



**KINGSWELLS
CHURCH
NEWSLETTER**

**AUTUMN
2009**

Sunday 4th October 11 am



Harvest Thanksgiving



This year we would be delighted to receive fruit and flowers & groceries that will be distributed to members of the congregation and local charities.

&

Celebration of Holy Communion



Jesus said, "I am the bread of life"

11a.m. & 6pm

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

FROM THE MANSE

People who really know me would say that whilst I take the time to exercise my constitutional rights by casting my vote at a general election, I am not someone who generally becomes involved in political debate or opinions. This is what makes it all the more surprising that I find myself writing today in favour of our Justice Minister who took the difficult decision to release Mr al Megrahi on compassionate grounds during the summer.

My support of his actions is not concerned with whether trade sanctions were at risk, penal justice has been served or whether the initial conviction was a sound judgement made by persons in full knowledge of the facts. No, my support comes from the simple rules I learned in the playground—that unless someone backs down, despite the intervention of those perceived to be in authority over you (be that teachers or political strong men) the inner fight with our thoughts and feelings about others will never be over.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child; when I became a man I put childish things behind me. (1 Cor13:11)

Having grown up, I know with certainty that my support of Mr MacAskill is born in the teachings, grace and compassionate actions of Jesus who, if he came with any agenda at all, surely came to show us that there is a better way. Choosing compassion over justice is not the soft option; it does not belittle a nation or a generation. It requires something more, an acceptance that goes beyond the intellect of reason or the emotion of the natural vengeance which follows loss. It requires an epiphany of grace. A moment of humbling revelation which transforms humanitarian beliefs into deliberate action.

*Now we see but a poor reflection as if in a mirror;
then we shall see face to face.*

Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully Known.

*And now these three remain, faith, hope and love
But the greatest of these is love. (1Cor. 13:12-13)*

Dolly Purnell

Minister, Kingswells Parish Church

PASTORAL CARE

On the afternoon of Sunday 5, July 2009, forty six people attended a service and Sacrament of Holy Communion for the housebound which was held in the church halls. In addition to members of the congregation, residents of Kingsmead Home also attended. Following the service a lovely strawberry tea was served and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Aileen Glen and her team of helpers for providing and serving the food. I would also like to thank those who transported members and residents of Kingsmead to the service.

I know that it may seem a bit early to be thinking of Christmas but we are presently planning our festive activities and the first date for your diary is Sunday 6 December, 2009 when we are to hold our Carol Service for the Elderly and Housebound. Pop the date in your diary now.

Could I remind members that we provide a transport service to the weekly church service for those who may not have access to a vehicle or find it difficult to walk to church. If you wish to use this service, please give me a call.

Finally, I am looking to recruit more visitors. The prime purpose of visiting is to keep in contact with members, ensure that they receive the pastoral care that they wish and that they are kept informed of church activities. Visitors are, where possible, asked to visit members at least quarterly, usually before communion. **If you feel that you could fulfil this role please give me a call or speak to your visitor. Training will be given.**

*Ian Gordon, Pastoral Care Convenor
Telephone 01224 743397.*

KINGSWELLS CHURCH GUILD



The new session begins on **Tuesday 6 October at 7.30 pm** in the Findlay Room. Before that, in September, three of our members visited the Caird Hall, Dundee for the Annual National Guild Rally. This is always a stirring meeting for over 2000 women (and quite a number of men). When you get that number, backed by a powerful pipe organ played by the Dundee City Organist, the singing is great!!

The Guild Theme for 2009-2010 '**Called to Act Justly**' is the first in the 2009-2012 Strategy – '**What does the Lord require of you?**' The Moderator the Rev Bill Hewitt, spoke to this theme: the other main speaker was Mrs Mary

Miller, wife of the Rev John Miller (Past Moderator), who spoke about her work from 2007-09 in Zimbabwe with children and adolescents infected by HIV/AIDS. Mrs Miller received the Glasgow Herald award of 'International Scotswoman of the Year' for 2008. The day also gave us the opportunity to meet with our Guild Link representatives and others, and for one of us, the chance to spend time with a friend after a lapse of 40 years. It was a good day!! Special thanks to our chauffeurs.

The Rededication of our Guild will be included in the morning service on 20th September at 11.00 am. At our first meeting in October, Jane Dargie, new projects Convenor for Aberdeen, will outline the new projects for the next three years – more of that below.

