

## Old Parish and St. Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels Newsletter ♦ December 07~January 08

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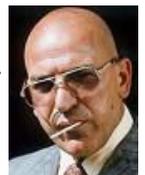
### LETTER FROM LESLIE

Dear Friends,

“Who do you belong to?” is a question we might ask if we meet a stray dog in the street, but not one we normally associate with people - at least not since the days of slavery - because we usually think of belonging in terms of things belonging to US. “Where do you belong?”, however, is a more acceptable question, because it is about the area in which we live: it can be geographical, as in which country we live in, or social, in the sense of where we see ourselves fitting in. If somebody were to ask you “Where do you belong?”, what would you say and would one of your answers be “I belong in the Church, in the community of people who call Jesus Christ Lord” and whose lives are laid down to be followers?

I ask that because we know that we have numbers of people who, not through old age, illness or work-related issues, but for other reasons, just don't feel themselves to be part of the Church community here in St Paul's. It's not a Church attendance thing, just a disconnection that means they would never consider putting down the Church in a list of things or places that they would say they belonged to. If you are one, let us know. Maybe you feel you have a Christian outlook and commitment, but don't know how to relate to others who do; you are one of those who have a gut feeling that you belong, but can't quite get into the family. Now we are told today by government bodies that families are not as they used to be, and with the advent of all manner of medical procedures in the area of fertility, together with new adoptive practices, family identity is becoming more and more blurred. Perhaps this stretches out into the Church community as well, where people aren't sure of their identity.

Those of you who remember the TV character Kojak, portrayed by Telly Savalas, pictured here, may recall his catch phrase with the tramps, down and outs, or low-life criminals he had to deal with, “Who loves ya, baby?”. It was a question about family, and about belonging, for regardless of where they were or what situation they were in, there was somebody who “owned” them. Although our families don't “own” us in the possessive way, we do belong to them, and this is no less the case with Christian people. Who loves us and amongst whom do we belong? We know the answer to that - it's just that we have to make the reality of it work. Tell us how your identity is going to be worked out in the Church community here in St Paul's.



May you have a Happy Christmas and blessed New Year with whatever family you find yourself amongst. Christ, for whom there was no room, has made room for us - praise God!

With every blessing, Leslie.

## Christmas Services 2007

~ Come and join us! ~

December 14th	6.30 p.m.	Boys' Brigade Carol Service ☉
December 23rd	11.00 a.m.	Christmas Family Service ☉
December 24th	11.15 p.m.	Candlelight Evening Service
December 25th	10.30 – 11.15 a.m.	Christmas Day Family Service

☉ = followed by refreshments

## Deaths

31<sup>st</sup> October: **George Torrance Brown**, 58 Gala Terrace, Galashiels  
4<sup>th</sup> November: **Margaret Burton Henderson**, 72 Croft Street, Galashiels  
12<sup>th</sup> November: **Anne Turley**, 2 Abbotsview Gardens, Galashiels



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

We lost another of our senior elders this year in **George Brown**, who died peacefully at the end of October in the Borders General Hospital. George was born in Gorgie, Edinburgh, on Christmas Day 1916. He started work as a messenger in the Post Office, but during the war saw service in Europe with the Cameronians. Afterwards, his work in the Civil Service took him into the Employment Ministry, where he served his working life, latterly in Galashiels, where he opened the first Job Centre.

George was always active, a 'can-do' man, full of vigour in whatever he tackled, and retirement was no exception. A diligent elder and much loved senior figure, even to the children of the Church, with whom his sense of fun and mischief always shone through. We remember him with gladness and rejoice in his passing to the Lord whom he loved, and we remember in our prayers Audrey and his two sons, Sandy and Robin.

### Wanted (1) - Flower Rota 2008



There was no response to last month's appeal and there are still a number of dates waiting to be filled. If you can put flowers into the Church on 27th April, 13th & 27th July, 20th August or 14th September, then please give me a ring on 755316. The fund receives NO funding

and is slowly diminishing and sadly will eventually disappear.

Angela Miller

### Wanted (2) - World Mission Stamp recycling

Collecting used stamps raises several thousands of pounds every year. British first-class and second-class stamps and even international stamps are gathered together and sent to us. We then sell them to collectors. All money raised is used to support the work of a project around the world. This year World Mission is collecting for the children in Chinese orphanages. So please continue to put your used stamps in the box. All we ask is that you cut stamps from envelopes or parcels leaving at least a **quarter** of an inch of paper all around, as damaged stamps have no value. Thank you in advance for your valued support!



### Wanted (3) - Cleaning Rota

Do you think you might be able - temporarily in the meantime, and intermittently, to assist with some cleaning in the Church? For more details please speak to Zena Forsyth (01896-850250).

### Wanted (4) - Heating

If you read the article on the next page about our new boilers, you will see that Ian Forsyth is looking for a small team of volunteers to be trained to back him up. Please speak to him (01896-850250) if you can help!

### Thank You (1)

Many, many thanks to all who came along to the enjoyable "Pampered Chef" evening. As a result of the orders placed, along with other generous donations, the sum of £130 has been raised to boost Sunday School funds.

Once again, thank you so much for your generous support, it is very much appreciated.

