



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

Over the past few weeks I have been taking assemblies at Kirkhill and Tomnacross Primary Schools and talking a bit about transitions – times of change where we move on from the familiar to something new. Sometimes this can be challenging.

In the Bible there are so many stories on the theme of transition – Abraham was called by God to leave his homeland to take up residence in a new country (Genesis 12) or the people of Israel freed from slavery in Egypt and spending 40 years in the desert until they were ready to go into the promised land of Canaan – or even the 3 days that Jesus spent in death before God brought Him back to life.



Transitions are really about those awkward and uncertain times in our lives when we have left the old but not fully stepped into the new – whether that be dealing with moving on from school to training or university, a new job or grappling with a new baby. For P7s transition means preparing for moving on to High School and leaving behind the primary school years – a process that takes place over a number of months starting with visits to the high school, leaving ceremonies / proms, and social occasions mixing with others going to the new school.

After over 3 years of vacancy you may have been feeling that the people of K&K churches are at an end of a long period of transition... however, just as you think one transition is over though, another phase can begin ! Remember how long it took the Israelites ! The main thing to remember during transition is the need to keep Jesus central to everything we do and to trust in Him, praying and remembering God's promises –

“For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope. In those days when you pray, I will listen” (Jeremiah 29: 11-12).

We also need to face the reality that just like most Church of Scotland congregations, our church family will only grow in the way God intends if we are accessible and welcoming to all generations. God loves family, and as I mentioned a few Sundays back His will is for the “hearts of the fathers to be turned to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers” (Malachi 4: 5). There is work to be done in all aspects of church life to make this a reality – and it will take time. In our Sunday services, I believe that the development of multi-age worship using a variety of instruments and styles is both biblical and necessary for us to fulfil our calling to make disciples of all (Matthew 28). However, we also need to think about the provision of Sunday Club / school, youth work and how we reach young (and the not so young !) families in our communities who have yet to experience the reality of Jesus' love in their lives and are not part of church.

God has begun to lead us in these things and I'm excited that we will have the opportunity for a joint Kirkhill & Kiltarlity Kirk Session Vision day on Sunday, 27th September. This will be a chance for the Elders to take further time to listen to God and each other and to begin to develop a shared vision for the work of the Kingdom in our parishes. I would encourage us all to be praying for this Vision day and joining in with the next phase that God has for us here.

Blessings

Jonathan



Summer update from the Guild



At the AGM in March 2015, the disbursement of the year's Guild funds was agreed by all those present at the meeting. Very warm letters of thanks from all the recipients.

Dr. McLardy, on behalf of Beaully Care (new name for Beaully and District Care Project) tells us that the Men's Shed is developing well and now has more members. The minibus has arrived and after driver training is arranged – proving more difficult than thought or hoped – suggestions as to how best use should be made of the minibus would be gratefully received.

The Samaritans of Inverness and Befrienders Highland express grateful thanks both for thinking about them and for the donations to their funds on which their work with vulnerable people depends.

Our contribution to the Church of Scotland Guild will be used by our designated charity which again was CrossReach Heart for Art and they send their thanks also.

Janette McLellan spoke with Clare Cotton following her trip to Belarus to organise the next group of children for a month's respite in Scotland. As expected Clare came home with plans for more children than she had funds for, and dismayed that two additional children in desperate need could not be included. Clare was very moved and delighted to receive our donation which now enables these children to be included when the group comes to Scotland in September. Below is the letter of thanks from Clare Cotton and Mary Stewart with certainty that the Guild shall at some time take up the offer of a further update on progress.

Dear Jeanette

On behalf of Friends of Chernobyl's Children in Moray, Clare Cotton and I would like to thank the Guild members and congregation for the kind donation of £100.00 towards the work of our charity and for raising awareness in the Church Magazine. Thank you also for the opportunity to come and talk to the Guild members in Wardlaw Church. We enjoyed meeting everyone.

The donation will go towards our fundraising efforts and help support the 18 children we will bring to Moray in September this year. After a recent visit to Belarus, the children and their host families have now been selected and we are very busy putting together an exciting activity programme. This month of love and care will allow the children to be looked after in clean, healthy, uncontaminated surroundings with plenty of fresh air. The programme is ongoing and the children will return to the same host families for up to 5 years, improving general health and helping to form lasting friendships.

The generous support of groups such as the Guild, make it possible for us to help these children and their families. If you would like an update on the children's progress and our work at any stage please don't hesitate to contact us.

Thank you again for supporting Friends of Chernobyl's Children, Moray.

Best Wishes

Mary A Stewart
Secretary – Friends of Chernobyl's Children - Moray



Finally, preparations for the Guild Year 2015 / 2016 are now underway and speakers will shortly be contacted for our syllabus.

Enjoy the rest of the summer – the sun will appear, I am sure !!!

Jeanette McLellan

**I don't have a solution, but I do admire the problem.
I got lost in thoughts. It was unfamiliar territory.
My conscience is clean — I have never used it.**

A Pastoral Statement from the Presbytery of Lewis to all within its parishes and bounds.

The Presbytery of Lewis wants to address members and adherents, and indeed all within its bounds, following the recent decisions of the General Assembly to allow those in same-sex civil partnerships to be eligible to serve as Ministers and Deacons within the Church. The decision to extend this provision to those in same-sex marriages was also narrowly approved; but this additional proposal has not yet become a Law of the Church, since it requires the approval of the majority of Presbyteries under the Barrier Act; and will be considered by Presbyteries in the first part of the winter to come.

We want to state firmly and categorically, that while as a Presbytery we recognise and remain under the authority of the General Assembly, on this matter, we strongly disagree with and distance ourselves from the decisions that have been made. We believe that these decisions represent a denial of and departure from the clear teaching of God's Word: that such relationships are to be between one man and one woman, and that always within the context of marriage.

As a Presbytery, we fully share in the dismay, disquiet and despondency that many of you feel at the Church taking this step. We remain wholly committed to the Scriptures being the supreme rule in all matters of life and doctrine; and will oppose the proposal to extend what the General Assembly has decided, to include those living in same-sex marriages. Once a Church rejects or ignores its roots in the Bible's teaching, and sets the authority of Scripture aside, the potential for waywardness from God in other areas of life and doctrine is real.

While Presbytery is unanimous in dissociating itself from what has been decided at the General Assembly, and certainly identifies with your sense of shame and dismay, we want to encourage you to remember and take heart in the fact that:

We still serve a living, Sovereign and merciful God.

We still have the freedom to preach and teach and build ourselves up in His Word. We still have praying people in our churches and parishes.

