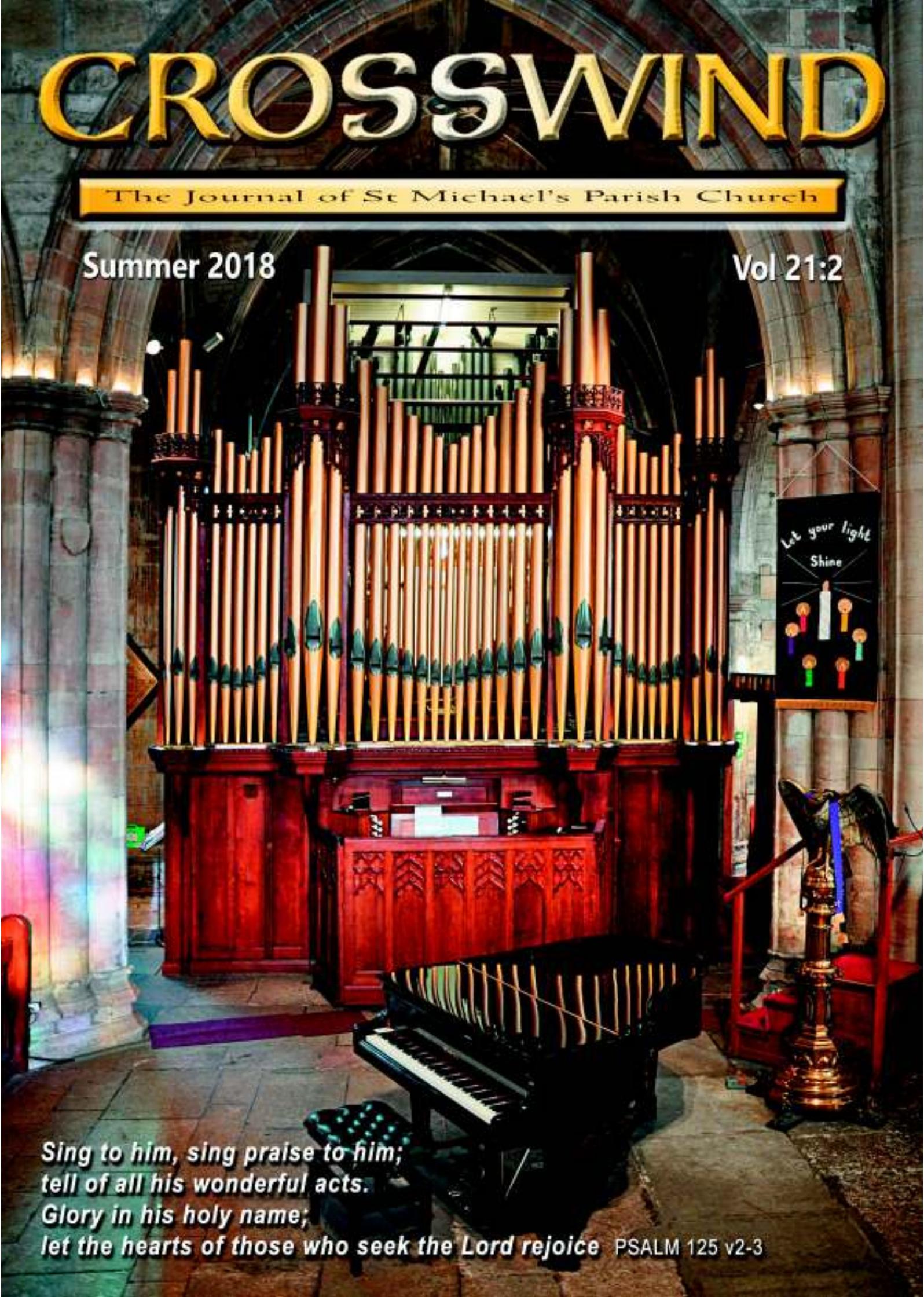


CROSSWIND

The Journal of St Michael's Parish Church

Summer 2018

Vol 21:2



*Sing to him, sing praise to him;
tell of all his wonderful acts.
Glory in his holy name;
let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice* PSALM 125 v2-3

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SUNDAY SERVICES



Communion

Sunday 24th June

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 29th July
at 12:15pm
Individual Cup

Cover photograph courtesy of
Gordon Young

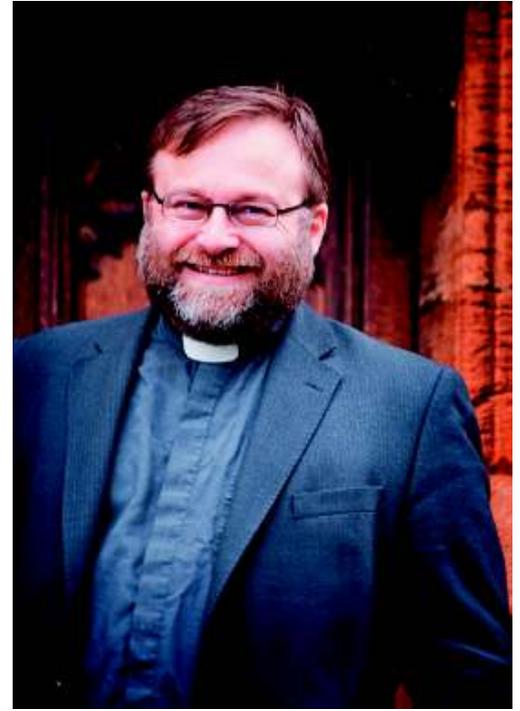
The deadline for the Autumn 2018 issue is 1st September 2018.

St. Michael's Parish Church of Scotland is a Scottish Charity Reg. No. SC016185

VIEW FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

'I am the vine, you are the branches,' said Jesus. 'Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5). It is one of the great 'I am' sayings of Jesus, employing language taking us back to the name the Lord gave to Moses, 'I am who I am,' or, differently translated, 'I will be who I will be' (Exodus 3:14). Jesus uses this language on numerous occasions throughout the gospels, declaring 'I am ... the light of the world ... the good shepherd ... the resurrection and the life,' to name three. His saying, 'I am the vine, you are the branches,' is part of his farewell conversations with anxious disciples, troubled by the thought of his pending departure. He is and will always be their lifeline. They are to stay plugged in, to 'abide in him,' his life as their own, and so bear the fruit of his Spirit. Joy would come as they obeyed Jesus' command to love each other as he had loved them. By this will all know they are his disciples.



