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# St John's News

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*The newsletter of St John's Church of Scotland, Carluke*

*Spring 2011*

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A large, circular, faded background image of a church tower with a steeple, serving as a backdrop for the table of contents.

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# Pastor Roy Writes...

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*Dear Friends,*

I really enjoy talking to my Canadian friends who are shoulder deep in snow and letting them know that my daffodil bulbs are well and truly through, and that I had passed a garden filled with snowdrops. Well, their time is coming when they will call me and inform of warm days and balmy nights that seem endless.

Spring! It is such a lovely word and is also a lovely thought, as life appears again all around us. I was sent a series of photos on my computer of fields and fields of tulips in full bloom in Holland that looked like a coloured carpet. It was quite amazing. I love being out and about in Spring and coming across, as I did last year when I visited the ruined Cambusnethan Priory, 'a host of golden daffodils' that have been randomly planted and have grown in some kind of wild formation that adds to their beauty and charm.

Obviously, here in St. John's Church, Spring will mean a change into Spring flowers to brighten each Sunday from the Communion Table. Spring also denotes the coming season of Easter with its wonderful story which in its own way, is a rising from death, and the promise that is given to us all of New Life in Jesus Christ.

In Church we call Lent, the weeks leading up to Easter which is a wonderful way, through teaching and reflection on the life of Jesus and in that way, leads us to discover again the transforming power of Easter.

*Roy and Christine*

# Worship Diary

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*Normal Sunday Services are held at 11.00 am. Once a month, there is an evening service, including prayers for healing. A short mid-week service is held on Thursdays at 10.30 am.*

*Special services between now and the next issue of St John's News will include:*

## **Easter 2011**

***Details had not been finalised at time of publication. See the church website for latest details***

***([www.carluke-stjohns.org.uk](http://www.carluke-stjohns.org.uk))***

**Sun 17 April Palm Sunday**

**Thu 21 April Maundy Thursday**

10:30 am Maundy Thursday Service

7:30 pm United Communion Service at St John's

**Fri April 22 Good Friday**

12:00 noon-3:00 pm Easter Vigil. *An opportunity for quiet prayer and reflection.*

7:30 pm United Worship at St John's

**Sun 24 April Easter Day**

8:30 am United worship at the **Market Square**, followed by breakfast at St John's.

11:00 am Morning worship for Easter day at **St John's**, led by Pastor Roy.

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**Sacrament of Holy Communion**  
will be held on Sunday, 5 June 2011.

# Jar of Grace



You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God

*2 Corinthians 9:11*

Most people will already have heard of the Christmas card sent to Carluke Parish Churches from UNICEF's fundraising initiatives officer. But just in case you haven't, here's what it said: *"To all at the Carluke Parish Churches. Thank you for your incredible support this year. I'm delighted to tell you, you were our top fundraising group for Jar of Grace in 2010! The money you raised really will make a huge difference. Wishing you a wonderful Christmas. Isabelle!"*

So thank you again for your tremendous support last year for the children of Mozambique.

We have been asked this year to support vulnerable children in two areas of the world. Firstly, **UNICEF** is seeking help to support the children in Pakistan who suffered and are still suffering as a result of the terrible floods in that country. In Guyana in South America changes in rainfall and the resulting floods and droughts make it difficult for children to find food and clean water and to get to school. **UNICEF** is doing much to help these children but could do even more with our help.

We know that many of you started collecting coins as soon as the appeal was announced at the start of 2011 but leaflets/labels are still available for anyone who wishes to help. Your Jars of Grace will be collected at Easter and, as usual, there is no need for you to count the coins you collect. That will be done for you. Please remember also that you can - at no cost to yourself - increase the value of your donation if you pay tax by completing the Gift Aid form on the back of the UNICEF leaflet and handing it in with your Jar of Grace. Just leave the amount blank and it will be entered once the coins in your jar have been counted.

