

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE: 1/2003

March 2003



MINISTER'S LETTER

**The Manse
Thurso**

01847895186

Dear Friends

It can be a holy moment when the reality of Christian truth breaks through. Not long ago I was taking a service at Achvarasdal, when there was an interruption. That is not uncommon in that setting by any means, but this interruption was different. One of the residents, who is a lovely person, broke across what I was saying and called me

over to ask me a question. The question was simply this. A relative had died and would she ever see him again? I sensed that more than one were listening in for what I would say.

When it boils down to it, Christianity is the joyful proclamation that we can know the answer to that question. As we approach Easter one again, it gives us another chance to hear His words, which sadly are too often kept just for funerals: "I am the Resurrection and the Life. They that believe in me though they were dead yet shall they live and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." To be sure there is a challenge in these words. They do not say that everyone has eternal life, but only those who have a living faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. But there is comfort and certainty too, that all those who have such a faith will meet again.

I am very conscious as I look out on a Sunday morning of the number of people who struggle with the issue of bereavement. That means that sitting near you each Sunday you come will be someone who is struggling with this issue. I was reading not long ago the very honest words of C.S. Lewis when he spoke about his own grief at losing his wife. He said this: "An odd by-product of my loss is that I am aware of being an embarrassment to everyone I meet, at work, at the club, in the street. I see people as they approach me trying to make up their minds whether they will say something about it or not. I hate it if they do and I hate it if they don't. Some avoid it altogether. I like best the well-brought up young men who walk up to me as if I were a dentist, turn very red, get it over and then edge away to the bar as quickly as they decently can. Perhaps the bereaved ought to be isolated in special settlements like lepers."

St Peter's and St Andrew's Church Thurso

I like the honesty of C.S. Lewis. Perhaps it will give insight to how someone sitting near you next Sunday is feeling. Sorrow though it has a large family can be extremely isolating. It is never easy to know what to say or not to say. But let's seek to let our love for one another be genuine. There is an insight in love that somehow knows the right thing to say at the right time and when to say nothing. May we ourselves know the hope of Easter, and may God help us to bring that hope home to one another in a loving, sensitive and relevant way.

**Your friend and minister
Kenny Borthwick**

BAPTISMS

On the 26TH. January, it was a delight to see Fiona Dane taking the step of believer's baptism. This was for her an outward sign of her finding a living faith in Jesus Christ. Anyone who has not been baptised in infancy and would like to take that step should speak with the minister at any time, as should those wanting to take the step of Church Membership.

NEW MEMBERS

Miss Michelle Davies joined our congregation at our last morning communion service. We enjoy her being part of our fellowship and hope she finds in our congregation a true spiritual home.

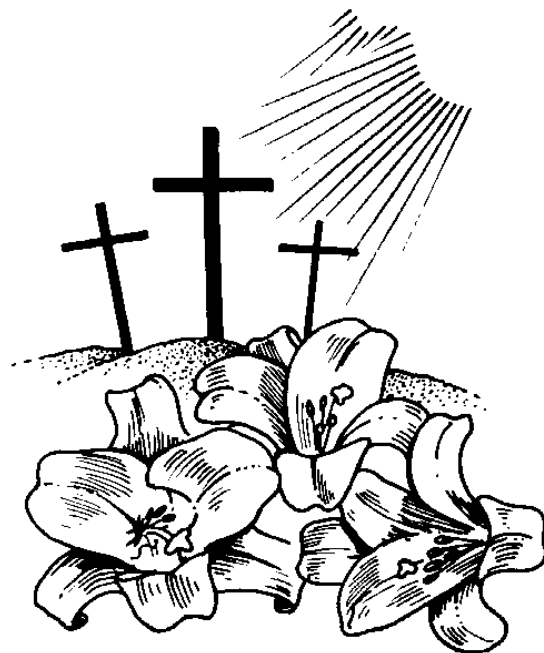
FUNERALS

Nan Mackenzie
Peter Davidson
Derek Macgregor
Andrew Elder
Julia Gunn

Claire Maclean
William Macleod

**We extend our sympathy to
all those who have lost loved
ones.**

DON'T BETRAY CHRIST FOR SILVER.



Paid in full

Jesus . . . said 'I'm thirsty.' A jar of sour wine was sitting there, so a sponge was soaked in it and put on a hyssop branch and held up to his lips. When Jesus had tasted it, he said, 'It is finished,' and bowed his head and dismissed his spirit.

