



News from the Episcopal Churches Serving the Trossachs and Strathendrick

Issue 41

Summer 2012

Church Services

**St. Andrew's
Leny Road, Callander**

**Sunday service in church
Holy Communion**
Every Sunday, 10.00am

*1st Sunday in the month:
Holy Communion according to
Book of Common Prayer (BCP)*

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Midweek service in church

BCP Holy Communion
every Wednesday, 10.00am

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**Salvation Army Band
Sunday 19 August
Callander Town Square
Playing from 3pm**

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Harvest Festival
Sunday 7 October, 10.00 am

**St. Mary's
Main Street, Aberfoyle**

**Sunday service in church
Holy Communion**
Every Sunday, 11.15am

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Balfron BCP Holy Communion

3rd Sunday in the month, 8.00am
St. Anthony's RC Church, Balfron

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Killearn Holy Communion

1st Wednesday in the month, 11.30am
Killearn Kirk Session Room

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**Manchester Church Lads
and Girls Brigade
29 July, 11.15am**

Parade to and from church
for their annual camp service

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Harvest Festival
Sunday 7 October, 11.15 am
Gifts of non perishable goods to
Braendam House

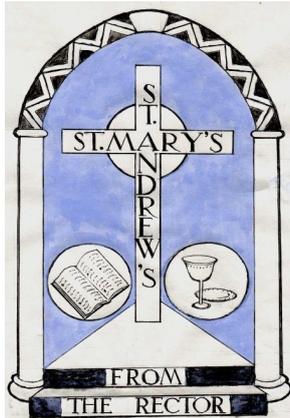


Linkage Events

**Visit to establish link with St John's Episcopal Church Forfar
Sunday 23 September for morning worship, lunch and visit to Glamis**

**Harvest Supper and quiz
Friday 5 October, 7.30pm**

**Rev. Richard Grosse St Mary's Rectory, Main Street, Aberfoyle FK8 3UJ
Phone: 01877 382887/ 07759497826 Email: richard_grosse@hotmail.com**



'From the Garden, the mystery dawned.....'

New York 3rd November 1872

'My dear Mother,

It has been a long time since I have written you a letter but I hardly know what to say except that I am well and the others ditto. It seems real homelike since Sarah and Sophie got here and we enjoy our little quarters. We have both missed Arthur and I believe we should have called for him if I could have thought of a good place to stow him. Sophie calls for Arthur occasionally and wants to see him in the photo album. We finished loading last night and shall leave on Tuesday morning if we don't get off tomorrow night. Write to us in about twenty days care of the American Consul Genoa'.

This is an extract from a letter written by a Captain Benjamin Briggs to his mother of Marion, Massachusetts. Briggs was a sea captain. His vessel was then docked on New York's East river taking on board 1701 barrels of commercial alcohol to be used for the fortification of Italian wines. The ship was bound for the Italian port of Genoa.

Captain Briggs was to be accompanied by his wife Sarah on the voyage. Their son Arthur, aged seven was in the meantime in the care of Briggs' mother. Sophie his two year old daughter was also on board together with seven crew members.

On 4th November, loading was completed. That evening Briggs dined with an old friend named Morehouse, the skipper of a cargo ship *Dei Gratia*, also being loaded on East River. In the course of dinner they discovered their respective vessels would be sailing a similar course across the Atlantic and thence through the Mediterranean.

The next morning, Briggs set sail for Genoa. Morehouse though was delayed in port for a further seven days. Warnings of bad weather had been reported in the Atlantic, but the *Dei Gratia* encountered none. By 4th December she was at a point some 600 miles west of Portugal when her helmsman sighted a boat some five miles to port. As they moved closer they saw the ship to be Briggs' vessel. The crew of the *Dei Gratia* was surprised to have overhauled her, as Briggs had started some eight days earlier. The ship was drifting although no distress signal had been raised.

A later inquiry found that Oliver Deveau, the Chief mate of the *Dei Gratia* boarded the boat. He testified that nobody was to be found on board and that the ship's papers were missing together with the only lifeboat. The cargo was found to be in good order and undisturbed. There was food a-plenty and no sign of a struggle save that the ship's sextant and chronometer were also missing. There was no evidence of piracy or mutiny.

