

Pastor Roy Writes...

Dear Friends,

It was different and indeed strange being on the other side of fit and well for such an extended period of time. From Easter Sunday until the second week in August, I found myself totally unable to function in ministry. If I was in Canada, they would have said it was my 'mental health' that had taken a beating. I needed a time of rest, care and recuperation.

During this time I learned what many people do on a daily basis in this community when they want to see a doctor. Getting up at 7:15am in order to be in the surgery in the Health Centre by 7.30am to ensure that you are in line to see a doctor. I had many an enjoyable conversation with fascinating people I would otherwise never have met, many who make that journey regularly. I also had great sympathy for others who were obviously quite ill, but had to make such a trek to get assistance.

I also greatly appreciated 'getting away' and enjoying places and scenery as well as having experiences that in themselves were healing for me. During that time we returned to Canada for a few weeks, and as a result both of us greatly benefitted from a healing dose of vitamin 'D' as the sun shone strong and brightly.

However what I needed most simply took time, but also prayer. It was only towards the end of July when a Church of Scotland minister in Broughty Ferry prayed over me, that from that moment on I knew increasingly every day, that like a curtain being pulled further open day after day, light was returning into my life. I could open my Bible again, I could hesitatingly begin to pray on my own once more, I could even venture into my own study and begin to believe that the desire to be in ministry was still there, and that my own 'dark night of the soul' was lifting from me.

As we now move forward into the Autumn season of the life of St. John's I look forward to a season of worship, fellowship, learning and discovering who we all are in Christ Jesus.

Wherever you are as you read this, may you know that Christine and I send to you our fullest Christian affection and love, and we pray God's greatest blessing upon your spiritual as well as physical health, and that of your family.

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:

<p>October Harvest Thanksgiving <i>Date to be confirmed</i></p>
<p>Sun 13 November Armistice Day 10:45 am Open Air Service at Market Place, including 2 minute silence at 11:00 am. 11:30 am Morning Worship in St John's</p>

*
* **Sacrament of Holy Communion** *
* will be held on Sunday, 4 December 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!



Holiday Club 2011

Carluke

This year the holiday club returned to St John's Church hall after a number of years in Crawforddyke Primary School. The holiday club was based on Scripture Union's resource Rocky's Plaice - a chip shop, owned by Rocky who held "Chip Shop Church" every day! . The children learned about the early Christian Church with stories from the first few books of Aócts. Each day there was a key word and object to help the children focus on the stories, for example, the first day the key word was Hope and the object was a boomerang - can you work out which verse these might relate to?

115 children registered across the week, with an average of 90 attending each morning. Most encouragingly there was a large number of young folk in the P7 & S1 age group - so much so that they had their group sessions in a separate hall. The children were enthusiastic and very much open to the message.

As well as the 90 children each day there were a further 40 team members involved in key roles: registering the children, controlling the IT/AV equipment, leading the groups, preparing the snacks, performing the drama and presenting the club. One very encouraging aspect of the leadership was that the majority of group leaders were under the age of 20 and for the first time, more experienced (old) leaders took a back seat and allowed the young folk to take the lead.

The week culminated in a parents' night on the Friday. This was well attended by parents, friends and family of the children. One parent whose son had attended during the week felt so compelled to thank the leaders, that she stood up at the end of the evening and spoke to all in attendance of how much she had appreciated the club and how much her son had enjoyed it.



Jedburgh

Following on from the successful first mission last year, the minister and Kirk session of Jedburgh Old and Trinity invited the Carluke team back to the town. 14 leaders headed to the beautiful Borders town of Jedburgh for another week of holiday club mission the week following the Carluke club.

The Jedburgh holiday club ran for two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon. 54 children registered across the week with an average of 25 attending in the morning and 30 in the afternoon. This was almost double the number of children who attended last year. The morning sessions had similar content to the Carluke club. In the afternoons the children enjoyed various activities, e.g. baking, puppet making, BIG crafts and games.

The team was made up of 10 young (aged 20 and under), and 4 post-young leaders. They ate, sang, laughed and played together in what was an exhausting, exhilarating and Spirit filled week of mission!

Thank You

Both missions could not have gone ahead without the support of numerous people in Carluke and Jedburgh. As well as people who gave up their time to help work with the children, there were a number of people who supported the work by donating money, food, craft materials, hospitality and administrative skills. Although hard to quantify, the missions were also supported by prayer. To all who helped in anyway, including parents who smiled and encouraged the leaders, a big Thank-you!

Holiday Club 2011 (cont)

Some comments from the Young Leaders:

Carlyn: A wonderful week as usual. The kids loved every minute of it. The new hall was just as good as the old one.

