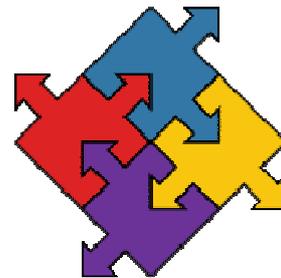


The Net

The Magazine of Priestfield Parish Church, Edinburgh
Living in the Way of Jesus



Web: <http://priestfield.org.uk>

Minister: Rev Dr Jared W Hay



Jared's Napkin Scribbles

On Sunday 12 May, Jared began a four-week period of Study Leave. He will return to Parish work on 17 June, following an additional week of holiday . . . but what is Study Leave about? And what is he using his Study Leave for? Jared explains in this Special Edition of his blog. . .

What's it all about? Understanding Study Leave

All ministers with over five years' service are entitled to two weeks of Study Leave (SL) per year, and these weeks can be saved up so that several years' SL can be taken at once (max of 14 weeks). A financial allowance comes with SL to defray the costs incurred, and pulpit supply fees are also covered.

SL is not holiday: all leave is governed by a set of regulations and overseen by a supervising committee. Each minister has to apply to the committee for SL with a suitable project to justify granting it. Projects can vary widely in their nature. In the past I have undertaken courses like the Princeton DMin, guided reading to

explore 'emerging church' and, two years ago, SL was used to explore the nature of our Parish and the concept of High Street Monastery. So, what is the project this time?

Our Reviewable Tenure includes the instruction for us to develop our ministry among students, and nearly two years ago I was delighted to be invited to become a member of the University of Edinburgh's Chaplaincy Team as one of two Church of Scotland Honorary Chaplains. This has helped us at Priestfield to develop links with staff and students in Pollock Halls and the Blacket Flats. However, the Presbytery of Edinburgh does not have a detailed strategy for ministry to students, so I want to ask what Church of Scotland chaplaincy to the University of Edinburgh might mean in this Presbytery at this time. And what can we learn from other denominational chaplaincies, like the Roman Catholic and Orthodox communities? How do chaplains in other universities go about their work? There is more in these questions than can be covered fully in the time available, so the exploration may continue in some form.

In order to explore the questions, I'm going to engage in:

- Reading – I have a list of suggested reading from the UE Chaplain;
- Interviews – I hope to interview some other denominational chaplains together with some students who are linked to these chaplaincies;
- Reflection and writing – thinking about what my reading and researching has thrown up, and writing about it.



Jane and I are also travelling with a couple of UE students to the Taizé Community in France, where many young people go for spiritual refreshment. I will be asking them what it is about the Taizé ethos and worship that they find so attractive.

Who will be looking after Priestfield during this time? Because the SL is four weeks, there is the need to appoint an Interim Moderator, and Rev John Urquhart of Craigmillar Park Church has kindly agreed to be IM. We sincerely hope that this will be a 'non-

job' for John. There are no planned Kirk Session meetings during the SL period.

Both John Urquhart and Rev Brian Embleton of Reid Memorial Church have agreed to offer cover for the conduct of funerals. Their details are as follows:

Rev John Urquhart – 667-1623

Rev Brian Embleton – 667-3981

Our Sunday Services will include a number of guest preachers, including the return of Rev Dr Fiona Tweedie, who will be conducting a baptism and communion on 2 June. Here is the full list:

19	May	Taylor Ince
26	May	Chris Currie
2	June	Fiona Tweedie
9	June	Andrew Kaiser
16	June	Fiona Tweedie

Taylor, Chris and Andrew are all PhD students at New College who, with their families, live in the Blacket Flats. Taylor works for Friends International in Edinburgh, and Andrew and Heather Kaiser came to Priestfield last year to tell us about their work in China. Chris and his family have come to some of our Messy Church events. I know you will give them all a warm welcome, and it will be good to get to know a little better some of those with whom we are working in the student world.

