

Pastor Roy Writes...

Dear Friends,

I write this from Guelph, Ontario, about 40 mins, west of Toronto. We left Carlisle the day after my birthday bound again for Canada where, this time in Ontario, the temperature has been in the upper 20's and for four days climbed beyond 30 degrees.

I have to inform you that it was not a birthday that I did need to escape from. Just another very ordinary one with the number 9 at the end. That informs you that next year a **big one** is looming! Ageing is a funny thing, often made more funny by the information that come across the Internet to tell you that '*you know you are getting older when.....*' For example, you know you are getting older when an 'all nighter' is when you have not needed to get up for the bathroom. Or you know you are getting older when at the breakfast table, all you hear is snap, crackle and pop, and that is just your bones, not the cereal !

I did read of one man who as he aged looked less closely at his image in the bathroom mirror each day. Until one day he looked and then took a second look to realise to his horror he had more hair on his eyebrows than on his head. How do that happen ?

Let us not forget though that folks who are maturing are extremely valuable. They have silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their gall bladders, and often feel that they have lead in their feet. Yet it is what they bring in the wisdom of the ages, collectively, that makes them wise, often beyond their years.

I say all of this because, on my return from holiday, I began my final year as minister and pastor of St John's. When Christine and I arrived here in 2007 it was only for a period of 6 years that would take me to the advanced age of 70. In May of 2013 I will retire.

It is my hope and prayer that this final year for me will be one that will better equip all of you for an exciting future as God's faithful people willing and ready as ever to serve Him, and worship Him, who alone is worthy of all the best that we can bring and offer to him.

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* (all at St John's except where indicated):

Summer 2012

It is the custom of the Churches of Scotland in Carlisle, together with the EU church, to unite for worship during the summer. These united services will take place, at 11:00 am as follows:

- | | | |
|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| June 1 | St Andrew's Church | Rev Iain Cunningham |
| 8 | St Andrew's Church | Rev Helen Jamieson |
| 15 | Kirkton Church | Rev Roy Cowieson |
| 22 | United Reform Church | Rev Irene John |
| 29 | <i>Service of Holy Communion</i> | |
| | Kirkton Church | Rev Roy Cowieson |
| August 5 | <i>Summer Holiday Club Service</i> | |
| | St John's Church | Revs Helen Jamieson and Roy Cowieson |
| 12 | St John's Church | Rev Iain Cunningham |

Worship leader may be subject to change

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Sacrament of Holy Communion
will be held on Sunday, 2 September 2012.

Youth Church

It is now three years since I was asked if I would take over the position of Sunday School Superintendent and after a lot of prayer and persuasion (mainly from my mum), I agreed. I have enjoyed every minute working with the children and they never cease to amaze me with their stories but the time has come for me to pass this privilege over to someone else. Also, after many years, Wilma Cringles and Shona Keay have decided to take a very well earned break from Youth Church and I would like to say a special thank you to both of them for their help over the years and especially during my time as Superintendent. I know that they, like me, are really looking forward to having the opportunity to stay in church and enjoy Pastor Roy's sermons.

We currently have around 45 children on the Youth Church role and on Sunday, 24th June we will hold our promotion service when 17 children will move up through the departments. Also, at this time the children and leaders will take the opportunity to tell the congregation about each department and their activities throughout the year.

Finally I would like to thank all Youth Church staff for their dedication and commitment and wish them well for the future and would also like to thank the congregation for their encouragement and support. This is very much appreciated by everyone involved in Youth Church.

God Bless.

Janice Ord
Youth Church Superintendent

Christine Stone

Christine sent us a newsletter in March, just too late to be included in the last issue of St John's News.

Dear Friends

Amidst the rough rocks and boulders and dark, smoky houses of Crak village above Bihi the new school building built with much effort by **United Vision Nepal (UVN)**, shines with its white painted walls, its three bright, insulated classrooms and ...Oh wonders!...three toilets.

A lovely older Christian gentleman, Uttam, is living in the village and running literacy class for ladies and one or two men. He has already learned some local language and is well liked. The official handing over of the school to the management committee was Feb 26 and no special guests came which I think was good.

