in return."



We have been blessed from the outset with a dedicated team but, during the last term especially, we have faced a challenge in getting enough volunteers to present the story. This has been due in part to illness but also because of other commitments. As well as the narrator we can need between 2 and 4 additional storytellers to be effective. Consequently,

an opportunity has arisen to join the team in presenting these stories !

If you believe it is important that children hear these stories we would like you to consider joining the team. The commitment is to be available for a couple of hours during school term on some Tuesday afternoons, from October to March. Spending a little time preparing by reading through and thinking about the script is also helpful. While the team have great fun acting and miming none of us would claim to have any great skill in that area and anything we do flows naturally from wanting to communicate with children. So, don't be put off by the idea of acting ! Please give this some thought and if you think this might be for you or you can think of someone in the community who might be interested please have a chat with Alasdair, Avril, Eileen, Flora or Margaret. We would be delighted for you to observe a session at the school. The storytelling has to be experienced to understand how simple and effective it is. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thanks to Flora Morrison for this article and photo

An introduction to John Knox

by Nikki Macdonald – Minister of Upper Clyde Church



Who was John Knox? He is revered by some as a major player in the Protestant Reformation in Scotland, and reviled by others as a kill-joy, bigot, misogynist and the man who made Mary, Queen of Scots cry. Between hero and villain is the more human Knox – a man of controversy, certainly, but also contrasts and complexity.

Knox was born sometime around 1514 in Giffordgate, Haddington, and after studying at the local school went to St Andrews University in the late 1520s, although there is no indication that he completed his studies. He then joined the Church, eventually being ordained as a deacon, and then as a priest in the latter part of the 1530s. Although a priest, Knox never had responsibility for a parish, choosing instead to use his knowledge of canon law by working as a notary.

In the early 1540s, back in Haddington, he became a Protestant and changed career; he took up a tutoring post working for two local lairds. Both were Protestant sympathisers and supporters of the Protestant preacher George Wishart. Knox was inspired by Wishart and became a prominent supporter of his work. On 1st March 1546 Wishart was tried

for heresy and executed on the same day upon the order of Cardinal David Beaton, Archbishop of St Andrews. The Protestants in St Andrews responded by assassinating Beaton and took control of the castle in May 1546, beginning an 18-month siege.

At Easter 1547, Knox travelled with his pupils to St Andrews and continued tutoring. Increasing pressure was put upon Knox to become a preacher, but he refused until he heard a sermon which ended with a direct challenge. This caused Knox great distress: he promptly burst into tears and hid in his room. After several days, he reluctantly agreed and preached his first sermon in the parish church of Holy Trinity, an uncompromising affair in which he portrayed the Pope as the Antichrist. This public face of Knox as fiery and prophetic sits in contrast to the private Knox of self-doubt. The French fleet recaptured the castle at St Andrews in July 1547, and Knox was sentenced to a spell in the galleys where he remained for 19 months.

After his release, Knox moved to England, ministering at the border town of Berwick in 1549, where he became acquainted with the Bowes family. In gratitude for his pastoral support, Elizabeth Bowes encouraged the relationship between Knox and her daughter, Marjory; they were engaged in 1553. However, in 1551, having been invited to become a royal chaplain to Edward VI, Knox moved to London.

After the death of Edward in 1553 and with the accession of his Catholic sister, Mary Tudor, Knox fled to the continent. In early 1554 he travelled to Geneva and encountered John Calvin before eventually travelling to **Frankfurt in November 1554 to minister to English exiles.** Knox's time in Frankfurt was brief and stormy as the congregation was divided over theological and liturgical issues. Following a rather frank sermon about the troubles within the congregation, Knox later returned to Berwick.

That winter, he preached to the underground Church of Scotland, protected by powerful Protestant nobles. He was encouraged to take on a leadership role, but, as with his initial call to ministry, he was reluctant to do so. He married Marjory in the spring of 1556, and was in Geneva by the summer, ministering to the English-speaking exiles. Marjory joined him, and his sons, Nathaniel and Eleazer, were born in 1557 and 1558. Knox flourished in Geneva, surrounded by those he loved and trusted, and with **Calvin shaping Geneva along Reformed lines to be "that most perfect school of Christ."** The lessons he learned in Geneva would be taken back to Scotland, to help with the establishing of Protestantism there.

