



Galashiels Old Parish and St Paul's Church

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Dear Friends,

What people want is a family life,
 The strength of a home and a moat round the castle.
 Pull up the drawbridge,
 Staying at home with the family.
 ("The Liverpool Oratorio" – Paul McCartney)

Well – is it true? If you have been coming to Church on Sunday Mornings you will know that we have been reading through the early chapters of the second book of Samuel about the early Kingship of David. The sub heading we have had is "How to get on with people" and we have seen the humility and graciousness of David counterbalanced by the selfishness, greed and struggles for power of others however one thing we didn't dwell on was where Chapter 14 told us that David took many wives and had many children.

The sacred writer doesn't make any moral comment about this, merely states it, however anyone acquaint with the earlier parts of the Bible will know that such a practice was not the will of God. What the following chapters do show however is the outcome of such a style of family life and no better word than "catastrophe" could be used as we see internecine family squabbles – favouritism, rape, incest and murder all tumbling out. Sometimes rather than telling us things God allows us to see the outworking of our own choices.

Today we know that all the practices of cohabitation between people apart from marriage are outwith the settled teaching of Christ and the Church. To state that is obvious but it draws all kinds of fire from others who wish to practice an *alternative* style of life however the truth is that the outcome of those practices will be seen in the course of time. Societies where the marriage bond and teaching is not held in honour suffer – history shows it and the truth does eventually come out.

The Churches, at least the more sober and traditionally faithful, have spoken out about the crumbling of family life but time and a generation or two will prove it. The draw bridge of the family is being pulled down by forces outside and whether it will be able to be pulled up again within the near future is uncertain. We pray and look to God.

Meanwhile, to those of us who believe in the

sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman who come together in life commitment of faithfulness and love, the battle to maintain a strong position in face of the onslaughts of modern society means that we must give all the more attention to our own families and our relationships with our husbands and wives. Many things could be said about the development and strengthening of those relationships but the central thing to see is that our love for our spouse and children is not something that we owe them but that we owe God for it is our duty to God that we love them not just a personal responsibility. Obedience to God is the start of all good family life and where that exists we will find "the strength of a home and the moat round the castle" – or as the Bible says, "the name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous run into it and they are saved". To all you married people and parents with families – every blessing and God's presence in your homes and in your lives,

*Yours in Him,
 Leslie Steele.*

Easter Services



Come and join us at any of the following:

Maundy Thursday 13th April
 7pm Joint Communion Service at
ST. JOHN'S, LANGLEE

Good Friday 14th April
 7pm, Service at St. Paul's

Saturday 15th April
 Children's 'Easter Corners' event.
 (See website www.oldparishandstpauls.org.uk
 or Sunday Intimations for details)

Easter Sunday 17th April
 8am Walk at Boleside. Meet under the bridge.
 9.30am Communion Breakfast
 11am Worship
 5.30 Bank Street Gardens for Parade
 6.30 Joint Evening Worship, St. Paul's

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" John 10:10

SAMMYP – THE SAME OLD STORY FILM FESTIVAL 2006



Matthew 6:26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?

The UGC along with members of the Wednesday night Focus SU group, today completed filming their version of the above verse. When cut and edited this will be made into a 5 minute film and will be entered into the SAMMYP – St Andrew's Bo'ness Multi Media Youth Project – film festival. There are many different categories receiving awards and as we have never undertaken anything like this we will be attending the awards ceremony up in Edinburgh on 3 June. Thank you to everybody who kept us in their prayers. We will give you a further update after 3 June.

QUIET TIME

As you read this, we in the church, the body of Christ, will soon be remembering the final weeks in the earthly life of Jesus our Saviour and Lord. His obedience and faithfulness took him all the way to the cross. The pain and agony He suffered to death on the cross for each one of us, so that we can know the joy of sins forgiven and reconciliation with our Father God. Let`s make this Easter a time of seeing and realising what God in Christ has done for us. For the word of the cross is the power of God. Hallelujah!

Keeping Easter Reconciliation/Redemption
The precious blessing of Easter is that we have a living Saviour! The Lord is risen. He is risen indeed!

And he said to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him

Mark 16:6 rsv

We yearn to keep the precious blessing of Easter in our hearts throughout the year, Lord Jesus. Will you, through your Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with the knowledge and surety that you live?

Keeping Easter is taken from Each New Day by Corrie Ten Boom

Deaths

Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

Mar. 2nd Dennis Stewart 10 Glebe Place,
Galashiels

Mar. 19th Elizabeth (Betty) Thomson, 35 Dean
Street, Galashiels

We extend our sincere sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to the bereaved families.

New Members

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members, and trust they will feel at home in our fellowship:

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Finlayson, 6 Roger Quin Gardens.

Mrs. Jenny Gut, c/o 4 Loch End, Tweedbank.

Mr. John Ker, 49 Victoria Street.