The Jewish leaders didn't want the victims hanging there the next day, which was the Sabbath ... so they asked Pilate to order the legs of the men to be broken to hasten death; then their bodies could be taken down.

So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the two men crucified with Jesus, but when they came to him, they saw that he was dead already, so they didn't break his. However, one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and blood and water flowed out. I saw all this myself and have given an accurate report so that you also can believe.

John chapter 19, verses 28-35

'PAID' is written across paid-up bills today. The word, which Jesus said--out loud so that all could hear--was the word used in His day for a paid account. The wine was not finished ... He was not finished ... it was the payment for our sin that was complete.

John, the writer of this account, also put his stamp on it. 'I saw it with my own eyes--it's all true.' Can you use the eyes of faith and say the same?

From "Going the Jesus Way" © Helen Lee. Used by permission of Scripture Union.

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To My Friends Who Are - SINGLE

Love is like a butterfly. The more you chase it, the more it eludes you. But if you just let it fly, it would come to you when you least expect it. Love can make you happy but often times it hurts, but love's only special when you give it to someone who is worth it. So take your time and choose the best.

The shortest distance between a problem and a solution is the distance between your knees and the floor in prayer.

Author Unknown

THE DONKEY

When fishes flew and forests walked
And figs grew upon thorn,
Some moment when the moon was blood
Then surely I was born;

With monstrous head and sickening cry
And ears like errant wings,
The devil's walking parody
On all four footed things.

The tattered outlaw of the earth
Of ancient crooked will;
Starve, scourge, deride me: I am dumb,
I keep my secret still.

Fools! For I also had my hour;
One far fierce hour and sweet:
There was a shout about my ears,
And palms before my feet.

GK Chesterton

Notices

2002	Kirk Ses- sion	Communion	
Month	Date	Date	Time
December		1	Morning
2003	Kirk Ses- sion	Communion	
January		26	Evening
February			
March		2	Morning
April		27	Evening
May			
June		1	Morning
July		27	Evening
August			
September		7	Morning
October		26	Evening
November			
December		7	Morning



**GOOD
FRIDAY**

IN
Everything
GIVE
Thanks

Easter

FAMILY SERVICE

**Sunday
20th April 2003**

11.00 am



**The Church
of Scotland**

Apology

My sincere apologies to Iain MacKillop for calling him Iain MacMillan at the end of his article in the last issue.

Also to Nan MacBeath for omitting the Christine Stone letter from the last issue. However the good news is that Christine and the Church of Scotland have reconciled. The church apologised to her.

Let us pray for her. Nepal is going through a difficult period with the action of the terrorists.

St Peter's and St Andrew's Church Thurso

RESTORATION FUND TO JANUARY 2003

Since the last report in November 2002 :

(a Bills of £21,000 were paid in 2002.
 (b Grants of £4,000 from the Baird Trust and £1,650 from the General Trustees were received.

(c The remaining work costing £25,000 covers :

1. Install improved lighting.
2. Restore remaining plasterwork.
3. Redecorate church interior.
4. Indent hallway door

stonework.

(d Once the lighting is approved by the Edinburgh Artistic Matters Committee, this work is scheduled for early 2003.

Funding to Date

Donations	41,500
Regular Giving	112,450
Tax Recovery	25,000
Events	3,350
Trustees	20,000
Grants	45,100
Historic Scotland	143,250
Interest (Net)	5,100
Cash Raised	395,750
Loans	8,000
Cash Flow	403,750
Bills Paid	375,550
Bank Balance	28,200

Forward Projection to 2002

Projected Cost (including lighting) plus Redecoration and Plasterwork	385,000
Fund Target	401,400
Raised to Date	395,750
Plus:	
Historic Scotland	1,000
Pledges '03	4,100
Tax Recovery	750
Minor Grants(Baird & Trustees)	
Loan Interest	-200
Funds Identified	401,400

James Houston, Restoration Fund Treasurer 31 January 2003

Sunday Club Feb 2003

I am writing to update you on how the work with the young people who attend church on a Sunday morning is going. The most significant change is that Robert and Lorna Nicol have stood down from leadership of the Side door club and Sunday School after eight years of faithful service. I have agreed to join the team of leaders and help with leading and co-ordinating the work that needs to be done. We combined the groups to call ourselves the 'Sunday Club' and have recruited a few new leaders and lost Jean Brock on a permanent basis, although we are thankful that she is willing to be called on if a leader is absent. We have average attendances of about 40 children.