'Abide in me.' We might agree that Jesus' command is of vital significance in the life of faith, as much for us as it was for the first disciples. But how do we 'abide in Jesus' – in all weathers, over time, and learn the empowering strength of his life, enabling us to meet life's challenges? Hospitality with friends and strangers, meaningful conversation about our spiritual journeys, the telling of stories in joy and sorrow, stimulating study of the scriptures, practical service of and with others, prophetic witness in word and action concerning social injustice, and the spiritual discipline of prayer, with and without words, alone and with others – these come readily to mind.

Two weeks ago I was driving toward Enniskillen with the Rev Dr Jim Francis, now Assistant Deputy Chaplain General at Thiepval Barracks in Lisburn. We were going to interview the Rev David Cupples as part of my study leave research into sermons preached in the aftermath of terror attacks. David had been inducted into Enniskillen Presbyterian Church only six weeks before the 'Poppy Day bomb' went off on Remembrance Sunday 1987, killing eleven.

I had been referred to David by the Rev Ruth Patterson, leader of Restoration Ministries through the troubles and the first woman to be ordained a minister in the Presbyterian Church in Ireland.

I had forwarded him the questions I wished to ask, seeking to elicit the story of his experience of the bombing and of how he responded to it, including the journey/struggle to find words to say in that time of trauma and outrage.

David took me first to the site of the blast, an angular intersection near the Enniskillen War Memorial, on which now stands a modern building called The Clinton Centre, recalling the involvement of the then US President in the talks



that led to the Good Friday Agreement. From there it was on to the Church and our session. David recalled hearing the explosion, leaving his home and, finding the street cordoned off, heading for the church. Once inside, he was made aware immediately of what had happened. 'I felt my knees buckle, and my stomach turned over.' Heading to the scene, he found his parishioners in an injured and shaken state, those who had survived.

David's own state of mind? First, he said he spoke as a conservative evangelical, open to the charismatic presence of the Holy Spirit in his life. Second, he had been reading a book of sermons by Martin Lloyd Jones. In a sermon on the calming of the storm he had written, 'Faith is a refusal to panic.' When David came on the scene of the blast, the Holy Spirit brought those words to his mind; he said. 'I made the most significant decision of the whole week then and there. Looking to heaven, I said, "Lord, I refuse to panic."' From there it was on to the hospital and the pastoral duty of care. He decided not to give his people glib answers. Instead, he told them: 'We do not understand why these things have happened, but we believe that God's ways are greater, however mysterious, and will always outwit and overcome evil.' In the days that followed David found himself able to proclaim in a radio broadcast: 'We have seen, in our people's response, the triumph of love over hatred, hope over despair, and life over death.' An abiding in Jesus, body and soul.

Faith in Christ does not grant us immunity from pain and trial in this life; it does, however, empower us to face challenges that come our way, individually and together as a church. 'I am your lifeline, you are my body in this world,' we might hear Jesus saying. In whom we can be strong and do astonishing things.

Your friend,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stewart'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line extending from the end.

GO BY THE BOOK

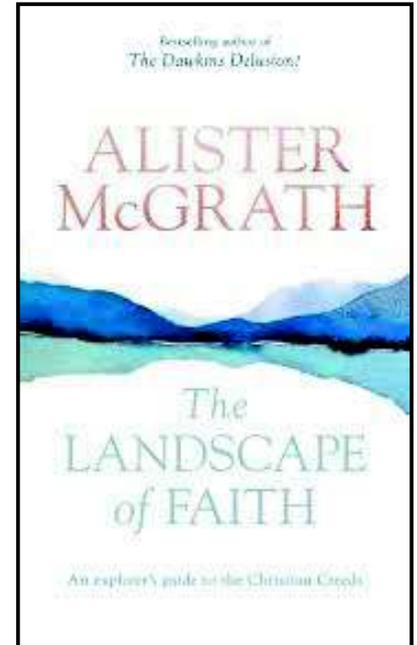


This article marks the start of a series in which members of the congregation will review a book and share with us why they have found it helpful on their own journeys of faith.

Here, **Rev Derek Henderson** reviews:

THE LANDSCAPE OF FAITH by **ALISTER McGRATH**,
(SPCK, 2018)

This book is a good starting point for someone seeking to understand their Christian faith. It is an exploration of the Apostles' Creed, that basic statement of what we as Christians believe – something we often say together at Communion and other services – but the implications of which might pass us by. As the introduction puts it, 'This book is an explorer's guide to the landscape of the Christian faith. It is a tool for study, a resource for wisdom in leading an intelligent, reflective and grateful life of Christian discipleship.' It is essentially practical in its approach.



The first part of the book explores how we might look at the creed, as a map, as a light, as a lens and as the threads of a tapestry. But the important point is that creeds are necessary as 'hedges, enfolding and protecting the rich pastureland of faith'. They are primarily communal Christian confessions of faith, which set out a vision of reality that has given life, purpose and direction to individuals and the Christian community down the ages.

The next three sections, which form the core of the book, look at the Living God, at Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour and at the Holy Spirit and the Christian Life, reflecting the trinitarian form of the creed itself.

The first of these looks at God as the ground of our existence; as the father of our Lord Jesus Christ; as creator; before concluding with a discussion on the nature of humanity. The second section looks at Jesus in terms of his identity and nature, covering issues like the incarnation, atonement and suffering. The third section looks at the Holy Spirit and his role in helping us to flourish. This section also looks at the Trinity, why the Church matters, signs of God's presence, and eternal life. Finally, the conclusion explores the whole idea of 'journeying in hope in an age of anxiety'.

Although this book considers several important issues for Christian believers to ponder, it is presented in an easily accessible, engaging and readable style. I have found it helpful as it explains concepts, which might be considered difficult, in an understandable way. The section on Jesus is particularly good in this regard.

(NB: This title is available as an e-book)

Time of Unwinding

Text based on Psalm 46 v 10

(photograph by Aaron Burden on Unsplash)

by Anne Law



You may recall from the article in the January edition of Crosswind that our focus in the Stewardship and Finance team for 2018 is the stewardship of time. This will provide us all with the opportunity to re-commit to giving TIME for God, through participation in worship and creating space in our busy lives for bible reading and private prayer.

Life is a balancing act with many varied pressures on our time. We all have different talents but we all have the same amount of time each week – 168 hours. We want time for family and friends, time for work, time for relaxation and hobbies, time for church and time for God.

We have had a number of discussions in our team about how we might approach stewardship and we have come up with a slightly different approach. There will be no leaflets, no charts to complete, no journal to keep, no response card!

This year we would like to tie the campaign into the different seasons of the year, considering it is the stewardship of time that we are considering, and have agreed with the ministers to focus on four Sundays in the year in the four different seasons (although we did see the four Scottish seasons in one weekend at Easter!).

