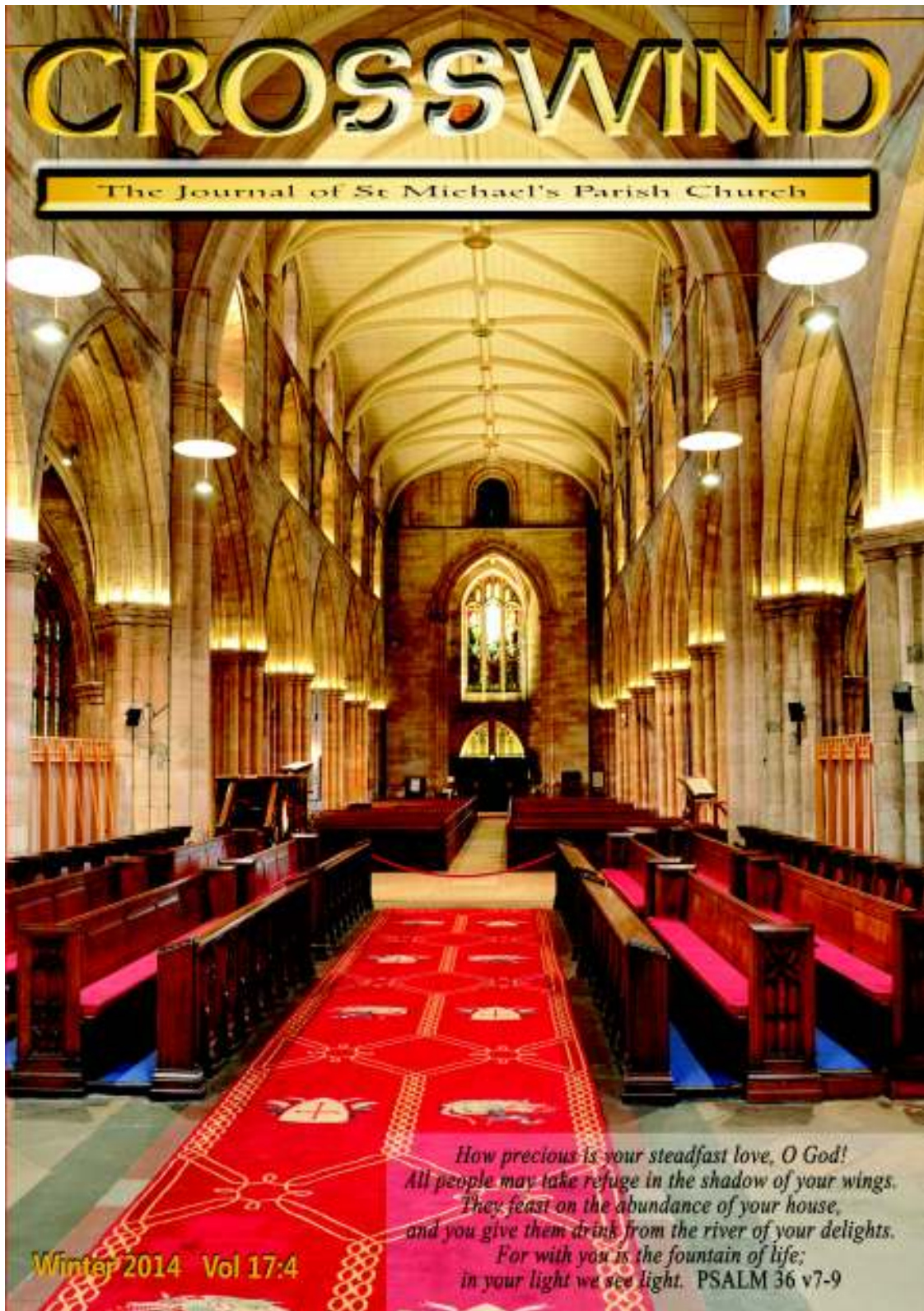


CROSSWIND

The Journal of St Michael's Parish Church



*How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light. PSALM 36 v7-9*

Winter 2014 Vol 17:4

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SUNDAY SERVICES



Communion

Sunday 25th January
All-Age Communion at 9:30am.
Traditional Communion at 11am
in the church
3pm in the Kirk Hall
with common and individual cups

Weekly Services

9.30am First Morning Service
Crèche in Cross House

9.45am All-Age Worship
Term time in Springfield School

11.00am Second Service

6.30pm Evening Service
in Kirk Hall

Monthly Communion

Sunday 22nd February
at 12:15pm
Individual Cup

Front cover photograph courtesy
of Stephen Blake

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VIEW FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,



He loves a good leap, Alvin. All over anyone who comes within range. A full metre of altitude now from a standing start, his head above the level of the kitchen counter. Alvin the dog. No need to ask where the tea towel went. Or the tray with the fairy cakes. 'Dog!' I shout. 'Don't call him "dog" Daddy!' cries Imogen, 'he's Alvin.' Okay, I say. Alvin the dog. 'No Daddy! Just Alvin.' We are a family of five. I come fourth. Notionally.

It's a new year and the first one I have started with a beard since 1980, working as a scaler for a logging company – T P Downey and Sons of New Brunswick. 'A yard of service in every board foot,' was their motto. Not bad, though it did require reducing parts of forests to lumber. It was my first job, BSc in hand, since my boyhood paper route.

My most vivid memories are of the forest in winter. Snow heavy on the branches, boots scrunching. Several miles' walk down a trail to the site the contractors were working. Having cutters hanging on my shoulder as I measured a sample of their logs for length and width, took the average, and counted their overall production. Keeping careful record. One cutter, a wrestler who worked a chain saw when he was not in the ring, got very close one day when he was sure I had missed one of his logs in the count. Very reasonable he was, with his scarred forehead and massive arms. 'Mad Dog Vachon' was his fighting name. Maurice, otherwise. I found the missing log, of course. Having a beard helped, I think. He had one that ran the length of his jaw and chin, with spikes up to the sides of his mouth. Sadly, he died last year at the age of 84.

A beard may have helped the day I startled a moose coming round a brow of logs. After a short look-me-over he reared and bolted – well, turned and made his way back into the woods. The men who worked the skidders and tree harvesters were not impressed. Better were their own stories of having to light fires under the oil pans of the CATs to get them started in the morning.

I have been told the beard suits me. And that I suit the beard. Take your pick but I like the first one better. There is a degree of anonymity with it – people seem not to be recognising me about town until I speak. An occupational hazard.

