

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 2:2006

Summer 2006

MINISTER'S LETTER



**Pulteneytown Manse
2 Coronation St.
Wick
KW1 5LS**

01955 603166

Dear Friends,

It was indeed a memorable day when the congregation's **new elders** were appointed. All four have been very active in the work of the congregation and clearly have the support and prayers of the membership. The system for the appointment of Elders takes some time and the terminology in the Service is in places a bit dated but there are important principles behind it.

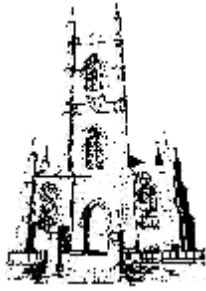
Elders are, collectively, the spiritual leaders in a congregation. They have not only to be wise and experienced but also people who live a life that seeks to commend the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. The growing practice of inviting congregations to nominate people they feel would be suitable leaders is a good one. Before they are appointed the congregation has to be satisfied as to their life and doctrine and is formally given the opportunity to object to an appointment on these grounds.

It is one of the many areas where Christian standards are increasingly different from those accepted in the community at large. We hear many voices saying that it doesn't matter how a person lives so long as they 'do their job well'. This is not acceptable for a Christian and particularly for a Christian leader. Jesus said 'Follow me' and one of the most remarkable things about His life was that there was a total consistency between what He said and what He did. His followers seek by the grace of God to make sure that 'the talk' and 'the walk' match up. The new elders are people who seek to do that.

If the system of appointing Elders takes some time then there will be those who think that the system for appointing a new Minister takes an eternity! However, slowly but surely, progress is being made. We are extremely grateful to Mike Gordon and the Property Committee for all the time and energy they have put in to the Manse.

The plan for the re-building of the annexe has now been agreed and work should get under way in the not too distant future. The Nominating Committee are actively seeking the Lord's guidance concerning a new Minister and the congregation are asked to pray

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earnestly that someone of the Lord's choosing will soon emerge.

In the mean time the congregation is well served by a team of hard working and very committed office-bearers who are ensuring that the work of the congregation continues smoothly. May the Lord richly bless every one of them.

Yours very sincerely,

Bill Wallace

BAPTISM

Paul Andrew Dordai, Duncan St.

NEW MEMBERS

We are delighted to announce that Charles and Ruth Hulme are now full members of St. Peter's and St. Andrew's.

FUNERALS

Edward J Fulton, Scaraben Court
Cath Campbell, Queens Court,
Ian W. Adam, Glengolly
Kate Laing, Glengolly (Barrock St.)
Derry Angus, Crosskirk, Forss



We extend our sympathy to those who have been bereaved and pray that the and peace of Jesus Christ would be their strength at this time.

New Elders

The following new elders were admitted to the Kirk Session at the morning service on Sunday 30th April:

Jean Brock, Burnett Place
Iain MacKillop, Queens Terrace
Maureen MacKillop, Queens Terrace
Anne MacLeod, Bower Court

Please pray for the Kirk Session; that the members would grow together in the love of Christ and would experience God's wisdom to give effective leadership within the congregation.

Please pray that as a congregation, during the time of vacancy and beyond, we might know the way forward to release the elders into true ministry to the blessing of us all, and that each of us individually within the congregation, whether a member, adherent or occassional visitor, would find what is God's good and perfect plan for our lives individually and corporately.

COMMUNION DATES

SUNDAY
11 June 2006
11.00 am
SUNDAY
10 Sept. 2006
11.00 am

Church Coffee Morning

Saturday 1st July
10..00 am -12..00 am
at the Royal British Legion

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Light Factory Holiday Club 2006.



The Holiday Club, now in its sixth year, is a joint initiative by Thurso churches. In previous years we have used material designed by Scripture Union programme, this year Alison Sharp has written an exciting programme based on "Narnia – The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe"

Activities all take place in Thurso High School between 10.00am and 12.00 mid day for the week of Monday 3rd to 7th July. The week, as always, will provide music, dance, drama, craft and games for around seventy primary school age children.

