
From the Manse...

Do you ever feel like a fool? I did at the beginning of our holiday last week. We arrived at our destination and went to check in for our timeshare week, which is a fixed week each year, week 12 to be precise. The delay as the receptionist typed on the computer keyboard told us something was wrong. "Is something wrong?" I asked. "Mr and Mrs Cook? We have you down to arrive next Saturday." Realisation dawned — we had come a week early! With Sunday being 1st January this year the twelfth full week of the year was much later than last year — and we hadn't checked the dates. We felt really stupid — to travel all this way a week early! Now — when something like that happens to me I usually feel only someone like me makes mistakes like that. But I suspect — I may be wrong — that you too do similarly foolish things from time to time. So I am happy to share this for your encouragement!

After having been sent to have a coffee to get over our shock the very helpful hotel manager spoke to us. There was no available timeshare apartment for the week — all the occupants had arrived (the correct week) except for one who was expected to arrive later. All the facilities of the hotel complex — golf, swimming and so on — were still available to us despite our error so we decided we had to find alternative self-catering accommodation nearby as we had our food with us. The hotel helpfully put us up overnight at a reduced rate and the next morning we found a place 45 minutes away but it would do — we just needed to pay for it!

Hearing all this you may understandably be thinking, "They made a mistake and need to take the consequences and why is he going on about it?" And yes — in the big scheme of things it is indeed a fairly trivial, personal matter. But it was what happened while I was in the process of paying for the alternative accommodation that is the reason for me sharing this tale of woe. I had to wait ten minutes on the phone to RBS so they could verify the transaction. I was getting impatient. Then I thought, "Why should I be impatient when everything is in God's hands?" When the "on hold" music ended, the bank went through various security questions and said I could now put my card details back through the online system and it would be accepted. I put the phone down. Right then, the manager appeared from the back office and said there had been a change. They had made contact with the one timeshare owner who had not yet arrived and confirmed that he was in fact not coming. He agreed to us transferring to his apartment for the week — all at no charge. The alternative accommodation was cancelled also at no charge and we took our luggage to our newly available apartment.

We had half an hour to unpack then we went to church. One of the hymns was "I heard the voice of Jesus say". When we sang the line, "I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad" we were moved. Yes, it's personal to us. But to think that God should be so good to us foolish ones to provide for us like that. We were so grateful and we appreciated the week all the more because of what had happened.

God has been so good to all of us in something much, much more important than the provision of an apartment for two people who made a mistake. He has looked on us who deliberately turned away from him and has provided a way for us to be at home with him for ever through Jesus Christ his Son, who took upon himself our estrangement and punishment so that we can be welcomed in. He provides us with a real and lasting home. He brings us

into a spacious place as his dearly loved children. What wonderful grace and love! No matter what we go through, as we trust in Jesus how true it is that:

*The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he restores my soul.*

Psalm 23:1-3a

Your friend and Minister



Alistair Cook

Holiday Club 2017

The Guardians of Ancora

Monday 7th to Friday 11th August 2017

Following a very successful craft planning meeting on Sunday 19th March we can now outline our planned craft activities for this year's Holiday Club:

Quest 1 (Monday) Jesus calls the fishermen (Luke 5:1-11)

The children will decorate individual fishing nets to take home, including making a shiny fish with a friend's name on who they would like to invite to join them at the club. There will also be larger fishing nets for them to decorate as part of their small group friezes.

Quest 2 (Tuesday) Jesus heals a Roman officer's servant (Luke 7:1-10)

The children will make Firebugs — Firebugs help to light Ancora, the city of hope in which this year's club, and a Scripture Union Bible-based app are set.

Quest 3 (Wednesday) Jesus heals a woman and a girl (Luke 8:40-56)

This year we focus on three healing stories from Luke, and today the children will make **Get Well** cards to deliver if they know someone who is poorly, or **Thinking of You** cards as an alternative to give to someone they know.

Quest 4 (Thursday) Jesus heals a man who came through the roof (Luke 5:17-26)

Today the children will make a tiny Lego version of a Holy Land house, complete with steps up to a flat roof. This will help them to understand and discuss today's Bible story.

Quest 5 (Friday) Jesus feeds 5,000 (John 6:1-15, 25-35)

On this the final day of the club the children will make spires of light (similar to lighthouses!) out of Pringles tubes, Dole fruit-in-jelly pots and battery tea-lights. On the base of these will be details directing the children to the *Guardians of Ancora* app so that they can continue to engage with Bible stories even as the Holiday Club draws to a close. Then, at the lunch to which families and friends are invited, fish fingers will be served on finger rolls, linking to today's Bible story of loaves and fishes.