I began to grow the beard in August during the most recent war between Gaza and Israel. I had spoken with the new Rector of Holy Family Church in Raineh, Galilee, the Rev Hanna Dally, asking him what we could do to support him and his congregation at this time.

He began his response by calling us to pray for peace, for a change of hearts and minds among leaders, for the injured in hospitals, for psychological and social support for children and bereaved families, and for 'the love of Christ to stay in our hearts'. I grew the beard to remind me to pray. In its earlier scratchier stage it did this very well. Now it is more the morning look in the mirror that does it.

A squiz round the gallery of former Ministers of St Michael's – framed for posterity on two of the walls in the Vestry of the Kirk – will tell you that you have to go back to the Rev James Barclay to find a minister wearing a beard in his official photograph. One of the shorter ministries at St Michael's, he was here from 1876–78. A native of Paisley, one of his accomplishments was to have the whitewash removed from the chancel – a feat of no little symbolic significance. Following a short stay at St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, he took a call to St Paul's Church, Montreal in 1883, where I trust his beard quilted him against the winters. As for his successors, whose ministries averaged 25 years each, they all appear clean-shaven in their photographs: Ferguson, Coupar, Rutherford, Steel and Paterson – though Ferguson and Coupar sport moustaches.



A propos of what, you ask? Good question. Some things are just fun. Like trying to spot me in the photo of Mount Alison University's garnet rugby team of 1978–79. It looks like I've got the barest beginnings of a beard. An earlier High School photo sees me trying to copy the sideburns of one of my favourite singers, then as now, Neil Young.

Back to Alvin, there is little truth in the rumour, started by me, that I have grown the beard to look more like the dog. Clearly, he is trying to look like me.

Wishing you and yours every blessing in this New Year.

Your friend,

ST MICHAEL'S PROJECTS

by Anne Law



The Stewardship and Finance Team has a standing invitation from the Crosswind Editor to produce a short article for each magazine. We were discussing the potential content of this article at a recent meeting and recalled a fascinating presentation that Ian Musgrave had made at the 2013 Congregational AGM about projects undertaken since the 1960s. This article relies heavily on Ian's information.

The Empowered project cost over £300,000 but I wonder if you remember any other projects that we have undertaken as a congregation, together with the costs? Going back to the 1960s there was the Crown of Thorns – recently celebrating its 50th anniversary – and the stonework project. The new aluminium crown cost £8,000. The crown was part of a larger stonework project which cost £17,000 – £300,000 in today's money. 'Quite a challenge' as Ian says.

The 1970s were very quiet with no major buildings projects. And then we get to the 1980s when we had to 'Raise the Roof' and build the 'new' Kirk Hall. The complete restoration of the beautiful plaster ceiling in the church cost £80,000 in those days. There were months of fundraising events and the interior of the church was hidden in scaffolding. The Kirk Hall cost £250,000 at the time which would be the equivalent of £600,000 today.

That, thankfully, was us finished for the 80s, but the 90s brought the final project of the 20th Century. The whole town will remember St Michael's disappearing for months on end in a cloak of scaffolding and netting as we undertook the magnificent restoration of the historic walls and roof of the church building. Some might also remember, in the days before Health & Safety, the late David Hunter's conducted tours of the works – even out on the roof. A long way up wobbly ladders and along even wobblier planks! A magnificent project with a magnificent price – £1.25 million.

The 21st Century has brought three projects already. The organ was replaced at the start of the century, followed by the extension to the manse in order for us to be able to call a new minister. And 2014 will see Empowered draw to a close.

And what does this all mean? There will always be building projects requiring fundraising and technical expertise in a church like St Michael's but with God's help we will be able to rise to the challenges of our stewardship responsibilities for the benefit of those who will come after us.



by Jim Rae

Under the Spotlight



Welcome to the new Junior Church spot. Each edition we will find people in our church brave enough to answer our questions!!! Are you brave enough?

For this edition Quest put **Stewart Gillan** under the spotlight and here are his answers to our questions.



What is your favourite hymn and why? *My favourite hymn has to be O righteous Lord, it's hymn 2 in the hymn book. I just love the line 'from dark despair to boundless hope'*

What have you not done with your life that you want to do? *Publish my writing.*

What's the best and worst bits of being a minister? *Being part of people's lives in a meaningful way and the worst part is making time for everything that needs time.*



What's your favourite section of Ikea? *I love the lighting section.*

If you could go on holiday, where would you go and why? *If it was just Sarah and myself I'd head to Istanbul. If it was the whole family then somewhere we could just relax, hiking or on a beach and palm trees. If I could head off on holiday tomorrow, then I'd go to Mauritius.*

What's your favourite passage in the Bible? *Isaiah 58 verses 6-12*

What band/singer would you like to see? *Mmmh... probably Ladysmith Black Mambazo; try to find them on YouTube and see how good they are. K T Tunstall is good too!*

If you could have any superpower what would it be and why? *Power to transport myself so I could just ping myself anywhere.*

What is your favourite book and why? *Book of poetry called Revolutionary Patience by Dorothy Solle. Her poetry gave me a way to write my own.*

What is your favourite word and why? *My favourite word is 'hello' because it gets the ball rolling and acknowledges the person before you.*

What is your biggest fear and why? *My family's safety and well being because I love them and because of the world we live in.*

Have you ever broken a bone and how did you do it? *Yes! My collar bone when I was 12. I was having a tetanus jag and refused to sit down, and then*

passed out. I told my friends I broke it playing ice hockey. Much cooler excuse!

Who is your favourite Disney princess? Ariel the princess who lives under the sea.

When you were younger what did you want to be or have you always wanted to be a minister? For a while I wanted to be a dentist; I was about 14 at the time and reckoned they made lots of money.



How do you write sermons? Some come in a flash some more slowly. I read the Biblical passage early in the week then read what is going on in people's lives and put them together.

What is your favourite Bible story? It is one of the resurrection stories, when Jesus is at the shore and his disciples have come back from their fishing and he cooks them a first breakfast on the shore of the Sea of Galilee. Maybe we should do a first breakfast at Easter?

What music do you like to listen to? I like to listen to loads of different music, classical, Celtic, rock but my favourite music is no longer pop or rock but instrumental, swing or jazz – and I love listening to Sarah.

How did you meet Sarah? She was singing an introit at a church in Toronto and I was filling in as a preacher for the day. I was then asked to fill in each Sunday for a two-year run. It wasn't until I'd been there twelve months that we spoke!

