



Pete's Piece



Viewfield News

**March
2017**

Newsletter
of
Viewfield
Baptist
Church
Dunfermline

Depending when you read this newsletter the clocks will either have sprung forward or we will be anticipating the loss of one hour's sleep, either way we will be on the threshold of a new spring dawning. Spring time when there is lots of preparation and planting to be done. A good time to momentarily reflect on the words to a very popular song that we worship God with...

Faithful one, so unchanging
Ageless one, you're my rock of peace
Lord of all I depend on you

This spring time I encourage each and every one of us to get as close to our Faithful God, our saviour the Lord Jesus and as intimate with the Holy Spirit as we can. Our faithful God is with us all, both in our individual lives and our church family lives this spring time preparing us for new things and looking to plant afresh in all our lives.

Over the winter months we have been preparing ourselves, praying, seeking, talking and listening. We have met as a family to share how we believe God is leading us to new ministries and we are at the point of listening to God for direction and in faith we trust that we will hear Him when we meet on the 5th April at our next church meeting.

Running in tandem with this we have set aside twelve of our members to search for a new Pastor, under the guiding hand of the Rev Judy Whyte. Please continue to join with our "set apart twelve" in prayer as together we seek God's person for us.

We have been blessed through the ministry of Brian McCarthy over the last few weeks as Brian reminded us that God is leading us, Jesus is empowering us and that we are enabled by the Holy Spirit. The call and challenge to us is to respond. So let us draw closer and closer to our faithful God, let us grow to understand and appreciate what it truly means to have God living in me, what it truly means to serve God as He would like us to serve knowing who we are, where we stay and what we can do.

Every blessing as you prepare and plant this Spring.

Pete

Fellowship News

It was a delight to formally welcome Brian and Isobel McCarthy as members during January.

January also saw the farewell social for Michael and Val Bonser as we thank them for 10 years of fellowship and ministry and wished them well in their new ministry at Tottlebank Baptist Church, Cumbria. Around 20 of our fellowship were privileged to join them for Michael's Induction there on the 4th March.

In February Rita Armstrong widow of a former Viewfield minister Rev Ron Armstrong (1976-82) passed to her rest.

For you ...

This was the homily that the Rev Dr. Michael Paterson gave recently to the St Margaret's Episcopal congregation in Rosyth, following the reading of John 3:1-17. Plenty of moist eyes afterwards, and everyone who was there will remember the story and the message.

Submitted by Martin Tarr

I have a friend called Joe who has Downs Syndrome. He lives in L'Arche a small Christian community which Jean Vanier founded for people with learning difficulties. Joe is a great guy and he loves nothing better than have people come to visit him – and when he sees you coming up the path, his whole face lights up and rushes out to meet you with one of those bear hugs which feels like it's going to break your ribs! Joe doesn't have much speech, but he communicates a huge amount of love in lots of other ways. Every time someone goes to see him, without fail he disappears from the room only to return a few minutes later with something he has found, it could be anything – an apple, a biscuit, a toilet roll, a book – anything at all which he then thrusts into your hands with the words – 'for you'.

A few Easters ago his little community decided to put on a Passion Play during Lent and everyone was given a part. The helpers in the community were going to read the lines while those with learning difficulties were to mime the parts. As you would expect, various people were given the roles of Pontius Pilate, Simon of Cyrene, Veronica and the Centurion, but Joe insisted that unless he played Jesus he simply wasn't playing – and of course he got his own way!

The rehearsals went on for weeks and finally the night arrived when all the visitors turned up to see this very special Passion Play. To everyone's relief all the props stayed in place, none of the scenery fell down, the costumes fitted and everyone was in the right place at the right time.

The story unfolded as rehearsed until the crucifixion scene when, just as Jesus was about to breathe his last upon the cross, Joe, unable to contain himself in the presence of so many friends, beamed a huge smile around the room and cried out – FOR YOU – bowed his head and fell silent again.

Those lines were not in the script but somehow they were the only ones anyone remembered about the play that night. Joe had understood the heart of the story – that God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son FOR YOU, FOR ME, FOR US.

