



Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels

Old Parish and St Paul's Church of Scotland, Galashiels, is a Charity registered in Scotland, No: SC010389

Newsletter ♦ April 2017

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Minister: | Rev. Dr Leon Keller, Woodlea, Abbotsview Drive, Galashiels TD1 3SL ☎ (01896 753029) ✉ LKeller@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| Session Clerk: | David Leckey, Dove Cottage, 69 Melrose Road, Galashiels TD1 2BX ☎ (01896) 757631 ✉ DL28133@aol.com |
| Deputy Session Clerk: | Jim Tennant, 43 Kilnknowe Place, Galashiels TD1 1RH ☎ (01896) 751003 ✉ jim10ant@btinternet.com |
| Board Clerk: | Shirley Sandison, Lynhurst, Abbotsview Drive, Galashiels TD1 3SL ☎ (01896) 758634 ✉ SMISandison@aol.com |
| Treasurer: | Marjorie McKendrick, 1 Hayward Drive, Galashiels TD1 3JB ☎ (01896) 752540 |

Easter in Narnia: What Really Happened at the Stone Table

In *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, the schoolboy Peter finds himself in two blood-thirsty battles. In the first he fights and slays Maugrim the Wolf, captain of the Witch's secret police. You've got to admire Peter's courage. One day he's playing hide and seek in the Professor's house, the next he's given a sword and told to fight "a huge grey beast." Here's what happens:

Peter did not feel very brave; indeed, he felt he was going to be sick. But that made no difference to what he had to do. He rushed up to the monster and aimed a slash of his sword at its side. That stroke never reached the Wolf. Quick as lightning it turned round, its eyes flaming, and its mouth wide open in a howl of anger. If it had not been so angry that it simply had to howl it would have got him by the throat at once. As it was – though all this happened too quickly for Peter to think at all – he had just time to duck down and plunge his sword, as hard as he could, between the brute's forelegs into its heart (p. 120).



The day after he kills the wolf, Peter finds himself in hand to hand combat with the White Witch herself. In this second battle it is not Peter who is victorious.

What is interesting about these two battles is Aslan's reaction to them. In the first, he tells the Narnians to stand back saying, "Let the prince win his spurs." The wolf is for Peter to deal with alone.

Now you have to imagine that Aslan could have killed the wolf with no trouble at all. But this was a test for Peter. He had to "win his spurs." Although Peter was afraid, I don't believe he was in any real danger at all. Aslan would not have set him up for failure. Instead, Aslan wanted to release the warrior-heart of the future High King of Narnia. Aslan already knew that Peter was the right man for the job, but Peter didn't. Hence the wolf-test. A shepherd-king needs to be able to handle wolves. This battle reminds us of David the future king fighting the lion and the bear.

But Aslan's reaction to Peter's second battle – the one with the Witch – was very different. After Aslan liberated the captives from the Witch's house he raced to the battle with Lucy and Susan riding on his back. Here's what they saw when they arrived:

continued overleaf ...

... continued from previous page

She (the Witch) was fighting with her stone knife. It was Peter she was fighting – both of them going at it so hard that Lucy could hardly make out what was happening; she only saw the stone knife and Peter's sword flashing so quickly that they looked like three knives and three swords. The pair were in the centre. On each side the line stretched out. Horrible things were happening wherever she looked. "Off my back children," shouted Aslan. And they both tumbled off. Then with a roar that shook all Narnia from the western lamp-post to the shores of the eastern sea the great beast flung himself upon the White Witch. Lucy saw her face lifted towards him for one second with an expression of terror and amazement. The Lion and the Witch had rolled over together but with the Witch underneath (pp. 160-1).

And in Lewis's economical writing, that was the end of the White Witch!

In the first battle Aslan held back and let Peter fight. But in this second battle, Aslan does it all. He doesn't stop to ask if Peter needs his help. He just comes with a mighty roar and destroys the Witch himself.

The Witch was Aslan's enemy. It was she who held his creation in bondage and had put all of Narnia under a curse. And it was she who had delivered the killer stroke the previous night on the Stone Table. You get the sense that with Aslan and the Witch, that "this was personal."

If Peter in the first battle reminds us of David the shepherd-boy, then Aslan in the second reminds us of Jesus the Deliverer. 1 John 3:8 tells us that the reason the Son of God came was to destroy the devil's work. Jesus came to save us and defeat him. Colossians 3:15 tells us that Jesus disarmed and triumphed over his enemies at the cross.

... At Easter we celebrate Jesus' death, which bought our forgiveness and His resurrection which secured our justification. But that's not all he did. At the first Easter Jesus also triumphed over the devil. We need not fear the enemy any longer. He has been disarmed and defeated. This was not a victory we won. Jesus did it all. We were under attack but the Lion of Judah took it personally.