In light of these exciting craft activities, please can we request donations of:

- Pringles tubes — the big ones this year with lids!
- Dole individual fruit-in-jelly pots, washed.
- Monetary donations can be made at any time to our treasurer, Donna, for the Holiday Club account. These are vital for our free to attend club.
- Lego — we are not after your whole collection, but rather specific pieces, namely those only one dot thick and between 1 and 6 dots long. I am happy to rifle through any boxes of Lego you may have at your disposal, however please note that the target pieces would not be returned as we want to send the Lego houses home with the children!

And of course, most importantly, please start praying for the Holiday Club now!

- Pray for a good reception to the Easter Cards we will be delivering to the children who attended *Polar Explorers* last year. This year the cards will be accompanied by an invitation to a screening of *The Jesus Quest* — a children's version of the Jesus film — on Easter Saturday. Please pray that families would take up the invitation to join us for this.
- Pray that all the kids and Team members that God would have be at the club would be able to make it.
- Pray for the right people in the right roles.
- Pray for organisation, planning and resources.
- Pray for protection of the Team, families and kids' health and safety in the run up to Holiday Club and during the week itself.
- Pray for God to be with us by His Spirit.
- Pray that it would be a wonderful Holiday Club week in every way!!



Our next Holiday Club planning meeting is likely to be towards the end of April (date to be announced). This will be a whole team meeting to agree details such as Team roles, programme content and timings, and also to hear this year's songs for the first time!

Our annual cutting out event is planned to follow a 9:30am service at Teviot in May (date to be confirmed), with tea and coffee served. All welcome. Additionally, members of the SMOP Craft Group have kindly offered to tackle some of this year's fiddlier craft preparations!

Thank you so much for all that you do — seen or unseen — to make Holiday Club happen.

Gwen

Gwen:01450 370487, email: gwen@thebuzzness.co.uk

At last!

*As the rain and the snow come down from heaven,
and do not return to it without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*

Isaiah 55:10-11

On Sunday March 12th the Baka people of South Sudan received and dedicated to the Lord the first ever full Bible in their own language. Despite civil unrest we're told the event went smoothly and was a joyful occasion. An estimated 7,000 people gathered to celebrate and to receive the scriptures to take home and read for themselves.

It has taken three decades to get to this point. The Baka language had never been written so an alphabet needed to be developed. Literacy materials were produced so that people could then learn to read their own language, and Bible stories were translated to begin to introduce the Bible to the communities. All this amidst displacement, violence, and poverty caused by the civil war.

We met Pastor Bennett, the lead translator, in the late '90's when we worked for Wycliffe in northern Uganda. Soon after, Doug and Ann Sampson joined our team in Arua to continue work with Bennett and the translation team. Doug and Ann went to Congo in the '80's to lead the language work with the Sudanese who were displaced there. We played a small part in the long process; we provided safe accommodation, computer support and electricity for the team to work, and later Andy checked the early Bible portions for language consistency, and I typeset literacy and Bible story books and got them printed in Arua. And so it is wonderful to see Baka people have the Bible for themselves in their own language at last; Christians can learn and grow and those who don't yet know about Jesus can read his words for themselves.

We've also heard that the Keliko (another Sudanese people group we worked with) have finished the translation of the whole Bible; it has been checked and sent overseas to the printer to be typeset, printed and bound. It was very soon after we arrived in Arua that a Keliko man found us out and asked us to help them write their language so they could have the Bible. We were able to advocate for them with our organisation so that the project was taken on, and then we were able to support the Keliko team for many years.

Please pray for the Baka church, that they will flourish, more would now hear the good news, people would be freed from fear of witchcraft and superstition, and that they would be strengthened during this time of violence and famine. Please pray too for the Keliko Bible. It is so close to being in the hands of people but we know from experience how many things can still go wrong. Pray that the printing and transportation would go smoothly, that there would be no hitches with the importation, and that finally, perhaps some time next year, the Keliko will also be able to dedicate their Bible to God.

Jo Maybury

Breathing space

Glorify Your Son

Jesus spoke these things;
and lifting his eyes to heaven, He said,

**"Father, the hour has come;
Glorify Your Son,
That the Son may glorify You,**

even as You gave Him authority over all (people)
that to all whom You have given Him,
He may give eternal life.