The trip was eventful. From UVN two went ahead and I came with Dev, their finance man, and Mike. The track is often narrow and cut in the cliff and Mike banged his head on a rock, and soon became sick and dizzy. He struggled on to Crak but next day felt that was it and we called a helicopter. News got round and soon a man on a stretcher was brought. He broke his leg 2 months ago and it was all infected and gangrenous. The helicopter kept circling looking where to land as Crak is on the side of a steep cliff. But at this time of year fields are bare and it finally came down on the far side of the village so the man was carried over all the boulders....and then the pilot said he couldn't take the stretcher and off it flew with Mike, and the stretcher returned to a house. We felt near to tears and I was saying that whatever we must get him out. That day too we had had a lovely 'service' of Bible study and prayer with a Christian family in Bihi and they gave us a meal.

Next day was the ceremony. Such fun! All UVN people were arrayed in borrowed Tibetan clothes and joined in the dancing. Children along with the local government trainer cut the ribbons and lit the candles, speeches in Nepali translated into local language, and tea and biscuits from Kathmandu for all. I left then as I had to get back quickly for training in the south, so I missed the next day's events. Steve back in Kathmandu had contacted churches in UK and got plenty of money promised, a big helicopter went for the gentleman, his wife and a translator (a lo-

cal man speaking Nepali) and he was taken to the orthopaedic hospital in Kathmandu where they took him as charity case so his operation was free, and they thought they could save the leg. He had the operation 3 days later and seems to be doing well. It will be about 3 months before he can walk back. Now he needs the healing of the good news of forgiveness and salvation.

As I've said before the teachers up there don't stay and do much, but I met several going up whom I'd trained in May 2011 and they and the government trainer Rajendra were open to me doing more trainings. I'd been hoping I'd renew contacts and so I might get there again in May. It is all changing as it is being promoted as a trekking route and a hydro power station is to be built so lodges are being built and children begging for sweets. Not Bihi and Crak though as they are up on the side of a cliff on a route to nowhere.

Nim (my dog) loved his trip, and the day long freedom to run up and down the track. He managed all the mules by keeping as far as possible away from them and by bridge number four he was crossing like a veteran instead of creeping across with fear and trembling.

Now I am off to Pokhara and beyond to a group of 10 small primary schools, with quite good buildings with support from the World Pheasant Association. I've done several trainings for the teachers but now I want to visit each school and get to know teachers own thoughts and help them to set small goals in each subject to improve the way they teach so that there will be results. This will take 2 or 3 weeks of March and then later visits to see how they are doing. Spring is here and my favourite time of year as I await the return of the cuckoos. We even get an extra half hour of electricity per day.

And it is great that UMN has Church of Scotland folk once more, Malcolm and Catti Ramsey. They are a very welcome addition to my house fellowship, and will be doing pastoral care for UMN.

Thank you for sharing this. And as we approach the glory of Easter lets rejoice that we are called to persevere so that we may share in Christ's glory for ever.

With my love

Christine

KRCH News - March 2012

In his March Newsletter, **Scott Murray** reported that teams of local church members had been set up that will join the hospital chaplain and visit and pray with all the patients that are in the hospital.

In February, building started on staff accommodation. The builder is a local Christian elder whom Scott knows well. Work was expected to last 4 months and so should be finished before the Murrays visit Scotland during the summer.

Two new projects of the Kwai River Christian Hospital were both formally approved by the KRCH Board of Directors. A safe house is to be prepared for mentally and physically handicapped and displaced migrants with no abode. Candlelight is a community based project for children with handicaps. These projects are going to require a lot of time restructuring and determining how to make both places run better and more efficiently. Already a tricky situation had to be dealt with, in which a staff member at the safe house had to be disciplined for beating the patients.

Nok completed her 5 week course and now has a certificate to be a TESOL (*Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages*) teacher. She is very proud of it and plans to find some way to use her new skills locally. She does however, spend 3-4 evenings a week teaching local school kids Thai, Maths and other subjects as well as volunteers who want to learn Thai. But as yet, not much chance to teach English!

The hospital sponsored a local Karen student through 4 years of nursing school in Bangkok. She has yet to pass her National Thai Nursing exams which she planned to sit in May, having just finished her nursing college exams only.