My hope and prayer for this SL is that it will be an exciting time of exploration and reflection that will feed into the way in which we work with students at Priestfield. I hope, too, that it will be a contribution to the way in which the Presbytery of Edinburgh engages with Student Chaplaincy in the years to come. Please pray that these aims will be fulfilled. Particular prayer needs are given below. You will all continue to be in my prayers during this time.

Blessings,
Jared.

For your prayers ~

Please pray...

- for concentration to read and write
- that the Holy Spirit will give understanding and insight
- for fruitful interviews with other Chaplains and students
- for safe travel and good health during this period
- that the time at Taizé (26 May – 2 June) will be one of spiritual refreshment and a source of ideas for developing our own student ministry
- for relaxation and recovery during the week of holiday after Taizé
- that this period will be formative in the way we engage with students.

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WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

JUNE 2013

Sunday	2	1030	All-age Communion Service with Baptism. <i>Led by Rev Fiona Tweedie</i>
Sunday	9	1030	All-age Service <i>Led by Andrew Kaiser</i>
Thursday	13	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	16	1030	All-age Service <i>Led by Rev Fiona Tweedie</i>
Wednesday	19	1930	Kirk Session
Sunday	23	1030	All-age Service
Thursday	27	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	30	1030	All-age Service

JULY

Sunday	7	1030	All-age Communion Service
Thursday	11	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	14	1030	All-age Service
Sunday	21	1030	All-age Service
Thursday	25	1930	Praise and Prayer

Sunday 28 1030 All-age Service

AUGUST

Sunday 4 1030 All-age Communion Service

Thursday 8 1930 Praise and Prayer

Sunday 11 1030 All-age Service

Sunday 18 1030 All-age Service

Thursday 22 1930 Praise and Prayer

Sunday 25 1030 All-age Service

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 1 1030 All-age Communion Service

WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON? WHAT'S ON?

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~ SNIPPETS from the KIRK SESSION ~

27 March 2013

Internal Ministry

- As part of TryPraying, Priestfield had signed up for its 24 hours of prayer on Thursday 7 March 2013.
- The Lent booklets 'Come and See', with a Bible verse and a short reflection for each day in Lent, had been circulated and included on the church website.
- Arrangements for the 'Basics Bank' were progressing well with the bank having been in operation for two weeks.
- There would be a special coffee morning for people to meet George and Margaret Shand while they are in Scotland on furlough from Israel/Palestine.

7 April 2013

Gift of a TV

An anonymous donor had indicated a desire to pay for a large (multi-function) TV screen for mounting on the wall in the Lounge when the work is complete. The Kirk Session accepted the proposed gift, with thanks.

Furniture

Now that building work was in progress, it was time to consider the subsequent furnishing of the Lounge in a way that supports effectively its intended use. Because of the close inter-relationship between the Lounge and the Sanctuary, there would be a need to consider the whole context when developing recommendations.

The Kirk Session agreed to set up a Group to bring forward proposals.

23 April 2013

Dry-rot and Alterations

Work was progressing on both the dry-rot eradication and the Lounge works. Work on the kitchen was advancing and finishes and colours had been selected.

The Kirk Session confirmed the importance of the carpeting of the Sanctuary and its expectation that it would be completed as part of the current work package.

Membership Review

Eleanor Forbes, the Rollkeeper, reported on progress with the review. 93 people had confirmed that they wished to remain members, 21 names had been removed (two as transfers to another congregation) and 59 responses were awaited.

Study Leave

Rev John Urquhart of Craigmillar Park Church had agreed to act as Interim Moderator for the duration of the study leave. Funerals would be covered by Rev John Urquhart and Rev Brian Embleton of Reid Memorial Church.

Local Church Review

Priestfield would be the subject of review in a little over a year's time. Each of the Session's standing committees would be asked to begin preparation by thinking about what it had been doing over the last four years and where it hoped to go in the future. This material would form the basis of the congregation's 'story' and would be essential when the time came to complete the review forms.

Summer Holiday

Jared would be away from 18 July to 8 August 2013.

