

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 3:2007

Autumn 2007

MINISTER'S LETTER



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

01955 603166

Dear Friends,

The Chief Constable of Cheshire, Peter Fahy, has caused a national stir with his views of youth violence. He made them after the tragic murder of a forty-seven year old man who had confronted a group of teenagers outside his house.

He spoke of how his officers were engaged every night of the week “in a constant battle against anti-social behaviour and alcohol induced violence. Most of the bad behaviour is fuelled by alcohol – much of it supplied by adults – including some parents.”

Locally one of our leading Caithness Councillors recently said that under-age drinking ‘is the scourge of our community’. High School teachers tell us that many pupils main interest at the week-ends relates to how much drink they have consumed, and a local contractor recently said that he had to dismiss his two apprentices because neither was able to work properly on Mondays after an alcohol fuelled week-end.

Problem drinking now costs the country at least £20 billion in crime, health costs and social disorder.

The Bible is clear on the matter. It’s simple message is ‘Don’t get drunk.’ (Ephesians 5 v 18.) It seems a simple, sensible, instruction. But our society treats drunkenness at worst as a joke and more often as one of the great experiences and pleasures of life.

Along side the Biblical instruction not to get drunk is the further instruction to be ‘filled with the Spirit’ What a contrast! On the one hand chemical stimulation which depresses your senses and ability to make rational decisions and the other hand the Spirit of the Living God filling you to give life to the full and to enrich every aspect of your being.

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

The instruction is to 'keep on being filled' with the Spirit. We've got to want it. And always remember God wants you and me to grow in grace and love day by day. The fruit of the spirit is 'love joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law.' Gal 5 v 22,23.

Yours in the joy of the Lord,

Bill Wallace

MARRIAGES

Mary McCulloch and and Andrew Parker
Laura Innes and Richard Cormack

FUNERALS

Donald Riach, Rose Street
Rina MacKay, Harald Drive
Moira Calder, Queens Terrace
Tommy Sinclair, Seaforth Place

"Laugh with your happy friends when they're happy; share tears when they're down."

ROMANS 12:15 from "The Message"

Communion

SUNDAY
9th September
11.30 am



For as often as ye eat this bread,
and drink this cup, ye do show
the LORD's death till He come"
(1 Corinthians 11:26).

Church Coffee Morning

The Church's Annual Coffee Morning and Sale will be held on Saturday 15th September in the Royal British Legion from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm.

There will be the usual Baking and Produce Stalls. Helpers are required.

Anyone who is free to help please come along.

Also donations for the baking and produce tables will be most welcome.

If you are able to help in any way contact Robert Allan on 892989.

This is also our Gift Aid weekend envelopes for donations will be issued with the church News Letter and also be available at the Church door.

A Very Special Collection

The following collection, taken at Port Moseley, New Guinea was reported in the *Free Church Monthly* for March 1892:

Cash	£20 1 6
325 spears, 65 shell armlets, 92 bows, 180 arrows, besides shields, drums, shell necklaces, feather and other ornaments, valued at	£10 0 0
Total	£30 1 6