We still have so many opportunities in our parishes to make Christ known.

As your Ministers and Elders, we remain committed to your teaching and encouragement in God's Word, and are determined to work and pray for the Church to be restored, and to be salt and light to our parishes and in the nation again. We encourage you to remain strong in the Lord in these potentially discouraging times. We urge you to redouble your prayer for the Church and God's work in Scotland. We are thankful for the liberty we still enjoy in our churches to preach the Gospel and the whole counsel of God. We therefore call on you to stay involved in the work and opportunities we have for Him in our congregations and parishes, trusting that His merciful response to our continued faithfulness in that way, will be to bless. With you, we strive for His glory.

Lewis Presbytery of the Church of Scotland held a special Presbytery Service on Wednesday, 3rd June at which around 300 people from congregations across the island attended St Columba's (Old Parish) Church, Stornoway. A statement agreed by the Presbytery, which is printed above, was distributed. It makes clear the Presbytery strongly disagrees with the motion passed by the General Assembly in relation to Ministers and Deacons in same sex civil partnerships, and that the Presbytery will continue to assert its liberty to preach the Gospel within the Church.

Presbytery Clerk John Cunningham said the special service was called because people within the Presbytery are hurt and confused following the decisions made by this year's General Assembly in relation to human sexuality and the Ministry. He described the service as uplifting and inspirational, with worship, reflection and fellowship in English and Gaelic under the leadership of Presbytery. He said Rev Tommy MacNeil's preaching was well received and there was strong participation in the Gaelic psalm singing. Mr Cunningham said he believed the service had achieved its aim of demonstrating solidarity across the Presbytery, with several Ministers and congregations contributing. He looks forward to the Presbytery continuing to participate fully in the life of the Church of Scotland.

Very Rev David Arnott, Acting Principal Clerk for the Church, said: "What is important in the statement from the Presbytery of Lewis is the expressed commitment to participate fully in the life of the Church of Scotland despite their obvious disappointment at the General Assembly decision. The Church of Scotland does not seek to make clones of its members, rather it acknowledges diversity of opinion within the peace and unity we all seek."

The Highland Cross

The Highland Cross took place for the 33rd consecutive year on Saturday 20th June 2015. It is the major athletic charity fundraising event held in the Highlands – over £3.8 million raised to date. The first stage, 20 miles on foot, follows the Affric Kintail Way from Morvich via Allbeithe and the south **side of Loch Beinn a’ Mheadhain to the River Affric** car park where competitors mount bikes for the 30 mile cycle stage on to Beauly. Entry to the Highland Cross is by invitation only for 250 teams of 3 (750 persons) of all athletic abilities; walkers, joggers, runners and cyclists.

The total amount of money raised last year by competitors in the Highland Cross 2014 was £229,788. The selected charities for Highland Cross 2015 are: Highland Disability Sport, Highland Hospice, New Start Highland, Sight Action and the Watermill Foundation.

The winner for the third year running was Joe Symonds from East Dumbartonshire in 3:19:21 – his last years’ time was 14 seconds faster at 3:19:07. The first lady was Janet McIver from Grantown-on-Spey in 4:09:50. Bob Pettitt from Kirkhill in 4:19 was the first of the entrants from our parish to finish. Hamish MacDonald, son of John Angus MacDonald, finished in his best time ever – 4:36:49. Hamish has taken part in the Cross 10 times. 740 entrants finished – the last with a time of 9:59:59. The names of the other entrants from our parish completing the course were :

<i>Under 5 hours</i>			
Bob Pettitt	Hamish MacDonald	Alice Scriven	
<i>Under 6 hours</i>			
Fergus Weir	David Gill	Graeme Allison	
<i>Under 7 hours</i>			
Alex Shepherd	Robyn Gill	Helen Macleman	
<i>Under 8 hours</i>			
Scott Hay	Sarah Kinghorn	Robert Kinghorn	Wendy MacDonald
Kenneth MacDonald	Alistair Muir	Holly Cameron	Louise Anderson
<i>Over 8 hours</i>			
William MacMillan	Susan Anderson	Iain Thomson	



L to R : Ewan McCarthy (3rd); Joe Symonds (1st); Gordon Lennox (2nd)



Janet McIver

Highland Cross 2016 will take place on Saturday, 18th June 2016, the date to register for an application form is 1st September 2015.

15th July - St Swithun (or Swithin) - saint for a rainy day

St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain na mair

Traditional rhyme

Saint Swithun was a Saxon bishop. He was born in the kingdom of Wessex and educated in its capital, Winchester. He was famous for charitable gifts and building churches. His feast day is 15th July and his emblems are rain drops and apples. Swithun was chaplain to Egbert, the 802 - 839 king of Wessex. Egbert's son Ethelwulf, whom Swithun educated, made him bishop of Winchester in 852.

Only one miracle is attributed to Swithun while he was alive. An old lady's eggs had been smashed by workmen building a church. Swithun picked the broken eggs up and, it is said, they miraculously became whole again. Swithun died on 2nd July 862. According to tradition, he had asked to be buried humbly. His grave was just outside the west door of the Old Minster, so that people would walk across it and rain fall on it in accordance with Swithun's wishes.

On 15th July 971 though, Swithun's remains were dug up and moved to a shrine in the cathedral by Bishop Ethelwold. Miraculous cures were associated with the event, and Swithun's feast day is the date of the removal of his remains, not his death day. Swithun was moved again in 1093, into the new Winchester cathedral. His shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage throughout the middle ages. The shrine was destroyed during the Reformation, and restored in 1962.

However, the removal was also accompanied by ferocious and violent rain storms that lasted 40 days and 40 nights and are said to indicate the saint's displeasure at being moved. This is probably the origin of the legend that if it rains on Saint Swithun's feast day, the rain will continue for 40 more days.

'Open the Book' reaches 2000 schools

Bible Society says it is 'thrilled' that its initiative 'Open the Book', can now be found in 2000 registered primary schools, and that there are 11,000 volunteer Bible storytellers going into schools across the UK.

'Open the Book' is a three-year rolling programme of themed and dramatised Bible stories, which are presented by teams of volunteers, free of charge, to primary schools. Volunteers present Bible stories in primary schools in an accessible and enjoyable way and provide a resource that assists schools in meeting their statutory collective worship obligations.

The volunteers use drama, mime, props, costume – and even the children and staff themselves. All storytellers agree to a strict code of conduct and follow the guidelines in the Open the Book handbook. Volunteers stick to the script and outline for each session and present the story simply, without addition or improvisation. They don't teach or preach, but simply tell stories. They allow each story to speak for itself, liaise closely with schools and show respect and sensitivity to those of other faiths.

