



# Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

One of the books I have been reading recently is from the business world; called 'Leadership on the Line' it is about leadership in all kinds of businesses, organisations, or groups and written by Ronald Heifitz and Marty Linsky, lecturers in Harvard Business School. In it they say that the single most common source of leadership failure they have been able to identify – in politics, community life, business, or the non-profit sector – is that people, especially those in positions of authority, fail to distinguish between what they call technical problems and adaptive challenges. A technical problem is something that can be solved within the existing structure of the company, an adaptive challenge is something that calls on the company to change in some way in order to meet some circumstance that confronts it.

The best way to distinguish between them is to give an example. Children are constantly fighting and arguing in the back seat of the car – one parent says "we need to get a bigger car to keep them apart" another says, "No, we need to teach them to get along with each other". The first sees it as a technical problem the second as an adaptive challenge. Or here's one from the Bible, A rich man had a great crop, too much for his barns to hold, he said "I know what I'll do, I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones and I'll have plenty to live on for my retirement? but Jesus said "Fool, this night your soul will be required of you and whose will all this be that you have saved up". The rich farmer saw a technical problem, Jesus an adaptive challenge in the heart of the man.

Now in the Church we are also faced with many challenges that come along and some can be seen as merely technical problems – things which can be solved within the existing structure of the Church – while other things come along that are more difficult to solve because as adaptive challenges they call for change on the part of people rather than the structures, patterns, habits, fabric or things of the Church.

Some may think that what the church needs is for something to happen or be built or masterminded or such like. Something that can be done and worked out through the existing structures of the Church and which will solve the problem if not at a

stroke at least within the foreseeable future. However when challenges come it is often not of that order but instead we are faced with an adaptive challenge. An unfriendly Church may feel that what it needs is a new welcoming area at the back of the Church or a new scheme of welcomers or a shiny leaflet telling of their work when in fact what they need to face is an adaptive challenge in themselves as a people who need to become more friendly and hospitable.

Not only in Churches though but in individual lives we find this confusion between technical and adaptive challenges. Many people feel they will be happy or content if they just have one more thing or a bigger house or a better holiday etc when in fact what they need to face is that they have an adaptive challenge facing them and it is that their life won't be right until they have dealt with their relationship with God. It's called the challenge of the gospel but it is not a once for all challenge but one that continues to face us all every week we live.

Look at your life and at the things you think are current issues for you and ask yourself, "What is my real problem? Is it something calling for a bit of technical tinkering with how I live or something that challenges me and calls for radical change" Don't fall into Heifitz & Linsky's problem but get clear vision for what's next.

*With every blessing, Leslie Steele.*



## Going Bananas!

No – that is not a description of the Editor of the Newsletter near publication time! It is the title of the Holiday Club being run this year in St. Paul's from Monday July 25th to Sunday, July 31st, The programme each day will run from 10.00 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and preparations have been going on for some weeks already. There is talk of being transported to a desert island and various other exciting activities. The Holiday Club is for children who attended Primary School before the summer holidays.

Please remember the team in your prayers as the week is fun – but exhausting! Further details from Gordon Smith or any member of the Team.

**P.S.** 'The Holiday Club team would like to thank all those who contributed to the retiring offering on Sunday in aid of Holiday Club funds. The generous sum of £90.76 was raised.

# AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

On 31st May, St. Paul's church was packed – there was hardly a seat to be had. The occasion was a splendid Concert given by the African children's Choir, and folk had travelled from various parts of the Borders to hear them. What a feast of entertainment we had that night! The enthusiasm, energy, and commitment of the children was amazing, besides their excellent singing. St. Paul's had been asked to host a concert as part of a tour being made by the 25 strong choir of children aged between 7 and 11. Each child in the choir had



*The Choir in concert*

been orphaned as a result of Aids which their parents had contracted. It is hard to imagine the traumatic experiences some of the children had been through. However – there was nothing dull or morbid about the children! On the contrary, they were joyful and a pleasure to meet.

