



FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear friends,

These are warm summer days. I have celebrated the happiest of weddings in your area, but with others have also had to take on board the most sudden and saddest of news. So we take one day at a time. Rightly we hope for and even plan for the future, but today is a precious gift – what I do with today, who I am today, whom I may bless (and not curse) today.

“For every thought of beauty; for every thought that yields the vision of the inner quiet and strength which may be ours through our glad acceptance of it; for every thought which casts the light of Your purpose upon our pilgrim way, we give You praise.”

This short prayer, from the book Hebridean Altars by Alistair Maclean, could be used by every one of us as we start our day. And allow that prayer to feed you into taking some time of silence, perhaps with eyes open (especially on as beautiful days as we have been having). Look out or think back to something which has struck you on account of its beauty, a gift to your senses. Meditate on drawing resilience and calm from God, and absolutely not only from yourself. This is what one might call a “mystical” move – but we would do well not to lose ourselves in it. Our assurance of there being a God comes through there being a human being whose name was Jesus, and even closer at hand generosity, love, patience, kindness and so on in people around us. Drawing in on ourselves is a bad move, if that is all we can do. Receiving, as the prayer says, receiving from what is held out to us in divine love matters very much.

Take time for this, regular time for it. And then, building on what we may read, or hear, or call to mind (especially from the Bible), offer your pilgrim way to God’s directing. There are many voices and messages which clamour to direct us. Sometimes, maybe rather often, we head off without knowing quite what we’re about or what we’re aiming for. I encourage you to ask for guidance. “May I know that I am not alone.” Read (sing !) Psalm 23, or read something else to hold in your heart, so that you walk towards the light and do not get dragged into the darkness. Thankfulness is prayer.

Yours,

Peter

James Alexander Gordon: The tantalising allure of East Fife 4 Forfar 5



It is a sad day for football supporters, James Alexander Gordon, voice of the classified results, is to retire - without ever officially reading the score line with which he was indelibly associated. Any football fan could close their eyes and imagine hearing that honeyed, resonant Scots brogue declare the final score.

"East Fife... (downward inflection) 4. Forfar... (upward lilt) 5."

For most of James Alexander Gordon's 40-year career delivering the BBC's classified

check, it was the tally you enunciated if you wanted to impersonate his distinctive, much-loved delivery. In fact, Gordon never announced this fabled score line. Now he has retired aged 77 from BBC Radio 5 live after surgery to remove his larynx.

The two clubs, currently both in Scottish football's third tier, have never finished a game thus, although they have come close. In January 1964 an encounter between them finished tantalisingly near, but the wrong way round - Forfar 5 East Fife 4. And in October 2011 fans across the country raised their hopes during a clash which finished, disappointingly, East Fife 4 Forfar 3.

The man responsible for popularising the score line was legendary comedian Eric Morecambe, who would repeat it when mimicking Gordon. Morecambe was a great admirer of the announcer and the two men became good friends. "Eric never called me James - whenever I saw him over a 20-year period he would say 'East Fife 4 Forfar 5'," Gordon said in 2012.

The fixture's musical resonance suited the delivery style of Gordon, a skilled clarinettist and pianist in his spare time. He pioneered the much-mimicked technique of raising his tone for the winning side's score, and dropping it in sympathy for the loser's. "It sounds so unbelievably obvious now but no-one had thought of it before," says former Scottish international turned BBC Radio 5 Live pundit Pat Nevin.

Audiences were always assured, too, that Gordon had the dexterity to deliver such a tongue-twister. "His personality and his trustworthiness always came across, which is very hard to do when you're basically reading a list," says Nevin. "However, I actually think there's a score line in Scottish football which is harder - Threave Rovers 3 Strathspey Thistle 3. Try reading it out three times, quickly. Even the great man himself would struggle." East Fife and Forfar next meet at Bayview Stadium, Methil, on 14 September. Henceforth, surely the encounter will become known as the "James Alexander Gordon" fixture.

Extract of an article written by Jon Kelly in the BBC Magazine.

Left-handed

Bobby went to the park one Sunday afternoon with his grandmother. It was late summer, but still many flowers were in bloom. Everything was beautiful. His grandmother remarked: "Doesn't it look like an artist painted this scenery? Did you know God painted this just for you?" Only a few hours away from church, Bobby said: "Yes, God did it and he did it left-handed." Confused, his grannie asked him why he thought that. "Easy," said Bobby, "we learned at Sunday School this morning that Jesus sits on God's right hand!"

Rosemary Mortimer – 1950 to 2013

As most of you are aware, Rosemary sadly passed away very suddenly at the end of June, and her funeral service was held at Wardlaw Church in Kirkhill on Friday, 5th July 2013. This was followed by a short committal service at Inverness Crematorium. I have three special people to thank – firstly Rev. Willis Jones for his kind, thoughtful and uplifting celebratory service, Mary Robb for her magnificent playing of the organ before, during and after the service. I am also very thankful to Keith McClelland for reading the tribute I knew I would be unable to read out on this very emotional day for me. I could fill the rest of the page with the names of all the people who helped to make that day more bearable for me and my family and I have, hopefully, thanked every one of them since personally.