The boat was then sailed by Deveau to Genoa and her cargo unloaded. The inquiry reached no conclusion as to the fate of those aboard. Various theories as to the reason for the crew's disappearance have since been suggested. Nine of the barrels of alcohol were subsequently found to be empty. Might the leakage of fumes so deranged the minds of those on board that they unwittingly took to the lifeboat that then drifted into the unknown? Was there a seaquake (an earthquake at sea) that so shook the ship that its occupants jumped overboard in fear?

An appeal for further information about the disappearance of the ship's crew was made by the inquiry, but to no avail: thus the mystery of the *Marie Celeste* remains to this day.

Following Christ's crucifixion at Calvary, his body was placed in a tomb and sealed by a large stone. The tomb was visited by Mary Magdalene on the day following the Sabbath. She expected to see the body so she might anoint it. By the time she arrived at the tomb however, the stone had been removed and the tomb lay open.

Although the gospel writers all agree the tomb to have been open and empty, their respective accounts differ thereafter. St Mark describes the appearance of a young man dressed in a white robe at the tomb. St Matthew describes this figure as an angel of the Lord; was it though the young man witnessed by Mark? St Luke described not one but two men standing in dazzling apparel. St John, like St Luke, mentions two figures and like Matthew recognises them as angels. Only St John however is able to recognise the risen Christ present at the tomb.

On the face of things, the facts presented conjure up a mystery as unfathomable as that of the *Marie Celeste*. Who rolled the stone from the tomb? Why was the tomb empty? Where had Christ's body been taken? Who were the various figures at the door of the tomb? Were they the risen Christ or angels? Why was Christ not immediately recognised save in John's account?

At first the stories that Jesus had risen from the dead were not believed. Even some of the disciples regarded them as 'idle tales' but for the next forty days, evidence for the resurrection grew. Eleven of the disciples saw Him. Two men walking the way to Emmaus met and had supper with Him. Doubting Thomas touched the spear wound in his side. Five hundred believers at one time saw him.

In the face of such events the Chief priests and Roman officials sought to discredit the resurrection by spreading a rumour that the body had been stolen by Christ's followers. All this was to no avail.

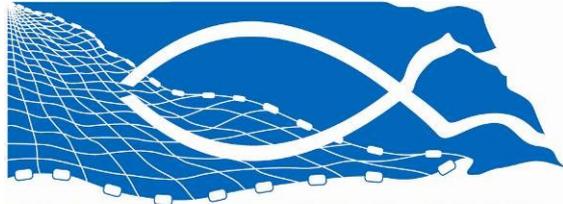
The testimony of the resurrection of Jesus proved overwhelming. Without the resurrection, there could be no explanation for the change in the followers of Jesus. After the first Good Friday they were terrified, sorrowful and despairing. Within a few days though, they became people of unshakeable courage. No longer did they feel constrained to meet behind closed doors 'for fear of the Jews'. On the contrary, they joyfully came out of hiding and proclaimed their faith in Christ crucified and risen again.

The facts surrounding the disappearance of the *Marie Celeste* remain a mystery. The facts surrounding the events of the first Easter morning likewise remain unknown. Of the evidence of Christ's resurrection there can be no doubt whatsoever.

The Easter Eucharistic prayer from the Blue Book concludes all that has been said to perfection:

*'Praise and thanksgiving be to you,
Lord of all,
for by the cross eternal life is ours
and death is swallowed up in victory.
In the first light of Easter
glory broke from the tomb
and changed the woman's sorrow into joy.
From the garden the mystery dawned
that he whom they had loved and lost
is with us now in every place for ever.*

Revd Richard Grosse



CASTING THE NET
Growing Faith Communities in the Diocese of St. Andrews

CELEBRATING CASTING THE NET Affirmation Service for CTN volunteers 5 May 2012

A meeting was held for all Casting the Net Liaison Officers, Area Council leads and Rectors in early May to celebrate their calling to work with Casting the Net and our 7th Mark of Mission—Sharing Faith with Confident and Sensitive Evangelism.

Unfortunately our Casting the Net Liaison Officers could not attend, but Karen and Richard were there and are happy to share ideas from the event with you.

The day began with refreshments, during which everyone was given a small lump of clay to mould into a fish. This was a great ice breaker and showed the artists in our midst as a range of sea life was created including some wonderful starfish and unusual looking fish. These fish were created to represent all the congregations in our Diocese and later we took a fish to hold in worship to symbolize us holding each congregation in prayer and fellowship.

The day began with an introduction from Bishop David and an inspiring presentation from Mark Russell, Chief Executive of the Church Army. Mark reviewed our Casting the Net initiative with enthusiasm. He told us about mission in the Church Army; how they build relationships with individuals in a range of communities. The story that particularly struck me was of the young Church Army worker, working with teenage girls in Cardiff who self-harm. These girls are lonely, desperate and isolated but they found loving, non-judgemental friendship with the Church Army worker that has transformed their lives.

In small groups we discussed Mark's presentation and what it meant for our churches. With the big question of what can we do to serve our own communities?

The main themes emerging were:

Prayer is the foundation of everything we do. When we pray we put our trust in God and make ourselves open to God's will. Prayer is transformative.

Transformation is about seeing ourselves, the context we are in, and God's call to us, in a new light.

Identify community needs and respond to them in partnership with other churches and organisations.

Be courageous. We are concerned about how to reach the lonely, isolated and those suffering in our society - it isn't easy, but we need to come alongside people with generous and courageous evangelism.

Engage in new ways with those outside church "thinking outside the bubble"
Give away chocolate eggs, offer voluntary help to older people (gardening, etc), offer church buildings to community groups

Focus energy by listening to God's will and following the guidance of the Holy Spirit; trying things and being prepared to change them.

The day ended with an Iona-inspired service that included a renewal of our baptismal vows.

As one participant said "you could not have left the meeting without hope in your heart, a spring in your step and a smile on your face".

Karen Gaskell

*Convenor of CTN Congregational
Development Action Group*

01360 661011

kmgaskell@btinternet.com



REGIONAL GATHERING
Holy Trinity Stirling
Saturday 6 October 2012
10.00am-3.00pm

**Mark of Mission 7: Sharing faith by
 confident and sensitive evangelism**

Two regional CTN Gatherings will be held this year at All Saints, St Andrews on 22 September and Holy Trinity Stirling on 6 October. Each Gathering will include a range of workshops led by our own clergy and external experts, with three different workshops to be done during the day. Workshops will include:

- Prayer around the church
- Theology of evangelism – Bishop David
- Pastoral Care
- Music
- Eco-Spirituality – Richard Murray
- Walk the Labyrinth at Stirling University.

Children will have separate workshops and it is hoped that there will also be a crèche. Teenagers will be asked to act as stewards, so if you'd like to help with that please contact Caroline King on castingthenet@standrews.anglican.org.

Booking forms will be available in August and we hope that there will be good attendance from St Mary's and St Andrew's. Even if you can only for the morning or afternoon, you would be most welcome.

Please speak with your Casting the Net Liaison Officers, Susan Forsyth or Ros Cameron if you require any further information.

FROM THE REGISTERS

St Andrew's

Funeral

14th June

Margaret Rita Parker

13th July (at Falkirk)

Elsie Mackenzie

Wedding

19th May

Jamie Biggar to Kathleen Montgomery

14th July (at Chapel of Roman Camp)

Francis Thornhill to Lynne MacLeod

St Mary's

Thanksgiving

15th June

David Stephen

Wedding

16th June

Michael Wright to Rachel Wootton

Thanks

Margie Stephen would like to give heartfelt thanks to all who have supported her during David's short terminal illness. She is grateful to all who gave practical and spiritual support.

Margie was overwhelmed to see a full church at David's Thanksgiving and thanks all those who made that service a real celebration of David's precious life. She thanks you for the generous donations that were made to Cancer Research UK and CINI.

Please continue to hold Margie and her family in your prayers.

ECUMENICAL PRAISE
First Sunday of the Month
Gartmore House: 7.00-8.30pm

Thirsty—Trossachs Youth Praise



Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4: 13-14.

Since Hannah Sanderson's departure, Heather Yorston has been working with youth workers Tim Burnham and Amanda McCall to run Thirsty, the monthly youth fellowship, in Gartmore House. All young people aged 12-19 are welcome. It runs in parallel with the Trossachs Praise meeting, starting at 7pm and finishing around 8.30pm.