Finally, with Easter term about to finish and holiday beginning, Scott reported that the kids had done well in their exams with As in most of their subjects. Where they get the time to study is not clear, as they are usually out playing soccer, basketball, volleyball or in Shane's case Taekwondo who just managed to get his (first) white belt last week.

Information Update Form

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 back page for the address*).

You can also email your details to 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: _____

Christian Aid Week 2012

And so Christian Aid Week is over for another year! We never cease to be amazed by the spontaneous response of our five participating churches to the call for time, talent and money. In response to Christian Aid's plea of 'Let's give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty', volunteers from each congregation willingly gave their time during Christian Aid Week going door to door, in quite unpleasant weather, with their collecting cans, seeking donations - £3834 was raised.

In addition to the tasty soups, salads and mouth watering bacon and sausage rolls, an array of delicious home baking was provided each day to tempt our customers in the cafe - £5813 was drawn in. Talent was also evident in the attractive knitting stall provided each day by Margaret Gillespie, the total proceeds of which, £480, were handed over daily to the cafe - thank you Margaret. Anne Forrest and Mary Ramage are to be congratulated on raising £200 from the sale of preserves over a period of time leading up to CA week. There were others who made and sold lemon curd and Easter chicks (of the knitted variety!), raising £101. To those who gave cash donations, and they were many, we say thank you.

The week was started with a lively and meaningful service, during which £436 was offered from the congregation and Netta Allardice's Traidcraft stall saw steady business throughout the week. Earlier in the year, we received gifts of £100 each from St Andrew's lunch gatherings and St John's Young Women's Group. The offering at our Christmas Festival of Praise was £496. Last, but not least, we continue to be grateful to **CHOICES** for a generous donation of £1500.

Your time, talent and money all combine and enable an estimated £12,580 (subject to audit) to be sent to Christian Aid HQ - £63 more than last year. We know it can be difficult to fundraise in these tough economic times, but your support and hard work is never taken for granted. Every penny raised will make a difference to poor communities around the world.

Thank you for making Christian Aid Week 2012 the best week ever!

IN

SoundRoutes

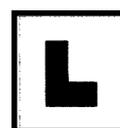
If you like the music of The Who, The Dave Clark Five, Jimmy Cliff, Johnny Nash, The Proclaimers, Primal Scream, Bob Marley, The Black Eyed Peas, Labi Siffre, Rihanna and John Farnham, come to **SoundRoutes Singers Annual Concert on Monday 25th June** at 7.30pm in Hamilton Town House. Tickets, priced £8.50 for adults and £5.00 for children under 12, are available from Hamilton Town House box office (01698 - 452299), Rutherglen Town Hall (0141 - 613 - 5700), East Kilbride Arts Centre (01355 - 261000), Carlisle Life-styles Centre (01555 - 770308) or at www.sllcboxoffice.co.uk. Tickets are numbered, so it's first come, first served. If you collect your tickets and pay cash there is no booking fee. If you pay by debit/credit card and have your tickets posted out there is a 10% booking fee.

The group are also looking forward to recording for their charity CD with the Addiewell Prison choir, which is also led by SoundRoutes' Musical Director, Shona Brown.



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Mission Priorities Update

Back in 2010 the Parish Grouping Development Group conducted a community audit to determine the needs of the community and to assess how the Church of Scotland in Carluke can best address these.

Since that time the core group has been augmented by some other members who expressed a particular interest in the resulting Mission Priorities and a considerable amount of work has been going on.

There have been four main strands.

- **Premises.** From our initial audit of the town, the top requirement was for a "touching place" so considerable energy has gone into investigating possible vacant premises in the town. It is clear that we cannot commit to any premises, or indeed apply for funding, without a clear vision of the eventual project. To this end, there have been very useful visits to existing projects in Alloa, Greenock, Hamilton and Douglas. In addition contact has been established with the New Beginnings project which serves all of South Lanarkshire from its base in Carluke. It is becoming evident that a food bank is fast becoming a need in the area and initial contact has been made with the *Trussell Trust* which has a track record of setting these up all over the country.
- **Listening.** A taster course on the *Importance of Listening* attracted 34 participants and this was followed by a 2 day Learning to Listen course which was completed by 17 people drawn from all three congregations. It is hoped that they will be able use the skills learned in any of the "touching places" already operating (eg Choices, Kettle's On, Crossroads Café, Coffee Club, St Andrew's church lunches, Holiday Club) as the need arises. Six people have signed up to a 2 evening module on *Listening to Young People* in late June. A *Called to Listen* course over 5 days is planned for the autumn which will allow for a

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Annual Summer Clean



The annual summer clean of the sanctuary will take place during the last week in July. Volunteers are asked to give their names to Helen Wyper who will co-ordinate the tasks.