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso



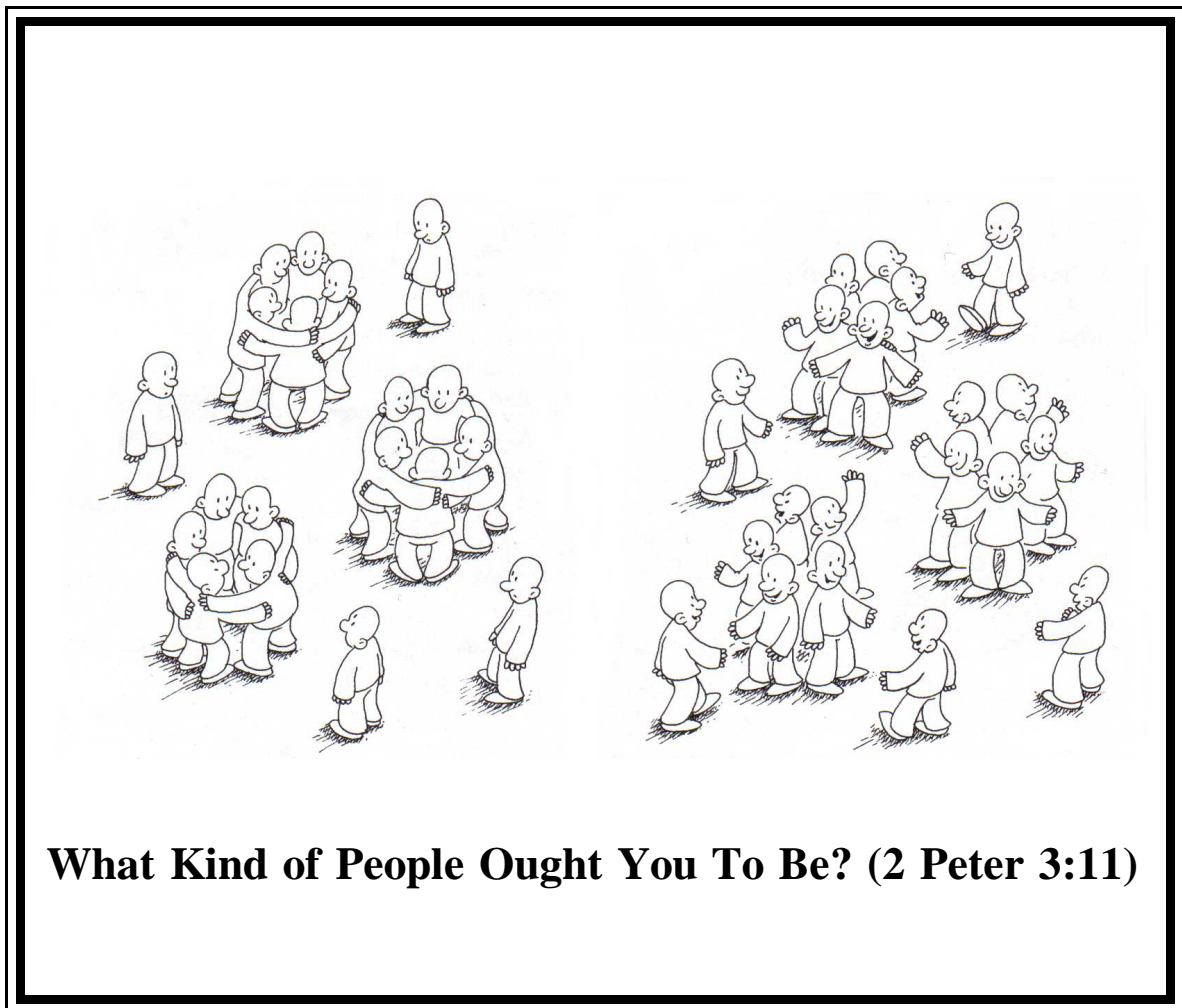
Everyone with a computer and on-line uses a search engine at some time. Most of us probably use Google or perhaps Alta Vista but there are alternatives and some of them can benefit those less fortunate than ourselves!

I recently discovered "**everyclick.com**" which every time you search and go to a website from there the site makes a donation to a charity of your choice! The charity gets money for nothing and you get a search.

It's now my default search engine and OK it's not as sophisticated as Google and it's not as comprehensive but it does the job most of the time and it benefits your chosen charity. You can even use it to search for Google or Microsoft and make them give instead of taking!

So far the site has raised over ^273,000 for various charities without the charity doing a thing. We chose Adopt-A-Child for our donations but you can choose any and change as often as you wish. Why not give it a try? You can't lose but a charity could gain!

Mike Gordon



What Kind of People Ought You To Be? (2 Peter 3:11)

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

Battle Hymn Of Love

I will pledge my heart to the love we share
Through the good and the bad times, too.
I'll forsake my rest for your happiness
To my death I will stand by you.

As God is my witness, this vow I will make
To have and to hold you, no other to take
For rich or for poor, under skies grey or blue
To my death I will stand by you.

There are wars and there are rumours
of wars yet to come
Temptations we'll have to pass through
Though others may tremble, I will not run
To my death I will stand by you.

I will put on the armour of faithfulness
To fight for a heart that is true
Till the battle is won, I will not run
To my death I will stand by you.

As God is my witness, this vow I will make
To have and to hold you, no other to take
For rich or for poor, under skies grey or blue
To my death I will stand by you.

Till the battle is won, I will not run
To my death I will stand by you.

The Land o' the Leal

I'm wearin' awa', John,
Like snaw wreaths in thaw, John,
I'm wearin' awa'
To the land o' the leal.

There's nae sorrow there, John,
There's neither cauld nor care, John,
The day is aye fair
In the land o' the leal.

Our bonnie bairn's there, John,
She was bairth good and fair, John,
And oh ! We grudged her sair
To the land o' the leal.

But sorrow's sel' wears past, John,
And joy's a-comin fast, John,
The joy that's aye to last
In the land o' the leal.

Oh, haud ye leal and true, John,
Your day it's wearin' through, John,
And I'll welcome you
To the land o' the leal.

Now fare ye weel, my ain John,
This world's cares are vain, John,
We'll meet, and we'll be fain
In the land o' the leal.

© 1987 By Don Schlitz & Paul Overstreet

Carolina Oliphant, Lady Nairne (1766-1845)

Love

Love is not ooey goeey, love is strength and commitment. To love someone can mean telling them what they don't want to hear.

Love is courage and it takes a lot more courage to say "I'm scared" or "I love you" than it does to clout someone round the ear

Love is respect, for ourselves and for others. It is all about allowing people to be where they are and loving them anyway. The moment we say "do this then I will love you," that isn't love, that's manipulation.

Love is looking for the good in people, and if we can do that and do it consistently then our own happiness is guaranteed. As our life is a reflection of ourselves, the more love and beauty that we receive, the more we are growing and the more we are becoming, and so for all of us, love is everything.

From "Being Happy!" by Andrew Matthews © 1988 by Andrew Matthews & Media Masters Pte Ltd

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Joy In The Morning : Psalm 30

PLEASE

SING

A

LIVELY

MELODY

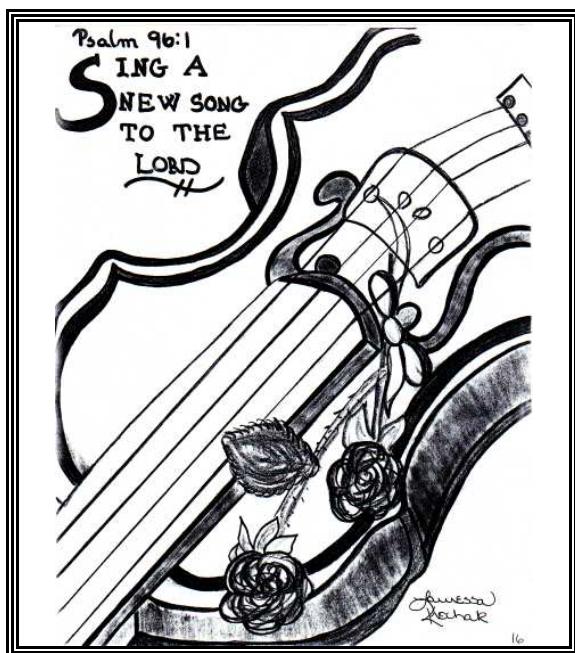


Next to theology I give to music the highest place and honor. Music is the art of the prophets, the only art that can calm the agitations of the soul; it is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.

Martin Luther

Among our own helps singing holds a chief place; as saith the apostle, "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in Your heart to the Lord."

Charles H. Spurgeon



I will sing all my praises to you, Lord;
From the darkness You lifted me!
In distress, when I called unto You, Lord,
You healed me and set me free.
All my life's secure in knowing
That Your favour is shower'd on me;
For Your joy always comes with the morning
When the weeping of night must flee.

So I give You the glory,
Sing of Your greatness;
Always exalt Your Holy Name.
Give thanks for ever; be silent never;
Always exalt Your Name!

For to You, Lord, I cried out for mercy;
And You graciously lifted me!
And you turned all my mourning to dancing;
You healed me and set me free.
For Your anger lasts a moment
Then Your favour is shower'd on me
And Your joy always comes with the morning
When the weeping of night must flee.

So I give You the glory,
Sing of Your greatness;
Always exalt Your Holy Name.
Give thanks for ever; be silent never;
Always exalt Your Name!

So I give You the glory,
Sing of Your greatness;
Always exalt Your Holy Name.
Give you the glory;
Sing of Your greatness;
Always exalt Your Holy Name!

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Elizabeth and John hosted the "P.S.A.L.M." website. John was called home to Glory in December 2002. Elizabeth joined him in 2004

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

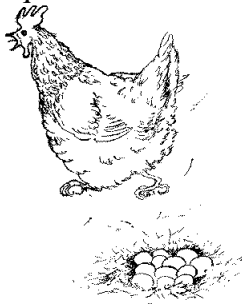
Bringing spiritual hope and physical care, Mission Aviation Fellowship uses light aircraft in developing countries so that people in remote areas can receive the help they need.



Yambio Women's Poultry Project

In Yambio, southern Sudan, a new project is helping 5,000 single parent households earn extra income and supplement their diet. The Yambio Women's Poultry Project run by World Vision is introducing a new chicken breed to the local area.