Kaitlin: My first ever time. Great experience. A big well done to Karen, Andrew, Laura and Amy - and to everyone else.

Katie: Great week again. Enjoyed leading group for first time.

Robert: Second year and greatly enjoyed it. Hall a bit small. Re-think glitter pens for younger kids!

Megan: Brilliant week. Can't wait to do it all again next week!

Jennifer: Children were happy and participated in all of the crafts.

Laura: Good week, really energetic.

Katie: Brilliant! Just like before had loads of fun! Can't wait to come back next year.

Ruth: Really enjoyed holiday club. Kids had a great time. Like to do it again.

Laura: Drama "better than the Disney Channel!" Definitely do it again next year.

Bethany: First year and really enjoyed it. Coming back next year. Really good.

Nadine: Leaders all lovely and really helpful.

Amy: 3rd year here and it just gets better and better.

Stuart: An amazing time at holiday club.

Cara-Lynn: Enjoyed getting to know the children. Good to work with a different age group this year.

Lauren: A successful week.

Graham: Week was good. Kids especially enjoyed Salt and Vinegar and Salt and Sauce.

Caitlin: 3rd time and loved it just as much. Leading group was daunting but so many people were willing to help. Off to Jedburgh next week!

Fraser: Move from Crawforddyke had no effect on numbers. As many as 16 primary 7's which is has not happened before. Kids had a great time and for the leaders, it was - as always - a perfect excuse to act like complete "weans" at times!

Youth Church

On Sunday, 19th June we had our Promotion Service and I know from the wonderful feedback that I have had how much you enjoyed the involvement of the children during this service and a special mention must go to **Mirran Struthers** who showed so much confidence standing in the pulpit. It is fantastic to see the enthusiasm of the children and this certainly gives all Youth Church staff a huge boost. We had six children promoted on to different departments and hope that they all settle in well and enhance each department by bringing along their own individual personalities.

Sunday, 21st August was our 'Round Up' Sunday when we welcomed some of our children back and we hope to welcome many more over the next few weeks. I would like to welcome **Amy Wyper** back to help within our Junior department and congratulate her on the birth of her beautiful son, Jamie, who has already made several appearances in crèche. **Gayle Kerr** has very kindly agreed to join our crèche staff and I am delighted that **Christine Cowieson** and **Gillian Forrest** have agreed to help out on occasion with **Tracy Gilhooley** in our Link group. I also hope that it won't be too long until we can welcome **Katie Watson** to join our Youth Church staff.

At the start of this new session I would ask for your continued support and prayers for our children and for all those involved in Youth Church. God Bless.

Janice Ord

Drum Lessons

All levels and ages catered for

Contact Stevie Smith

07785 354965

steviesmith@hotmail.co.uk

Congregational Notes

New Session for Church Groups

Meetings of the 3rd Carluke Boys' Brigade Company started up for the new session on Friday 2 September. Any boys interested in joining any section should come along any Friday at 6:30 pm, or phone Richard Allan on 771679.

Adults interested in becoming BB leaders are also invited to contact Richard to discuss further details.

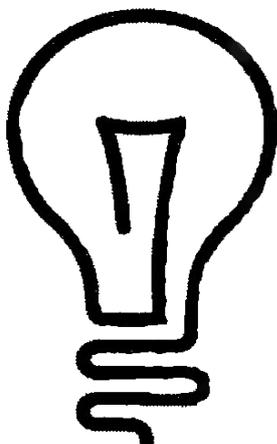
Wild Goose Quigong and Tai Chi started on Monday, 5 September. Other groups, which took a break over the summer period will recommence meetings over the next few weeks, including:

The Young Women's Group on Tuesday, 4 October

The Guild on Wednesday, 5 October

SHINE

SHINE Youth Music Theatre would like to say a HUGE "Thank You" to everyone who gave so generously towards their Billy Elliot London Trip. All who went had a wonderful experience; it was amazing to watch our young people perform in London's West End.



C.A.E

CHRIS ALLAN ELECTRICIAN

Your Local Approved Electrician

All Aspects of Electrical Work Covered

No Job Too Small!!

CALL NOW

Tel: 01555 891425 Mobile: 07824 553809

email: www.chrisallanelectrician.co.uk

Letter from Canada

Last Remembrance Day, two poems, from young Canadian poets, were included in our Sunday Service. Pastor Roy wrote to both of them informing them and one, who hails from Nova Scotia, **Shea Goreham**, responded. This is what she wrote:

Dear Rev. Roy Cowieson,

I realize this is very, very delayed I hope you believe in the saying "better later than never".