Thirsty is a relaxed, friendly evening with a time of informal worship with contemporary songs, food, games and teaching on a Bible theme along with lots of discussion. If you want to learn more about the Christian faith and how Jesus can be relevant to your life as a teenager, just come along. Topics covered recently have included 'Why did Jesus die on the Cross', 'How can I be sure of my faith', 'Prayer' and 'The Holy Spirit in the old and new Testaments'. Topics, worship songs and games can be suggested by anyone attending. It is an opportunity to meet other young people from around the Trossachs area, find out what the Bible has to say on many topics and ask questions.

Trossachs Praise (for adults)

Trossachs Praise encourages the local Christian community with prayer, testimony and praise. Come and join the worship at Gartmore House and bring your teenagers to Thirsty!

Reach-Out Dinners
Buchanan Arms Hotel, Drymen
7.00pm for 7.30pm
Tickets £13.50 for two-course meal

In the autumn, dinners will be held with a Christian guest speaker. All are welcome and we encourage you to reach out and bring a friend.

28th September: Rev Kenny Borthwick

Kenny Borthwick was converted and called to ministry at a Scripture Union Camp 40 years ago at the age of 13. He has been a Church of Scotland minister for 30 years. Having ministered in Orkney and Thurso, in 2005 he was called to Wester Hailes in Edinburgh to be senior minister of Holy Trinity Church.

Kenny has been on the leadership team of CLAN Gathering, a Christian family conference which meets in St. Andrews each year. It attracts 4000 people from differing church backgrounds, from the length and breadth of Scotland. He also ministers at conferences, leadership retreats and events in the UK and other countries.

Since a renewing experience in the Holy Spirit while training for the ministry he has longed to see revival and a church rising in Scotland where the lost are saved and the sick healed. He is married to Morag and has two grown up children.

- **26th October - George Fulton**
- **30th November - speaker tbc**

Tickets can be purchased from Jinty McKirdy on 01360 440659
Jinty@reachoutdinners.info



DRY ROT IN ST ANDREW'S

St Andrew's has suffered an outbreak of dry rot in its north east corner where it adjoins the hall. This has occurred despite the major renovation in 2004 and careful routine maintenance since. While the source of the outbreak may not be evident until all timbers have been exposed, it is likely to be a combination of dampness and restricted air circulation in the cellar under the church, the unusually wet conditions of the past few years, and from this water ingress whether at roof or ground level.

We have received specialist advice from three contractors. It is clear from their observations that the cause may have predated the renovation and that more thorough treatment than previously applied will be necessary.

We are in discussion with the contractors and independent experts to determine the best method of treatment, but it will require extensive renovation and in the course of this, the removal of the very fine pipe organ which has been cherished and improved by David King our organist. This will inevitably increase the cost which, depending on the final method of treatment, we estimate to be between £27,000 and £33,000 including VAT.

The church has like most, limited unrestricted resources. We are currently investigating every feasible source of grant and funding including local organisations, individuals and national charities. We will also be appealing more locally.

The Vestry is unanimous in its decision that first class treatment is worthwhile and justified. A fabric committee has been elected from Vestry and over the past months has spent many hours trying to bring matters to a speedy conclusion. The Rector records his appreciation of the time (often the burning of midnight oil) and effort of all concerned.

Scottish Gardens

Gardens Open for Charity

THORNTREE, ARNPRIOR
Sunday 12 August 2.00-5.00pm

Cream Teas
Plant Stall

Beekeeper with inspection hive
on display

Wheelchair Access

40% of proceeds to
Driving for the Disabled,
remainder to Scottish Garden
charities

Carol Seymour, 01786 870710
Carol@thorntreebarn.co.uk



SHARING FAITH

During Lent we undertook the Diocesan Sharing Faith course in the hour before church. About 10 people attended each week and participated in group discussion and one to one sharing.

We learnt that evangelism is Greek for "gospel" or "good news" and discussed what that means to us including

- Jesus, God, Holy Spirit
- peace
- sacrifice,
- reconciliation
- blessing
- suffering
- healing
- forgiveness
- obedience
- salvation
- love
- Fellowship.

We reviewed phrases and decided that evangelism is about

- deeds, not just words
- helping people get on with others
- gossiping about the gospel to our neighbour ("reminds me of a story I heard in church...")
- being there as a Christian in the community

and we added our own ideas of

- fanning the flame of spirituality
- presenting values in life as a result of our faith
- engaging in debate about God.