I would like to express my own personal gratitude to the many folk who have supported me and given me a hug over these past few weeks since Rosemary's death, as I come to terms with losing such a loving and caring wife. "Thank you" seems inadequate for the many kind words, both written and spoken, that I have received from a vast number of people whose lives were touched by Rosemary in her own busy life. My sister Liz, and her husband Russell, were overwhelmed with the warmth of welcome, hospitality, kindness and care shown to them and my mother Joan, by everyone they met whilst here from Leeds for the funeral. This welcome was also extended to all Rosemary's friends who had travelled from Cambridge, Harrogate, and Liverpool to attend the service to celebrate her life, and also to her godsons, Jamie and Graeme who travelled up from Moffat with their mother Tricia. Everyone should be very proud of themselves as you all have demonstrated that, here in the Highlands, there is a real warmth of Christian friendship.

Rosemary registered herself on the organ donation web-site some years ago, and I know that some organs have been used to benefit others. One kidney went to a gentleman in his 50s and another to a gentleman in his early 70s. Both patients are recovering well. Both eyes will be used for cornea grafts in the near future. Her heart valves have been donated to young people in order to correct congenital heart defects which will significantly improve the quality of their lives. Rosemary's passing will have great benefits to others, and I get comfort from that thought.

I have had Rosemary's ashes split into three caskets for spreading in places that were meaningful to her. The first occasion was last week at Springwood Garden of Remembrance in Liverpool. Springwood is the place that both her father's and mother's ashes are scattered. Now Rosemary's ashes are united with her parents', along with a Whisky Mac rose, a favourite of hers and her father. My Mum, sister, and three of Rosemary's school friends attended with me for this occasion – another very emotional day for us all. I shall take one casket to the Isle of Mull to spread on the shore line near Dervaig. The final one I shall take to Dornoch beach. I hope to carry out both these journeys in the early part of August.

Rev. Iain MacDonald from Westray & Papay called to see me prior to the funeral service on his way to the Faroe Islands for a holiday, and he left these thoughts with me, which I would like to share with you all now. 'Saying goodbye to those we love is always difficult, and when that goodbye is a final one, those who are left have the intense heartache of having to go on living in the same world – a world which probably seems to have lost some of its colour and beauty. It is a central belief of the Christian faith that the one who dies moves into a new experience, but it is often a time of darkness and loneliness for those who are nearest to them. But God is with us even in the deepest darkness. He too knows the deep pain of suffering. He has been there and he understands the real depths of our fear and hurt. God makes it clear that death is not the end, but a transformation. The funeral service may seem to be the end but Paul, a leader of the early Church, says : *"we want you to know the truth about those who have died, so that you will not be sad, as those who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will take back with Jesus those who have died believing in him."* 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-14

Words by Iain J. Mortimer



Kirkhill and Kiltarlity Church congregations
are invited to an
OPEN GARDEN TEA PARTY

(in house if weather is unkind)

on Sunday, 4th August 2013

from 2:30 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

at the home of Avril and Iain Marr,
Eilanreach House, Newtonhill, IV3 8RN

No charge, but donations to the Wardlaw Church Fabric Fund will be welcomed.

Please speak to Avril if you are able to offer any assistance with home baking and washing up duties.

Plot of land at rear of Wardlaw Church update

We are happy to report that a completion date of 30th August has been agreed for the sale of the plot of land at the rear of Wardlaw Church. The purchasers are William and Sheila Dennison, who presently own the Glenrossie Guest House in Kenneth Street, Inverness. Mr and Mrs Dennison are planning to seek permission to build a four bedroom property on the site at Kirkhill, of which 2 bedrooms will be allocated for bed and breakfast lets. It is the intention of Mr and Mrs Dennison to live in the property at Kirkhill.

As we indicated in last month's edition, the offer falls below the £80k needed to clear the Church of Scotland loan we have outstanding. The General Trustees, at a meeting in Edinburgh on 16th July, made a grant of £2,600 towards our legal fees. The General Trustees have also kindly agreed to look again to see if they can offer any further assistance to help us bridge the gap between the monies raised by the plot sale and the £80k loan. A decision will be made by the General Trustees on this matter at their Fabric Committee meeting on 10th September 2013 in Edinburgh.

**Third Sunday Praise at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill
will be taking a break again in August.**

It will return on Sunday, 15 September 2013, starting at 6:00 p.m.

POSTCARD FROM CULBOKIE

Do you remember the Michael Flanders and Donald Swann 1950's song "In July the sun is hot, is it shining? No it's not!"?