Joe can't write – but for me he is an evangelist. Joe has very little speech – but for me he is a top-rate preacher. Joe will never have a career, own his own house, or be successful in human terms, but he is the richest man on earth because he knows, he *really* knows, and with a beaming smile to show it, that no matter what we are going through, no matter the hardships we have to bear, no matter the worries that keep us awake at night, God came into the world FOR YOU, for me, for US, and if we open your hearts and let that message sink in, then like Joe, we will have understood everything and never need to listen to a sermon again. Amen.

Viewfield - BMS Partnership with Christine Kling

Originally from France, Christine arrived in the UK in 2010, where she became a Christian. After completing her training at IMC, Christine returned to France to work alongside the Baptist Federation in Paris. She primarily spends time developing an online theological training course and serving as an associate pastor in a Paris church.



[You can find more about Christine at: <http://www.bmsworldmission.org/ckling>]

In a recent blog Christine wrote:

Two weeks ago the French television passed a reportage about homeless women in France. Invisible women was the title.

It is estimated that in France, women account for 40% of the homeless. They are more vulnerable than men and to protect themselves, they hide

until they become invisible. They hide in stairwells or car parks. In Paris, they would be 7,000 women to live outside. A family break, a divorce that goes wrong, an accident of life, it is often a simple story.

There is shelters for homeless in France but not enough and a very small numbers for women and not all of them are always safe.

As I explained in another posts, I have been working for now a couple of months with a local reformed church and the Islamic Relief to understand how we might be able to open a day center for homeless women who find refuge for the night at the Islamic Relief. The Islamic Relief is one organisation among many others used by the French government to provide shelters to the homeless for the night. Homeless can usually stay only two weeks in this sort of center, then they have to find another place.

This week – on the 8th of March, the international women day, a very symbolic date- we have opened our day center for our first afternoon. Six women came along, all sent by the Islamic Relief as agreed. Three of them were pregnant and all very tired. Homeless women suffer often from sleep deprivation. They were pleased to have a warm and quiet place to rest.

During this first month, we will open twice a week, offering a light lunch and a presence, and stay flexible to the needs of the women. Some asked for shoes and we already thought of finding some clothes for the future babies. We would like to open more but we do not have the volunteers for that and the day center – a basement room in the reformed church – is also used for church activities.

I don't think any of us would have imagined a couple of months ago this project. The collaboration between the three different communities were not something obvious to imagine. Perhaps my fresh and naive perspective was helpful in the project: I was not aware of the existing potential tensions/conflicts between the different communities. And God opened doors we never thought about.

Please keep us in your prayers, for a good collaboration between the different volunteers; that we would stay open to the different challenges that we might have to face and that we keep an open mind and open heart to the difficulties of these women. Compassion and grace have to guide each of us.

Pray also for these women. They come from different countries and backgrounds, have different faiths. Please pray for peace and also for trust so respect and dignity will be restored.

Christine Kling 9/3/2017

Gratitude ...

tearfund

I am so grateful for our lovely new extension with all the superb facilities such that when I read

about Tearfund's 'Toilet Twinning' project I thought I would like to get involved. If anyone else feels the same perhaps you would like to put a donation in the offering, clearly marked 'Toilet Twinning', or speak to me.

Toilet Twinning is a simple, quirky way to solve a serious problem and save lives.

Twin your loo and flush away poverty!

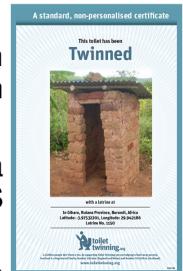
Toilet Twinning is a unique way to do something about the 1 in 3 people worldwide living without decent sanitation. Every minute, three children under the age of five die because of poor sanitation or dirty water. For £60, you can twin your toilet with a latrine in one of the poorest parts of the world.



2.4 billion people don't have somewhere safe, clean and hygienic to go to the loo. That's more than a third of the people on the planet.

By donating £60 to twin your toilet, you help those in desperate poverty to have access to a proper latrine, clean water and the information they need to be healthy.

Your smallest room becomes the proud owner of a certificate, complete with a colour photo of its twin and GPS coordinates so you can look up your twin on Google Maps



Bawili is a widow who lost everything due to civil war. Lack of proper water and a decent toilet caused her family great pain. But when the community came together to help Bawili and her children – everything changed.

'My daughter was attacked because we didn't have a toilet. Having a loo is a big relief for the whole family.'

Bawili, Democratic Republic of Congo

http://www.tearfund.org/en/give/keeping_better_company/toilet_twinning/

Mary-Jane Kirkland

Prophetic Word

Given by Lesley Hamilton on Sunday 29 January 2017

Readings Hebrews chapter 6 verse 1;
Mark chapter 10 verse 13-15 (Amplified Bible)

I asked Father what he was saying to me in these scriptures and The Holy Spirit showed me that they are a paradox. If we are going to press on to maturity we must become like a little child.

Prophetic Word

Press on to Maturity and Trust like a little child.

I am calling you My Church to maturity. Learn to desire the meat of the word and do not remain drinking the milk.

Be empowered by My Spirit and know that true worship is your response to The Word and The Spirit, through a walk of obedience.

Only when you approach Me as a little Child can you appropriate all that I have for you and bring the realities of My Kingdom into your own life and my Church Family.

Be humble, be vulnerable, trust me with your heart and your life.

Be teachable; let this be your attitude when you come before me.

My Church, you desire to make an impact on your City, to be salt and light. This desire comes from Me and is good, but remember that it is faith that pleases Me, exercised through obedience. As you seek Me, respond to My Word and listen to the Holy Spirit within you.

My child I am calling you to be faithful in The Little Things, do not complicate my word to you, for I am not the author of confusion but of power of love and a sound mind. Do not try to run ahead of My Spirit, keep in step and as you learn to be faithful to what I am saying to you My child you will begin to know me in deeper measure, I will be known by you through revelation and the power of My Spirit working in and through you, for you are Priests and Kings before Me and I desire that you walk in this Authority.

Walk in Faith through obedience and know that you are My Children. Trust and obey and My Spirit will bare witness with your spirit that I am pleased and you give me pleasure.

For I have called you to obedience that is better than sacrifice. Come back to that place in your heart where I asked you to obey I do not force you My child, for the sacrifice I desire is a contrite heart. This I will not despise.

My desire is that you walk Humbly before Me, not as the world understands Humility, which is false, a striving for an outward from of religion rather than all that you do and say, which is of worth to Me, is through

Christ who strengthens you.

Come to Me in complete dependency, this is the relationship I desire to have with you, for you are My Child and I am your Father!

My Church do not become so familiar with Me, My Word or The Gifts of My Spirit that it breeds contempt, offence, doubt and unbelief.

My Child do not build up your own Portfolio and think that any maturity is of yourself.

Come to Me in that place of intimacy and dependence and I will reveal Myself to you. There, you will truly know that all things pertaining to life and Godliness come from Me Alone!

Trust and obey for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus than to trust and obey.

And as you grow and learn to take responsibility for all that you receive from Me, you will know what I am saying to you and as a body of believers.

Come to Me as vulnerable, teachable little children and I will take you to a place of true influence and authority in your own life and as a Church Family.

For the desire of My Heart is that you would be Salt and Light, a City set on A Hill, a Lighthouse to a dark and hungry world. I have started this work and I will finish it. Listen, to what The Spirit is saying to The Church!

Prayer

Dear Father help us to look at the example of Abraham, when you said to him "Go from your country, your people and your Fathers household to the land I will show you." As he was willing to lay aside all that was familiar to him, trusting you in childlike faith and on your word to bless him, so you will bless us individually and corporately. As we learn to trust you and move forward we bring before you all our fears.

Fear of change...Fear of taking responsibility for all that you are saying to us...Fear of letting go of all that is familiar to us...Fear of the unknown, of what lies ahead.

Father we are reminded that your perfect love casts out fear. Help us to surrender to that love completely, knowing that just like Abraham the Father of our faith with each step we take you will bless our obedience and we will be blessed in the process with an increased awareness of your presence and an assurance that we are walking in your will.

