



# Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

So the latest thing to cause a stir in the town is the proposal for a sex shop in the town centre. What will be the response? The innate feelings that tend to spring up nowadays are that the generally liberal, open-minded and tolerant will be accepting of such a developing modern trend and the opposers will be those tight minded, prudish, gloomy presbyterian people of a Scottish past who jump at the word 'sex' before it is past the lips. It's the result of a constant drip-drip of so-called liberal thought in the second half of the last century.

If there was a real concern for the help and development of the sexual life of people then what a good thing that would be but I fear it is just another manifestation of the sexualising culture that we are in.

It appears that our culture today takes what is a natural instinct in people and stimulates it for personal or pecuniary gain. The paedophile, the predatory male, both homosexual and heterosexual, and an increasing number of young women seek the personal satisfaction of sexual stimulation as a kind of drug to soothe a disturbed life. Recreational sex it is called. It serves the same purpose as drink or food does in others. And as far as the pecuniary gain is concerned we have the suppliers, whether prostitutes and pimps, pornographers or marketers of 'sex toys' who make the money out of the drive.

We almost have to repeat today the beauty of a man and woman coming together in mutual love and covenanted commitment who enjoy the wonder of sexual expression in their faithful

marriage and who devote themselves to the care and upbringing of their children. Hey, whatever happened to the glory, romance, and sheer joy of marriage and family? It is being attacked on every side because it does not fit into the ambition of the many who want to stimulate the sexual interest of the nation for merely personal or pecuniary gain but put against the sheer 'rightness' of sex in its proper place it cannot stand.

Dr Jon Harvey, a GP, said in an article in *Prophecy Today*, "The success of the homosexual lobby, representing less than 2% of the population, outstrips the moon landings as one of the wonders of this century. They have, without any evidence to speak of, persuaded most of the civilised world (and many within the Church) that a self-evidently unnatural practice has actually been the victim of unnatural prejudice. This flies in the face of the evidence of reproductive biology, sexual physiology, epidemiology (the science of epidemics) and sociology". Truly there are none so blind as those who will not see.

It remains to Christian people to pray hard and live differently so that a nation bemused by the pied pipers of so-called sexual liberation can see at last that they have merely been following the sad high priests of an old and previously discredited way of life ("there is nothing new under the sun" – Ecclesiastes). Those who ignore history are destined to re-live it. Let us pray to avoid that lesson.

*Yours Sincerely,  
Leslie Steele.*

## The Stated Annual Meeting of the Congregation

This will be held on Tuesday 24th February. It is VITAL that as large a turnout as possible attend as part of the evening will concentrate on deciding an outreach programme to encourage all members and adherents of the congregation.

# CHURCH WEB SITE

The Church Web Site is now on-line at [www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk](http://www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk)



Please check it out and e-mail the webmaster

([robbie@oldparishandstpauls.org.uk](mailto:robbie@oldparishandstpauls.org.uk)) with any ideas that can be added to the site.

Remember, this is YOUR church web site, for the whole world to see.

You can also read the Newsletter from the web site. Tell your friends far and near to log on and pray for us.

*Robbie Noble*



## The Guild

Our Christmas Party on December 10th proved as enjoyable as ever with its mixture of fun, food, fellowship and Christmas readings and Carols.

We were grateful to Miss Ella Dodds for keeping her promise to come to show us her holiday slides of South Africa on January 7th, even though she was in some discomfort herself from a sore leg. As always this was a delightful afternoon, and everyone enjoyed her excellent pictures and commentary. The Burns Lunch on Wednesday 21st was much enjoyed by all, with good food and excellent entertainment from Mrs. Hazel Devlin and Mr. Jim Hogg. We were all saddened to hear afterwards of the death of one of our members of long standing – Mrs. Belle Harding. Belle was a faithful attender at the Guild over very many years, and was much loved by all. She worked tirelessly when she was able, and continued a faithful interest when failing health prevented regular attendance. Our sympathy and love go to her daughter Marion, who continues the tradition of serving in the Guild.

In February, we look forward to welcoming Dr. Dorothy Logie on Wednesday 4th February to speak to us from her experiences in Africa and elsewhere of the AIDS crisis in the world today, reflecting our theme for this year "Dare to Care with Courage." It is a great privilege to have her, and we trust there will be a good attendance. On February 18th we will be looking at the Guild Discussion Topic for this year: "Who Cares?"