Last April was the sixth school session in which our 'Open the Book' team have had the privilege of being welcomed into the Kirkhill Primary School. The 'Open the Book' team would echo the thoughts of Bob Hartman, 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."

Bible Society concludes: "Open the Book is exactly the type of good news that people like to tell others about. It's easy to get involved and great fun to do."

Beaully Cares - 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
July	21 st	30 th
August	18 th	27 th
September	15 th	24 th
October	20 th	29 th
November	17 th	26 th
<p>Christmas Special Afternoon Tea with entertainment Tuesday, 15th December 2015 at Kirkhill Community Centre – 2:30 p.m.</p>		

**JOHN ALEXANDER
WILSON**

IN CONCERT



11TH JULY
7:30PM

KILTARLITY FREE CHURCH

*A special collection will be taken for
the local Young Life Group*



Count Your Blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses
 Count your gains instead of your losses
 Count your joys instead of your woes
 Count your friends instead of your foes
 Count your smiles instead of your tears
 Count your courage instead of your fears
 Count your full years instead of your lean
 Count your kind deeds instead of your mean
 Count your health instead of your wealth
 Count on God instead of yourself.

So here's what I want you to do, God helping you:
 Take your everyday, ordinary life - your sleeping,
 eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life - and
 place it before God as an offering. Embracing what
 God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.
 Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that
 you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your
 attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside
 out. Readily recognise what He wants from you, and
 quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you,
 always dragging you down to its level of immaturity,
 God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed
 maturity in you.

Romans 12 verses 1 and 2 from The Message Bible

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, Katherine MacKenzie, Margaret West, Anne Lyle, Mary Urquhart, Maureen Ritchie, Bill and Betty Freel, Hannah MacDonald and all the MacDonald family in Orkney, John Angus MacDonald, Madda Georgeson and Duncan Gray.**



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.

On 16th June, Mary, Maris and Anne celebrated the 3rd birthday of the Tuesday Coffee Morning - that is 150 Tuesday Coffee Mornings. **The ladies 'pinched' the idea** from going for a coffee at Phipps Hall following a Zumba class they attended way back in 2012 and thought they could enhance the idea. The photo shows the three ladies along with Winnie and Margaret, who are now very much part of the service delivery team. The Coffee Mornings can only happen with great team work from the five ladies and all the bakers who supply massive choice of goodies each week. Maris bakes her much acclaimed sponge on the Monday. Mary rises every Tuesday morning before 7 a.m. (Mary is not an early riser by choice)



to prepare the pancake mix and bake scones. Avril Marr has supplied meringues over 140 times over the three years and Iain has delivered them most times on his way to the shop in Beaulieu. The other regular speciality baker is Moira McDonald who bakes the fruit cake on her Aga, but many more come along with home baking to swell the plates (and our waist lines). As Mary mentioned on the day, they have found an excellent driver for the Dyson in John Hamilton, who has also been known to wash and dry up at **times. We think Marjory may 'hire' him out as a cleaner at a very reasonable rate now he has served his apprenticeship.** The Coffee Mornings are a great example of folk all working for each other. Lastly, but not forgotten, the success of this gathering is down to all the folks who turn up each week to sample the home baking and enjoy the friendship and fellowship an event like this generates. We have seen new friendships blossom in the three years and folk who now join in with the banter and serious discussions that takes place around individual tables. Long may it continue. A special treat is being organised for August, details to be announced during July.

Who are the 'Heroes' ?

by David Winter

'Hero' has become a familiar word in modern life – much more so than I can remember from 20 or 30 years ago. We are all familiar with the 'Help for Heroes' charity, supporting our military personnel who have been injured and the families of those who have been killed serving their country. That one's simple. 'Hero' seems entirely fitting. But then some football fans have insisted on a new category of 'hero' – a highly paid footballer who sacrificially decides to stay with a club and stagger along on a mere £50,000 a week. Banners in the stands proclaim such 'heroes' ! It really is quite difficult to regard the two examples as similar in any serious way.

I'm also impressed, however, with another kind of 'hero', one that can be recognised in every community. These are the heroes (or heroines, to be pedantic) who make it their duty and joy to serve and care for others. I'm thinking of the vast army of 'carers,' people who week in and week out dedicate their lives to someone who, without their help, would live a much diminished life. Such carers do it for love, not money. They may be supporting a seriously handicapped child who needs constant loving attention, or an older person with dementia who is physically well but incredibly demanding in terms of acceptance and emotional care.

The carer-heroes also include many who are paid to do it, though rather less than a Premier league footballer. I have a relative who spent much of her working life as a home help. She loved the job and was loved by the people she visited day by day. She wasn't a clock-watcher, but seemed to them like a friend who popped in to see how they were and help with getting up, washing, snacks and bed-time. It was a mutually rewarding experience. Carer and client were both rewarded, but in different ways.

Greatly to her surprise, my relative one day received a letter from 10 Downing Street telling her that she had been awarded the MBE for services to the community. Apparently some of her clients had got together and written to the Prime Minister recommending her for her long years of service to the people in her town in south Wales.

It was a lovely gesture, though she liked to make the point that there were probably thousands of home helps and support workers offering similar service who equally deserved the award. I preferred to think of her MBE as a token representing all those unseen and anonymous 'heroes' in our cities, towns and villages.

My dictionary defines a hero as 'a person who is admired for their outstanding achievements.' By that definition our men and women in Afghanistan qualify. So do the military medics who recently risked fatal infection to fight Ebola in West Africa. And so do all those unsung carers. But not, for me, a well-paid footballer.



Moses' first and last day as a lifeguard.



"Loved the sermon. Hated casual Sunday."