The first Sunday where we focused on Time was on Easter Sunday, which seemed totally appropriate. This is a **TIME OF NEW BEGINNING**. The Resurrection is a time of new beginning for each one of us as we focus on Jesus' resurrection. Small spring planting bulbs were handed out to members as we left church – an opportunity to take time to plant something new and watch it grow. I'm hoping to see some shoots soon from mine.

Summer is a **TIME OF UNWINDING** and a sermon will be preached on this in June as we prepare for school, university or work to come to an end for the summer and when we can hopefully take a break of some description and re-charge the batteries.

We would like to use the holiday season as a time to 'opt out' from work – to relax, refresh and consider how we spend time with God. On holiday we often

Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know that I am
Be still and know
Be still
Be.



read more so we have designed a bookmark which you will have found inside this edition of the church magazine which focuses on a Time of Unwinding, a time to listen to God. The text – Be still and know that I am God – comes from Psalm 46, one of my favourites, and we hope that you will enjoy the short meditation as you take time to unwind from the stresses of daily life.

Autumn is the **TIME OF GATHERING**, the time of harvesting what has been sown and also giving thanks to God for all that he has done for us – all that we have been provided with. A sermon on a Time of Gathering will be preached on Sunday 7 October which is the date of our Harvest Festival. A gift awaits us that morning when we leave! A teabag – representing Harvest but also a very specific opportunity to sit quietly with a cuppa and spend some time with God, giving thanks for all that He has provided.

And finally comes winter – a **TIME OF THANKSGIVING**.

The stewardship sermon will be preached on 2 December, the first Sunday in Advent when the focus will be on God's love shown to us in the gift of the baby Jesus. Christmas is a time of thanksgiving and celebration, a time to enjoy time with family or friends, and a time of great excitement as we anticipate the gift of the Christ child. There could be another small gift that Sunday...

As well as the four designated Sundays there will also be a monthly meditation in the Intimation Sheet when we will get the opportunity to consider our time with God. The monthly Prayer Calendar will focus on the stewardship of time close to our focused services as well.

We hope that the seasons of the stewardship of time in 2018 will present us all with an opportunity to consider our personal time with God.

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2018: Year of Young People

by Elma Birrell

The designation of 2018 as the Year of Young People (YoYP) is an initiative of the Scottish Government, seeking to provide a programme of varied events which will appeal to all ages. Many organisations are working to encourage young people to participate and to let their voices be heard, with YoYP Ambassadors in every Scottish local authority; over 200 have already volunteered for this.

Young people (aged 8-26) have already highlighted six themes to be covered in this special year. These are: (a) how young people can influence decisions which may change lives; (b) how they can have a greater influence on their education; (c) how they can lead active lives, improving both physical and mental health; (d) in what way they can have leading roles in challenging all forms of discrimination; (e) the role of young people in free enterprise, helping the Scottish economy and green credentials; (f) celebrating their talents and contributions to Scottish art and culture.

The Church of Scotland is urging all churches to become actively involved in YoYP, recognising their contribution to church life. We are all encouraged to have a special service and also to plan something new to involve the participation of our young people in our churches.

So, how are we at St Michael's going to celebrate this special year? All organisations involving our young people have been looking at YoYP themes and working activities into their programmes. We are holding our special service at 10am on Sunday 17 June, which will be well advertised in advance. We have, however, already had several events featuring our young people.



Our first celebration in this YoYP took place early in January – when Matthew Craig Farquharson, here pictured in St Katherine's Aisle with his big sister, was the first baby baptised in the kirk.



21 January saw Souper Sunday, our annual highlighting of the Church of Scotland's HIV programme. Both morning services were in the capable hands of Morag Mayland, whom many of you will remember as Mary Magdalene in our Passion Play 'The seed must die'.

In late March/early April we had the wonderful 'Stations of the Cross' exhibition, inspiration of Anita France. On display was a variety of artwork done by the young people of Linlithgow, depicting Christ's journey to the



cross and also looking forward to the Ascension. Many local people, not all church members, came to view the exhibition and left admiring all that they had seen, and some with greater knowledge of the meaning of Holy Week.



On 26 May we had a concert by the inspirational Big Noise children's orchestra from Raploch, Stirling. The Big Noise was started ten years ago and many young people from this previously deprived area have increased in confidence through learning to play an instrument and participating in music. The invitation to the Big Noise came from our own young people.



At our Messy Church events, we encourage families to come along, enjoy a meal together, play together and learn a little more about Jesus – without worrying about making too much of a mess!

Girls' Brigade (GB) and Boys' Brigade (BB)



Our uniformed organisations are an important component of the family of St Michael's and will play a major role in YoYP. The GB involves girls from P1-S6 in its three sections, Explorers, Juniors and Brigaders, and meets on a Wednesday evening. The BB has four sections, Anchors, Juniors, Company and Seniors, welcoming

boys from P2-S6 on Thursday evenings. Both brigades have a growing membership and provide a wide variety of activities for young people of school age. All organisations involving our young people have been looking at YoYP themes and working activities into their programmes.



We hope that, by the time this magazine comes to you, we will have recruited a new Children and Family Outreach Worker, who will help us expand activities in this special year. Look out for news of all events on the weekly news-sheet and on our website – you are very welcome to join in any or all of them.

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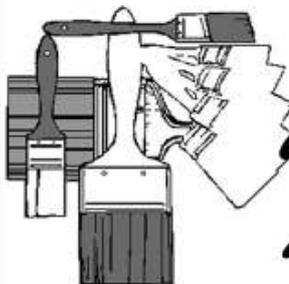


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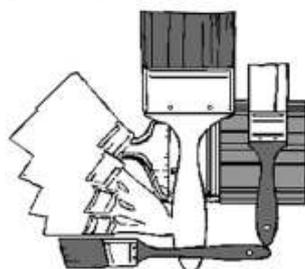
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MECHANICAL REPAIRS, DIAGNOSTICS AND SERVICE

FUN AT THE BOYS' BRIGADE

by Lisa Callaghan

I first heard of the 2nd Linlithgow Boys' Brigade when the eldest of my three step sons had registered and was looking forward to his first session. Every week when we picked him up afterwards we were given a very detailed account of what he had done that evening, and believe me nothing was missed out!

His two younger brothers looked on in envy as he got ready every Thursday, and not fully understanding that they were still too young to join, they just wanted to join in the fun. Two years on, and the three boys were at an age where they could attend, and attend they did – with gusto. There had to be something



seriously wrong if they missed a week. It was lovely for us to hear all the stories each week, and to watch them grow in confidence as they earned their different badges for achieving all the different elements of the programme.

