

Pastor Roy Writes...

Dear Friends,

By the time you read this the Scottish Football season has come and gone, the Scottish Election has been put to bed and more recently the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will have been laid to rest for another year. Not forgetting that a similar fate has fallen to clubs and activities around the community as well as in the local church and soon, the last activity to end for the year will be the Sunday School Promotion Service. It must be summertime !

Although on the day I write this it is blowing such a strong wind outside, and I heard a few minutes ago on the Scottish News that MacBrayne's ferries to most smaller Scottish Islands are cancelled and high sided vehicles are restricted from our longest bridges. Who says this is summertime ?

I used to hear people in Ontario tell me that winter was not what it used to be and living here I hear folks tell me that summers are no longer what they once were. Mind you I do recall two very warm summers (only 2!) from my childhood. As a family, we holidayed when I was 8 in Tobermory and all I remember is being in the water every day and rarely having on anything other than swimming gear.

Another was in Arbroath with my grandparents and I had to be taken to hospital because of the severe sunburn I experienced on my upper arms. There was no sunscreen in those days !

Still, maybe once this magazine arrives in your hand the weather will begin to improve and we will be blessed with a wonderful warm summer that can be filled with your own special memories of family activities, new places to see and enjoy, and especially times of relaxation and refreshment.

During the weeks of summertime, the three Church of Scotland Congregations meet together and share worship and fellowship with each other. Listed opposite are the dates of those services. Enjoy your summertime and I pray that it will be one of those summers you will always remember.

Roy and Christine

Worship Diary

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:

Joint Summer Services
All services are at 11:00 am

- July 3 St Andrew's
- 10 St Andrew's
- 17 Kirkton
- 24 Kirkton (Communion)
- 31 United Reformed Church

- August 7 St John's
- 14 St John's

*
* **Sacrament of Holy Communion** *
* will be held on Sunday, 4 September 2011. *
*

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!





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

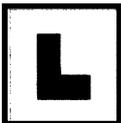
Helping the children of Pakistan and Guyana

Early this year we asked the folk in the Carluke Parish Churches if they would once again raise money for UNICEF's Jar of Grace appeal. You will remember that last year you raised just over £1700 to help the children of Mozambique and we received a Christmas card from UNICEF thanking us for being the top fund-raising group in 2010.

This year you have done even better. A total of £1759.34 has been sent to UNICEF but, as £953.20 of that qualifies for the Gift Aid scheme, the actual sum UNICEF will receive to help its work with the children of Pakistan and Guyana is **£1949.98!**

Thank you so much for your support and for your generosity.

CS



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DRIVE WELL WITH REV L

Holiday Club 2011



**St John's Church Halls
1 to 5 August
10:30 am-12:15 pm**

This year we are moving to St John's Church hall for the Holiday Club. Our theme is *Rocky's Plaice*, based in a chip shop. We will be following the antics of Salt and Sauce (**Andrew Cunningham and Karen Gillon**) as they lead the children through another week of fun, fellowship and fish! This year promises to be even more manic than ever with lots of messy fun, crafts, aerobics, songs and stories, all because we want to share the good, great, wonderful news that Jesus wants to know us and save us!

If by the first week in August you have some bored primary aged children lying around, please bring them to St John's where they will be gratefully received for a couple of hours (please ask permission from their parents' if the children do not belong to you!)

Last year's club was a great success and we really appreciated the support we received. Thank you, too, to all who have already donated towards this year's costs.

Could I please encourage everyone again to support this venture by praying for the children who come along, the leaders and helpers who give up their time and the parents of the children?

