



CALLANDER KIRK

AUTUMN LINK



Dear Friends

I read a news story last week which made me laugh. It's a reasonable case for the worst ever first date.

A girl was set up with a date. The boy asked her if she would mind driving him over to see a friend, and she agreed. On the way, he asked her to stop at a supermarket, which of course she was happy to do. She only started to get suspicious when he came running out of the shop with a bulging carrier bag, leapt in the car and shouted, "Drive! Drive like the wind!" The poor girl has been charged with aiding a robbery, but I hope she is acquitted – and is eventually able to laugh about it all. Naive, but hardly criminal.

Unlike this young man ... he robbed an off-licence at gunpoint and demanded all the cash from the register. Not one to miss a chance, he then asked for some whisky, which the cashier declined on the grounds that they had a strict over 21 policy, and the young man didn't look 21. The young man became very angry, and brought out his driving licence to prove he was 21. The police called at his home that evening.

Jesus once said a rather strange and worrying thing to his Disciples. He said, "See, I am sending you out like sheep into the midst of wolves; so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves." (*Matt 10.16*)

It's reminiscent of the words of Churchill in his first speech to the Commons on being appointed Prime Minister in 1940. "I would say to the House as I said to those who have joined this government: I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." (As a matter of fact, Giuseppe Garibaldi coined the phrase in 1849.) Before the end of 1940, and far more in the next 5 years, there had been blood, toil, tears and sweat poured out aplenty. His speech was a warning and an invitation. Who will come with me on this terrible journey?

Indeed, Jesus was warning his Disciples that there was trouble ahead, and that not only he but they would meet persecution, and that courage would be needed. When Jesus offered 'life in all its fullness', it was not an easy or comfortable life he had in mind, but an adventure, a fulfilling adventure, a life worth rising up to. If we kid ourselves, or suggest to our young people that the Christian life is safe and bland, we miss the call of Jesus, and we betray our youngsters. He invited his Disciples to an adventure, exciting, costly and even dangerous.

However, Jesus was not only talking about danger. He may have warned his Disciples to expect difficulties, but he did not call them to provoke trouble or seek martyrdom. Indeed he also taught them to 'shake the dust off their feet' and move on when they met opposition.

Jesus urges us to compassionate shrewdness. The serpent may be cruel, but he is also seen as wily. The dove may be simple, but also gentle. Jesus is not seeking naivety or hardness of heart, but smart gentleness, compassionate shrewdness. What does that look like? There is a parable in Luke 16 about the dishonest steward, who having swindled his employer, and facing the sack, provides for his old age by cheating the boss further. It's a joke, of course – this steward is no role model – but Jesus is talking about using money for kingdom purposes. Somewhere else he calls this 'laying up treasure in heaven'. You can't take it with you, but it's

not irrelevant. It's good to be spontaneous in giving money; it's also good to plan how we give it.

Compassionate shrewdness has other aspects as well, of course. It's a whole attitude and life style. The church must be intelligent, even cunning in persuading people of the gospel truth. As Christians we must be wise – wiser than the people of the street – but also vulnerable in compassion. Jesus was certainly neither naïve nor hard-hearted. He told the wittiest of tales, and came up with some great one-liners, but he was also extravagantly, dangerously compassionate. And it was costly, of course.

What price the Kingdom of God?

With best wishes

Robert Simpson

CALLANDER KIRK GUILD



The new session of the Guild starts on the first Thursday in October at 2.00pm in Callander Kirk Hall.

This year, under the heading of “What does God require of you?” our Theme is “To walk humbly.” We look forward to hearing our minister, Rev Robert Simpson, open up this challenge on 6th October. Regular members, new members and visitors are welcome to come along to that meeting and indeed to any of our meetings.

Our programme continues on

- ☺ 20th October with Margaret Milligan speaking on the subject of Shetland & Shaws;
- ☺ 3rd November when Dr Davidson, from Dunblane, will tell us of the work of Mary's Meals
- ☺ 17th November, when Mrs Lorna Paterson, a past National Guild Secretary, will speak about ‘A Place for Hope’, the Project we have chosen to support this year.

The money raised by Guilds throughout Scotland so far for this project is £61,271. This money is being used to train people to mediate in Congregational disputes or any other dispute that arises in church life. Those who completed the training in May, are now accredited. Another course will start in the Autumn.

“When sectarianism divides, neighbourhoods struggle with racial division, grinding poverty highlights social inequality, families are torn apart by violence, ‘A Place for Hope’ will offer resources for healing, reconciliation and lasting change. Through the project, the Good News of Jesus Christ as reconciler, mediator and peacemaker can bring hope to our churches and communities in life changing ways.”

I think Lorna will have some interesting stories to tell! Come and hear her!

Our last meeting before Christmas, on 8th December, will be an opportunity to make our own Christmas Table Decorations, guided by Janet Greenfield and Joyce Edwards.

All meetings are open and everyone will be made welcome.

WELCOME TO TINA!

We asked our new Youth Worker, Tina Thornton (who is employed by Callander Kirk and CYP) to introduce herself:

- ☺ Age: 19, born in Glasgow.
- ☺ Attended Whiteinch Primary School and Douglas Academy
- ☺ Further Education: Caledonian University - Fashion Brand Retailing (during my 6th year at school)
- ☺ Edinburgh College of Art - BA Fashion
- ☺ Churches: Queens Park Baptist- '92-09 and Drymen Parish- '09-11
- ☺ Current Location: Bridgend House Hotel Callander

Tina says:

'I have always had a heart for rural churches and communities and when I heard about the opportunities at Callander Kirk and the work Chris Martin was doing with CYP I was so inspired and enthused to be taken into consideration for the post here. It was a long summer of prayer and reflection that brought me to decide to study Youth Work and Applied Theology at International Christian College in Glasgow.

I was very apprehensive about going back to study but with the support from my church, Drymen Parish and the prayers of my friends and family it became apparent that God was calling me to work with youth.

I spent this summer working at AV1 SU camp in Aviemore, on the CLAN Kidz team and also working at Drymen Parish's Holiday Club. All of these experiences and opportunities equipped me for further youth work and only strengthened my passion for spreading the word of God with young people.

As to my interests, hobbies and personal tastes:

I have a varied and very colourful view of life. I enjoy horse riding and had a horse until I had to give her up when I went to University last year. I was a part of Strathendrick Riding club and participated in the local shows and volunteered down at Riding For The Disabled in Glasgow. At the moment I am just riding and exercising others horses and ride in Gartmore a couple of times a week when I can. As a direct result of being interested in horses I love all animals. I have an English pointer called Dennis, a tortoise shell coloured cat called Minxie and two Black Rock hens called Paloma and Pippa. They all live at home with my parents but I am sure to visit home often purely to see my pets. I love to ski and travel therefore most of the activities I enjoy are outdoors, so the setting of Callander plays contently with all my interests.

I would love to get to know everyone so I am offering my services as a dog walker (as I miss my dog so much), childminder and even for coffee (I'm not big on tea) and a chat. Feel free to talk to me at the services as I will attend both and you can ask me anymore questions you may have either about myself or about the work I am doing and will be doing in Callander Kirk and CYP at Bridgend House Hotel'.

Tina

CALLANDER KIRK YOUTH WORK

Callander Primary School Lunchtime Club runs a Scripture Union group with a programme of games, activities and of course, Bible teaching which takes place on Mondays for children in years P1 to P3 and on Fridays for P4 to P7. Each will last from 12.30pm to 1.00pm.

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JAM (Jesus And Me) For S1 – S6, Friday nights, during term time, from 7.00pm to 9.00pm at various locations including the McLaren Leisure Centre and CYP, Bridgend. A varied programme (depending on venue) of sports, crafts, games, films, pool, table tennis and a short epilogue. Cost £1.50 per person per evening. For further information please speak to John Gallacher or Sue Hewitt.

### JUNIOR CHOIR

Meets in Callander Kirk Hall every Wednesday from 4.00pm – 5.00pm.  
For more information please contact: Linda Cantlay (331635)



### SENIOR CHOIR

Meets at 10.00am in the Kirk. New members welcome.  
For further information please contact: Ian Milligan 330396

### LIBRARY

#### FAITH SEEKERS

##### Who and where do we think we are?



Within the Kirk Library we have an absolute goldmine of information to help us to grow as Christians. Both individuals and housegroups have contributed books and courses which have been studied extensively.

Informative, challenging and inspiring are words which spring to mind. So why not become a 'Seeker' and find out what is available?

There are studies in written, tape and DVD form by Scripture Union and presented by such as Nicky Gumbel, John Ortberg and Bill Hybels. Recent studies by Housegroups have included several of the York Courses on John, Philippians and Jesus' legacy of Love, which have yet to be included in the listed works which have stimulated much discussion.

The subject matter can be studied over several weeks or months and when this is shared with others can bring a much deeper understanding of the Christian faith... 'where two or three are gathered together in my name.....'

*Ray Sly*

*A list of 'Books for the House Groups' can be obtained from the Kirk Office.*

## SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY



It was good to hear that some of you have said that you managed to get to Stirling in July to write your verses in 'The People's Bible'. Here is an update on its progress written on 19<sup>th</sup> August:

*The People's Bible project is well on its way now. Following the launch at Edinburgh Castle in June, this amazing event is now touring all over Great Britain.*

*In Scotland 30 towns and cities have been visited in the first 6 weeks of the project and just under 7,000 verses of the Bible have been written. We have seen what a powerful impact God's Word has on people. Not a day has passed without someone being touched by the verses they have been given to write.*

*Former Big Brother winner, Cameron Stout, was among the many people to write their verses at its most northerly point, the Orkney Islands. Like everyone else, Cameron's verses were given to him by the computer and he found himself writing Mark 1:18- "At once they left their nets and went with Him." It is an appropriate verse for a former fish trader who found himself and his faith in the public eye back in 2003.*

If you would still like to write your verses, you can find where the team will be on [www.peoplesbible.org](http://www.peoplesbible.org) under Tour Dates and Locations.

Please continue to pray that many people will be blessed by God's Word through this Project.

**P.S.** The 2011 Conference of the Scottish Bible Society will be held in The Royal Ivy Hotel in Bridge of Allan on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November. The conference aims to support Action Groups and Church Representatives. It is usually a very inspiring day but unfortunately I will not be able to go this year. If anyone would like to go in my place, please speak to me before 14<sup>th</sup> October.

*Jean Brownrigg 330562*

## ALLOA FOOD BANK

There is a 'mouse proof' box available in the Church for donations to be placed in. Lists of foods required are beside the box and printed below.



### Food Bank Requirements

Fruit squash, Fruit juices, Coffee, Small bags of sugar, Cereals, Pasta sauces and Pasta, Tinned fruit, Tinned rice and custard; Biscuits; Tinned vegetables including potatoes; Tinned meats including products such as curry, chilli, corned beef, ham, hot dogs, meat balls, minced beef, stew etc; Tinned spaghetti, ravioli, macaroni cheese etc. Savoury rice; Tinned fish including tuna, salmon etc.

If folks bringing items can look at the "best by" dates.....and pick the longest shelf life that would be helpful – thank you.

## MISSIONARY PARTNERS

Keith and Ida Waddell are our missionary partners who work with the Mwandu Mission in the bottom left-hand corner of Zambia. They are involved with health, education, building, church....