As a result of this, I felt compelled to give a little something back to the community, so anxiously I put my name down to help. Within 5 months I had completed my Youth Leader Training, and 4 years on I have never once looked back. I find the role so fulfilling. I look forward to every Thursday night as the boys have an uncanny knack of making us laugh, even after a stressful day at work.

The boys are what it's all about and being able to watch them make their Boys' Brigade journey is truly humbling. Each week, no matter what section you are in, there is a fun-packed programme.

Even if you are unsure, we encourage the boys to come along and try it out for themselves. We are the largest Company in West Lothian and there is no waiting list to join.

We have 3 sections:

Anchor Boys (P2-P3)	6.30pm-7.30pm
Junior Section (P4-P6)	7.00pm-8.15pm
Company Section (P7-S3) & Seniors (S4-S6)	7.45pm-9.45pm

Come along to the Kirk Hall one Thursday and see what all the fuss is about. There is a warm welcome waiting for you.

Email us at linlithgowBB@outlook.com

or you can find us on facebook – 2nd Linlithgow Boys Brigade

INTRODUCING BRUCE AND KATE PASS

by Rev Bruce Pass



Kate and I both grew up in coastal towns in New South Wales, Australia and met in Sydney where we went to university. Kate had enrolled in economics/law at the University of Sydney and I was studying piano at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. We both shared the privilege of growing up in Christian households. I count the daily rhythm of bible reading and prayer as a profound blessing which

under God's grace made me wise unto salvation from a young age (2 Timothy 3:15).

We married on 11 September 1999, which meant that our second wedding anniversary (ie 9/11) was a fairly subdued occasion! But by this time, we were living in Germany, where I was studying piano at the Hochschule für Musik in Weimar. We spent just under three years in Germany and we witnessed more people turning to faith in Jesus during that time than in our whole lives up to that time. This was a formative experience in many ways.

After a couple of years back in Australia I began to reflect on how I was serving God in his kingdom. I had been involved in leading bible studies and lay preaching for some time but became convinced that I wanted to spend the bulk of my time doing this rather than practising the piano. A big part of this can be attributed to the opportunities various pastors had given me to gain some experience preaching.

In 2008 I enrolled in the Bachelor of Divinity at Moore Theological College in Sydney. Alongside being a full-time Mum to three wonderful children, Kate also found time to complete a Diploma of Biblical Studies, which Moore kindly offered wives of full-time students free of charge. After completing my studies, I was ordained in the Anglican Diocese of Sydney and together with Kate I pastored a new church in the northern suburbs of Sydney for the following four years.

As it became clear that the time was ripe to move elsewhere, I was very grateful to be offered a full scholarship at the University of Edinburgh to pursue doctoral studies. Moving a family of 5 across the world is, of course, no small undertaking and I'm very grateful to Kate and our kids for saying goodbye to family and friends so that we could embark on this adventure.

Our time in Edinburgh has been full of many wonderful blessings and

opportunities, including serving for a period at St Michael's, Linlithgow. To 'parachute' in for two months and take services in an unfamiliar setting has been a good reminder of the truth of the sermon series, to which I have been able to contribute. The body of Christ spans denominations and nationalities. We are 'members of the same body and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel' (Ephesians 3:6).

As I come to the end of my time at St Michael's, I'm delighted that Kate is able to take up a similar opportunity over the coming months. We are both grateful for the warm welcome you have extended to us all as a family and look forward to continuing fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ, if only for a short period in this life. We have, however, the sure promises of our Lord that our fellowship will continue in the next.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

COFFEE MORNINGS

Saturday from 10am to 12 noon in the Kirk Hall.

20 Oct Stand Up to Cancer

EVENTS IN THE CHURCH

Sat 15 Sept 7.30pm Antonine Ensemble Concert

Sat 22 Sept 7.30pm Linlithgow RFC Choir Concert

OTHER EVENTS

30 Jun–1 July Spectacular Jousting, Linlithgow Palace

9 and 16 July Holiday Club (Monday mornings – Cross House)

6 and 13 Aug Holiday Club (Monday mornings – Cross House)

Sat 8 Sept Linlithgow Folk Festival (Youth Festival Showcase Musical)
in Kirk Hall

Sat 27 Oct Messy Church at Halloween (Cross House)



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FUNERALS

I am the resurrection and the life

April

Jacqueline Atkinson, Longcroft Gardens

WEDDINGS

They are no longer two, but one

April

Debbie Sullivan to Mark Ferguson



May

Sharon Dawood to Mark Evans (*Blessing*)

BAPTISMS

One Lord, one faith, one baptism



April

Saoirse Jacqueline Fitzpatrick, The Vennel
Elizabeth Brown Redpath, Falkirk (*by Profession of Faith*)

May

Ryan Jack McNally, Alloa

NEW MEMBER

For we are all members of one body

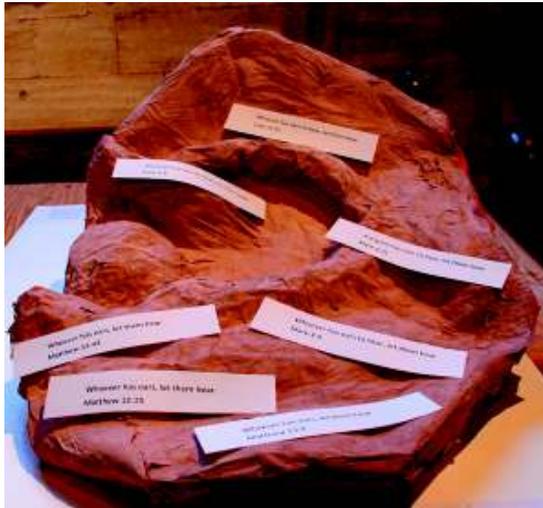
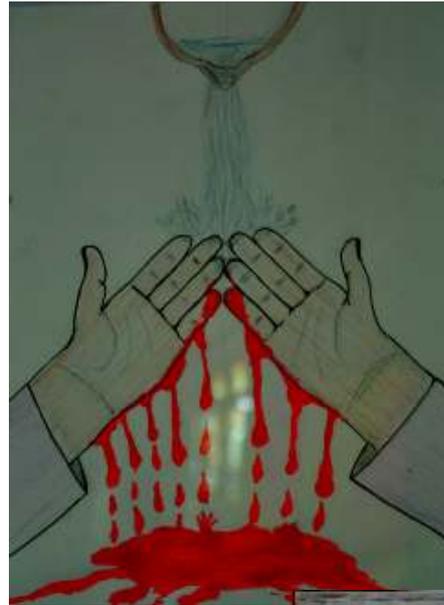
Elizabeth Brown Redpath, Falkirk (*by Profession of Faith*)