In November our very own Eric Jensen gives a talk entitled 'Science versus Crime' – sounds intriguing. Perhaps some men might come to support Eric! Anyone can come to any of the **Meetings**, which are on the **first Tuesday of the month**, and perhaps if you enjoy your visit you may decide to become a member at a later date. Copies of the syllabus are available from Aileen Jensen or myself. We are a happy, friendly group – please feel free to join us.

Jean McBain, Convenor

THE GUILD PROJECT PARTNERSHIP SCHEME

Members of the National Guild for the Church of Scotland support 6 projects over a period of 3 years.

The final amount raised for the 2006-09 projects was £779,358.88!

A breakdown of this amount can be seen on the Guild Notice Board in the Session Room.

The New Projects for 2009-2012 under the strategy 'What does the Lord require of you?' are as follows:

CROSSREACH/SOCIAL CARE COUNCIL – On the Other Side (Scotland)

Helping to provide support to those (especially children) visiting their loved one's who are 'inside' prison

HIV/AIDS PROJECT – A New Hunger (Various Countries)

The Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS Project is committed to helping people who live with this life threatening virus, in Scotland and overseas.

INTERNATIONAL JUSTICE MISSION – **Terrify No More (Cambodia)**

The mission rescues people from slavery and forced prostitution in countries where they cannot rely on national authorities for help.

MINISTRIES COUNCIL – **A Place for Hope (UK)**

Helping to address conflict within the Church and beyond where sectarianism divides, and neighbourhoods struggle with racial division, poverty, social inequality and families torn apart by violence.

MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP – **Mission Run (Madagascar)**

Enabling cost effective access to remote areas of this poor island to help people both physically and spiritually.

WORLD MISSION COUNCIL – **Interfaith Support (Israel/Palestine)**

Reconciling Christian, Jewish and Muslim communities in Israel and Palestine. Helping the Guild to become better informed and assisting Guild members to meet and visit those involved 'on the ground'.

These are challenging, exciting projects requiring our support and our compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves, while remembering 'Whose we are and Whom we serve'.

Chris Maxwell, Project Partner

MONEY MATTERS (August 2009)

GENERAL FUND.

Income Up till the end of August, income to the General Fund totalled £45329, compared to £41104 in the corresponding period of last year. This welcome increase of £4225 is mainly due to a rise in Gift Aid Giving and the tax recovered thereon.

Expenditure From this fund, during the same period, £37637 was expended (£2752 more than 2008). How this money had to be spent will be of interest to many of you:-

Church of Scotland for Ministry and Wider Work	£20503
Heating, Lighting, Rates, Insurance & Cleaning	9433
Presbytery Dues, Pulpit Supply & Organist	2432
Minister's Travel, Telephone etc	1248
Miscellaneous (stationery, equipment & minor repairs)	4021
	£37637

FABRIC FUND

Last year there was heavy expenditure to improve the Church and Manse properties. This year a further £5900 was spent, most of which was for outstanding balances from last year, together with the cost of other minor improvements and repairs to the Church and Manse.

SPECIAL PROJECTS FUND

This is the fund in which money given for specific projects is lodged. £7720 of the money donated for the stained glass windows was used for that purpose during the year so far.

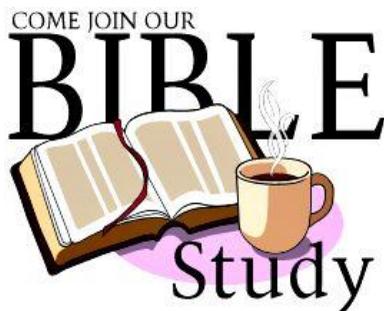
WFO ENVELOPES

A new issue of envelopes will be distributed in the coming weeks. We are grateful to all of you who use this method regularly. It appears, however, that many of you find that this method of giving doesn't suit you. Perhaps a Banker's Standing Order would be more to your liking. Forms are available from the Treasurers or at the Church door.

THANKS

Our thanks to all who faithfully and regularly support the Church financially, by which ever way preferred – Standing Order, WFO, Annual Donation, Open Plate or any combination – and we Treasurers also thank those who so willingly assist in the management of the financial affairs of the Church.

Hamish Irvine and Jim Henderson, Joint Treasurers



This Session our Morning Bible Study
will be on
Tuesdays from 9.30 am - 11 am

We will be looking together at the
book of James - all about putting
faith into action.

