

# Canonbie United Parish Church

Scottish Charity No. SC000717



## Autumn Newsletter 2008

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**FROM THE MINISTER**

Dear Friends,

I appreciate that this will come as a shock to many of you, although I hope that by the time this issue of the *News/letter* is published you will have had an opportunity to hear this news from my own lips at church.

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October I received an invitation to preach as Sole Nominee in the Vacancy at Kinross Parish Church. I think it is important to say to you that we did not seek this move – rather, it found us. My name was recommended to the vacancy committee by a recently-retired minister whose judgement I respect, and I felt it right to allow my name to go forward. That is nothing unusual – indeed, it has happened several times over the years but it has never been the right time to move. In some ways there is never a good time to move and there will be a number of things that I will be sad not to be able to see through to a conclusion here, particularly the opportunities that will come through the new church building.

As far as the time-scale is concerned, my first encounter with the vacancy committee was on the 28<sup>th</sup> September (when I was interviewed by the whole committee in Kinross). On Sundays 12<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October, members of the committee attended services locally. It is likely that I will preach in Kinross on the morning of Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December and if I am elected and called, we would probably be moving at the turn of the year.

This is obviously a big step in our lives as a family – the boys have never called anywhere other than Newcastleton 'home.' But it has become clear to me in the last few weeks that this call is of God and while I am also conscious that this is a big step in the life of the church, I am confident that He will have your future in His hands just as securely as I know He has ours. In the normal course of events I would not have been thinking of a move a mere 5½ years after beginning a ministry, as I have in Canonbie, but I hope you appreciate that the dynamics of ministry in Liddesdale after 19 years are rather different.

The coming months will be a challenging time but if you step forward in prayerful faith there is a great deal to look forward to. I know that I leave an extremely committed congregation in Canonbie Church with a great many gifts and I continue to believe that God has much for you to accomplish as a people in this place. You will remain in my prayers for as long as there is breath in my body.

**Yours in our Lord's service, Alan D. Reid**

## Church Building Development Update



On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2008, the certificate of practical completion was issued by the architect, Stephen Crichton, and the remaining work – the completion of the decoration and the laying of the floor coverings – was carried out in the two weeks subsequent to that. The chairs which had been ordered for the sanctuary have been delivered and various meetings have been held to iron out practicalities. As well as the recommissioning of the organ and the installation of the audio-visual system, there remain a great many very ordinary things to be done but we are very much on schedule to have our first Sunday back in the Church at the end of November as we had hoped.

New furniture for the chancel has been commissioned, although it won't be ready until the official opening and re-dedication of the building on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009. On that occasion, the Moderators of the General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland will both be taking part in the service – it promises to be quite an occasion!

Although we will only be using the building ourselves in the first instance, for Sunday services and for the Christmas Tree Festival, plans are already being made to hold an Open Day after the official opening, where potential user groups – from local community organisations to groups from other places – will be invited to see the facilities and discuss their requirements.

After a long road to get to the point of starting the work, it all seems to have passed very quickly, but it should be noted that the Treasurer in particular has had a very busy year. It is a credit to her skills that the money has always been in place just at the right time to pay the monthly invoices that have come in. Although it is virtually certain that we will have to draw down the loan of £10,000 that we have been promised over 5 years from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, any moneys that come in over the coming months will be used to pay it off as soon as possible. The fund-raising will have to go on for a little while yet, but there *is* light at the end of the tunnel.

## Building Development - Statement of Funds

### Financial Statement as at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008

Assets.....	£301,215.93	Building Costs .....	£423,200.78
Bank Interest.....	£31,571.14	Fees & expenses ....	£73,711.02
Fund-raising.....	£26,602.43		
Pledges.....	£45,930.43		
Donations.....	£46,531.23		
Grants received.....	£54,250.00		
TOTAL INCOME .....	<u>£506,101.00</u>	TOT. EXPEND. ....	<u>£496,911.80</u>

Funds available at 31<sup>st</sup> October 2008 - £9,189.36

### Future Financial Projections

Funds in hand.....	£9,189.36	Building Costs .....	£90,500.00
Assets to realise.....	£50,000.00	Fees & expenses .....	£9,210.00
Pledges still due.....	£1,500.00	Furnishings .....	£23,000.00
Grants due.....	£26,000.00		
Fundraising (2009).....	£5,500.00		
Loan available.....	£10,000.00*		
Reserves.....	£28,000.00*		
TOTAL INCOME .....	<u>£130,189.36</u>	TOT. EXPEND .....	<u>£122,710.00</u>

\*Although we will be able to cover all our projected costs, we would prefer *not* to touch the Reserves and we would prefer *not* to have to take up the loan that we have been offered. Sources of funding are still being sought. A retention of £12,750 (included in the building costs above) is not due to be paid until December 2009.

### ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS

The Kirk Session is delighted to announce that a number of members of the congregation have been approached with a view to being ordained as elders in Canonbie United Parish Church and that the following have agreed to accept a call to the eldership.

Liz Findlay, Kirklands, Canonbie

Charlie Foster, Mozie Law, Canonbie

Chris Jackson, Blakey, Canonbie

Anthony Lane, Beechwood, Canonbie

Leoniek van Belzen, The Old Post Office, Evertown

If anyone has objections to put to the Kirk Session regarding the lifestyle or beliefs of any of the above, they should make them known to the Minister or Session Clerk prior to Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. If no objections are received, the Kirk Session will proceed to their ordination forthwith.

# Events

**Auction and Supper Evening** – This will be held in the Canonbie Public Hall on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> November. Viewing is from 7.15pm with the meal being served from 8.00pm and the auction itself taking place at 9.30pm. There are one or two tickets left – if you would like one, please contact Marilyn Muir on 71317.

**Presbytery Guild Rally** – The autumn rally will be held in Dryfesdale Church in Lockerbie on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 2.30pm. The speaker will be Gillie Davidson, the founder of Scottish Love in Action which brings support to destitute Indian Dalit children (formerly known as 'Untouchables'). This meeting is open to all.

**Engage** – This month's youth event will be held in Canonbie Village Hall on the evening of Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Open to all young people of secondary school age. Look out for further details.

## **Teenagers! What every Parent Has to Know**

This event organised by Care for the Family will be held at the Shepherds Inn, Carlisle, on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> November from 7-10pm. Further details from [www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk)

## **Griefcare**

There will be a meeting of the Griefcare Team on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm in the Health Centre, Newcastleton looking at the subject of 'A Blue Christmas' with the possibility of planning a quiet service for those who have been bereaved during the last year.

## **Kirk Session**

Elders are asked to note that there will be a meeting of the Kirk Session at the Church on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm

**Christmas Tree Festival** – After the success of the last festival in 2006 and in celebration of the completion of the building development, the Church will again be festooned with decorated trees, each one exploring the significance of words from a different Christmas carol. The church will be open from Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December (times to be confirmed) and of course the trees will remain in the Church over the Christmas season during our special services. We look forward to welcoming people from the wider community and from further afield. If you are able to offer a couple of hours to offer a welcome, there will be a sheet to sign up on at the church nearer the time.

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISM

**Jessica Rose**, daughter of Fiona and Michael **Smith**, The Knowe, Lymiecleuch, Canonbie, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2008.

**Elliot Adam**, son of Hazel and Duncan **Carter**, 60 Larch Drive, Carlisle, on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

'Go and make disciples of all nations.'

### MARRIAGE

**Dawn Waugh** and **Graham Ellwood**, at Canonbie United Free Church on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

'What God has joined together let no-one separate.'

### LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Certificates signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Free Church were presented to Jack Irving and Noel Jackson for long service as elders of the United Free Church.

'Well done, good and faithful servant'

### FUNERALS

**John Nightingale**, Marsh Cottage, Canonbie, at Carlisle Crematorium on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2008.

**Annie Murchie**, Windrush Cottage, at Canonbie United Free Church on 11<sup>th</sup> April 2008.

**Jean Graham**, Chapel of Logan, Chapelknowe, to Half Morton Cemetery on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2008.

**Philip Leith**, Roundwood, Wauchope Street, Langholm at Roucan Loch Crematorium on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

**Robert Percival**, The Old Smithy, Evertown, at Canonbie United Free Church on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2008.

**Zoe Hall**, infant twin daughter of Hazel and Duncan Hall, Parkhouse, Caulside, at Canonbie Cemetery on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008.