Some people can complain about all kinds of weather. If it is August, it is too hot! If it's January, it's too cold! If it is April, it is too rainy! Why do we always talk about the weather? The weather always gives us something to talk about – because it is so unpredictable. In the bonny wee country of Scotland no two days are ever the same. Sometimes we shiver, sometimes we bask.

This summer we have basked. We have discarded the fine virtues of wisdom and prudence, and decided to celebrate good times. At our age we cannot handle such jubilation for 24 hours, and we celebrate not as we ought, but as we are able. In the words of the poet McGeogh, "I have outgrown my usefulness, so a quiet life for me. When I once used to scintillate, now I sin till half past three." We scintillated in July by going to Pitlochry for the theatre, Kirriemuir to pay thanks to a Scottish playwright, Sir James Matthew Barrie (J. M. Barrie), Killiecrankie for a visual extravaganza of life after and during the battle fields of another era. A day didn't go by without one of us saying "There's no place like Scotland."

After our day trips we came back to the Green Park Hotel to take a nap. One day it was so hot that we were recovering from sunstroke, and didn't rise up to go to dinner until 6:00 p.m. After sumptuous dinners of the fruits of the sea and local harvests, we attended the theatre. Willis enjoyed and understood a play about espionage called "Single Spies." I was simply carried away by Noel Coward's "Present Laughter" and was helpless with my own laughter by a modern play called "A Chorus of Disapproval." Each play was so stimulating and inspired us with much food for thought - to go along with the excellent wine (Châteaux something).

The height of the trip for me was a visit to J. M. Barrie's birthplace. In University days I was delighted to act in some of Barrie's plays. Barrie (1860 – 1937) was ahead of his time, in his attitude about women. "What every woman knows" and "The twelve- pound look" are my favourites. I was so grateful to see the home of the man who created Peter Pan. It was amazing to see the weaver's cottage where Barrie shared life with 9 other children. I felt so blessed that I was living in Scotland which produced such inspirational sons as Robert Burns, Robert Louis Stevenson, and now "The little man from Thrums," James Barrie. The legacy of Peter Pan is marked by a statue of him in the middle of the village.

I was left with the feeling of a scene of "horrible grandeur." Although tranquil now, on 27th July 1689, Killiecrankie echoed with the sound of gunfire when a Jacobite army, led by Bonnie Dundee (John Graham, 7th Laird of Claverhouse, and Viscount Dundee) defeated the government forces there. One soldier (Donald MacBean) escaped by making a spectacular leap across the River Garry. No wonder he didn't look before he leapt. It's much more fun to be a tourist than a soldier. Willis topped off the days by giving me a gift that keeps on giving – a membership of the Scottish National Trust. I look forward to more forays into your wee country, which is now mine.

Sigh! The silly season, the "salad days" are almost over, but not the "summer" feeling. Have you noticed that in July we don't hear such a loud "dawn chorus" to wake us up. The actress, Thora Hird, reminds us why very few birds sing in July. It's peaceful in the early morning because the dawn chorus has temporarily stopped. The reason is known to Mother Nature. Our native garden birds are far too busy stuffing food into their baby's beaks to sing. But by August, the nestlings are fed and satisfied, let the dawn chorus begin.

The summer is not over yet. Jack is hungry for his tea - let the barbeque begin. Fellow Scots, Willis has brought me to the right place. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Love, **PAT**

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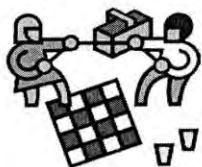
TIME?

**10 am to 3 pm followed by a
barbeque for children and parents**

HOW MUCH?

£2 per child (£1 for each sibling)

Please provide a pack lunch for your child.



Suitable for children from Nursery 4 to P7

To register please call 741 038 or e-mail :

Anneliese@garviefamily.com

Augustine of Hippo - the Christian for all seasons

After St Paul, who was the most influential Christian writer ever? St Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430), whose feast-day is on 28 August. He lived and wrote in a time of social and spiritual chaos. The Roman Empire was collapsing, the world was about to slide into the dark ages and the Church was under serious threat from both heresies within and paganism without.

What St Augustine wrote at this time helped the Church both to avoid perversions of Christianity, and to stand strong and unafraid amongst the violent tumult of the times. His writings held sway over Christianity for the next 15 centuries or so, and still influence us heavily today.

Augustine was born at Tagaste, in modern Algeria. His father was a pagan, but his mother, Monica, was a Christian. After studying rhetoric at Carthage to become a lawyer, Augustine instead became a scholar - philosopher. He abandoned Christianity for Manichaeism, and lived with a mistress for 15 years. He moved to Rome and then Milan to teach rhetoric, but slowly grew disenchanted with Manichaeism.

After a long interior conflict, vividly described in his 'Confessions', Augustine was converted and baptised a Christian in 386-7. He returned to Africa in 388, and joined some friends in establishing a quasi-monastic life. He was ordained priest in 391, and four years later became coadjutor-bishop of Hippo. From 396 until his death in 430 he ruled the diocese alone.

