

# ALLOA LUDGATE FOCUS



Magazine for Alloa Ludgate Church

September 2011

Charity No: SC007605

# From the manse



It will soon be the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attack on the USA.

A day which will be forever etched in the minds of those who were involved, and of those who only watched from afar in disbelief and horror.

I remember it quite clearly because it happened on the day I answered the call to come here to Alloa be the minister of Alloa North Church. I'd gone up to tell my own minister Rev George Sherry the news and as we sat together a phone call came in telling him to switch on the television.

At first we thought it was a movie we were watching.....then it became clear just exactly what was happening.

A real life tragedy was unfolding.....I remember saying to George.....what can we do.....he said "Well, we will pray and then maybe, by the grace of God. we will be ready to care for our people.....and you best get used to it Liz, for this is what a large part of ministry is all about"

He was so right.

So much has happened in these last ten years.

I've learned a lot, and realise there's a lot still to learn.

I've made lots of mistakes, and realise there are more I'll make.

I've laughed a lot, and cried a lot, and prayed a lot....boy how I've prayed.....and with the grace of God I've muddled my way through.

Thank you for your continued patience.

I guess I feel like I've had three ministries here over the years.

First to the North congregation, then in the linked charge of North and West, now in the united charge of Alloa Ludgate.

Each one had and has it's own challenges, but through them all we have been a vibrant focus of worship and witness in the community of faith here in the town.

Over the weekend of 4th and 5th June many members and friends of the congregation visited the North Church building to view the exhibition as the building changed from being a worship centre to other uses associated with the church's outreach to the community of Alloa and beyond.

This weekend was full of emotion, tears and laughter much to the fore as people shared memories of their time in the North Church.

Much laughter in the viewing of a video made of a concert held in the North Halls.

Tears too, as we thought of folks no longer with us, having passed on to be with God, or gone to worship in other congregations.

One thing that struck me was that it was the Ludgate congregation who were involved in the planning and in the helping over that weekend, and not only former North members, a good sign that we are now one body.

The services on 5th June were well attended.

A family service in the morning, focussing on the church on the move and remembering, with members of the congregation, young and not so young, actively participating.

Communion was shared and was very special.

The service in the evening started in the North Church and then 64 members walked to the Ludgate building to conclude the service taking items from the North to the Ludgate Church, and enjoying a special cake and refreshments.

A very uplifting and moving weekend.....in more ways than one!!!

The new session is upon us.

I hope you have had a good summer and had a wee chance to re-charge batteries.

There is much ahead of us.....

I am looking forward to the challenges ahead.....hope you are too.

With every blessing,

*Liz.*

# Could this be a 'pavlova experience'?

Dear Friends,

Let me explain.

A member of our family always resisted his mother's pavlova pudding - insisting that he didn't like it. No matter how hard she tried to persuade him he stubbornly refused to even try a little.

Eventually one day, for no apparent reason, he agreed to taste a small piece - and immediately burst into tears!

His mum said she doubted it could be that bad and that if he didn't like it he didn't need to have any more - ever!

But his answer was that he was upset because he had actually liked it and was cross with himself for missing out so many times in the past!

Have you ever had a 'pavlova experience'. Have you resisted trying something new and then when you have taken the plunge regretted not doing it sooner?

I think that some of the ladies who have been coming along to the Tuesday afternoon study group may feel like that. They may not have gone to a bible study group before. We all have preconceptions of what 'bible study' means

- you need to know a lot about the bible, everyone else knows more than you do, your opinion doesn't matter, it's for brainy folk.

I know that feeling because I shared it many years ago. I didn't want to try and resisted invitations to go and find out for myself. I can now see that taking the plunge and attending a weekly study group changed my life.

I hope that the Tuesday ladies have enjoyed our meetings as much as I have and that they might be willing to continue our studies in some shape or form in the future (watch this space!). Perhaps you would

like to try it for yourself? We hope to start some new groups over the autumn season - and not just for ladies!

Perhaps there are other aspects of church life you have resisted getting involved in - visiting housebound folk, helping at the Soup Pot, meeting to pray, helping with practical tasks like looking after the garden, serving teas on Sundays, trying out new forms of worship like Sanctuary First and the healing service.

We would like to give folk as many opportunities to 'taste and try' as possible. Over the next few weeks there will be lots of opportunities to get more involved in the life and work of the church - here in the local congregation and perhaps in a wider context. It is fine to try something and then, after consideration, to drop out but if you don't try then you, and we as a congregation, miss out.

