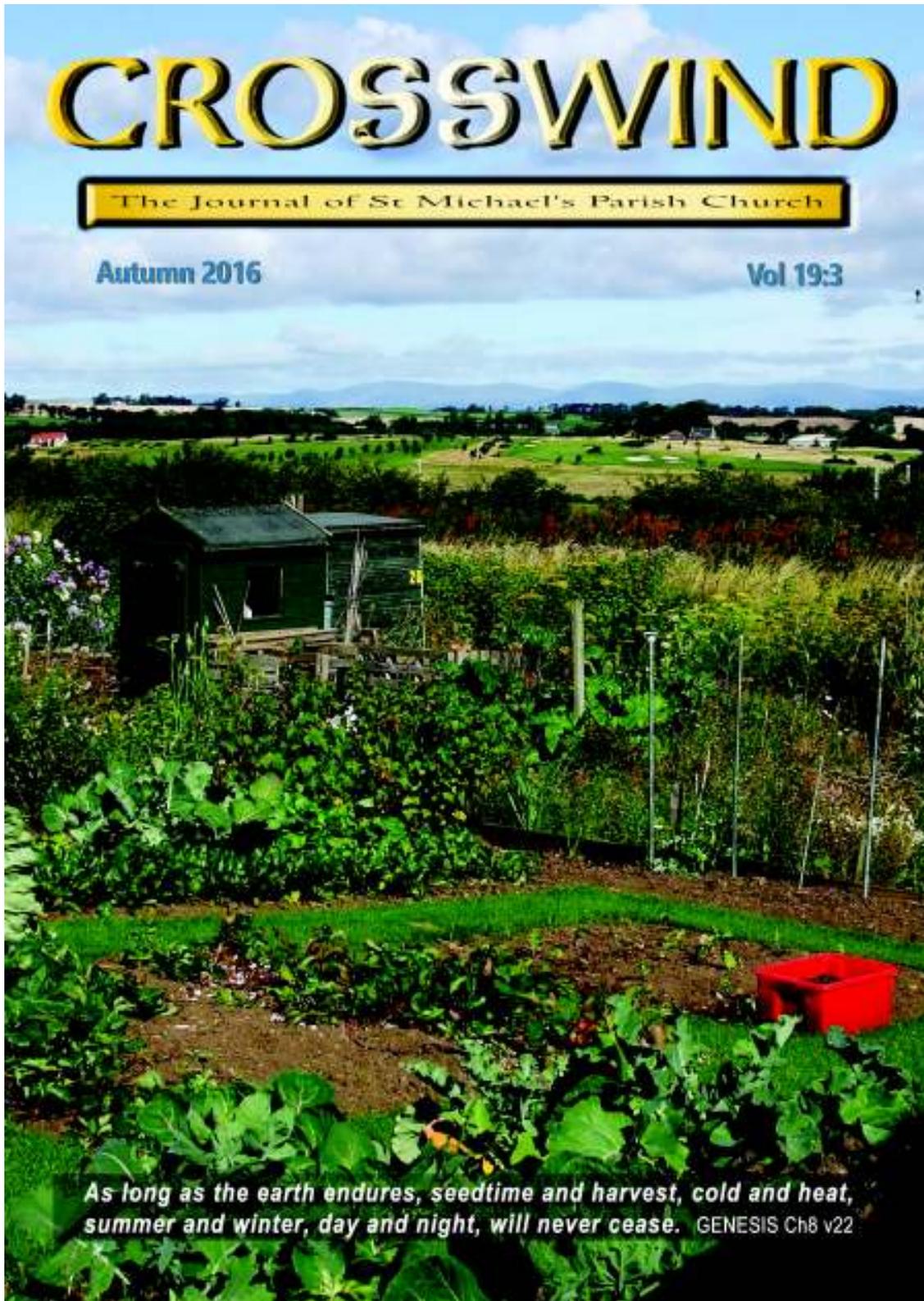


# CROSSWIND

The Journal of St Michael's Parish Church

Autumn 2016

Vol 19:3



*As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, will never cease. GENESIS Ch8 v22*

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## SUNDAY SERVICES



### Communion

#### Sunday 30th October

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 27th November**  
**at 12:15pm**  
*Individual Cup*

Cover photograph courtesy of Brenda Galloway

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**The deadline for the Winter 2016 issue is 5th November 2016.**

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# VIEW FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

To pick up where we left off... When the result of the EU Referendum was known I took refuge in haiku – that spare and beautiful form of poetry, with its three lines of five, seven and five syllables respectively. A surprise sprung in the third line if you can manage it. Strange, you might say. True, but bear with me. Over the course of our vacation in July in Nova Scotia I took it a facet at a time, eventually calling it, 'Brexit Blue Haiku.'



A big boy did it  
and ran away to Oxford  
Boris were you blue?

Michael Gove woke  
early to sharpen his knife  
with his rectitude

That man Farage rhymes  
with garage in the English  
idiom, *bien sûr*

Jeremy Corbyn  
played the fourth crow, wisnae there  
at a', the corbie

David demitted  
George walked, Nicola floated  
options in Brussels

The money won't wait  
Frankfurt, Paris, Amsterdam  
trimming their hedges

Andy had kind words  
for David from Centre Court  
a duty of care

Brexit ins and outs  
Theresa enter she may  
strains of auld lang syne

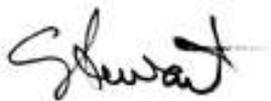
It jumps around a bit, and that 5-7-5 tends to chop things up. But cutting was ever a virtue in haiku, and it helps to give voice to those dwams we can brood ourselves into, focusing attention on the signs of the times. A kind of Radio Haiku. You could try your hand at it on any given day. Or choose your moment of the week.

It looks like we are in for a long run – UK/EU, Scotland/UK, immigration/market access; independence/interdependence – on it will go. Meanwhile pressure is building in the Calais Jungle, and around it. Already in February we saw a church and a mosque in the Jungle bulldozed to make way for a security zone. It doesn't take a prophet to know that the more brittle the times get, the more likely they are to break apart.