What's the best thing you can cook? Bolognese sauce

What's your favourite musical? Jesus Christ Superstar

When and where did you learn to play the guitar? I learned in Cape Breton Nova Scotia when I was 14. I was taught by a boy who was 16. I had noticed that when he played guitar the girls went over to him!

When did you know you wanted to be a minister? My Sunday school teacher suggested it may be for me when I was younger. When I was older in 1983, once I had actually started my ministerial training, I knew it was for me. My mother read me the Psalms when I was a young child – that too played a part in my Calling.

How many siblings do you have? I have three brothers but sadly lost my little brother Malcolm when he was only 26.



And last but not least are you brave enough to answer our PS question from our Sunshine Starters ?

Yes I think so!

What's your favourite ice cream? Well that has to be a chocolate ice cream cone!

So who will it be next edition of Crosswind...? That is for us to know and you to

THE BIG SWITCH-ON

by Bob Ross

As you all know by now the new lighting system has been commissioned and much lauded by those who saw it being put through its paces at the official inauguration ceremony on November 2.

The wisdom of the decision to opt for an evening event was clear from the start.



The bulk of the congregation took up the invitation to gather at the Cross and then march up the Kirkgate in a torch-lit procession singing 'We are marching in the Light of God'. By the time we got about three-quarters of the way up most of us began to realise that singing while walking up an incline is something that is easier said than done. It must have seemed like a good idea at the time.

Inside the church the new system was turned on just enough to allow people to find their way to a pew. The lights went out briefly and our Associate Minister, Cheryl, led the countdown for the official switch-on by five of the young people of St Michael's.

At the touch of a button the lights came on full power, lighting every corner of the building and delivering the 'wow factor' we had all been hoping for.

The five youngsters who helped create that little bit of history were Morag Mayland, Stephanie Allatt, Louise Clark, Molly Kelly and Michael Clark. They earned their places by coming top in an art competition to represent the impact of the new lighting project on St Michael's.



Property convener Chris Gunstone, who has been project leader to the re-lighting took the congregation on a guided tour of the church via the light system, showing how individual areas, like the Apse and the Communion table, the organ and the grand piano can be bathed in light. All of this achieved while using less power.

It would in future be possible for the building to be put to different uses, bringing more people into St Michael's for a wide range of events, he said.

Our organist, Andrew Sutherland, gave a spirited rendition of the Sousa march Liberty Bell when the spotlight fell on the organ. In complete contrast he switched to Debussy's Clair de Lune when the grand piano was illuminated: another virtuoso performance.

Much of the magic of the new system is not seen because it is hidden away in the trunking either under the floor or above our heads at triforium level. Every pillar boasts its own power point and provision has been made for a lighting rig, should that be required for any drama events in the church.



The church is now linked to Wi-Fi which means that it should be possible to beam events from the church in a web-cast which could be viewed on the other side of the world. Future television broadcasts from St Michael's should also be easier because our electricians are now state of the art.

None of this would have been possible without the help of a large number of people from both within and outwith the church. The £306,000 price tag was daunting at the beginning but all sorts of people responded willingly to the challenge.

Now there remains a balance of only a few thousand pounds to be raised to allow us to close the books. Still to come is a festival of flowers, a golf event at Kingsfield and possibly a son et lumiere combining the skills of lighting technicians and our own organist.

A crucial factor has been the support received from LandTrust (£60,000) and the Scottish Government's Climate Challenge Fund (£73,000). Without such substantial backing early on the project might not have gone ahead.



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LIGHT AT THE WEST DOOR

by Bob Ross

A generous donation has brought about the transformation at the West Door of St Michael's which means that the steps are now well lit.

The original light at that location was installed in 1895 when a gas supply was being led into the church. We think it was converted to electricity in the 1930s – and it was only last year that it began to let us down.

However, once it stopped functioning it was sorely missed whenever the church was used at night in the winter months.

An inspection showed that there were gaps in the glazing joints, the base plate was corroded and the fitting was generally in an unsafe condition.

Sugg Lighting, Royal Warrant holders, were contacted and recommended a new LED system which, of course, dovetailed nicely with the work being done on the interior lighting of the church.



In June of last year our lamp was despatched to the Sugg factory in Horsham, Sussex, for refurbishment. There it had to take its place in a queue behind two other distinguished customers – Buckingham Palace and the Bodleian Library in Oxford.

It was returned on October 27, wired up the same day and now provides excellent lighting. A prayer of dedication was offered by the Rev Dr Stewart Gillan on the evening of the switch on of the new LED lights in the church.

The cost of refurbishment has been met by a donation from Mrs June McIntyre in memory of her daughter Caroline who died in July 2012, aged 38 years.

CHRISTIAN HOPE IN KOREA

by Rev JunSoo Park



1. Scotland and Korea

Scotland has special historical links with Korea. For example, the first Korean Bible was translated by the first Scottish missionary to Korea, Rev Dr John Ross (1842-1915). Yun ChiHo (1864-1945) attended the 1910 World Missionary Conference in Edinburgh, and then his nephew Yun BoSun (1897-1990), second President of South Korea, studied archaeology at the University of Edinburgh. More specifically, the Scottish Korean War Memorial Park is near Linlithgow. It is the only memorial park in the UK dedicated to the Korean War. When I visited this park, I noticed that in the Korean War, 45,000 British servicemen were involved and more than 1000 British Soldiers died.

2. President Park ChungHee and Korea's Economic Growth

In the perspective of politics, ex-President Park ChungHee (1917-1979), South Korea's longest-ruling autocrat and the father of current President Park GeunHye, made a significant contribution to the economic growth of Korea. At that time, he intensively fostered several plutocracies such as Samsung, Hyundai and LG. In order to form a united social norm he offered Confucian concepts such as loyalty (忠) and filial piety (孝). Sending troops and workers to the Vietnam War and the Middle East became a turning point in Korean history. In the 1970s, the image of the church in Korea is a blessing place in the context of the new community movement by government. In particular, education was hugely encouraged by government in order to overcome the shortage of natural resources.

3. Historical Roots of Koreans' Education Passion

South Korea's national obsession with ever higher levels of education appears to have reached a ceiling. The proportion of high-school graduates going on to higher education rose from 40% in the early 1990s to almost 84% in 2008. This passion for education has historical roots. In the early years of the Choson dynasty (1392-1910) those who passed a civil-service exam could gain entry to the privileged class, a scholarly aristocracy. Under Japanese colonial rule between 1910 and 1945, Koreans' educational aspirations were reinforced by mission schools. In the carnage of the Korean War, many old social hierarchies crumbled, convincing people they could succeed by their own efforts. Confucianism, Christianity, and the Korean War led to Koreans' educational passion.