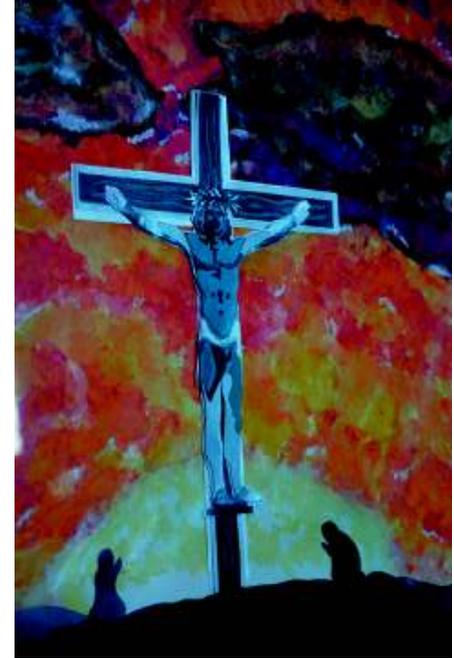
ORGANIST AND COORDINATOR OF MUSIC



We are delighted to welcome Matt Edwards as our new Organist and Coordinator of Music. He started on 3 June so we look forward to a fuller introduction to him in the October issue of Crosswind.

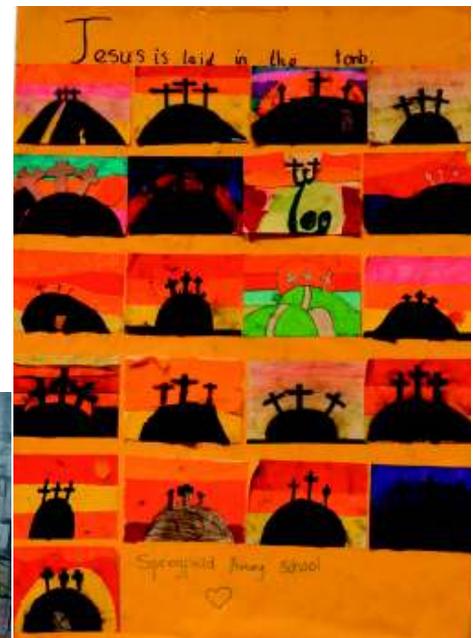
STATIONS OF THE CROSS





The events of Easter as portrayed artistically by the young people of Linlithgow.

Contributors included pupils from Linlithgow Academy, Linlithgow Bridge PS, Lowport PS, Springfield PS, St Joseph's PS, Bible Class, Scripture Union Group, Boys' Brigade, Girls' Brigade and LYPP. Also contributing were Gina Nurney, Peter France and the Flower Group.



Photographs of the artwork are reproduced courtesy of Jane Brown and Ian Musgrave.

THE WORK OF CROSSREACH

'In Christ's name we seek to retain and regain the highest quality of life which each individual is capable of achieving at any given time.'

by Rev Thom Riddell

St Paul describes early Corinthian Christians as members of Christ's body. The Church of Scotland is a body, with CrossReach its limbs, and its 70 different services the hands and feet. Crossreach, one of Scotland's largest independent social care providers, has over 1,800 full and part-time staff, plus volunteers, and over £46m annual turnover.

St Michael's has long been involved with CrossReach, with Ruth Middleton and Tom Chadwick having served on the Social Care Council, effectively its Board of Governors. I have served for five years and will become a Vice-Convenor of the Council at the General Assembly. It is a privilege to support CrossReach, its work and the dedicated staff who work to help vulnerable people, in Christ's name.

So why is CrossReach needed today? Here are some present areas of need:

- people in rural communities unable to reach counselling or listening services, and so they bottle things up, becoming alone and isolated.
- children settled in Scotland as refugees, struggling to integrate into school and to make friends.
- adults with learning disabilities bewildered by dementia as life expectancy increases.
- newly-housed homeless men and women, leading isolated lives outside the community.
- older people tied to watching day-time TV as community amenities disappear.
- people with mental health problems retreating into themselves, perhaps as a result of the stigma they carry from others.

CrossReach works with people throughout all ages, coming alongside them at difficult times of their life journey, providing meaningful support until they can continue with more independence. The Scottish Social Services Council recognises our care as being very good to excellent, and they know about this kind of thing!

We operate 26 Services to Older People across Scotland – Residential Care Homes, Day Services, Respite Care, Housing Support and Art Therapy Groups. In 1985 the then Board of Social Responsibility opened its first home specifically for people diagnosed with dementia. We now have Dementia Ambassadors in all our Services for Older People, also specialist Dementia Art Services, Heart for Art.

Our Adult Services provide support for groups with needs such as Mental Health, Homelessness, Substance Misuse, Learning Disabilities and Criminal Justice.

Our Children and Families Service operates Residential Schools, Counselling and Support Services. Over 20% of Scotland's children officially live in poverty. In Govanhill, Glasgow, 46% of children live in low income families. CrossReach Daisy Chain works there to improve the lives and life-chances of children and their families. In some parts of Scotland, 1 in 3 children live with a binge-drinking parent. Roughly 7,000 children in Edinburgh live with parents with problematic alcohol use. CrossReach Sunflower Garden helps these children build self-esteem and confidence.

Pre- or post-natal depression or anxiety affects 1 in 6 women and 1 in 10 men, around 11,500 people in Scotland every year. CrossReach Bluebell in Glasgow, Edinburgh and the Lothians is Scotland's longest-standing provider of support to those affected, uniquely offering a crèche facility. 1 in 3 children with a parent in prison will develop physical or mental health problems – double those affected by divorce.

The CrossReach Visitors' Support and Advice Centres at Perth Prison provides a calm setting where visiting families can seek information and support. We also operate the Polmont Prison Visitors Centre Family Hub and Bus – 'The Polmont Bus'. HM Young Offenders Institution Polmont is designed to hold up to 830 young men aged 16/21. There is also a women's prison, as Cornton Vale has been reduced in size with smaller local units being built elsewhere.

The Polmont Bus sees relatives visiting mums, daughters, sisters, and offers cup of tea, composure space, listening ear, advice, resources, information and support. Marie Cairns, the Bus manager, stresses the importance of family support of people in prison. Increased contact reduces the chance of re-offending, because talking is often easier in prison. Mums often have better conversations with their sons since visiting them in prison. Healing can take place when families meet regularly enabling boys to speak openly, perhaps sharing things for the first time.