If you have any questions about the Jar of Grace appeal, please feel free to speak to one of us. Thank you again to everyone who raised such a tremendous amount last year and thank you - in anticipation! - for your support for this year's appeal.

**Chris Shanks (St. John's), Netta Allardyce (Kirkton),  
Alison Plenderleith (St. Andrew's)**

# Information Update Form

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*Are you about to change your name and/or address?*

Please take a moment to complete, then return this form. You can hand it in at the door any Sunday morning, or post it to the church (see the inside back page for the address).

You can also email your details to [office@carluke-stjohns.org.uk](mailto:office@carluke-stjohns.org.uk)

My current details are:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My changed details are/will be:

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Forename(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

email address: \_\_\_\_\_

# Senior Citizens Supper

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The 'young at heart' ladies of St John's Young Woman's Group would like to invite all members of St John's who are 60 and over to come along to our annual supper on Friday March 25, 2011.

We would love to see you there and would ask you to cut out the reply slip below and leave it in one of the boxes provided in either the large hall of the church or at the front door or alternatively telephone me on 770903. As usual, transport can be provided for anyone who needs it. Please phone me if you require a lift to and from the Church hall.

I look forward to hearing from you and am sure we shall all, once again, have a great time.

Margaret Dougan  
President

## VOLUNTEERS REQUIRED

If you are available to provide transport to and from the Church Hall on Friday, March 25, 2011 we would be delighted to hear from you. Please contact **Margaret Dougan** on 770903 as soon as possible. Many thanks.

St John's Young Woman's Group  
Senior Citizens' Supper  
7.00 pm on Friday March 25, 2011

I would like to join you at the Senior Citizens' Supper.

I do/do not require transport (*delete as appropriate*)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Many of us have appreciated the contributions made to our services on occasion by *SHINE*. These young people work hard to produce a really professional performance, whatever they do.

*SHINE* Youth Music Theatre operate *Friends of SHINE*—a scheme whereby patrons can support the work of the company by contributing financially to it.

Anyone becoming a *Friend of SHINE*, would make a vital contribution to the work done by SWMT with children and young people and could be confident that their donation would go directly towards improving the experience of the members of *SHINE*.

If you are interested in becoming a *Friend of SHINE*, please contact their Fundraising Co-ordinator, **Marion Moffat** in church, or on 01698 357232.

## Drum Lessons

Given in your own home, or at the studio.

*All levels and ages catered for*

**Contact Stevie Smith**

**07785 354965**

**steviesmith@hotmail.com**

# Youth Church

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On Sunday, 5 December our senior department catered for *Time for Fellowship* and used their selling techniques to sell Christmas cards and homemade crafts and the fantastic amount of £293.00 was raised and split equally between two very worthwhile charities suggested by the children; *Friends of Malawi* and *Lupus*. Thank you to everyone who donated in any way and well done to all the children - I'm sure we have some very good sales people in our midst

On Sunday, 19 December our Youth Church played a large part in the Church service. Our Senior department put on a play called *Where is Christmas* which was written by a very talented member of our Link Group, **Ruth Leggate**. This ended with our younger children being dressed up as Mary, Joseph and the nativity scene. Our Junior department all did a great job of reciting a poem called *A Christmas Window*. Thank you Ruth and well done to all our children. Our Christmas party was held that afternoon and the children all seemed to enjoy the afternoon and especially the visit from Santa. Our Link group had planned their own activity but this was put on hold due to the inclement weather conditions. They are now hopeful to do something over the next couple of months.

