



# Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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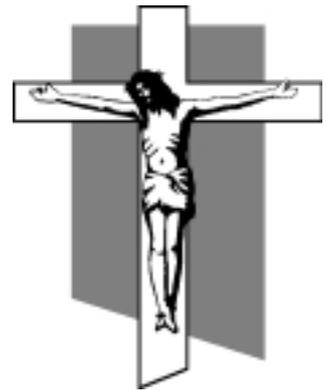
Dear Friends,

There is no doubt about it, this Easter Jesus is in the news and not because of great revivals or hordes of people returning to Church but because of a film, Mel Gibson's 'The Passion of the Christ'. A lot of column inches have been devoted to it some of it a bit ridiculous but as I haven't seen the film I won't add to that debate: instead I want to draw your attention to the plain, straightforward but absolute significance of Jesus Christ.

John Blanchard in his interestingly titled book, "Does God believe in Atheists", draws attention to some facts about Jesus that aren't new but do no harm in being repeated:-

- We have no record of his date of birth yet the world's chronology is linked to it.
- He never wrote a book and yet more books have been written about him than anyone else in history.
- He never painted a picture or composed any poetry or music and yet nobody's life and teaching have inspired a greater outburst of songs, plays, poetry, films, videos and other art forms. The "Jesus" film has been seen by more people than any other film in history (sacred or secular). [Tell that to the film buffs]
- His travels were limited to an area about the size of Wales and yet his influence is world-wide.

- He was virtually unknown outside his own country and yet *Encyclopedia Britannica* has an entry of 30,000 words about him.



Many more things could be added but you get the point. If he is that important you must have an opinion about him; what is it? The Church's opinion is that of Peter and it has echoed down the years as it has declared that He is "the Christ, the Son of the Living God". Now that needs unpacking but whatever it means it means more than just a great man or a wonderful teacher.

Yes, I want to invite you to Church but more than that I want everyone who reads this Newsletter to decide that they will seek to know more of Jesus. Some of you might go to the film, some of you might come to Church or some of you pick up the Bible again after a long forgotten period but whatever you do, answer the question, "Who is this man?" and "what have I to do about Him?" Do that and this Easter may be the start of new beginnings for you.

*With every blessing,  
Leslie Steele*

## **Silent Auction - May 28th**

Have you found a contribution yet? As this is a major fund-raiser for this year, items for the auction will be most gratefully received. Contributions can be left in the Church porch or collected by Nancy Noble (752724), Catherine Bain (756615), Zena Forsyth (850250) or Vi Wood (753660). No jumble please but anything from a paper-knife to a flower arrangement will be welcomed. Alternatively, a pledge (eg. afternoon tea, a car run etc.) will be equally so. Remember that this is a **congregational** team effort so please give as much support as you can - we rely on you! Thank you in anticipation.

*Nancy Noble and the "auction committee".*

## Holiday Club

Plans are continuing for Holiday Club, which will run from 26th July-1st August. Thanks to the generous donations of members



we have been able to buy all the publicity items and Matthews gospels. I am also in a position to tell you that we will be receiving four Americans from Liz and Bills church to help. This is very welcome but will mean that we need accommodation from the 22nd July – 2nd August. (Mum and daughter, who is in teacher training College, and 2 other women – all teachers!)

The main purpose in writing this is to advertise our first full team meeting on **26th April at 8.00**. It is vital that anyone who plans to help with Holiday Club is present, as we will be viewing the video for the week. If you are able to help at any time during the week or be involved in the planning please come along. If you would like to help and want more info please see Catherine at church or call 756615. Please also get in touch if you would like to help but cannot make the 26th. It would make life easier if we knew at this stage who our willing helpers are.

Thanks for your donations, prayers and help. They will all help Holiday Club be a big success.

*Catherine Bain*

## Three notes from Jim Tennant.....

Quiz Night. A huge “thank you” to all who supported the quiz, especially those who gave despite knowing that they were otherwise engaged that evening! Such generosity was also evident in those who did come, as a total of £115 was raised: we had 14 teams at £5 per team – you can work that one out for yourself! Thank you again.

Another “thank you” for the generosity shown at the “different” evening service of Sunday 14th March to mark the end of Fair Trade Fortnight. We were able to send £30 to the Fair Trade Foundation.

“The Magic of the Musicals” So far, this little brain teaser has raised £47.50 (from 75 sheets). However, only three entries has been sent back. Please don’t hold on to your entries – it could be your turn to win, but as they say “if you’re not in it.....”

## Christian Aid Week 9th - 15th May 2004

Preparations for Christian Aid Week 2004 are getting underway. Last year £14.3 million was raised through the help of thousands of volunteers all over the U.K. and Ireland. Over £1 million of this came from Gift Aid declarations. This record total is an amazing act of Christian witness in response to the scandal of global poverty. It has enabled Christian Aid to support the work of nearly 600 partner organisations around the world, educating children, promoting peace, empowering women, caring for the sick, improving livelihoods, and changing the world for the better in many other ways.

As we look ahead to Christian Aid week 2004, the needs are sadly as great as ever. A fifth of the world’s population is surviving on less than 60p a day. Christian Aid’s belief in life before death compels it and its partners to stand alongside those who are struggling, and proclaim that life should be about more than mere survival.

Can I urge you to consider being involved with Christian Aid Week 2004. Help will be needed in the house-to-house collection that will take place in our area. There will also be collections at Somerfield and B & Q for which volunteers are also required. There will be a coffee morning at St. Ninians church hall on Saturday 15th May and once again donations of baking or books would be most welcome, and of course the Guild ladies would appreciate help with either serving or washing up. If you can help with any of these events please get in touch with me on 755316. Thanks.

*Angela Miller*

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### Deaths

Mar. 20th Janet Laird Dalgleish, 3d Backdamgate, Hawick.

Mar. 21st Elizabeth Jones, 8 The Loanings, Denholm.

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

### New Members

Rob and Norma Black, 8 Westwood Gardens.

Dorothy (Dot) Purves, 115 Hawthorn Road.

Hugh Fraser, 76 Kingsknowe Village.

# CHRISTIAN AID – FORTH BRIDGE CROSS

## SATURDAY 24 APRIL 2004

The sponsored Forth Bridge Cross will take place on the above date.

Members of the UGC plus members of the Focus Scripture Union Group will be taking part but there will be extra spaces in the mini bus so if anyone would like to join us – and take a sponsor form – we would be delighted to have them. Please get in touch with me asap. Details from Ishbel Adamson 756032

**OTHERWISE – members of the congregation please look out for young people with sponsor forms in hands!!**

## Boys' Brigade



Our final evening of the session was held on Friday 26 March, when the Annual Display/Parent's Night, was held in the Large Hall.

The evening started with a welcome presentation using Gordon Smith's sound and power point system.

The opening service was conducted by our Chaplain, the Rev. Leslie Steele. The singing of a modern version of "Be thou my vision" supported by music and words from Gordon's hi-tec system was followed by a bible reading and prayer.

The Captain, David Nightingale then invited the Inspecting Officer, our own Jim Waugh to inspect the Company. There then followed displays of drill and physical recreation from the Company Section, a team challenge game by the Junior Section and the usual enthusiastic games by the Anchor Boys. The presentation of awards and prizes was made by Margaret Waugh who had served as an officer in our Company for twenty five years. The highest award of the evening was presented to Craig Turnbull who gained his President's Badge. For those who do not know Craig, you will see him sitting with other members of the Underground Church and he recently started to play bass guitar with the Musicmakers. Craig has started to work for his Queen's Badge and this includes serving in the community for thirty hours. If any member has any suggestions as to where Craig could carry out this community work, please let him or I know. Congratulations are also due to Duncan Sandison, who was awarded the Junior Section "Best all round boy" shield. The other top awards went to James Little, Douglas Pflug and again Craig Turnbull.

At the end of the evening, a presentation was made to Ann Turnbull (Craig's mum) who was leaving the Company after ten years as a helper with the Anchor Boys and Junior Section. At the start, Ann said she would help out for a couple of weeks

## Treasurer's Report

FEBRUARY 2004

### Income

Offerings 4 weeks (Weekly average £762.11).....	£3,048.46
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc.....	£128.20
Donations (incl for alts).....	£2,754.75
	<u>£5,931.41</u>

### Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Church Telephone.....	£748.51
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£195.11
Fabric Repairs, etc.....	£3,021.33
Donation from Helen Ferguson Fund.....	£200.00
Astral Hygiene (Cleaning Material).....	£56.41
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	£3,911.40
	<u>£8,132.76</u>

### STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OFFERINGS

Stipend	£2,998.60	2nd	£620.68
Mission & Renewal	£802.80	9th	£490.02
Organist	£80.00	16th	£526.00
Cleaners (5wks)	£30.00	23rd	£498.76
	<u>£3,911.40</u>		<u>£2,135.46</u>
		Paid through Bank	£913.00
			<u>£3,048.46</u>

### OFFERINGS UPDATE

		2004	2003	
January	4wks	£2,821.16	£2,957.66	4wks
February	4wks	£3,048.46	£2,922.48	4wks
		<u>£5,869.62</u>	<u>£5,880.14</u>	

and we are so grateful that she continued to help for ten years. I would also like to thank all the parents, relatives, friends and members of the congregation who attended our Parent's Night.

Although the majority of us will now enjoy a break until September, Officers and boys from the Company Section will be preparing for the annual Crossover Camp in June. Also attending the camp this year will be leaders and members of the Underground Church along with Gail Fox and members of her Girl Guide Company. Hopefully the weather will be nice for them and we look forward to hearing of their experiences.

*Ian Forsyth, President*

# QUIZ SCORES

	Round	Totals									
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		
Cashman	6	14	5	9	2	2	6	4	0		48
Dream Team	6	5	4	9	5	3	12	6	1		51
Glenfield	14	7	5	8	1	3	5	3.5	8		54.5
The Stunners	5	5	3	9	6	5	6	5	3		47
Bain's	6	7	4	10	15	6	8	8.5	7		71.5
Ishbel's	5	3	6	8	10	5	5	3.5	3		48.5
LALA	5	12	4	6	1	3	7	4	3		45
Craig Park Wands	3	6	4	8	2	5	4	2	0		34
Fast Forward	5	5	5	9	3	3	3	18	9		60
The Champs	5	5	4	8	5	4	4	9	4		48
The Bee Team	4	6	5	7	12	4	6	3	1		48
The Public Servants	5	5	6	8	2	3	12	5	5		51
Tanya's	10	4	4	7	2	4	4	2	3		40

## Treasurer's Report

The Annual Accounts, along with the General Fund budget (shown here) were presented at the A.G.M. in February. I now bring to the attention of the Congregation the financial needs for the present year.

The Ordinary General Expenditure anticipated comes under three headings –

Local Ministry	£32,205
Mission and Wider Work -	£ 8,330
Congregational Purposes	£16,127
<b>Total</b>	<b>£56,662</b>

Our budget for 2004 shows a projected deficit of £7,300 presuming there is no fund raising undertaken. However, you will be aware that plans are underway for our 'Silent Auction' in May, and the Christmas Fair in November. Monies raised from these events should help to reduce the anticipated shortfall in our income. While appreciating the huge task of organising and work that go into these events regular increased giving would reduce our dependency on having to hold such events to 'balance' our books.

It certainly does a Treasurers heart good when anyone increases their giving, especially not because of the Treasurer, the 'Board', or whoever. Isn't it good when people do this at the prompting of God? Perhaps many of us will be prompted by God during this year to increase our regular giving to St Paul's, that our projected deficit disappears as a result of such giving, and income from fundraising events can be distributed elsewhere for furthering the work for God in His Kingdom.

