



Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

It was tremendous to have such a lovely evening in the Academy Hall on the 30th of October when we had our New Beginnings Dinner and between 200 and 250 people turned out to enjoy a lovely meal cooked and served by our own people and hear some of the things we have been doing as well as receiving a small booklet about the Church. Some of you couldn't manage of course which was a pity – and no, we're not going to do this every month as someone asked, much to the fright of those who organised it! – others of you were not there through other reasons. What we would like to know though is, are you with us in what we are aiming for in the future, a Christ-centred growing and serving community of people finding nourishment in the Bible and breathing the fresh air of prayer? Some of you who receive this newsletter have a connection with the congregation that is not always clear, not just because you don't come to Church but because your involvement or even interest is sometimes difficult to detect. There may be a reason for that which we don't know but we would like you to take this autumn's New Beginnings thrust as an opportunity to reaffirm your presence with us. Could you answer, if only for yourself, the question whether you are travelling with us or not as we move on in our new century.

The main thrust of our aims which were well summarised in our Millennium Statement puts Christ at the centre of our life and it is important to grasp that that is not just a religious statement to gild the lily of what is just another earthly organisation. We really mean it and seek to have the life of Christ impressed upon us as a community. Why the Church though? Can't I just be a Christian on my own? Well, the Church is where Jesus placed his fingerprint when he called 12 people to be the beginning of his community

upon earth and told them to go out and bring others in. The very Church furniture testifies to what Jesus commanded us to do because its font, table and lectern speaks of Baptism, the Lord's Supper, and God's Word at our heart. They speak of entry, family life and learning as the Church's core in being Christ's people. Of course the fingerprint of Christ in the Church community can become dirty but the dirt is ours, the dirt of our carelessness and sinfulness, nevertheless the fingerprint still remains – he hasn't placed it anywhere else – it is still the community of the Church that Christ calls people into.

Our task today is to discover his presence with us and to perform his work through us at home and abroad and it needs our understanding and commitment. I hope you will respond to this challenge for our new century, it is exciting and exhilarating and I hope you won't be like the little boy who fell out of bed whilst asleep and when his Mum came to pick him up said, "I think I fell asleep too near the place where I got in". I hope you haven't done that but even if you have, waken up, and don't fall out. With every blessing to you in Christ,

*Yours Sincerely,
Leslie Steele.*

December Newsletter

Calling all contributors

All contributions for the December Newsletter **must** be with the Editor by Wednesday, November 24th **please**.

The Editor will be away from November 25th onwards, so contributions arriving after that will unfortunately not be seen. I apologise for the early deadline, but the Relief Editor, (much to her relief) will also be away, so there seems no alternative.

Thanking you in anticipation!



BOYS' BRIGADE

Since the start of the session on 27 August, the boys have all settled into their various Sections. The number in the Junior Section has risen to thirty two this year, the highest I have seen since joining the Company. Gordon Smith, the Officer in Charge of the Junior Section is being helped by Stephen Fox, George Kelly, Craig Turnbull and Louise Wilson.

The Enrolment Service was held on Sunday 10 October 2004 and was well attended by the boys, their parents and friends. Captain David Nightingale reported that a total of sixty three boys were enrolling this year. After the boys present had received their enrolment cards, they left the church to spend the remainder of the morning service with the Sunday School and the Underground Church.

On Friday 22 October, Gordon Smith and his group of helpers organised a trip for the Junior Section boys to Cauldshiels Loch, followed by Bible Study, Bible Quiz and games in the church halls during the afternoon. The boys all had a great time and the weather was excellent.

Since the session started, Carol Grieve and George Kelly attended a Boys' Brigade Youth Training Course which both successfully completed. This will give added experience in the leadership of the Company. It also means that Carol is now officially a Lieutenant in the Company.

At the last Annual General Meeting of our Boys' Brigade Battalion, the Scottish Borders Battalion, Robbie Noble was elected as Vice-President of the Battalion. We were pleased that Robbie accepted this appointment which will forge a stronger link between our Company and the Battalion. Robbie has also created a Website for the Battalion which will bring various advantages to all the Companies within the Battalion.

Our final night of this session will be on Friday 17 December 2004, when our now familiar Carol Service will be held in the Church starting at 6.30 p.m. A warm welcome is extended to all members of the congregation and friends.

Ian Forsyth, President

Flower Rota 2005

The Flower Rota for next year has just been prepared and it seems there are a number of dates still available to be filled. If you would like to put flowers into the church on May 22nd, July 10th, 24th and 31st, or October 23rd please give me a ring on 755316. This ministry means a lot to the sick and elderly as well as to those who are celebrating a special occasion.