Augustine had a brilliant mind, an ardent temperament and a gift for mystical insights. Soon his understanding of the Christian Revelation was pouring forth in his many voluminous writings.

So what did he write ? Most famous is 'The Confessions', the sermons on the Gospel and Epistle of John, the De Trinitate and the De Civitate Dei. This last, 'The City of God', tackles the opposition between Christianity and the 'world' and represents the first Christian philosophy of history.

Many other works were undertaken in his efforts to tackle various heresies: Manichaeism, Pelagianism, or Donatism, and led to the development of his thought on Creation, Grace, the Sacraments and the Church.

Augustine's massive influence on Christianity has mainly been for the good. Few others have written with such depth on love, the Holy Trinity and the Psalms. (The preamble to the marriage service in the BCP is closely based on Augustine.) But his views on Predestination and some of his views on sex (that it is the channel for the transmission of Original Sin) have since been mainly ignored by the Church.

As bishop, Augustine fearlessly upheld order as the Roman Empire disintegrated around him. By the time of his death, the Vandals were at the very gates of Hippo.

Forget the faults of others by remembering your own.

Be patient with the faults of others; they have to be patient with yours

These "thought one liners" are published by Liz Leggott from Lincolnshire and thanks to Maureen Matheson for sharing them with us

An Arab Sheik was admitted to a Glasgow Hospital for heart surgery. But prior to the surgery, the doctors needed to store his blood in case the need arises. As the gentleman had a rare type of blood, it couldn't be found locally, so the call went out.

Finally a Scotsman was located who had a similar blood type. The Scot willingly donated his blood for the Arab.

After the surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman as appreciation for giving his blood, a new BMW, diamonds and thousands of Scottish pounds. A couple of days later, once again, the Arab had to go through a corrective surgery operation. His doctor telephoned the Scotsman who was more than happy to donate his blood again.

After the second surgery, the Arab sent the Scotsman a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street chocolates. The Scotsman was shocked that the Arab did not reciprocate his kind gesture as he had anticipated.

He phoned the Arab and asked him: "I thought you would be generous again, that you would give me a BMW, diamonds and money, but you only gave me a thank-you card and a box of Quality Street."

To this the Arab replied: "Aye laddie, But I now have Scottish blood in ma veins."

If you do not remember the Michael Flanders and Donald Swann song "In July the sun is hot, is it shining? No it's not!" mentioned in Pat Jones's article on page 5, I print the words below to the whole song. The song is from the 1950s review "At the drop of a hat" by Michael Flanders and Donald Swann.

January brings the snow,
Makes your feet and fingers glow.

February's ice and sleet
Freeze the toes tight off your feet.

Welcome March with wintry wind
Would thou wert not so unkind!

April brings the sweet spring showers,
On and on for hours and hours.

Farmers fear unkindly May
Frost by night and hail by day.

June just rains and never stops
Thirty days and spoils the crops.

In July the sun is hot.
Is it shining? No, it's not.

August, cold and dank and wet,
Brings more rain than any yet.

Bleak September's mist and mud
Is enough to chill the blood.

Then October adds a gale,
Wind and slush and rain and hail.

Dark November brings the fog
Should not do it to a dog.

Freezing wet December, then
Bloody January again!

Beware the church organist

Church organists, it seems, are no longer as innocent as they look. After centuries of playing hymns for congregations and anthems for choir boys, it seems that church organists are now playing tricks - on their congregations.

A recent survey by Christian Research has found that perhaps up to half of all church organists may be slipping secular tunes into church services - when least expected. The tunes can range from snippets of heavy metal classics to advertising jingles to nursery rhymes to popular pop songs.

Among the examples cited was that of the organist in Scotland who had fallen out with some of the elders in the Kirk. He got his revenge by playing a thinly disguised version of 'Send in the Clowns' as they processed in for a Sunday service. In another church, a vicar sacked an organist after he played 'Roll out the Barrel' at the funeral of a man known to have been fond of a drink.

One very high church congregation was startled to find their elaborately dressed clergyman processing down the aisle to - the theme tune from The Simpsons. Another congregation took up the collection - and found themselves listening to 'Money, Money, Money' by Abba.

The survey also uncovered examples of services 'livened up' with renditions of the theme tunes from the Magic Roundabout, Blackadder and Harry Potter. Sung Evensong - normally seen as the pinnacle of English choral music - has been 'enriched' with such offerings as 'I'm a Barbie Girl' and 'I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles'.

Stephen Goddard, of Christian Research, said: "It's an oft-repeated adage in church circles - 'What's the difference between an organist and a terrorist? - you can negotiate with a terrorist.' Hidden from view, your local church organist may appear unassuming, but like any true artist, he or she can be eccentric and mischievous. Mess with them at your peril - they will pull out all the stops to get their own back.