Knox arrived back in Scotland in 1559 and was immediately drawn into political and religious tensions between the Protestant nobles, Mary of Guise, and the Catholic hierarchy. Preaching in Perth, Knox caused a riot to break out, in which statues and other trappings of Catholicism were destroyed. The movement spread along the Fife coast, **assisted by Knox's powerful preaching.** St Andrews became a Protestant town and invited Knox to become minister

/Contd.

there, which he did briefly. With the death of Mary of Guise in June 1560, the establishment of Protestantism as the official religion of the realm followed quickly. Knox moved to Edinburgh and became minister of St Giles. While 1560 was a period of triumph, Knox also faced personal tragedy when Marjory died.

Much has been made of his encounters with Mary, Queen of Scots, who returned from France in August 1561. In fact, they only met four times. Two of these were relatively cordial though robust encounters, but it was the final meeting in June 1563 which ended in Mary's angry tears because of Knox's denunciation of a possible alliance by marriage with Catholic Spain. The following year, 1564, at the age of 50, Knox married again. His young wife was named Margaret.

Knox's latter years were marked by ill health and depression, and he increasingly considered retirement. He began to remove himself from the centre of the political and religious spheres. In correspondence with friends, Knox noted his disappointment with the way in which he felt that the great hopes of the Reformation had been tarnished by the expediency of political compromise; along with disappointment and melancholy, he now longed for death to take him home to the God he had served. In 1570, he had a slight stroke, which forced him to curtail his activities in order to save his energies for preaching in St Giles. By the autumn of 1572, Knox was seriously ill. He needed to be helped up to the pulpit, and his voice, which had formerly caused people to tremble when he preached, had lost much of its power. He struggled on until 9th November, when he handed over his position as minister. Thereafter, he remained housebound. Over his last remaining weeks, Knox was visited by many friends and supporters, with his young wife nursing him diligently. Knox died on 24th November 1572 and was buried in the graveyard at St Giles. At his funeral, regent Morton said of Knox :

"Here lyeth a man who in his life never feared the face of man; who hath beene often threatned with dagge and dagger, but yet hath ended his dayes in peace and honour."

May 31st : Trinity Sunday – celebrating our God who is Three Persons

Trying to explain the doctrine of the Trinity has kept many a theologian busy down the centuries. One helpful picture is to imagine the sun shining in the sky. The sun itself – way out there in space – unapproachable in its fiery majesty – is the Father. The light that flows from it, and which illuminates all our lives, is the Son. The heat that flows from it, and which gives us all the energy to move and grow, is the Holy Spirit. You cannot have the sun without its light and its heat. The light and the heat are from the sun, are of the sun, and yet are also distinct in themselves, with their own roles to play.

The Bible makes clear that God is One God, who is disclosed in three persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ) and Holy Spirit. For example:

Deuteronomy 6:4 'Hear O Israel, The Lord our God, the Lord is one..'

Isaiah 45:22 'Turn to me and be saved... for I am God, and there is no other'

Genesis 1:1-2 'In the beginning God created.... And the Spirit of God was hovering...'

Judges 14:6 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon him in power...'

John 1:1-3 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.'

Luke 24:49 actually manages to squeeze the whole Trinity into one sentence. Jesus tells his disciples: 'I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power (the Holy Spirit) from on high.'

In other words, the sun eternally gives off light and heat, and whenever we stand in its brilliant light, we find that the warmth soon follows.

Every path has its puddle.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst, for they are sticking to their diets!

If you want the rainbow, you've got to put up with the rain.

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Overcoming 'The Black Dog'

Many famous people, who have made a lasting impact, have suffered from debilitating mental illness. Winston Churchill, the fiftieth anniversary of whose death we celebrate this year, called his bouts of clinical depression his 'black dog'. **He just learnt to live through it with courage and grit and sought consolation in his creative energy, as in his painting and even in building brick walls at Chartwell.**

Robert Schuman, the famous 19th Century German composer, suffered greatly from mental illness, which at times led him to the depths of despair when he found it difficult to function. Some years ago a new CD was issued of Schuman's String Quartets. **The performance of one quartet was criticised for being too disturbingly agitated in its mood. One music critic, however, on Radio 3, disagreed. He praised the performance because it was faithful to what Schuman had actually written. The music was disturbing because Schuman was in a disturbed state when he wrote it. Schuman's agitated music was an authentic expression of his humanity at the time.**

Many other artists have expressed their humanity creatively while wrestling with mental illness; the Russian composers, Tchaikovsky and Rachmaninov, the Dutch painter, van Gogh, and the English poets, John Clare and Gerard Manley Hopkins, for example.