This is eternal life,
that they may know You,
the only true God,
and Jesus Christ
whom You have sent.

I glorified You on the earth,
having accomplished the work
which You have given Me to do.

Now ,Father,
glorify Me together with Yourself,
with the glory which I had with You
before the world (began). "

John 17: 1-5 NASB

Exert from 'Praying The Bible' (Wesley and Stacey Campbell)

How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure,
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss -
The Father turns His face away,
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders;
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished;
His dying breath has brought me life -
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
No gifts, no power, no wisdom;
But I will boast in Jesus Christ,

His death and resurrection.
Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer;
But this I know with all my heart -
His wounds have paid my ransom.

Stuart Townend

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Guild

The title for our meeting on Wednesday 15th March was **Arriving in Sorrow; Going in Joy.**

We read Luke's account (24:13-36) of the encounter on the road to Emmaus and considered how the disciples were feeling as they walked the seven miles from Jerusalem after seeing Jesus crucified; sad, confused, fearful, disappointed that all their hopes had come to naught.

We looked at what Jesus spoke of when he joined the two — a study of the entire Bible! Jesus explained the scriptures referring to himself, starting with Genesis, when he as the Word created the world, and to Adam and Eve the first prophecy (3:15) of his coming as a human to overcome sin.

We discussed the significance of Jesus' breaking bread when he dined with the two disciples at Emmaus — breaking it as he had done at their last supper with him, when he referred to it as his body broken for them; and completing his Bible study by reminding them of the latest episode in the Bible story.

We thought of how the two were then filled with such joy and energy that they immediately went out and hurried in the dark along the dangerous road to Jerusalem, to share their news and their new understanding.

And we considered what our reactions should be when **we** meet Jesus on **our** road:

- Share our troubles with him. (verses 17-24)
- Listen to him. (verses 27-30)
- Understand God's purpose for us through him. (verse 27)
- Invite him to stay with us. (verse 29)
- Invite him to bless and feed us. (verse 30)
- Rejoice in him. (verse 32)
- Go in joy and tell the others. (verses 33-34)

Having opened by singing of how we, too "want to walk with Jesus Christ, to learn to speak to him for joy will then be mine" we closed with **Christ triumphant, ever reigning**, reflecting how Christ revealed truth to those two disciples on the road, and reveals truth to us, too. We prayed that we might go in joy to share with others Christ's blessing and feeding, his love and his name.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday 19th April at 2.00pm and this will be our AGM and final meeting of the current session. To help us to "go out with joy" at the end of this



year's theme **Go in Joy**, members have been asked to contribute their favourite joyful hymn (not as a solo! but for all to sing together).

Please note that the AGM of the Presbyterial Council (Hawick & District Guilds Together) will take place in Teviot Halls the following Wednesday 26th April at 2.00pm.

Lesley Donaldson

Worship

Courses on leading worship

The Courses are open both to elders and members who are presently leading worship and to those who would like to begin training for future service.

- Session 1: The Purpose of Worship
- 2: The Bible in Worship
- 3: All Age Worship
- 4: Preparing Talks for Children and Adults
- 5: Prayer in Worship
- 6: Music in Worship
- 7: Putting it all Together

Courses will be offered on Sunday afternoons from 2.00pm to 4.00pm in two areas — Kelso and Hawick — on the following dates:

Kelso: Sundays 23rd and 30th April, 7th, 14th, 21st and 2th 8 May, and 4th June.

Hawick: Sundays 3rd, 10th, 17th and 24th September, and 1st, 15th and 22nd October (8th October has been missed out because of school holidays). These sessions will be held in Teviot halls.

There will be no charge for participation in the courses.

Places on either the Kelso or Hawick course can be booked by contacting Rev. Douglas Nicol: Douglas.Nicol@churchofscotland.org.uk, or The Manse, Denholm, TD9 8NB, or 01450 870268. It would be helpful if the names and contact details (address, telephone number and email address) of those who wish to participate could be given by Easter Sunday, 16th April 2017.

Full details of locations of sessions and speakers will be given to all booking places.

PS

Treasurer's report 2016

The ministerial vacancy continued throughout the year and has influenced the financial position, both through cost savings and through reduced attendance at services. Giving by the Congregation has again decreased over the year — from £45640 to £43426, but two bequests (£2000), two grants made to protect the premises against future flooding (£3500),

and the reclamation of tax on donations (last year of £7922 and this year of £7604), have helped maintain income.