I received your letter last year around November/December informing me that you used my poem during your Remembrance Day Ceremony and I just wanted to tell you that I am honored to be a part of your service. It put a huge smile on my face and the warmest feeling in my heart to know that you found my poem good enough to read across the gorgeous ocean in a place I can only hope to visit one day. Rereading your letter tonight put the same feeling inside me despite the cold air blowing into my bedroom window. I hope your service went beautifully and many memories, hopes and dreams were thought about and thanks went towards the previous and present soldiers fighting for our safety.

I deeply apologize for the late acknowledgement. I meant to send a letter sooner but time slipped away from me and school started to get busy. I would never have even remembered had I not decided to clean my room and look through my bag of letters, gifts and mementos from the Legion and others from my trip to Ottawa. I guess that's why it's a good thing to go through your things and purge what is not needed or what is needed to be remembered.

I hope you are well spiritually, mentally and physically. I hope the weather has been beautiful in Scotland the past year and I hope everything continues (or begins) to go smoothly. Enjoy the rest of your summer and may we never forget what Remembrance Day, or any other Holiday for that matter, is all about. I wish you the best of luck in everything you do.

Sincerely,

Shea Goreham

God and the Geese

There was once a man who didn't believe in God, and he didn't hesitate to let others know how he felt about religion and religious holidays.

His wife, however, did believe, and she raised their children to also have faith in God and Jesus, despite his disparaging comments.

One snowy Eve, his wife was taking their children to service in the farm community in which they lived. They were to talk about Jesus' birth. She asked him to come, but he refused.

"That story is nonsense!" he said. "Why would God lower Himself to come to Earth as a man? That's ridiculous!"

So she and the children left, and he stayed home.

A while later, the winds grew stronger and the snow turned into a blizzard. As the man looked out the window, all he saw was a blinding snowstorm. He sat down to relax before the fire for the evening. Then he heard a loud thump. Something had hit the window. He looked out, but couldn't see more than a few feet.

When the snow let up a little, he ventured outside to see what could have been beating on his window. In the field near his house he saw a flock of wild geese. Apparently they had been flying south for the winter when they got caught in the snowstorm and couldn't go on. They were lost and stranded on his farm, with no food or shelter. They just flapped their wings and flew around the field in low circles, blindly and aimlessly. A couple of them had flown into his window, it seemed.

The man felt sorry for the geese and wanted to help them. The barn would be a great place for them to stay, he thought. It's warm and safe; surely they could spend the night and wait out the storm. So he walked over to the barn and opened the doors wide, then watched and waited, hoping they would notice the open barn and go inside.

But the geese just fluttered around aimlessly and didn't seem to notice the barn or realize what it could mean for them. The man tried to get their attention, but that just seemed to scare them, and they

moved further away. He went into the house and came with some bread, broke it up, and made a bread crumb trail leading to the barn. They still didn't catch on.

Now he was getting frustrated. He got behind them and tried to shoo them toward the barn, but they only got more scared and scattered in every direction except toward the barn.

Nothing he did could get them to go into the barn where they would be warm and safe.

"Why don't they follow me?!" he exclaimed. "Can't they see this is the only place where they can survive the storm?"

He thought for a moment and realized that they just wouldn't follow a human. "If only I were a goose, then I could save them," he said out loud. Then he had an idea. He went into barn, got one of his own geese, and carried it in his arms as he circled around behind the flock of wild geese.

He then released it. His goose flew through the flock and straight into the barn -- and one-by-one, the other geese followed it to safety. He stood silently for a moment as the words he had spoken a few minutes earlier replayed in his mind: "If only I were a goose, then I could save them!" Then he thought about what he had said to his wife earlier. "Why would God want to be like us? That's ridiculous!"

Suddenly it all made sense. That is what God had done. We were like the geese--blind, lost, perishing. God had His Son become like us so He could show us the way and save us.

As the winds and blinding snow died down, his soul became quiet and pondered this wonderful thought. Suddenly he understood why Christ had come. Years of doubt and disbelief vanished with the passing storm. He fell to his knees in the snow, and prayed his first prayer:

"Thank You, God, for coming in human form to get me out of the storm!"

Due to the lack of water, some schools and hospitals have been forced to close and people are travelling miles to collect drinking water.

Christian Aid's partners in Ethiopia, Kenya and Somalia are closely monitoring the situation and scaling up their activities to provide essential assistance, such as:

- providing emergency water tanks and distributing water to villages experiencing the worst of the drought conditions.
- constructing additional water points and maintaining existing boreholes.
- paying people a market rate for their remaining cattle so they do not lose everything
- distributing animal feed to protect livestock that are so crucial to people's livelihoods.