Sunday Club Leaders for session 2002/2003

Sparklers

3year olds-Primary1 - Anne MacLeod, Pauline Mathers, Annette Williamson

All Stars

Primaries 2 & 3- Donna Malcolm, Susan Bremner, Michelle Davies

Trailblazers 1

Primaries 4 & 5- Helen McLaren, Johnathan Morgan

Trailblazers 2

Primary 6 - Charlie Rigg, David Malcolm, Annemieke Martin

Primary 7 & S.1/2 - Judy Gordon, Howard Espie

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We are working as a team to provide interesting and relevant ways of helping the children to experience, know about and understand the Christian faith. We also encourage children to grow as Christians, in their own relationship with God. In addition to preparation of the teaching material each week some leaders have additional roles. Donna Malcolm looks after the money, Charlie leads the music, assisted by Jonathan (and some children), Helen looks after the video lending library and Annette organises many of the 'extra' things like the party, costumes for the nativity and the coffee morning. We would all value your prayers as we seek to serve God and the community in this work. A word of encouragement is always welcome.

Events this term

Monday 3rd February The Sunday Club has been asked to contribute to a programme for the Guild. We would like to encourage as many children from primary 2 upwards to come and take part. We plan to sing some of the action songs the children enjoy and have some readings and musical items. Body and soul dance group are also contributing to this programme and refreshments are provided and parents are invited to stay. This is postponed till the 10th Feb. due to snow

Saturday 15th February Sunday Club Coffee Morning in the Town Hall from 10:00-12:00AM. This is the only fundraising event for the work of the Sunday Club and you can support us by

- ☺ giving contribution of baking for a stall and refreshments (to be delivered to the Town Hall between 9:00 and 10:00AM)
- ☺ coming to help (speak to myself or Annette Williamson)
- ☺ coming to have a cup of tea/ coffee and encouraging your friends and family to come too.

Sunday 16th February The schools are on holiday this weekend but Sunday Club meets at 10:00AM. as usual.

Saturday 22nd February The Light Factory holiday club is having its reunion at Mount Pleasant Primary School 2:00-4:00PM. Even if your child did not attend in the summer, they are welcome to come along for a fun afternoon of games and other activities.

Sunday 30th March will be the last Sunday before the Easter holidays. This will take the form of a family service.

If you know of any children e.g. neighbours, family or friends who might like to come to Sunday Club, please invite them. We meet in the church at 10:00-11:15am every Sunday during term time. We think it's important for children to hear the good news of the gospel and have the option of a Christian lifestyle in today's secular world.

Linda Clarkson

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Pontius Pilate

This man was probably connected with the Roman family of the Pontii, and called "Pilate" from the Latin *pileatus*, i.e., "wearing the pileus", which was the "cap or badge of a manumitted slave," as indicating that he was a "freedman," or the descendant of one.

He was the sixth in the order of the Roman procurators of Judea (A.D. 26-36). His headquarters were at Caesarea, but he frequently went up to Jerusalem. His reign extended over the period of the ministry of John the Baptist and of Jesus Christ, in connection with whose trial his name comes into prominent notice. Pilate was a "typical Roman, not of the antique, simple stamp, but of the imperial period, a man not without some remains of the ancient Roman justice in his soul, yet pleasure-loving, imperious, and corrupt. He hated the Jews whom he ruled, and in times of irritation freely shed their blood. They returned his hatred with cordiality, and accused him of every crime, maladministration, cruelty, and robbery. He visited Jerusalem as seldom as possible; for, indeed, to one accustomed to the pleasures of Rome, with its theatres, baths, games, and gay society, Jerusalem, with its religiousness and ever-smouldering revolt, was a dreary residence. When he did visit it he stayed in the palace of Herod the Great, it being common for the officers sent by Rome into conquered countries to occupy the palaces of the displaced sovereigns."

After his trial before the Sanhedrin, Jesus was brought to the Roman procurator, Pilate, who had come up to Jerusalem as usual to preserve order during the Passover, and was now residing, perhaps, in the castle of Antonia, or it may be in Herod's palace. Pilate came forth from his palace and met the deputation from the Sanhedrin, who, in answer to his inquiry as to the nature of the accusation they had to prefer against Jesus, accused him of being a "malefactor." Pilate was not satisfied with this, and they further accused him (1) of sedition, (2) preventing the payment of the tribute to Caesar, and (3) of assuming the title of king (Luke 23:2). Pilate now withdrew with Jesus into the palace (John 18:33) and examined him in private (37,38); and then going out to the deputation still standing before the gate, he declared that he could find no fault in Jesus (Luke 23:4). This only aroused them to more furious clamour, and they cried that he excited the populace "throughout all Jewry, beginning from Galilee." When Pilate heard of Galilee, he sent the accused to Herod Antipas, who had jurisdiction over that province, thus hoping to escape the difficulty in which he found himself. But Herod, with his men of war, set Jesus at nought, and sent him back again to Pilate, clad in a purple robe of mockery (23:11, 12).