*So Father we come to you as little children dependant and trusting you for our lives, the lives of our families and our church. Take our hand Lord; guide us by your Holy Spirit into the truth that sets us free
For we ask in the precious name of Jesus Amen*

Wisdom - think about it

Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things. Phil 4:8

In our workplaces we can struggle with an avalanche of data and information. We're all too aware that quantity of knowledge does not equate to wisdom. True wisdom is relational. It is a way of thinking - and living - which results in harmony with God and with others in every arena of life.

The Bible, the book of Proverbs in particular, builds a picture of wisdom as a compass for life, helping us to discern the path we should take and guiding us in how to walk that path. Wisdom is occasionally seen when someone has a moment of insight which unlocks a seemingly intractable situation.

However, most wisdom is based on habitual patterns developed over time. This can be regular focused attention on God's Word, as in the instruction given to Joshua: 'Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful' (Joshua 1:8). It also includes Paul's more general call to 'think about' things that are noble, right, pure, lovely, and so on.

Developments in neuroscience help us to reflect on the significance of directions like these in the Bible. Neuroplasticity is the term used to describe how the brain is modified by our patterns of thinking. As David Rock and Linda Page write in *Coaching with the Brain in Mind*: 'By exerting conscious energy, we decide what to pay attention to. Over time, the connections we make because we are paying attention become hardwired, and the basis for further actions.'

By making wise choices as to where we focus our attention -the articles we read, the TV programmes we watch, or the colleagues we listen to -our brains are reshaped. This influences our capacity to feel, think and act wisely. Paul's instruction to focus on that which is 'excellent or praiseworthy' is wise advice.

Canvins' News

Some extracts from their Christmas Letter.

We Skype with most of the teams regularly, but there is no substitute for visiting the teams in their homes and experiencing their lives and living and working situations with them. We want to do the best we can to encourage all the teams and be a listening ear for them all.

In Romania, our short termer **Cheryl** spent 10 months with the team, much of it in Sadova working alongside **Marlute** in the Oltenian Ursari translation. She completed her time with us and returned to the US in November. She is now settling back into life at home and thinking about what her future might be.

In Bulgaria, **Jon** and **Justin** have been visiting the Church in Ivaylo and doing translation/scripture engagement activities. Over several weeks, guided by Jon and Justin, some Church members have translated the Christmas story from Luke 2 and this will be ready in time for Christmas. What a joy to be able to hear the story of Jesus' birth for the first time in their own language!

Please pray that the translated word will be heard and understood and take root in the hearts of many Roma this Christmas.

Maggie completed writing the chapter '*Mapping Linguistic Vitality and Language Endangerment*' for the encyclopedia '*The Changing World Language Map*' with our colleague Irene. Now she is concentrating on researching information about the Roma in all the countries across Europe for the team. She has completed the profile of Romania, so just 43 more to go! Each of these will need to be updated each year, so this is a long term project.

On the home front Maggie continues to paint when she can and had two paintings accepted for this year's Littlehampton Museum Open art competition. Our granddaughters Sophie and Ivy-Rose each had a painting accepted as well. To top it all, Ivy-Rose's painting came second and Sophie's third in the public vote! You can see their paintings together with a paragraph about their work on the Littlehampton museum website (<http://www.littlehamptonmuseum.co.uk/exhibitions/littlehampton-open-2016-public-vote-winners.aspx>).

Thank you so much for praying for us and for the team and for your faithful support.

With our love and prayers,

Maggie and Tony Canvin

Scripture Union in the Isle of Man

Over the weekend of the 18th/19th of February, the Port St Mary SU Beach Mission had a planning weekend with the Senior Team members, for which we used the Viewfield Centre as our base. As part of the weekend we took the morning service on the 19th of February. It was great to involve the people who came for the meeting along with current team members from Viewfield in the service.

For us as Mission Leaders, it has been really encouraging to see people who have attended Beach Mission as children and teenagers, now on the team and taking responsibility. It's been good as well seeing others who have caught the vision and come alongside with enthusiasm and new ideas. We are grateful to God for sustaining us through the difficult times and encouraging us with the people who came to and were involved in the service on the 19th.

The Scripture Union Schools and Young People's work on the Isle of Man is going through some changes. Alex Brown (who hopefully will be preaching in Viewfield on the 28th May) and has been heading up the work, will be leaving to take up a new post with the Anglican Church in the centre of Douglas (capital of the island) in September. Ruth Walker who was previously a "gapper" and "intern" is taking over as "Head of Charity" and is currently working alongside Alex.