The concerts given by the choir are to raise money for thousands of other orphans in an area of South Africa, where often a child of 12 or 13

is looking after younger siblings. There is a tremendous need and the tour is run as economically as possible, so that as much money as possible can go to relief work. Host churches are asked to arrange accommodation for the children usually three to a home with one chaperone. Appeals were made for host families to offer accommodation, and several folk from

St. Paul's offered to help, as well as two families from St. John's. Without fail, each family said what a blessing it was to have the children, and how enriched their family life was by the presence of their African guests. The children's manners were excellent, they had a great zest for life and above all a great love for God. Their faith was simple yet real, and part of their daily lives. Children and adults alike learned so much from them. Bonds of friendship were formed.



*One happy family*



*Making a daisy chain!*

On Tuesday night, all the children and host families with other members of the congregation went to the Public Park and enjoyed an evening of fun together – some local boys playing football kindly included the African boys in their game, to the delight of all concerned.

It was sad to wave goodbye to our friends on Wednesday in the next step of their long tour. We have many happy memories of an unforgettable visit.



*School work in the Church Hall*

## WOW DAY (With Out Walls)

Saturday 28 May was WOW day for the Church of Scotland and for those of us lucky enough to be there it was something completely different.

Held in Edinburgh's International Conference Centre where the capacity is 3000, it brought together people from all over Scotland. All ages and all tastes were catered for. There were seminars of both a practical nature as well as a spiritual nature and everything else in between.

Without going into detail of all the events of the day there were two seminars which stood for me. Firstly one entitled 'Gospel' by Dr Elaine Storkey who is a writer and speaker

who relates the Christian Gospel to contemporary culture. Elaine told us that if the demise of the Church of Scotland, based on the membership figures given, would be in the year 2033. A scary thought.

She spoke about how there is an identity crisis around in our society and that people tend to describe themselves by 'what I do, what I have and consume or by what people think of me'. The antidote to this is God's unconditional grace and that as Christians we don't have to earn this as other religions believe but just accept it.

During the afternoon I attended a quite different but also very thought provoking seminar by Leonard Sweet, an American evangelist who reflected

on what our times and culture are saying to Christians today. He based this on the Starbuck's coffee experience and spoke about the whole concept of being happier to buy a cup of coffee for a friend than inviting them to church. He pointed out that Jesus said 'Go into all the world' not 'come into the Church'. Therefore we must be operating outside our comfort zone (with out walls) and should not just have one mission statement but multiple mission statements for a variety of situations in order to connect.

It was a great experience and if we had enough energy we could have stayed on till the Ceilidh ended at 1.00 am!



## BOYS' BRIGADE

This year has been especially important in the life of the Boys' Brigade with two services being held within our Church. The first service on 9 May involved the presentation of new Colours to the Scottish Borders Battalion and was attended by Officers and Boys from the entire Boys' Brigade Companies in the Borders. The service was conducted by the Rev. W. Haisley Moore our Battalion Chaplain and assisted by Rory Campbell our Battalion President. We were honoured by the presence of John Neil, OBE, the UK President of the Boys' Brigade, who presented prizes to the winners of various Battalion Competitions and Certificates to boys who had gained their President's Badge. Mr. Neil also gave a very interesting address, highlighting the work of the Boys' Brigade and his role as President. The old Battalion Colours were handed to our Company Chaplain, the Rev. Leslie Steele, who received them for safe custody. These Colours were then handed to a Colour Party from the 1st and 2nd Galashiels Companies, who then carried them round the church and then out to the BB Chapel, where they will remain forever. The new Battalion Colours were then dedicated and presented. The Queen's Colour was donated by the Hayward Trust, Galashiels and represented by Mr. A. P. Dorward. The Battalion Colour was donated by John and Mary Elliot Memorial Trust represented by Mrs. Avril Brunton and Scott Elliot (our present Battalion Secretary and Captain of the 5th Hawick Company). The Brigade President handed the new Colours to a Colour Party represented by Officers and boys from 1st Langholm and 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th Hawick Companies. The final hymn was "One more step along the World I go" an appropriate choice for taking the new taking the new Scottish Borders Battalion Colours into a new era of the Boys' Brigade. Following the National Anthem and Benediction, the new Colours were carried from the Church. All BB members present were given a BB 150th Year Founders Badge to mark their attendance. A retiring offering was received for the work of the Boys' Brigade (Church of Scotland) World Mission Fund. A social gathering followed in the Church Halls, giving all BB members, guests, parents and friends a chance to meet and talk about the present, the future and the past. Past members of our Company were well represented by Bob Stewart, Rob Black, Andrew Henderson, Clark Chalmers, Jack Townsend, Bob McVittie and David Sanderson.