We'd love to see some new faces, so if you are free, would like to learn more, enjoy a chat, and of course morning coffee you would be very welcome!

Dolly Purnell

Baptisms

Jesus said “Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of heaven”



12th July

Agostina Andrea Pagella

9th August

Ewan John Alasdair McDonald

New Members



Mr J Cooper, 15 Midmar Crescent

Funerals

“I am the resurrection and the life”



29th July

Mrs Jean Taylor, Wagely Parade,
Bucksburn

4th September Mr Alexander Mackie, 186, King Street
Aberdeen

THE LIFE OF LIFE

How do you get in touch with God?

You can't get in touch with God by creating a religious vacuum in which, as it were, to meet Him. It is more true to say that you can't get out of touch with God every moment that you live, for the simple reason that He is Life: not religious life, nor Church life, but the whole life that we now live in the flesh.

You can only contact God in the concrete now. How do you come into the presence of God?

Well, God is a spirit. No one has seen Him at any time. God is love, and love is never static, it is always outgoing. So you won't find the presence of God by seeking to achieve it in a pause. He is Reality: Love: Life: and you can't touch life. You can touch expressions of life. You can't grasp life.

And God is the Life of life.

George MacLeod

From Daily Readings with George MacLeod: Ron Ferguson (ed), Wild Goose Publications

Our New Website



The Church website has been redesigned, re-launched and now has a new address – www.kingswellschurch.com Here you can find information on worship in Kingswells, outreach and pastoral care, the history of the church, and details of forthcoming events for the Guild, young people and adult education. The website will be updated regularly and displays a verse from the Bible that changes every day.

Please have a look around and watch out for new features in the coming months, including an interactive calendar of events, a hall booking form and downloadable Church Newsletter!

If you would like to suggest any other features for the website, then contact Dolly at her new email address – revdolly@kingswellschurch.com

Calum McDonald, Kingswells Church Webmaster
calum@kingswellschurch.com

SCRIPTURE UNION CAMP AT GLENSHEE – WHAT IS IT LIKE??

A typical day at camp goes something like this. Wake up at around 6.30am, get dressed and head downstairs to the leaders room for some quiet Bible time at 7.00am. Would you believe this is the easiest time for us to do this?

At around 7.30 the campers are roused out of bed by the ringing of a bell and there is time for a quick prayer before we start our day! Usually we pray that everything will go to plan, most of the time it doesn't!! But this usually works out for the best! Before you know it, it's breakfast time, and if you sit with boys you'd better grab for the toast because it doesn't last long. After we have



all been fed there is just enough time for the campers to get any tuck at the shop or items from the bookstall which they might like to buy before we set off on our first activity of the day and then straight into the second. 2pm means lunch time and possibly time for a quick catch up with the other leaders before we set off for the two afternoon activity slots. We usually have some free time before we have dinner and then a whole camp activity in the evening before the evening worship sessions. After which there is time for a quick snack before group time and bedtime and attempting to get the lights off by 10pm.

Usually all the leaders have a wee catch up in the leaders' room once the campers have calmed down before heading off to bed exhausted!!

That's all well and good but what does all this mean??

The Leaders' Bible time – usually consists of a quiet reading of a passage and a short follow up discussion and prayers for the day in general and also for the more specific needs at the camp – at Glenshee this year we were focusing on John's gospel.

Activities - There are a lot of activities and at some camps there is a chance to choose what activities you want to do. However, at the camp I was on, you are split into activity groups and get to do each activity once. Activities included – gorge walking, archery, abseiling and wall climbing, kayaking, raft building, zip wire, ropes course, games hall, tree climbing, initiative games and orienteering, a hill walk, crafts and a day out which usually involves swimming and shopping.

Worship time – the time we get to celebrate and share God's good news for us. With singing, dramas and a short talk. As a camper I really enjoyed all the songs at SU, "Jesus you my superhero" and "Blessed be your name" still seem to be popular with the campers.

Group time – my favourite bit of camp as a leader, but also the most challenging. We get to discuss with our dorm groups what they think of the passages and what has been shared at worship time. Although there is room for change and to discuss whatever the campers want to about faith, usually I find this works for me – the campers really engage more if you relate it to them. At the beginning of the week it was all giggles and games – so me and Fiona (the trainee leader I was paired with) decided to have group time wearing sunglasses which took away all the silliness and got the girls to focus on what we wanted them to focus on – God!! It is amazing to see how the campers respond and change through the week - that for me is the best bit of camp!!