Further details will be displayed on the screens before services in June.

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more formal listening service to operate.

- **Prayer.** All the efforts of those working on the mission priorities are underpinned by prayer. This team produced a prayer bookmark in the autumn, set up a prayer pilgrimage in November and have been leading short, fortnightly *Prayer for Carluke* sessions on Tuesday evenings since Easter. These are open to anyone to attend. The next prayer sessions will be held, in St John's, on 12 and 26 June from 7:45-8:15 pm.
- **Funeral teas.** Volunteers have been recruited and 15 trained in elementary food hygiene to provide teas at the discretion of the ministers.

LB

World Mission Stamp Appeal

Many of us contribute used stamps to the Stamp Appeal, mainly at Christmas, but it runs throughout the year. In 2011, the appeal raised over £3700 for the **Mount Olivet Boys' Home** in Jamaica.

This year, the focus is on helping the work of the **Middle East Council of Churches** through the **Joint Christian Committee for Social Services in Lebanon**.

The JCC aims to empower people to enable them to help themselves through education and vocational training. It runs two vocational centres for women, one electronics and computer centre for young men and women and an agricultural training centre. It recently opened a library and community centre.



JCC Agricultural Training Centre

The ancient city of Tyre in Southern Lebanon is surrounded by three camps which are home to around 45,000 Palestinian refugees. Many of these Palestinian families who were expelled in 1948 came from farming communities. On the edge of the city the JCC has set up a small farm. The refugees are learning agricultural skills thanks to a project which began more than a decade ago; this also allows them to maintain their cultural heritage. Since the year 2000 the JCC has organised courses for people aged between 14 and 35. The majority in Southern Lebanon live off the land around them and the JCC has been using its 4,000 sq. m plot of land there to improve the lives of refugees, who are excluded from 70 professions due to their status.

The courses run for four months twice a year, with between 12 and 15 participants and have generally focused on tasks such as planting vegetables and caring for fruit trees. Occasionally flower arranging, soap making, bee keeping and health lectures have been added, but the JCC would like to extend the scope of the farm project by of-

(Continued on page 13)

Poverty

*Searching for love but not finding it is poverty.
Dreaming of food but not receiving it is poverty.
Hurt with no aid is poverty
Hoping for warmth in the cold is poverty
Powerless against the cold wind is poverty
No family, no home, no food, that's poverty!*

*Jordan Mackintosh (11)
Braidwood Primary School.*

(Continued from page 12)

fering the refugees the chance to learn to care for chickens. They are now developing a building which was formerly used as a chicken coop. It has been cleaned and structurally strengthened but the JCC now needs further financial support in order to make the building functional and buy the chickens.

How you can help.

Please continue to bring your used stamps to church. There is a collecting box in the vestibule.

Please cut, or tear out your stamps, leaving plenty of envelop round them (for handling). Damaged stamps, or stamps with little envelop backing cannot be used.

Contact John Stratton for further information.

The Guild

The guild session closed on a warm sunny day with a trip to St Andrews where we spent a lovely day then travelled to Anstruther where we enjoyed a lovely meal and ended the day sitting at the harbour. Some of the ladies travelled to Edinburgh to join with other ladies from other guild's in a Songs of Praise evening to celebrate the guilds 125th anniversary.

Helen Wyper



Jar of Grace

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. Last year you raised over £1900 to help the children of Pakistan and Guyana.

This year you have done even better. A final total of £2676.10 has now been sent to UNICEF. However, £1590.05 qualifies for Gift Aid, so the actual sum UNICEF will receive to help prevent hunger and malnutrition in children around the world is £3467!

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

Chris Shanks

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!

