

PASSING THOUGHTS ON ...

The Way to Salvation

IN THREE PARTS

Part one – Revelation and washdays*

A phrase in the book of Revelation in the Bible brought back a memory – Sally belonged to a past generation whose lives were harder than at present. Sally hated washday. Clothes into the big low sink, out with the scrubbing board, the big yellow bar of soap and then plenty of elbow grease. Lots of rinsing, then on to the wringer and more elbow grease. That wasn't the worst. Not by a long chalk! The sheets, the blankets and all the larger items! They went into the communal boiler, generally in an outhouse. A large brick and concrete horror which you filled with cold water and lit a fire underneath!! The clothes had to be stirred occasionally with a wooden stick, rinsed and, you guessed it, put through the wringer. Sally hated washday!

Then, wonder of wonders, her grandchildren gave her an automatic washing machine. All she had to do was put in the clothes, the washing powder, and switch it on. (Sally only used one programme. She found these new fangled contraptions confusing and her five year old great grandchild wasn't always there to sort things out!) So, back to the book of Revelation

John's vision is of humanity at the end of time, as this world knows it, and that time will be terrible beyond imagination. It is a vision of the last terrible days and of the great tribulation to come. This is the tribulation that JESUS foretold when HE said "for in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation, which GOD created, until this time, nor ever shall be." John saw the final assault by every evil power and a final devastation which only then would be followed by the GLORY of GOD. As JESUS said "after that tribulation – then the SON of MAN will come in the clouds with great power and glory".

John saw a great crowd, so great it could not be counted and drawn from every race, standing before GOD and the LAMB. He was asked, "do you know who these are who are clothed in white robes and where they came from?" and was then told "these are they who are coming out of the great tribulation and who have washed their robes, and have made them white through the power of the blood of the LAMB".

White robes have a great significance in the Bible. Zechariah, in a vision, saw the high priest Joshua stand before the LORD clad in filthy garments and heard the LORD say "Remove the filthy garments from him. See I have removed your iniquities from you and I will clothe you with rich robes." White robes are a sign of purity or righteousness. Blood, to the Hebrew, stood for life and life belongs to GOD. (they would not eat anything with blood in it.) Blood is also associated with death. When the New Testament speaks about the blood of JESUS CHRIST it stands for HIS life and death, it stands for all CHRIST did for us in HIS life and in HIS death.

Treasurer's Report

OCTOBER 2003

Income	
Offerings 4 weeks (Weekly average £857.70).....	£3,430.81
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc.....	£1,536.12
Donations/Retiring Offering.....	£95.00
Interest Free Loans.....	£1,400.00
	<u>£6,461.93</u>

Expenditure	
Electricity, Gas & Telephone costs.....	£325.80
Advertising, Printing, Stationery, etc.....	£209.82
Sunday School Materials.....	£54.96
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	£3,839.78
	<u>£4,430.36</u>

STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE		OFFERINGS	
Stipend	£2,903.28	6th	£730.72
Mission & Aid	£808.50	13th	£706.16
Organist	£80.00	20th	£629.37
Cleaners (4wks)	£48.00	27th	£529.56
	<u>£3,839.78</u>		<u>£2,595.81</u>
		Paid through Bank	£835.00
			<u>£3,430.81</u>

OFFERINGS UPDATE			
		2003	2002
Jan.-Sept.	39wks	£27,717.73	£28,944.08
October	4wks	<u>£3,430.81</u>	<u>£2,838.95</u>
		<u>£31,148.54</u>	<u>£31,783.03</u>

Sally's grandchildren gave her a washing machine to clean her clothes. GOD gave us JESUS CHRIST to clean our souls! In HIM we can gain, by HIS power and HIS love, the path to salvation. Remember—"they who have washed their robes, and have made them white through the power of the blood of the LAMB"—that little word "they". Who washed their clothes? They did! They availed themselves of the power of the blood of the LAMB. How do we avail ourselves of the sacrifice of CHRIST? To be continued.

Jack Howie.

CHAS

(Children's Hospice Association Scotland)

For the past year, I have been sending the used toner cartridges from our church photocopier to the CHAS Recycling Appeal. This helps raise money towards building Scotland's second children's hospice. The Recycling Appeal also accepts used laser, fax, ink cartridges (NOT EPSON) and any unwanted mobile phones. Each cartridge is worth up to £2 towards the Children's Hospice.

I am aware that there are a number of our members using ink cartridges in their printers. Providing no other member is supporting this appeal, I would be willing to accept any used cartridges and forward them to the Recycling Appeal. Cartridges could be handed to me personally or left in the front porch of the church. Thank you.