4. Education Fever

Of course, economic growth by dictatorship caused many social problems such as a high suicide rate, anti-democratic social environment, and depersonalisation. In South Korea today, education obsession raised by a highly competitive examination system and very low birth rate is damaging Korean society. Even though 28% of South Korean households cannot afford monthly loan repayments, 70% of domestic expenditure goes toward private education to get an educational edge over other families. Korean parents sacrifice housing, retirement, or vacations, so that they can educate their children. Interestingly, every developing country in Asia, especially China, seems to have a similar pattern.

5. Dictatorship and Democracy

In spite of these side effects, as Mencius (372-289 BC), the most famous Confucian after Confucius himself, argues that 'only the man of virtue can have a constant heart in spite of a lack of constant means of support (Mencius 1A7),'¹ President Park ChungHee clearly made economic foundations for democracy and the problems he raised have been gradually recovered by Christianity.

6. The Images of the Korean Church

These days, about 5m of South Korea's 50m people are Roman Catholics and 10m more are Protestants, many of whom are Presbyterians. Historically, in the 18th century curious intellectuals encountered Catholicism in Beijing and smuggled it home. Confucian monarchs executed most early converts: Korea has many martyrs, ranking Korea fourth globally for quantity of saints. Protestantism came later and fared better. By the 1880s Korea was opening up, and the mainly American missionaries made two astute moves: opening the first modern schools, which admitted girls; and translating the Bible into the vernacular Korean alphabet rather than the Chinese characters favoured by the literati. In these days, the image of the church in Korea was a kind of Enlightenment like the 18th-century Scottish Enlightenment by David Hume and Adam Smith. Under Japan's rule, the image of the church in Korea was patriotic in consequence of March 1st Movement; then during the Korean War the image of the church became a place of relief for medicine and food like NHS as UN soldiers distributed those in churches (YoungSang Ro, 2009). During dramatic economic growth in 1970s, the church in Korea contributed to democracy. Clearly, Christianity in Korea played an important role in modernisation, independence from Japan, anticommunism, democracy, and economic growth.

7. The Future Task of the Korean Church

What is the future task of the church in Korea? The most important undertaking is to encourage reunification between North and South Korea and mission to China. These are not only patriotic visions but also Christian visions.

If so, what is the future task of St Michael's Parish Church for Linlithgow?

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2020 VISION: SHAPING UP

by Alan Miller

'By 2020, St Michael's will be...'

Well, what do we think St Michael's will be like by the end of the decade? If we did nothing, then on present trends we would very likely see the church continue to become smaller in numbers, older on average and less well resourced.

However, as Brian Lightbody reported in the Autumn 2014 Crosswind that is certainly not what anyone wants to see. The responses to the '2020 group' questionnaire were emphatic that St Michael's could and should work on attracting more families and young people to become involved, not least through new and experimental ways of worshipping and of being 'church'.

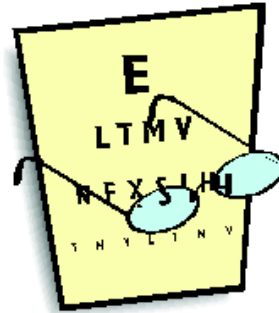
People were also clear they would like more opportunities to get to know and support each other, and to learn together as Christians. And finally, there was real support for using technology better, for instance in how we communicate with each other and the wider community.

Kirk Session is now developing a vision of what we believe God is calling St Michael's to be by 2020: a church that is growing year by year and infused with a desire to share our faith; a church that supports each of us on our journey of faith as individuals and as a fellowship; and a church that uses all forms of communication well, from notice boards to social media.

This is an exciting but also challenging calling for all of us! Kirk Session talked through what it means at a special conference in September 2014. Issues raised by Elders included finding new ways to engage with the community and with disengaged members. There was talk of experimenting with additional, different times and types of worship such as 'messy church' or pub debates. And there were several comments along the lines of 'Kirk Session will have to step up to the plate' in leading change alongside the ministry team.

The next step for Session is to plan how we start working towards the 2020 vision in 2015. While we do that, there is a crucial way in which all of us can continue to support this process of understanding and then living out what God is calling us to in St Michael's. Please pray. We can thank God for all his blessings. And we can pray for wisdom to discern how He is leading us as we seek to live out our church mission statement 'Knowing Christ better – serving Him together – making Him known to others'.

St Michael's in 2020 could be an exciting place to be!



DUST BUSTERS

by Pat Brough



by Jim Rae

The houses of the future will have automatically controlled television, lights and curtains, and also a dust extractor. These were some of the promises made at an Ideal Homes Exhibition in the 1960s. Science has been successful in fulfilling some of these promises, but we are still waiting for the Dust Extractor, which would have been extremely useful in St Michael's over the last few months.

Years ago the Church was looked after by a Beadle who dusted pews and vacuumed carpets during the week and kept the Church open to any visitors. When John and Frances Packman retired after years of caring very efficiently for St Michael's, the task of looking after the Church was given to contractors, but this was not altogether satisfactory. Eventually Jim Anderson was employed as a part-time beadle, but unfortunately Jim retired, and since then dusting has been done by volunteers with a 'deep clean' once or twice a year.

The rewiring project involved electricians drilling holes in the stone and working in the Church, increasing the amount of dust and the volunteers worked hard to keep these dust levels under control – on Friday afternoons, when the men had finished for the week, and on Saturday mornings in advance of any weddings.

Dusting St Michael's is a huge job; there are all the pews, both in the main part of the Church, the choir and the elders' seats in the apse. There are the chairs in the Queen's Aisle, the pulpit and the lectern, as much of the organ as may be reached safely, several tables, bookcases, the visitors' stall, the display boards and all the wood surrounding the organ and toilets – and lastly the toilets themselves. The pew cushions require vacuuming frequently as does, of course, the red carpet, although dust sheets helped to protect it from the worst of the dust.

Several of the Open Church Volunteers have dusted and vacuumed pew cushions, if visitor numbers to the Church were low, but the biggest thanks must be given to all those members of the congregation who have come to wield the dusters in the absence of a 'Dust Extractor' to make St Michael's a clean environment for both wedding guests and for the Sunday services.