Angela Miller

Deaths

Oct. 5th Miss Dorothy Purves, 115 Hawthorn Road.
Oct. 8th Mr Eoin Clapperton, 10 Tea Street, Galashiels.
We extend our sincere sympathy to the bereaved families and friends.



The Guild

Thank you to all who helped in any way with the Soup and Sweet lunch in October. It was successful as usual thanks to the united efforts of those who gave desserts, made soup, helped on the day etc.

In November, we welcome two speakers who are well known to the congregation. On 3rd November, Graeme Lawson will come to tell us about the work he has just left in Burkina Faso, and, nearer to home, Nancy Bain will speak in our 'Getting to Know You' series. A warm welcome to all those interested in joining us.

Service of Holy Communion Sunday, November 21st

At a recent meeting of the Kirk Session, it was agreed that the Church would be dressed in a different way for the Service of communion on November 21st. Every other pew will have a white cloth, leaving space for Elders to use the intervening empty pews to offer the elements to those seated. The aim is to make the distribution of the bread and wine easier for both participants and Elders alike, with less stress for those who are in sparsely populated pews.

The Minister and the Session Clerk would be grateful for your comments as we try this system to see if it is of benefit.

Church of Scotland Enquirers Conference – January 14-15th

The Church of Scotland is looking for gifted and committed people to serve future needs. Any who would like to make enquiry about service in the Church should see the poster in the Church. The Enquirers Conference is the first and necessary step for all who would like to find out about service in the Church in any form.

On behalf of Tear Fund Partners The Great North Run 2004



THANK YOU

To all at Old Parish & St.Paul's
This is your receipt for the total you gave:
£494.50

As a result of your generosity, we have raised:

Tax payers £548.00
(Reclaimable tax) £157.08
Non tax payers £394.94
Total £1100.02

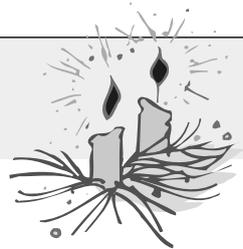


New Beginnings Meal



Please Respond We hope that you all enjoyed the New Beginnings Meal on Saturday 30th, it was great to see so many of our church family in one place spending some time together. At the end of the meal, you received a "Brochure" and a "Response Card". We have asked the visitors to call on you the week commencing 8th November to collect your completed Response Card. From the information that you fill in, we plan to consider new activities within the church and the Session will be discussing things that our members would like to see and other aspects of the church which members may not be happy with. We look forward to receiving your thoughts and suggestions later in the month and we will report back to you in the Newsletter as soon as we can.

Christmas Fayre



The date of the Christmas Fayre is fast approaching and it is hoped to make this fundraiser as big a success as possible. To this end we will require as many items for sale as possible. The stalls are:- Cake & Candy, Produce & DIY, Books, Toys, and Handcraft: if you haven't yet been approached to make, bake or donate items please ensure that you contact a stall organiser:-



Cake and Candy – Guild



Handcraft – Nancy Bain



Toys – Tuesday Bible Group



Produce & D I Y – Senior Badminton Club



Books – Peter Sandison



Teas & Refreshments – Barbara McCann and her Ladies

Remember the date 27th November in the hall at 10.00am – be there – bring all your friends and let's have a successful morning.

Thanks in advance, Hugh Bain Convenor.

Natasha Moir of the U.G.C. spent 2½ months in Ukraine this Summer, helping with camps for young people. She shares her experiences with us:

Back From Ukraine

After two and a half months in Ukraine, I feel like I could fill a book with all my thoughts on the trip alone, never mind all that actually happened! But I'll try and just give a brief but detailed account of everything instead.

First of all, here are some facts on the country. It has a population of almost 48million people, with close to 5million of these living in the capital, Kiev, 3% of whom are actively Christian. Ukraine used to be a member state of the USSR, and gained Independence on the 24th August 1991. 29% of the population live below the poverty line, with many children living on the streets from being orphaned or being sent there by their parents. The camps I went to help at were not specifically for any 'kind' of child, but to introduce the word of God to them all in a fun and friendly environment, in the hope that they will take this message home to their families, possibly even join a church and youth club, and grow up into adult life with God in their lives.

I arrived half way through the first camp of the summer, the warm air and dusty streets in Kiev were just how I remembered them. It always strikes me what a country of contrasts Ukraine is, and this touched me more so throughout my stay.

Arriving in the camp in Vorzel, just outside of Kiev, all the children were gathered on the football pitch for prayers before dinner. I was soon settled in with the youngest group of girls who accepted me instantly. As soon as dinner was finished they performed all the songs they'd been learning for me and had me well involved in their many games of 'Uno' and hairbraiding! The camp was just how I remembered it. That first week, despite how accepting both my group and their leaders were of me, was one of the hardest. I only knew one of the leaders from the previous year and found the language barrier very frustrating.

Following the first camp, which was for children aged about 7-12, the next camp was for ages 13-16. I was an assistant leader with a group of 14 year old boys, which was a slightly daunting task at first but turned out to be one of the best! It was a joy to see some children change as they heard of God's love – we saw Him working all around us .

The camp programmes are all very similar, starting the day at 7.15 for a leader's meeting, having morning exercises, bible studies, group games/crafts/computers, an afternoon siesta, camp wide games and evening concerts, normally finished off with a campfire – my favourite time of day.

After those first three weeks in Vorzel, I travelled the 12 hours by mini-bus down to Crimea with Grigori, the head of Open Bible in Ukraine, and his family. We set up tents, which were soon occupied the following day by those arriving from Kiev and various other places in Ukraine. This first camp in Crimea was for leaders from camps; we learned about what it means to be a missionary in both the 'moving around the world' and the 'working in your own community' senses of the word. I was in a 'small group' with Tima, Grigori's son, who translated for me, and Adam from Hungary, who while learning Russian also managed to discuss our studies in English for my benefit!

It was good to relax a bit after the first camps in Vorzel, and to be on the receiving end of some very valuable teaching, as well as watching sunsets and swimming in the Black Sea everyday! One of the significant points of this trip for me, was one evening when some friends and I decided to tidy up the very littered beach. We soon filled the two very large binbags we had with plastic, glass bottles, food wrappers and even many used needles. What started out as a quest to make the beach better for

Treasurer's Report

SEPTEMBER 2004

Income

Offerings 5 weeks (Weekly average £772.62).....	£3,863.10
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc.....	£595.47
CoS – Fabric Fund.....	£554.82
	<u>£5,013.39</u>

Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Telephone Costs.....	£310.87
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£377.14
Sunday School Materials.....	£159.00
Travelling Expenses.....	£322.00
Fabric Repairs.....	£554.82
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	£3,905.40
	<u>£5,620.23</u>

STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE OFFERINGS

Stipend	£2,998.60	31st	£454.87
Mission & Renewal	£802.80	6th	£650.51
Organist	£80.00	13th	£672.85
Cleaners (4wks)	£24.00	20th	£460.80
		27th	£707.07
	<u>£3,905.40</u>		<u>£2,946.10</u>
		Paid through Bank	£917.00
			<u>£3,863.10</u>

OFFERINGS UPDATE

	2004	2003	
Jan-August 34wks	£26,035.86	£24,432.84	34wks
September 5wks	£3,863.10	£3,284.89	5wks
	<u>£29,898.96</u>	<u>£27,717.73</u>	

sunbathing on, ended up making me feel awful about what damage we have all done to the world. How beautiful it must have been before we came and damaged it not just with our litter, but all our sins the rubbish represents. Yet God just comes along and clears it all away, washing us clean. This was something that I'd been pondering over before that point, having seen the difficult lives of many in Ukraine and wondering why it all had to be that way, why God doesn't just step in and change things. But the Beach analogy made me realise it's us who causes all the problems, yet God is always still there willing to help if we turn to Him.

After the leaders' camp, around 20 children came from Kiev and Crimea, aged 12-16. Many of the children, not just at this camp but also in Vorzel, have never heard about God or been brought up in a Christian family. The variety among the home lives of the children can be quite astonishing; some children come from villages and haven't used flushing toilets before, some children are from orphanages, some children's parents don't send them to school, and some children come from wealthier families and have mobiles and very stylish clothes. For those who can't afford to go to the camps, Open Bible can help to fund the children's stay, money which largely comes from donations. Back in Vorzel for August, we had two more camps, during both of which there were English teams so were also able to have bible studies every morning in English, something I felt I'd kind of missed out on in the first few weeks when I'd got there.

Returning from Ukraine, I felt pretty exhausted after all the long days, but also a deep sense of awe at having seen how God works in all situations. It amazes me how much God has helped me, and how many prayers He has answered, even when we can't physically see Him in front of us.

Please continue to pray for Ukraine's continued development, particularly for those in powerful positions in the government, unity in the churches, Grigori, his family and Open Bible.

Natasha Moir