Kyrsten Milne

FROM WHENCE THEY CAME?

The Steneker family, Jane, Rob, Kate, Helen and Ian joined us in 2006. Here Jane and Rob tell us something of the background to their lives and their church in Newfoundland.

Before moving to Aberdeen in 2006, the Steneker family was living for 7 years in St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, which is Jane's home town and where her branch of the Cumming family still live. It was wonderful to be back "home" where all was familiar and nowhere was this more the case than at our church of St. David's. This is the church where Jane's parents were welcomed when they

moved from Glasgow to St. John's, where Jane and her sister were both christened, four of the family were confirmed and where Robert and Jane married in 1991. Kate and Ian were both christened at St. David's during visits back through the years (Helen was christened amongst a wonderful congregation in Calgary!). We were back amongst friends who had known us for many years, back in the familiar pew, with Jane's dad and sister's family immediately behind!

St. David's Presbyterian Church: The congregation was founded in 1775, and is the second oldest in St. John's: sixth and seventh generation members of the families who had served the congregation for almost all of 200 years took part in the bicentennial services. These families continue their strong representation in the congregation. Known originally as the Dissenting Church of Christ, the congregation later became part of the Congregational Union of England and Wales. In 1938 it was received



St David's Presbyterian Church, St John's, Newfoundland

into the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The move to the present church, its fifth building, was made in 1959. Today, the composition of the congregation demonstrates great diversity. It includes many people who have moved to St. John's from other parts of Canada and the world, who come from a variety of denominations, and who find in St. David's an "extended family" for those who are separated by distance from their own families. Many members of the congregation are here on assignments of varying duration, and to that extent are transient. The congregation is also blessed with a solid core of permanent members who provide a firm base of continuity in the life of the congregation. This combination of permanency and constantly regenerating "new blood" makes St. David's very much alive and dynamic.

Jane and Rob Stenecker

The Philip family, Sam, his wife Anna and sons Philip and Thomas joined Kingswells in 2000. Here Sam tells us something of his background and his home church.

The Indian church that I have attended since childhood is called the Mar Thoma church after Christ's Disciple St Thomas. It is believed that St Thomas came to the Indian state of Kerala and set up 7 churches. The St Thomas Christians trace their Christian tradition back to these early Christian communities in the first century AD. The church evolved over the centuries based on influences from the eastern Mesopotamian churches and other local religious traditions. However a number of non-biblical practices had crept into the church. The Mar Thoma church was formed as a breakaway church from the main Orthodox church under

the reformist influence of the missionaries from the Anglican Church Missionary Society in the 1840s. The Church now has 1075 parishes spread all over the world. It has a democratic pattern of administration. The Church is very active in the field of education and social work. It runs a number of educational institutions, orphanages and hospitals.

My parents moved to Abudhabi in the mid seventies from Bombay. As there were a number of people from our denomination in Abudhabi, we had regular services at the local Anglican Church. While growing up in Abu-Dhabi, our church and its activities was an important part of my life. We had a very active Sunday School and it has had a great influence in shaping my faith.



Abudhabi Marthoma Church

The church service is based on a revised version of the 'Liturgy of St James'. Though liturgy and tradition is an important part of the service, there is also a strong emphasis on the study of the bible and worship with songs. The church has a number of missionary centers around India and has services in both Hindi

and English. It has also contributed to translating the gospels into some of the other Indian languages. The church has been organizing an annual convention called the "Maramon convention" on the banks of the river Pamba since 1896. It is the biggest religious gathering of Christians in Asia attracting up to 100,000 people who come to listen to speakers from all parts of the world. There are a few families from our denomination in Aberdeen and we have occasional services in Malayalam which is our mother tongue. If you would like to see how our service is conducted, please let me know.

Sam Philip



FEEDING THE 50,000
How Your Generosity Wells Up This Harvest

Chandamma Moligeri was born a 'weeder'. As a dalit woman, she worked for most of her life in others' fields, in exchange for grain or small amounts of money. Struggling to feed her family and with little chance of escaping the

legacy of the Indian caste system, she lived unnoticed on the margins of society.

But out of the most severe poverty came an incredible story of rich generosity...