Adult helpers are all volunteers from the local churches. There is also a youth team of our own committed young people supported by "Step Out" a group of young people from the Baptist Union; they will also run evening events, including a beach barbecue for ALL young people in Thurso.

There is a nominal charge per session as a contribution towards refreshments and craft materials but the event could not take place without the support of individuals, local churches and organisations all of whom have, in previous years, donated generously. These include: UKAEA, Highland Regional Council, Rotary Club of Thurso, Ladies Circle, Thurso Baptist Church, United Reformed Church, St. Peter's & St. Andrews Church and Guild.

Whilst we have an active group of helpers, we're always looking for more!

Anyone interested in helping, or donating, should contact Judy on 894929 or Helen on 831353

Church of The Covered Dish (c) 1999 Tom Thapp



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Worship Leaders

In a northern parish, the precentor took heart of grace one Sunday morning and ventured on the hazardous experiment of trying a new tune.

"Whatna tune was that ye had the day?" inquired one of the elders after the service.

"Oh, yon was St. Paul's," replied the precentor. "Saunt what?"

"St. Paul's."

"Ye may be very thankfu' Paul himsel' wasna in the kirk to hear ye, for if he had, he would hae bundled ye oot o' the desk quick. Paul was a man that couldna, an' what's mair he wouldna, stand the like o' yon. Dinna affront his memory by singin' the like o' yon tune again."

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The Rev. Mr. McDougal, of Paisley, used to tell of his having been accosted by a man one day, when the following colloquy took place:-

"You're Mr. McDougal, I think?"

"Yes; how do you happen to know me?"

"Weel, I'm whiles in your kirk." "Do you live in Paisley?" "No; I leeve in Glesca."

"Then, I suppose, you sometimes stay with friends in Paisley when you come to worship with us there?"

"No, no; I just walk out on the Sundays."

"That's along walk between Glasgow and Paisley," observed Mr. McDougal, who was beginning to feel proud of his power of drawing a congregation. "Do you stay overnight, then, after going to church?"

"No; I just walk back to Glesca again."

"That is indeed a long walk, and says something for the power of the preacher."

"No doubt it's a guid lang walk, but I think an awfu' lot o' your precentor!"

From "The Kirk and its Worthies"
by Nicholas Dickson

A Prayer Like Any Other

*It's way past midnight, everyone asleep
Outside the window it's quiet on the street
My bags are packed, my guitar too
Taxi's coming, nothin' I can do
Oh Lord, keep your eye on my friends
I'd just feel better
knowing you're watching them
I've got to roll, take a little spin
While I'm gone, keep your eye on my friends*

*Gotta get home the only way I know
The long old road, steady and slow
One of these days I'll come back
If the creek don't rise and stuff like that
Oh Lord, keep your eye on this place
Keep it warm, keep it safe
You know I depend on your saving grace
While I'm gone keep your eye on this place*

*This is just a prayer like any other
Nothing more, nothing less
A prayer like any other
One more time could you just say yes
Oh Lord, keep your eye on me
You know how foolish and reckless I can be
Light my way up, so I can see
Oh Lord, keep your eye on me
Oh Lord, keep your eye on my friends
Oh Lord, keep your eye on this place*

by Kevin Welch © 2004
Chaos Canyon Songs

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"Writing hymns is harder than I thought!
I can't think of anything that rhymes with
'Hallelujah' except 'glad I knew ya'
and 'We'll tattoo ya!'"

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Mercy Ships

Mercy Ships is a global hospital ship charity that provides free medical care, relief aid, community development and long-term sustainable development in the poorest countries in the world. Since its inception in 1978, Mercy Ships has worked in more than 70 countries and impacted more than 5.5million lives through its work on board the ships and through its land-based projects.



WWW.MERCYSHIPS.ORG

Freetown, Sierra Leone, May 3, 2006: Hundreds of patients at a clinic in Sierra Leone will have their lives transformed when they receive wheelchairs refurbished in UK prisons.