Miss Margaret Renwick, 20 Scott Crescent.

Notes from Old Parish and St. Paul's Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting was held on Tuesday, 14th March at 7.00 p.m. The Treasurer presented the Accounts and elsewhere in the Newsletter you will find the Treasurer's own comments on the Financial Report.

It was announced that two members of the Congregational Board had resigned – Mrs. Aileen Hegarty and Mrs. Deirdre Virtue. The latter had moved away from Galashiels in the course of the past year so was no longer able to serve. Both ladies were warmly thanked for the service they had given on the Board. Their places would be taken by Mrs. Louise Johnston and Mr. Jimmy Mackay. Mr. Bert Hegarty was resigning as a representative of the Kirk Session after a number of years of faithful service which have been much appreciated. His place will be taken by Mrs. Lynn Beswick.

Gift Day

will be held this year on Easter Sunday
(Envelopes will be distributed with this Newsletter)

A letter from the Sunday School Teachers

Dear Friends,

Crafty Business!

We would very much like to start doing more craft work with all of the Sunday School Groups, and would be very grateful if you have any of the following items which are hiding in your cupboards and could be spared!: – pretty ribbon, buttons, felt in fiery colours and any other nice materials, and any unwanted craft projects you think we could make use of. Thank you very much.

From Your Crafty Sunday School Teachers

P.S. A prize for anyone who guesses what we are going to make first. Clue: ... Something fiery God spoke through.

FIRM FOUNDATIONS

Our study for this “term” is more in-depth than the overview of the Old Testament that we just completed, on the subject of Christian doctrine, the study is called “The Blueprint”, and here’s what the authors have to say about it.



“When an ageing Paul wrote to his young friend Timothy, he urged him to hold fast to the pattern of sound teaching, to guard the good deposit, and to faithfully preach the Word. The Blueprint is all about this “pattern of sound teaching” that we are to believe, preserve, build our lives on, and pass on to others. In this set of studies, we look at the interlocking biblical themes, which are at the heart of Christian doctrine-concerning God, mankind, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, salvation, resurrection, and the life to come. Briefer and more accessible than a full-sized textbook, The Blueprint invites you to interact with these great truths by investigating key Bible passages and answering “Think it through” questions.

The group will meet on the following dates:

- † Monday 24th April, Monday 29th May, Monday 26th June
- † Monday 28th August, Monday 25th September, Monday 23rd October, Monday 27th November
- † (2007) Monday 22nd January, Monday 26th February, Monday 26th March

I’m sure that our journey of discovery will be as interesting as always, and that God will enlighten, inspire and challenge us through the power of his Word as we prayerfully support and encourage one another in our times of preparation, fellowship and discussion.

Anyone is most welcome to join us in our study meetings, please contact Jim Tennant (01896 751003) to get a copy of the introduction and subsequent home study materials. We are not an academic discussion group or intellectual society, just ordinary members of God’s family, trying to get to know Him better.

Quiz 2006

This year’s quiz had a finish worthy of the Six-Nations Championship, as only three points separated the top three teams, in the general knowledge scrum for this year’s crown. The ten rounds had their usual “degrees of difficulty”, and enhanced by the wonderfully illustrated Power-Point presentation, combined with the glare of the room heaters, made it a memorable experience. The results were as follows:

Wooden Spoon –

- 1. The Burps65.0
- 2 equal. Spongebobsmartiepants66.5
- 2 equal. The Evangelists.....66.5

“Family Cup” –

- 1. The Sandisons.....72.5
- 2. 4Foxes4Free71.0
- 3 equal. Spongebobsmartiepants66.5
- 3 equal. The Evangelists.....66.5

Overall “Adult Trophy” –

- 1. Flaming Tornadoes83.5
- 2. Forte82.5
- 3. Craigpark Wanderers81.5
- 4. Manse Moments.....72.0

Of course, the real winners are the “Heart for Africa” charity (previously known as “DreamforAfrica”) who benefited from the generosity of the participants and non-participants alike, to the tune of £90.00. Thank you to all who gave.

A Hymn for the Easter Season

What a wonderful Saviour is Jesus,
What a wonderful Friend is He,
For He left all the glory of heaven,
Came to earth to die on Calvary:

*Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna to the King of kings!
Sing Hosanna! Sing Hosanna!
Sing Hosanna to the King.*

He arose from the grave, Hallelujah,
And He lives never more to die,
At the Father’s right hand interceding
He will hear and heed our faintest cry
Sing Hosanna! Sing hosanna!

He is coming some day to receive us,
We’ll be caught up to heaven above,
What a joy it will be to behold Him,
Sing forever of His grace and love.
Sing Hosanna!

A special mention to the Scott family from Tweedbank, who won a prize despite not being at the quiz – they won a clock, awarded for “extreme punctuality” – in reward for turning up for the quiz early, on Saturday 18th **February**, to be exact!