## Proposed Sex Shop in Galashiels

In his letter this month, the Minister refers to the application for a sex shop licence for premises in Galashiels. Many Christians are concerned about the possible effects such a venture could have on young and vulnerable people, as well as being offensive to families with young children. The Newsletter editor has received a message suggesting that members of local churches who are concerned should write to their local councillor, advising them that not only is the location inappropriate, but also of the risk and dangers of leading vulnerable young people into addiction to pornography. For further information, please speak to the Minister or to the Editor.

## DIARY DATES

Galashiels Baptist Church are celebrating 200 years of worship and witness this year, and are putting on a number of special events. Dates are as follows -  
**8 February** - David Clark of BMS (Baptist Mission Society)

**13 March** - Riding Lights Theatre in Volunteer Hall "The Passion" Price £3 Concessions £2

**20 March** - 4pm at Galashiels Baptist Church Jim Bailey, one of U.K.'s top children's entertainers.

**26 March** - Ian White in Volunteer Hall Price £3

**3rd April** - Film - "Left Behind" 8.00pm Free. In Baptist Church Hall

**10 April** - Music - Neil Alton 8.00 In Baptist Church Hall. Price £3

**11th April** - Easter Family Celebration 2.00p.m in the Volunteer Hall

**21 May** - Sid Little In Volunteer Hall Price £5

## SCRIPTURE UNION UPDATE

Unfortunately a worker for the Borders has not been appointed as yet. The advert did not produce a suitable candidate for the post so it will be re-advertised soon.

Thank you to all who have committed financially towards supporting a new SU worker. If you have not done so but wish to make a contribution it is not too late. If you have lost, or have not had, a form which enables you to make a standing order then please talk to Ishbel Adamson. Remember that if you are a tax payer then SU can reclaim tax on all donations.

## Baptism and Admission to Membership

On Sunday, December 7th, 3 of our Underground Church members were baptised. Following the baptism, they and one other were admitted to membership. It was a very happy occasion and we welcome them warmly to the fellowship of St. Paul's.

**7th December Baptised and admitted to membership:**

Emma Birnie, "Dorain", Kirkbrae  
Kate and Eilidh Cleland, 53 Thistle Street.

**Admitted to membership:**

Andrea Smith, 8 Stobshaw Place.

## Deaths

Dec. 6th James Simpson, 11 Whytbank Row, Clovenfords.

Jan. 21st Belle Harding, Gala Hill House (late of Tulley Court and Glenfield).

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

## PASSING THOUGHTS .....

On the Way to Salvation. – Part Two – the Road to Salvation. (Continued from Revelations and washdays in the December Newsletter.)

**Sally's grandchildren gave her a washing machine to clean her own garments. God gave us Jesus Christ to clean ours! The way to clean our garments has been provided by Jesus Christ, but we must wash them.**

This symbolically lays down our part in our salvation. Jesus provides the Way to redemption, but we must avail ourselves of it. The washing machine is available and switched on, but we must put the clothes in. Jesus is here and waiting, but if we don't go to HIM and take our sins to HIM, we will not be cleansed. So, how do we avail ourselves of the sacrifice of Christ?

Firstly, we have to realise that we have gone against God's wishes. Now, after Jesus' temptation by Satan, He came and dwelt in Capernaum and from that time began to preach and say "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Repentance? .. Why is it so necessary?

Imagine – a scene in Heaven

Gabriel: - "Oh God, there's a personal call for you."

GOD: - "Where from?"

Gabriel: - "It's from earth, another sinner."

GOD: - "O.K.- put it through."

Gabriel:- "You know I'm getting worried about you. It's the horrendous amount of calls you're getting from earth. It's getting as bad as the time of Sodom and Gomorrah. More and more calls from our people on earth about the state of the place. Anyhow, I reckon you should let a few of these sinners stew in their own juice."

GOD:- "No, Gabriel, I can't do that. My Son offered them salvation. Repentant sinners who believe in Him have a 'hot line' up here. So put that call through."

Sinner:- "Hello GOD."

GOD: - "Well, Ian Travail, you have a problem"

Ian:- "I forgot about you, strayed from your way and have sinned. I need you to forgive me."