The Book of Proverbs presents Wisdom as a woman crying in the streets for humanity to hear her voice and seek the life she offers. She's called Hokmah in the Hebrew text, Sophia in the Greek translation. In the New Testament, Christ is seen to embody the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24). Entering into the spirit of this Wisdom, it is not much of a stretch to picture wisdom crying in the streets of the Jungle in Calais, seeking a hearing amid its conflict, misery and hope. Seeking a hearing too in Westminster, Paris and Edinburgh. Anywhere people seek reasonably to respond and not merely to react, searching for a language of life in faith and politics, to quote the South African theologian Allan Boesak. Not an easy search, given the vast differences among us of life-world and language, but an essential journey.

Each morning our kids come into the kitchen and want us to change the news to one of the kid's channels. I can't blame them. Not everyone wants Brexit for breakfast. Or even croissants, it turns out. Or to hear that the word Brexiteer is a play on Dumas' Musketeers. A tidy irony, but it won't get us any nearer to those in the Jungle – their languages, their lives. We'll want the wisdom of Christ for that, found outside the wall as often as not. It is the wisdom of the law of love: that we love others as we ourselves have been loved, by which we bear witness to the love of God in Christ for all.

Your friend,



# SING-ALONG FOR MEMORY

by Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young

In 1927 the song 'Side by Side' was written by Harry Woods and made famous in 1953 by Kay Starr. You may know the words of the chorus, 'don't know what's comin' tomorrow, maybe it's trouble or sorrow, but we'll travel the road, sharin' our load, side by side'.

On Thursday September 8th at 12 o'clock St Michael's Parish Kirk Hall opened its doors to 'share the load... side by side' for those living with memory loss and their carers. Together with Norma Costley and a team of helpers we offered a light lunch with teas and coffees and shared our stories, then joined together with our Sunshine Singers to sing for memory for an hour. 'Side by Side' is just one of our repertoire, and if we don't sing your favourite, just let us know and we will include it. All those living with memory loss are not elderly, so we have some Beatles favourites too!

This is a new initiative for our community and beyond. No church connection is needed. You may have a friend, a neighbour, a loved one who would enjoy this; if so please come along, a warm welcome awaits you.

If you would like to donate to this new initiative which will be held monthly, then all donations would be gratefully received and can be handed into the church office for the attention of Mr Peter Drylie.

We look forward to seeing you on the second Thursday of each month at noon.



The poster features a bright yellow background with a large sun in the center. A red banner in the top left corner says 'Starts September!'. The title 'Sunshine sing-along for memory' is written in large, bold, red and black letters. Below the title, there are two bullet points: '• SECOND THURSDAY OF EVERY MONTH 12 - 1.30' and '• KIRK HALL ST MICHAEL'S PARISH CHURCH HALL'. To the right of the text, there is an illustration of a steaming cup of coffee. Further right, there is a small black silhouette of a church spire. At the bottom right, there is a call to action: 'Come and join us with the person you care for to share memories together through song while enjoying tea, coffee and sandwiches together'. At the very bottom, there is a small line of text: 'St Michael's Parish Church Ltd Glasgow is a Scottish Charity Reg No 50018183'.

# UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT

**Our 'victim' this time is Dr Ken MacKenzie, Convenor of the Social Justice Team.**

**Describe your role as Convenor of the Social Justice Team in three words.** *Challenging. Overwhelming but ultimately rewarding.*

**You were a GP for many years but now you are retired; if you could try out any job for a day, what would you like to try?** *Rather boringly I can't really think of one but if pushed a naturalist. I love the outdoors and wildlife and what could be better than being paid to watch and study the great outdoors?*

**What radio station do you listen to and why?** *I am not a great radio fan but I do listen to Radio Scotland, especially on Saturday morning for Scotland Outdoors, a great programme. In the car I listen to Classic FM, keeps me calm!*

**What is the last book you read and would you recommend it?** *The Isles of the West by Ian Mitchell. This is the record of his three-month journey around the Hebrides and his encounters with the local people, the conservationists and landowners – and their interactions. Observant and acerbic, it does not show landowners and conservation bodies in a good light. Would I recommend it? If you love the Isles, yes. If you like the RSPB, no, as it turns into a polemic against them!*

**What sports do you play and which sports star would you love to swap places with?** *At the moment golf. Rugby, however, is my passion and I would love to meet Dan Carter. He is the greatest standoff (the position I used to play) that the sport has ever seen. I don't think I could change places with him as the game is much more brutal than when I played!!!*

**Name two people you'd like to meet someday and why?** *Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Ernest Shackleton – two men who exhibited courage, fortitude and indeed self-sacrifice, although under completely different circumstances.*

**If someone asked you to give them a random piece of advice, what would you say?**

*This above all; to thine own self be true,  
And it must follow, as the night the day,  
Thou canst not then be false to any man.*

**You were captain of the BB for many years. What did you love most about it?** *Boys maturing into fine young adults. We should all be proud of their achievements, especially getting their Queen's Badge.*



**If you could learn one random skill, what would you learn?** *Master a musical instrument.*

**What's the best decision you ever made, apart from deciding to answer these questions?** *Marrying Penny.*

**What's your first memory of St Michael's?** *The building. It is truly awe-inspiring.*

**Who in your life has influenced you the most?** *I think that growing up as a son of the manse had a huge influence on me, so, directly or indirectly, my father.*

**If you were an animal, what would you be and why?** *A cheetah, smooth debonair and swift (I used to be once, swift that is!).*

**What's one of the strangest things you've ever done?** *Abseiling into a cave. Great fun!*

**Who's your best/closest friend?** *Drew. We have been friends for over fifty years.*

**What's the first thing you notice about people?** *Their handshake.*

**Would your wife Penny say you are good at DIY?** *No!!!*

**What is your favourite knock knock joke?** *I don't have one but my grand daughter told me this one.*

*Knock knock*

*Who's there?*

*Orange*

*Orange who?*

*Orange you glad to meet me!*

**What are some of your favourite websites?** *Mostly sport websites.*

**What's something most people don't know about you?** *I have cured my arachnophobia, well almost.*

**What kind of holidays do you like? Cruise ship or airplane? Or holiday at home?** *Walking/cycling holidays. We can't sit at a poolside or at a beach all day; we love to be on the go.*

**Would you ever sky dive or bungee jump?** *I would love to sky dive.*

**What do you think is one of the most undervalued professions right now?** *Care givers. Those who care for others, be they foster carers or care workers in nursing homes or in the community, are some of the most wonderful people you will ever meet. They all do great work often in very trying circumstances.*

**You have £50 to spend by 3pm what would you buy and why?** *Books. I just love them.*

**If someone were to make a movie about your life, who would you hope would play you?** *George Clooney. Just like the cheetah, suave and debonair.*



## QUEEN'S MEN

by Andrew and David Nutt

There are 450 Boys' Brigade Groups or 'Companies' in Scotland. 2nd Linlithgow Boys' Brigade is linked to our Church, welcoming boys from Primary 2 up to Secondary 6.