OLD HIGH SUMMER SERVICES

Old High St Stephen's Church last guest speaker for this summer's evening services at the Old High Church in Inverness is Rev. Martin Johnston, Secretary of the CoS Priority Areas Committee.

The service on Sunday, 11 August 2013, starts at 7:30 pm. at the Old High Church, Church Street, Inverness. The event includes worship, refreshments and question time. Free parking is available at the Rose Street car park. More details from Rev. Peter W. Nimmo on 01463 250 802.

**Consider the postage stamp; its value lies in sticking to one thing until it gets there.
If you can give but one gift, make it the gift of good examples.**

HE HAD A DREAM – remembering Martin Luther King's speech 60 years on

by David Winter

Watching with sympathy as the Queen read a very boring speech someone else had written at the State Opening of Parliament, I fell to wondering: what has happened to oratory ?

Other than Barack Obama, it's hard to think of a single English-speaking orator today of great distinction. Political speeches are either rants or lists of alleged facts, speeches at public events are often full of platitudes and clichés, and sermons in church (and I write as a regular preacher) have very largely become ten minute reflections, worthy but unmemorable.

Yet I remember in my student days any number of fine orators in our public life - my own favourite was that master of irony, Nye Bevan. Not far behind him was the man often dubbed the 'Welsh windbag', Neil Kinnock, who could rouse an audience to something approaching ecstasy. Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair (to balance things politically) were seldom boring and often hit on memorable phrases - 'The lady's not for turning', 'the people's princess.' And there were fine preachers - Martin Lloyd Jones, Michael Ramsey and Donald Coggan, to name but three. Where have they gone, the giants of podium and pulpit ?

All of these wistful thoughts struck me when I found out that Martin Luther King made his unforgettable 'I have a dream' speech exactly 60 years ago this month. Happily, it's still available on any number of recordings, so that we can hear again its beauty, power, and passion. Speaking from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial, this speech was a turning point in American history, probably as significant as Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg address ninety years earlier. 'I have a dream', he cried, departing, it seems, from his prepared text, and launched into a magnificent vision of a new nation, one where children would not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character. The psalms, the prophet Isaiah, even, briefly, Shakespeare became raw material for his passion. I heard it on the radio the next day, and like many people I was moved to tears.

More importantly, of course, the message as well as the oratory made an enormous impact. If one speech in our life-time has turned a whole society upside down, this was it. How wonderful that it was delivered by a black Baptist pastor. The assassin's bullet that killed him five years later turned his generation's most eloquent advocate of human rights into a modern martyr and a national hero. And the dream came true !

In light defeating darkness,
In wisdom defeating foolishness,
In trust overcoming fearfulness,
Jesus lives.

In strength coming to weakness,
In health rescuing from sickness,
In hope saving from despair,
Jesus lives.

In love victorious over hatred,
In forgiveness dispelling anger,
In glory dispersing drabness,
Jesus lives.

In joy growing from sorrow
In life rising from death,
In God giving the victory,
Jesus lives.

He holds the keys of love and of peace.
He holds the keys of life and of death.
He holds the keys of heaven and of earth.
He holds the keys of now and eternity.

(from David Adam, *Tides and Seasons*)

Thanks to Rev. Peter Donald for this prayer

PARISH NOTICE BOARD

- We offer our thanks to Rev. Bill Freel, Rev. Peter Donald, Rev. Stewart Frizzell and Rev. Stewart Jeffrey for leading our Sunday worship in July.
- Abby Matheson was made a "Child of the Covenant" by Holy Baptism at a service led by Rev. Peter Donald at Kiltarlity Church on Sunday, 14th July 2013. Abby is the daughter of Roddy and Suzanna, who live at Ruifour, Kiltarlity.
- Jonathan Jae (JJ) McLaren was made a "Child of the Covenant" by Holy Baptism at Wardlaw Church on Sunday, 14th July 2013. JJ is the son of George and Fiona, and the grandson of Bob Weir. Rev. Peter Donald, on behalf of the Wardlaw congregation, gave JJ a Bible to mark this special day in his life.
- Congratulations to Felicity Lloyd-Coombes and Morris Williams-Brown who were joined in marriage by Rev. Peter Donald at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill on Thursday, 18th July 2013. At the end of the service, Rev. Donald presented the couple with a Bible from the Wardlaw Church congregation to mark this special day in their lives.
- Congratulations to Claire Ironside and David Gillies who were joined in marriage by Rev. Willis Jones at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill on Saturday, 20th July 2013. At the end of the service, Rev. Jones presented the couple with a Bible from the Wardlaw Church congregation to mark this special day in their lives.
- In August we welcome Rev. Bill Freel back to lead our services on the first two Sundays. Mr Iain Todd, a reader from St. Stephens in Inverness, makes a welcome return to lead us on the 18th and 25th August. Iain has made a full recovery from the heart surgery he underwent last December.
- There is a joint meeting of the Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Kirk Sessions on Thursday, 15th August 2013 at Wardlaw Church, Kirkhill starting at 7:30 p.m. The matter under discussion is Sunday worship times at both Churches. Anyone can attend this meeting to witness the discussion, but they do not have any voting rights if any matter arising at the meeting calls for a vote.
- The TCC Youth Fellowship in Kiltarlity will be restarting again after the summer holiday break on Sunday, 25th August with a barbecue at 6:00 p.m. at the Free Church in Kiltarlity. All those in S1 upwards are very welcome to come along for fun, food and fellowship.
- Prayer meetings will be held at Wardlaw Church on 14th and 28th August 2013 in the Guild Room starting at 7:00 p.m. Prayers for individuals and their needs, world issues, and whatever else is on the minds and in the hearts of those present will be accommodated. Prayers are both free and fixed, spoken out loud or silently to oneself. The short service lasts only 30 minutes. Everyone is most welcome to join us at this time of prayer.
- Kirkhill's Deacons' Court meet at Wardlaw Church on Tuesday, 27th August, starting at 7:30 p.m. Anyone can come along to witness the procedures and processes that the Elders and Deacons of your Church have to follow on behalf of the congregation.
- Wardlaw Church now has two copies of the Black Mission Praise book in large print. They are on the sound desk at the back of the Church for anyone who wishes to use one.