Business Forum

1. The Congregational Retreat should take place on Saturday 26 October 2013.

2. There will be Gift Days on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 October 2013. Arrangements on the Saturday would link with Cafe Time and allow members to receive information and ask questions in an informal setting.
3. There will be a 'Weekend of Celebration' for when the dry-rot and remodelling work is complete. It would offer the opportunity for members and friends to give thanks for the completion of this phase of work and for the wider community to be invited inside the church building.

Furnishing

Progress had been made with the disposal of unused, old and obsolete furniture and equipment. As a result there is a significant reduction in clutter in both the Session and Choir Rooms and the safer and tidier arrangement of stored chairs in the Hall.

Finance

1. £813.56 had been collected and forwarded for UNICEF's Children of Syria Appeal.
2. Income and expenditure in the first quarter of 2013 had been broadly on budget, with the exception of additional insurance costs arising from the dry-rot and lounge remodelling work.
3. A new Gift Aid scheme has been introduced. This will allow a reclaim to be made without the need for Gift Aid forms to be completed on small donations (under £20), up to a limit of £5,000. This will mean that FWO envelopes and Open collections will be covered.

Persecution of Christians

Isabel Murray drew the Kirk Session's attention to an article in the current edition of 'Release' magazine which focussed on the persecution of Christians in India. The Session agreed that Isabel should circulate copies of the article, include an item in Connections and that members of the congregation should be invited to sign a petition to the Indian High Commissioner.

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DRY-ROT WORK: UPDATE

On Wednesday (22 May) evening we received an e-mail from David Willis, our Architect.

That morning, Kuritol, the specialist dry-rot sub-contractor, had undertaken an inspection.

Kuritol had confirmed that the dry-rot was worse than expected;

- *6 secondary rafters would also require treatment,*
- *the east half of the arch plasterwork and a 1 metre wide strip of plaster on the east wall needs to be stripped back to the masonry/brick on the arch,*
- *further investigation/removal of plaster etc is required on the south face of the north arch (above the gallery) and on the east wallhead of the gallery,*
- *the 2 stained glass windows to the east of the arch probably need to be removed (for safety if not for rot treatment),*
- *the side frame to one of these (possibly both) will need to be renewed - for prudence the frames should be renewed but firm decision on this will be taken once...*
- *further investigation is carried out (this week).*

On Friday (24 May) morning Kuritol completed their investigation. They are now finalising their report, which is imminent.

Once the extent of the eradication and then remedial works is known, a revised programme will be prepared.

New costs will be established by the Architect with the Contractor. Most of the additional work will be at existing bill rates - the exception is the heavily moulded plasterwork around the arch. Prices for this are being sought.

As soon as the Architect is in a position to report he will do so.

Work in the vestibule, new kitchen and lounge is continuing.

A wedding which had been arranged for August will now take place in a neighbouring church. A band concert in September has been cancelled.

Further reports will be provided for the congregation as the situation develops and the position becomes clearer. In the meantime, please use this note to guide your prayers.

Barry Cross
Session Clerk

24 May 2013



Another year has passed and our aches and pains of going up and down stairs, knocking on doors at the top and getting no answer, hearing the same story, “Sorry, the wife’s out.” or “I’ve no change”, going back a second or

third time and still not getting a response – all can be put to the back of our minds for another year! Or can it?

I think we ought to give thanks for all the conversations we have had, good and easy or hard and difficult – the older person who takes a long time to come to the door and goes off and gets us something, or the ones who just couldn’t contribute but were so polite about it.

In my district, I visit a lady who is always “going to come up to Priestfield” but so far hasn’t, and the elderly gentleman who always gives me a jar or bag of coins – this year £27 in 5p pieces. Several appreciate knowing about us and receiving our cards at Easter and Christmas. It’s not easy going up and down the street a second or third time and not getting much in our tin or many envelopes back, but it is worth it as people see us and we have a presence in the parish - at least I think so.