In 2016, 4 young men received their Queen's Badge, the highest award in Boys' Brigade. Two of them, Andrew Nutt and David Nutt, who go to St Ninian's Craigmailen Parish Church, share their experiences.



### Queen's Men

From the left:  
Alasdair Allan  
Andrew White  
David Nutt  
Andrew Nutt

#### What's your first memory of Boys' Brigade?

**Andrew:** I heard about it from my older brothers, the stories they told of the fun they had built excitement within me and my first night did not disappoint!

**David:** Sitting in my squad at Anchor Boys, waiting to play some games!

#### You were in Boys' Brigade for 12 years. What made you stick with BB?

**Andrew:** I have been in the BB since Anchor Boys and I have maintained a commitment to Thursday nights that I would not pass up for the world. It became a part of my everyday life I felt I could not go without.

**David:** I never really had any trouble staying at BB; it luckily didn't clash with any of my activities and it never felt like a chore going down to BB every week because of how much I enjoyed it!

#### Are there any highlights?

**Andrew:** For my President's Badge (the second highest award in Boys' Brigade), we organised a sponsored cycle-thon in aid of the Empowered Project. People were so generous – we raised over £1,000. Organising a charity event was an interesting experience that I could only have had at the Boys' Brigade. I realised just how much effort even the simplest of events requires.

**Tell me about the Queen's Badge – what did you do to get it?**

**Andrew:** The Queen's Badge is probably the biggest challenge I have overcome in my life. I needed to gain hours in skills and physical training. Also volunteer work was required, both inside the church and out. Volunteer work I still continue to this day. My blood, sweat and tears went into that badge, and it was worth it for the experience alone.

**David:** Obtaining the Queen's Badge was fairly challenging. It entailed: completing 6 months of working on a skill, my skill being trumpet playing. I recorded practising with the Linlithgow Reed Band every week and logging it in my record book; completing 3 months of a physical activity – I chose table tennis as a club had recently started; a leadership course – I chose Badminton Basics. It taught us how to better interact with them; volunteering within the BB, which I completed with the Anchor Boys. We led games and helped with arts and crafts; volunteering outwith the BB, which I completed at the British Red Cross Shop in Linlithgow. I still volunteer there now. Finally there was the Queen's Badge completion course which was a very enjoyable weekend. We met boys from other companies and stayed in Carronvale House.

**Has Boys' Brigade helped you explore faith?**

**Andrew:** Boys' Brigade has taken me to numerous churches around the country and gave me insight into the services I might never have set foot in. It gave me a chance to help at St. Michael's as opposed to my own Church, St. Ninian's.

**Do you have a favourite Bible verse? Why?**

**David:** I'd say my favourite verse is Revelations 21:6, 'I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely'. I always liked the sound of it and how it portrays God.

**What does Boys' Brigade mean to you?**

**Andrew:** Friendship, meeting new and interesting people to share the experience with.

**David:** Meeting on a Thursday night, having a good time while learning more about the Bible and many other things.

**What are you doing now?**

**Andrew:** Now I am at Forth Valley College doing chemical engineering and still in the Red Cross Shop on weekends.

**David:** At the moment I am returning to BB to help out as a Staff Sergeant.



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# KEEP ME BURNING

by Dr Clare McLay



Girls' Brigade has just enrolled for another session and the leaders are all geed up for a bunch of exciting activities.

St Michael's Girls' Brigade is led by 3 Officers – Katrina, Catherine and Clare who together have over 30 years' experience. But we could not manage without our team of regular auxiliaries and helpers such as Elaine, Patricia, Helen, Tracy, Allison, Hazel, Lesley and Lindsay to name a few.

There are currently 38 girls in St Michael's Girls' Brigade. That is: 13 Brigaders (S1-6) led by Catherine McIntosh, Gemma Riddell and Alice McLay; 13 Juniors (P4-P7) led by Captain Clare and Naomi McLay; and 12 Explorers (P1-3) led by Katrina Morrice, Elaine Inglis and Megan Morrice. Each section also has a team of helpers on a rota.

We do activities including craft, games, visits from Cool Creatures, self defence, bicycle maintenance, movie nights, fun parties, woodwork, painting, our annual coffee evening and camp. 9 girls are working towards their Queen's Award – which is the highest award achievable within Girls' Brigade. 2 girls are about to complete their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. One girl is working towards Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Before the start of each session the leaders get together to plan the theme and topics for the year ahead. This year Explorers will be learning about Animals in the Bible. Juniors will be carrying out science experiments and listening to Bible stories. Whilst Brigaders will study Bio-ethics, the world of volunteering, making creations and doing some active games. Baking is a popular activity with all the girls. Sometimes we have to do a bit of experimenting like the time we tried to make bouncy balls and ended up making something more like gooey silly putty!



We take part in West Lothian Division activities like the trip to Blair Drummond, the challenge quiz and the Division Service. Last year's big outing was for the Juniors to M and D's theme park. This year the Brigaders go on a special outing to SOAR in Braehead, Glasgow.

11 September was a special day for us when we commissioned two new officers – Gemma Riddell and Alice McLay at the joint Dedication Service with the Boys' Brigade.

For each Girls' Brigader we pray that we alight a flame of faith in their soul and by being on fire for God and keeping our own fire of faith burning we demonstrate faith by works in all our interactions with them.

# FROM SOUTH KOREA TO SCOTLAND

*by Robert Ross and Rev JunSoo Park*

In May St Michael's had the pleasure of hosting a visit from the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Korea (the PCK), the Rev Dr YoungNam Chai, along with a large delegation of ministers and officials from the PCK. Their time in Linlithgow came as an 'extra' to their attendance at our own General Assembly in Edinburgh.

The Rev JunSoo Park, Korean Minister in residence with us, was heavily involved in organising the programme for the visit and also acted as interpreter when Dr Chai preached at a Sunday morning service. The Korean delegation was keen to record a video interview with Dr Chai which could be shown on YouTube and that was done in Cross House when Dr Chai answered questions put by Bob Ross.