John Bunyan – the man who wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*

After the Bible, John Bunyan's wonderful Christian allegory, the *Pilgrim's Progress*, is one of the most celebrated and widely-read books in the English language. It has been translated into more than one hundred languages around the world and keeps its place as a Christian classic.

Names of people and places from its pages have been commonplace wherever English is spoken. We need only recall Mr Great-Heart, Mr Valiant-for-Truth, Giant Despair, Madame Bubble, the Slough of Despond, Vanity Fair, the Delectable Mountains, the Hill Difficulty and the Celestial City.

Bunyan was born on 28 November 1628, at Elstow, near Bedford, England, of a poor family. He had little formal education and his father taught him to be a metal worker. His first wife died young. His second wife, Elizabeth, helped him considerably with his blossoming literary career. His conversion was the result of reading the Bible, and the witness of local Christians. From that time the Bible became the great inspiration of his life. He wrote more than fifty books on Christianity. A Baptist by conviction, he had little time for the Established Church.

Bunyan became a popular preacher, but because of his opposition to the Established Church and because he did not have a Church of England preaching licence, he was imprisoned in 1661. It was in prison that he wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*. It was not only Bunyan's greatest book but was destined to become one of the most popular Christian books in the world.

Pilgrim's Progress is an allegory, using the names of people and places from the Bible to teach spiritual lessons. The vivid and unforgettable imagery in the *Pilgrim's Progress* covers the whole Christian gospel from sin and condemnation all the way through faith, repentance, grace, justification, sanctification, and perseverance to heaven itself.

Bunyan died on 31 August 1688. His portrayal of the death of Mr Valiant For Truth is Bunyan at his allegorical best. This brave old soldier of Jesus Christ had received his summons to 'go home.' Calling his friends together he says, 'My sword I give to him who shall succeed me in my pilgrimage ... My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought His battles, who will now be my rewarder.' ... So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side...

Vacancy News

Sheila Moir has stepped into the role of Clerk to the Nominating Committee following Rosemary Mortimer's sudden death. Rosemary's passing also created a Kirkhill representative vacancy on the Nominating Committee. An edict was read in Wardlaw Church in respect of this vacancy on Sunday, 14th July and Sunday, 21st July 2013. A congregational meeting was duly held on Sunday, 28th July following Sunday worship, and Iain Mortimer was elected by the congregation to represent Kirkhill on the Nominating Committee.

Members of the Nominating Committee are :

Angie Cosens – 782 141	David Garvie – 741 038	Iain Marr - 831 609
Moira McDonald – 831 333	Sheila Moir – 741 618	Alasdair Morrison – 831 185
Ellenor Thomas – 741 330	Neil Watson – 741 876	Iain J. Mortimer – 782 648

A wise man lays a firm foundation with the bricks others throw at him

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

Graham Elkin is now in the General Surgery Ward 4 at Raigmore Hospital. Graham is receiving treatments to build up his strength and mobility levels as he prepares to undergo a major operation in late August. Fruit pastilles / wine gums are a favourite of his at the moment, as he is encouraged by the nurses and Maris to eat more solids. **The operation's aim is to clear away any infected tissue and abscesses that are still affecting his colon region.** Please continue to keep Graham and **Maris** in your prayers and thoughts at this most difficult time for them both.

John Hamilton is at home recovering from a very painful urinary infection which needed a visit to A&E at Raigmore to diagnosis and for him to receive antibiotics.