CrossReach spends almost £1m weekly; most income comes from Local Authorities for services like our residential homes. We receive around £1m from the Church's Mission and Renewal Fund, leaving a gap of about £4.5m annually between income and what we actually need. Our Supporter Development team seeks different funding sources, including legacies and donations, but funding is a constant worry. If you would like to learn more, or to donate to support our work, please visit our website at www.crossreach.org.uk.

THE KIRK ABROAD

compiled by Maureen Blake

There are Church of Scotland congregations in many holiday destinations. If you take a city break or holiday in any of the following locations, why not visit the local church – you will be made very welcome.



Amsterdam

English Reformed Church,
Begijnhof 48 (off the Spui)
service each Sunday at 10.30

Bermuda

Christ Church
Middle Road (opposite the
Belmont Hills Golf Club)
Warwick



Bochum

In the Pauluskirkche
(city centre)
service each Sunday 12.30 pm



Budapest

St Columba's
Vorosmarty utca 51
Budapest 1064
service each Sunday 11 am



Brussels

St. Andrew's Church
Chaussee de Vleurgat 181
(off Av. Louise)
service each Sunday 11am



Fuengirola

Lux Mundi Ecumenical Centre
Calle Nueva 4-5
29640 Fuengirola
service each Sunday 10.30am



Colombo

St. Andrew's Scots Kirk,
73, Galle Road,
Colpetty,
Colombo 3
service each Sunday 9.30am

Lisbon

St. Andrew's Church
Rua da Arriaga 13
service each Sunday
11.00am



Lausanne

Scots Kirk
Avenue de Rumine 24
service each Sunday
10.30am



Geneva

The Calvin Auditoire
Place Taconnerie (beside
Cathedral of St. Pierre)
service each Sunday 11 am

Malta

210 Old Bakery Street,
Valletta,
service each Sunday
10.30 am



Gibraltar

St. Andrew's Church
Governor's Parade
service each Sunday
10.30am



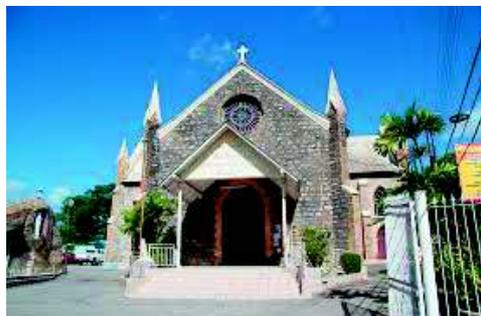
Rome

St Andrew's Church,
7 Via XX Settembre
service each Sunday 11 am



Paris

The Scots Kirk
17 rue Bayard (Off
Ave.Montaigne,
metro: F.D.Roosevelt)
service each Sunday
11.00am



Trinidad

Greyfriars St Anne's linked with
Arouca and Sangre Grande
154 Charlotte Street
Port of Spain



Rotterdam

The Scots International Church,
Schiedamsesingel 2
3012 BA Rotterdam
service each Sunday 10.30 a.m.

ST MICHAEL'S FORGOTTEN MINISTERS

by Bruce Jamieson

The venerable Church of St. Michael has had many notable and long-serving ministers during its centuries of existence. In fairly recent times, some names leap out: John Ferguson (1878-1913); Robert Coupar (1914-1938); Charles Rutherford (1939-58); David Steel (1959-1976); Ian Paterson (1977-2003); and now Stewart Gillan who has been in charge since 2004.

Alongside these luminaries are two men about whom less is known. I was drawn to them by two recent eBay purchases – a photograph and an invitation to dinner. The two gentlemen who grabbed my attention both served for a relatively short period of time and their contributions to the life of St. Michael's and to Linlithgow have not come to prominence. Firstly, the photo:

The Rev Dr Donald Macleod was minister of St Michael's from 1862 to 1869. He was originally a Stirlingshire man, born in Campsie where his father was the local minister. After graduating from the University of Glasgow, he was called to the parish of Lauder and from there to Linlithgow where he set up house in the early 19th-century Manse, at the top of Manse Road. Later, he was joined by his wife Isabella Anderson whom he married in Linlithgow in 1864. Rev Macleod is credited with the first formation of a Sunday School in the burgh and he also set up Sunday Learning Classes for local apprentice lads who had left school at an early age in order to take up employment predominantly in the leather and shoemaking trades.



These educational pursuits came in for some criticism at the time from those who believed that the Sabbath was not a suitable time for such an activity, arguing that it was 'a profanation of the Lord's Day.' Later, in their old age, many of the youngsters remembered Dr Macleod's work, stating in a Gazette article, 'it was the good Reverend who taught us to read and write for the first time.' The Rev Macleod moved on after just seven years to become the minister of the Park Church in Glasgow. His beadle was mightily disappointed in the Rev Macleod's short tenure.

On the arrival of the new minister, the church officer had taken him round to the North side of the churchyard where he had pointed out the graves of the Reverends James Dobie and Andrew Bell, declaring 'There's where Dr Bell lies, and there's where Dr Dobie lies, and there's where you'll lie, if you're spared'. On hearing of the Rev Macleod's departure the beadle's remarks were just as pithy, stating, 'Ye're the first minister that was ever lifted out o' Linlithgow, except to the grave.'



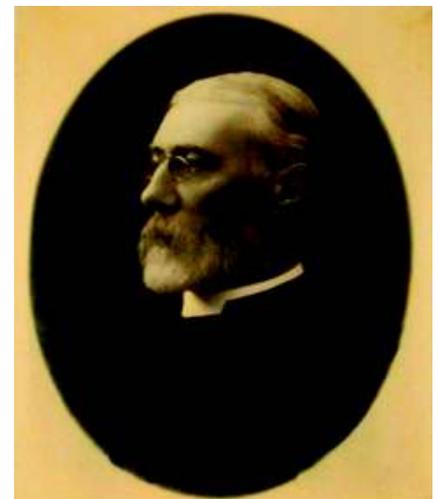
The headstone of, on the right, the Rev Dobie, minister from 1792-1826, and the tall obelisk commemorating the Reverend Bell, 1827-1862. James Dobie wrote the Linlithgow entry in the Old Statistical Account while Andrew Bell compiled the entry for the New Statistical Account.



Three other ministers followed in quick succession to Dr Macleod: the Rev Archibald Scott (1869-71, during which time he wrote many theological books) the Rev Thomas Niven (1872-76, when he was the first to introduce hymn singing into the church – albeit unaccompanied, for the idea of an organ was still considered

heretical), and the Rev James Barclay – the recipient of the invitation I recently came across.

James Barclay was a Paisley man, educated in his home-town and at Merchiston School in Edinburgh. He arrived at St Michael's, Linlithgow from St Michael's, Dumfries – in whose Kirkyard lie the mortal remains of Robert Burns.