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### *The Prayer Secretary writes .....*

During advent, as each candle was lit, our Minister encouraged us to read, learn and inwardly digest all we can know about God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit. There are many ways of doing this and one way I would recommend is reading a portion of the Bible every day along with Daily Bible Reading Notes, Daily Bread, Everyday With Jesus, Encounter with God etc. When God's word is read continually it becomes a wonderful discipline and necessity. I encourage you, if you don't already have a Bible reading plan, to give this prayerful consideration. I already order a few copies but I would love to order more. Speaking from experience this daily practice has been a real blessing to me and humbles and challenges me continually. By prayer and reading God's word our relationship with our Heavenly Father develops. The reading notes cost £3.00 every three months, they are due again on 1st April. Please speak to me, soon, if you would like a copy. Make this decision take the step in faith and anticipation of God's Blessing.

Anne Mackay (754220)

GOD- "What do you mean by forgive?"

Ian: - "I want to lose my guilt and be acceptable to You as I was before.

GOD: - "Ah, things improve. You want to go back?"

Ian: - "Yes, that's it."

GOD: - "Well, why don't you?"

Ian: - "I can't. I need you to help me."

GOD : - "Better and better. Go on."

Ian: - "Now I've got it! I can't be right with You till I get back to where I was before I sinned. I have separated myself from You. I knew in my heart it was wrong. I must have been mad. O what a fool. Oh Lord, help me. I do repent."

GOD: "You want help, you've got it. Now consider this well, for your life with ME depends on it. Firstly, you didn't do it all by yourself. You had help. Satan provided that help. He tempted you, and you fell for it. Your big mistake – and it's an enormous one – was when you realised that you were being tempted, you should have called on me instantly. Spiritual attacks cannot be defeated by earthly means. They need a spiritual defence. It needs earnest prayer and heedfulness to My Word in Ephesians 6: 10 – 20. Your repentance is not complete. You have repented in your head only, and not yet in your heart. Consider well the sorrow you have caused me by your sin, the sadness you have caused Jesus by not following Him, the regret you have caused the Holy Spirit by ignoring His guidance, the effect on others and the consequences to you, both on earth and on your eternal life. True repentance takes time. The longer you are in sin, the further you travel down the road which leads away from me – and it's the same distance back! Some are so far down that road, so far away from me that I am out of their sight, and they cannot make the journey back. Though no one is cut out of my sight, some leave this journey back until it is too late. They do not have enough time left.

True repentance is a battle against evil. Satan will not give up easily. Start that journey now – the sooner, the better. Oh, by the way, My Son runs an express bus service from ANYWHERE to FORGIVENESS, and the cost of a ticket is

BELIEF AND TRUE REPENTANCE.

**To be continued**

*Jack Howie*

## **MEGA-QUIZ IS BACK!**

**on Saturday, 20th March at 7.30 p.m.**

Another Quiz evening has been arranged for the above date. We are looking for three different categories of team:

"Family" Team – 2 adults plus two children aged 12 or under

"Junior" Team – 4 young adults aged 12-17

"Senior" Team – 4 adults aged 18 or over

The questions will be the same for all teams, but there will be prizes in each of the above categories

A video/soft play area will be provided for those who are too young to participate in the Quiz.

Entry: £5.00 per team, including refreshments.

Why not start forming your team now for what promises to be a most enjoyable evening?

Further information from, and entries to, Jim Tennant, (751003.)

## Fancy a Spring Outing to Riverslea?

**Saturday, April 17th – Cost £15** (all proceeds to Fabric Fund) Maximum number 18. Transport available if required.

If you have an enquiring mind, and are interested in tracing the amazing journey of our Church from Lindean in 1128, via Boleside, Gala Aisle and Old Parish to present day St. Paul's, please join us for a day of history, fellowship - and food!

Proposed timetable:

10.30 a.m. Gather at Riverslea for coffee or tea.

11.15 a.m. To Selkirk/Lindean Old Church Yard/ via Faldonside to Boleside.

Soup and Sandwich Lunch at Riverslea

2.45 p.m. (approx) To Gala Old Church Yard (Gala Aisle). Walk round Bow Butts past site of Old Parish Church to St. Paul's.

5.00pm Return to Riverslea for Evening Meal.

This will be a similar day to that held 10 years ago.

Please wear comfortable clothing and sensible shoes, - you know what our weather can be like!

If you are interested, please give your name to Nancy Noble as soon as possible. (752724)

## Whose Earth ? .....

"Sustainable development" is one of those modern phrases we read which can't really be explained in a sentence. However, the prevailing world view in rich countries is one of 'progress'; the idea that development equals continuous growth, which demands and depends on, ever increasing consumption. At the same time, this path of development has often been characterised by ruthless social and ecological exploitation.