Members of the Congregation and Trustees will know that I have always stressed that our financial position is most affected by the needs of maintaining and improving the fabric of our building. Last year, 2015, was a quieter time with fewer demands, but there has been more activity during 2016. The programme of improving our premises, initiated in 2010, has continued with major expenditure on renewing electrical circuits, on improved lighting within the sanctuary, and on installation of a Hydroboil facility in the kitchen. Expenditure on Fabric matters therefore rose from £2090 in 2015 to £16192, and this has been a major factor in contributing to a deficit of £4776 for the year. However this has been managed from within the cash balances.

Reserves held on our behalf by the General Trustees have continued to rise. The linkage of Teviot & Robertson with the congregation of St. Mary's & Old Parish has contributed to a reduction in costs, through the sharing of certain expenses. The former Teviot & Robertson Manse having been sold in January 2016, a new manse was acquired on behalf of St Mary's & Old Parish and Teviot & Robertson Churches by the General Trustees of the the Church of Scotland in January 2017.

At the year end our Church held unrestricted cash funds of £33349. The Trustees also have invested £51933 in the Church of Scotland Fabric Fund Capital Account which creates investment revenue and our balance in the related Revenue Account has now reached £11384 providing a further financial reserve. The General Trustees also now hold a sum of about £50000 on our behalf, being the difference between the proceeds of the sale of the former Manse and our half share of the purchase price of the new one in Heronhill Close. The sum reclaimed from tax on donations, the £7604 mentioned above, has been received in February and this helps to cushion our month to month running expenses.

Therefore while there has been a deficit on our cashbook across the year, our reserves and indeed our current cash balance are again in a very healthy position.

I would want to close by thanking Alan Inglis for his help in making the Gift Aid claim to HMRC, Scott Ballantyne for his diligence in watching for and attending to property needs, and to Eileen Glendinning for the very many tasks which she attends to unobtrusively around our buildings.

*Ron Smith
Treasurer*

Special services activities and events

Teens: Meeting upstairs on 23rd April, and possibly 30th.

Rock Solid dates: There is no meeting in April due to school holidays.

Prayer meetings: Thursdays at 5.30pm in Teviot Church lounge. Contact Evelyn or Kerry for details.

Bible studies: Tuesdays at 7.00pm or Thursdays afternoons. If you are interested, please contact Pat Sutherland.

Guild: AGM Wednesday 19th April at 2.00pm, Teviot.

Board & Session meeting: Wednesday 26th April at 7.00 pm.

Evening Services: It is intended to reintroduce evening services to Teviot. As previously, these will be in the more informal setting of the Hall. The next service will be on Sunday 7th May at 6.00pm.

Life & Work Magazine: There are always two or three spare copies of *Life and Work*, the Church of Scotland's Magazine, on the table in the vestibule. Please feel free to take one away and read it. If you wish, you can always return it for someone else to read after you. We are investigating accessing *Life and work* online, so watch the church magazine for further details.

United Services: 7th May, 11.00am at SMOP. 4th June, 11.00am at SMOP.

Communion: 28th May, 11.00am at SMOP, Roberton at 2.00pm, 6.00pm at Teviot.

Common Riding: 11th June, South Grouping service at Trinity, 11.00am.

Duty Rota

April: Team C, Mrs Sutherland

May: Team A, Mr Laidlaw

Church contacts

Minister: Rev Alistair Cook, The Manse, 4 Heronhill Close, Hawick TD9 9RA (07802 616352). Day off Mondays, except for emergencies.

Session Clerk: Pat Sutherland (375150) rasutherland@tiscali.co.uk

Safeguarding Officer: Mary Walker (372549)

Treasurer: Ron Smith (374216) rhs@ellistrin.com

Doorkeeper: Eileen Glendinning (374775)

Magazine Editor: Jo Maybury (375750) joannemaybury@googlemail.com

Forthcoming services

2 April	Communion	11.00am		"Bricks without straw" Exodus 5:1-23
2 April	Evening Communion		6.00pm	"Our God is too small" Ephesians 1:15-23
9 April		9.30am	11.00am	Palm Sunday
13 April	Maundy Thursday Communion	7.00pm		
14 April	Good Friday		7.00pm	
16 April	Easter Day South Grouping	11 am Teviot 2pm Roberton		Easter Celebration
23 April		9.30am	11.00am	"Go tell Pharaoh...." Exodus 6:1-12
30 April		9.30am	11.00am	"Signs and wonders" Exodus 6:28-7:24