His main claims to fame were that he was instrumental in having the unsightly whitewash removed from the interior walls of his Linlithgow charge and, even more instrumentally, he



masterminded a bazaar which raised the money to install St Michael's first organ.

The Reverend Barclay transferred to St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh, and from there to St Paul's Church in Montreal – moving from Scotland to Canada – the reverse of what the Rev Dr Stewart Gillan has done.

St Michael's first organ, installed above the west entrance.

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COME AND BUY!

by Pat Brough

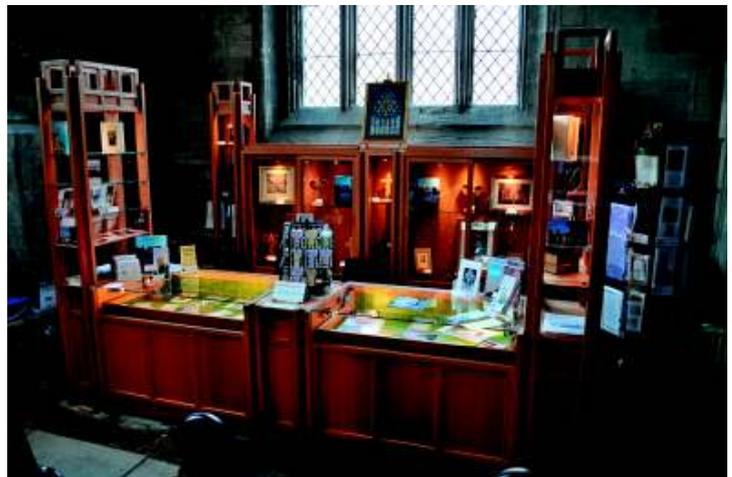


Friday mornings in St Michael's Church can be quite busy. The Open Church Volunteers are there hoping for visitors, the flower arrangers often work on their beautiful displays. The sound of the vacuum cleaner is heard and then the sound of the organ. In the midst of this, Jane and John Binnie come to check the shop, to see what has been sold and to rearrange items if necessary, also to add to the stock of attractive and varied things for sale.

Jane and John have been looking after the shop for over a year now and they are making a noticeable difference to its appearance, which changes with the seasons. Jane has a good eye for quality, and an acute awareness of cost. Shops in other churches provide inspiration with ideas of items to sell. Jane has contact with a very good wholesaler who can supply objects in olive wood and metal, also prayer cards gift cards and bookmarks. T-towels are purchased from the Civic Trust. Church guidebooks, the Church Christmas card and a lovely card with a picture of the new boss under the bell tower are all bought from jmk, the printers of this magazine.

At the moment Jane and John are trying to keep a mixture of religious and Scottish items available and second-guess what will appeal to locals and visitors alike.

Several new things have been acquired, simple paper weights that look and feel like stone, jewellery in the form of brooches and very attractive necklaces, letter openers and a quaich made of pewter. There are CDs of the music from 'The Seed Must Die', a Passion Play performed by St Michael's in March 2016.



Jane is thinking also of reusable bags with the church logo, if a small quantity could be purchased at a reasonable price. Boxes for some of the items on sale are stored under the counter or on the seat behind the counter; paper bags are also kept there. There is not a lot of storage space and Jane likes to keep the shop tidy.

Next time you are in Church, do have look at the shop. You may find the answer to a present problem, thanks to the buying expertise of Jane and John Binnie.

JUST A MINUTE

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

100 years ago

11th June 1918 [*Legacy*] A form of discharge was produced in connection with a legacy of £250 bequeathed to the Kirk Session by the late Miss Euphemia Walker for restoration of St. Michael's Church. The Session authorised Messrs A. Dougal, Jas. F. Macdonald and Session Clerk to grant a receipt for the amount of legacy (£250 with interest at 5%) to Miss Walker's Trustee and their agents Messrs. Glen and Henderson, W.S. Linlithgow.

* The Session had a report from the Moderator regarding an Organ Recital to be held in the Church on 23rd June on behalf of the Red Cross Association – Trooper Irwin Hunt, Organist.

7th July 1918 It was suggested that, on account of the extra work Mr. Coupar was presently, and had for some time, been undertaking, that the evening services be discontinued in the Parish Church during August and September. This matter was left over for consideration at a future meeting.

21st July 1918 The Session resolved (moved by Mr. Forbes, seconded by Mr. Miller) that the Services held in the Church on Sunday evenings be discontinued during August and September.

50 years ago

16th Apr. 1968 Appreciation was expressed of the work of the Assistant Minister in his preparation of the first edition of the new quarterly supplement of 'St. Michael's News', and of Derek Henderson, son of Mr. Henderson, Elder, in the drawing of the design for the front cover. Elders were requested by the Moderator to ensure that every household in the Congregation received a copy of the document.

* The Moderator reported that, along with Session Clerk, he had called on Miss Joan Bigwood and presented to her the Library Edition of the New English Bible bearing the inscription 'Presented to Miss Joan Bigwood by St. Michael's Parish Church, Linlithgow, in appreciation of devoted service to generations of Sunday School Children'. Miss Bigwood had expressed deep appreciation and thanks to the Kirk Session for the gift, which she would treasure and use.

* [*Advertising*] It was decided that, henceforth, Communion and special Services in Church should be advertised in the Linlithgowshire Journal and Gazette.

25 years ago

Tues. 20th Apr. 1993 [*Bosnian refugees*] Mr. and Mrs. William Ross would return on Friday from the Middle East. The Bosnian families who had stayed in their house would now move to flats in Bathgate and donations of goods, equipment etc. should be delivered to Cross House as soon as possible.

[*Romanian visit*] Mr. Marshall Green had just returned from Romania where he and the group of volunteers had the experience of a lifetime. Mr. Green thanked Kirk Session and members of the church for their prayers of support. There would be an opportunity to hear about the trip in the near future.

Tues. 25th May 1993 [*Romanian Exchange*] The trip was richly blessed and those who went with gifts received more than they gave. The Romanian Christians sent greetings, love and gratitude. The aim of meeting and sharing with the people had been fulfilled and the hospitality was wonderful. The Romanians would arrive in Linlithgow on 25th July and stay for three weeks with families in the town. Some would attend Scripture Union camps or missions and also St. Ninian's Outreach Club.

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HOPE STARTS HERE

How Safe Families is equipping the church to support families in crisis

*by Andrew Murray
Director of Family Support*

How do we as the church of Christ love our neighbour? We can do this in lots of little ways through hospitality, acts of kindness and generosity. But what if the church had the opportunity to reach out in love to families in our community who have lost hope and have nowhere to turn? What if 100s of volunteers could be trained up to offer hope to parents and children in really tough situations? What if the church once again became famous for radical hospitality, love of the stranger and compassion for the broken? This is the vision of Safe Families for Children Scotland.

