

SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES

MORNING SERVICES

Morning worship takes place every Sunday in Canonbie at 11.30am. During the building work at the Parish Church, services will be held in the Free Church.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the renovations at the Church, the Sunday School will meet in the Ante-Room of the Village Hall each Sunday morning during school term-time from 11.15am for worship, games, stories and activities. All children are welcome.

ALL-AGE SERVICES

There will be a monthly All-Age Service at Canonbie United Free Church at 11.30am (usually on the third Sunday of each month) when the children and adults will share together in worship. In March, this will be held on Easter Sunday.

Sun. 23rd March – Easter – Jesus is Alive!

Sun. 20th April – Spring – God is Creator

Sun. 18th May – Pentecost – The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Sun. 15th June – Father's Day – The Role of a Father

EVENING SERVICES

Evening worship is held every Sunday in Newcastleton Church at 6pm. The minister is currently preaching a series of sermons on the Letter to Titus.

BIBLE STUDIES

Regular Bible studies are held at Mozie Law, the home of Charlie and Ruth Foster, every Monday evening at 7.30pm. All are welcome. Tel. 71583 or 71392 for further details.

Special Services

Easter Sunday – Sunday 23rd March

Early Morning Service at **7.30am** at Hermitage Chapel followed by breakfast at Hermitage Hall (names in advance for breakfast)

Morning Service at **11.30am** in Canonbie United Free Church

United Evening Service in Canonbie United Free Church at **6.00pm**

Easter_Songs of Praise

Communion Sunday – Sunday 1st June

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated in Canonbie United Free Church on Sunday 1st June at **11.30am**. You are warmly invited.

Jesus said, "Do this in remembrance of Me."

Canonbie United Parish Church

Scottish Charity No. SC000717



Spring Newsletter 2008

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FROM THE MINISTER

Dear Friends,

After decades of dreaming and years of discussing, planning and fund-raising, the fact that work is now underway on the church building development in Canonbie is actually quite hard to take in. It would be too easy, however, just to regard the coming months as 'dead' time when the life of the Church grinds to a halt while we wait to get our building back.

For a start, we are in the privileged position of having *another* building to use in the meantime and already that has proved to be an opportunity for a fresh look at the format of the Sunday School. To be using the United Free Church for worship regularly as a congregation is a fitting way to end its life as a dedicated church building.

It is perhaps a timely reminder that not all churches have a roof over their head. I received a letter last month from the congregation with which I was most involved during my time in Moldova last year. They are no longer allowed by law to use the school in which they were meeting and they have had to find temporary accommodation. An opportunity has arisen to purchase a suitable building for the longer term and they have asked our support in being able to secure a deposit. The Congregational Board has agreed that there should be a retiring collection on Easter Sunday for this purpose – please give as generously as you can to help our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Our time in different surroundings gives us the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be the Church. Through Sunday morning sermons I have been trying to encourage the congregation to be what we are called to be as the People of God in this place. In addition, a small group has been appointed to prepare the way for the new building to be used to the utmost and if you have any ideas to contribute in that regard, please speak to Kirsteen Davies, Chris Jagger or Dorothy Watson as soon as possible.

God-willing, we will be able to move back in well before the end of this year and devote ourselves more fruitfully to *being* the Body of Christ in this community. But meanwhile, let's all do our best to lift Christ up by our words and by our actions, that many may be drawn to Him.

Yours in Christ, **Alan D Reid**

Church without Walls 2008

The National Gathering

3-4 May 2008

Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston

"All you can't leave behind..."

The Church is on the move!

What do we need to take with us into the future?

What do we need to leave behind?

CWW 2008 – The National Gathering is a Tented Gathering at the Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, Scotland's premier outdoor/indoor venue. It's an event for all age groups and all churches. Taking place over the weekend of 3-4 May you can come for one day or both days. So, why have we created such an event, and why should you come along? In summary, we want to gather all God's people together to celebrate our common faith in Christ. This is the vision that is driving the Planning group forward to launch CWW 2008 - the National Gathering.

