

St. John's Parish Church, Kirkcaldy

"Echoes" August 2007

Dear Friends.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven" according to the author of Ecclesiastes. With summer more or less behind us it is time for us to look ahead to many of our organisations resuming their activities. Our halls will soon be filled again with members of the Guild listening to speakers, Guides and Brownies doing badge work, Tiny Tigers learning Taekwondo and teens relaxing in the cosy corner. It is wonderful to see the buzz of activity of so many different age groups and generations through the week. Not all are part of church organisations, but each one brings life and vitality to St. John's.

Many I know have enjoyed having a break away from activities through the summer and will return all the more refreshed for having had a break. You really can get too much of a good thing! Summer tends to be a quieter period than usual in most churches with the rhythm of the week marked by the continuation of worship. The church calls this time of year "ordinary time" and in many churches the falls and minister's stole will be predominantly green in colour to reflect this season that is between Pentecost and Advent. The colour green symbolises growth, a time of maturing as a Christian as we listen for the guidance of the Holy Spirit in the midst of the ordinary things in life.

It is in the midst of the ordinary that we are sometimes blessed with glimpses of the glory of God — a deeper appreciation of God's presence and grace in our life. These are precious, extraordinary moments for which we rightly give God our thanks and praise

Grace and peace,

Nicola

Reading Group

We will resume sessions fortnightly from Tues. 18 September. Meetings are held in the Prayer Room at 7 p.m. All welcome to add views or only listen when desired. We are a friendly group and enjoy the fellowship and the banter.

Over the year the Reading Group has been studying “Women of the New Testament”. For this coming session we will be looking at the novel by Victoria Hislop “The Island”. This book raises issues of ignorance and misunderstanding as well as prejudice and prejudgment.

GET TOGETHER

Meeting every Thursday, 2 o'clock till four,

Someone there to meet you coming in the door,

Once inside you wonder what will be in store.

Is it only cards, dominoes and scrabble or will it be much more.

Come and find out, without a doubt, it will not be a bore.

A Reel Fling

By the time you receive this Magazine, “A Reel Fling” by the Crossford Music Group will have taken place. If you enjoyed this Concert, please support our future events. Your support is very much appreciated in our efforts to raise funds for the Church.

GUIDES – Janette Brown, Guider

Our new session in August last year started with 9 guides, increasing in September to 17. By January of 2007 our numbers had increased to 23. This has remained steady and may well increase when the new session starts this month.

There have been many activities during the year including a visit to Jumping Jacks in the autumn, a Halloween party and a very successful cake and candy sale in November - the proceeds going to the Hospice in Kirkcaldy and SSPCA. There was an outing to the Kirkcaldy Youth Music Theatre in February to see one of our Rangers in “Summer Holiday” the show was a great success and enjoyed by all.

In March a number of the guides attended a weekend away in St Andrews where we all had to sleep on the floors in the Guide Hall - ouch! This was a superb weekend where the theme was Greece — not ‘Grease’ the musical as they first thought. We had Greek food, mini Olympics and dressing up. One challenge was to draw the outline of the Parthenon on the beach using directions with a compass - much hilarity at all the different shapes although everyone got there in the end. As it was St Andrews Poetry Week we managed to visit various locations including the Byre where we saw a performance of the Greek legend of Odysseus, the sailing boat ‘The Reaper’ and a poetry exhibition at The St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum. We had a very late night walk where the highlight

was a projection of poetry by the Byre Theatre on to the walls of St Leonards School. They also managed to make mothers day gifts, work on World Issues Badge and spend some time at the swimming pool. The summer term finished with an American Themed Fancy Dress Party organised by the guides.

Everyone has worked hard over the last year on all challenge badges and we are looking forward to the forthcoming session.

OUR HYMN SINGING TRADITION - Mary Sherrard

It was good the other Sunday to be reminded of Scotland's hymn writing and singing tradition. It brought to mind memories of singing the 23rd psalm in far-off places.

My flashbacks include —

A group from St. Ninian's Church in Galashiels quite spontaneously singing the psalm as we were shown round the Church of Scotland in Rome.

In the Vienna Woods, after eating our evening meal in the open air with much banter and song, surprising our overseas friends as we rounded off the occasion with the singing of the psalm — all 40 of us, again from Galashiels,

Communion service by the Lake of Galilee, celebrated by an Anglican vicar, and, because two from Scotland were present (my husband and I), we ended with us all singing The Lord's My Shepherd.