This year I am delighted to inform you that we have raised the fantastic amount of **£3,508.57**. This includes the money from Café Time of £158.48 and £595 from those who live outside the parish. There is no collection in my area and two of my neighbours gave me money.

As we started to count on Monday night, we were not too enthusiastic about getting anything like this amount; but just as God answered our prayers about the respectful attitude of all participating in the General Assembly during the day’s proceedings on Monday, that evening God enabled us with the count. Our paper count of who raised what and the actual money count differed only by a few pence. When the money was taken to the bank we came out 93 pence over what we thought we had.

Thank you for your prayers for me and for all who worked with me during the week. Looking round the church on a Sunday to see if I could ask for more help, I found that most of you are involved and those who have now had to give up actually collecting are still very supportive. You are wonderful folk and I thank God for you.

Please continue to pray for the work of Christian Aid, which goes on all year. The administrative staff need great wisdom, as do the field partners working in their local communities with their own people in the many projects to better food production, living situations etc.

Thank you all again,

Isabel Murray

Isabel also received an official 'thank you' from Christian Aid to all who helped, in whatever way ~



You're amazing – thank you

Dear Mrs Murray,

We've been blown away by Christian Aid Week this year. All over the country, people like you joined together to bite back at hunger. The money you raised will help transform lives all over the world.

This year's inspiring stories of change from Kenya, Bolivia and Zimbabwe demonstrate the difference your commitment to Christian Aid Week makes.

So we'd like to say an enormous thank you.

If you organised house-to-house collecting, a sponsored event or a cake sale – thank you. If you signed a prayer and action card to go to David Cameron – thank you. If you prayed for Christian Aid Week – thank you.

However you got involved, thank you for making it a fantastic Christian Aid Week.

With every blessing,

Val Brown and all the Christian Aid Week Team



Our planet provides enough food for everyone, yet nearly one billion people go to bed hungry every night and two million children die from malnutrition every year.

We've made progress in other areas, but hunger is still the great scandal of our age and our toughest challenge. All around the world, even in the UK, people are struggling to feed their families.

But IF we act together we can provide enough food for everyone. The more of us who get involved, then the greater pressure there will be on world leaders to tackle global hunger in 2013.

Christian Aid Scotland is one of more than 100 organisations across the UK involved in the biggest ever campaign against global hunger: '**ENOUGH FOOD FOR EVERYONE IF**'. Kathy Galloway, Head of Christian Aid Scotland says: 'In a world where there is enough food for everyone, the fact that not everyone has enough to eat is nothing short of a scandal. We want Scotland to play its part in building a world where no child has to go hungry.'

In 2013, the government promised to provide 0.7% of national income for aid and to host a Hunger Summit. We must make sure they keep these promises.

What do we want?

We want our leaders to act on the **four big issues** that mean so many people do not get enough food – **aid, tax, land** and **transparency**.

In June, the world's most powerful leaders will meet in the UK at the G8. The IF campaign calls on Prime Minister David Cameron to use the UK's G8 presidency in 2013 to take action on the root causes of the hunger crisis in the poorest countries. The IF movement challenges the Prime Minister to tackle four big IFs to make sure there is enough food for everyone:

- IF governments keep their promises on aid, invest to stop children dying from malnutrition and help the poorest people feed themselves through investment in small farmers.

- IF governments close loopholes to stop big companies dodging tax in poor countries, so that millions of people can free themselves from hunger.
- IF we stop poor farmers being forced off their land, and use the available agricultural land to grow food for people, not biofuels for cars.
- IF we force governments and investors to be honest and open about the deals they make in the poorest countries that stop people getting enough food.

So, how can we be involved?

Acting together - We can join thousands of campaigners to demand that the G8 world leaders take action to tackle the root causes of global hunger. You can demand action right now. Go to the Christian Aid website to Act Now! and email David Cameron, calling on the Prime Minister to take action on hunger at the G8.

Fasting - you can be part of the Big IF campaign by choosing to go without food so world leaders can see how hungry we are for change. For details on how to take part in the Big IF Fast across the UK on 6 June, go to the Christian Aid website.