Sometimes, sadly, mental illness and life in a secure institution can cause a talented artist to be neglected. They may continue to express themselves creatively, but they can be forgotten.

Ivor Gurney, a First World War poet and composer of many beautiful songs, is an example. When he died in 1937 in the City of London Mental Hospital, in Dartford, he was largely forgotten, except by a few friends, like the composers Gerald Finzi and Ralph Vaughan Williams. They tried to help him and make his **work known. Thankfully, today Ivor Gurney's talent is becoming more recognised and an orchestral work was included in the 1914 Prom Season in the Royal Albert Hall.**

So the point is this: **mental illness may seem to be a denial of a person's true humanity, but it is in fact the opposite. Everyone who lives courageously through the 'black dog' that haunts them is expressing profoundly their humanity. They don't have to be famous, or famously talented. They are just bravely themselves, even when they are struggling to keep in touch with reality. They deserve our full respect and admiration.**

What Have I Learnt ?

Many a wise word is spoken through false teeth.

Computers can make very fast, well presented and very accurate mistakes.

All mothers are physically handicapped in that they only have two hands.

People who eat natural food die of natural causes.

When a man with money meets a man with experience, the man with experience ends up with the money and the man with the money ends up with experience.

The trouble with some women is that they get all excited about nothing, then they marry him.

Wise words from a Queensland farmer

Married - How many women can one man marry ? A little boy who attended his first wedding worked that one out pretty quick: the answer is 16. It is easy, if you think about it. Four better, four worse, four richer, four poorer. Comes to 16.

Members of our Church family and others to be remembered in your prayers

Please continue to remember the following people in your daily prayers over the next month. The **Guthrie family, Alison and Allan MacKenzie, George Dunbar, Jeanette McLellan, Margaret West, Anne Lyle, Mary Urquhart, Bill and Betty Freel, Madda Georgeson and Duncan Gray.**

George Dunbar, husband of Bunty Dunbar, George still remains in Raigmore Hospital. **George's** dementia has unfortunately deteriorated in the last 6 weeks. The Dunbar family have reached the decision for his personal safety, and that of **Bunty's, George needs the safe environment of a specialised care home.** In consultation with Social Services, Bunty and Yvonne are seeking a suitable care home for George.

It was good to see **Bill and Betty Freel** at our Easter day service and we wish them both the very best on their roads to recovery. We look forward to welcoming them back with us when the weather is warmer.

Jeanette McLellan had a minor operation on a bone in her hand on Thursday, 17th April at Raigmore Hospital and was discharged on Friday morning into the care and nursing skills of her husband John. Jeanette has the hand in a plaster (for 6 weeks) and is totally reliant on John for preparing meals. **Mary Robb issued Jeanette with a 'sick note' for 1 week,** which means she has to report back on 24th April for choir practice at the Williamson Room at the Kirkhill Community Centre.

Callum MacRitchie, died on Monday, 20th April having reached the grand age of 90. Callum started Highland Lilums 41 years ago and has been a driving force in that business until recently, when his age caught him up and he was forced to slow down. Callum was also an Elder at Kiltarlity Church. The funeral will be at Kiltarlity Church on Saturday, 25th April. The Elders, Deacons and the Wardlaw congregation wish to pass on their heartfelt condolences to the MacRitchie family and may the passage of time heal the grief that is in their hearts and minds at the moment. Like a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memories survive in time of sorrow.

Beaulay Care Project - Senior Citizen's Afternoon Teas in 2015

Kilmorack dates are Tuesdays and Kirkhill dates are Thursdays

2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – cost £1.50

Month	Kilmorack Hall Frances Grant 782 496	Kirkhill Community Centre Eileen Morrison 831 185
May	19th	28th
June	16th	25th
July	21st	30th
August	18th	27th
September	15th	24th
October	20th	29th
November	17th	26th
Christmas Special Afternoon Tea with entertainment Tuesday, 15th December 2015 at Kirkhill Community Centre – 2:30 p.m.		



Third Sunday Praise

Wardlaw Church, Sunday 17th May 2015

starting at 6:00 p.m.