Please remember one of the most common phrases in the bible, Old and New Testaments, is 'do not be afraid'.

God is with each one of us, he knows our fears, our 'hang-ups', our gifts and our potential. Don't wait to be persuaded to get involved - it's hard to get round everyone individually - just pray and ask for God's help and then take the first bite/step/ plunge. And you never know - you might like it!

You may only look back to wonder why you didn't find out about this before.

With love and prayers

*Muriel*

**Do not be afraid, for I am with you**



I would like to express my grateful thanks to my many friends in the congregation for their many tokens of love, cards, phone calls and visits and with special thanks for the beautiful flowers from the church service.

Margaret Blyth

## Walk For Scotland

I would like to express my grateful thanks to the members of the congregation who sponsored me for this event in aid of Parkinson's—a cause which means so much to me and your generosity, along with others, resulted in my Granddaughter and myself raising the sum of £663.

Alex Watson

## **From the Editor**

Copy for the December 2011 Issue should be in the hands of the Editor not later than 15th November 2011. Send your articles to Linda Thom, 107 Claremont, Alloa or email: [Linda@thom-micro.com](mailto:Linda@thom-micro.com) or leave it in the Magazine Editor's pigeon-hole in the Church hallway.

*Any views expressed in the features, news reports and reviews etc. in this magazine are not necessarily those of the Editor, Ministers or Kirk Session.*

# The Perfect Church

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

If you should find the perfect church  
Where all anxieties cease,  
Then pass it by, lest joining it  
You spoil the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church  
Then don't ever dare  
To tread upon such holy ground  
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists,  
Made of perfect men,  
Let's cease on looking for that church,  
And Love the church we're in.

Of course it's not the perfect church,  
That's simple to discern,  
But you and I and all of us  
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee the past  
In that unfruitful search  
To find, as last, where problems loom  
God proudly builds His church.

# HOSPITALITY GROUP

The Hospitality Group met at the end of May to discuss the upcoming "Farewell to Alloa North Church".

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June was the Open Day and the Hospitality Group were involved in collecting and displaying in the North Church, mementoes such as photos, scrapbooks, magazines etc. all things relating to the North Church, or further back St. Andrews Church. People were very generous and entered in to the spirit of the event by donating items such as Wedding Photos, a Wedding Dress, Christening Robes and other items which brought back memories of happy times spent worshipping in the Church. Members of the Group together with other members of the Church welcomed visitors during the Open Day.

All memorabilia has been returned and thanks to all who donated items.

Other ongoing items under the Hospitality Group, photo boards, signs and notices, will be looked at again once the refurbishment is under way. The Welcoming Group is going well.

The Group are meeting late August, following the Summer break to discuss matters in hand.

Thanks to all who give their valuable time to assist with this Group.

*Jane Binnie*

## DVD's available

DVD's of the morning and evening services of the Farewell to Alloa North Church and of the moderator's visit are now available.



If you would like a copy please see Liz or Muriel

# The Funk Church/Teenzone

The Funk Church will be gearing up for a new term. We have already been asked to lead worship at the Women's Fellowship at Alloa Baptist Church for which we are already planning. Also into 2012 we have another night at St Serfs, Tullibody. We would welcome any new members who are of high school age who sing, dance or play instruments.



We are also looking for **a proper drum kit** if anyone has a set lurking in their loft.

If anyone would like us to lead worship or do concerts please contact Louise on 214039

## !NEW VENTURE!

Teenzone will now open every second Friday night in Alloa Baptist church for a safe place to hang out—playing pool, snooker, games with food and drinks. P7 upwards are welcome. Watch this space for more details or contact Louise on the above number.

## Thanks to our young people

Extract from a letter received from Janette Lindsay of the Seaside Rock group at Sauchie:

*Our club had a very successful week, and we wish to place on record the help we received from the young people who attend your Church. Turning up every day, joining in the fellowship, willing to assist, and being role models to our young children.*

*You are very fortunate in having such a lovely bunch of young people willing to do the work of God.*



## HOLIDAY CLUB: MISSION RESCUE

Monday 27 June 2011 Mission Rescue started. In that week all children (about 45 in all) were agents who followed God's rescue mission and saw how God worked with Moses to set his people free!