Dr Chai explained that the phenomenal growth in membership, which had been a feature of the Korean church, may currently be over for the PCK. About nine million people from South Korea's 50 million population are Protestants. The PCK, which regards the Church of Scotland as its mother church, has a membership of about three million. These days the rate of growth is decreasing but perhaps it was now time to look for 'qualitative growth' rather than mere numbers, he suggested. Such a change in emphasis was critical if Christianity in Korea was to be revitalised.

So, how can people be encouraged to become 'better quality' Christians?

'Qualitative growth means living according to the Bible,' said Dr Chai. 'It is the life of imitating Jesus'. He conceded, however, that Korean Christians regarded economic well-being as a blessing and so could be 'relatively careless about Christian ethics. In this context discipline for living in accordance with the Bible was necessary to Christianity in Korea.'

The Moderator accepted that a stronger appeal to lead a Bible-based Christian life could lead to a fall in membership, but at the same time it could revitalise the Church's role in society. There were clear opportunities for renewal within the Church.

The PCK would appear to have already established a strong base as a launchpad for future work. Church attendance on a Sunday and children's attendance at Sunday school are accepted as an important part of Christian witness. 'These have been a significant factor since the early days of Christian mission in Korea,' said Dr Chai. 'Many Korean Christians died for these rights during the time of Japanese colonial rule and the Korean War. For Korean Christians Sabbath observance is an important aspect of religious life. Early morning prayer and prayer vigils are also a source of significant growth for Christianity in Korea.'

Growth is a recurring theme in PCK statistics. Churches with more than 5000 people attending are regarded as 'mega-churches.' A medium size church would have over 2000.

Like the Church of Scotland the PCK is deeply involved in social care. 'The role of Christianity in social welfare is robust and diverse in Korea,' said the Moderator. 'It derives from British and American missionaries. When they came to Korea they established schools, hospitals and orphanages as well as churches. These mission works played an important part in the growth of Christianity in Korea. That is why more than 70 per cent of social welfare is still carried out by churches. According to Jesus' life and teaching each local church focuses on taking care of the sick, the poor, the old and also adolescents.'



*From left: Rev JunSoo Park, Rev Dr YoungNam Chai, Rev Dr Stewart Gillan and Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young*

When Dr Chai and his team came to St Michael's they had spent only one day at the General Assembly but he was already deeply impressed by what he had seen. He had come, he said, with 'hopeful expectation' and was not disappointed. He had spurned invitations from many other churches so that he could come first to the Kirk's General Assembly on the Mound. In this he was recognising the Church of Scotland's status as a founding father of Presbyterianism and mother church to the PCK. The Principal Clerk would doubtless be pleased to hear Dr Chai's verdict. 'I observed complete order and preparation as the sacred General Assembly of God.'

Dr Chai was deeply moved with the hand-over ceremony when the outgoing Moderator prays for his successor and passes on the Moderatorial ring.

While there may be differences of scale between Korean mega churches and our own kirk congregations, there are many things we have in common.

Dr Chai emphasised the importance of the role of the elder, pointing out that group leadership was a feature of Presbyterianism. Jesus defined the church as a body made up of diverse people. In the Roman Catholic Church the Pope is regarded as infallible. But Presbyterianism acknowledged that the minister could make a mistake. For that reason Presbyterianism stressed the importance of the Kirk Session. Minister and elders ought to work together.

# VOLUNTEERING IN KENYA

## — HAKUNA MATATA

by Olivia Allatt

In my gap year before going to university, I was keen to spend some time volunteering abroad. So in June I travelled to Watamu, south of Malindi in Kenya. There, I spent six weeks experiencing life in a different culture. I soon found that Kenyan people are extremely friendly and welcoming – they even say Hakuna Matata!

As many of you will know, I had hoped to volunteer in a school for children with disabilities. Unfortunately, I was not able to work there due to problems with staffing and supervision. This was disappointing, but I soon realised that volunteers were needed



just as much in other schools in the district. Instead, I worked in a small mainstream school – Bluebells Academy. It opened just a year ago and educates children from the poorest families in Watamu.

Two of the children walk for an hour and a half every day to get to school, the sixteen-year-old carrying his four-year-old nephew on his back most of the way. Stationery and other resources were lacking at the school, with children sharing one pencil among four of them!

With some of your donations, I was able to make packs of jotters, pens, pencils, rulers, sharpeners and erasers for every child, as well as buying some books and dictionaries for the school. I also hope to send some more books over to start a library at the school.

When I arrived at Bluebells Academy on my first morning, I was handed a textbook and was told that this was the syllabus. Five minutes later, the head teacher returned and told me that my class was ready for me to start! The next



week was a bit of a blur as I frantically tried to come up with lesson plans on the spot. I had classes four and five (nine- to ten-year- olds) but only five pupils altogether. I taught them English, Maths, Science and Social Science – who knew that there are over 40 tribes in Kenya?! I drew the line at trying to teach Swahili, although that did not stop the class teaching me some words and songs!

During my time at Bluebells, I ran a sports day for the children. I had originally organised a few races for a couple of the classes, but the head teacher asked if the whole school could join in! We had running races, relay races, a three-legged race, long jump, high jump (using an old washing line) and an egg and spoon race. They all enjoyed eating the hard boiled eggs afterwards – and the mangoes presented as prizes! The younger children also really loved the bubbles and skipping ropes that I had brought from home.

I took the opportunity to travel to Voi, west of Watamu, to work in a school for deaf children for a week. The school shared its site with a mainstream school but the children had their own area – The Den. Laptops had recently been donated to them, so I spent my week setting up email accounts for every child and teacher and teaching everyone how to use them. This proved extremely difficult when I only knew the absolute basics of Kenyan Sign Language. I plan to set up a pen pal project with Donaldson's School in Linlithgow, to teach them more about their computers and also improve their English skills.

I was also able to shadow the doctors and nurses at a local hospital for one day per week. The hospital consisted of just two small wards – one for men and one for women – as well as a radiology room and disused operating theatre. There was also a laboratory for blood testing. Many of the local people struggle to afford even basic healthcare. They rely on money from the tourist industry so, during the low season, cannot come to the hospital. Most of the patients I met were from wealthier families, bringing their babies and young children to be weighed and immunised.