Mission Aviation Fellowship pilots flew day old chicks from Nairobi to Yambio, southern Sudan to support this project operating in Yambio and Nzara counties, Western Equatorial State.

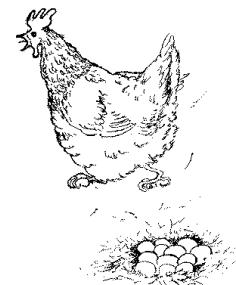


The project was started after the World Vision team learned that in many households there was limited income and children were malnourished. Many women keep chickens to help supplement their diet and also provide more income, but local hens have very low egg production and their growth rates are poor. The World Vision team attributed this to poor genetic potential as well as poor husbandry and poultry production skills.

Each beneficiary of the project receives a cock and a hen to cross-breed with her local chickens. The resulting offspring should grow bigger and healthier and produce more eggs. The extra eggs and chickens can be eaten or sold, thus generating food and an income for the family. Alongside receiving the birds, beneficiaries are learning new techniques in poultry husbandry, feeding and health management, enabling them to make the most of their chickens.

With more locally produced eggs, the team hopes that the nutritional status of the population will improve. At present, most eggs are imported from Uganda. They are expensive and often rotten by the time they reach market to be sold.

More than 10,000 chicks were flown by MAF to Yambio where they were housed and looked after until they had grown and were ready to be distributed. It is hoped that these new chickens and their offspring will also breed with the other chickens in the neighbourhood, spreading the improved breed across the two counties.



'MAF has offered us a very vital and crucial link in ensuring that the major goal of improving the performance of the local chicken population is met,' affirms Dr Yamo, Poultry Project Officer, World Vision Sudan.

MAF is involved at the heart of reaching vulnerable people, whether they are in spiritual or physical need.

Web address <http://www.maf-uk.org.uk>

Mission Aviation Fellowship, Challenge House, 29 Canal Street, Glasgow G4 0AD

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso



Asia Floods Appeal: August 2007

Christian Aid has launched an emergency appeal for the people affected by severe flooding in South Asia. Four of our partner organisations in India are aiming to reach 60,000 people in the worst-hit areas; while partners in Bangladesh are aiming to get food rations, clothing and utensils to 40,000 people. Please support this urgent appeal.

Christian Aid's response includes distributing emergency food rations, water and cooking utensils to stranded people in the worst hit states in India.

'This level of constant rainfall in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh states is unprecedented. We have never witnessed this before,' said Anand Kumar, from the Christian Aid office in India.

'The monsoon season usually starts in late August. But this year we have already had 15 days of sustained rainfall.'

Experts are already associating the frequency of such extreme floods with the effects of climate change. Given the current predictions for global warming, such disasters and floods are set to become worse and more frequent in the future.

The Asia floods demonstrate just how vulnerable the poorest communities are to the effects of climate change. Some of the most serious impacts have been felt in the state of Bihar, one of the poorest and most marginalised states in India.

Christian Aid has been working there for many years, as it is home to some of the most socially excluded people in the country.

Four of Christian Aid's partners in India are providing relief to 60,000 people; while in Bangladesh, eight of Christian Aid's are aiming to get food, clothing and utensils to 40,000 people.

Christian Aid have already allocated funds of £280,000 towards this work but more money is needed. Please give what you can - your donation will make a difference:

Here are some examples of what your donations can help support in Bihar in India, one of the worst affected regions:

£5/€7.50 could buy a school bag, books and a set of uniform so a child can return to school

£10/€15 could provide food items for a family of six for six days

£20/€30 could help a family of six to acquire basic clothing and household items

£50/€75 could help to repair a damaged house so a family can return home and rebuild their lives.

This includes bamboo, grass and cash for work for two weeks

£ 100/€150 could fetch a water tank for safe drinking water serving a small hamlet of 120 people

£150/€225 could provide a hand pump to serve 30 families (about 180 people)

£150/€225 could provide a boat to rescue trapped families, get relief to the marooned villages and as a means of transport to the communities in the flood districts.

By supporting Christian Aid, you are among millions of people who think poverty is a scandal we do not have to accept. Your actions, commitment and contributions will bring about a better life for people in poor communities all over the world

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

Who's In Charge?