Chandamma's life was turned around when she joined a local women's group, or *sangham*, supported by Christian Aid partner the Deccan Development Society (DDS). These women cleared an area of drought-prone wasteland and farmed it, using traditional methods learned from DDS. Slowly, they restored life to their land –and then brought the celebration of an enormous harvest to their whole community.

Overflowing joy

In sanghams across the Medak district in Andhra Pradesh, DDS now works with 5,000 women. These women have decided to do something amazing. From their excess harvest, they have helped to feed 50,000 of the poorest people in their communities. And the women are now passing on their knowledge. DDS is training them to use film and radio to raise awareness and campaign on issues such as climate change. Now their skills and passion are helping communities throughout Andhra Pradesh to share in the joy of harvest.



From weeder to landowner

As for Chandamma, she is no longer reliant on others for handouts. Instead, she has become a landowner herself. 'I am the only person I know who has passed on land to her daughters,' she tells us with a twinkle in her eye.

Generous God

Where there is wasteland, help us to hope for harvest;

Where there is poverty, help us to bring justice.

In today's troubled times, may our generosity well up

In the light of Your rich gifts to us.

Give us the vision to see Your world the way it could be;

And the wisdom to shape our actions and the will to bring about change.

May Your transforming joy rise up within us,

Overflowing into the lives of others across Your world.

Amen.

Christian Aid, through its campaigns, tackles on your behalf the great issues of the world like **Climate Change**, **World Poverty** and the **Food Crisis in Zimbabwe**. By making your contribution and pledging your support it is

possible that you really can make a difference. Visit the web site <http://www.christianaid.org.uk/> and learn how Christian Aid is influencing world leaders as they approach the Climate Change Negotiations in Copenhagen in December 2009 and find out what is being done in your name in Zimbabwe, India and many other parts of the world.



For your Diary - Saturday 3rd October 10 am-1.00 pm, Queen's Cross Church Hall CLIMATE CHANGE - Understanding the issues for us & for the Developing World in the Countdown to Copenhagen (The UN Summit Meeting in December to get international agreement on measures to control global warming) All welcome - no charge. Organised by the Overseas Committee and Eco Group of Queen's Cross Church.

Chris Maxwell

Dedication of Stained Glass Windows



The new stained glass memorial windows, which were installed earlier in the year as part of our 150th Anniversary, were dedicated to the Glory of God during morning worship on Sunday 20th September 2009.

Dolly Purnell



Recently there have been a few changes to some of our leadership roles within the congregation. To keep everyone up to date, here's a list of who to contact for more information or if you'd like to join a group.

Minister	Rev Dolly Purnell	740229
Session Clerk/Roll Keeper	Mrs Lorna Graham	313048
Treasurers	Mr Hamish Irvine & Mr James Henderson	740370 740108

Kirk Session Convenors

Education and Outreach	----vacant ----	
Fabric & Finance	Charles Skene & Jim Birnie	743133 744450
Pastoral Care	Ian Gordon	743397

Children & Young People

Child Protection	Mrs Hilary Davidson	742839
Crèche Co-ordinator (0-3)	----vacant----	
Jaffa Kids (3-11's)	Audrey Wilson Hay	746841
<i>Followers (for teens)</i>	Neil Purnell	740229
Guild	Mrs Jean McBain	740401
Flower Co-ordinator	Mrs Judith Lorimer	741705
Life & Work magazine	Mrs Marjory Birkmyre	742752
Web - Master	Calum McDonald	743823
Prayer co-ordinator	Mrs Anne Rodger	743742
Bible Study group	Dolly Purnell	740229
Sunday Coffees	Mrs Audrey Paterson	744162
Magazine Editor	Prof. Jeff Maxwell	743857
Fund Raising Co-ordinators	Aileen Glen & Alice Birnie	
Communion Elders	Aileen Glen & Kathleen Coutts	
Presbytery Elder	Audrey Wilson Hay	746841
Elected to Presbytery	Prof. Jeff Maxwell (Ministry Committee & Oversight and Visitation Committee)	
Christian Aid	Mrs Chris Maxwell	743857



Church Calendar



October 4th	11.00 am	Communion & Harvest Sunday
November 8th	10.15 am	Remembrance Sunday NB Worship begins at 10.15 am
December 6th	3.00 pm	Carol Service and Afternoon Tea for the Elderly and Housebound
December 20th	11.00 am	Family Nativity Service
December 24th	11.30 pm	Watchnight Service
December 25th	11.00 am	Christmas Day Worship
December 27th	11.00 am	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas