



Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

Are you into sport? There has been plenty of it on the box recently so you could hardly avoid it. Do you get excited or at times, like the English supporters during the European football, utterly dismayed and downhearted?

One interviewer was speaking to a life-long club fan once who was desperately disillusioned with his team. Full of grumbles he complained that the strikers couldn't strike, the defenders weren't putting up a fight and the manager lacked a proper grip on things. The interviewer asked why he didn't support another team then. Now anyone who has been a lifelong Hibs or Celtic fan will understand that a suggestion to become a Hearts or Rangers supporter is utter stupidity and an announcer who doesn't understand that is not worth listening to. Team support is a much deeper thing than merely shopping for a winner; it is about deep seated loyalty and commitment, love even, and nothing will deflect the supporter from being there for his team come rain or shine.

Reading the magazine of the Overseas Missionary Fellowship last month I read an article taken from a book by a Korean, Soon-Ok Lee, "Eyes of the Tailless Animals: Prison Memoirs". In it he mentioned how some Christian prisoners in North

"The unexamined life is not worth living" - Socrates

Korea were told, "Tomorrow is cleaning-the-mind day. You will go out and tell everyone there is no God. Otherwise you will all be killed. Do you

understand?" Not one of them responded to the officer who became furious with them and ordered all eight outside and made them lie down on the ground. They had been carrying a big metal kettle full of molten iron which was their job in prison and it was this that the officer ordered to be poured over the eight recalcitrant prisoners. Lee says after watching the horrid atrocity that he wondered in his heart, "What could be more important to them than their lives? What is it that they believe?". He says that in his years in prison he saw many believers die yet they never denied the God who is in heaven. Their unbelievable faith brought a big question into my heart: "What am I missing?"

Christians down the ages have always been prepared to put Christ first and even go to martyrdom for the gospel but today our country's passions seem to be little connected to the big things of life and much more spent on the merely transitory. God spare us from such harsh testing times as the North Korean experience but if it came to it what big thing in your life drives you and for which would you be prepared to lay down even your life? Sport may be a great past-time but as the old saying goes - "It's only a game". With every blessing,

*Yours in Christ,
Leslie Steele.*

"Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me,
Save that Thou art-
Thou my best thought,
By day or by night,
Waking or sleeping,
Thy presence my light."
- St Patrick.

Do remember in your prayers: folk away on holiday that everyone will return rested and refreshed; Holiday Club during the last week of July – for the team and the children.

There are 25 books of the Bible 'hidden in the story. Can you find them?

(Note from the Editor: As the Newsletter goes to print, I can only find 16! Let me know when you see me how much better you are doing!) This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in a seat pocket on the flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping himself occupied for hours.

One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing in his johnboat. Roy Clark studies it while playing his banjo. Elaine Vices mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving that she brews a cup of tea to calm her nerves. There will be some names that are easy to spot ... that is a fact. Some people will soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. The truth is, from answers that we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or a scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have.

Those able to find them all will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help, books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. And punctuation or space in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you to compete.



Girlguiding UK

This year, 12 boys from the Company Section attended **CROSSOVER 2004** for their annual camp. The UGC also attended the Festival as well as the Tweedbank Girl Guides (who were looked after by Gail Fox). This is Scotland's biggest and best Christian Youth Festival and is run by several different Christian Organisations.

Crossover has been running annually since 1999 and this year's event took place during the weekend 11th-13th June 2004 at the Cultybraggan Training Camp on the outskirts of Comrie in Perthshire with this year's theme being "**Rumours of Angels**".

This exiting, high action event offered young people in Scotland an environment in which to meet and be challenged by the Christian faith in a relevant and dynamic way. This was achieved through up to date Christian music, teaching and witness, while also having the opportunity to take part in activities and workshops (and having a good time as well!).

There was something for everyone at Crossover 2004. If you have access, check out the Crossover website to see pictures of the event at www.crossover.org.uk or at our own Company Website at <http://1galashiels.boys-brigade.org.uk/crossover>.

Here are a few personal recollections to illustrate some of the activities that they were able to join in with.

Lieutenant Robbie Noble
Company Section

This year was an interesting year for us as we were accompanied by the Girl Guides and the U.G.C. This allowed us to mix with different groups which was good because we are normally shy. Fortunately the weather was brilliant and most of us ended up with sunburn which wasn't fun.

During the weekend, we attended a number of seminars where we widened our knowledge on worldwide problems. We entered a number of team activities which helped us work together.

Overall we enjoyed ourselves and have a few interesting tales to tell and we are looking forward to next June when we can return to Crossover.

I can honestly say that on behalf of the Boys' Brigade we had an enjoyable weekend. We hope our leaders are not too stressed out after it all. (You have a year to recover!)

Craig Turnbull
Company Section

Quotes from the UGC

Was great fun staying in tents and having BBQ's for breakfast!!! Music was uplifting and good feeling atmosphere.

I learnt a lot from the sessions and the workshops and it made me know God a lot more.

The band for worship was amazing (campervan). The merchandise was good. I would recommend it to everyone.

I felt that the sessions were excellent and really reached out to our age group. They taught us things we knew but from a new perspective and also new information. They also related well to real life.

Treasurer's Report

MAY 2004

Income

Offerings 4 weeks (Weekly average £810.02).....	£3,240.06
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc.....	£297.71
Fundraising.....	£125.00
Gift Aid recovered.....	£2,015.41
	<u>£5,678.18</u>

Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Church Telephone.....	£158.00
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£179.09
Donations for support to Bruce Ritchie.....	£200.00
C of S Investments.....	£16,011.50
Pulpit Supply.....	£171.00
S/S Materials.....	£46.90
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	£3,911.40
	<u>£20,677.89</u>

STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OFFERINGS

Stipend	£2,998.60	4th	£596.30
Mission & Aid	£802.80	10th	£600.90
Organist	£80.00	17th	£545.26
Cleaners (4wks)	£30.00	24th	£596.60
	<u>£3,911.40</u>		<u>£2,339.06</u>
		Paid through Bank	£901.00
			<u>£3,240.06</u>

OFFERINGS UPDATE

		2004		2003
Jan-April	17wks	£12,756.49		£11,731.96
May	4wks	£3,240.06		£3,166.26
		<u>£15,996.55</u>		<u>£14,898.22</u>

Many congratulations to the following members:

Mrs Barbara Adam on receiving an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to Education.

The Rev. George McCann who is the new Moderator of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles.



Can you give help to the Lunch Club by *occasionally* helping out with transport? We collect some folk around 12 noon and take them home between 1.30 and 2pm – you would get a very good lunch too!

Summer is just around the corner and we may well have visitors joining us in worship so.....

"If after church, you wait awhile

Someone may greet you with a smile

But if you quickly rise and flee

We'll all seem cold and stiff....

Maybe the one beside you in the pew

Is perhaps a stranger too.

All here, like you, have fears and cares:

All of us need each other's prayers.

So remember, as you go away

Your smile may make another's day."

Ps - invite them for tea/ coffee and come yourself!

Deaths

June 1st Colin Wood, Woodlea, Easter Langlee.

June 15th George Henderson, 45 Kenilworth Ave.

June 18th William Frizzel, Cornmill Court

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