I had an amazing time in Kenya, and had lots of experiences that I will never forget. I would like to thank everyone who helped me to get there. Thank you to everyone who came to my fundraising coffee morning, to the team of people who helped me run it, and everyone else for their kind donations. I would love to travel more in the future to experience other cultures and meet more amazing people and hear their stories.

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# music@the marches 2016

What is  
music@themarches?



An opportunity for community organisations to represent themselves and their mission.



A showcase for local Christian musical and dramatic talent.



# Songs of Praise



A celebration together of our faith in Jesus Christ, living and active in our community.



A relaxed and neutral environment for the Linlithgow churches to worship together.



**I will sing and make music to the Lord!**  
Ps 27:6



A time and place to encounter God and share fellowship.

All happening in the Rugby Club Marquee



Photos courtesy of Rebecca Kennedy



Vol 19:3 AUTUMN 2016



# The Harvest is Past, The Summer Ended.

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



## A Good Harvest

Can you find the following vegetables in the word square? Words may run in any direction.

- |             |           |
|-------------|-----------|
| artichoke   | asparagus |
| beans       | beetroot  |
| cabbage     | carrot    |
| cauliflower | leek      |
| onions      | parsnip   |
| peas        | potato    |
| pumpkin     | sprouts   |
| swede       | sweetcorn |
| tomato      | turnip    |

Can you spot the 10 differences between these pictures?





## PARISH

### BAPTISMS

*Let the children come to me*

#### June

Jennifer Alice Evans, Clarendon Road

#### July

Finlay Jackson Watts, Oatlands Park



#### August

Phoebe Jennifer Hannah Davidson, Larbert  
James David Thomas Inglis, Falkirk  
Matthew Philip Bridge, Livingston

#### September

Orla Kirsteen Fowell, Larbert  
Emi Rae Squires, Hong Kong

### WEDDINGS

*They are no longer two, but one*

#### June

Kerri Manson to Robert Stewart  
Claire Chapman to Andrew Levey

#### July

Melissa Ross to Hamish Rankine  
Stephanie Glover to Calum Grant



#### August

Ruth Young to Isaac Knight  
Jennifer Samson to Arron Greig  
Kimberley Thompson to Angus Lambie

## REGISTER

## FUNERALS

*I am the resurrection and the life*



### June

Kathrine Veitch, Lorimer Nursing Home, Edinburgh  
James Shanks, Springfield Road

### July

Catherine (Cathy) Morgan, Holmesview Care Home (formerly Preston Terrace)  
James McGurk, St Ninian's Road



### August

David Ronxin, Strawberry Bank  
Hilda Adams, Linlithgow Care Home (formerly Madderfield Mews)



### September

Allan Cameron, Deanburn Park  
Thomas Baird, Priory Road  
Norman Fleming, Priory Road  
Christina Grant, Peacock Nursing Home

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### COFFEE MORNINGS

All Saturdays from 10am to 12 noon in the Kirk Hall

15th Oct	Cancer Research
26th Nov	Advent Fair, Guild Teas and Soup Lunch 10am - 4pm
3rd Dec	4th West Lothian Scouts

### OTHER EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

Sat 15th Oct	7.30pm	Organ Recital by Professor Graham Barber
Fri 2nd Dec	7.30pm	Linlithgow Ladies Choir Concert
Sat 3rd Dec	7pm	Glasgow Phoenix Choir hosted by Linlithgow and Bo'ness Rotary Club
Sun 4th Dec	7.30pm	NYCOS Christmas Concert
Sun 11th Dec	7pm	Linlithgow Reed Band Christmas Concert
Wed 14th Dec	1.45pm	Low Port PS Nativity
Mon 19th Dec	7pm	Springfield PS Christmas Service
Sat 14th Jan	4pm	RSCM Choral Evensong with Scottish Voices
Sat 28th Jan	7.30pm	Scottish Symphonia hosted by Linlithgow Arts Guild



### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wed 14th Dec	7.30pm	Blue Christmas Service
Sun 18th Dec	7pm	Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols
Sat 24th Dec	7pm	Christingle Service
	11pm	Community Carol Singing
	11.30pm	Christmas Eve Service
Sun 25th Dec	11am	Christmas Day Service
	12 noon	Holy Communion

[www.stmichaelsparish.org.uk](http://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](http://www.helpcentre.org.uk) – For information on support available for most situations.

# GENEROSITY OF SPIRIT

*by the Stewardship and Finance Team*

Recently in St Michael's we have had some 'American parishioners'. You may have met them – Judith and Richard. Judith had a conversation with us about the Presbyterian Church of the United States and its approach to stewardship. Autumn is their time for stewardship each year, often October, a gathering in of the Harvest.

Judith recalled a story that she had read which had made a strong impression on her – The Wise Woman's Stone. I found this on a website as an extract from a book entitled 'Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul'. The story goes that a wise woman found a precious stone in a stream in the mountains. The following day she met a fellow traveller who was hungry. The woman opened her bag to share her food and the hungry traveller saw the stone in her bag. He asked the woman to give him the stone which she did without hesitation.

The traveller left rejoicing at his good fortune. He knew that the stone was very valuable and would provide him with security for the rest of his life.

But a few days later he came back searching for the wise woman. When he found her he wanted to return the stone to her. 'I know how valuable the stone is but I give it back to you in the hope that you can give me something much more precious. If you can, give me what you have within you that enabled you to give me the stone'.

A generosity of spirit.

And that is what we have seen in the people of St Michael's in this year's stewardship campaign – the stewardship of treasure. Members of this congregation have responded with great generosity over many years to our various stewardship campaigns. Our offerings fund ministry locally, nationally and globally, as well as helping to maintain the beautiful building in which we worship at St Michael's. These are challenging financial times for us all and many people in our congregation will be on fixed incomes and no longer earning in the workplace. It is a reality that many members were already giving to their limit and cannot increase their giving and these contributions are also acknowledged with deep gratitude. The Ministers and Kirk Session would want to record their grateful thanks for any increased giving while recognising that others found themselves already giving sacrificially. The work of St Michael's and the work of the wider Church of Scotland can only continue with our financial support for projects, whether local or national.