The evening was described as memorable and I could not agree more.

The second service took place on the evening of 1 June, when our Church hosted the Boys' Brigade East Lowland Area presentation of Queen's Badge Certificates by Sheriff T.A.K. Drummond, Q.C.

Our Scottish Borders Battalion is part of the East Lowland Area and every third year will host this presentation service.

Boys receiving their Certificates came from Companies in the Scottish Borders Battalion,

Edinburgh Leith and District Battalion and West Lothian Battalion. Other boys out with the East Lowland Area also attended from 1st Campsie, 1st Cryston, 5th Cumbernauld and 3rd Kilsyth Companies.

All the boys who had gained their Queen's Badge this year, paraded through the town lead by the Galashiels Ex-Service Pipe Band and following a Colour Party carrying the New Battalion Colours. On arrival at the Church the boys took their seats surrounded by a large number of parents and friends. Chaplain David Todd and Iain Scoular, the East Lowland Area Queens' Badge Organiser conducted the service. In his address, Mr. Scoular stated "It is most appropriate that we meet together this evening to mark the achievement of a significant number of young men who have worked so well over many sessions to gain the highest award in the Boys' Brigade – the Queen's Badge. We wish each Queen's Man, good fortune in the years ahead and hope that this will be the starting point for future achievements in their BB Career".

Sheriff Drummond presented the Certificates to the Queen's Men and these included a set of triplets and two sets of twins. Obviously a proud moment for all their parents.

We were equally proud to see Craig Turnbull, a member of our own Company, receive his Certificate. Our congratulations to Craig on his achievement, the first Queen's Man in the 1st Galashiels for many years. The photograph shows Craig with his Certificate standing in front of the new Battalion Colours.



*Ian Forsyth, President*

### *Some dates for the diary...*

The Mission Committee are organising some events this autumn:

- **Saturday 3rd September** – 'Awakening UK' event at Carberry Tower. A new massive Scottish gathering of up to 5,000 people with worship leaders and key speakers. (Speak to Anne Noble (753936) for more details.)
- **Saturday 17th September** at 6pm – Church Social BBQ. Try to invite a non-Christian friend to this relaxed event with a short Christian message and 'Grill a Christian' session (but not literally on the BBQ!!)
- **Saturday 24th September** – Presbytery Day of Celebration at Holy Island. We have 40 tickets on a first come first served basis. Speak to George McCann (752055) soon to ensure your place.
- **Autumn Missionary Weekend** including Cake and Curry Night with guest speakers, Mark and Helen Lang from Western India. See the next Newsletter for more details.

## Christian Aid 2005

I would like to convey my thanks to all those who helped in any way during this year's collection in May. The house-to-house collections in our area brought in £733.01 and those who took a can to the supermarkets collected £354.11. This, together with money handed in at church came to £1111.62. The coffee morning in St. Ninians church hall raised £325.33.

This money along with collections from other churches in the town has been sent to Christian Aid and will help in the fight against poverty in the third world.