See you bright and early in August,

**Salt
(AC)**

I'd rather **SEE** a sermon
than hear one any day.
I'd rather you would walk with me
than merely show the way.
The eye is a better pupil
and more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing
but example's always clear.
I soon can learn to do it
if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action
but your tongue too fast may run.
The lectures you deliver
may be very wise and true
BUT
*I'd rather learn my lesson
by observing what you do!*

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steviesmith@hotmail.co.uk

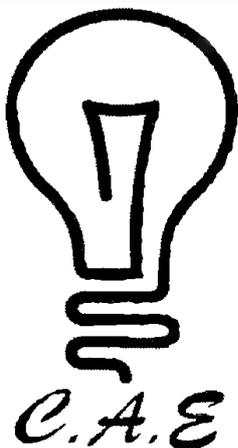
Presbytery Plan Review

After the instruction from the General Assembly that Presbyteries should begin an immediate review of Presbytery Plans, the Presbytery of Lanark formed a Presbytery Plan Review Group made up of a variety of members from all parts of Presbytery. This group has produced a Presbytery Plan which was presented to Presbytery and Congregations on 2 June in Kirkton Church. The plan is a comprehensive view of how the Church of Scotland is to operate at a reduced Ministerial Rate in Lanark Presbytery.

In the Carluke area the Review Group suggests that there would be a United Parish of Carluke, served by a complement of one full time Minister of Word and Sacrament and one full time and one part time (0.7 per cent of a full time) Presbytery Parish Workers (PPW—which can be a youth worker, pastoral assistant or an associate Minister of Word and Sacrament), so a United Parish with one Minister and PPWs may have more than one minister of Word and Sacrament.

The Review Group feels that serious discussion should take place to move to a United Parish of Carluke, taking effect as soon as possible. The present Ministers would continue to be equals within the United Parish, with a formula in place to allow the complement of one full time Minister, and 1.7 PPW to be in place as a Minister leaves. The Review Group believes that the Union resulting in the formation of the United Parish of Carluke could take effect by 2013.

The United Parish of Carluke will require to look at the existing buildings and develop their uses.



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Congregational Notes

Boys' Brigade

The Boys' Brigade session ended with parents night. The parents were treated to a marching display, followed by team games with a little help from parents and finally with a trampette and mat display, followed by presentations:

Anchor Boys

1st year achievement - **Arron Henderson**

2nd year achievement - **Greg Allan, Michael Taylor**

3rd year achievement & promotion to Junior Section - **Ryan Sloan**

Junior Section

1st year achievement - **Matthew Gillon, Jamie Stevenson**

2nd year achievement and promotion to Company Section - **David Henderson, Arron Lindsay, Arron Ramage, Jamie McAdam**

3rd year achievement, Gold Award promoted to Company Section - **Michael Stevenson, Adam Pollock, Calum Sloan, James Gillon.**

RA

Big Clean

The annual church big clean will be in July, date to be arranged. If you can help please speak to Helen Wyper.

HW

Guild

The Guild session ended with a day trip to Culzean Castle in Ayrshire. We had an enjoyable day walking through the gardens, watching an archery competition and seeing through the castle followed by a delicious high tea in the Horizon Hotel which was enjoyed by all.

HW

Eco-Congregation Scotland

Many Christians are concerned about the environment but don't know what they can do.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is an ecumenical charity which offers a programme to help Congregations understand environmental issues and make appropriate practical and spiritual responses.

St John's is already registered as an Eco-Congregation, and recently this activity has been part of the Property Team's responsibility. In line with many other Churches in South Lanarkshire the Management Team have decided that this activity should be the responsibility of a separate committee. As such we are looking for 4 or 5 (or maybe more) people who have an interest in progressing this work. Please note there is a lot of very useful information available to help with this activity.

What does it involve?

Basically how can St John's and the Congregation **REDUCE, REUSE OR RECYCLE**. There is no set or defined template for this activity and each Church can make their own contribution. This can be as simple as reducing paper wastage, recycling items or looking at larger programmes that will benefit St John's and ultimately the community.

How can You help?

If you would be interested in being part of this worthwhile activity and also playing your part in helping save the environment, then please contact **John Stratton** on **770543**

JS



www.ecocongregationscotland.org

I'd rather *SEE* a sermon

I'd rather *SEE* a sermon
than hear one any day.
I'd rather you would walk with me
than merely show the way.
The eye is a better pupil
and more willing than the ear.
Fine counsel is confusing
but example's always clear.
I soon can learn to do it
if you'll let me see it done.
I can watch your hands in action
but your tongue too fast may run.
The lectures you deliver
may be very wise and true
BUT
*I'd rather learn my lesson
by observing what you do!*

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Dawn

Dawn creeps in and leaves
the night sky behind.