Michael Garth has just taken up the post of Secondary Schools worker and Natalie Brennan currently a "gapper" will also join the staff team in September.

Alison (our daughter) continues as the Primary Schools Worker which involves taking assemblies, RE and "Philosophy for Children" classes, and organising inter-school events at which children have the opportunity to explore the Christian Faith.

Alison will be getting married on the 27th of May to Jon Taylor who is currently studying for a degree in Practical Theology, doing his placement with SU on the Isle of Man. The wedding will once again bring an influx of people from the Island, some of whom we hope will worship with us on the 28th May. Once married Alison and Jon will move out of the SU base in Port St Mary and live round the corner in Port Erin. Once Alison returns from honeymoon she will be straight into running Lifepath which takes place at Rushen Abbey from the 21st to 28th June. This is an RE Curriculum Day which most of the Island's 9/10 years old attend.

The Port St Mary Beach Mission will take place once again for a fortnight beginning on 30th July.

Another person who took part in our service on 19th February was Panda Dooley who spoke to us about her work in the Pulrose area of the Isle of Man. She also acts as “house mum” to the people living in the SU HQ, Mallmore, in Port St Mary.

Briony Grant who spoke about growing up in Port St Mary, has been working as an Intern for SU, but is moving on to take up a music/drama post at QEII Secondary School in Peel, in the middle of the Island.

We are very grateful to everyone for their prayers and interests and ask that you continue to pray for the people and events mentioned.

David Stewart



The Difference A.S.A.P. Makes

Have you ever considered the abbreviation A.S.A.P.? Generally, it brings even more hurry and stress into our lives (As Soon As Possible). Yet there is another way to think of A.S.A.P., a way which might help us deal with those difficult times in our daily lives.

When there's work to do, and deadlines to meet, and your colleagues are rushing around, here's what you can do to help: A.S.A.P.– *Always Say a Prayer*. When your worries mount up and you don't know how you are ever going to cope with what is coming at you: A.S.A.P. – *Always Say a Prayer*.

God knows how stressful our lives can be, and He wants to ease our cares. In the Bible He promises to respond to our calls for help. So - call Him! A.S.A.P.



Faith

“Faith is not the belief that God will do what you want. It is the belief that God will do what is right.”

[Max Lucado]

Editor's Note

My thanks to those who have taken the time to send contributions. There is always room for more!

A full colour version of the Viewfield News is available on the Church Website at <http://www.viewfield.org.uk>

Women's Fellowship

I cannot believe that the WF session is almost over for another year, but it is true! Where does the time go?

We have really enjoyed using the newly refurbished sanctuary each Wednesday and have felt so blest to meet there week by week.

Our theme for 2016/2017, given by the National President Marlyn Quinn, was 'God's Gift of Friendship'. Jesus said "I will never leave you nor forsake you". Our friend Hazel Carr has opened up the theme in such a wonderful way on four occasions.

Other speakers who have so ably led us were Marlyn Quinn, Rev. Ron Rye, Rev. Elizabeth Kenny, Leanne Scott, Rev. Monika Redman and Stephen Collins. We had speakers from four special causes. Those were Crossroads, Mental Health (Fife), International Justice Mission and Compassion UK. A representative from the Fire Service came and spoke on Safety in the Home. Judith and Lin provided a fabulous craft day in December.

We do thank everyone who gave of their time to visit Viewfield WF throughout the session. As a group we have taken part in all the regional and national rallies, Day of Discovery and the St. Andrews Conference.

We said farewell to Val with a special tea and presentation after our Carol Service in December. As a group of ladies we are so grateful for all the hard work that Val so lovingly and tirelessly did for WF at Viewfield. We miss her but wish her well in her new sphere of service with Michael.

New ladies have joined us this session and we are so thrilled to welcome them. I encourage any lady who has time on a Wednesday afternoon to step into the sanctuary at 1.30 and really enjoy fellowship with us.

Please continue to pray for this work among the ladies.

Anne Macmillan



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