We also need to remember the following in your prayers as they recover from illness or are housebound; **Walter & Marie MacFarlane, Mary Urquhart, Karen Wylie, Mary Morrison, Sarah Cameron, and Polly Melville.**

In the hymn book shelf of the chairs in Wardlaw Church there is a prayer request card. Please use this card to request a prayer for yourself, and / or your family or friends, and post the card in the box above the table in the entrance hall. All requests are confidential and the prayers will be said at a Wednesday evening prayer meeting during the month.



The Tuesday coffee / tea and home baking morning at Wardlaw Church continues to enjoy a great turnout every week. If you have not been then you are missing a great social occasion. 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.

Heart

I take my heart in my hand,
O my God, O my God,
My broken heart in my hand:
Thou hast seen, judge thou.
My hope was written on sand,
O my God, O my God:
Now let thy judgement stand –
Yea, judge me now.

From 'Twice' by Christina Rossetti

Praise

When light creeps in through the chinks of the door
When the mist ascends from the mountain floor,
When the ocean shimmers like burnished ore,
Let me give the praise.

O God of the morning, Christ of the hills,
O Spirit who all the firmament fills,
O Trinity blest who all goodness wills,
Keep us all our days.

From 'Morning', an ancient Celtic poem



*Wardlaw Church's Sunday School
starts again after the
summer holidays on
SUNDAY, 25TH AUGUST 2013.*

*Meets every Sunday during school
term from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*

*All children will be made welcome
and we have a crèche facility*

Come and join us when you can

*Songs, Bible readings, drama, fun games, hands on activities,
DVD's, arts and crafts, and more...*

SOUP N' PUDDING NIGHT

at

KILMORACK HALL

on

FRIDAY, 16th AUGUST 2013

7:00 p.m. for 7:30 p.m.

Tickets £9.00 per person

Bring your own refreshments

All profits toward the Beauly Day Care Centre

Tickets from Frances or Eleanor - 01463 782 496

National Road Victim Month - August 2013

Have you lost a friend or relative in a traffic accident ? While you will remember lost loved ones every day, Road Victim Month each August aims to help *everyone* remember those who have died in road traffic accidents. Road Victim Month was first established in 1998, and aims to remind the public of how devastating road accidents are. The month of August was chosen as a number of poignant road accidents have happened in this month throughout history. Just two examples: Bridget Driscoll, the first person in the UK to die from a road traffic accident, died in August 1896. Diana, Princess of Wales also died in August 1997.

A number of events will be held throughout the month, including a service on the steps of Liverpool Anglican Cathedral on 31st August, remembering everyone who has been killed on the roads. Roadside memorials of flowers and wreaths at the sites of accidents are also encouraged throughout this month.

Vacancies for co-editor(s) and proof reader(s) of *The Parishioner*

For the previous 65 editions of *The Parishioner*, there has been a co-editor, Rosemary. This edition, the 66th is the first one produced solely by one person. I do not believe that any newsletter, or publication benefits from only having one member controlling the editorial. *The Parishioner* needs other editorial inputs to give balance and fairness at all times. So I am looking for some assistance in producing the editorial part for *The Parishioner* each month.

The person, or persons, should be willing to submit articles or subjects that they believe the readership of the newsletter would like to be informed about - relevant and up-to-date. The articles can be directly written by the person(s), or uplifted from magazines, newspapers, or the internet. Photographs or graphics enhance any article. The articles can cover any appropriate subject matter and need not be linked to a religious theme, and can be serious or humorous. I believe that part of the success of our newsletter is the variety and scope of articles that it offers the readers each month. Our aim has always been to include each month, something that was of interest to every reader.

I would also like volunteers who would be available sometime on the Thursday before publication to proof read the newsletter. Maureen Matheson has already kindly volunteered, but I would appreciate a pool of three or four folk that I could call upon to carry out that task. I would like to thank Mary McClelland for proof reading last month's edition at very short notice and at a very difficult time for us all.

I am still willing and able to print, staple together and distribute the newsletter every month. Please contact me on 782 648 to discuss further if you would like to become a co-editor or a proof reader, or just wish for more details - Thank you.

It may be the opinion of some folk that this would be an appropriate time to perhaps take a deep breath and carry out a complete audit / review on whether we should carry on producing a monthly newsletter in the format under which it presently operates. If you think that this should be done, or something similar, then speak to any Elder in your Church, or myself about your thoughts.

*Iain J. Mortimer - editor of *The Parishioner**

Out of the Depths

by Megan Carter

John was seven years old when his mother died, and 11 when his father took him to sea. John soon became a hardened blaspheming seaman, and slave trading became a way of life. One day a tremendous storm arose. John in fear calling to God for mercy was miraculously saved from the deep. So chastened and reformed was John that on his return to England he gave his life to God, becoming ordained in the Church of England and a curate in 1764. He joined forces with William Wilberforce campaigning for the abolition of slavery. This is John Newton's testimony.