"I see rabbits," says the dawn
and the clouds are sleeping.
"Wake up. It is morning,"
says the dawn. "I am tired."

I look up and see that the sky
is red and yellow and the sun
goes over the hill.

How lovely the Earth is!

Ann McCutcheon.

Christian Aid



We believe in life before death

Christian Aid Working in Nicaragua and Carluke

Organised in the wake of World War II, by Christians moved by the plight of refugees from that conflict, Christian Aid has carried on helping those in need ever since. Although it provides emergency aid when required, its main purpose is summed up by the slogan:

Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for life.

One of Christian Aid's partner, **Soppexcca** (pronounced so-pecks-ka), is an organisation with a vision. It is passionately committed to helping poor Nicaraguan coffee farmers beat poverty.

Daring to dream the impossible

Ten years ago, when Soppexcca was established, this seemed impossible. But now Soppexcca is a thriving collective of small cooperatives which helps farmers produce good-quality coffee, market it and put funds back into their own communities. It works with communities to understand their needs and empowers them to make their own visions a reality.

The children of coffee farmers in Jinotega, Nicaragua learn essential skills from Christian Aid partner Soppexcca, to help them work their way out of poverty. They are being educated, learning about the coffee production process and planting trees to protect the environment. For the people of Jinotega, Nicaragua, coffee isn't just a caffeine kick - it's a means of transforming the lives of entire communities

Last year Christian Aid Week collectors raised an average of £46 each - this pays for two sheep for a coffee farmer in Nicaragua. The sheep help clear the weeds that grow around the coffee plants.

Jose Emilio Echavarria, Cooperative President, Los Alpes, Nicaragua said :

“Thank you for all you do. With support from Christian Aid we were able to create a fund, which we used to build a bridge”

Gustavo Adolfo Talavera, an illiterate coffee farmer, had few prospects until Soppexcca gave him a loan, allowing him to expand his farm and build a small and environmentally sound processing plant. He had a dream of his children being able to read and write, and be educated. His dream became a reality when Soppexcca helped members of the community get enough resources together, and a group of parents built a school themselves. Ten years ago, education would have seemed an impossible dream for Gustavo. But Soppexcca is enabling his community to dream dreams - and then to do what seems to be impossible.

And we here in Carluke are a part of that movement which is transforming lives. We gave our time, money and energy during Christian Aid Week when we looked beyond ourselves and enabled others to do what seemed impossible.

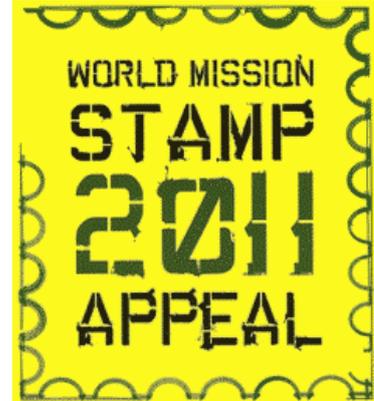
Provisional figures indicate £10,257 was raised during Christian Aid Week, through the offering at the CA Service, proceeds from the cafe, door-to-door collections and donations. Goods made and sold in the weeks prior to Christian Aid Week (£200) and a donation of £1500 from CHOICES brings the total to £11,957, an increase of £221 on last year. This is the highest amount ever raised during CA Week. Thank you so much for your part in this achievement. No one church could have raised this amount of money on its own, but by working together we have made it happen.

And so we are part of the story of transformation which is unfolding right now in Nicaragua.

IN

Stamp Appeal 2011

Last year, the sum of £2040 was raised by selling your used stamps. Thanks to all who contributed, and to those who have already started this year's collection. This year, our target is £3000.



Please bring all your used stamps and put them in the collection box in the vestibule. The stamps need to be removed from the envelope carefully. Last year, about 10% of the stamps handed in could not be sold, so losing a potential £200 or more.