Ian Forsyth

No. 180

December 2003/January 2004



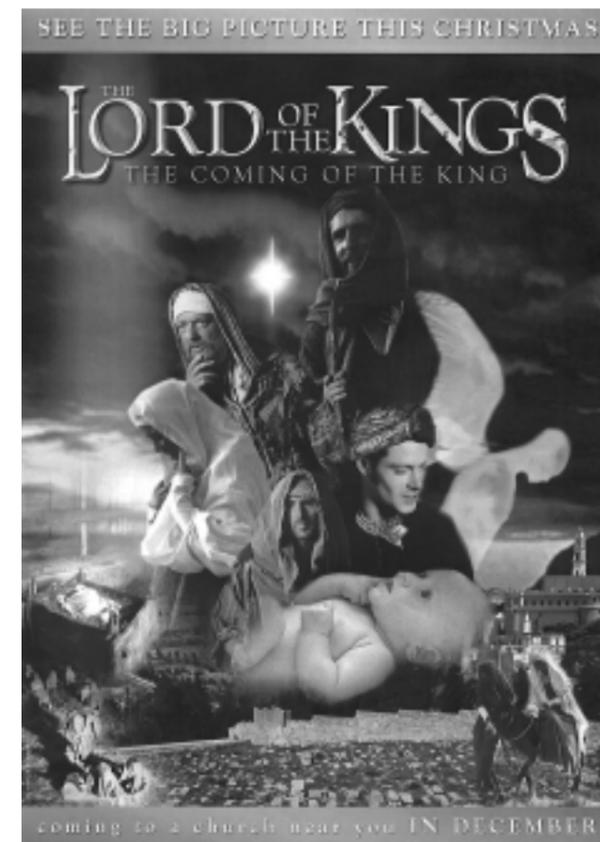
Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

At the time of writing the top book in the BBC's 'Big Read' series is JRR Tolkien's 'Lord of the Rings'. I hope you have read it, or at least seen the films, the third of which comes out this Christmas. It is impossible to describe what is a monumental creation of a world and its goings-on except to say that you will know that good triumphs over evil.

Tolkien like his friend C.S. Lewis, the author of the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (another of the 'Big Read' top twenty), was of course a Christian and part of the intellectual group called 'the Inklings' who had a great interest in fantasy, fairy tale and legend. Their interest was not because they thought it fitted in with the Christian faith as a similar fiction but because they saw in them inklings of the real thing, of the undergirding reality behind the world, which they believed to be truly expressed in the Christian faith. Fantasy, fairy tale and legend were so powerful in the human psyche because there was in them what C.S. Lewis called 'good dreams', intimations of something beyond, inklings of the fairy story that was beyond fantasy because it was true – the Christian message found in the Bible. Our Christmas poster is titled "Lord of the Kings" and it is about Christmas and about Jesus. Please don't let your imagination run down into thinking that this is all 'a nice story' but not real. If fantasy grips your imagination,



if the romance of the Ring rings a bell, if the wonder of Christmas, makes an ache in your heart come to the real thing – come to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, come to Jesus Christ. You are sitting in a magical world right now of which Christ is King.

With every blessing, Leslie Steele.

NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL CHRISTMAS 2003

There will be a Celebration Service in the Volunteer Hall on Sunday, 21st December, 2003 at 7.00 p.m. organised by a group of folk from different denominations. Come along and enjoy the music and message of Christmas – and bring a friend. The neutral venue has been chosen deliberately, so all can feel at ease.

Entrance is free – but there will be an opportunity to give a donation towards costs at the door.

Christmas Services

Christmas Sunday Family Service will be on 21st at 11.00 p.m. as usual
Christmas Sunday Evening – United Christmas Praise Evening in the Volunteer Hall at 7.00 p.m.

The Candlelight Service will be on Christmas Eve at 11.30 p.m. (preceded by carol singing from around 11.15 p.m.) and

Short Christmas Day Family Service at 10.30 a.m. (get up and come, gifts and all)

News from Session and Board

Board and Session have both had busy meetings in November when many matters have been on the Agenda. The Session spent time discussing the Report on Eldership to the General Assembly.

A meeting has been arranged for January 20th when Gillian Paterson from the Stewardship Department of the Church of Scotland will address a joint meeting of the Session and Board.

Boys' Brigade



Our Company, the 1st Galashiels, started the new session on Friday 29 August, 2003. The numbers this year are: Anchor Boys – 26; Junior Section – 24 and Company Section – 13.

Due to work commitments, Mike Todd was unable to help with the Junior Section this year. Stephen Fox has been coming along to help Gordon with this Section. Rob Black who has just returned to Galashiels also comes along to help when required. Some of the ex-members of the Company will remember Rob who started as a Life Boy and finished as an officer in the Company. Rob's grandson is presently a member of the Junior Section. Families are well represented in the Company with brothers joining after each other. At present, one family has one son in the Anchor Boys, one in the Junior Section and one in the Company Section.

Our Enrolment Service was held in our Church on Sunday 19 October 2003. The company was well represented and supported by parents and friends.

The boys and officers from the Company Section paraded with the other three Galashiels Companies at the Remembrance Day Service.