Like Pastor Roy, I think it is wonderful to see more babies and young children in church and would like to take this opportunity to let parents know about our crèche facilities, which they would be welcome to visit. There are two ladies in the crèche from around 10.50am on a Sunday morning until the end of the church service and the children are always very well looked after and have a lot of fun. Crèche facilities are for children up to the age of three then children move on to Beginners (or Bubbles as they are more affectionately known) and remain there until they start school. Juniors are from age five to eight, Seniors from age eight to twelve and Link from age twelve upwards. I would be happy to meet with any parents who would like more information regarding any of our facilities. Also, as always, if there is anyone who feels they could help within any of our Youth Church departments I would be delighted to hear from them. It is always good to welcome new people to join our very dedicated and loyal team of Youth Church lead-

(Continued on page 9)

# Our Mission in Carluke?

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On a very snowy Sunday afternoon in November some 70 hardy souls gathered in St Andrew's Church hall to participate in the Carluke Gathering when all three churches had the opportunity to identify and discuss our priorities for shared mission in the town. The Parish Grouping Steering Committee had decided to engage the services of the Rev Peter Nielson to guide us in looking at how we move forward in our expression as the "Church in Carluke".

Many of the questions posed in our discussions with Peter Nielson had been voiced at meetings of the Joint Kirk Sessions as we considered the life and health of our churches and ways of working together in the future. One of the outcomes of these conversations was the decision to embark on a mission audit of the town to identify the needs and aspirations of the community and how we, as church members, could help address areas of need through Christian service.

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(Continued from page 8)

ers. Our children need you - they are our present and also our future!

Many parents will have noted that there are a lot of school holidays during April this year and to give Youth Church Leaders an opportunity to stay in church we will be having holiday Sunday School in the large hall in April, with plenty of activities for all age groups.

As always, I would ask for your continued support and prayers for all our children and those involved in Youth Church.

God Bless.

**Janice Ord**  
**Superintendent**

# Our mission in Carluke? (cont)

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(Continued from page 9)

The process of the Mission Audit involved personnel drawn from St Andrew's, Kirkton and St John's churches working as teams in the following areas.

- Mapping significant information for the town, including major features, community facilities and distribution of church membership
- Gathering statistics on populations, age profiles and social needs
- Conducting a community survey and consulting key people to reveal potential roles of the church in meeting needs
- Investigating the spiritual history of Carluke and walking throughout the town in prayer seeking to discern where God is at work and how He is calling us to respond

This information was gathered in September-November of 2010, collated, reviewed and then presented for discussion at the Carluke Gathering.

The main points which struck people initially were:

- We have an ageing population (in church and town)
- Evidence of lower membership on the East side of the town
- The need for more outreach e.g. a drop-in centre
- How insular the churches have become

Folk at the Gathering were then asked to identify their mission priorities for the church based on the information presented that afternoon. They were prioritised as follows:

Offer "Touching Places" in the town centre. e.g. a café with listening / counselling / advice centre, an accessible place with trained staff

- Explore church presence in the East side of the town

- 
- Engage with the needs of vulnerable people (the elderly, parenting for young families and disadvantaged people) through family work and a food bank, working in partnership with other agencies
  - Develop work with young people -Café culture and appropriate worship (different styles and times)
  - Reach out to the rest of the town, taking account of new people in new areas. Alternative means of communication (local radio and TV) and develop holiday clubs beyond the summer

This information was relayed to all congregations on Sunday 13 February and all present were asked to prayerfully consider whether they may have a special interest in developing any one of the mission priorities shown above. The Parish Grouping Steering Group now wishes to explore how we can develop and hopefully realise tangible outcomes arising from these priorities. If you feel you wish to contribute to these discussions and have an interest in any particular area of mission, please complete and return the slip below to the Session Clerk or any member of the Parish Grouping Steering Group, or email [info@carluke-stjohns.org.uk](mailto:info@carluke-stjohns.org.uk).

GW



## Count Me In

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

The mission priority I'd like to help develop is: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Christian Aid

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We believe in life before death

The UK income for Christian Aid Week 2010 currently stands at £13.3m, well up on the previous year. This is an extraordinary total and represents a fantastic effort and commitment by Christian Aid supporters, not least in Scotland and our own town of Carlisle. This has meant that Christian Aid's partners in Matopani, Nairobi have been able to provide new drainage for the residents there.