- A proposal to have a start time of 10 a.m. for Kirkhill was ratified by the Kirkhill Kirk Session on 16th June 2015 following the joint Kirk Session meeting on 28th May 2015. Kiltarlity will move to 11:30 a.m. if ratified by the Kiltarlity Kirk Session at their June meeting - 25th June 2015. The new times will come into effect from Sunday, 19th July 2015 if ratified. One other change that will be implemented at Wardlaw Church from the 19th will be that the offering plates will now be available on the Church entrance table and the table at the back of the sanctuary for members to leave their weekly donations – envelopes or money. During the service time there would be no offering plates handed round the congregation. Rev. Jonathan Humphrey is still working on other changes to the content of the Sunday service at Wardlaw Church which will give him more fellowship and individual prayer time after the service with the Kirkhill congregation before departing for Kiltarlity for their new start time of 11:30 a.m. (if ratified by Kiltarlity Kirk Session at their June meeting).
- During June, the roughcast of the entire west gable end of Wardlaw Church was removed. The stonework was then prepared and received a new render to match the previous roughcast. The cost of these works was £6,350 and was completed on budget and within the timeframe by a local company, J Stephen RPT, from Invergordon.
- Internally, June has seen the installation of 4 drop mikes (inside the lighting rigs – spot them if you can). The mikes purpose is to record the congregational singing for the recordings in a clearer and more fulfilling way for the recipients of the recordings. The expense for these mikes has come from Tuesday Coffee Morning donations and they have also given a sum towards the installation of this equipment. A new 16 channel mixer board has also been purchased to enhance the sound system in the Church. A 50” screen has been installed at the back of the Church facing the chancel area. This allows Jonathan to face the congregation during his sermon time, and not have to turn sideways to see which slides are on the screen – this movement has proved distracting to some members of the congregation. The cost of this screen has been made by an anonymous donation from four individuals within the Church. Both these installations and equipment have been supplied by David Eglinton of HCVF in Wells Street in Inverness.
- Jonathan and Kate Humphrey will be on holiday from Monday, 29th June to Monday, 13th July 2015 inclusive. Jonathan will lead the service on Sunday, 28th June and will return to lead the two services on Sunday, 19th July.
- Our service on Sunday, 5th July will be an Elder and members led event with the theme of “*Proclaim release to the captives*” Luke 4: 18. This service will be followed by a time of friendship with sandwiches and home baking. If the weather is kind to us, we will have a picnic in the Church grounds. Following the service on 5th July there will be a retiring collection on behalf of the Church of Scotland HIV programme.
- On Saturday, 11th July a concert headed up by John Alexander Wilson will take place at the Kiltarlity Free Church starting at 7:30 p.m. Entry is free, but a special collection will be taken in aid of the local Young Life Group project, which is starting up in the Kiltarlity / Kirkhill / Beauly areas in the autumn.
- Our service on Sunday, 12th July will be led by Alasdair and Eileen Morrison. Alasdair and Eileen will then travel to Kiltarlity Church to lead their 11:15 a.m. worship service.
- Third Sunday Praise takes place at Wardlaw Church, on Sunday, 19th July 2015 starting at 6:00 p.m. Third Sunday praise is an informal gathering for all. The 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 ?
- 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. Jonathan’s normal time off in his busy weekly commitments is Friday afternoon and all day on a Saturday.
- Thanks again to Margaret Birkbeck and Mary McClelland for proof reading this edition.

Urquhart Castle - Sunday, 26th July 2015

7:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Gates open for picnickers at 6:00 p.m.



The three Glenurquhart Churches invite you to an evening with the Alex Macdonald Band, supported by a local choir and musicians.

Bring a picnic and your folding chairs and relax in the unique Loch Ness-side setting of Urquhart Castle, where you can enjoy the band, sing along with our choir, or simply listen.

The event is **FREE** - gates open at 6:00 p.m.

Free car parking at the castle - pre-booking of a space is advised

Outdoor event, come prepared for the weather and possibly midges.

Assistance dogs only are welcome

Why not come by boat ?

Jacobite Cruises have kindly offered to provide the Jacobite Warrior cruiser to bring up to 250 people from the Clansman Hotel to the Castle. There will be no charge for this. Depart from the Clansman Hotel at 5.00 p.m. promptly. There is no return boat ! To reserve places, contact Ruth Macleod on 01456 450 112. We are reserving 100 places for youth groups.

To pre-book car parking space (advised) and for further information contact:

Ruth Macleod on 01456 450 112

On the Lighter Side - Strolling through Bearsden, a woman pointed out one of the town's churches and observed to her companion: "They're so posh in there; I hear they even have a communion wine list"

Calls to God - The Rabbi was invited to Rome to meet the Pope. While they were having dinner the Rabbi said he wanted to make a call to God. So he made the call and asked the Pope how much the call would be. The Pope told him it would be costly as it was a long distance call.

When the Rabbi invited the Pope to Jerusalem, the Pope said 'Could I make a call to God ?' When he came back the Pope asked how much it would cost, and the Rabbi said 'Nothing - it's a local call !'

Hymns for each Profession

The Dentist's Hymn:.....Crown Him with Many Crowns

The Weatherman's Hymn:.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings

The Builder's Hymn:.....The Church's One Foundation

The Golfer's Hymn:.....There's a Green Hill Far Away

Minister's love of tea spreads to the White House



Rev Liz Gibson and husband Martyn are enjoying a side line as tea growers on their croft at Lochdon on Mull.

A cup of tea is in the tool box of any good Minister. But growing your own and having it given to the President of the United States is surely going above and beyond the call of duty. This is the incredible experience of Rev Liz Gibson, a CoS Minister on Mull, who only a year ago decided to turn her hand to tea growing.

Their Scottish Antler brand of char was presented to Barack Obama as a gift from First Minister Nicola Sturgeon during her recent visit to the US. "We were gobsmacked to hear about this," says Liz. "It's all happened so quickly. We only took this up last year. It's a great advert for Mull and local produce."

It's also a great advert for the Church of Scotland. Liz became a minister 12 years ago after working as a theatre stage technician in Edinburgh. Currently she is a Locum and Supply Minister who covers parishes in Mull, Colonsay, Iona and Morvern. The couple moved to Mull just two years ago.

"I hope news of this generates some local interest in the work I am doing here," she says. "Drinking tea is a great way to have a conversation with somebody. People coming from many places to volunteer on the croft, as well as enquiries about the tea, provides a good opportunity for me to naturally talk about my work as a Minister."

The vast tea plantations of India, Liz's production is not. Tea is grown on the couple's tiny 10-acre croft. But size isn't everything. A sheltered location, love and attention means their 100 or so tea bushes are now flourishing and they hope to provide another delicate and sweet tasting brew in due course. "People are stunned that we can grow tea this far north but it has come on just fine," says Liz. "Our biggest job has been protecting the bushes from the wind. They can deal with the cold but not the wind."

Very True !

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

Kiss Kiss !!

An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Billy Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen ?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

Jonah

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale. Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah." The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell ?" The little girl replied, "Then you ask him."

Take my 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 this 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 angry voice called out, 'We didn't come to see this painting. We came to see the Van Gogh's, 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' was the response from the auction floor.

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?'

'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 over 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, WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH,
SHALL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE...THAT'S LOVE.

Thanks to Mary Bell for this article

If my body were a car, this is the time I would be thinking about trading it in for a newer model.