Six months on there has been much criticism in the media as to how charities dealt with the tsunami disaster on Boxing Day 2004. It was the worst natural disaster in living memory. A massive earthquake created a devastating tsunami that swept across 13 countries and two continents, killing more than 250,000 people and leaving hundreds of thousands more homeless. Let me try and describe Christian Aid's response.

Within days, sometimes hours, Christian Aid's partners were sending out search-and-rescue teams and providing vital relief in India, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

The harrowing stories of survivors and loss that hit television screens around the world prompted an unprecedented outpouring of generosity. Even before an appeal was launched, people were ringing in and logging on to the website to send donations. In total, the Christian Aid tsunami appeal raised more than £9.5 million

As of 26 June 2005 Christian Aid has spent more than £10 million on tsunami relief and rehabilitation projects. Over the next three year they plan to spend more than £40 million in phases: Through partners in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India, they will be:

- constructing permanent homes
- helping people get back to work
- preparing communities for future disasters
- counselling those traumatised by the disaster.

This is a large project and cannot be done overnight but work will continue over the next few years. I trust that this will answer any queries you may have but if you would like to know more, you can log on to the web site at

[www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk)

Angela Miller

Margaret Waugh is now home from hospital after her heart bypass operation, and is making a steady recovery. She would like to express her warmest thanks to everyone from St. Paul's who showed their support by visiting or sending cards while she was in the BGH and then the Infirmary. She was very touched and encouraged by all the expressions of prayerful concern. She would also like to thank the two Ministers George McCann and Milton Cashman for their helpful visits during her time in hospital and since returning home.

## Treasurer's Report

MAY 2005

### Income

Offerings 5 weeks (Weekly average £860.56).....	£4,302.80
Dividends, Bank Interest, etc.....	£507.15
Fundraising – Sharing Day .....	£2,800.50
	<u>£7,610.45</u>

### Expenditure

Electricity, Gas & Church Telephone.....	£268.99
Advertising, Printing, Stationery.....	£104.56
Fabric .....	£867.57
Pulpit Supply, etc.....	£146.00
Standard Monthly Expenditure.....	£4,265.80
	<u>£5,652.92</u>

### STANDARD MONTHLY EXPENDITURE      OFFERINGS

Stipend	£3,262.70	3rd	£587.75
Mission & Service	£883.10	9th	£826.80
Organist	£80.00	16th	£797.00
Cleaners (5wks)	£40.00	23rd	£447.42
		31st	£632.83
			<u>£3,291.80</u>
		Paid through Bank	£1,011.00
	<u>£4,265.80</u>		<u>£4,302.80</u>

### OFFERINGS UPDATE

		2005	2004		
Jan-April	17wks	£14,173.05	£12,756.49	17wks	
May	5wks	£4,302.80	£3,240.06	4wks	
		<u>£18,475.85</u>	<u>£15,996.55</u>		

## Prayer of Praise to God

*Rock of my heart and my Fortress Tower,  
Dear are Thy thoughts to me,  
Like the unfolding of leaf or flower  
Opening silently.*

*And on the edge of these Thy ways,  
Standing in awe as heretofore,  
Thee do I worship, Thee do I praise,  
And adore.*

*Rock of my heart, and my Fortress Tower,  
Dear is Thy love to me,  
Search I the world for a word of power,  
Find it at Calvary....  
O depths of love that rise and flow  
Round about me and all things mine,  
Love of all loves, in Thee I know*

Love Divine. Taken from Edges of His Ways by  
Amy Carmichael.

## CHAS

Thanks to the Re-cycling Appeal for used ink cartridges, toner cartridges and mobile phones and other fund-raising, the second Children's Hospice in Scotland has now been completed. Children and their families will soon benefit greatly from this new facility. The Hospice is located at Boturich, Balloch. As you can imagine, the cost of running and maintaining such an important establishment is very expensive. In order to continue the support we have given I would be obliged if members could help by passing their used cartridges or mobile phones to me. My thanks to the members who regularly hand me their used cartridges.

*Thank you, Ian Forsyth*