Angie Turnbull



### Thank You (2)

A big thank you to everyone who was involved with reading Scripture and leading in prayer and, of course, to all who came along during the Open Day for Prayer which was held on 20th October. Please tell us (Margaret Cashman on 752711 or Anne Mackay on 754220) how you felt about this opportunity to share in this crucial work of praying together for the whole congregation and for the work of the church in the community. We want to build on this in the future and possibly have two Open Days a year to meet together. Around Easter would be a possible date, so please let us know soon so that we can plan another day.

Anne Mackay, Prayer Promoter

### Thank You (3)

**This year's Christmas Fair on Saturday 17th November raised (at the last count) the very creditable sum of £1,700. The organisers are most grateful to all those who contributed their time, talents and money to the Fair: the stall-holders, the home bakers, the caterers, the multitude of helpers, and - of course - those who bought tickets and made purchases on the day.**

**Your generosity, swelled by some personal donations, will help to considerably reduce the deficit reported by the Treasurer in his report on the back page of this Newsletter!**

## New Boilers

The two photographs show the new boilers and the new pipe work, pumps and valves which control and carry hot water to heat:

- ◆ the pipes under the pews
- ◆ the radiators and fan heaters in the Church
- ◆ the pipes in the B.B. Chapel and adjacent corridor
- ◆ a radiator in the vestry

The Control System for the boilers is described as a high performance, programmable logic controller with six 10-bit inputs, three isolated high current relay outputs, two digital triac outputs and a 0-10 VDC analogue output. Sounds a bit complicated, but basically the control system has been programmed to switch the heating on and off as we require it. The system carries out lots of other amazing operations, and if anyone is interested I can explain it more fully. During very cold weather, the system will switch on the pumps to circulate the water to prevent freezing, and during really low temperatures the system will automatically switch on the heating. If you are in the Church when nothing is on and the heating is working, do not worry, as the system is simply preventing the pipes and radiators from freezing! The two boilers work independently, but when turned on both boilers work until they have got the water up the right temperature, at which point one boiler switches off whilst the other continues on its own. Operating in this manner should make a saving on the gas used. The boilers will alternate each month so that the wear and tear on both boilers is equally distributed.

As announced in the Sunday Intimations, the new system is being tested each Sunday to see how the best level of comfort in the Church can be achieved. Please continue to let myself or members of the Property Committee (Hugh Bain, John Breeding or Stuart Toolan) know how you feel about the heating. Due to the height of the Church roof, the warm air rises and eventually brings down cold air from the roof space. We are trying to prevent this, but we are not sure if we will be able to stop this problem completely.

If any member of the congregation is interested in seeing the new boilers and all the associated works, just speak to me and I will happily show you round!

The Congregational Board are also keen to have as many people as possible who can set the controls for the Church heating, and if you would be interested in helping with this, please contact me. Thank you!

Ian Forsyth, Property Convener



Left: The two boilers (far end of picture)  
Right: The pipework, pumps and valves under the Church

## Badminton

The Badminton group who meet to play on a Thursday evening in the large hall (from 7:30 to 9:00 pm) are looking for new members. You don't have to be a superstar, it is a very sociable group! Please contact Ruth Hanley (01896 759402) if you are interested or would like to find out more.



## Re-Energise 3

### Church without Walls – Energising God's People

**Re-Energise 3 : 11-13 January 2008 at the MacDonalld Aviemore Highland Resort.**



Re-Energise 3 is part of the build up to the National Gathering at Ingliston in May 2008. Already there have been two very successful three-day events, and additional follow up days to these conferences have been very well attended. A total of 800 individuals representing around 400 congregations have engaged with the idea of Church without Walls at these events during 2006/7, and the feedback has been astounding:

***“In 30 years of attending church events this is quite easily the best in which I have participated”.***

Therefore this is an invitation to two members of our congregation to go to Re-Energise 3; to engage with the Church without Walls report, and to hear some Good News stories about growth and renewal in the Church.

The theme is going to focus on family life. This will be a conference packed with ideas offering practical encouragement and highlighting opportunities where we as parish churches can engage further with the families of our communities. This could be a strategic starting place for many congregations who feel they need to begin to address some of the social issues in their location.

The people who attend will be given the opportunity to feedback on the conference content, and anyone who is interested should contact the Minister in the first instance.



## Enquirers Conference 2008

The Church of Scotland's Enquirers Conference organised by the Ministries Council will be held on 8th – 9th February next year. The location for the conference will be the Scottish Police College, Tulliallan, where overnight accommodation is available. Please note that a cheque to the value of £20 should be forwarded to the Church Offices at 121 George Street, Edinburgh, to confirm your booking. Bookings may be made online at the Church's website – [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk) .

### TREASURER'S REPORT – OCTOBER 2007

The Treasurer's Report for January to October is summarised below:

<b>Targeted Budget Income</b> .....	<b>£63,820</b>
<b>Actual Income</b> .....	<b>£61,262</b>
<b>Deficit</b> .....	<b>£2,558</b>

It is unfortunate that our income remains short of the targeted budget up to this time of the year. The figures show that the income is £2,558 less than anticipated.

The level of income is reflected above and it is only right that the congregation is aware of the financial situation.

#### Editor's note

*This means that for every month of the year, so far, we are £255.80 short of meeting our financial commitments. It begs the question, “If this were our domestic situation, what financial commitment would be first to be cut out?” Heat? Light? Rent? Food shopping? Is this a situation which can be sustained over a long period, or do we need to have another look at what our commitments are?*

*Then again, if **every** member of the congregation contributed just **£1 per month** over what they do at present, the budget would not be in deficit at all!*