I've got bumps and dents and scratches in my finish and my paint job is getting a little dull... But that's not the worst of it.

My headlights are out of focus, and it's especially hard to see things up close.

My traction is not as graceful as it once was. I slip and slide and skid and bump into things even in the best of weather.

My whitewalls are stained with varicose veins.

It takes me hours to reach my maximum speed. My fuel rate burns inefficiently.

But here's the worst of it.

Almost every time I sneeze, cough or sputter,

Either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires !



The Benefit of Flour - Something to Remember..!!!

We have all burned ourselves at one time or another. Some time ago, I was cooking some corn and stuck my fork in the boiling water to see if the corn was ready. I missed and my hand went into the boiling water....!!

A friend of mine, who was a Vietnam vet, came into the house, as I was screaming, and asked me if I had some plain old flour... I pulled out a bag and he stuck my hand in it. He told me to keep my hand in the flour for 10 minutes. He said, in Vietnam, there was a guy on fire and in their panic; they threw a bag of flour all over him to put the fire out... Well, it not only put the fire out, but he never even had a blister !!!!

Long story short, I put my hand in the bag of flour for 10 minutes, pulled it out and did not even have a red mark or a blister and absolutely NO PAIN.

Now, I keep a bag of flour in the fridge and every time I burn myself - cold flour feels even better than room temperature flour. I use the flour and have never ever had even a red spot / burn mark, or a blister ! I even burnt my tongue once, put the flour on it for about 10 minutes. The pain was gone and there was no burn. Try it . . . Experience a miracle ! Keep a bag of flour in your fridge and you will be happy you did !

Flour has a heat absorbent property and also has a strong antioxidant property, thus it helps in burn patients if applied within 15 minutes.

Thanks to Anne Lyle for this advice

Don't go far! - The minister went to the bank and asked for a statement of his account, adding: "We want to know how far afield we can go for our holiday." Handing him his statement the cashier enquired very gently: "Have you got a field at the back of your garden, sir?"

Nearly omnipotent - A Minister was giving his young daughter a cuddle before she went to bed. As he picked her up, hugged her tight, she said: "Daddy, you're so strong! I really think you'll be God one day !"

Sky at night - The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage.

Hole for one - A golfing Minister, after having been beaten by an elderly parishioner, returned to the clubhouse somewhat depressed. "Cheer up," said the layman. Remember, you'll eventually be burying me some day." "Yes," said the Minister. "But even then it will be your hole !"

At Tearfund for the last few weeks they have been opening and enjoying a steady stream of emails about people's favourite worship songs and why they are so special to them. Recently the following story arrived from Mary, a mission worker. Her chosen song was the much-loved 'In Christ Alone.' The reason she chose it though, is pretty remarkable.

Mary's story

'I had just returned from the UK to an African country in 2008 when there was an attempted coup. The expatriates were gathered together in a school and we dived under tables as the fighting and shelling came very close to the school. French soldiers were on the roof.

'We shared any Psalms we could remember with each other and then started singing "In Christ Alone." The line that really resonated was "No fear in death...this is the power of Christ in me." We realised that it was true - despite an unexploded grenade landing in the school !

Those of us that knew Christ had a sense of peace that couldn't be explained by the circumstances. It wasn't just the absence of fear, or wishful thinking, denial or an adrenaline rush (we were aware of some fear and certainly of the effects of adrenaline). This was something positive and stable - a state of peace for the situation. And both the memory of that, and the song, have really encouraged me since when facing other risks. Christ really does give hope !'

Do you hear the people sing ?

Well, the year *fifteen* has history in it! 1215 - Magna Carta.... 1315 - the great Famine and the Black Death.... 1415 - the Battle of Agincourt.... 1815 - Waterloo. And 1915 marked the passing of the most prolific writer of Christian hymns in all history – Fanny Crosby.

So what of hymns - and the Bible - from which they derive ? Only a little research shows how greatly our language has been shaped by Bible terms across the years. *The writing on the wall.... the eye of the needle....in the twinkling of an eye.... by the skin of my teeth.... the scapegoat.... a sign of the times.... the powers that be.*

Indeed our modern phrase *Hold the Fort* came directly from the public's familiarity with a solo popularised by American Gospel singer Ira David Sankey, who - in the one year of 1875 - sang to more people, face to face, than heard the works of J.S. Bach across the entire nineteenth century. Remarkably, the book *Sacred Songs and Solos* - associated with Sankey and his evangelist companion Dwight L. Moody - ran to over eighty million copies worldwide, of which they received not a penny of the profits.

Where then lies the power of a hymn - such as *Abide with Me* - that can become part of a nation's inherited legacy? The test is whether a song can lastingly touch - and unite - the hearts of those who sing it. When words are simple and memorable - and the tune predictable and easily sung – a remembered hymn stirs the soul at times of adversity. That has happened to many people time and again.

Sure, in both past and present we have had our share of 'instant' and disposable songs which - while they may attract for a short period - contribute nothing whatever to the long-term memory bank of a nation's culture. Voltaire's comment of old stings even today: "If a thing is too silly to be said, it can always be sung." Dvorak spoke ahead of his own time with his complaint, "Why do they repeat a poor tune so many times ?" In his *Attack on Christendom*, Soren Kierkegaard's observation of current tendencies was that, "Even to worship God is to subject Him to ludicrous twaddle."

"The trouble with religion today is that a lot of people practise it, but not too many are good at it."

"Some people don't realise that the Ten Commandments aren't multiple choice !"

"I mix religion with science. I count my blessings on a computer !"

God's answer for you

For all the negative things we have to say to ourselves, God has a positive answer for it.

You say: It's impossible.

God says: All things are possible. (Luke 18:27)

You say: Nobody really loves me.

God says: I love you. (John 3:16 and John 13:34)

You say: I can't go on.

God says: My grace is sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 91:15)

You say: I can't figure things out.

God says: I will direct your steps. (Proverbs 3:5-6)

You say: I can't do it.

God says: You can do all things. (Philippians 4:13)

You say: I'm not able.

God says: I am able. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

You say: It's not worth it.

God says: It will be worth it. (Roman 8:28)

You say: I can't forgive myself.

God says: I FORGIVE YOU. (1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1)

You say: I can't manage.

God says: I will supply all your needs. (Philippians 4:19)

You say: I'm afraid.

God says: I have not given you a spirit of fear (2 Timothy 1:7)

You say: I'm always worried and frustrated.

God says: Cast all your cares on ME. (1 Peter 5:7)

You say: I don't have enough faith.

God says: I've given everyone a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3)

You say: I'm not smart enough.