Launched in 2013, Safe Families is now a fast-growing charity seeking to call the church to show love to those who need it most. Working across the Lothians, Safe Families recruits and trains volunteers to get alongside families to befriend parents and/or children, offers short overnight respite for children under 12, and practical goods and services for families in poverty. Safe Families wants to offer hope in desperate situations and help children to make great memories even when things are tough. Our three simple aims are to prevent neglect and abuse of children, to keep children out of care and to stabilise families at a time of crisis. Across the UK Safe Families has already worked with 5000 children and has been in West Lothian since 2017. We already have many volunteers from Linlithgow.

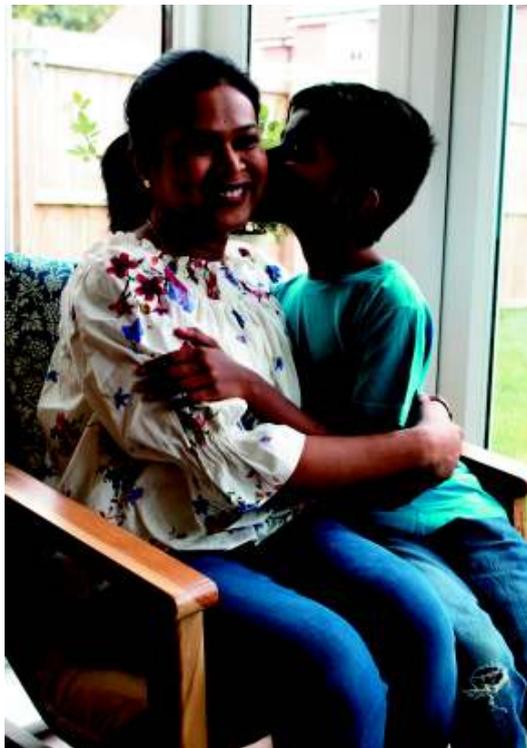


Stories of family tragedy and crisis are not hard to find in the Bible. Buried deep in the Old Testament is the story of Ruth and Naomi. Having moved to a new area, tragedy strikes and Naomi loses both her husband and her two sons. In a patriarchal society Naomi had no protection, no income and no hope. She arrives back in Bethlehem penniless, traumatised and with nobody but her daughter-in-law Ruth for company. How do the people of God respond? Thankfully for Ruth, the Old Testament laws allowed for the poor to glean in the fields. Ruth went out to work. She was offered a place at the table with the other reapers. Suddenly the two widows have more barley than they can cope with. Ruth is redeemed by a close relative, a 'kinsman redeemer'. Ruth starts with death but ends with the birth of Boaz, great-grandfather of King David. God redeemed and transformed a bleak and hopeless situation into a situation of hope and blessing.

Every day Safe Families brings promise into hopeless situations. Inspired by the life and love of Jesus we believe that every child in Scotland has dignity and deserves hope. Last year we were referred to a young dad living in a desperate situation with 4 girls under 8. When the Safe Families worker went to the house the young dad sobbed in utter despair, saying that he couldn't even afford an ice cream when the van came around.

Within a few weeks Safe Families introduced a volunteer who started taking the girls out every week. Incredibly one of the first trips the volunteer took the girls on was to the beach where she bought them an ice cream. A simple act of kindness gave a few wee girls some great memories and brought hope into a bleak situation. Along with several other agencies we supported the family to move into a new house. Hope gradually came back into a very hopeless situation. The girls are now thriving and the family has been kept together. This is just one of dozens of situations that Safe Families has been involved in over the last few years.

We want to reach out with love and compassion to families who are hurting and turn hopeless circumstances into situations of hope and blessing. How do we do this? Safe Families



works with local authorities to get referrals for socially isolated families in crisis. We then match these families to trained and approved volunteers. Volunteers go through a process of training, assessment, PVG check, 3 references before finally being approved at a panel. Safe Families runs training days almost every month – the next are 18 August or 15 September 2018 at Davidson's Mains Parish Church in Edinburgh. If you are interested in coming along, we would love to speak to you and invite you to one of our Information Nights at our new office in 63/65 Shandwick Place Edinburgh, EH2 4SD. Please get in touch by email scotland@safefamiliesforchildren.com or phone us on 0131 603 8430. Please ask for Don MacMillan or Andrew Murray.

THE FEET OF CHRIST

by Rev Bruce Pass



Do you have beautiful feet? Can you sashay down the High Street with barefoot abandon, or do you feel slightly awkward when the summer months come around and the weather demands slides, flip-flops, or sandals?

Perhaps not many of us would say they have beautiful feet, but the Bible says that there was one person whose feet could be described as beautiful without reserve. These feet may well have been covered in calluses, bunions, and fungal nails, but the Bible says they are the most beautiful feet in the world. In Paul's letter to the Romans he writes, *'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved. But how are they to call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"'* (Romans 10:13 -15).

Those feet are the feet of Christ. He is the one sent by his heavenly Father to preach the good news of the kingdom, so that everyone who calls on his name would be saved. Yet Christ left this preaching work unfinished. That's why Paul poses his rhetorical question. How can people believe in him of whom they have never heard?

Indeed, there are many who have not heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. But this is not because Jesus failed in his mission. At the beginning of the book of Acts, Luke writes, *'In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up.'* (Acts 1:1-2).

Luke's point is that during his earthly ministry Christ only made a beginning. The rest of Acts relates the story of how Jesus continued 'to do' and 'to teach' through his Church, whom he clothed with the power of his Holy Spirit from on high (Acts 1:8).

Although Luke doesn't use the metaphor of the body of Christ, it is highly significant for what he is describing. As Christ continues his ministry from heaven, he beautifies the feet of his body on earth.

This spiritual pedicure is part and parcel of what it means to be the body of Christ. Preaching is a part of the beauty Christ bestows on his Church.

This gives us much to reflect on and it puts my opening question in a different light. Does St Michael's have these beautiful feet? Are we bringing Jesus' good news to Linlithgow?

A Church that announces repentance for the forgiveness of sins has the most beautiful of feet. In possession of these beautiful feet a Church can be clearly recognized for what it really is, namely, the body of Christ.

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Rev Thom Riddell
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Parent and Toddlers

Margaret Henderson
tel: (01506) 844787

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Tracy Curle (3-11yrs)
tel: (01506) 207294

Paul Davidson (Bible Class 12-14yrs)
tel: (01506) 670075

Rev Dr Stewart Gillan (YF S3-S6)
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Jamie McIntosh
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