Amazing grace ! how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

Bible's timeless stories find new audience on TV

Goodbye Television Centre. In March 2013 the BBC celebrated the life of a great British institution. The home of television comedy, documentaries and light entertainment. Thank you Ronnie Corbett, David Attenborough and the entire Blue Peter team.

During my time in commercial publishing I was invited to wander around vast warehouses containing the BBC's television and radio archives. My mission was to create new books out of the BBC's back catalogue. The smell of chemicals eating away at old episodes of Dr Who and the Morecambe and Wise Show was almost overpowering. The challenge, my guide told me, was to transfer them from reels of cellulose onto a more stable platform before they completely disintegrated. One man had, what seemed to me, the perfect job. He was watching episode after episode of Dad's Army to spot and log every speck of dust and each hairline crack on the film so that they could be restored and preserved to live again. Nice work.

It hasn't always been like this. Until I entered the inner world of the BBC, nobody was much interested in old archives of out of date programmes. Who would want to keep them? In the minds of the Corporation's bosses, these old reels were an expensive liability taking space and costing money to store. Not anymore. Now the legacy is recognised as an asset rather than a liability. A treasure for the nation to be made available to a new and younger audience. Monty Python has bankable value in the world of media rights and intellectual property. Any media student will tell you about vintage quality of episodes of Kenny Everett and Michael Parkinson.

It is not an exact fit, but the parallel with the Bible is obvious. Perceived by many as a relic of the past, others still believe the Scriptures have lasting value today. Unlike its celluloid counterpart, the Bible is living and active and sharper than any two edge sword. And while some would pull down our churches in the same way they are redeveloping the site of Television Centre, a new audience is resonating with this timeless text. One example is the television series *The Bible* which is attracting huge audiences in the US. Believing the Bible to be irrelevant, the hit series has suffered from the prejudicial judgment of schedulers and been side lined to the History Channel. Yet the power of the story and the depth of its reality are there for all to see. With an unknown cast, a negligible promotion budget and a storyline that is, to say the least, old, *The Bible* has beaten the number one show American Idol in the US ratings.

It turns out that the Bible is not like the archives of the BBC after all. It is not dead and decaying. It has lost none of its potency and doesn't appear to be out of date. Surprisingly, the Bible lands as a massive fact into our world. Capable of being told and retold across the centuries and around the world, and in different formats, without losing its core meaning or purpose.

Later this autumn the church will celebrate Bible Sunday, an official date in the calendar to wonder again at the Scriptures' power to change, to inspire, and to constantly challenge and create controversy. The TV series *The Bible* confirms that the story, insight and revelation of 'the book of books' still speaks today. It's hardly surprising. The Bible talks about the human reality, drama and dilemmas that we see all around us. In fact there is nothing we can experience on this earth that the Bible hasn't got to first.

War? Simply turn a few pages of the Old Testament. Conflict? It's there in all its Technicolor and complexity. Tragedy, pain and loss? Just read the Psalms. Why evil? No other treatment of the subject even comes close. Love? Nobody has written anything better.

Recently Bible Society has been running a competition called *The Pitch*. It's where budding Hollywood directors can pitch a film idea about the Bible to a panel of industry experts that have included people like David Suchet and Wallace and Gromit creator Nick Park. "Pitch it, film it, take it to Hollywood" has become a reality for several young producers, some of whom have had little or no contact with the Bible.

The Bible is alive and well and living on a TV screen near you. Too bad that Television Centre has shuffled off the mortal coil. By contrast, heaven and earth, said Jesus, may pass away, but my words will never pass away. It may be goodnight from him, but it's not good night from the Bible.

Article written by James Catford who is the Group Chief Executive of Bible Society.

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Diary dates for AUGUST 2013

- 4 August** Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Preacher is Rev. Bill Freel
- 4 August Afternoon Tea Party at Eilanreach House between 2:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m.
Everyone is most welcome to come along and enjoy the fellowship
- 6 August Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
- 11 August** Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Preacher is Rev. Bill Freel
- 13 August Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
- 14 August Fun Day for Children at Kiltarlity Village Hall between 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- 14 August Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 15 August Joint Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Kirk Session meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 16 August Soup N' Pudding night at Kilmorack Hall at 7:30 p.m.
- 18 August** Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Preacher is Iain Todd
- 20 August Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
- 25 August** Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Preacher is Iain Todd
- 25 August TCC Youth Fellowship meets at Kiltarlity Free Church at 6:00 p.m.
- 27 August Coffee / tea / home baking at Wardlaw Church at 10:00 a.m.
- 27 August Kirkhill Deacons' Court meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:30 p.m.
- 28 August Prayer meeting at Wardlaw Church at 7:00 p.m.
- 1 September** Worship at **WARDLAW** at 10:30 a.m. and **KILTARLITY** at 12 noon.
Preacher to be advised

The September 2013 issue of The Parishioner will be published on Sunday, 1st September 2013