It doesn't seem to matter what has to be done in St Michael's; there are always volunteers willing to cope with the problem.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRAYER

Wednesday Prayers — weekly in the Queen's Aisle at 12.30. All are welcome.

Prayer Chain — please telephone 670980 or 822603 for urgent prayer. All requests will remain confidential within the chain.

Personal Prayer — two people will be available in the privacy of the Queen's Aisle following both morning services and also at Springfield, to offer confidential prayer support for anyone who needs personal prayer or who has been moved by something in the service.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

This group meets monthly in Cross House.

There is no magic formula which will take away the pain of a death, but by listening and sharing with others, it is often possible to lessen the sense of isolation, chaos and despair felt following the death of a loved one.

For further information telephone Sheila Rae: 01506 847538
or email her at: sheila.rae@blueyonder.co.uk

USED STAMPS

If you have saved used postage stamps over Christmas then you may like to send them to the following address. All stamps, both British and foreign, can be converted into much needed funds by the World Mission Council of the Church of Scotland.

The World Mission Council Stamp Appeal for this year is helping to fund a women's refuge house, 'Dorcas', in the north of Greece. Send stamps to:

World Mission Stamp Appeal,
PO Box 9191,
WISHAW,
Lanarkshire,
ML2 0YB





PARISH

WEDDINGS

They are no longer two, but one



October

Jennifer Bredin to Paul McGuire

November

Lindsay McCulloch to David Watkins
Ashley Allan to Craig Hume

NEW MEMBERS

For we are all members of one body

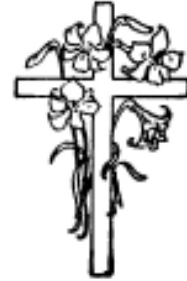


Victoria Crane, Springfield Road
Marion MacRae, Preston Park
Fraser Robertson, The Maltings
Victoria Schofield, Belysde Court

REGISTER

FUNERALS

I am the resurrection and the life



October

William Pudney, Listloaning Road
Mary (Molly) Scullion, Linlithgow Care Home (formerly High Street)
Daphne Seaton, Baronshill Court
Isobel Lambie, Polmont



November

John Cormack, Merker Terrace

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Coffee Mornings

In the Kirk Hall from 10am to 12 noon

Sat 7th February	Chogoria
Sat 21st February	Linlithgow Grange Rotary Club & Book Sale
Sat 7th March	Guild
Sat 14th March	Friends of Guiding
Sat 28th March	4 th West Lothian Scouts

Other Events in Church

Sun 22nd February	Thinking Day Service – Girlguiding, West Lothian
Sat 14th March	Linlithgow Arts Guild Concert
Sun 26th April	West Lothian Scouts Annual Church Parade

New Church Office Hours

Mondays	9am to 1pm
Tuesdays	By Appointment
Wednesdays	9am to 1pm
Thursdays	9am to 1pm
Fridays	11am to 1pm

WEBSITES

www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk – See Crosswind in full colour! Also find podcasts of sermons, current intimations, details of upcoming events and all other church activities.

www.helpcentre.org.uk – For information on support available for most situations.

FLOWER FESTIVAL 2015

by Ruth Middleton

The Church Flower Group had been considering a further Flower Festival when they were approached by the Empowered fundraisers requesting that one be held as part of their fund-raising efforts. This is now agreed and a Flower Festival on the theme of 'Light' will be held on 21-23 May, 2015. The first detailed planning meeting has been held and ideas are beginning to flow.

Such an event is held not only as a fund-raiser or to show off talents, but is an opportunity to enhance the Church's existing beauty with the addition of beautiful flower arrangements exploring different aspects of 'Light'.



The last Flower Festival was based on the Pentecost window in St Katherine's Aisle designed by Cear McCartney, and the arrangements depicted various elements in the window. It was successful as a spectacular display of flowers, as a social event and as a fundraiser and we hope that the next one will be even better.

It is expected that there will be approximately 20 arrangements, costing on average £60 each. The Church has agreed to loan the Flower Group £1500 to meet the cost of staging the event. However, it may be that some in the congregation would like to sponsor one of the arrangements, or to support the Flower Festival in some way.

Should you be interested in doing this, please contact the Flower Convenor, Sandra Stewart – Tel: 01506 843574 or sandstewart@blueyonder.co.uk.



Illustrations from the 2008 Flower Festival



By Luke Davidson & Erika Parkinson



What?
What?

An informal teenage youth event incorporating music and social aspects in the community. It is a totally chilled out teenage night with some music from our own Music@St.Mikes band, other local musical groups and some discussion questions to break the ice when meeting new people!! The mocktails (thanks Andrew) were the belle of the ball, featuring flavours like Summer Berry Blast and Elderflower Fizz. They were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. Also, the animal themed bake-off-cake-off was a huge success as the entries were consumed by all and the winner was announced as Kirsty MacRae with her hedgehog cake.



Andrew

Who?
Who?



St John's Youth Band

The event was aimed at age S2 and above and was planned by Music@St.Mikes and St. Michael's Youth Fellowship. Music@St.Mikes meets on a Sunday evening in Cross House, 7-8pm. We have a few guitars and violins, a keyboard, cajon, and 2 amazing singers (the authors!). Other musical groups who played at Open Mike were the St. John's Youth Band, Emma Robertson and her friends, John Davidson and Lewis Clarke and Susan Gorman and Christina Martin. They were all fab!

Why? Why?

Our aims are to develop different forms of worship within our church and make the services more youth friendly. Our own Music@St.Mikes band have played and sung in a few church services already and the response was great.



John Davidson & Lewis Clarke



When? When?

The first time this event was run was 12th October 2014 and the comments and general feeling about it were very positive and well received. We are planning our next Open Mike event for 31st January 2015 and can't wait to try out the new lighting!



A LOVE AFFAIR WITH CHINA

by Julie Green



When I was 11 or 12, I received two books as prizes at St Michael's Sunday School; one was about the missionary to Africa, Mary Slessor, the other about the missionary to China, Gladys Aylward. I had never heard of these two women, but the books revealed that their passion and determination to bring God's love to the world brought them adventure, danger, illness and joy, and I read them over and over. I especially loved reading of Gladys Aylward, the London housemaid who was told she was not equipped to go to China ... but went anyway. I loved the exotic place names – Xi'an, Yangcheng, Shanxi – and looked them up in my atlas. I loved the history and the culture of the country. So began an interest in China and her people.