When we met with Judith we spoke about how each year we will undertake a campaign on one aspect of stewardship as the Church of Scotland has determined and instructed - whether time, talents or treasure - but I have been wondering how we can move from an annual stewardship campaign to a broader sense of living with a generosity of spirit like the Wise Woman. Whether that is within our own congregation or within a wider context I feel that it is what we are called to do as Christians.

But what exactly does that mean to be generous of spirit? As ever I asked Mr Google! I liked a definition that I found – a Yiddish word, Mensch. A good lot, a gem. A person who is generous of spirit is generally considered a magnanimous person; high-minded, fair, noble, big and worthy. It is more than the actions a person undertakes. It is a state of being.

This definition suggested that a person of generous spirit takes complete responsibility for their lives. They do not blame others or circumstances for their problems. They step up and do the right thing even when it may be fraught with fear and conflict. Life challenges can indeed be gruelling and test the most generous of spirits. It takes courage to simply deal with the good and the bad. By dealing with these things, and taking responsibility when we have got things wrong, we connect with our own humanity. This in turn helps us to accept ourselves.

This sense of self allows us to feel compassion for ourselves, enabling us to better relate and empathise with others. Our feelings connect us to our own humanity, which in turn, connects us to others. This feeling is 'generosity of spirit'. It is a kind of open-heartedness. I found a quote from Mother Theresa that seemed quite apt: 'It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.'

At the time of writing our stewardship campaign has resulted in an increase in giving of more than £20,000 including Gift Aid. The deficit in 2015 amounted to £16,000 and therefore the generosity of spirit of St Michael's people will do much to improve that situation. A quite remarkable outcome.

Thank you.

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# GOOD SAMARITANS

*by Rev Cheryl McKellar-Young*



In 2014 the School Leavers' Service was introduced into both Low Port and Springfield Primary Schools' end of year activities. The end of each school year is a busy time for both the pupils and the staff, but as the year ends for the Primary 7 children, it is also a time of reflection as they move on to new beginnings in senior school.

With this in mind the head teachers were approached and together we crafted a service which would create time and space to give thanks in church, for all of the children's primary years and to give thanks also to all those who have supported the children to this stage.

The evening begins with the children gathering in the choir stalls, Low Port to the left, Springfield to the right and then individually they come forward to present themselves. Many of these children will go on to journey together in senior school, so it is encouraging to see them standing together and hear the applause for them, from parents, carers and teachers alike. The children take the readings, one from the book of Proverbs 'advice to the young' and the other is the parable of the Good Samaritan, which ties in with the award which was also introduced.

Each year two winners, one from each school, are awarded the prize. Each winner is a child who like the Good Samaritan, didn't just notice that there was a need, but went out of his/her way to make things better and as a result made a difference. The award is of two clasped hands; it is made out of glass and inscribed. The winner keeps the award for one year. The winners are kept secret until the day and the previous years' winners are invited back to present the awards.



Each year the church is full of parents, grandparents, teachers and school children. It is simply a lovely evening as we look on and watch the schoolchildren of our parish move on to new things and to new journeys. Yet our school leavers' service also reminds the children that as a church, we are here for them whatever that journey may bring. As a church we wish them all well as their senior school begins and are excited to see what next year's class of 2017 will share with us.

# LANDTRUST PROJECTS UPDATE – MID AUGUST 2016

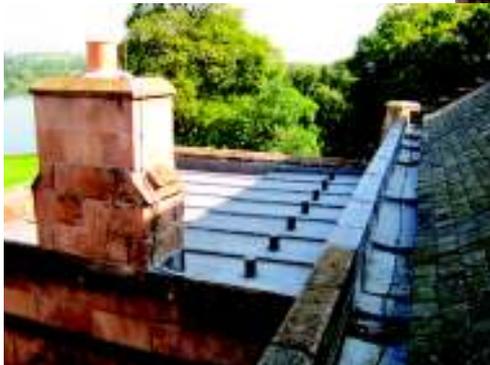
by Jim Rae

The Property Team have now completed three of the six projects, part funded by LandTrust and, by the time this edition of Crosswind is published, the fourth project will have been installed and commissioned, with the fifth project closing in on its start date.

**Vestry Project:** the major roof repair to the Church Vestry is complete. Wet rot found in the timber roof was removed with new roof decking and supports being fitted and treated. Specially constructed roof vents were fitted to allow the roof construction to breathe and maintain a dry condition. The



*Before Repair*



*After Repair*

stonework jointing on the high level parapet and walkway above the Vestry Roof was allowing rainwater to enter the roof construction. This area was fitted with a lead covering, preventing water ingress into the stonework joints. Smartwater was painted on the re-fitted roof and lead roof components providing theft protection, prescribed by our building insurers. The contractors, D Blake and Co from Edinburgh,

were experts in lead work repairs and handled this project without issue.

**New gas supply – Cross House and Kirk Hall:** a new gas supply pipe line was fitted between our existing gas meter in Cross House and the Kirk Hall loft space. This will provide a fuel supply to the designated new boiler room area as our Cross House re-development programme works towards rationalising our three boiler heating system into one new high efficiency system in the near future. Livingston Mechanical Services Ltd were the installing contractors, providing the project to specification on time and budget.

**High level rainwater gutters and roof repairs – Cross House:** an extensive programme of rainwater gutters, downpipes and roof repairs was carried out during June. The roof gutters were not draining to the downpipes in many areas resulting in the water cascading down the building walls, adding to our low level dampness issues. Gutters were re-aligned, cleaned, painted with a bitumastic coating internally and refreshed with a topcoat, providing a free draining fully functional system for the building. Many of the gutter fixing supports were corroded and required replacing as did the zinc flashing at the highest point of Cross House roof. Local contractors, Denis Watson Roofing Ltd were excellent in the execution of this tender package.

**LED Lighting, Kirk Hall:** the new LED Lighting in the Kirk Hall is scheduled to be installed on the 25 and 26 August (and should be up and running by the time you read this) by M B Electrics Ltd, a local company from Polmont. It has been necessary to re-arrange user locations within Cross House for several of our user organisations, to provide a two-day uninterrupted period for the installation to proceed – thanks to these organisations for being willing to move. Additional flooring has been laid in the loft space to facilitate safe installation and maintenance of the lighting. The new lighting consists of eight LED ceiling mounted units, complete with movement detection sensing which switches off the lighting when lack of movement is detected in the Kirk Hall, thus reducing our energy usage. Dimming control is also an integral part of the system providing brightness control to the area. The fitting of LED units to the existing lighting in all public areas of Cross House has been completed – thanks to Phill Ratcliffe for his expertise and time given on this part of the lighting project.