God says: I give you wisdom. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

You say: I feel all alone.

God says: I will never leave you or forsake you. (Hebrews 13:5)

What is on the other side of death ?

A doctor was visiting a very ill man, who was also his next door neighbour. As he finally got up to go, the man said: "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side."

Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know."

"You don't know ? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side ?"

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, his young spaniel sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness.

Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog ? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."

All Together

Why, do you think, did Jesus choose 12 men to be His disciples ? What was the point, as Jesus was a miracle worker and a very eloquent speaker. He could walk on water; change water into wine; multiply food for thousands of people; heal the sick and forecast future events. So why did Jesus choose some fishermen, a tax collector and a few lesser known men to be with Him everywhere ?

Doesn't it appear odd that Jesus wanted disciples who, as time passed, were slow to learn; argumentative; frightened; amazed and puzzled ? Right from the start of His ministry Jesus must have known He was bringing together a motley group of characters who would not understand Him; doubt Him; and let Him down. Surely, Jesus would have been better off going it alone without having the hassle and frustration !

Well, what is amazing, is that Jesus decided to limit Himself. He wanted the fellowship of close friends to share their good and bad times. He wanted to be involved with them no matter what happened. He enjoyed meal-times, discussions and, no doubt, a joke or two ! Jesus came from Heaven to show that in God's Kingdom there is *togetherness*.

This world can get messy, troubled and nasty, and it is into this cauldron that Jesus came to be involved with its problems. He wanted to share His mission of love and compassion, participating with others, to change places of darkness into God's healing light.

He chose ordinary people, with their weaknesses, anxieties, hang-ups and faults to fill them with His Spirit and transform them into workers for God. Today, Jesus works with *us*, despite our frailty and stubbornness. He patiently draws alongside us to change our attitudes and behaviour so that we show God's love wherever we are.

Jesus came to build His church: a community of believers who would work and serve together to change society for good. So let's be aware of the Holy Spirit's direction and be encouraged that we are all partners together.

Help to carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will obey the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

- Give** openly and without expectation.
- Live** with the hope and eyes of a child.
- Love** what you are doing at this second – worry about the rest later – or never.
- Give** others the benefit of the doubt.
- Live** the childlike wonder of the holidays sights, smells, sounds, tastes and surprises.
- Love** knows no strangers – treat everyone as a friend.
- Give** attention to what or whom you hold most dear.
- Live** each day as though it was your last.
- Love** and accept others for what they are.
- Give** someone a great big hug.
- Live** like the world is upside down – because maybe it is.
- Love** the sound of laughter – hear it every chance you can !

Thanks to Mary McClelland for these thoughts

“When I stand before God at the end of my life, I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say; I used everything you gave me.” – Erma Bombeck

The Top Ten Proverbs for Twitter and Facebook

Ever wonder about the best way to conduct yourself on Twitter and Facebook ?

Now the Bishop of Sheffield, the Rt Rev Steven Croft, has posted some guidelines. He writes:

People in Britain spend more time online than they do sleeping: 8 hours 41 minutes a day according to an Ofcom survey in 2014. That's twice as much time as the average person spends watching television. The same "average" person checks their phone 113 times a day...

What does the Bible have to say about how to be a Christian on Twitter or Facebook, in emails or texts? How are we salt and light in that part of God's world ?

I turned to the Book of Proverbs in the Old Testament. Proverbs is made up of over 400 short, pithy sayings, most are under 140 characters. They are thought provoking, memorable and full of wit, just like a good tweet.

So here are my top ten Proverbs from the Old Testament for users of Facebook and Twitter and other online media. The words in italics are my own, very short, application of each verse.

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches. (Proverbs 22.1)

Take care of your reputation online and offline.

Some friends play at friendship but a true friend sticks closer than a brother. (Proverbs 18.24)

Friend is a big word not a small word; friendship is a gift and a blessing.

Iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another. (Proverbs 27.17)

We grow as people through wit, humour and interaction online and offline.

Better is a little with righteousness than a large income with injustice. (Proverbs 16.8)

We spend much of our time online buying and selling and banking. Financial honesty and transparency is key; pay your taxes.

Like a city breached, without walls is one who lacks self-control. (Proverbs 25.28)

Self-control is needed in normal life and even more in the private world of online interaction. When it goes, we are soon overwhelmed.

A gossip goes about telling secrets but one who is trustworthy keeps a confidence. (Proverbs 11.13)

Holding confidences is as important in texts, emails, Facebook and Twitter as in real life.

A gentle tongue is a tree of life but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. (Proverbs 15.4)

Words have real power to build up and to pull down. Use them well.

The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels, they go down to the inner parts of the body. (Proverbs 18.8)

So do rumours circulating on the internet. Beware.

Like vinegar on a wound is one who sings songs to a heavy heart. (Proverbs 25.20)

It's well worth taking the trouble over what you say. Engage brain and heart before posting.

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. (Proverbs 25.11)

And its worth taking trouble over the way you say it...

Three boys are in the school yard bragging about their fathers. The first boy says, "My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a poem, and they give him £25." The second boy says, "That's nothing. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a song, and they give him £200." The third boy says, "I got you both beat. My Dad scribbles a few words on a piece of paper, he calls it a sermon, and it takes eight men to collect all the money !"

A GUIDE TO INVERNESS PRESBYTERY

Ministers

All the Parish Ministers are members of Presbytery. So too are Assistant Ministers, Community Ministers and recognised retired Ministers. Ministers come under the superintendence of the Presbytery (not the Kirk Session, even though they may be on the Communion Roll and the Parish Minister is the moderator of the Session). It means that Kirk Sessions cannot discipline their Minister for anything they think he or she has done wrong.

Presbytery Elders. An elder from each Kirk Session is chosen every year before June, but earlier if possible, to serve as a Presbytery elder. Iain J. Mortimer was elected by the Kirkhill Session to serve as Presbytery Elder for 2015 / 16. Kirk Sessions may appoint the same person to be Presbytery elder for at least two or three years running because it takes about a year to get into the 'swing' of being a Presbytery elder. It is true to say, though, that some elders absolutely hate being the Presbytery elder. Nevertheless they have to take their turn in a small Session but are glad when only a year of duty is over. Additional elders are appointed by the Presbytery to 'match' in number retired Ministers or other Ministers without a charge. So you can see that the number of elders in the Presbytery outnumbers the number of Ministers. Elders have an equal place with anyone else in the meeting or committee — even with those who seem to hog things to themselves, or are forever speaking.