**Mary Wright**, 1 Aldery Terrace, Canonbie, at Canonbie United Free Church on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2008.

**John Armstrong**, 1 Nittyholm, Canonbie, at Canonbie United Free Church on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008.

### To Make you Think

"The Bible tells us to love our neighbours, and also to love our enemies; probably because generally they are the same people."

(G.K. Chesterton)

"Opportunities always look bigger going than coming."

## Link with Moldova

Following the links established first through Alan and Mim Rainford in 2006 and developed by Alan Reid in May 2007 and by the visit of the Rev. Peter Law of 'Crossover' in November last year, plans are being made to take a team of people from Scotland on a short-term mission trip to Moldova in September 2009. The exact nature of the trip would depend on the people who commit themselves to going – it might be supporting a medical mission trip, it might be working with children, it might be offering practical domestic help to elderly people, but through it all seeking to share something of the love of Jesus Christ. Peter Law will make another visit to us in March 2009 when the team will be finalised and training will be offered to those intending to participate. Four or five people from Canonbie and Liddesdale have already expressed an interest in going. If you are interested in finding out more (without obligation!), please have a word with the Rev. Alan Reid as soon as possible. If you have never thought about doing something like this, think again – you may have underused gifts or skills that could make a huge difference in Europe's poorest country. One medical volunteer on a similar trip recently said that it was the most fulfilling experience he had had in nearly 20 years of work at home. Whoever ultimately decides to go, we will also need people at home who will be willing to commit themselves to praying and/or to offering financial support to the mission. It is to be hoped that this may indeed be a team effort and one which will foster fruitful links with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Moldova.

## friendsfirst

Being on your own can be a lonely experience however 'busy' you are.

God doesn't intend it to be this way but sometimes want us to do something about it ourselves. Like Abraham sending his servant out to find a wife for Isaac or Naomi intervening on behalf of Ruth to enable her to marry Boaz, so God answers prayers today using human intervention. If you are on your own and would rather not be, get in touch with **friendsfirst** – the Christian friendship organisation – who, since 1999, have been very successful in bringing people of all ages together for friendship and relationships. For an informal and confidential chat about how membership could help you, ring Katharine Gray on 0141 530 9394 or look at their website [www.friends1st.co.uk](http://www.friends1st.co.uk)

**...SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES...SERVICES...**

## **MORNING SERVICES**

Morning worship takes place every Sunday in Canonbie at 11.30am.

### **November**

#### In Canonbie United Free Church

- 2<sup>nd</sup> 11.30am – Mark 5:21-43 - Twelve Years  
9<sup>th</sup> 10.50am – Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial  
11.30am – Remembrance Service – James 3:13-18  
16<sup>th</sup> 11.30am – Mark 6:1-29 - Taking Offence  
23<sup>rd</sup> Final Sunday in the United Free Church  
11.30am – Mark 6:30-44 - A Quiet Place – Ordination of New Elders  
6.00pm – United Service – Songs of Praise  
30<sup>th</sup> 10.30am (prompt) – Walk of Witness beginning at the site where Canonbie Free Church first began to worship, pausing outside the UF Church building and continuing to the newly refurbished church  
11.30am – All Age Service - Isaiah 64 - Come down, O Lord

### **December**

#### In the United Parish Church

- 7<sup>th</sup> 11.30am – Rev. Pauline Steenbergen  
14<sup>th</sup> 11.30am – Communion - Psalm 85 - Revive us, O Lord  
18<sup>th</sup> 9.30am – Canonbie Primary School Christmas Service  
20<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm – Coffee, Cake and Carols  
21<sup>st</sup> 11.30am – All-age Service including children's nativity presentation and a service of thanksgiving and blessing for Janie Margaret Hall, daughter of Hazel and Duncan Hall.  
24<sup>th</sup> 8.00pm – Christmas Eve Service  
25<sup>th</sup> 10.00am – Christmas Day Service  
28<sup>th</sup> 11.30am – Philippians 2:5-11 - He made Himself nothing

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Until Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 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. Thereafter, the Sunday will find a new home in the refurbished church building. All children are welcome.

## **EVENING SERVICES**

Evening worship is held every Sunday in Newcastleton Church at 6pm. There will be an all-age praise service in Canonbie on 7<sup>th</sup> December at 5pm – look out for further details.

## **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.