The Mercy Ships' New Steps Centre in Freetown, Sierra Leone, treats people suffering from a variety of medical conditions, including polio, which result in loss of limbs or immobility.

Mercy Ships UK receives refurbished wheelchairs from two other charities: Wheels for the World and Inside Out Trust. Inside Out Trust arranges for wheelchairs to be renovated by prisoners at a number of sites around Britain, where the inmates take them apart, clean them, paint them and rebuild them. Prisoners work for the good of people in need. This boosts their self esteem and develops practical skills, helping them to 'go straight' on release.

Wheels for the World works with partners in developing nations and Mercy Ships will be the distribution partner in this instance, arranging the transport and identifying people who will receive the wheelchairs. The Mercy Ships New Steps Centre recently received 125 of these wheelchairs, and a further 75 are to be delivered later in 2006.

One of the first people in Sierra Leone to receive a free refurbished wheelchair was Kadiatu Barrie. The 23 year old polio patient has been crawling on the ground ever since her previous chair broke a year ago. Kadiatu is especially pleased she'll no longer have to beg the local children to bring her water each day. She'll now be able to make the one mile round trip to the local well on her own.

Justin Watkins, procurement manager for Mercy Ships UK said: "This is a great example of charities working together to serve the poor of West Africa. The wheelchairs are all at the end of their life here in the UK but once they have been refurbished, are in excellent working condition and it is a delight to know that they will be put to very good use.

"When visiting the prisoners, they were all very interested in seeing where their chairs ended up and took pride in their work as it was doing something useful."

One of the biggest needs is for funds to pay for transport. It costs over £4,000 to get a truckload of wheelchairs to the prison for repair and to ship a container full of wheelchairs out to Africa.

For further information, please contact Lorna Inglis or Lois Boyle at Media House on 0141 220 6040.

Anyone wishing to donate towards the provision of wheelchairs and other mobility aids or to the 'New Steps Centre' should contact Mercy Ships on 01438 727800, email info@mercyships.org.uk or send a cheque to Mercy Ships UK, The Lighthouse, 12 Meadway Court, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 2EF.

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Food for Thought

Some of the best advice a person can share with someone they care about is this; "God will be there for you"

If you need to lean on someone
There is no greater strength,
If you need to move away from
difficulty and move towards resolve,
there is no greater direction to go in,
there is no greater travelling companion!

Follow your heart when it tells you to believe , because there is no end to blessings you can receive.

"Smile and the world smiles with you".
Every day is a bonus!

D.C..



Summer

Summer suns are glowing
Over land and sea
Happy light is flowing,
Bountiful and free.
Everything rejoices
In the mellow rays;
All earth's thousand voices
Swell the psalm of praise.

God's free mercy streameth
Over all the world
And His banner gleameth,
Everywhere unfurled.
Broad and deep and glorious,
As the heav'n above,
Shines in might victorious
His eternal love.

Lord, upon our blindness
Thy Pure radiance pour;
For Thy loving-kindness
Make us love Thee more.
And when clouds are drifting
Dark across our sky,
Then, the veil uplifting,
Father, be Thou nigh.

We will never doubt Thee,
Though Thou veil Thy light-
Life is dark without Thee,
Death with Thee is bright.
Light of light, shine o'er us
On our pilgrim way;
Go Thou still before us
To the endless day.

William Walsham How
1825-1897

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Church Planting



Every good and perfect gift
is from above.

PLANT THREE ROWS OF PEAS:

1. Peace of mind
2. Peace of heart
3. Peace of soul

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF SQUASH:

1. Squash gossip
2. Squash indifference
3. Squash grumbling
4. Squash selfishness

PLANT FOUR ROWS OF LETTUCE:

1. Lettuce be faithful
2. Lettuce be kind
3. Lettuce be patient
4. Lettuce really love one another

NO GARDEN IS WITHOUT TURNIPS:

1. Turnip for meetings
2. Turnip for service
3. Turnip to help one another

TO CONCLUDE OUR GARDEN WE MUST HAVE THYME:

1. Thyme for each other
2. Thyme for family
3. Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love. There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

THE CASTAWAY

A man had been shipwrecked on a remote island in the Pacific, and was alone for 20 years. When a ship finally arrived, his rescuers were impressed with the three buildings he had built and asked him about them.