Third Sunday praise is an informal gathering for all who want to:

Go deeper with God in worship
Hear Him speak to us through His Word
Experience His love and presence through the
power of the Holy Spirit

Receive healing and encouragement
Enjoy fellowship over tea, coffee, and home baking.

Our aim is for everyone to feel welcomed, regardless of church background, or whether you have faith, a little faith or none.

Why not give it a try ?

Contacts:

**Rev Jonathan Humphrey - 831 247 and / or
Alasdair Morrison - 831 185**

- Jonathan and Kate are contactable at the Manse – 831 247 - if you wish to visit them, or ask them to visit you at any time. They will make you most welcome, so do not be shy, give them a ring.
- Please remember that Wardlaw Manse is the Humphrey family home, so please do not block the Manse drive, or park vehicles next to the Manse at any time unless visiting the Manse.
- The Kirkhill Deacons' Court meets on Tuesday, 26th May 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the Guild Room at Wardlaw Church. All Deacons' Court meetings are open, so, unless for special business, any member of the congregation can attend, although only as observers and cannot speak, unless invited to by the Convenor, or vote.
- A provisional date of Thursday, 28th May has been pencilled in to hold a joint Kirk Session meeting with Kiltarlity Kirk Session. The meeting will be held in the Guild Room at Wardlaw Church starting at 7:30 p.m. This date has to be agreed by both Kirk Sessions who meet after this newsletter is published. The main topic on the agenda will be the timings of the services at both Churches.
- Thanks to Margaret Birkbeck and Mary McClelland for proof reading this edition.



Syria crisis: the human cost of four years of fighting

As the Syria conflict entered its fifth year this spring, the largest humanitarian crisis since World War II continues to escalate. The need for the international community to redouble its efforts to bring about a political solution could not be greater, says Christian Aid.

Over 200,000 people have been killed inside Syria and half of the population has been forced to leave their homes. More than seven and a half million people are internally displaced and a further four million have fled to neighbouring countries.

It is estimated that more than 12 million people inside Syria and millions more refugees across Lebanon, Turkey, Iraq and Jordan are now in need of humanitarian assistance as a result of the conflict. The UN has described it as 'the worst humanitarian crisis of our time.'

Frances Guy, Head of Middle East at Christian Aid said, "It's hard to ignore the relentless turmoil of the Middle East these days. But whilst all the UK headlines are dominated by the terror of the so-called Islamic State there is a danger we forget the millions of Syrians, Iraqis and Palestinians, who have been forced to flee their homes. Families are living in cramped and overcrowded conditions in countries struggling to cope with the overwhelming number of refugees. Inside Syria itself, millions of people have been displaced from their homes, trying to seek sanctuary in safer parts of the country."

Within Syria Christian Aid are responding through its ACT Alliance sister agency, the International Orthodox Christian Charities (IOCC), to reach people with food, bedding, water, clothes, shelter, healthcare and education. To date they have reached over 2 million people in need.

Ukrainian Christians face persecution

One year since the annexation of Crimea by Russia, Ukrainian Christians say they are facing persecution by separatists. 'Paul', a pastor who has planted many churches in the former Soviet Union, reports that separatists have accused evangelical Christians in the Ukraine of spying for the West, and have then confiscated their church buildings. He also warns that the situation can only get worse if the separatists gain more ground.

Release Chief Executive Paul Robinson says: "There has been a steady decline in religious freedom across the former Soviet Union in recent years. Separatists have killed Christians in the Ukraine, and the picture in the Crimea under Russian annexation paints a disturbing picture of the future for Christians in Russian-controlled territories.

"The idea that Christians who do not belong to the traditional Orthodox Church have embraced some form of pro-Western religion and could even be American spies is nonsense. Russia must respect freedom of religion for all faiths and restrain separatist groups from attacking churches and Christians in the Ukraine."

Step up security for Pakistan's Christians now

Release International is urging Pakistan to step up security for its vulnerable Christian minority, amid concerns that recent terror attacks against churches could lead to inter-communal violence.

Protesters clashed with police recently after suicide bombers struck at two churches in Lahore, killing 15 and wounding 80. The death toll would have been far higher if security guards hadn't prevented the bombers from entering the churches where hundreds were attending Sunday services. The security guards were among the dead. A splinter group of the Pakistan Taliban claimed responsibility, warning they will attack again.