It's like the people of God moving out of slavery on a journey of rediscovery. It's like the Feast of Tabernacles when the people returned to tents and shelters for a time of transformation. It's like the Gaels moving to the Highland shielings with a new season. It's the experience of freedom and creativity for 21st Century Christians.

Day ticket - £10 Whole Family ticket - £30

The Presbytery is planning to organise a bus to Ingliston on Saturday 3rd May. Sign up at church for a seat. The Kirk Sessions of Canonbie and Liddesdale have booked a tent to tell our churches' story to those attending the event. If you would be prepared to staff the tent for a couple of hours you can have a free ticket for the day! Have a word with the minister if you are interested.

Church Building Development Update



A lot of water has passed under the bridge since the previous update last September. Delays due to health and safety legislation led to a month's delay in the tender process, but more bad news was to come when the lowest tender proved to be nearly 25% higher than the estimates given by the Quantity Surveyor. This was almost entirely due to the fact that there is more work available at the moment than building firms can cope with.

During November and December a great many meetings took place to try and find a way forward, by seeking cost savings and sourcing further funding for the project. This included writing to the congregation to ask for further pledges to allow us to apply for a loan on favourable terms from the Church of Scotland. The response from this letter to members and adherents produced off-one donations amounting to nearly £1,000 and pledges of a further £4,392 per annum. This allowed us to apply for a loan of £25,000 repayable over 7 years, but when the General Trustees considered the application, they have actually given us a further *grant* of £15,000 and a loan of only £10,000 repayable over 5 years.

We were therefore able to give the go-ahead in the middle of January and the Main Contractor (Graham's of Langholm) was able to make a start the first week in February. Meanwhile, a huge effort swung into operation to clear everything out from the Parish Church and make the United Free Church ready for use again. All credit must go to the team of willing volunteers who laboured very hard to make all that possible. A temporary sound system has been set up in the Free Kirk and it is great to be back there again for worship Sunday by Sunday.

The programme of works at the Parish Kirk is scheduled to be completed by the end of October and we expect to be in the newly-refurbished building well before Christmas. We will probably begin to use the church again as a congregation without any ceremony in November or December while arranging a formal dedication service in January 2009 when the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is to be visiting our Presbytery.

Funerals

It should be noted that there is much-reduced space for parking at the cemetery. If you are attending a funeral and are physically able, please park your car in the village or along the old A7 and walk.

Events

World Day of Prayer – A service to mark the World Day of Prayer will be held in Newcastleton Church at 2.30pm on Friday 7th March. This year's materials have been prepared by women from Guyana on the theme: God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding. The speaker will be the Rev. Pauline Steenbergen. All are welcome.

Bag Packing – As a fundraiser for the Building Development, we have been allocated Saturday 8th March at Morrison's supermarket in Carlisle to do the bag-packing between 10am and 4pm. We are looking for as many volunteers as possible – men, women and children over 10 years of age. The more tills we can staff the more money we can raise! We are drawing up a rota and even if you could only do one or two hours, it will be greatly appreciated. Please contact Helen Irving (71470) or Marilyn Muir (71317).

Engage – This bi-monthly youth event for those of secondary school age will take place in Newcastleton Village Hall on Friday 14th March and Friday 9th May from 8pm onwards. There will be food, friends, fun, games and God talk. Further details from Richard Morrison on 71381.

Easter Services

Thursday 20th March – Maundy Thursday

9.30am – Canonbie Primary School Easter Service in Canonbie School. Parents and members of the community are welcome.

7.30pm – The Lord's Supper in the Upper Room, Newcastleton

Friday 21st March – Good Friday

2.00pm – Meditations for Good Friday in Canonbie United Free Church

7.30pm – Good Friday Service in Newcastleton Church.