In 1989 the TV showed tanks rolling into Tiananmen Square in Beijing to 'remove' people protesting for greater freedom in China, and this increased my desire to see this country and to meet her people. Some ten years after I received that book, and not long after 'Tiananmen Square,' I enrolled for the summer at the Ocean University of Qingdao, Shandong province, studying Chinese language and culture. At that time very few foreigners visited China, and a red-haired girl with freckles caused a stir – ask me about the elderly lady who rubbed my legs to see if my freckles were real!

I had many adventures that summer as I studied and travelled: being caught in a super-typhoon in a boat on the South China sea, risking staying in a hotel where foreigners were not allowed, haggling for silk fabric in a market, coming (literally) face to face with the Terracotta Army in Xi'an, and visiting Tiananmen Square – standing where the tanks had rolled in was a very moving experience. I loved this country and its people even more.

Since then, I have worked variously with people from different countries and cultures, including serving as Chaplain for International Students across three of Glasgow's universities, and working for 8 years at International Christian College. In November 2013 I became Assistant Pastor responsible for English Ministry at Glasgow Chinese Christian Church (GCCC).



GCCC consists of three different congregations divided by language. The Cantonese ministry is concerned with the many Chinese working in Glasgow's catering trade; the Mandarin ministry, works with post-graduate students from mainland China; the English ministry, works with students and young professional British-born Chinese or Chinese from countries such as Malaysia, Singapore, Canada and the USA. We are a diverse community!

As well as the three worshipping congregations, the church also teaches children and young people both Cantonese and Mandarin on a Saturday morning. Around 130 students attend the school, and it was a privilege to speak and present prizes at the school prize-giving in May (posing for a photograph with just about every prize-winner).

Young Chinese people in Glasgow who commit to following Christ, like young people from any other culture who become Christians, face challenges: living a lifestyle which, at the very least, seems unusual in the postmodern university world is hard, but at the same time, for those Chinese who are not from Christian families there is the added challenge of balancing respect for family (a building-block of Chinese culture) with Jesus' command to 'follow me'. This respect for family might extend to ancestor worship – idolatry to the Christian. For others, the decision to follow Christ might result in alienation from their family, with it seen as rejection of traditional Chinese values. The church offers a place where people of similar backgrounds, facing similar challenges, can support one another, share experiences, and worship and pray together. It is rather like a large, extended family, with older people referred to as 'auntie' or 'uncle' as a mark of respect, and where meeting and enjoying a meal together is essential for just about any event! Respect extends to the pastor as well – many call me 'Pastor Julie' or just 'Pastor'. I am looking forward to the day when I reach the honour of 'Auntie Julie' (according to one student I am too young to be an auntie ... I won't argue with that!)



Importantly, the church allows people to worship God in a language with which they are comfortable. Several times a year all three congregations come together for worship, with the service translated into three languages. Also we have a monthly prayer meeting, again in three languages. At times like Christmas I speak to the whole church, or to one particular congregation through a translator; I enjoy this challenge, which allows me to reach beyond the English-speaking congregation.

Twenty years ago I returned from China certain I would work with Chinese people in the future. I could never have imagined this would happen in Glasgow.

Julie was a founder member of our editorial team when Crosswind was launched in 1998.

FROM CONTROVERSY TO ICON:

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROWN SPIRE OF ST MICHAEL'S

by Rev Dr Stewart Gillan



Thorny subject for some, iconic beacon for many, the crown spire has stood witness to the love of God in Christ for fifty years now. In autumn 1964, during the ministry of Rev Dr David Steel, the new crown was completed, part of a larger restoration project.

Tower illustrations courtesy of Bruce Jamieson



The original stone crown, with surmounting weathercock, expressed close ties with the Stuart monarchy. It had been removed in 1821 because its weight was endangering the stability of the tower; the tower had thus stood without a crown for over 140 years. With no record of the design of the original crown, and a new stone crown not being an option, the Kirk Session decided on a new crown characterised by lightness, stability, endurance and affordability.



Geoffrey Clarke

The designer of the new crown was Geoffrey Clarke who had worked with Sir Basil Spence on the post-war restoration of Coventry Cathedral. Clarke offered a modern interpretation of the crown of thorns placed on Jesus' head by the soldiers who brought him to Pilate. Its tall central spar was seen by Clarke as a symbol of hope rising out of suffering. It was made of laminated timber and clad in aluminium sheeting stretched over its timber frame and anodised to a golden hue.

For the crown, Clarke employed a new technique with aluminium – a kind of stretching used on the Formula 1 racing car in which Jim Clark won the world championship.

For all that, the spire created controversy. Many saw it as an 'ultramodern' symbol sitting uneasily on the medieval tower – one resident even likened it to a missile set for launch. Responding, Dr Steel held that each generation has an equal right to express itself in the style of the period. If the new spire sat uneasily on its tower, so too did the crown of thorns sit uneasily on the head of Christ, the only crown he ever wore.



**Structural engineer:
Bill Fraser of
Blyth and Blyth**



The timber for the new crown came from Finland, the aluminium from Canada, but the engineering and tradecraft that created and erected the spire was all Scottish. Muirhead and Sons constructed the large timber lengths; Bill Fraser of Blyth and Blyth was the structural engineer; the aluminium fabrication was done by Scott Lithgow in Greenock; and the contractors were Colin MacAndrew (who supplied the erection team as well).

**David Henderson of
Muirhead and Sons**

Over the years the crown spire has become an icon for Linlithgow – a distinctive symbol and beacon, easily seen from road and rail links. The crown appears on the T-shirts of the Linlithgow Folk Festival Association, the banner of Burgh Beautiful and the crest of Linlithgow Primary School – to name three. Local tradesmen also use it – for example a High Street barber/hairdresser has concealed its scissors within the crown.

Its golden hue may have turned to silver over the years, but it still reflects the light, even on the darkest day.