Pilate now proposed that as he and Herod had found no fault in him, they should release Jesus; and anticipating that they would consent to this proposal, he ascended the judgement-seat as if ready to ratify the decision (Matt. 27:19). But at this moment his wife (Claudia Procula) sent a message to him imploring him to have nothing to do with the "just person." Pilate's feelings of perplexity and awe were deepened by this incident, while the crowd vehemently cried out, "Not this man, but Barabbas." Pilate answered, "What then shall I do with Jesus?" The fierce cry immediately followed. "Let him be crucified." Pilate, apparently vexed, and not knowing what to do, said, "Why, what evil hath he done?" but with yet fiercer fanaticism the crowd yelled out, "Away with him! crucify him, crucify him!" Pilate yielded, and sent Jesus away to be scourged. This scourging was usually inflicted by

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lictors; but as Pilate was only a procurator he had no lictor, and hence his soldiers inflicted this terrible punishment. This one, the soldiers began to deride the sufferer, and they threw around him a purple robe, probably some old cast-off robe of state (Matt. 27:28; John 19:2), and putting a reed in his right hand, and a crowd of thorns on his head, bowed the knee before him in mockery, and saluted him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" They took also the reed and smote him with it on the head and face, and spat in his face, heaping upon him every indignity.

Pilate then led forth Jesus from within the Praetorium (Matt. 27:27) before the people, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, saying, "Behold the man!" But the sight of Jesus, now scourged and crowned and bleeding, only stirred their hatred the more, and again they cried out, "Crucify him, crucify him!" and brought forth this additional charge against him, that he professed to be "the Son of God." Pilate heard this accusation with a superstitious awe, and taking him once more within the Praetorium, asked him, "Whence art thou?" Jesus gave him no answer. Pilate was irritated by his continued silence, and said, "Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee?" Jesus, with calm dignity, answered the Roman, "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above."

After this Pilate seemed more resolved than ever to let Jesus go. The crowd perceiving this cried out, "If thou let this man go, thou art not Caesar's friend." This settled the matter. He was afraid of being accused to the emperor. Calling for water, he washed his hands in the sight of the people, saying, "I am innocent of the blood of this just person." The mob, again scorning his scruples, cried, "His blood be on us, and on our children." Pilate was stung to the heart by their insults, and putting forth Jesus before them, said, "Shall I crucify your King?" The fatal moment had now come. They madly exclaimed, "We have no king but Caesar;" and now Jesus is given up to them, and led away to be crucified.

By the direction of Pilate an inscription was placed, according to the Roman custom, over the cross, stating the crime for which he was crucified. Having ascertained from the centurion that he was dead, he gave up the body to Joseph of Arimathea to be buried. Pilate's name now disappears from the Gospel history. References to him, however, are found in the Acts of the Apostles (3:13; 4:27; 13:28), and in 1 Tim. 6:13. In A.D. 36 the governor of Syria brought serious accusations against Pilate, and he was banished to Vienne in Gaul, where, according to tradition, he committed suicide.

To My Friends

To My Friends Who Are - MARRIED

Love is not about "it's your fault", but "I'm sorry"; not "where are you" but "I'm right here"; not "how could you" but "I understand"; not "I wish you were", but "I'm thankful you are."

To My Friends Who Are - ENGAGED

The true measure of compatibility is not the years spent together but how good you are for each other.

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To My Friends Who Are - NOT SO SINGLE

Love isn't about becoming somebody else's "perfect person." It's about finding someone who helps you become the best person you can be.

To My Friends Who Are - HEARTBROKEN

Heartbreaks last as long as you want and cut as deep as you allow them to go. The challenge is not how to survive heartbreaks but to learn from them.

To My Friends Who Are - NAIVE

How to be in love: Fall but don't stumble, be consistent but not too persistent, share and never be unfair, understand and try not to demand, and get hurt but never keep the pain.

To My Friends Who Are - SEARCHING

True love cannot be found where it does not truly exist, nor can it be hidden where it truly does. Love is magic. The more we hide it, the more it shows; the more you suppress it, the more it grows.