Stamps should not be defaced or torn, and should have at least 1/4 inch of envelope all round. If you are unable to cut the stamps out yourself, we would happily do this for you.

GS/JSD

This stamp could not be used; it was cut out with too little of the envelope round it:



These stamps could not be used; they were torn, or damaged:



This stamp is perfect; it is undamaged and has a good margin of the envelope all round it:



World Mission

Kwai River Christian Hospital

Following a car accident, the Murrays have all recovered from the minor injuries sustained. Their main concern was the damage to Ray's teeth, which appears to be correcting itself without dental interference! The dentist will review the situation in 6 months and in the meantime, the family thanks the Lord for their healing.

The hospital's Business Manager left at the end of February and two applicants were interviewed for the post. The successful candidate, not being 35 years old yet could not, according to the rules, be appointed as BM. To get round this issue, the person was appointed as Assistant BM and will do the job under supervision from Scott.

Nok, who has been working in administration in the hospital has been appointed as Assistant Hospital Director to Scott as the Director.

Scott wrote in his May Newsletter that several pieces of equipment had broken down, including both autoclaves (essential to sterilise instruments) and an anaesthetic machine which he had previously mended using chewing gum! In this case, the breakdown was a different part of the machine. The company fixing the anaesthetic machine, offered to mend it for free! They had the spare part but are no longer dealing with that model of machine. The international medical charity, *Médecines sans Frontières* is in the process of closing down a clinic and has donated a brand new gas-powered autoclave. The water pump broke down in April and the hospital were offered, as a replacement, an unused 3 year old pump at an 80% discount!

Scott reports some amazing successes in surgery: One guy hacked/ stabbed in the right chest, arrived with his right lung sticking out of his chest. It had taken him 18 hours to reach them through the jungle. He arrested on the OR table but was resuscitated and Scott quickly put his lung back into the chest, stitched him up telling his family, to expect the worse, but hope for the best. He walked out of hospital 8 days later, not even a wound infection!! A 19 year old,

World Mission (Continued)

Karen soldier had stood on a landmine and lost his lower leg. Four friends carried him for 5 days across the border to reach the hospital. Maggots were teeming in the wound which was necrotic, foul smelling and septic. Scott had to amputate what was left of his leg but he made a full recovery and walked home with his friends 2 weeks later (on crutches) with no wound infection either! A 10 year old boy was run over by an ox cart. He had a huge wound with 4" bone sticking out covered in mud and dirt. He had been travelled 20 hours to reach the hospital. At the time of writing his newsletter, Scott reported that he was recovering, albeit with a slight infection in his wound. This did not stop him running around the hospital with his crutches listening to the OPD evangelism every day!

Christine Stone in Nepal

Christine Stone writes about her continuing work in Nepal. She had visited an area in the North of Gorka district in December 2010 and felt that God was calling her to return for an extended, 3 month stay. The area is classified as a "Restricted Area" but Christine, having a resident's visa would be allowed to go, but first she required a letter of permission. She had to visit government offices over a period of many days until, at last, she obtained the letter. On presenting it to the Immigration Office, she learned that she would require to pay \$25 per DAY of her trip and, sadly, decided she could not afford to go. Later, she changed her mind and reckoned that she could afford to go for 2 weeks. In the end, she was charged only £100 for the fortnight.