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THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Start with the letters above and below the arrow, then take the third letter around the wheel until all the letters are used. This spells out what Jesus said in John 8, v12.



l	a	n	t	e	r	n	f	h	l	y
o	i	h	c	t	a	m	s	n	b	l
t	s	g	i	h	c	r	o	t	c	f
e	s	l	h	f	l	o	t	y	a	e
s	c	o	b	t	m	w	s	u	n	r
s	o	w	c	f	h	w	l	e	d	i
e	n	s	i	l	b	o	u	b	l	f
r	c	t	p	a	l	l	u	u	e	l
c	e	i	m	m	u	g	l	s	e	a
n	o	c	a	e	b	t	a	p	e	r
l	n	k	l	a	s	e	r	s	u	e

Find the sources of light listed below in the wordsquare. Words may run in any direction.

beacon	laser
bulb	led
candle	lighthouse
cresset	match
firefly	moon
flame	sconce
flare	star
glowstick	sun
glowworm	taper
lamp	torch
lantern	

JUST A MINUTE

Donald Burgess continues
to dip into the pages of the
Kirk Session minutes



100 years ago

Fri. 6th Nov. 1914 The Session Clerk reported having received a letter from Mr. T.B.F. Dawson dated 30th Oct. 1914 stating that he wished to resign his post as Organist at Kingscavil owing to his business being now at too great a distance from the church, having removed to Alva. The Session regretted the loss of Mr. Dawson's services. The Session Clerk was instructed to advertise in Gazette and Courier on 13th and 20th of this month for someone to take up the duties as Organist and Choirmaster at Kingscavil. It was agreed to offer a salary of £10 p. annum.

Tues. 15th Dec. 1914 Relative to the appointment of Organist for Kingscavil Church, the Clerk reported that applications for the post had been forwarded to Kingscavil for consideration of the Elders. A Letter was read from the Revd. W. Lugton in which it was stated that Mr. J. Greig Sheehan had presided at the Harmonium on 6th Dec. and the Elders at Kingscavil recommended the appointment of said Gentleman. The Kirk Session agreed unanimously to appoint Mr. Sheehan as Organist at Kingscavil.

[Special Service] The Moderator referred to a proposal for a United Service to be held in the Parish Church on the occasion of the National Intercessory Service appointed for Sunday 3rd January 1915. He had great pleasure in intimating the willingness of the ministers in the district to assist at this service. The Kirk Session concurred in the suggestion.

50 years ago

Tues. 15th Dec. 1964 **[Purging the Roll]** It was agreed to remove from the Communion Roll the names of 41 persons who had shown no interest in the life and work of the congregation for a considerable time and who had made no response to the warning letter sent to them on 24th September. It was agreed that the names be removed at 31st December, 1964.

[New Hall] Mr. David Cook, Jnr, proposed that the Session should now consider the question of building a new Church Hall to replace the Baird Hall. After discussion, Mr. Flett proposed that a special committee be appointed to consider the acquisition of ground and the preparation of plans for the building of a new Church Hall. The Session agreed and appointed:-

Mr. David Morrison, Convenor; The Rev. Dr. Steel; Mr James Flett, Property Convenor; Mr. John Dickson, Baird Hall Convenor; Mr. Tom Stark, Treasurer; Mr. H.C. Glennie, Session Clerk, and Mr David Cook Jnr. (*I wonder if they ever imagined that it would take **24 years** for the Cross House Kirk Hall to materialise!*)

[Watch Night Service] Mr. Alex. Anderson moved that the Watch Night Service on 31st December be discontinued. Mr. Jones seconded. The Session agreed.

25 years ago

Tues. 19th Dec. 1989 [Memorial Plaque] Session agreed to grant permission for the erection of a plaque by the Heraldry Society of Scotland to the memory of Anselm Adornes, Merchant, Diplomat and Friend of Scotland, whose body was buried in St. Michael's in 1483.

[New Members' Coffee Evening] A New Members' Coffee Evening to be arranged for the end of February or March 1990 for the New Communicants and those who joined by transfer or resolution from June 1989 – February 1990. A light lunch would be arranged for the next group of new communicants and more recent transfers, to take place when the next new communicants are admitted. These arrangements met with Session's approval.



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THE 4 Rs

by Caroline Ewing



If you are as old as I am you will be familiar with the term the three R's, referring to learning the fundamentals of arithmetic, reading and writing. I would like to tell you about some very different R's which provide even more fundamentals than education itself. These are the four R's of Rescue, Rehabilitation, Reconciliation and Resettlement. They form a four-step program which helps street children, abandoned babies and high risk slum families in Kampala, the capital of Uganda.

This program is run by the charity Dwelling Places in Kampala. It is a Christian, non-governmental organisation. Dwelling Places began in 2002 when Rita Nkemba, a trained social worker living in Uganda, realised the plight of street children in Kampala, and felt guided by God to do something about it. She founded this charity, whose vision is to see a society where every child has a chest to rest his head on and a place to call home (Isaiah 58:12).

This is now the motto of Dwelling Places and through the four-step programme it strives to achieve just that. So far it has helped 1,038 children and expanded and developed over the years to offer much needed services to vulnerable children and their families.

There are 10,000 street children in Uganda. This is due to Uganda having the world's largest unemployment level leading to wide scale poverty. Parents often cannot provide food and education for their children. AIDS is another contributory factor. Children become orphans due to the loss of parents with AIDS. Some



gangs take children away from their families and use them as slave labour. Families fleeing from violence in the north also experience such hardship that they find themselves on the street often with the loss of one of the parents. Thus there are children as young as 2 on the streets alone and many children are subject to terrible abuse, not knowing any real love in their lives.

This is where the four R's of Dwelling Places come into play. The street children are rescued by trained social workers from Dwelling Places and offered a home. The Transitional Home is where the children are rehabilitated. They learn social skills (as basic as how to use a toilet, or sleep in a bed).

They learn manners and discipline, listening skills and problem solving skills. This enables them to attend mainstream school which is funded by Dwelling Places. They stay in the home where they are given food, shelter and love until Dwelling Places resettles them. Resettlement involves tracing their families and finding out the problems they face. The family is supported and the child may return and be reconciled with them. Dwelling Places will continue to support the child's education, nutritional needs and health care through the funding provided by their sponsors until the family can manage. They may provide training for the families or a way to make a living and address their problems.

Once the child is resettled, Dwelling Places maintains contact with the child to follow through their progress. If a child's family or a foster family cannot be found, then he or she will continue to live in a Dwelling Places home. There they will be fully supported with food, shelter, education and health care and most of all love. This continues until they gain an educational qualification and are able to support themselves.

Dwelling Places is well run with an administration staff (often volunteers) who manage the sponsorship, event management and awareness raising. Their accountancy follows IAS accounting with an annual audit by a certified accountant. Dwelling Places International is the part of Dwelling Places which is supported from different countries by fundraising, sponsorship and volunteers.