2010 was an exceptionally difficult year for emergencies and disasters, but the generosity of supporters continued:

- The devastating earthquake in Haiti killed over 230,000 and left millions homeless
- The worst monsoon floods in Pakistan for over 80 years left an area the size of the UK flooded and over 20 million people homeless
- Devastating monsoon floods in Northern India displaced 10 million people and destroyed over 250,000 hectares of farmland
- In West Africa, a combination of cyclical drought, floods and irregular harvests, has left over 10 million across the Sahel affected by the current food crisis, with people losing their herds of animals and being forced to scavenge for wild leaves and seeds and drink dirty water.

So the Humanitarian Division of Christian Aid has been exceptionally busy supporting staff and partners in these areas to respond to these disasters.

Thanks to your support over many years during Christian Aid Week, lives have been changed for the better.

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## **Welcome to your Christian Aid Week 15-21 May 2011!**

Here in Carlisle, five churches will unite again and work together to raise as much money as possible, through house-to-house collections and the Christian Aid Cafe. The Cafe will be held as usual in St John's Church Hall, with each church taking responsibility for a particular day. This year's rota will be:

Monday 16 May - Kirkton                      Tuesday 17 May - St Andrew's  
Thursday 19 May - St John's              Friday 20 May - URC  
Saturday 21 May - St Athanasius'

Make 2011 the year you volunteer to become involved in your church's effort to raise cash for Christian Aid Week.

*For laughter where there were tears,  
Thanks be to God.*

***We are a part of that!***

*For feasting where there was hunger  
Thanks be to God.*

***We are a part of that!***

*For all the ways that Christian Aid  
is helping to transform communities,  
enabling our brothers and sisters to live fuller lives,  
Thanks be to God.*

***We are a part of that!***

IN

***George McLean***

Gates & Railings specialist

***07967856601***

***georgemcl@hotmail.co.uk***

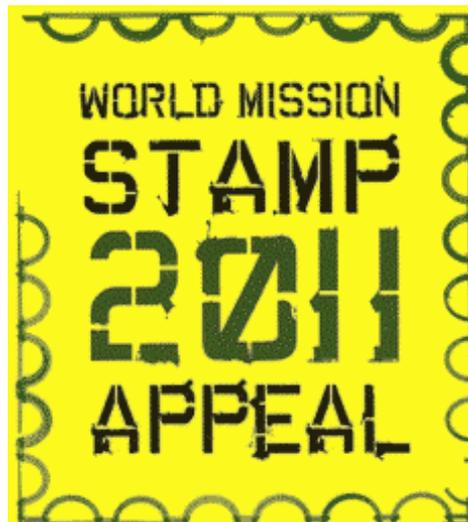
Gates and railings made to your requirements. All areas covered. Call for more information. Free estimates



# Stamp Appeal 2011

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The United Church of Jamaica and the Cayman Islands and the Government of Jamaica work together through the Mount Olivet Boys' Home to provide a place of hope for young boys who have been abused or neglected.



Located in rural Jamaica, Mount Olivet is home for 28 boys, with an average age of 12, from urban and socially deprived areas. Through the Home, they have access to spiritual nurture, medicinal care, emotional support, vocational training and recreation. The Home has a lab with 11 computers and the boys also learn farming and livestock rearing. Despite these achievements and local help, it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet not only the routine costs, but to undertake developmental work.

You can help the Church in Jamaica run and develop the Mount Olivet Boys' Home by simply collecting your used stamps. Please leave your stamps in the collection box in the vestibule. They will then be uplifted and sent of to be sold to raise money for the Appeal.

JS/GS

	<h2>CLYDE ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS</h2>
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	<p>All aspects of Domestic and Commercial work</p>
	<p><b>CALL NOW FOR YOUR FREE ESTIMATE</b></p>
	<p>STEWART McCULLOCH</p>
	<p>07772 561501</p>
	<p>01555 670938</p>

# Where the Money Goes

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The money raised by St John's through WFO, Gift Aid and other sources in 2011 is expected to be in the region of £96,200. By far the greater amount (£52,000) will go to Ministries and Mission. This amount is determined by 121 George Street and next year's contribution is based on our income over the past three years.