Congratulations to them, as to all our prize-winners.

CWW—CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS CONFERENCE AVIEMORE 19-22 MARCH

Ishbel and Gordon Adamson attended the above conference representing St. Paul’s church. We hope they will be sharing something of what they learned in the near future. The keynote speakers included Rev. John Bell, Elaine Storkey and Rev. Kenny Borthwick. In the mean time, if you would like to view and listen to and view the talks by the key speakers at this conference then you can do so by logging on to the link below.

<http://www.cwwresources.org.uk/reenergise/>

Treasurer's Report

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

The Ordinary General Expenditure anticipated is shown under four headings –

National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work	- £44,037.00
Local Staffing Costs	£ 3,700.00
Building Costs	£18,113.00
Other Local Costs	£ 6150.00
Total	-£72,000.00

Our budget for 2005 shows a projected deficit of £11,000.00 presuming there is no fund raising undertaken. It is recognised that there is a Gift Day arranged to coincide with Easter Sunday and also a Christmas Fair to be held in November, to contribute to reducing this projected deficit. Monies raised from these events should

help to reduce the anticipated shortfall in our income.

A question asked of the Treasurer at the AGM was how he would see this shortfall being addressed. My response was that all members and adherents should consider their present giving and each of us ask whether it is a realistic sum. Personally I believe each individual should tithe their income to God's work – that is, give 10% of our income to His work. Can I therefore encourage members and friends of the congregation to consider increasing their regular giving so that the anticipated shortfall in our budget can be reduced significantly? I would urge you, dear reader, to support the running costs of St Paul's through your offerings.

I would ask each member of the congregation to prayerfully consider their level of offerings. I would particularly like to 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 2006	ACTUAL 2005
	£	£	£
INCOME			
Offerings			
WFO Scheme (non Gift Aid)	6,829.00	6,829.00	
Gift Aid Donations	24,135.00	24,135.00	
Tax on Gift Aid Donations	6,611.00	7,193.00	
Ordinary Offerings (Open plate)	9,629.00	9,629.00	
Other Offerings, Donations, Gift Days, etc	3,348.00	6,895.00	
Donation to World Vision	-	309.00	
	<u>50,552.00</u>	<u>54,990.00</u>	
Other Ordinary General Income			
Contributions from Congregational Organisations	2,170.00	2,080.00	
Regular Fund Raising Events	-	625.00	
Weddings & Funerals	230.00	230.00	
Investments & Deposits	3,048.00	2,824.00	
Use of Premises	5,000.00	6,230.00	
	<u>10,448.00</u>	<u>11,989.00</u>	
Total Ordinary General Income	<u>61,000.00</u>	<u>66,979.00</u>	
EXPENDITURE			
National Ministry and Mission & Wider Work			
National Stipend Fund Allocation	44,437.00	32,627.00	
Less: Vacancy Allowance			
Less: Endowment Income	(950.00)		
Mission & Renewal Fund Allocation	-	8,831.00	
Presbytery Dues	550.00	530.00	
	<u>44,037.00</u>	<u>41,988.00</u>	
Local Staffing Costs			
Voluntary Additional Stipend & Employers National Insurance			
Travelling Expenses	1,600.00	1,478.00	
Minister's Expenses	250.00	234.00	
Ministerial Assistance (Salaries, NI & Expenses)			
Pulpit Supply	220.00	208.00	
Other Salaries, National Insurance & Pensions	1,630.00	1,541.00	
	<u>3,700.00</u>	<u>3,461.00</u>	
Buildings Costs			
Fabric Repairs & Maintenance	5,000.00	10,245.00	-
Heating & Lighting	6,500.00	3,479.00	
Insurance	4,138.00	3,948.00	
Manse Council Tax	2,286.00	2,198.00	
Cleaning Materials & Laundry	150.00	140.00	
Upkeep of Grounds	39.00	-	
	<u>18,113.00</u>	<u>20,010.00</u>	
Other Local Costs			
Outreach	200.00	144.00	
Telephone, Posts, Printing, Stationery, Photocopying	2,100.00	1,104.00	
Congregational Organisations	700.00	689.00	
Life & Work	40.00	98.00	
Publicity & Advertising	735.00	698.00	
Organ & Piano Maintenance	800.00	740.00	
Music Expenses/PP License	320.00	289.00	
E J Turnbull Challenge	30.00	-	
Photocopier Maintenance Contract	300.00	275.00	
Safe Custody Insurance (Silver)	175.00	148.00	
Church Computer - 1st payment	-	98.00	
Other expenses	750.00	719.00	
	<u>6,150.00</u>	<u>5,002.00</u>	
Total Ordinary General Expenditure	<u>72,000.00</u>	<u>70,461.00</u>	
GENERAL FUND SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR	<u>(11,000.00)</u>	<u>(3,482.00)</u>	