We talked about how to share the Good News with others by finding a connection with them and coming alongside them, recognising their own situation. We thought this should be sensitive, convincing, exploring, patient, sharing common experiences and making the most of happenstance.

We discussed our fears about sharing faith with others including the complex questions that may be asked, fear of rejection and not knowing where to start.

A good place to start is sharing stories about our own journey of faith - thinking about how we came to church, when our faith has been most alive and full of meaning, what life events have helped us, who has been significant in leading us close to God.

There are times when people may be more open to asking spiritual questions. For example at certain stages of their life or when experiencing key life events (birth of a baby, unemployment, death of a loved one, marriage, lonely and isolated).

We studied *Stay Evangelism* and considered the importance of creating meaningful relationships with those with whom we have contact every day. Not inviting them to church, but creating a trusting environment in which they want to find out about what drives us.

James shared a recent experience he'd had showing how simple things can open up a conversation that allow you to share faith. When giving a friend a lift, the friend noticed one of James' CDs in his car, *51 Must Have Worship Songs*. A couple of hours after dropping him off, the friend texted James to ask about the CD, church and Christianity. After an hour of texting backwards and forwards they discussed the Scottish Episcopal Church and what it does.

To share faith we need to be nourished by worship, hearing the bible and exploring faith: reading, reflecting and talking with other Christians. We talked about the difference being a Christian makes to our life, recognising that there are different stages of faith. We ended by thinking about activities that St Mary's could undertake to reach out to people. There was particular enthusiasm for a Fairtrade wine tasting!

Karen Gaskell

GODLY PLAY

St Mary's Church Room: 11.00am
Sunday 26th August
Sunday 14th October
Sunday 25th November
Sunday 9th December

Godly Play is founded in expectation of, and belief in, the child's capacity for spiritual response. It allows children to explore bible stories and Christian worship traditions in their own way and at their own level.

Please continue to pray for the children and families that attend Godly Play and their leaders, James Gardner, Barbara Carruthers and Melanie Grosse.

MISSION LINKS**Bishop's Lent Appeal**

Thanks to all those who donated to the Bishop's Lent Appeal. St Mary's was pleased to send £70 to the Fikelela outreach programme for orphaned and abandoned children with HIV/AIDS in Cape Town.

Mission Action Plan

As part of the Mission Action Plan, St Mary's is seeking to strengthen its links with the Callander Youth Project, the Child In Need India and The Chesney Trust. As part of this, we'll be getting regular updates from these organisations.

**Callander Youth Project**

The past 12 months have seen momentous and hugely positive changes for Callander Youth Project (CYP).

At this precise moment, contractors are now at work on the upgrading of the interior of the former Bridgend Hotel as a key part of its transformation into a multi – purpose Youth Hub facility, centrally located close to the heart of Callander. With the help of substantial capital funding provided by Triodos Bank and Social Investment Scotland, the Trust was able to secure the freehold of the property from Punch Taverns in March this year, having previously moved into the building on a 12 month lease, thus finally bringing to a close a long and often frustrating search for a long term operating base in the town.

Change on this scale for a small independent youth work charity doesn't come without its challenges but CYP's Trustees, staff and volunteers all welcome the important new opportunities which the Bridgend Youth Hub will provide all of our young people across rural Stirlingshire. Judging by the wide range of press and radio coverage that CYP has secured in recent weeks, as well as funding from the Big Lottery for our new Steps to Work training programme, this is now clearly being recognised on a national scale, and I am proud to serve as President of the Trust at such an exciting time.

We look forward to welcoming Chris Martin, the CYP Manager, to give a presentation at St Mary's, followed by an opportunity to see the Youth Hub facilities for ourselves in the coming months.

Nick Cooke
Nhcooke@aol.com



Child In Need India (CINI)

Friends of CINI Scotland and CINI UK, based in London, continue to raise funds to send to India in support of CINI's work on behalf of Mothers and Children in West Bengal, India, focusing on malnutrition, street children, health and education.

On Mothers Day, 18th March, Radio's 4's fundraising Appeal was transmitted which has raised in the region of £25,000 for the charity.