Every day the agents arrived at 2pm. After a short activity in the spy ring (smaller groups) everyone gathered in the centre to join in with a 'Fitness song'. Agent X, agent Y and the Spy Chief talked about the story of the day and all saw the dvd, which revealed the secret. Thereafter the agents split up in smaller groups to go to crafts or games or to the spy bases. Here the older children worked in their secret files book and the younger children had spy and colouring sheets. Meanwhile there was a refreshment break.

The last part of the afternoon was spent together again. First Agent Y opened the dead letter drop, where children could post drawings, colouring sheets and jokes. Then there was a spy song, followed by the drama. After a prayer the agents went to their spy bases, where their parents could pick them up.

The first day we learned how God rescued Moses and prepared him for God's rescue mission. During crafts the children created Moses in a basket.

On Tuesday, Moses got the message from God to bring his people out of Egypt. This day the children made an adult Moses by making glasses and a beard for themselves.

God's mission started on the Wednesday, but we discovered that Pharaoh made life worse for the Israelites because of Moses' actions. The children wrote a hidden message with candle, before they painted it visible.

We celebrated the first Passover on Thursday during craft time. The agents were encouraged to eat e.g. flat bread, herbs with salt water (like the tears) and a mixture which reminded the Israelites of the brick

making material they had used in Egypt. They also drank red juice which reminded them of the final plague. We also learnt about how Jesus and his friends shared this meal and we continue to do that at communion.

The last day we learned that God always provides a way out, even when people can't see one. Parting the Red Sea was the story. The agents made a fire pillar and cloud pillar.

All days were really joyful: the children loved especially the games, craft, refreshment, drama, agent X and Y and the dead letter drop. We all had a great week!

*The de Vries family*

## THANKS

Thanks again to all those who helped and supported the Club in any way. It involved about 25 adults and teenagers as well as the children.

We were able to invite families for a fish supper evening thanks to the generosity of those who supported the club financially at the coffee morning.

We hope to keep in touch with the children and are, at time of writing, preparing for a follow-up afternoon before the children return to school. We hope this may be repeated during the year and ask for your prayers for the children and all those who have been involved as we seek a way forward for this mission.

*Muriel & Liz*

# Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

## The Right Reverend David Arnott to Ludgate Church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July 2011

No one was more surprised than Liz to receive a call from the Principal Clerk, Reverend John Chalmers, asking if we would like the Moderator to visit the congregation on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> July. As this gave only a matter of two weeks notice there was little time for thought or preparation, apart from Liz rearranging her holiday slightly to allow her to be at the service.

It gave us a good excuse to do a wee bit of tidying up of the grounds and the church (just look behind the communion table for proof!) and to get together a team of folk to help provide a light lunch for the Moderator and his wife Rosemary.

Although it was at the height of the holiday season, and many of our 'regulars' were away, we had a good turnout. We wanted it to be a 'normal' service for us while allowing the Moderator his opportunity to preach and lead our prayers of intercession.

After the service the Moderator expressed his thanks for the opportunity to be involved. He had spent 40 years in parish ministry and is keen to keep in touch with ordinary parishes and ministers like us. Much of his year is taken up with special services and ceremonies and he likes to have some time when he can to see the ordinary church at work and worship. He was certainly very interested in our plans for our buildings and mission and was very supportive of what we are trying to do here.

It was certainly an interesting and uplifting experience both being part of the worship and in sharing the fellowship over lunch. Many of our members had the pleasure of having a chat with the Arnotts over lunch.

The Moderator presented us with the gift of a plate, made in St Andrews where he was previously minister, as a memento of his visit. You can see it on the window sill at the front right of the church.

This is an extract from the letter of thanks we received after the visit which demonstrates the Moderator's interest and support for our work here in Ludgate Church and our community.

*Rosemary and I very much enjoyed our visit to Ludgate Church on Sunday.*

*It was good to meet with you and Muriel, not just to share in the service but to be able to meet some of your people too. I was much impressed by the good outreach work going on at The Gate. This is a first class initiative and deserves all the support it can muster. I hope the discussions with the General Trustees will reach a satisfactory conclusion.*

*The phased plans for the refurbishment of your premises sound exciting and challenging for you. They also speak of commitment and dedication on behalf of your people and you must be delighted with that.*

*With best wishes*

**Sandy Sinclair** kindly produced a DVD of the service for those who were absent or would like to see it again so if you would like to do so please speak to Liz or Muriel.

Thanks again to all those who helped make it such a special day and we hope that we might be able to have a similar experience when we welcome a former Moderator, The Very Reverend Alan D McDonald, later in the year.