Our annual Christmas Carol Service will be held in our Church at 6.30 p.m. on Friday 19 December 2003. A warm welcome is extended to members of the congregation and their friends to attend this service.

Ian Forsyth, President

Minister on Holiday

The minister will be attending the Crieff Fellowship Conference in January and will be on holiday from 5th-12th. The service on Sunday Morning 11th will be conducted by George McCann and in the evening by John Breeding.



Guild Update

The first speaker at our two November meetings was the Minister. As this was part of our "Getting to Know you" series, he gave a brief autobiography telling of his home background and upbringing in Edinburgh.

On the 26th, Mr. Bill Chalmers from the Edinburgh City Mission gave a very good powerpoint presentation of the work of the Mission which includes helping homeless folk, visiting and working in co-operation with the Bethany Trust and other churches in Edinburgh.

The Christmas Party is on Wed. 10th December at 2.15pm and our meetings in January are on the 7th when we will enjoy slides shown by Miss Ella Dodds and the Burns Lunch is on the 21st at 1pm.

Lunch Club

We plan to start the lunch club on Thursday, 8th January at 12.30pm. The cost for a 2 course lunch, a main meal with either soup or a sweet and tea/coffee and a biscuit, will be £2.60. If you need transport, please contact your elder or Mrs. Steele (752320).

Flower Rota

The Flower Rota for next year will be made up soon and I know there will be a few blank spaces. If you would like to donate flowers please contact me before the end of the month so that your name can be added to the list. Thanks.

Angela Miller (Tel. 755316)

Deaths

- Oct 29th Margot Douglas Watt, 23 Glenfield Avenue, Galashiels.
- Oct 30th Robert Angus Davidson, 17 Cornmill Court, Galashiels.
- Nov 4th Mary Naismith, 28 Huddersfield Street, Galashiels.
- Nov 26th Mary ('Mollie') Riddell Park, 19 Forest Gardens, Galashiels.

We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and friends.

Baptisms

- Oct 26th Maxine Anne Beighton, Wheatlands House, Lee Brae, Galashiels TD1 1QR.
- Nov 2nd Amy Caroline Faircleugh, 102 Craw Wood, Galashiels TD1 3SU.

Several people want to say "thank you" this month for one reason or another:-

From the Noble family

Douglas, Nancy, and Richard Noble would like to thank all the kind friends who attended the two Teaparties at Riverslea on the 18th and 20th November. A very special thank you is due to Zena Forsyth for all her help, and support, so willingly given, and also for contributions of baking from Gail Fox and Lyn Beswick.

A magnificent response of donations raised the sum of £355 for the Fabric Fund. We had a lot of fun and hope that all who came enjoyed their afternoons as much as we did.

We propose to hold another History day in the Spring in aid of Church funds. If anyone is interested in following the extraordinary journey of our Church from its beginnings at Lindean in 1128 to the present day at St. Paul's, please contact me (Nancy) and in the New Year we will set a date.

A note from Margaret Waugh

I would like to convey my sincere thanks to all kind friends for visits, cards and flowers I received during my recent time in hospital, and since returning home. Such love and concern is greatly appreciated, and contributes much to gradual recovery.

Margaret W.

And from Jim Tennant

Marvellous! Fantastic! Brilliant! – that was your response to the Appeal for the Blythswood Shoe boxes. A total of 28 boxes went off to help poor people and communities in Eastern Europe, thanks to your generosity and prayers.

But of course, we've now set ourselves a challenge – can we match, or beat that figure next year? Well, if you find a spare piece of wrapping paper (even the size of a shoe box lid!) or if you get a new pair of shoes and don't want to keep the box ...

Jim Tennant.

Prayers for the Season

Christmas

O God, grant us to know that the one born of old in Bethlehem has also been born in our hearts; a living Christ within, never leaving us. O Lord, follow us to our homes, our work, wherever we go and in whatever we do. May we know that you will never forsake us, and feel your nearness and your grace.

Bless, O God, those who long to know you better and the truth more truly. And now, may the grace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with us throughout the remainder of this our short and uncertain earthly pilgrimage and for evermore. Amen

D. Martin Lloyd Jones

New Year

Eternal God, I place myself into your hands this coming year. May we walk together, hand in hand, and in my actions may your will be done. Amen

George Carey

CHRISTMAS DINNER Sunday 14th December

The Christmas Dinner is going ahead as planned on Sunday, 14th December after Morning Service about 12.45-1.00 p.m. Watch the Intimations for final details. Tickets are available from the Bain family price £3.00. The main course will be of a festive nature but sweets will be many and varied. Please buy a ticket so we know numbers for catering – we don't want anyone to go hungry!

Christmas 2003

"Mary gave birth to her first born, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn."

Luke 2:7



Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour
All for love's sake became so poor,
Thrones for a manger didst surrender
Sapphire-paved courts for stable floor.
Thou who wast rich beyond all splendour,
All for love's sake became so poor.

Frank Houghton