They are working in emergency relief camps, providing urgently needed life-saving measures, such as:

- ensuring the administration of newly arriving refugees. This will enable each family's specific needs to be assessed, ensuring severely malnourished children get to feeding centres.
- providing water and food rations to new arrivals in refugee camps, plus giving them items such as plastic sheeting for shelter, jerry cans, mosquito nets and cooking utensils.
- providing food for families who currently are not reached by the World Food Programme response
- providing extra nutrition for malnourished children and pregnant women

Yet again Christian Aid, working through its partners, is at the heart of this humanitarian crisis, helping people of all faiths and none.

IN

Poem

I was shocked, confused, bewildered
As I entered Heaven's door,
Not by the beauty of it all,
Nor the lights or its decor.

But it was the folks in Heaven
Who made me sputter and gasp--
The thieves, the liars, the sinners,
The alcoholics and the trash.

There stood the kid from seventh grade
Who swiped my lunch money twice.
Next to him was my old neighbour
Who never said anything nice.

Bob, who I always thought
Was rotting away in hell,
Was sitting pretty on cloud nine,
Looking incredibly well.

I nudged Jesus, 'What's the deal?
I would love to hear Your take.
How'd all these sinners get up here?
God must've made a mistake.

'And why is everyone so quiet,
So sombre - give me a clue.'
'Hush, child,' He said,
'they're all in shock.
No one thought they'd be seeing you.'

Bible Society Report

As this is being typed, the People's Bible Project to celebrate 400 years of the King James bible is well under way. Edinburgh Castle, the birthplace of King James, made a fitting place for the launch, which was led by Fiona Hyslop, Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Culture and External Affairs. Fiona said, "I think this will help connect people again with the bible in an easily accessible way." The party at Edinburgh Castle celebrated Scottish people who are living courageously with various challenges in life.

The most recently written verses were 2 Chronicles Ch 21 v 15,16, by Elizabeth Thompson of Shotts.

An invitation is extended to as many people as possible to join up with family, friends, fellow Elders, Choir members, Guild members, Scouts and Girls and Boys Brigade members, etc. etc. and to take their place in history, writing two given verses, at Aldi's Car Park, Carlisle on Tues, Oct 11th 10.00am to 6.00pm. These will become available on line and also kept for posterity in one huge hand-written bible.

As well as our participation the Bible Society also seek our prayers. Please pray:-

That all technology will work well.

That there will be enough local volunteers in all locations.

That there will be huge interest in the general public to write two verses.

That copying out the scripture will have a profound impact on all those taking part.

That there will be great conversations taking place from this initiative.

That many thousands will be drawn closer to God because of the People's Bible.

For further information see www.thepeople'sbible.org or copies of Alive and Active, the magazine of the Scottish Bible Society, in the hall vestibule.

May we all read and understand the bible, which is our heritage, whichever version we prefer. May we remember those who live in ravaged countries like Ethiopia who, in spite of everything, are crying out for bibles.

World Mission

Kwai River Christian Hospital

In his July Newsletter, Scott Murray reported that the hospital had had a host of visitors from all around the world. These visitors had come to see what they are up to, help treat patients or offer help in other areas. It appears that the hospital's reputation is improving as they are receiving patients from further afield with ever more complicated conditions to treat. Visiting doctors are constantly amazed at what Scott and his staff have to face and cope with. Do pray for each of the volunteers. About 50% are not Christian. Pray they would leave challenged about their own spiritual condition, not just about the work at the hospital.

A new assistant business manager was appointed and is showing great promise, being young, bright and thorough in all he does. An office administrator was also appointed and is fitting in well. Nok is training 4 new nurse aides. At the end of their 3 month course, they will be allocated to various departments, according to need. Existing nurse aides are being trained to help in the operating room to support the 2 regular staff there. An experienced nurse recently applied to work for a short time at the hospital and appeared to be the answer to prayer.

The Murrays have now been at KRCH for a year. During that time, Scott has had the less enjoyable task of maintaining discipline. Prior to Scott's arrival, procedures had been allowed to become lax; regulations were often not followed; staff absenteeism was bad. Scott feels that the hospital has come a long way in the past year, but he still has some tough situations to deal with. Please pray that sensitivity and fairness will prevail. Despite all, Scott feels that some staff will leave.

On the family front, the children have had a good year at school and were looking forward to returning during August for the new session.

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 20 November 2011.

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

The magazines of the three churches of the Parish Grouping reach almost 1500 homes in Carluke and surrounding area

To place a small ad, contact the editor, George Reid on 661742, or by email.