## Guild

Twenty five members of the Guild enjoyed a meal together recently and it was a good chance to catch up with everyone's news.

Our first meeting of the new session will be on Tuesday 27th September at 2.30pm but before that there is our Dedication Service on Sunday September 18th and our coffee morning on Saturday 17th September. We meet fortnightly in the church hall.

Our theme for the next session is "to walk humbly with God" and the project we will be supporting is "Interfaith Support" working in Israel and Palestine.

### **Blankets**

The Guild have sent 4 blankets to Blythswood and a fifth is nearly complete.

### **Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal**

Once again we are asking everyone to support the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.

If you can fill a box that will be great or you could hand in a few items or just donate money towards transporting the goods to their destination.

Last year we managed 120 boxes—maybe this year we can fill even more!

The first lot of shoeboxes should be handed in by October 9th.



## **Blythswood Appeal—Alloa Schedule.**

The Blythswood lorry picks up clothing ,bric a brac and small items of furniture each month on a Tuesday at Morrison's car park at 9am. The dates when the lorry will be there are

**20th Sept, 18th Oct, 22nd Nov, 20th Dec**



**Guild Coffee Morning**  
**Saturday 17th September**  
**10am-noon**

## **Women's Group**

The Women's Group resumes on Monday 19th September at 7.30pm in the Community Centre. We start a varied syllabus with Jean Bell demonstrating Floral Art. Thereafter we meet fortnightly.

All old and new members will be made welcome

## **Friendship Guild**

The Women's Group resumes on Tuesday 20th September at 2.30pm in the Community Centre when we will be entertained by the Alloa Music Players. We meet once every fortnight. Or minister Liz will speak on the 4th October.

We look forward to seeing old and new members.

# Alloa Ludgate Church Re-Furbishment Implementation Team (IMPS) Update

Over the summer months the Implementation Team has been busy behind the scenes progressing the vision for the Ludgate Church re-furbishment.

After we gained approval from Presbytery and the General Trustees earlier this year, we submitted the planning application in May to Clackmannanshire Council, for all three phases of the work. The planning process took some 9 weeks to progress, with the main stumbling point being the proposed vehicle access at the rear of the Church. The team were proposing using an extended access in the current location, whereas the council highways department wanted to move the access either further down Ludgate or access via the private road into the Royal Oak. After much debate on the pros and cons, the issue was resolved in our favour. Other fairly minor changes had to be made to the plans before final approval was granted in July.

The application for the building warrant then followed, and again has taken some weeks to obtain approval, which we are hopeful to have by mid August.

Once all the council legalities have been finalised, we will start the tender process for the building/alteration work and hope to do this by the end of August. A number of companies will be approached including some local builders. Once the quotations are received we can compare them with original feasibility estimate, which will determine what we can afford to do phase by phase.

Other areas progressed over the last few months include :-

- Supplier of the Audio Visual system has been appointed.
- VAT - We have been exploring the minefield of the VAT

guidelines for work on listed buildings. While the guidelines are not clear, we are confident that some of the work will be either zero or 5% rated, which will save us a considerable amount of tax.

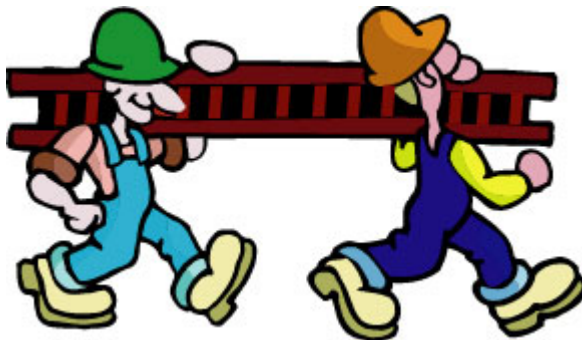
- We have completed the detailed inventory of both the Ludgate and North Churches, with a view to deciding what items are surplus to our requirements and what the disposal route will be for them.
- Selection of new chairs and colour schemes are in progress.

As the various consultants work has been approved and completed we are now starting to pay some of the invoices.

What's next ?

Once we have received and evaluated all the quotes, the successful contractor will draw up a detailed project plan indicating timescales for each phase of the work, minimising disruption to the congregation and church business. Assuming things go to plan, we are hopeful that you will start seeing some physical work taking place in October. As we move into the construction phase we will keep you informed as much as possible on the impact of the works.