Christian and Muslim leaders have been calling for calm, but there is concern now that the situation could escalate, and there could be reprisals against the beleaguered Christian community. As Release International Chief Executive, Paul Robinson, explains: "If mob violence breaks out in Pakistan, it will play directly into the hands of the extremists. Their aim is to create the division and chaos in which they can thrive. We have seen Islamist terrorists use the same tactic in Nigeria."

[Release International supports persecuted Christians in more than 30 countries around the world.](#)

How to know when you are becoming a fossil

- ❖ Everything hurts.
- ❖ **What doesn't hurt doesn't work.**
- ❖ The gleam in your eye is the sunlight hitting your bifocals.
- ❖ You go into a cave and you know the fossils first name.
- ❖ **You feel like the morning after, but you haven't been anywhere.**
- ❖ Your little black book only contains names beginning with Dr.
- ❖ You get winded just playing cards.
- ❖ You go into a maze but cannot remember if you went in to cut flowers or to find your way out.
- ❖ Your children begin to look aged.
- ❖ **You join a health club but don't go.**
- ❖ A dripping tap causes an uncontrollable urge.
- ❖ You know all the answers, but no one asks the questions.
- ❖ You need glasses to look for your glasses.
- ❖ You turn out the lights for economy instead of romance.
- ❖ You sit in a rocking chair but cannot make it go.
- ❖ **Your knees buckle, but your belt won't.**
- ❖ Your back goes out more than you do.
- ❖ You put your bra on back to front and it fits better.
- ❖ Your house is too big, but your medicine cabinet is not big enough.
- ❖ You sink your teeth into a steak and they stay there.
- ❖ Your birthday cake collapses from the weight of candles.
- ❖ You long to be young again but cannot remember why.
- ❖ You go into a cave and one of the fossils looks like your twin sister / brother.

When Children and Religious Education mix...

When children meet the Bible, the result can be unpredictable. As in these answers to a school chaplain's efforts to teach RE....

The main purpose of the prophets was to set up the lights for when Jesus came on the stage.

The Kingdom of God is no ordinary place like the bathroom at home.

Jesus said: If you want to divorce your wife leave a note for her on the table.

Jesus healed a man with a weathered hand.

Some of the seed from the sower was curried off by Satan.

The last verses of Mark's gospel were written later by a unanimous person.

Jesus first proclaimed the gospel to the Jews: He told them to make love to each other.

An altar is a stall for candles.

Examples of Holy Orders are the Ten Commandments.

An epistle is the wife of an apostle.

**Being a Christian is more than just an instantaneous conversion –
it is a daily process whereby you grow to be more and more like Christ. - Billy Graham**

Day of Pentecost – 24th May.

Pentecost took place on the well-established Jewish festival of Firstfruits, which was observed at the beginning of the wheat harvest. It was exactly 50 days after the Passover, the time of Jesus' crucifixion. A feast day to celebrate the country's wheat harvest does not sound exactly world-changing, but that year, it became one of the most important days in world history. For Pentecost was the day that Jesus sent the Holy Spirit - the day the Church was born. Jesus had told His apostles that something big was going to happen, and that they were to wait for it in Jerusalem, instead of returning to Galilee. Jesus had plans for his apostles – but He knew they could not do the work themselves – they would need His help.

On that long ago first morning of Pentecost, Jerusalem was crowded with thousands of visitors and in one small room of that great city, a small group of people who had followed Jesus were praying. There was nothing else for them to do: Jesus had died, He had risen, and He had ascended, promising to send them 'a Comforter.' They were left alone, to wait at Jerusalem. And so they waited – on him, and for him. And then on that fateful morning there was suddenly the sound as of a mighty rushing wind. Tongues of flame flickered on their heads, and they began to praise God in many tongues – to the astonishment of those who heard them. The curse of Babel (Genesis 11: 1 – 9) was dramatically reversed that morning. For that morning the Holy Spirit fell upon that small room, and transformed those believers into the Church, Christ's body here on earth.

Of course Pentecost was not the first time the Holy Spirit had acted in this world. All through the Old Testament there are accounts of how God's Spirit guided people and strengthened them. But now, because of Christ's death and resurrection, he could INDWELL them. From now on, every Christian could have the confidence that Jesus was with them constantly, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

So on that morning the Holy Spirit came to indwell the apostles and disciples of Jesus: and the Church was born. The Christians were suddenly full of life and power, utterly different from their former fearful selves. The change in them was permanent.