"Well," the man replied, "this is my house, and that building over there is my church. It's a wonderful church and I hate to leave it."

"And what is the third building yonder?" a rescuer asked.

"Oh, that's the church I used to go to," the man replied.

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WHO MAKES A CHURCH A SUCCESS ?

Even though my typewriter is an old model, it works quite well except for one of the keys. I have wished many times that it worked perfectly. It is true that there are forty-six keys that function well enough, just one key makes all the difference.

Sometimes it seems to me that the church is somewhat like my typewriter - not all the keys properly.

You may say to yourself : " Well, I am only one person. I won't make or break the church." But it does make a difference, because a church, needs the active participation of every person.

So, the next time you think you are only one person, and that your efforts are not needed, remember my typewriter and say to yourself : " I am a key person in the congregation, and I am needed very much."

**The Friendship Book of Francis Gay
July 18th 1963**

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Tom Sawyer goes to Church

...After the hymn had been sung, the Revd Mr Sprague turned himself into a bulletin board and read off `notices' of meetings and societies and things till it seemed that the list would stretch out to the crack of doom - a queer custom which is still kept up in America, even in cities, away here in this age of abundant newspapers. Often the less there is to justify a traditional custom, the harder it is to get rid of.

The minister gave out his text and droned along monotonously through an argument that was so prosy that many a head by and by began to nod - and yet it was an argument that dealt in limitless fire and brimstone, and thinned the predestined elect down to a company so small as to be hardly worth the saving. Tom counted the pages of the sermon; after church he always knew how many pages there had been, but he seldom knew anything else about the discourse.

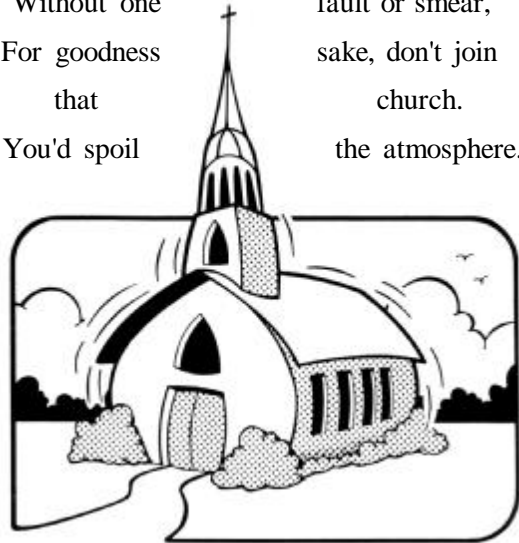
However, this time he was really interested for a little while. The minister made a grand and moving picture of the assembling together of the world's hosts at the millennium when the lion and the lamb should lie down together and a little child should lead them. But the pathos, the lesson, the moral of the great spectacle were lost upon the boy; he only thought of the conspicuousness of the principal character before the onlooking nations; his face lit with the thought, and he said to himself that he wished he could be that child, if it was a tame lion...

And now the minister prayed. A good, generous prayer it was, and went into details; it pleaded for the church, and the little children of the church; for the other churches of the village; for the village itself; for the county; for the State; for the State officers; for the United States; for the churches of the United States; for Congress; for the President; for the officers of the Government; for poor sailors, tossed by stormy seas; for the oppressed millions groaning under the heel of European monarchies and oriental despotisms; for such as have the light and the good tidings, and yet have not eyes to see nor ears to hear withal; for the heathen in the far islands of the sea; and closed with a supplication that the words he was about to speak might find grace and favour, and be as seed sown in fertile ground, yielding in time a grateful harvest of good. Amen.

"The Adventures of Tom Sawyer"
by Mark Twain.