The UK branch is based at the ARK shop at Paisley Road West, Glasgow. The shop sells cards and gifts for fundraising, and two part-time people work in the office at the back of the shop. They are affiliated to Hillington Park Church of Scotland. Of course funding and sponsorship are vital to the ever increasing cost of caring for children who are otherwise abandoned. Sponsorship of a child is divided into categories of education at £15, food at £12, housing at £12 and medical and social welfare at £12 all monthly.

You can choose to cover one or two or all four of these categories and this enables a child to be cared for in a loving Christian environment when the alternative is abandonment, abuse and no love on the streets.

You can find out more about fundraising or sponsorship etc by email: contact@thearkshopuganda.com

or visit: Ark Shop
1484 Paisley Road West
Glasgow
G52 1SP

GOLD STANDARD

by Brenda Galloway



Last October we read about a bridegroom who spent 18 months panning for gold in the River Tay. He found enough for an engagement ring and two wedding bands. Scottish gold is very pure, at least 22 carats. The end result was unique. His bride was delighted.

In his first letter Peter compares our faith to gold, and explains how it is tested for its purity. The various trials and difficulties which we experience in life are intended for good 'so that your faith may be proved genuine.' (1 Peter 1:7) This echoes Job's experience, 'But he knows the way

that I take; when he has tested me, I shall come forth as gold.'

Peter also writes of a 'living hope' which we have 'through Jesus' resurrection from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade – kept in heaven for you.' (1 Peter 1:4)

At this time of year hope is renewed for things to change. People still make resolutions or start diets. And the great truth is that things can change. We don't need to be stuck in the 'same old, same old.' God can stir us up by his Holy Spirit, and transform our lives, so that there is a freshness and aliveness spiritually that enables us to overcome hurdles and frustrations that previously defeated us.

But we are so much creatures of habit. Sometimes we don't want change. And we give in to our feelings too. It's so much easier to be positive when the sun is shining! That bridegroom needed perseverance and hope to stand in cold water for hours to gain gold. He had a clear aim in view and achieved it. As this New Year begins perhaps we, too, should seek guidance for specific faith goals and the ability to achieve them.



Prayer: Lord God, thank you that as humans we have the possibility of change. Thank you that when you are at work in our lives positive change happens. Help us to trust you in this New Year so that we can enjoy a closer walk with you. Encourage us in our life of faith and give us the long term view that puts life into perspective. We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen.

Editor's note: readers may recall an article by Brenda about one of her pupils in Indonesia, Rohny Pasu Sinaga. Rohny now has her PhD degree from Jakarta Theological College – the first woman of her denomination to attain such a degree – and has returned to teach in Sumatra.

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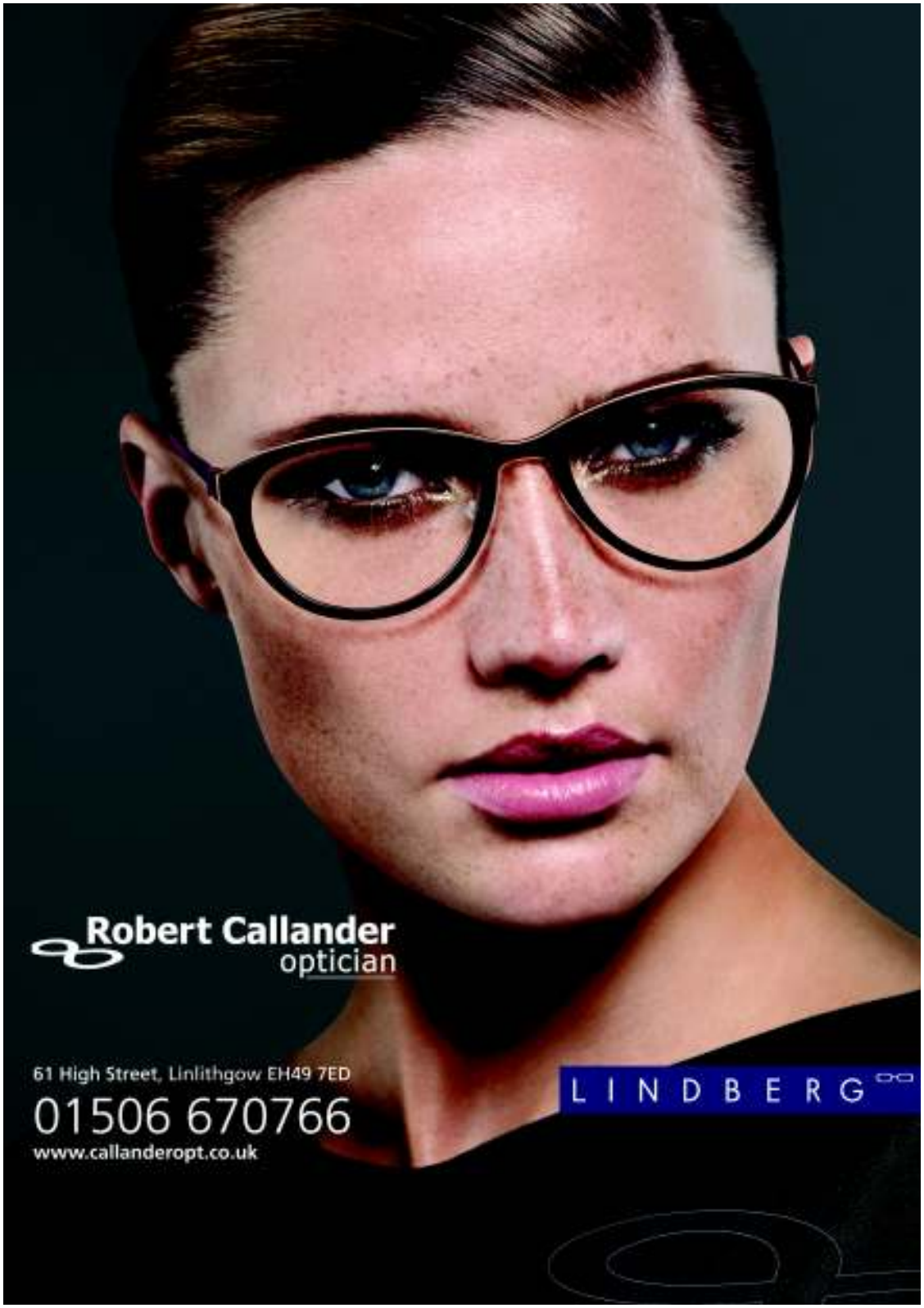
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