*Jim Paterson - Implementation Team Convener*



## PSALM 23

None of us automatically has time to pray. Each of us must make time for prayer - carving a time out of our day and setting it aside as a sacred appointment that cannot be changed, and must not be delayed. Consider this Japanese version of Psalm 23 as you set aside your prayer time for today:

The Lord is my pace setter...I shall not rush.

He makes me stop for quiet intervals.

He provides me with images of stillness which restore my serenity.

He leads me in the way of efficiency through calmness of mind and His guidance is peace.

Even though I have a great many things to accomplish each day, I will not fret,

for His presence is here.

His timelessness, His all-importance will keep me in balance.

He prepares refreshment and renewal in the midst of my activity

By anointing my mind with the oils of tranquillity.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.

Truly harmony and effectiveness shall be the fruits of my hours,

For I shall walk in the pace of my Lord and dwell in His house forever.

*Source: God's Little Devotional Book on Prayer*

# Special Autumn Concert

In aid of Diabetes UK Scotland

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2011: 7.00pm

In St Mungos Parish Church, Bedford Place, Alloa FK10 1LJ

Adults: £8.00, Concessions: £6.00, Under 16s: £3.00

Tea / Coffee / Biscuits included in the Ticket Price!



**Featuring:** Clackmannan District Brass Band & Callander Chorale

Clackmannan District Brass Band was formed 12 years ago when Alloa Burgh Band and Alva Town Band amalgamated. During its short history the band has had a remarkable contesting success, representing Scotland at the National Championships on 4 occasions, being Band of the Year twice and winning Fife Brass Band Festival in 2009. The Band has a wide-ranging repertoire and play regularly at the Stirling Thistle Centre, Royal Highland Show, for Princess Anne, patients and staff at Strathcarron Hospice and at many local charity concerts and gala days. New players are always welcome in both senior and junior bands - get information by visiting the band Web-site:- [www.clackmannanbrass.co.uk](http://www.clackmannanbrass.co.uk)

Callander Chorale, formed in 1999 and led by their Director, Ian Milligan, is a group of sixteen ladies who sing for pleasure and aim to attain the highest possible level of performance. They have achieved a number of Awards, including The Glasgow Orpheus Choir Trophy in 2004 as the Choir with the highest marks in the Adult Choral Competitions.

Their repertoire ranges from madrigals to modern pop; from classics to folk; from opera to musicals; from sacred to secular thus ensuring that they sing something for everyone.

Please call any of the following for Tickets and Further Details:

- Bob McQueen, Diabetes UK Scotland: 07778-039323 or 01259-750458
- Enid Barker, Diabetes UK Forth Valley: 01259-211240
- Mike Brophy, St Mungos Parish Church: 01259-721553
- Ian Milligan, Callander Chorale: 01877-330396
- Anne McInnes, Clackmannan District Brass Band: 01786-470247
- Gordon R McFarlane, Jeweller & Art Gallery: 01259-723303  
41 Mill Street, Alloa FK10 1DW

Thanks to Alloa Rotary Club and Jan van der Merwe Photography Alloa

## Congregational Register

DEATHS – “Jesus said *‘I am the Resurrection and the life.*

*Those who live and believe in me will never die”* John 11:25,26

We record, with sympathy, to their families and friends, the death of the following members of our community.

July : Ness Ireland

August : Janie McInnes

BAPTISMS - “Jesus said *‘ Whoever welcomes this little child in my name welcomes me; and whoever welcomes me also welcomes the one who sent me”* Luke 9:47,48

12<sup>th</sup> June Ross Faichney

7<sup>th</sup> August Erin Frances Douglas



*Moving House ?*

*Please keep Tom White , our roll keeper , informed (tel :722842)*

## SOUP POT

Soup pot continues each Tuesday, during the summer months. The numbers have increased again and we now have around twenty folks coming in each week.

We still have our counter, and I would ask you to look out any warm clothing you find you no longer require, as our folks are most grateful, as the colder weather starts to come in.

In November we will open on Thursdays as well.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for this project, through gifts donations and prayers, and also to the teams for all their hard work, in keeping the Soup Pot going.

*Rita McNeil. Co-ordinator*

## STARTER PACKS

Starter pack continues, with boxes being made up, and taken to ACE for distribution.

We provide five boxes a week at a cost of £30.00 per box, and are a bit disappointed at the lack of support this project has been shown over the last few months.