Imagine what a talented movie-maker could do with this story! Picture the scene. There's Jesus, not looking at all dead, standing in power and splendour ready to tear down the gates of hell. Inside the devil is in shock. His throne is cracking and the ground beneath him is breaking open. The camera goes for a close-up of Jesus' face. Beneath a determined brow is a set smile that says two words, "I'm back."

Three days after the battle with the Witch, Aslan crowned Peter as High King of Narnia. More battles were to follow but Peter never had to worry about the White Witch ever again. CS Lewis writes that Peter and his royal siblings "lived in great joy" (p.167).

Similarly, we have been called to "reign in life" through Jesus Christ (Romans 5:17). It's like we have been crowned kings in his name. And we can reign because the enemy has already been defeated. Although there will be battles to fight and victories to win, we can live in great joy because of what Jesus did at the first Easter.

Adapted from *Escape to Reality* by Paul Ellis.

Holy Week 2017

~ Galashiels Fellowship of Churches services ~

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------|
| Palm Sunday | Caddonfoot Parish Church | 6:30 pm |
| Monday 10th April | St Peter's Episcopal Church | 7.00 pm |
| Tuesday 11th April | St John's | 7.00 pm |
| Wednesday 12th April | Our Lady & St Andrew | 7.00 pm |

~ The following services will take place in Old Parish & St Paul's and St. John's ~

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| Thursday 13th April | St Paul's (Communion) | 7:00 pm |
| Good Friday (14th April) | St John's | 7:00 pm |
| Easter Sunday (16th April) | St Paul's (Easter Breakfast/Communion) | 9:30 am |
| | St. Paul's | 11:30 am |
| | St. Paul's | 6:30 pm |

Church News

Annual Stated Meeting

The Annual Stated Meeting was held on Tuesday 21st March 2017. The Rev. Dr Leon Keller welcomed around 35 members of the congregation to the meeting.

Marjorie McKendrick (Treasurer) presented the Annual Accounts for 2016, and she began by thanking members of the congregation who give freely of their time and also their money for specific items, such as the new carpet at the front of the church, which helps greatly with our final accounts. People also gave money to enable some members and leaders of the Under Ground Church to visit Malawi to work with street children. However, our offerings have gone down over the past year, as has the income from the rental of our premises. This is a major part of our income, so this is not a good situation to be in. Hopefully we will be able to rectify the situation in the coming year.

Keith Simpson then presented the Property Report. A lot of work has been carried out over the past year in the large hall, particularly on the roof, as well as having gutters cleared around the building, various electrical works carried out and boilers serviced. Keith thanked a number of people who carry out a lot of work around the building, and in particular he mentioned Vi Wood, Phyllis Hancock and Ian Corcoran. Phyllis Hancock is retiring from the Board this year and Shirley Sandison thanked her for all her hard work over the years. Anne Bain and Margaret Oliver were nominated and duly elected to serve as new Board Members.

Rev. Dr Keller then thanked many people for all the work they do for the Church in the service of God. The Guest Speaker for the evening was Douglas Ormston of TD1 Youth Hub in Galashiels. TD1 is a charity working with young people which aims to provide a safe environment for them to meet and gain skills and values. The charity provides drop-in sessions where the young people can discuss problems or just chat; it works with youngsters on the street (similar to street pastors); and it runs young parents groups, music groups, sports activities and trips. Sometimes the youngsters are at a difficult stage in their lives and just need somewhere to go to get help or where someone will listen to them. The charity relies on donations to help provide these activities and our Board agreed to give TD1 a donation of £150 to help with their costs. Douglas has asked me to express his gratitude to the congregation for this money, and he has proposed it is used to provide free food to the youngsters in the evening, as many of them come to the Hub and have not been fed or are in real food poverty.

Douglas was pleased to announce that TD1 Youth Hub won the Youth Work Partnership Award for their pioneering work in conjunction with Scottish Borders Council and Scottish Fire and Rescue Services.

David Leckey thanked Douglas for coming to address the meeting and presented him with the cheque. The evening was rounded off by refreshments.

Shirley Sandison (Clerk to the Board)

Fair Trade



The Kirk Session has reluctantly agreed to cancel the Church's Fair Trade status. This is due to a combination of circumstances, which mean we are unable to fulfil the required terms and conditions.

Thank you to everyone who has supported all the efforts towards Fair Trade over the past few years. There are a number of items still left in stock or in the possession of the Church: it is hoped that these can be sold off cheaply and the proceeds sent to Traidcraft and Tearfund as appropriate.

Jim Tennant

Kilombero Rice orders

Galashiels Fellowship of Churches is ordering Kilombero rice from farmers in Malawi to help them invest in the futures of their families and the wider community. Kilombero rice, white and brown, is one of Africa's premium products and won a Good Taste Award in 2015. The cost is £3 per kilo bag. This could be used for church functions, bought by individuals or shared among friends.

The order goes in on 27th April. Please pay cash when ordering and spread the word to support this initiative. All funds go to Malawi. Orders should be submitted as soon as possible to Eleanor Simpson, our representative on Galashiels Fellowship of Churches. Thank you!