Perhaps your memories were triggered off too. I was glad to be reminded of the old favourites, glad too to welcome the new. How fortunate we are to have in our midst our own hymn writer, Brian Fairful.

Young Adult Group

Our new members have some great ideas for fellowship with other young adults and in September we will be having our first get-together of the year. Date and place to be announced. Watch the order of service for more details.

WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

NO. 5 - Naomi - A case study in hardship

From the Book of Ruth

Naomi ('pleasant') was the mother-in-law of Ruth. The Book of Ruth is set during the time of the Judges, between 1250 and 1050 BC. It gives a glimpse of how ordinary people lived then, people not involved in the struggle to secure land, and it provides a family history for David who was descended from Ruth.

When Naomi lost her husband and two sons in Moab where she had gone to escape famine, her grief was made worse by guilt. She believed it was her duty to provide her daughters-in-law with new husbands. She persuaded Orpah to begin life anew in Moab, but Ruth refused to leave her, and returned with her to Israel. In Bethlehem Naomi asked

to be called Mara ('bitter'). Her spirits revived when she heard that Boaz, kinsman of her late husband, had behaved kindly to Ruth, Naomi advised Ruth to go to Boaz. Boaz married Ruth: their son Obed was born, grandfather of King David, Naomi loved Ruth's son like the sons she had lost.

Even in the hardest circumstances, is God in control? If he is, that means he can change the bitterness of our hard experiences.

ECHOES AUGUST 2007

PRAYER GROUP

CHOIR

As you will have read in the weekly announcements, I have expressed my concerns about the future of the Choir. For various reasons, Choir numbers have been reduced, and it is vital that we acquire new members. The Choir contributes so much to our Sunday worship, and it is important that every effort is made to ensure the future of the Choir. If you can help in any way, please contact me, I will be delighted to hear from you.

Practices commence on Thursday 6 September at 7.15pm in the New Hall. New members will be made most welcome.

Brian Booth

SOCIAL AND FUND RAISING TEAM

Concert by the Inverkeithing Community Big Band

On Friday 21st September at 7.30pm the Inverkeithing Community Big Band will be giving a Concert in the Church. The Band has a membership of around 25 with ages ranging from 14 to 85 years. All members donate their own time and travel expenses to fundraising concerts. The Band has been fortunate to recruit Russ Moore as its new Musical Director, Russ is hugely talented and experienced, having run his own professional Big Band and played baritone sax with Tommy Sampson's Band for many years, The Band plays a repertoire of swing classics, with a sprinkling of film and show tunes and the occasional taste of pop. This will be another enjoyable evening with music to suit all ages and tastes. Please support this major Fund Raising event by purchasing tickets which will be on sale soon.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group meets on the third Wednesday of each month from 10 to 11 am in the Prayer Room of the church.

It is an informal and friendly meeting. We exchange ideas on news of our own and the wider church, local, national and international news, and news of people and events, and we commend them to God in our prayers. We are kept up to date about what is going on by Church of Scotland publications and news from Charities,

There are small boxes placed in the church for any requests for prayers for people and events and we gladly accept suggestions of subjects for our thoughts and prayers.

We are a small group and welcome anyone who would like to join us, Why not give it a try!

Lillian Haig, Prayer Promoter

Strawberry Teas

The Team has once again enjoyed great success with the Strawberry Teas. At the time of going to press, over £650 has been raised with a further two afternoons still to come. Hopefully we will raise over £1,000 for Church Funds. The weather this year has not been so kind, but everyone has enjoyed afternoons of friendship and strawberry delights. Thanks to all who supported us. We do appreciate your attendance. We know that our time, talents and the sharing of the cost of the Strawberry Teas is much appreciated by the Treasurer.

St. John's Taekwondo Club

It has been an exciting year for St. John's Taekwondo Club. In March, we held our first ever black belt testing and camp with Nicola's instructor flying in from California and a master and senior master from our association's headquarters. Congratulations to the following on receiving their black belt:

Main Aitken, Hannah Donaldson, Michelle Fairful, Hannah Higgins, Jennifer O'Malley, Audrey O'Malley, Nicola Philbin, David Reekie,

Plans are now well underway for a group of 10 people to visit the San Francisco Bay Area in April next year to train with Mr. Miller. All being well, several people in the group will also be testing too. In the meantime, training continues apace with taekwondo and weapons forms to learn,

In June, Nicola attended our association's world championships in Little Rock, Arkansas and had the opportunity to work out with Grand Master end to take several seminars. She tested for 4th degree but failed to break one of her boards, resulting in no change in rank, but took a first place in forms and second place in sparring in a small black belt ring.