**Parish Ministries** account for £44,798 of this. This covers the cost of ministry in our congregation plus a contribution towards ministry in others and training for ministries.

**Mission and Renewal** takes £3,087. This supports the Church's work in Christian education and outreach, care for the vulnerable, partnership with churches in some of the poorest parts of the world and providing a Christian perspective on the issues of today.

**Running Costs** for the National Church, including financial and legal services, the various Councils, the General Assembly and the Moderator, accounts for the remaining £4115.

It should be noted that St John's is 1 of only 7 churches in the Presbytery of Lanark who meet the entire costs of ministry. In the National church, there is projected to be a £7 million shortfall between contributions to and costs of ministry. Clearly, if this continues, the Church of Scotland would be bankrupt in only a few years. One of the aims of the Church's 20:20 Vision project is to eliminate this deficit by 2014.

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## Gift Aid

Would members who Gift Aid their offering, or other donations, please remember to put their name on any such donations.

We cannot claim back tax if we do not know who gave made the donation!



# World Mission

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In his December Newsletter, Scott Murray reported that there had been some fighting on the Thai-Burmese border. Although KRCH were on stand-by for a week, they only treated one casualty who had been shot in the leg.

Seven members of staff have retired between December and February, several having worked at the hospital for almost 30 years each! Some of the retiring staff will not be replaced due to changes in work practices, but losing one of the nursing team and the business manager has put a strain on the remaining staff. Although Nok will help in the HIV/TB unit, more staff is urgently needed. Scott asks that we pray for quality, committed Christian people to come forward to fill the vacant posts.

A hospital in Bangkok has donated an old, but working, ambulance to the KRCH. Scott collected it in mid-December to drive it up to the hospital. This is the first ambulance the hospital has had.

On a personal note, Scott tells us that Cara and Shane have settled back into school for the second half of their term, although brother Ray is struggling to settle and needs a lot of encouragement.

**Gordon Robson**, one of our young people is currently studying medicine. He and some fellow students are planning to visit KRCH later this year, when they hope to be of help to the staff. Plans are at an early stage, but the students are hoping to take out supplies and money to aid the work of the hospital. The **World Mission Team** plan to have a fundraiser in early June which we know will be well supported by the Congregation. More details of this in the Summer issue of *St John's News*.

As a Congregation we are concentrating for our World Mission on the *Kwai River Christian Hospital* and also on Karen Gillon's project, *Friends of Malawi*.

GS/GR

*With another Series just beginning, a member of the congregation writes about her experiences with Alpha:*

Unfortunately I couldn't go to St Johns Alpha Group because I was working during the day but I heard that Kirkstyle Baptist Church was holding one in the evening so I thought I would give it a go! To my surprise, it has made a huge impact on my life, so much so that I was asked to speak about it at an after event at their church. Not being much of a public speaker, I decided it would be easier for me to write a poem instead but felt it so meaningful that I wanted to share it with my friends at St Johns.

## *Alpha*

*As I started my mission with the Alpha Group  
My life's expectations took a closer look  
I sat round the table, the dinner prepared  
And listened as people their problems shared.*

*I watched in earnest the DVD  
It said God had given His life for me  
He'd specially chosen me - no conditions!  
I found myself losing my inhibitions*

*You see, I found it difficult as I watched and prayed  
Other people, their problems, were so dismayed  
I couldn't reach out. I had OCD!  
But to my surprise, they reached out to me!*

*My life has changed. I'm filling the void  
I notice I'm not just so easily annoyed  
My friends notice too. The fear factor's gone  
They could tell by my face as my inner self shone*

*For the first time in years, I have found inner peace  
And I know my God's love will never cease  
So if you're feeling down with the tedium and strife  
I recommend Alpha - The Meaning of Life!*