Peter gave the first ever sermon of the Christian Church that morning: proclaiming Jesus was the Messiah. His boldness in the face of possible death was in marked contrast to the man who had denied Jesus 50 days before. And 3,000 people responded, were converted, and were baptised. How's that for fast church growth !

Acts opens with the preaching of the gospel in Jerusalem, the centre of the Jewish nation. Within 30 years the gospel had spread throughout the northern Mediterranean: Syria, Turkey, Greece, Malta... to the very heart of the Roman Empire: Rome. The Church was on the move – God was on the move ! He was calling people from every nation to repent, turn to Jesus for forgiveness of their sins, and to follow Him.

Proof-reading needed !

*The following true-life headlines found in local newspapers make you wonder:
is proofreading a dying art ?*

Man Kills Self Before Shooting Wife and Daughter
Something Went Wrong in Jet Crash, Expert Says
Panda Mating Fails; Veterinarian Takes Over
Miners Refuse to Work after Death
Juvenile Court to Try Shooting Defendant
War Dims Hope for Peace
If Strike Isn't Settled Quickly, It May Last Awhile
Cold Wave Linked to Temperatures

A real Christian is a person who can give his pet parrot to the town gossip. - Billy Graham

Celebrating the Penny Black

by David Winter

I wrote three letters yesterday. That is such an unusual event that I thought I'd catalogue it. I printed them off my computer, and then looked for an envelope. I couldn't find one. Then I looked for stamps in the drawer where I used to keep them. Again, I could not find them. Undaunted, I put on my coat and walked up to the Post Office, where I queued to buy envelopes and stamps.

Initially, thinking I ought to stock up, I asked for forty first class and forty second class stamps. But when the clerk told me the cost, I revised my order downwards, not wanting to embark on a second mortgage. Then, armed with envelopes (addressed) and stamps I actually posted them, and sometime over the next couple of days my correspondents, who do not have email, will get a letter through their door. Job done !

1st May is the 175th anniversary of the Penny Black, Britain's first official adhesive postage stamp. Ever since then, we have been writing letters, putting them in envelopes, addressing them and sticking a stamp on. In recent years we have been spared the need to lick them, as peel-off stamps have become the fashion. The penny, of course, has multiplied sixty fold, like the biblical wheat, and, oddly, on the whole, letters take longer to arrive now than they did in the days of Queen Victoria.

What we are seeing now looks like the slow death of letter writing, which old'uns like me are supposed deeply to regret. To be fair, I do regret not receiving personal letters (I could do without all the others, mostly appeals, advertisements or official notifications). But I can't expect to get them if I don't send them, and almost all my personal 'correspondence' is via email. Sadly, I don't think people will one day be reading the collected emails of David Winter, or even of distinguished artists, poets or bishops. Letters will go the way of diaries and fountain pens.

Perhaps it's just as well that the invention of the internet is so recent. I can't imagine that St Paul's Email to the Ephesians would have stood the test of time.

Spirit of Life

(John 20:21,22; Ezekiel 37:4-6)

Breathe on us, Lord Jesus.
Fill us with your Spirit.

Send us out,
as the Father sent you.
Send us out into the world
to live, to work,
to make decisions,
to change and influence and transform;
that as your people
we might truly make a difference
in our generation.

Send us out Lord.

Breathe on us,
and into us, your kiss of life,
resuscitating these dry bones
to go, with your power and wisdom,
to build for your Kingdom today.

Breathe on us Lord Jesus
fill us with your Spirit,
for the work you have given us to do.

by Daphne Kitching

Mark - When the late Dean of York was asked why he called his stumpy-tailed fox terrier 'Mark,' he explained: "The New Testament contains the life-stories of our Lord by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Mark's is the shortest tale !"

1. What is the only sport to have been played on the surface of the moon ? **Golf**
2. In what sport might you adopt the 'egg position' ? **Downhill skiing**
3. How many players are there on a volleyball team (not beach volleyball) ? **Six** (there are two in beach volleyball)
4. In the Bible, what is the name of King Solomon's mother ? **Bathsheba**
5. In which country do cricket teams compete for the Sheffield Shield ? **Australia**
6. In 2004, who 'I told you I was ill' inscribed on his tombstone in Gaelic ? **Spike Milligan**
7. Where in the body is the bone known as the patella ? **Knee**
8. Who was the first woman to be awarded the British Order of Merit in 1907 ? **Florence Nightingale**
9. When did the construction of the Berlin Wall start ? **1961** – 13th August 1961 to be exact
10. Ethiopia is one of 16 landlocked countries in Africa. Of the remaining 15, name 3 ? **Mali, Burkina Faso, Niger, Chad, Central Africa Republic, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Malawi, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Swaziland and Lesotho.**
11. Which flower gets its name from the Turkish word for 'turban' ? **Tulip**
12. Which vegetable is Sir Walter Raleigh often credited with first bringing to Britain ? **Potato**
13. The teak tree is native to which continent ? **Asia**
14. Which planet in the solar system is closest to the sun ? **Mercury**
15. Which animal has eyes bigger than its brain ? **An ostrich**
16. Which cartoon character owns Gnasher and his son, Gnipper ? **Dennis the Menace**
17. Which film featured pop group Berlin's hit 'Take My Breath Away' ? **Top Gun**
18. In which film did George Lazenby replace Sean Connery as James Bond ? **On Her Majesty's Secret Service**
19. In 'Only Fools and Horses,' what is the name of Del and Raquel's son ? **Damien**
20. Which is the only country crossed by the equator and a tropic ? **Brazil**
21. In Tandoori dishes, what is a tandoor ? **Type of oven**
22. Lusaka is the capital of which country ? **Zambia**
23. Appenzeller cheese comes from which country ? **Switzerland**
24. Ethiopia is the birthplace of which beverage ? **Coffee**
25. What was the Beatles' first chart entry ? **Love Me Do**
26. Which Shakespeare play includes the character Launcelot Gobbo ? **The Merchant of Venice**
27. Who painted 'Boy With a Pipe,' which sold for a record sum (\$82.5m / £46m) in May 2004 ? **Picasso**
28. In which novel by Charles Dickens does the character Uriah Heep feature ? **David Copperfield**
29. What is the capital of Ethiopia ? **Addis Ababa**
30. In the book of Acts, who met an Ethiopian eunuch ? **Philip**

The Confessional A Roman Catholic priest was called away on an emergency. Not wanting to leave the confessional booth unattended, he asked his rabbi friend to cover for him. The rabbi protested that he wouldn't know what to say, but the priest promised to show him. So the rabbi came over and joined the priest in the confessional booth.

In a few minutes a woman came in and said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned." The priest asked what she had done. "I stole some clothes from the local boutique." The priest asked how many times she had done this. "Three times." The priest thought a moment, then said: "Say two Hail Mary's, put £5 in the box and go and sin no more." A few minutes later a man entered the confessional. "Father, forgive me for I have sinned." The priest asked what he had done. "I stole some stuff from **the garage where I work.**" The priest asked how many times he had done this. "Three times." The priest thought a moment, then said: "Say two Hail Mary's, put £5 in the box and go and sin no more."

The rabbi told the priest that he thought that he got it, so the priest left. A few minutes later, another woman entered the confessional booth and said, "Father, forgive me for I have sinned." The rabbi asked what she had done. "I stole some make-up from the pharmacist." The rabbi asked how many times she had done this. "Once." **The rabbi thought a moment, then said: "Go do it twice more. We have a special offer this week - three for £5."**



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WARDLAW CHURCH'S MAY 2015 EVENTS DIARY

SUNDAY	3 rd	Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY	3 rd	First Sunday Praise at Kiltarlity Free Church starting at 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	5 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	6 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	10 th	Sunday morning Communion service at 10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY	12 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	13 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	17 th	Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY	17 th	Third Sunday Praise at 6:00 p.m. led by Jonathan and Kate Humphrey.
TUESDAY	19 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	20 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	24 th	Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
TUESDAY	26 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
TUESDAY	26 th	Kirkhill Deacons' Court meeting at 7:30 p.m.
WEDNESDAY	27 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
THURSDAY	28 th	Joint Kirk Session with Kiltarlity held at Wardlaw Church at 7:30 p.m. - <i>provisional</i>
SUNDAY	31 st	Café Style Sunday morning worship at Kirkhill Community Centre at the start of Kirkhill Gala Week.

Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter. - *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.' - *Billy Graham*

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