We continue to apply for grants from Trusts and Foundations and are in the process of submitting a bid for Comic Relief later this year. In addition we raise funds by holding local events, such as Cook for Life and personal challenges. For further information go to our website www.cini.org.uk

Dr Samir Chaudhuri, our founder, has again been recognised for his inspirational work by the World Health Organisation. We continue to work closely with the Indian Government training their health workers.

In early May the support groups of CINI from around the world met in Verona. This included groups from Norway, Holland, the UK, Australia, Uganda and India. This proved a very interesting and useful way of discussing our various challenges.

We are most grateful for the support St Mary's gives to the charity.

Susan Forsyth 01877 387265
ladyforsyth@btinternet.com

ART OFF THE ROCK

Artlink Central

Sunday 4 November, 6.00pm-9.00pm
Beaconhurst School, Bridge of Allan

Artlink Central is delighted to announce its 8th biennial fundraising auction *Art off the Rock*. The event raises crucial funds for the provision of innovative arts programs to individuals with learning disabilities, mental illness or experiencing social exclusion. *Art Off The Rock* has become a prestigious fixture in the arts calendar with past events featuring works by Stephen Carruthers, Barbara Rae, Lucy Poett, Elizabeth Blackadder and Jack Knox.

Who do Artlink Central work with? Adults and children with learning disabilities, dementia, mental health issues and from excluded communities across central Scotland.

What do we do? Provide access to high quality and challenging art programmes in hospitals, schools, prisons, at our premises in Stirling and at numerous outreach venues.

What are the benefits? Participants discover talents they may not know exist, develop social, communication and learning skills and enhance their wellbeing.

Art Off The Rock raises crucial funds to help us continue our programs. In addition it is a great social event and an opportunity to purchase some truly unique art by some of Scotland's leading artists. There is artwork to suit every taste and every budget, from anonymous postcard art (which may just be by a leading artist) to stunning auction pieces created especially for the event.

For ticket information please telephone Artlink Central on 01786 450 971 or email info@artlinkcentral.org



I have been asked to write about Christian Aid as part of St Mary's Mission Action Plan. Although I have worked for Christian Aid for 25 years I realised that I knew very little about how it began and developed over the years, so I approached the head office in Perth for information.

Soon after World War II, British church leaders met, determined to help European refugees. They called themselves Christian Reconstruction in Europe, to alleviate the suffering of ordinary people no matter what their faith. It then became part of the British Council of Churches and eventually was renamed the Department of Interchurch Aid and Refugee Services.

In the 1950s they began to look beyond Europe to support development work in newly independent nations in Africa and Asia and respond to emergencies worldwide. Also at this time they were involved in the creation of Voluntary Services Overseas. In 1957 the first Christian Aid week was organized and every year since then the familiar red envelopes have dropped through millions of letterboxes.

In the 1960s the Christian Aid annual income reached £2.5 million and they began to look more deeply into the causes of poverty, not just dealing with its symptoms.

In the 1970s there were severe famines in parts of Africa and Asia and it became obvious that emergency relief wasn't enough and that starving people needed

a genuine solution, not just handouts and extended their work in over 40 countries funding long-term development projects.

In the 1980s government funding was made available for the first time and Christian Aid week alone raised more than £6 million.

In the 1990s they highlighted global economic issues and alerted people to the need to cancel third world debt. They also helped to change government trading policy and establish the Fairtrade Foundation.

The 21st century brings new challenges with climate change and an increasing number of natural disasters. Christian Aid now works with more than 650 overseas partners in around 50 countries to help bring the world's poorest out of poverty regardless of nationality or religion.

I am grateful to all those who helped with the Christian Aid collections in Aberfoyle from 13-19 May this year, which raised £2,585.87.

If you would like to support Christian Aid's goal of helping those in greatest need to come out of poverty, why not join my band of collectors in Aberfoyle next year. Just discuss the possibilities with me, you will find it a truly rewarding experience.

Jean Sykes
01877 382449

CHURCH OPENING
2.30pm-4.30pm
Every Tuesday in July and August

Drop in and have a cup of tea/coffee
 and a piece of cake and discover our
 church's interesting history.

Bring a friend!



Two members recount their experience of the recent Songs of Praise recording at Dunblane, which is watched by an audience of over 2 million people in the UK and all over the world.