I would ask each member of the congregation to prayerfully consider their level of offerings, and thank those people who contribute by Gift Aid – whereby the Church can reclaim from the Inland Revenue 28p in every £1 given by Tax paying members. Tax is not only paid on wages/salaries – it can also be paid on Bank/Building Society interest, Pensions and Dividends. For more information please contact Zena Forsyth.

*David Leckey, Treasurer*

## GENERAL FUND BUDGET

	Budget		Actual	
	2004		2003	
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>				
<b>Local Ministry</b>		£		£
Minister's Stipend	£0.00		£19,851.00	
Nat Ins & Insured Pension	£0.00		£2,055.00	
Service Supplement	£0.00		£3,770.00	
Main Pension & Housing & Loan Funds	£0.00		£4,367.00	
National Stipend Fund Allocation	£30,958.00		£0.00	
Subtotal (2004 Nat.Stipend Fund; 2003 Ministry)	£30,958.00		£30,043.00	
Less: Endowment Income	(£972)		(£1,010)	
	£29,986.00		£29,033.00	
Travelling Expenses	£1,600.00		£1,583.00	
Other Exps - Telephone	£275.00		£273.00	
Pulpit Supply	£344.00		£342.00	
		£32,205.00		£31,231.00
<b>Mission and Wider Work</b>				
Mission & Renewal Fund (2003 Mission & Aid)	£8,028.00		£8,085.00	
Presbytery Dues	£302.00		£280.00	
Miscellaneous Support	£0.00		£629.00	
		£8,330.00		£8,994.00
<b>INCOME</b>		<b>2004</b>		<b>2003</b>
<b>Local Congregational Purposes</b>				
<b>Offerings</b>	£	£	£	£
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	£6,993.00		£6,993.00	
Gift Aid Donations	£19,395.00		£19,395.00	
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	£5,730.00		£5,730.00	
Ordinary Offerings (Open Plate)	£9,925.00		£9,925.00	
Other Offerings, Donations, Gift Days etc	£2,055.00	£44,098.00	£2,055.00	£44,098.00
<b>Other Ordinary General Income</b>				
Contribs from Congregational Organisations	£1,350.00		£1,350.00	
Regular Fundraising Events	£0.00		£4,796.00	
Income from Investments & Deposits	£3,914.00		£3,914.00	
		£5,264.00		£10,060.00
<b>Total Ordinary General Income</b>		<b>£49,362.00</b>		<b>£54,158.00</b>
<b>Local Congregational Purposes</b>				
<i>Salaries, Nat Ins, Pensions:</i>				
Organist & Cleaners	£1,604.00		£1,550.00	
Church Telephone	£156.00		£152.00	
Printing, Stationery, Photocopying	£500.00		£394.00	
Church Newsletters	£700.00		£700.00	
Publicity & Advertising	£600.00		£575.00	
Organ & Piano Maintenance, Choir & Music	£730.00		£729.00	
Grants to UGC & Sunday School	£850.00		£643.00	
Heating & Lighting	£4,378.00		£3,088.00	
Council Tax, Water, Insurance	£6,000.00		£5,797.00	
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	£3,009.00		£6,625.00	
Life & Work	£0.00		£44.00	
Holiday Club Donations	£100.00		£100.00	
Other Expenses	£1,000.00		£806.00	
		£19,627.00		£21,203.00
Less: Contribs from Outside Agencies	(£3,500)	£16,127.00	(£5,387.00)	£15,816.00
<b>Total Ordinary General Expenditure</b>		<b>56,662.00</b>		<b>£56,041.00</b>
Transferred from other funds		0.00		£0.00
<b>(DEFICIT) SURPLUS</b>		<b>(£7,300)</b>		<b>(£1,883)</b>

\*(Note: From 2004 congregations no longer pay directly for their own minister. All congregations now contribute to the National Stipend Fund which bears the costs of all ministers' stipends and employer's contributions for national insurance, pension and Housing & Loan Fund).