Representation - The Presbytery elder is part of the Presbytery ! That may sound obvious, but it means that the elder represents his or her congregation and Kirk Session at Presbytery level and represents the Presbytery to the Kirk Session and congregation. If elders enter into the business of the Presbytery and speak up in debates they ensure that the Presbytery is representing their Kirk Session and congregation. Equally, if they discuss with the Kirk Session how and why decisions were made, whether agreeing with them or not, they have properly represented the Presbytery to their Kirk Session. The gulf that can sometimes appear between Presbytery and Kirk Session is bridged.

Courts. In Presbyterianism no one person is head of the Church, but Christ. Nor is the Church a democracy. On earth, the Church is ordered by a series of courts under the ultimate authority of Christ. The Kirk Session, the Presbytery and the General Assembly are the three courts of the Church of Scotland. The Kirk Session is the 'lowest' court and the General Assembly is the 'highest' or 'superior' court. Lower courts are represented on higher ones, so that ultimately the Kirk Session is represented at the General Assembly through the Presbytery. Lower courts are subject to higher courts, and generally, the power belonging to lower courts is also included in the power of a higher court, too. In other words, as an example, the General Assembly can appoint elders to serve in a Kirk Session. So, too, can the Presbytery.

All Church courts are public meetings. Anyone may attend, but only a member of the court may speak, unless invited to do so by the Moderator of the court. Sometimes Presbytery business is 'taken in private.' This means that the matters of business cannot be discussed with anyone out with the court and it cannot be reported by the Press. The Moderator will indicate when this takes place, and when the meeting is again in 'open court.' If the private matter is very hush-hush the Moderator can ask everyone who is not a member of the court to leave the room while the matter is discussed behind closed doors.

Committees. Courts often appoint committees to do the 'spade work' of business and then they report to the whole court. Committees do not decide for the court, but make recommendations. However, Presbytery may remit to their committees' powers to deal with routine matters and to carry out the general wish of the Presbytery without making repeated requests to the Presbytery. Every decision has to be brought to the notice of the Presbytery, though. The Inverness Presbytery has nine standing committees – Business, Church and Society, Education and Outreach, Finance, Ministry, Property and Works, Superintendence, Doctrine and Worship and Presbytery Planning. These committees continue from year to year. The Business Committee nominates the members of the standing committees. Rev. Jonathan Humphrey has been appointed to be a member of the Doctrine and Worship and the Finance Committees until 2018. Iain J. Mortimer presently serves as a member of the Ministry Committee until 2016. Other ad hoc committees are also appointed from time to time, usually to carry out special and specific functions.

STORY NUMBER ONE

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago. Capone wasn't famous for anything heroic. He was notorious for enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder. Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. Eddie was very good! In fact, Eddie's skill at legal manoeuvring kept Big Al out of jail for a long time. To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, but Eddie got special dividends, as well. For instance, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion with live-in help and all of the conveniences of the day. The estate was so large that it filled an entire Chicago City block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him.

Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son whom he loved dearly. Eddie saw to it that his young son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Nothing was withheld. Price was no object. And, despite his involvement with organized crime, Eddie even tried to teach him right from wrong. Eddie wanted his son to be a better man than he was. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example. One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al "Scarface" Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob, and he knew that the cost would be great. So, he testified.

Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer, at the greatest price he could ever pay. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine. The poem read:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."

STORY NUMBER TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission.. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realised that someone had forgotten to top up his fuel tank. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of formation and headed back to the fleet. As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet.

The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenceless. He couldn't reach his squadron and bring them back in time to save the fleet. Nor could he warn the fleet of the approaching danger. There was only one thing to do. He must somehow divert them from the fleet. Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 calibres blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was finally spent. Undaunted, he continued the assault. He drove at the planes, trying to clip a wing or tail in hopes of damaging as many enemy planes as possible, rendering them unfit to fly. Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction. Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier.

Upon arrival, he reported in and related the event surrounding his return. The film from the gun-camera mounted on his plane told the tale. It showed the extent of Butch's daring attempt to protect his fleet. He had, in fact, destroyed five enemy aircraft. This took place on February 20th, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of WW II, and the first Naval aviator to win the Medal of Honour.

A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man.

So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International at Chicago, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honour. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER ?

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.

Thanks to Louise Monaghan for these two stories

The Bible in 50 words

God made
Adam bit
Noah arked
Abraham split
Joseph ruled
Jacob fooled
Bush talked
Moses balked
Pharaoh plagued
People walked
Sea divided
Tablets guided
Promise landed
Saul freaked
David peaked
Prophets warned
Jesus born
God walked
Love talked
Anger crucified
Hope died
Love rose
Spirit flamed
Word spread
God remained.

- anon

THE CHIEF PURPOSE OF MAN

How clever man is, he has conquered the skies,
Reached for the stars and stepped onto the moon,
But he still does not know why he is here
Or what is the purpose, or why he was born.

And did it all start with one big bang
As stars and galaxies burst into space ?
Or was it the hand of a mighty Creator
Who lovingly fashioned this wondrous place ?

Into this world God planted a garden
And placed man there to enjoy its delights,
But he soon disobeyed and sin entered in,
And so man was banished and thrust from God's sight.

How gracious God is, He has reached out again
To reconcile man and bring him back home,
Sin's debt has been paid by the death of His Son,
To know God as Father is why man was born.

by Megan Carter

Dear Foodbank Supporters.

We have our annual summer Foodbank Collection at Inshes Tesco in Inverness on **Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd and Saturday 4th July**. We're looking for volunteers from your church who might be able to spare an hour or two on either the Friday or Saturday afternoon, between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. This involves handing out our shopping lists to customers entering the store, and thanking them for donations, which they can place in a specific trolley on their way out of the store.

If you are able to help, please contact Lorna on the email address, or the mobile number below.

Very many thanks for your help with this.

Kind regards,

Lorna

Lorna Dempster

Highland Foodbank Co-ordinator Inverness & Nairn

Blythswood Care

Mob 07875 332696

lorna.dempster@blythswood.org

What I learnt from 46 consecutive days in church



Broadcaster Adrian Chiles recently set himself a challenge - to go to church every day for more than a month, and never the same one twice. Why? For the Lent just gone by I resolved to go to church every day. I'm a Catholic so it would be Mass every day for more than a month. It felt like it would be a real struggle; a penance. It turned out to be anything but. It was a rich and enriching experience - spiritually, obviously, but I was also enraptured by the churches themselves, the communities they serve, and the people with whom I shared all those Masses.