I, along with five others from St Mary's and two from St Andrew's had the privilege of going to Dunblane Cathedral on the evenings of Sunday 6 May and Monday 7 May to participate in two programmes, one of which was broadcast on 1 July and the other will be broadcast on 25 November.

We went to support our 'local' songs of praise programme, to enjoy participating in it, and out of curiosity to see how such a programme is actually made. It proved to be an absolutely fascinating experience and a rather longer event than we had perhaps anticipated! Richard, our splendid chauffeur, picked me up at 5.30pm and delivered me back at 11.00pm.

Being a BBC presentation, the recording needed to be as near perfect as possible, as we were about to find out!

In the chancel there were the choirs, one dressed in red, and the other in royal blue. They will make a splendid spectacle on the box. In Dunblane, they have a large, recently refurbished organ. It was superbly played by Matthew, their excellent organist, who produced an absolutely splendid sound. There was also a small brass band including the most magnificent timpani.

At the front of the nave were choristers from the Strathallan School and the nearby Queen Victoria school. The main congregation were split up into those who could sing 'parts': sopranos, altos, tenors and basses. Each 'part' was in a different quarter, which enabled the sound engineer to balance the sound. The rest of us who sang enthusiastically in unison (including Richard, Mark and me) were called the 'congregation' and shepherded to the back (where hopefully we could hide from some of the cameras).

And so to the start of the real proceedings. Our instructions were to hold the music at chest height, chin up and looking forward and on no account to look directly at the camera; and to try to look happy!

The first two hymns were both wonderful "Tell out my soul" and "Thine be the glory". Terrific tunes we could really throw ourselves into. The actual singing, led by the conductor Paul, took us somewhat by surprise. "Stand up. We'll do the first two verses of the first hymn." "Quite good, but I'd like to do those two again." "Stand up, that was much better. Now let's try verse three." "Sit down. All right, but we could do better on the introductory bar of verse one." "Ok stand up." "Much better, but we could announce the "T" at the end of the first line and after..." And so it went on. It must have taken about one hour just to get the first hymn right with stand up, sit down, very many times.

When we eventually got it right, the sound of two choirs, the full organ, brass and timpani, with four hundred souls all singing their hearts out, all came together to produce an absolutely tremendous sound.

We were told that, at the end of a hymn, we had to stand silent and motionless, till we got the signal to relax. One person coughed and we had to do it all over again.

What then of the cameras? The main camera was one a huge double boom, which looked a bit like an electronic edition of the Loch Ness Monster!

It slid silently about, controlled by a very expert camera man, who we learned had operated the camera at the West end of Westminster Abbey for the Royal Wedding, no less. This ought to look good. One suddenly became aware that it was slowly creeping up the aisle behind you. All you saw was the camera head, suddenly turning silently on its way; sometimes vaguely in our direction. Don't forget, remember not to look directly at it, concentrate on the music and keep looking straight ahead. Then Paul, conducting from the pulpit, suddenly stopped us in the middle of a verse. "There is a lady near the front who has been staring directly into the camera and worst still, she wasn't even singing."

Stern disciplining when performing for the BBC!

When the second night came, we discovered, to our horror, that the first hymn was one where we knew neither the music nor the words! Clearly not only us, we had to go over it again and again and again.....! Worse still, "Nessie" was lurking somewhere behind us in the central aisle. "Try to smile". That's almost impossible, even if you know the words and music, which we didn't. Eventually, after about twelve run-throughs we finished that one and so it went on, for the whole two evenings.

As I departed the cathedral, with the wonderful music still ringing in my ears, I reflected upon an almost magical experience and one which I will never forget. So much had gone into the making of the programme. But, most of all, what joy and what a privilege it had been to actually participate in the making of what turned out to be such a wonderfully joyous sound.

George Willis

ALL STAND, ALL SIT.....and SMILE!

Dunblane Cathedral was the venue for the recording of the Songs of Praise programme on 6th and 7th May 2012; and not only were the participants being invited to stand and sit but the Cathedral itself has had quite a history of ups and downs in its life, starting with St. *Blane* who gave his name to the *dun* or fort in the area where he settled; thus *Dunblane*.