The Perfect Church

If you should find the Perfect Church
Without one fault or smear,
For goodness sake, don't join
that church.
You'd spoil the atmosphere.



But since no perfect church exists
Where people never sin,
Let's cease in looking for that church,
And love the one we're in.

___ oOo ___

The Perfect Pastor

Ideally he is 36 years old with 50 years experience. He smiles continually while keeping a straight face, seen as a serious man with a keen sense of humour.

He preaches exactly 20 minutes covering all of the doctrines enshrined in the Confession, condemning sin but never stepping on anyone's toes, pointing out evil but never criticising anyone.

He should have a burning desire to work for the young and spend his time with the senior citizens.

He must visit the church members as he evangelises the unchurched and be found in his study when needed.

He must be out and about and never forget to devote himself to prayer and the word.

Praise and Worship

"It is performed in heaven. Though they who perform
it are on earth, yet they do it, by faith, in heaven."

John Owen

"Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the psaltry and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance. Praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: Praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals." (Psalm 150:3-5)

Why Do We Stand When We Sing?

"And the Levites, ... of the children of the Korhites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with a loud voice on high."

(2 Chronicles 20:19)

Why Do We Clap Our Hands?

"O clap your hands all ye people; shout unto God with the voice of triumph."

(Psalms 47:1)

Why Do We Dance Before the Lord?

"Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs."

(Psalms 150:4)

"Let them praise his name in the dance: let them sing praises unto him with the timbrel and harp."

(Psalms 149:3)

Why Do We Lift Our Hands?

"Thus I will bless Thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in Thy name."

(Psalms 63:4)

"Lift up your hands in the sanctuary and bless the Lord."

(Psalms 134:2)

"I will therefore that men pray everywhere, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting."

(1 Timothy 2:8)

Why Do We Have Audible Praise Unto God?

"Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me bless His Holy name."

(Psalms 103:1)

"I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth."

(Psalms 34:1)

Why Do We Sing Choruses as Well as Hymns?

"And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."

(Ephesians 5:18-19)

"But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in Spirit and in Truth for the Father seeketh such to worship Him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth. "

(John 4:23-24)

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GUILD NEWS



Our last two meetings were very interesting. An evening of Negro Spirituals was enjoyed by all who listened, various historical truths were shared. Father John Stevenson always has a wealth of information about the subject he brings to us.

Our final meeting was our AGM. No change was made with office bearers and three other ladies joined the team two of whom had served on the team before, one new member will be sharing our planning and worship during the next session.

Mrs Morag Miller one of our own congregation was our guest speaker and shared with us very interesting snippets from her work with "Riding for the disabled, a very deserving cause. Our eyes were opened to the dedication of all who worked with these special young people.

Easter Praise was another very spiritual evening with song & verse.

The bag packing in the Co-op made £700 which was sent to Guild Office.

Our "Dare to care" strategy is now finished, and we are looking forward to the launching of new projects & theme for the next three years. A meeting regarding Theme & Topic for the next three years was held in Watten recently with representatives from most branches.

The Guild's new projects for 2006 - 2009, under the strategy "Let's Live: body, mind and soul." are as follows:

Borderline:

Supporting homeless Scots, London

Christian Aid:

Action for the Adivasi, Bangladesh

CrossReach:

Beyond the Blues, Bluebell Project

Leprosy Mission Scotland:

Walking in the Light, Nigeria

Lydia Project: Miriam:

Changing the World together, Eastern Europe

Scottish Love in Action:

Touching the Untouchables, India

GUILD CALENDAR

The Summer Rally is to be held on Wednesday 14th June at 7:30 pm. in Bruan Church. We are trying to combine this with our Guild Outing and information about this will be circulated once plans are to hand.

The speaker for the Rally will be the present National Convener, Norah Summer from Falkirk, whose term of office finishes in May.

The Guild Annual Meeting for 2006 will be held on Saturday 2nd September at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow.

We look forward to a short break before we begin to prepare our plans for next session,

God bless you all

Mary Chalmers

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