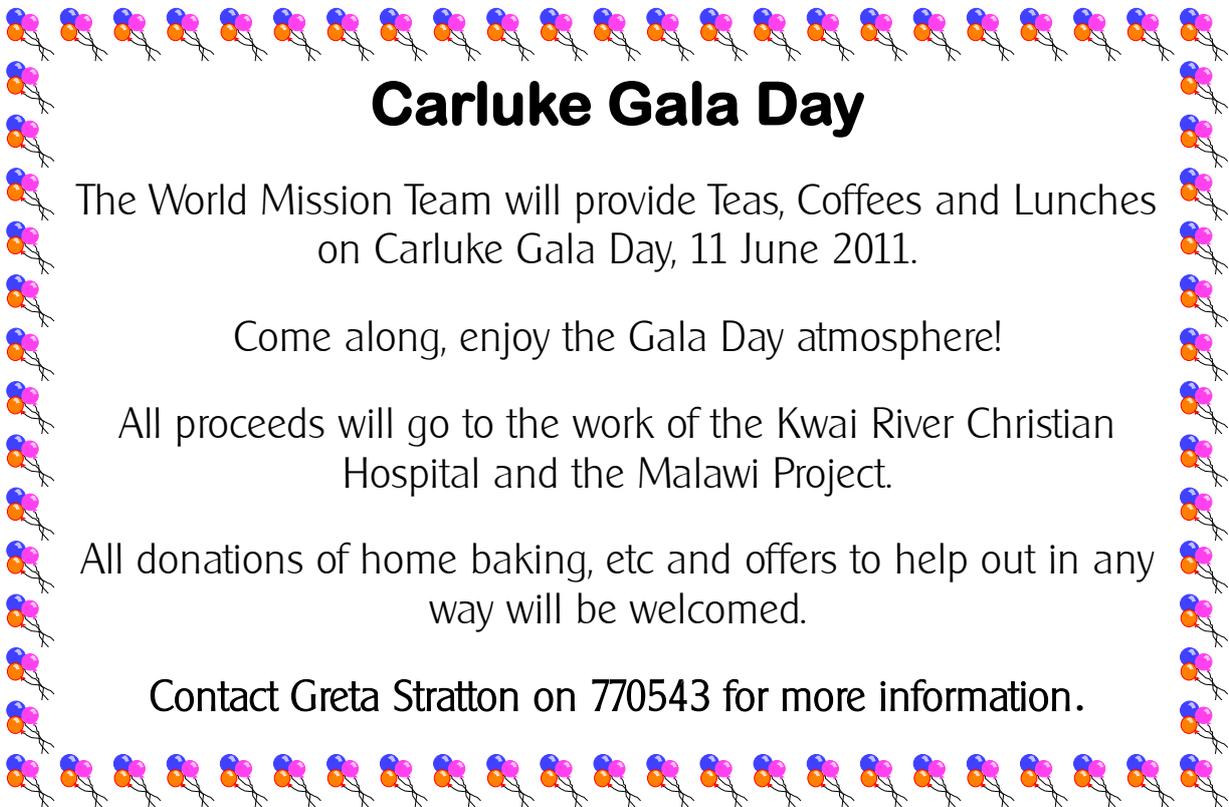
Christine reports that United Vision Nepal has been busy building a school in Crak village. There have been lots of problems but it is coming on and should be finished end of June. She intends to visit it together with one or two other schools.

Hez, Christine's faithful canine companion of 9 years was ill and had to see the vet. Although the vet saved his life, Hez did not recover fully and, after some thought, Christine decided that the kindest thing would be to end his life. So he is buried under a tree in Kath-

mandu International Study Centre grounds. Christine thanks God for his good life and all he meant to her but his loss is devastating and very, very hard to bear.

Room to Read (a literacy charity - www.roomtoread.org) have lots going on and Christine is writing and advising and doing lots of trainings for them, while Restless Development (www.restlessdevelopment.org) is about to have lots of young people all of whom will need training of which Christine will do a small part. So despite political nothingness and threatened trouble, and much wrong or poor in education, there are good things happening, and she believes in a God of hope that does not disappoint.

Christine ended her newsletter by thanking all for their caring and interest in her work.



Carluka Gala Day

The World Mission Team will provide Teas, Coffees and Lunches on Carluka Gala Day, 11 June 2011.

Come along, enjoy the Gala Day atmosphere!

All proceeds will go to the work of the Kwai River Christian Hospital and the Malawi Project.

All donations of home baking, etc and offers to help out in any way will be welcomed.

Contact Greta Stratton on 770543 for more information.

Contributions for the next issue of St John's News, or for the website, can be submitted to the editor at any time but no later than **Sunday 21 September 2011**.

Contributions may be hand-written, typed or emailed to **editor@carluke-stjohns.org.uk**

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