It seems that, initially, only a small church was built there. A church which by 1233 had become somewhat ruined and experienced its first downfall as it was demolished by Clement, a Dominican friar. Clement then started to build the church we know today. After Clement died in 1258, for the next 300 years, the cathedral began to rise up and take shape again encouraged by various people.

However, in 1560, the Church of Scotland became protestant and took out all the furnishings and decoration which they deemed idolatrous. Protestant ministers and congregation needed only the choir for use as a parish church and by 1600 - a period of 300 years - the roof of the nave had fallen in and the walls and pillars were roofless - another downfall. Even today you can see the effect of those 300 years of weathering if you look at the base of the big pillars in the main church.

In 1889 a great restoration of the church was begun and the whole church stood up again and was brought back into use. Stained glass was introduced at the start of the 1900's and by the end of the First World War the cathedral was standing complete and had come into its own again.

So Dunblane Cathedral is no stranger to being up and down and up again, and by the end of two evenings and 7 hours rehearsal of hymns neither were the people who had come to rehearse for the Songs of Praise programme.

CONCERTS

A big thanks to Carol Seymour, Saffrey Miller, John Tilman and all those who helped organise the recent concerts at St Mary's and provided lovely food and wine!



On 17 May, the High Society Jazz Band performed in St Mary's to an audience of about 65 people from Aberfoyle and surrounding villages. The musicians played alto saxophone, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, bass guitar, banjo, double bass, drums and vocals to make wonderfully joyous music that you couldn't help but tap your feet to and sway in the pews.

They played a variety of Dixieland and traditional jazz, weaving the pieces together in a story about the church that included reference to church bells, the saints come marching in, prayer and a sermon.

The leader not only sang and played but did some great segways between pieces including quotes from children about the bible and Christianity such as

- Solomon had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- Christians only have one spouse, they call this monotony.
- Moses went up to Mount Cyanide.
- Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- Noah's wife was Joan of Arc.
- Unleavened bread has no ingredients.

Many of the audience commented on how friendly everyone was and that they should come again. Of course we encouraged that!



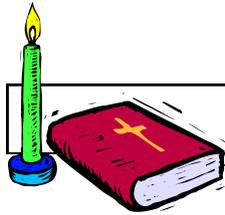
Igor Sayenko and Oleksiy Kolomoiets, Kyiv Classic Accordion Duo, from the Ukraine came to St Mary's on 14 June to play the first concert in their UK charity tour.

They delighted an audience of about 50 from Aberfoyle and as far afield as Killin, Bearsden, Kippen and Lenzie. People had travelled to hear these virtuoso professional accordionists work their magic. Fingers ran up and down their button accordions at great speed to produce amazing sounds as they performed Bach concertos, Caprice Espagnol, Faure's Pavane, a Carmen fantasy, Die Fledermaus overture and a range of traditional and modern Russian and Ukrainian music.

Again the audience appreciated the hospitality at the event, if not the midges!

All proceeds from the concert have been given to the Hippokrat Society, supporting families with children and young people disabled after the Chernobyl disaster. We give thanks to all those who donated so generously that we were able to give them £500 from this concert.

Karen Gaskell



Church Lessons

Summer 2012

**To help you prepare for or reflect further on a service,
here are the readings for the coming season.**

Date	Sunday Theme	Lessons
29 July	Trinity 8	2. Kings 4:42-44 Ephesians 3:14-21 John 6:1-21
5 August	Trinity 9	Exodus 16:2-4;9-15 Ephesians 4:1-16 John 6:24-35
12 August	Trinity 10	Kings 19:4-8 Ephesians 4:25-5:2 John 6:35;41-51
19 August	Trinity 11	Proverbs 9:1-6 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
26 August	Trinity 12	Joshua 24:1-2a;14-18 Ephesians 6:10-20 John 6:56-69
2 September	Trinity 13	Deuteronomy 4:1-2;6-9 James 1:17-27 Mark 7:1-8;14-15;21-23
9 September	Trinity 14	Isaiah 35:4-7a James 2:1-10[11-13]14-17 Mark 7:24-37
16 September	Trinity 15	Isaiah 50:4-9a James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38
23 September	Trinity 16	Jeremiah 11:18-20 James 3:14-4:3; 7-8a Mark 9:30-37
30 September	Trinity 17	Numbers 11:4-6;10-16;24-29 James 5:13-20 Mark 9: 38-50