Sunday 23rd March – Easter Sunday

7.30am – Early Morning Service at Hermitage Chapel at followed by Breakfast in Hermitage Hall. Please book breakfast in advance by contacting Alan Reid (75242) or Alice Forster (75767).

11.30am – All-Age Easter Worship at Canonbie United Free Church.

6.00pm – Easter Songs of Praise at Canonbie United Free Church.

Friday 28th March

11.00am – Glenzier Primary School End of Term Service at Glenzier School. Parents and members of the community are welcome.

Presbytery Examination of Records

Those who hold the various congregational record books are asked to note that the annual examination of records will take place on Tuesday 1st April this year and that books should be given to the Session Clerk in good time.

Come to the Supper – What is good in our communion tradition? Where is there room for change and innovation? How well do we do Word *and* Sacrament? What does communion mean to you? You are invited to a round the table consideration of these issues with presentations, discussion and a space for listening, all beginning with a meal together. The evening will run from 6.00-9.30pm and will be held in St. Mary's and Old Parish Church in Hawick on Wednesday 16th April. Bookings must be made with the Worship and Doctrine Office at 121 George Street – Tel. 0131 225 5722. The event will cost £8 per head.

Safari Supper – A Safari Supper is planned for Saturday 19th April in aid of the Development Fund. The starter and main course will be served in various homes and then dessert will be available in the Village Hall where everyone can get together to finish off the evening. Tickets will be priced at £12.50 a head. If you would like to host a starter or a main course, if you could help prepare or serve desserts, or if you could gather together a group of guests, please contact Marilyn Muir (71317), Beverley Hyslop (71370) or Helen Irving (71470)

Building Development - Financial Statement

The state of the Building Development Fund is as follows:

Funds already in hand	£382,408
Funds pledged (including grant awards)	£120,498
Funds estimated (bank interest & future fundraising)	£60,630
Reserve Funds and loan (if necessary)	£57,000
TOTAL	£620,536

The estimated cost of the Building Development (including furnishing and equipment) is £613,214. Further grant applications are in progress and if these are successful this will reduce the extent to which we will have to draw on reserves and/or take up a loan. Please continue to pray for the Fund-raising Committee in their efforts.

PARISH REGISTER

THANKSGIVING AND BLESSING

Kara Beth and **Kirsten Mary**, twin daughters of Colin and Mary **Waite**, Claygate on 30th September 2007.

‘Jesus put His hands on them and blessed them.’

BAPTISM

Karl Nathan, son of Glenn and Carol **Lamont**, 6 The Wynd, Canonbie, on 4th November 2007.

‘Go and make disciples of all nations.’

FUNERALS

William Cowan, Smithfield, Kirkclinton, Carlisle, at Canonbie Church on 3rd September 2007.

James Jackson, Newbie Cottage, Canonbie, to Canonbie Cemetery on 25th September 2007.

Edna Hitchens, late of New Woodhead, Canonbie, at Roucan Loch Crematorium on 12th October 2007.

Eric Codd, late of The Willows, Riverside Park, Canonbie, at Carlisle Crematorium on 7th November 2007.

Jean Pearson, Windyhill, Canonbie, at Canonbie Church on 21st December 2007.

Sandra Beeton, Nittyholm, Canonbie, at Roucan Loch Crematorium on 10th January 2008.

William Little, late of The Wood, Rowanburn, at Canonbie Church on 15th January, 2008.

Alfred Ellis, late of Four Oaks, Canonbie, at Carlisle Crematorium on 11th February 2008.

Kathleen Sim, 14 Aldery Terrace, Canonbie, at Canonbie Churchyard on 27th February 2008.

“God comforts us in all our troubles.”

Malawi Container Project 2007

The Container of goods from churches in the Presbytery of Annandale and Eskdale arrived safely at its destination: Ekwendeni Mission Station, Malawi on 7th January 2008. Praise God! *Many* thanks again to those of you who had any part in supporting this venture. I'd be glad if you would please share the news with your congregations/communities. **George Lind, World Mission Convenor**