Imagine the scenario: the organist will only play traditional hymns, the young people will only sing the songs of Martin Smith, the radical - or so they think - middle-aged want to sing Kendrick, a worship leader who's 'totally into' Vineyard music, a drummer who plays too loud, an electric guitarist in his 50s who's still trying to play like Hendrix, and an older group who can only get excited by Moody and Sankey. Hardly a sure recipe for peace and harmony in the worship service.

In recent years I have spoken at seminars and conferences on worship in a wide range of churches. One question is frequently raised which transcends all denominations and streams: Who's in charge? Who is responsible for a church's worship? I will sometimes ask the worship leaders present, 'How many of you think your pastor or church leaders don't understand what you're trying to do?' I then ask the pastors and leaders how many of them feel their worship leaders don't understand them. The usual response is that tensions frequently arise because both groups of people may have strong views. An added factor is the people themselves in the church, and how they view worship. If the congregation is made up of young people, the style of worship is likely to be different from an elderly congregation. Even cultural background can affect our 'taste' in worship, regardless of age. A church pastor may be trying to shepherd his flock - keeping everyone happy and joyful in the worship service - but ending up pleasing no-one!

Today there are so many resources, song-books, albums, seminars and conferences which are seeking to equip the Church at large to be effective in worship. There are also such events as Spring Harvest, and other large conferences can sometimes cause frustration back at the home church, where the worship isn't like the conference. Imagine the poor pastor who has not gone to the conference that a number of his people have attended, and they come back to become a 'worship pressure group'. These problems are real in many churches. It's a far cry from God's intention for the Church to be a unified worshipping community.

When we ask the question, 'who's in charge?', we can superficially answer, 'The Lord' or 'The Holy Spirit'. The problem is there are different perceptions of what the Holy Spirit may be saying and doing. The key must be a biblical understanding of church leadership and spiritual authority. The whole concept of authority is unpopular in the secular world and our society is crumbling because of it. When this secular thinking invades the Church, it undermines biblical principles as to how the Church should be built. Sadly spiritual authority has been abused by some groups, but that's no reason for rejecting a truly biblical authority structure within a church. True spiritual authority is never controlling, but releasing, never seeking its own interest but that of the people, is prepared to listen, never dictatorial but consultative. The church leadership is there to bring government to the church. The words Paul uses for leadership in the New Testament are to do with overseeing vigilantly superintending - but in a spirit of true serving humility.

Who's in charge? Biblically, those God has raised up to lead the church are the ones who have overall responsibility for how a church worships. The elders of a church - or whatever a particular church stream calls their leadership - are there to preach and teach, guard the flock against error, love them and care for them in a bid to present everyone mature in Christ. Therefore what happens in worship should reflect the values and life of the church. Of course, Jesus is the head of the Church and worship is for God; we worship in spirit and in truth, giving glory to our Father in heaven, through Jesus the Son, by the Spirit. The God we worship is the same God who has given revelation as to how the Church should be built. So there ought not to be any conflict.

So then, how do we bring our human diversity into a unity that glorifies God? A truly worshipping community will have love at its core. Where there is true love we can tolerate one another's differences as we seek to worship in a way that is pleasing to God, but makes sense to us here on earth. A good church pastor will delegate worship leading to those who have a gift to lead. At the tabernacle of David, Chenaniah was appointed as the chief musician because he was skilful in singing.

The three qualities a church leader should look for in a worship leader are - anointing, character and skill. If anyone of these three is missing, their ministry will not be effective. A church leader or leaders need to be closely involved with the worship team. He should meet with the musicians and worship leaders church leader will also listen to what the worship team have to say and what they are thinking. It is often the worship leaders and worship team who are focused on new songs, are aware of resources and go to the conferences. The worship team may well benefit from their leaders' theological insights into the content of songs. If the church leader is sharing with the worship team the vision for the preaching and prophetic direction of the church, they can choose songs relevant to where the church is going.

If a church's worship is going to draw in the people, mutual trust needs to be developed between leaders, worship team and people. Worship is for God and so we need to learn to worship God's way. The truth of God's word and the power of the Holy Spirit are available. Who's in charge? Of course God is! But his revelation to us about church and how relationships and spiritual authority function should help us to build worshipping communities to the honour and glory of his great name.

This article by Dave Fellingham originally appeared in Alpha Magazine

Dave Fellingham is a songwriter/worship leader based at Church of Christ the King, Brighton

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso

THE DIARY OF A CHURCH ELDER

This is an extract from the handwritten diary of an elder of Hutchesontown United Presbyterian Church, Glasgow. This extract covers only the first few days upon his taking office in October 1853. All elders, I'm sure, will identify with his prayer in the last entry

Oct 9th.