**Damp proofing – Cross House:** there is evidence of previous attempts to resolve this issue which appears to have been a challenge for many, over previous decades. This project is by far the most technically challenging as it has been difficult to establish detailed information on the building construction, and we have appreciated the assistance of Pollock Hammond Architects. The areas affected by dampness are Room 1, the toilets, Lighthouse, Cellar and adjoining area called the Dressing Room. Initial investigation indicated that there was a high level of moisture being retained within the structure. Coring of the walls in several locations to confirm the nature of damp-proofing materials previously used, will be necessary. This is delaying the quotation and tendering stage of this work as it is vital that the correct treatment is selected for application to resolve the situation and ensure that our buildings are sound and fit for purpose. This substituted project into the programme may not be completed before the LandTrust required deadline, and ongoing discussions with architects and tendering contractor organisations are continuing to explore the best way forward.

**Nave insulation:** this is on hold at present as we await further advice from Historic Environment Scotland about the merits of the project.

# THE GUILD GOES IN JOY

by Anne Chadwick

All over Scotland members of the Guild are being encouraged to be JOYFUL. The Guild Theme for this session is 'Be bold, be strong, GO IN JOY!' St Michael's Guild will be thinking about this in our worship and fellowship. Hopefully the programme we have put together for this year makes us feel bold and strong, so that we can reflect some of the joy to be had from loving God and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

We meet in the Kirk Hall at 7.30pm on alternate Mondays, from September to April. Meetings normally begin with any Guild business followed by a short act of worship. Then it is over to the speaker or group for the evening. Finally we have a cup of tea and time to enjoy some fellowship. Our programme is on the Guild Notice Boards, in the Church and in Cross House. What follows is a short account of what has been arranged.

By the time this article is published, some events will have passed. It is worth going over these meetings briefly, to give an idea of what we are up to! All going well, we shall have attended the National Gathering in Dundee, a very uplifting event with rousing hymn-singing and good speakers, including this year, the broadcaster Sally Magnusson. Also the following:

A talk on 'Gentle Exercise' by Wendy Evangelisti, the Joint Dedication Service at St Ninian's Craigmalen Church, a talk on 'The Order of St John's' by Ian Wallace and The Presbyterial Guild of West Lothian Autumn Rally at St Ninian's Craigmalen Church, speaker Linda Young, the National Convenor 2015-16. Then comes the presentation on the first of the two Guild projects we are supporting this year. This project is run by the charity Care for the Family and is called 'Let's Stick Together'. It aims to help vulnerable young mums and dads cope with a new baby. Finally on 31st October the talk is on 'Giant Pandas' by Dr Forbes Howie of Edinburgh University.



On 14th November there is a demonstration on 'The Art of Willow Weaving' by Eileen Murray, and on 28th the Children's Hospice Association Scotland will up-date us on how they are helping children with life-shortening conditions with no known cure, and their families, to make the best of the time they have.

Christmas Music is planned for 12th December. On 15th the Presbyterial Christmas Festival is at St John's Church, Bathgate, with the Brightons Praise Group. Our Christmas Meal is on 19th December in the Kirk Hall; caterer is Shonagh Brown.

In the New Year we have, on 9th January a talk, 'Madagascar' with some photographs, by Maureen Blake. On 23rd we hear about 'The Invisible Church' from Rev Norman Smith. February 6th Graeme Lacey talks about what Linlithgow Young Peoples' Project (LYPP) is doing these days. On 20th February there will be an opportunity to enjoy some musical entertainment presented by the Bo'ness Belles.



There are two meetings in March, on the 6th 'Doorstep and Some Online Security' by Community PCs Drummond and Murray. On the 20th, Maria Ogilvie from the charity Feed the Minds tells us about the second Guild Project we are supporting, entitled 'Breaking the Cycle of FGM'. Based in Kenya, this is to encourage families to turn their backs on the culture of female genital mutilation. Their daughters will be saved from a lot of pain and given the opportunity of having a better education. The whole community would benefit.

The third of the Presbyterial Guild Rallies is on 28 March in Armadale Church with the Salvation Army.



Our last speaker is local

historian, Alan Young who comes on 3rd April. His subject is 'Linlithgow High Street in the years gone by'. The AGM is on 24th April in the Kirk Hall to be followed by a 'Songs of Praise'. After a couple of years with no Guild Trip, what is planned for this year is an outing to Pitlochry Theatre for the matinee performance on Saturday 3rd June.

Say 'The Guild', and pictures of home baking and cups of tea are conjured in the mind. Indeed we are involved in catering. At the Advent Fair we provide refreshments and some seasonal stalls in Cross House and there is the annual Coffee Morning in March. We raise funds by catering for various groups who hire the Kirk Hall, usually on Saturdays.

Some of the money raised is donated to groups within St Michael's Church, and some to other charities, but most is donated to the Guild Projects we are currently supporting. Last year we sent off £3420 to the two Projects we chose, to be divided equally between them.

Now we hope to emulate this for '**Let's Stick Together**' and '**Breaking the Cycle of FGM**'.



## *100 years ago*

**Tues. 19<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1916** The Kirk Session had under consideration the lighting restrictions so far as they affected the services in the church during the winter evenings. It was agreed meantime to hold one service in the church each Sunday at 11.15 a.m.

The Session fixed the celebration of the Holy Communion to take place on 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. being the third Sunday of the month. On account of the lighting restrictions no preparatory service could be held in the church on the Friday evening preceding above date, but held instead on the evening of Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> Oct.

**Wed. 22<sup>nd</sup> Nov. 1916** With reference to the resolution of the Kirk Session (19<sup>th</sup> Sept.) in regard to a second service in the church, the moderator stated that since the lighting restrictions had come into force, evening services had been held in the Baird Hall and they were exceedingly well attended. The Kirk Session was gratified at the intimation.

*[It was after all war time – hence, I imagine, the lighting restrictions.]*

## *50 years ago*

**Tues. 18<sup>th</sup> Oct. 1966** The Moderator informed the Session that the B.B.C. would televise for all regions the morning service on 27<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30 a.m. and that a Songs of Praise would be telerecorded the same evening and would be broadcast the following Sunday.