I would ask you to think prayerfully about this, and let us keep this much needed resource going to help less fortunate in our midst.

Once more thank you to the team for their help, and to the other churches in the town.

*Rita McNeil. Co-ordinator*

## The Gate

*Transforming a vision into reality  
and providing the community  
with a service and facility  
to be proud of.*

The reality of converting the North Church building into a community centre carries on, with a lot of work being put in behind the scenes. Sometimes it seems like that description of a swan - gliding slowly along but paddling furiously under the surface!

Although a number of funding applications for the capital expenditure have been submitted the larger ones now wait on successful negotiations with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland to either lease or transfer the building to the new charity. Funds have been successfully obtained to complete the next level of architectural plans and we are waiting the outcome of a Lottery grant to take the plans to the next stage of planning permission.

Support from various organizations and individuals continue to be a tremendous encouragement. An example is our new '3C's'. These are a group of young people who have gone through the 'Fab Pad' scheme ( run by Impact Arts to help homeless young people who are moving into their first tenancy). Following the conclusion of that programme they have volunteered to form a Monday afternoon craft group to make goods for a Christmas Sale with the profits going towards the furnishing of the activity room in the new building. Not only does this give them the opportunity to help but also to keep up friendships and sustain their own support network.

The aim of The Gate has always been to make sure that that the valuable work started by the Community Group of Ludgate Church continues, not only by providing a fit for purpose facility but also to ensure that the funding and organization is in place to make sure the service we provide is sustainable. Offers of help or support are always welcome. If you can help in any way please contact Val Rose, Evelyn Paterson or Rita McNeil.

# Footlightz

The end of the summer term ended on a high note! Our first family Sunday school was a great success with parents, grandparents and significant others all enjoying a taste of what Sunday school is like, topped off with cakes and goodies! A great time was had by all.

The summer holiday club was also a great success with the Baptist Church turned into Mission Rescue headquarters for the week. As usual the support from volunteers was great, but the contribution by our young people to the success of the club was outstanding. We are very privileged to have such a dedicated group of young people who are willing to give of their time and talents into making this a great experience for primary aged children.

As this goes to press there is a re-union afternoon on Friday the 19<sup>th</sup> of August which many of the children have booked into already.

Autumn term is almost upon us though and the plans are in place for another great year in Footlightz. We open the term with 'back to school Sunday' on the 21<sup>st</sup> of August. A highlight in worship for that Sunday will be our 'Scratch Band'. For those who didn't experience this last time, this is an open invitation for ANYONE - young or old to bring along an instrument on Sunday Morning and provide the music for one song (after the briefest of rehearsals). Many of our young people are talented musicians and this gives us an opportunity to encourage them, but I am sure there are a lot of adults out there who are shy about bringing out that dusty instrument that maybe you learned many years ago. Ability no problem - even the under threes join in - the aim is to praise God, with joy. Although the magazine will go out after the event - more 'Scratch Bands' are planned, so please contact either Val, Liz or Muriel if you are interested in joining in or helping.



FOOTLIGHTZ



## CLACKMANNANSHIRE CHRISTIAN LISTENERS

The "Summer" experience of our Ministry would suggest that the seasons greatly affect the way we cope with life.

After a busy Spring time, our telephones have taken very few calls over the last three months. Does this mean that the population of Clackmannanshire, although this has not been the best Summer we have had, is effectively managing the stresses of the recession, of high rates of unemployment and of world atrocities? It would be good to think so!

Our regular Hospital Listening is much appreciated by the patients and their families. The older members of our community who may no longer be able to enjoy holidays away and who may be house-bound, often feel left out at this season so they also appreciate the visit of a Listener.

We have been planning the next sessions of training for beginners as well as for those who have done the basic training.

"Called to Listen", the second level course for those who have completed the "Learning to Listen" first course, will begin on September 3rd and will continue every second Saturday for five sessions. We will meet from 10am till 4pm in St Mungo's R.C. Church Hall, Mar Street, Alloa. Tea/Coffee and a Light Lunch will be provided. The Cost is £120 with concessions available.

The Introductory Course, "Learning to Listen" will be offered in the Autumn. Watch out for the details. Please come along and find out how good listening skills can enhance your quality of life, the quality of life for others and everyone's enjoyment of it. You will never regret it!

Henri Nouwen said, "Listening is the highest form of hospitality."