The richest 20% of the world use 80% of the world's resources. The 'average' European consumes four times as much as his Asian or African counterpart, but only half as much as the North American. This has resulted in huge amounts of energy use, leading to global warming and climate change; it creates equally huge amounts of industrial and household waste, which leads to pollution. It is a major factor in deforestation and dwindling fish stocks to give two examples.

A small proportion of the human race are acting as though the whole world is at their command, and that it exists to serve their desires.

The Bible is clear that this is not the way it was intended to be. Rather our environment is made by God, and belongs to God. It is equally clear that people made in God's image have a role to take care of all that God has created. The fact that sin has corrupted our relationship with God and therefore the whole of creation, has turned stewardship into exploitation with inevitable disastrous results.

But the gospel of Jesus Christ is Good News for the human race as part of the created order; we, as Christians, are in a new relationship with God, with His people and his planet. Our care of that creation should reflect our love for the Creator. "The earth is the Lord's" (Psalm 24:1) but the task is ours.

Tearfund's "Whose Earth?" campaign is an opportunity for Christians to take up the challenge of living on God's earth in God's way. We share a world where the life-style choices and consumption of the wealthy directly affects the life and death of the poor. "Whose Earth?" encourages us to make our own life-style choices for the benefit of people and planet. Re-

## Treasurer's Report

### NOVEMBER 2003

#### Income

Offerings 4 weeks (Weekly average £831.84).....	£3,327.34
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc .....	£118.21
Donations (incl for alts).....	£635.00
	<u>£4,080.55</u>

#### Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Church Telephone.....	£143.00
Insurance for Church and Manse .....	£3,538.89
Repairs – Church.....	£96.46
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£136.88
Sunday School Materials.....	£94.75
Transfer to Fabric Fund.....	£345.00
Pulpit Supply .....	£57.00
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	<u>£3,821.78</u>
	<u>£8,233.76</u>

#### STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OFFERINGS

Stipend	£2,903.28	3rd	£610.51
Mission & Aid	£808.50	10th	£425.35
Organist	£80.00	17th	£560.48
Cleaners (4wks)	<u>£30.00</u>	24th	<u>£771.00</u>
	<u>£3,821.78</u>		<u>£2,36.34</u>
		Paid through Bank	£960.00
			<u>£3,327.34</u>

#### OFFERINGS UPDATE

		2003		2002	
Jan.-Oct.	43wks	£31,148.54		£31,783.03	43wks
November	4wks	<u>£3,327.34</u>		<u>£2,915.53</u>	4wks
	47wks	<u>£34,475.88</u>		<u>£34,698.56</u>	43wks

### DECEMBER 2003

#### Income

Offerings 5 weeks (Weekly average £742.61).....	£3,713.03
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc .....	£488.50
Donations.....	£4,258.87
Transfer from Floodlighting Fund for Repairs.....	£543.22
	<u>£9,003.62</u>

#### Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Church Telephone.....	£393.71
Church of Scotland Fabric Fund Investment .....	£288.00
Minister's Travel and Telephone .....	£481.80
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£147.51
Sunday School Materials and Mburu Sponsorship.	£230.00
Repairs to Buildings.....	£3,268.89
Annual Dividends.....	£12.25
Repayment of Short Term Loan.....	£10,000.00
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	<u>£104.00</u>
	<u>£14,926.16</u>

#### STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OFFERINGS

Organist	£80.00	1st	£406.41
Cleaners (4wks)	£24.00	8th	£797.66
		15th	£617.48
		22nd	£601.20
		29th	<u>£324.28</u>
	<u>£104.00</u>		<u>£2,747.03</u>
		Paid through Bank	£966.00
			<u>£3,713.03</u>

#### OFFERINGS UPDATE

		2003		2002	
Jan.-Nov.	47wks	£34,475.88		£34,749.76	47wks
December	5wks	<u>£3,713.03</u>		<u>£3,552.82</u>	5wks
	52wks	<u>£38,188.91</u>		<u>£38,302.58</u>	53wks

cycling is an important start. We must also encourage our politicians to act to eradicate poverty in a way that protects the environment, maintains livelihoods and sustains life.

For details contact Jim Tennant (Tel) 751003