I made it extra hard for myself by undertaking to go to a different church every day, so by Easter Sunday I'd been before 46 different priests in 46 different churches in 46 days. From day one, Ash Wednesday, I was captivated. I happened to be in the Swansea area, so I went to St Illtyd's in Port Tennant, a neat little community with rows of terraced houses clinging to the side of a very steep hill overlooking the bay. In every church I went to on this odyssey, without fail there was something to entrance me. It could be anything from the priest's trainers - priestly footwear is something I could write a whole article about - to the majesty of a stained glass window.

Other random Mass moments that will never leave me include the Polish lady next to me one Tuesday morning in Our Lady of Grace and St Edward's in Chiswick. She held a tiny passport-sized photo in a miniature, gilded frame. I took it to be her mum. With tenderness almost unbearable to behold she occasionally stroked her face. On a Friday lunchtime at St Patrick's in Soho Square I chose my pew, but before my bottom touched the seat I sprang back up in alarm as I realised there was someone in a sleeping bag motionless at my feet. I looked around at the rest of the congregation but no-one else seemed very concerned, so I shrugged inwardly, knelt and prayed for him, or it may have been a her. Who knows?

At Sacred Heart in Fareham at 7 a.m. one Wednesday morning, I sighed a little as an impossibly ancient lady in a woolly hat stepped forward to do the reading. This could take a while, I thought. But it turned out that in her younger days she could only have been an actor or Radio 4 newsreader. Her voice, clear as a church bell, sang out. I swear even the angels and cherubs around us cocked a pleased ear. Wherever I went in the country, and most of my Masses were in London, Birmingham, Swansea and Manchester, it was striking how similar the congregations were at weekday Masses. There's no getting away from it, the average age must be somewhere in the seventies. At 48 I spent most of this spring feeling like a spring chicken. But there was also invariably a young family of Asian origin, usually with young children in attendance. And at the 7 a.m. Masses in Central London there was the odd go-getter, who strode out after Mass was ended as if they had hedge funds to run. So, a mixed bag, as were the priests. A third of them I found to be great, with a handful quite life-changingly brilliant. Another third were sort of OK. The rest were pretty hopeless, not least because I often couldn't actually hear what they were saying. And handfuls were grumpy to the point of malevolence.

Spiritually, if I'm to really "connect" at Mass, I need a good priest to help me. And by good I mean, first and foremost, that they should look pleased to be there and pleased that we're there. Often they speak of great "joy" while looking as bored as swimming pool attendants. Secondly, with the liturgy - essentially the same script which they do day in, day out - the best of them find a way of making it sound fresh. As the inestimable Father Paul Addison of Our Lady of Delours in Kersal put it to me: "The clue's in the word; communion is all about communicating." And the same is obviously true of the sermon.

My favourite ever came from my first priest (I'm a convert), a Father Terry Tastard, a man with an unforgettable name in the happy habit of delivering pretty unforgettable homilies. At one weekday Mass he simply said: "How is it that we're always so keen for others to change when we're so reluctant to change ourselves." That was years ago, but I think about it often. As I'll always think back to this Lent as one of the most rewarding and quietly intense 46 days of my life.

An Explanation of God - by a very young exegete *

8 year-old Danny Dutton from Chula Vista, California had a third grade homework assignment, to "explain God."

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth. He doesn't make grownups, just babies: they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this. Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere, which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your Mum and Dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work, like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind and he told his Father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His Dad appreciated everything he had done and all his hard work on earth so told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. Now he helps his Dad by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can do himself, not having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time. You should always go to church on Sunday, it makes God happy, and if there's anybody you want to make happy, it's God ! Don't skip church to go to the beach. That's wrong. Besides, the sun doesn't hit the beach until noon.

If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely, because your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can. It is good to know He's around you when you're scared, in the dark, or when you can't swim and you get thrown into real deep water by big kids.

But...you shouldn't always think of what God can do for you. I figure God put me here and can take me back anytime he pleases. And...that's why I believe in God."

**Exegete is a student and interpreter of texts, especially religious writings*

Extracted from the Crown Church February 2015 newsletter.

Miscellaneous musings on life

Anger is just a letter short of danger - anon

There is more joy in the newspaper world over one sinner who cuts his sweetheart's throat than over the ninety nine just men who marry and live happily ever after - A P Herbert

The ability to speak several languages is an asset, but to be able to hold your tongue in one language is priceless.

Job cursed the day he was born. Most babies can't even speak till they are at least 18 months old.

Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.

True love possesses the ability to see beyond ... Love sees another's soul in great need of help and sets compassion to work - Charles Swindoll

These are actual complaints received by "Thomas Cook Vacations" from dissatisfied customers:

1. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
2. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no-one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallarta to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time — this should be banned."
8. "No-one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one-bedroom suite to our friends' three-bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air-conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancé and I requested twin-beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."



Board Meeting

'There will be a meeting of the Board immediately after the service,' announced the Minister. After the close of the service, the group gathered at the back of church for the announced meeting. However, there was a stranger in their midst. He was a visitor who had never attended their church before. 'My friend,' asked the Minister, 'did you understand that this is a meeting of the Board?' 'Oh, yes,' came the rejoinder from the visitor, 'and after that sermon, I'm about as bored as you can get.'



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WARDLAW CHURCH'S JUNE / JULY 2015 EVENTS DIARY

TUESDAY	30 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	1 st	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	5 th	Sunday morning CoS HIV Programme service at 10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY	5 th	CoS HIV Programme picnic at 11:00 a.m.
SUNDAY	5 th	First Sunday Praise at Kiltarlity Free Church starting at 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	7 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	8 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SATURDAY	11 th	Concert (John Alexander Wilson) at Kiltarlity Free Church at 7:30 p.m.
SUNDAY	12 th	Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m. led by Alasdair and Eileen Morrison
MONDAY	13 th	Kiltarlity Free Church Holiday Club – 13 th to 17 th inclusive
TUESDAY	14 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	15 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	19 th	Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY	19 th	Third Sunday Praise, including Communion, at 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	21 st	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	22 nd	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.
SUNDAY	26 th	Sunday morning worship at 10:00 a.m.
SUNDAY	26 th	Urquhart Castle (Alex MacDonald) from 6:00 p.m.
TUESDAY	28 th	Coffee / tea / home baking between 10:00 a.m. and 12 noon.
WEDNESDAY	29 th	Prayer meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn't do than by the ones you did do, so throw off the bowlines, sail away from the safe harbour, and catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover. – *Mark Twain*

Nothing is impossible, the word itself says, "I'm possible !" – *Audrey Hepburn*

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. - *Confucius*

Positive feelings come from being honest about yourself and accepting your personality, and physical characteristics, warts and all; and, from belonging to a family that accepts you without question. - *Willard Scott*