Earlier in August, Jennifer and Nicola attended our association's first ever European camp in Lund, Sweden. Jennifer worked out with other trainee instructors, developing teaching skills and competed in forms and sparring in an otherwise all male ring with older and more experienced martial artists. At the end of camp, Jennifer received an award for the best attitude. Nicola tested for her fourth degree black and is waiting — impatiently for the result.

Late August sees the start of the new session with Tiny Tigers' class on Thursdays from 5.00-5.30.m as well as the usual classes on Friday and a sparring/weapons class on Sunday evenings. In September, we are introducing the life skills curriculum into all classes. This involves focusing on a particular attribute such as respect, integrity or self-control for one month at a time at an age appropriate level. These are important attributes for children to develop and it is hoped that the qualities developed in class will also be

evident outside the dojang. For more information about any of the classes please call Nicola on 263821.

Church of Scotland Guild — Isobel Grimshaw

The new Guild Session starts on Monday, 3rd September at 7pm and Monday, 10th September at 2pm. and alternate Mondays. Everyone will be most welcome, perhaps for a particular speaker or on a regular basis.

On Sunday, 18 November the Guild will be conducting the Sunday Service for the annual Guild Week and Mrs. Fiona Punton, Information Officer to Guild Office will give a talk on the work of the Guild.

Fabric Report — Summer 2007

Roddy Sellars

The external steps at the rear of the Manse were renewed earlier this year as they were becoming unsafe, also the path at the side of the Manse was relaid due to the old tree roots having made these slabs uneven. The dining-room carpet in the Manse has also been renewed, this being the first renewal of the carpet since the house was built!

It had been hoped that the external decoration of the Church and Halls would now be well under way but owing to our unseasonable weather, woodwork requiring repair has not dried out sufficiently to make a meaningful start. Hopefully the weather will relent and allow our volunteers to complete the external decoration this year.

As always, we would ask anyone who may be able to aid the work undertaken by our volunteers throughout the year to contact myself or any of our Fabric Committee members: Mrs S Booth, Mr I Christie, Mrs G Morrison, Mrs M Stark, Mrs R Trail and Mr W Whyte.

My thanks, as always go to everyone who has contributed to the voluntary work on our buildings and grounds and trust this will continue. I wish to thank everyone involved in bringing the heating and ramp access projects to planning and quotation stage and especially to Mr. Stark for preparing the drawings for the new access ramps.

Boys' Brigade

The new season for the Boys' Brigade at St. John's Starts on Thursday, 6th September

Junior Section: 8-11 years on Thursday 6 September at 6.15pm to 7.30pm

Company & Senior Section: 12-18 years on Thursday 6th September 7.30pm to 8.30pm.

Anchor Boys: 5-8 years on Friday 7th September 6.15pm to 7.15pm.

All boys will be made welcome. Any adults willing to help out the staff with the programme would be appreciated. The Boys' Brigade movement will be celebrating its 125 years this year and celebrations will be held during the year.

I would like to thank the staff and boys and friends for the lovely clock I received on my birthday and the Long Service medal they presented to me on parents' night, I will treasure them with happy memories.

John B. Methven (Captain)

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group begins on the 4th September with a games night snakes and ladders etc. All meetings are fortnightly in the New Hall at 7.30pm.

We have a visit to Stuart the Bakers in Buckhaven on 23rd October and if you are interested in going please phone Irene Wood (Tel, 267995) by 30th September.

We have 12 members and will be very pleased if you would like to come to the Group. Our meetings are open to everyone.

JC CLUB

The JC club enjoyed a very successful summer session, getting involved in a number of different activities. Baking proved to be the most popular followed by gardening as a close second.

The autumn/winter session starts on 2nd September. We meet in the large hall and a warm welcome awaits children aged 2 to 12+. We look forward to seeing all the regular faces and hopefully a few new ones.

Our thanks go to all of the helpers who joined us over the summer months.

Jean Harris