This afternoon in the presence of the Great Congregation I have been publicly ordained to be an Elder in the house of my God. The services were most solemn and the numerous and important duties connected with the office were most faithfully and ably stated, a deep sense of my own unworthiness made me almost wish to shrink even at this stage of the proceedings from the awful responsibility I was then undertaking. Who is able for these things? What if instead of proving myself a worthy and useful member of the Session I behft to act so as to bring disgrace to the Church and the cause of my Dear Redeemer. I felt my whole frame tremble under the dreadful idea. Lord help me. Thou knowest O Lord that worldly honour or worldly gain has had no part in the motives that have induced me to accept this office. Thou knowest that thy Glory and the good of souls have been my impelling motives and I thank thee that thou hast so guided me in this great and important matter. O give me of thine own then that I may be enabled to serve thee in an acceptable manner and O if thou wouldest be gracious and crown my labours in thy cause with success so that I may be made the humble instrument in thy hand of bringing souls to Christ even if thou shouldst grant me only one soul as my hire. Thou knowest Lord that even for the sake of one soul I am willing to spend all the days or years thou mayest be pleased to spare me on the footstool but O come in thy kingly power into my own heart which has too long been a synagogue of Satan. Inscribe on it "Holiness to the Lord" and make it a temple meet for the Holy Spirit to dwell in for the sake of Christ, my strength and my Redeemer, Amen

Oct 23rd.

Took my place this day with the Session in the presence of the great congregation and of the Great Master of Assemblies and assisted in distributing the symbols of my Dear Redeemer's Dying Love. What a holy calm solemnity seemed to pervade the congregation. Surely many were paying their vows to the Lord in all sincerity of true devotion and Oh what grace flowed from the lips of Gods Servants (Mr Taylor and Mr Brown of Wishaw). How appropriate the Sermon (Heb. 7 c 17 v)* How pointed the address, how edifying, how humbling how consoling. Surely God was in the midst of us - But oh what perturbation in my own heart, deep sense of my utter unworthiness. Weak faith, spirit striving with the flesh but oh how feebly, soul cleaving to the dust and oh how the fear of man prevailed. Lord wash me after supper.

Oct 24th.

Met this evening with the Session. Had my District allotted me and got a list of the seat holders residing in the district. Lord put into my heart to visit them frequently and faithfully. May thy presence go with me. Be a mouth and wisdom to me and enable me to counsel and comfort them and to pray with them and for them to our mutual edification and may we be strengthened and guided by Thee that in the Great day we may be enabled to give an account of our stewardship with joy and rejoicing in the Lord.

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***Hebrews 7:17. For he testifieth: Thou art a priest
for ever according to the order of Melchisedech.**

St. Peter's & St. Andrew's Church Thurso



GUILD NEWS

The 2007/8 Session of the Guild begins on 10th September. Members and guests will join together for a meal before the meeting begins at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

Our guest speaker for the evening will be the Rev. Paul Read of the North Coast Parish who will be accompanied by his wife.

The Guild Theme "Think on These Things" focuses this year on 'The Mind' and the Management Team has drawn up a varied programme of activities and speakers to challenge and entertain members and any friends who might be interested in joining us on a Monday evening.

From the list of the Church of Scotland Guild Projects we have chosen for this year 'The Leprosy Mission Scotland':

'Walking In The Light'

TLMS (The Leprosy Mission Scotland) Orthopaedic Project is based in Chanchago. Minna, in the Niger State of Nigeria.

The Project aims to improve the quality of life for people affected by leprosy through the provision of protective footwear and other orthopaedic, appliances, preventing further deterioration and the very real impairment they suffer. The project also involves training staff in orthopaedic appliance making and co-ordinating supplies.

This is a vital aspect of TLMS's work in offering people affected by leprosy and other disabilities the ability to walk again and work to support their families which increases their self-esteem and their role in their communities.

With Guild help, the Project will become self-sustaining. As we seek to minister in the name of Jesus we will have a spiritual impact on the lives of those we care for and help them to 'walk in the light'.

The Management Team look forward to welcoming members old and new on 10th September and at the fortnightly Monday evening meetings thereafter. Should anyone require transport to the church hall or if any one interested in coming along for the first time has any queries please do get in touch with myself or anyone on the Management Team.

We welcome your support and prayers as we go into this new session.

Margaret Stephen
Contact Person
Tel: 01847 894873

Edited by Iain MacKillop for the members and friends of Saint Peter's and Saint 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.