**Tues. 15<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1966** *[Broadcasts]* It was agreed that at the Television Service on 27<sup>th</sup> November the elders would wear Communion Dress and would sit in the Choir Stalls. It was agreed that at the evening service on 4<sup>th</sup> December two television sets should be installed in the Church so that the congregation could see and hear the Songs of Praise Service which was to be recorded on the evening of 27<sup>th</sup> November.

*[Strange for us, nowadays, to think that not every household, fifty years ago had a television.]*

## *25 years ago*

**Sun. 30<sup>th</sup> June 1991** [*Post of Associate Minister*] Having received 16 formal applications for the post, the selection committee met and drew up a short list of 7 candidates and requested references for all 7....the committee agreed that the first acceptable candidate would be brought to Kirk Session. Mr. Randal Gauld, currently at Holburn West in Aberdeen, preached in Armadale Parish Church before members of the selection committee and then attended later that afternoon for interview in Cross House. Mr. Gauld, aged 35, possessed degrees in Arts, Law and Divinity, and had practised as a solicitor for 6 years before being called to full-time ministry. It was the unanimous decision of the selection committee to propose Mr. Gauld as the most appropriate candidate for the post.

**Tues. 17<sup>th</sup> Sept. 1991** [*Assistant Ministers*] The Membership Committee helped with the supper at Mr. McLean Foreman's farewell social, and will be catering after the Ordination and Introduction of the new Associate Minister, Mr. Randal Gauld, on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1991.

[*Boys Brigade*] Mr. William Green (Captain) had indicated his desire to resign his Captaincy. Kirk Session thanked Mr. Green for his leadership over the years and agreed that Mr. Bob Ross would take over as captain. Mr. Green would continue as an officer in the Company.



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# FOR THE RECORD

by Alan Miller

St Michael's production of our passion play musical 'The Seed Must Die' in March 2016 was a remarkable event, involving dozens of people right across the age spectrum and playing to 3 large and enthusiastic houses. If you were there, you'll still recall Mary's ballads sung so powerfully by Morag Mayland, or Russell Shields prowling the stage to 'rap' Judas' anger, or (above all) Jesus' death and resurrection as portrayed with deep insight by John Parkinson.



Well of course, memories do fade in time. But now 2 permanent mementoes are available for those wishing to re-live the performances – and for those of you unlucky enough to miss the live shows. Yes, 'The Seed Must Die' is here on DVD and CD!

The DVD is an edited live recording of the first performance of the show. Ivan Coyle has done an expert job at tidying up the inevitable first-night glitches and the finished disc is a professional-standard production.

As for the CD: many of us have travelled up and down the access road to Edinburgh Airport many a time, but few have noticed the recording studio! If you look very closely, after the second roundabout you'll spot a narrow, stony track as it disappears through the trees to the left. At the end lies a cottage containing SoundSound studio.

And that is where the band, and about half the cast, squeezed into the very bijou space to make a studio recording of most of the music from the show. The opening and closing chorus numbers are included, of course. Jesus and Mary's songs are well represented, as are the disciples. But we also made room for several character numbers: Caiaphas' 'Sanhedrin Blues" (another star turn from Rev S Gillan); the 'Judas Rap'; and Ponty's Song ('I've a smattering of knowledge, For I spent 4 years in college, Learning how to do the things that Romans do).

We played, we sang, and Hamish the wonderful sound engineer sat at his console and waved his invisible magic wand to turn our efforts into something to be proud of – something worth hearing again and again.

With the festive season rushing towards us again, perhaps the CD and DVD are the solution to your Christmas shopping dilemmas? They are priced at £6 for 1 disc and £10 for the pair. Great value – and available in the church, at 'Far From the Madding Crowd' and through the church website!

# WINNING THE PRIZE

by Rev Thom Riddell



The Olympic Games in Rio proved a great success for British sport as we achieved a landmark total of 67 medals. The record breaking team arrived to jubilant scenes when they landed in London on a plane with a gold nose cone. They were rightly proud of their achievements as they displayed their medals to the waiting crowd of family, friends and fans for the first time: the result of many years of dedication and hard work. The medal winners also received a Certificate of Authenticity guaranteeing the authenticity and minting quality, and detailing the precious metal content of their medal.

The apostle Paul, writing to the church in Corinth, wanted to emphasise how seriously the Christian community should take the discipline of their faith in Jesus Christ as their saviour. He alluded to the famous Isthmian games, an athletic competition held every two years in Corinth. **'All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize.'** [1 Corinthians 9: 25]

Strict self-discipline is required for athletes who are competing for a prize. It requires many months, if not years, of rigorous training and is the main focus of their lives. That applies as much today as it did in first century Corinth. In the same way, strict self-discipline is required if we are to gain the eternal prize of salvation. Christians must submit to the daily exercise of obeying Christ, and developing their understanding and strengthening their faith through scripture reading and prayer.

In Paul's time, the athletic prizes were wreaths made out of laurel leaves which would eventually fade away. Today's athletes may receive something more long lasting made of precious metal. Despite having a Certificate of Authenticity, it will still not last forever. If we follow Paul's advice, we have a prize that will not fade. Writing to the church in Philippi, Paul declares, **'Everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us.'** [Philippians 3: 8,14]

While it is right that we celebrate the achievement of our athletes in Rio, we must also maintain our focus on the only prize that has everlasting value and will not fade away; the precious gift of salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord.



# USEFUL CONTACTS

## The Ministry

### **Minister**

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### **Associate Minister**

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### **Auxiliary Minister**

Rev Thom Riddell  
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Andrew Jones  
tel: (01506) 840914

### **Organist and Choirmaster**

Andrew Sutherland  
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## Organisations

### **The Guild**

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### **Parent and Toddlers**

Margaret Henderson  
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### **Sunday Club Leadership Team**

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Anne Sutherland (3-5yrs)

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Rona Molloy (5-11yrs)

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Paul Davidson (Bible Class 12-14yrs)

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Russell Shields (YF S3-S6)

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### **Boys' Brigade**

Jamie McIntosh  
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### **Girls' Brigade**

Clare McLay  
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### **Safeguarding**

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Alison Tunnicliffe

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### **Bereavement Support Group**

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### **Events Co-ordinator**

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