### Prayer Focus

God of all days, blessings and praise to you, on this cold dry Mwandu morning  
As the winter sun's golden light casts gum-tree shadows on the piebald sand.  
Beside the Zambezi with its wide water, silver dunes and narrow waterways,  
White cattle egrets and mewing fish eagles shall be glad  
The reeds, the rising riverbank and flat island pastures, the velvet bush and scarlet  
bougainvillea shall rejoice and blossom.  
We give thanks for this moment's bliss and awe in the beauty of your creation  
And the perspective brought to our life in this gift of solitude with you at the start of the day.  
For our brothers and sisters we will meet today with all their diverse needs we commit them  
all to you.  
Those living with HIV or struggling with Aids related illnesses, the widow, the orphan, the  
destitute,  
The oppressed, victims of violence, injustice and exploitation, the rejected and marginalized.  
Let your presence in us support them, let them know they are loved and treasured as we are.  
Sweeten our bitterness, soften our hard hearts and guide us in our confusion.  
Help us to encourage the sick and to comfort the dying and broken-hearted.  
Help us to be bringers of laughter and joy, compassion and forgiveness.  
To share food, clothes, medicine, money, trust, friendship and knowledge and stir that new  
growth of love within us so we are blessed by those we bless.  
We thank you for our call to Mission and praise you for the Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Amen

*Keith & Ida Waddell, Mwandu Mission*

## VULTURE FUNDS

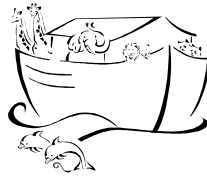


Do you know about these? It is when a company profiteers by buying up cheaply the debt of some of the world's poorest countries and then suing them in court for full repayment of the debt. Till 2010, when a Debt Relief (Developing Countries) Act was in place for a temporary period, courts in the UK were a favorite place for such companies to pursue the debts. But since August 2011, when the Act became permanent, our courts may no longer be used for this. The law has already saved Liberia \$40m and successfully kept vulture funds out of UK courts.

However, they are still allowed to operate in UK territories such as Jersey and a US vulture fund, FG Hemisphere, is currently suing the Democratic Republic of Congo, the second poorest country in the world, for \$100m in Jersey courts. Both Jersey and Guernsey governments are currently looking at introducing legislation to limit the access of vulture funds to its courts.

See <http://www.jubileedebtcampaign.org.uk>

## EXCUSES, EXCUSES.



And the Lord said unto Noah, "Where is the ark which I have commanded thee to build?"

And Noah said unto the Lord, "Verily, I have had three carpenters off ill. The gopherwood supplier hath let me down.....yeah, even though the gopherwood hath been on order for nigh on twelve months. What can I do, O Lord?"

And God said unto Noah, "I want that ark finished even after seven days and seven nights."

And Noah said, "It will be so." And it was not so.

And the Lord said unto Noah, "what seemeth to be the trouble this time?"

And Noah said unto the Lord, "Mine sub-contractor hath gone bankrupt. The pitch which thou commandest me to put on the outside of the ark hath not arrived. The plumber hath gone on strike. Shem, my son, who helpeth me on the ark side of the business, hath formed a pop group with his brothers Ham and Japeth. Lord, I am undone."

And the Lord grew angry and said, "And what about the animals, the male and female of every sort that I ordered to come unto thee to keep their seed upon the face of the earth?"

And Noah replied, "They have been delivered unto the wrong address but should arriveth here on Friday."

And the Lord said, 'How about the unicorns, and the fowl of the air by sevens?'

And Noah wrung his hands and wept, saying, "Lord, unicorns are a discontinued line, thou canst not get them for love or money. And fowls of the air are sold only in half dozens. Lord, Lord, thou knowest how it is."

And the Lord in his wisdom said, "Noah, my son, verily I knowest. Why else dost thou think I have caused a flood to descent upon the earth?"

And the Lord grew angry.

*May God give you laughter with his other blessings.*

God's pattern for victory is: - Wisdom, Strategy & Victory.

Men want Victory  
God gives Strategy  
Women have Wisdom

## SERVICES – OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER

### October

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>**

11.00am Jazz for All Service in  
Kirk  
3.00pm Trossachs Monthly  
Service

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am All-Age Service, Kirk Hall  
11.15am Callander Kirk

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am All-Age Service, Kirk Hall  
11.15am Callander Kirk, followed  
by  
Informal Communion

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup>**

10.00am All-Age Service, Kirk Hall  
11.15am Callander Kirk

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup>**

11.15am Elders' Service, followed  
by 'Souper Sunday' Lunch  
in the Hall

### November

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am All-Age Service,  
Kirk Hall

11.15am Callander Kirk  
Communion Service

Please note the 1.15pm service has been  
dis-continued

3.00pm Trossachs  
Communion Service

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service**

10.45am All-Age Service in  
Callander Kirk,  
followed by the laying of the wreaths at  
the War Memorial in Ancaster Square at  
12 noon.

**Sunday 20<sup>th</sup>**

10.00am All-Age Service, Kirk Hall  
11.15am Callander Kirk

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup>**

11.15am All-Age Service,  
Callander Kirk



### CONGRATULATIONS

To all those who have had an anniversary or birthday since the last issue

### CRAIGARD CLUB

Senior citizens' social and lunch club. Meets in the Kirk Hall on

Tuesdays from 10.30am – 1.00pm and  
Fridays from 10.30am – 2.00pm.



### THURSDAY CLUB



The Thursday Club will meet on the following dates

Thursdays 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October,  
and Thursdays 10<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> November.

For more information please contact  
Alena Watt on 330236.

### TEAPOT CAFE

The Teapot cafe meets every  
Wednesday in the Kirk Hall  
from 10.30am – 12noon.

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and  
a chat.



### TEA DANCES



The next two dances will be held on  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October and  
Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November in the Kirk  
Hall from 2.00pm till 4.30pm

### COFFEE MORNINGS

The Thursday Club annual fundraising  
Coffee Morning will take place on  
Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, in the Kirk Hall  
from 10.00am until 12 noon. Admission  
£1.50. We look forward to a good  
attendance. Donations for the tea room,  
and the stalls – cake 'n' candy and plants  
and produce can be brought to the Hall on  
Saturday morning, when they will  
gratefully be received.



The Guild Coffee Morning will be held on  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> November – In the Kirk  
Hall from 10.00am until 12noon. In aid of  
the Guild's project for this year 'A Place  
for Hope'

### BLYTHSWOOD CARE

Blythswood Care requires regular  
donations of goods from the public. If  
you have any goods you would  
like to give – clothes, blankets,  
bric-a-brac, dry food or tinned  
goods. The van will be in the  
Station Road Car Park behind the  
Dreadnought Hotel between 12.30pm and  
2.00pm on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October and  
Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011. For further  
information on Blythswood Care, please  
contact the Glasgow Depot on 0141  
8820585.



**TO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR CONGREGATION**

The next issue of LINK will be produced at the end of November and  
SHOULD contain ALL INFORMATION  
about events happening during both December and January.

**This is YOUR magazine  
and the only way you can be kept informed of events  
is if YOU let us know what is happening  
BEFORE it happens.**

We welcome your news of events, with times and places, and are happy to list them.

This is only possible if you let us know in advance.

You may think that we ought to know what is going on, but this church has many, many organisations and groups, each with so much going on, that it is necessary to tell us.

We are not mind readers – we don't know what is going on in every organisation / group, that would be impossible.

It is up to you to get in touch as early as possible – once an event is planned just drop us a line about it (or hand it in) so that it doesn't get forgotten about – either to

May Arthur - [mayarthur3@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mayarthur3@tiscali.co.uk)

or to the Church Office - e-mail [callanderkirk@btconnect.com](mailto:callanderkirk@btconnect.com)

Please help us to make the magazine a true reflection of the life of Callander Kirk.

Thank you.