Michael Mitton adds, "When we offer good-quality listening to someone, it is like saying, 'Come in; settle down. Here is a safe place for you to tell your story.' It doesn't have to happen in a counselling room or on the therapist's couch. At any moment in the day we can offer such hospitality, and when we do we are immediately opening a door of healing for the other person, and the God-inspired therapies of community life start to take effect."

Come, taste and see for yourself what Michael Mitton is talking about. You would be most welcome!

*Moira Bruce*

## Stirling Street Pastors

### Why be involved?



Street Pastors are now present at all the major music events in Scotland including 'T', 'Rock Ness' and 'Belladrum' in the North. Most of the time, as with T in the Park, this has been at the request of the local police force. The Street Pastors ethos of 'Listening, Caring and Helping' which impacts thousands of lives throughout the UK every month has the same impact at a music festival as it does on the streets of any city on a Friday and Saturday night. People suffering from depression, loneliness, emotional or physical pain come to us for conversation and to experience the love and compassion that Christ has shown each of us.

We are delighted that our positive relationship with our partners in the Police forces across Scotland and the UK have meant that we can bring a Christian presence to an atmosphere of so many needy people.

(Full newsletter on the church website)

The West Alloa Beaver Scouts who meet in Ludgate Church will be restarting soon and Cub Scouts for boys and girls aged 8-10.5 yrs will be following on from Beavers on a Friday evening.



Contact John on 07747741926 for more details .

**Brownies**



The Rainbows and Brownies will be restarting from 29th August

1st Alloa Rainbows on 29th August

9th Alloa Brownies on 29th August

3rd Alloa Rainbows on 30th August

4th Alloa Brownies on 30th August

3rd Alloa Brownies on 31st August

There are some places in all units except 4th Alloa Brownies, which currently has a waiting list.

Parents should contact Elizabeth Sinclair (01259 213310) for more details.



*Know any one in hospital ?*

*Please keep Liz ( tel: 210403) or  
Muriel (tel:: 727927 ) informed*

# easyfundraising .org.uk

£66 raised  
last  
quarter

With only **18** supporters we have raised over £1400 pounds. If you know anyone who uses internet shopping please encourage them to use this site. It costs them nothing and generates much needed income for us.

Total  
raised  
£1400

You shop directly with the retailer (over 2000 retailers) as you would normally, but if you sign up to

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/alloaludgatechurch>

for free and use the links on the easyfundraising site to take you to the retailer, then a percentage of whatever you spend comes to the church



<b><u>Minister</u></b>	<b>Rev Elizabeth Clelland BD</b>	<b>Tel: 210403</b>
	<b>Email: liz_clelland@yahoo.co.uk</b>	
<b><u>Associate Minister</u></b>	<b>Rev Muriel Willoughby MA BD</b>	<b>Tel: 727927</b>
	<b>Email: Muriel.willoughby@btinternet.com</b>	

Session Clerk /Sunday School	<b>Val Rose</b> 4 Norwood Drive	722958
Clerk to the Board	<b>Jane Binnie</b> 15, Norwood Crescent	212106
Child Protection	<b>Alan Willoughby</b> 53 Mary Stevenson Drive	727927
Church Hall Letting	<b>Jim Thomson</b> 1A Donaldson Ave	213856
Church Officer	<b>Robert Robertson</b> 14, Bedford Place	722081
Depute Church Officer	<b>Colin Bell</b> 5 Mitchell Crescent	211586
Fabric Convener/Letting Of Community Centre	<b>Ronnie Beveridge</b> Devonknowes Cott,Devonknowes Farm, Coals.	751323
Flower Convener	<b>Janice White</b> 13 Dunvegan Court	722842
Friendship Guild	<b>Helen Rankin</b> 9 Fairyburn road	215885
Gift Aid /FWO Convenor	<b>Helen Ure</b> 6 Windsor Gardens	215868
Magazine Editor/Life & Work	<b>Linda Thom</b> 107 Claremont	216622
Organist	<b>Lawrence Wright</b> 102 Nevis Crescent	218394
Presbytery Elder	<b>Ian Russell</b> 279 Ashley Terrace	722949
Social Convenor	<b>Kate Hill</b> 21 Dunmar Crescent	214110
Treasurer	<b>Alister Marr</b> 50, Hilton Road	721221
Woman's Guild	<b>Jennifer Grant</b> 1 Norwood Grove	213479
Women's Group	<b>Helen Ure</b> 16, Windsor Gardens	215868