To My Friends Who Are - PLAYBOY/GIRL TYPE

Never say I love if you don't care. Never talk about feelings if they aren't there. Never touch a life if you mean to break a heart. Never look in the eye when what you do is lie. The cruellest thing a guy can do to a girl is to let her fall in love when he doesn't intend to catch her fall.

To My Friends Who Are - POSSESSIVE

It breaks your heart to see the one you love happy with someone else but it's more painful to know that the one you love is unhappy with you.

To My Friends Who Are - AFRAID TO CONFESS

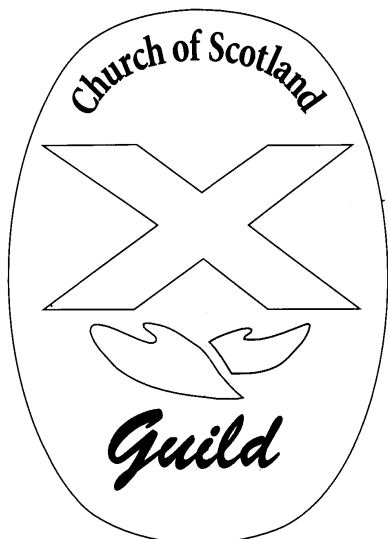
Love hurts when you break up with someone. It hurts even more when someone breaks up with you. But love hurts the most when the person you love has no idea how you feel.

To My Friends Who Are - STILL HOLDING ON

A sad thing about life is that when you meet someone who means a lot to you, only to find out in the end that it was never bound to be and we just have to let go.

Continued on page 3

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GUILD REPORT

Since the last newsletter we have only had four meetings and the most enjoyable United Guilds Christmas Dinner. This, the 25th of these gatherings, was hosted by the E.J.R.C. who were the originators of these get-togethers. Appropriately enough silver featured largely in the programme. Prior to that we had a most interesting talk from Mr. Mike Potts on conservation and recycling. He encouraged us all to start up compost heaps to cut down on the amount of garbage we put out and also to be more sparing in our use of plastic bags but could offer no immediate solution to the problem of waste paper. The first half of our session ended with a most enjoyable evening of songs, poems and readings on a Christmas theme by The Occasionals, a talented group of ladies who manage to inform as well as amuse. All the management team contributed to the "eats" that night so there was a considerable spread much appreciated by members and guests.

Our first speaker of 2003 was Mr Borthwick who showed us poems, which he had written, on events, which had concerned him greatly in the past few years. At our second January meeting Mrs. June Pugh gave a talk on the work of Christian Aid as this fits in with our topic for this year -Sharing Our World.

The current round of national guild projects is now coming to an end. For the past three years we have heard a great deal about Mission Aviation Fellowship and Lodging House Mission, the two projects we have been supporting, but there have been four other worthwhile projects going on. One is Good News On The Forgotten Frontier, a Bible Society venture which guild money and prayers are supporting. This provides bibles and Christian teaching to the Nenet people in the Arctic Circle area of Siberia, many of whom are nomadic and live all year round in "chums" or tepees and herd reindeer. Most of the children spend years in boarding schools cut off from families and native culture so they often become alienated and aggressive. Illustrated children's scriptures are in great demand so the £40,000÷ raised by guilds is being well used.

The Well, based in Glasgow, is an outreach to Asian women, many of whom have little or no English. English classes are held and help is given with form filling etc. Craft classes and computing are also on the programme as are social outings. The money raised by the guild, again about £40,000 will help this project to expand into larger premises and help even more than the 3,000 people who come for assistance and companionship each year.

The Rainy Hospital in India is a reasonably well equipped establishment but its nursing school desperately needed help to improve living, working and training facilities for students. Guild money, almost £100,000 has gone to provide better accommodation (now only three students to a room AND each has a chair, bookrack, cabinet and space to hang clothes!) and will also help to provide a library and internet access.

The sixth project—A Way Of Life - is giving money to the Board of Communication to help set up a new and more extensive website which has had more than eight million hits (visits) since it was set up two years ago. Information on this website includes the Church Without Walls, support for schools and a home page with local details. This website also enables important events such as the General Assembly and the National Guild Meeting to be accessed on computer while they are happening.

The amazing news, however, is that during the six years that the guild has undertaken this form of project work over **£1,000,000** has been raised. We are now looking forward to our next choice of projects.

Wilma Miller

Edited by Hector M MacLean for the members and friends of St Peter's and St Andrew's Church Thurso. Many thanks to all who contributed. Contributions not used may be used in later issues. Printed by St Peter's and St Andrew's Church.