Further details on the Big IF campaign can also be found on their website: <http://enoughfoodif.org/scotland>

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~ MANIC MOMENTS IN MURRAY'S MAY ~

or

A few reflections, including highlights of the General Assembly

Christian Aid is big in Priestfield Church and it seems an awfully big event in the Murray household. Ian was heard several nights to shout in a whisper as he almost fell over big red bags scattered around the floors of the house in a different place each night (not true). Isabel was heard to mutter that the last day of the Christian Aid collection week coincided with the first day of the General Assembly. Ian, on the other hand, ran off to the Assembly on that Saturday as your representative, leaving Isabel and the rest of the team to complete the job and do the count.

The Sunday afternoon of the Assembly is now given over to “Heart and Soul”, which we have found to be a great and inspiring afternoon for all the Church in Scotland, with people coming many miles to participate. However, this year it appeared to be a trip too far for most Priestfield folk to take. Ian, as a commissioner, had a duty to appear but he stole half the afternoon to “Pedal on Parliament” on his cycle before pedalling up to the Gardens in time to see some of the booths and join in the inspiring service which brought the event to a close, from 5 - 6 p.m.

Monday was the **big** day at the Assembly this year, when the subject of same-sex relationships for the ministry was being considered. At worst, there was the possibility of a schism in the Church and, at best, the possibility that quite a number of the worried congregations of the Church would pull out of the Church of Scotland. The tenor of the debate, however, was good and we believe it was the obvious result of much prayer. The Spirit answered with the former Moderator, Albert Bogle, proposing a further motion, which was accepted.

While it did not completely satisfy anyone, Ian felt it was a great improvement and will discuss it with anyone who asks. Because of the whole day spent on this matter, the time for other Councils was some what curtailed and the other days were long ones, some going two hours beyond the usual time.

The Guild Report went well and the Mission and Discipleship Report was outstandingly presented by Colin Sinclair who, some of you will remember, did part of his training at Priestfield.

Some of the business was tedious but, generally speaking, Polos managed to keep Ian awake and World Mission imported a steel band from Trinidad - which did wake him up thoroughly!

The lunch time special meetings were stimulating - even the one on finance & stewardship - and especially the one on ‘More than Gold 2014’ - Helping your church make the most of the 2014 Commonwealth Games. This could help us with our outgoing mission at Priestfield.

Our first lady minister Moderator, Rt. Rev. Lorna Hood, conducted the proceedings very well and she will be a great leader for the coming year.

Ian was not the only regular attendee at the Assembly from Priestfield. He was joined by Robert, our organist, who was a member of the National Youth Assembly. All the General Assembly commissioners felt that the Youth Assembly attendance was an asset at the debates and Ian certainly enjoyed the presence of Robert on the floor.

One of the most memorable parts of the General Assembly is always the unaccompanied singing of the Psalms.

Ian had to miss the closing ceremony but had attended enough to claim his expenses! He doesn't think, however, that they pay cycle wear and tear! The reason for leaving early was that this weekend was the Scripture Union weekend camp which three of his P7 Prestonfield SU group were attending. Thanks are due to Priestfield, who helped make this financially possible. It was a great time for these youngsters and we pray the teaching will remain with them and be a link in the chain to bring them to a real faith in Jesus.

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~ MISSION PARTNERS ~



A few weeks ago, some of us shared a coffee morning with George and Margaret Shand, when we heard about their work in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories. They spoke about their visits to the crowded Gaza Strip where over one and three quarter million people live, two thirds of them refugees living in great poverty. The Christians in Gaza City appreciate their visits because they are a small minority and very isolated. Visiting Gaza is difficult, requiring permissions and normally restricted to a short number of hours in the day. Lengthy delays can take place at the entry points making it more stressful. They talked also about the important work being done at Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza City, a fifty bed hospital open to everyone. They

were particularly pleased to have the opportunity to lead worship in the small hospital chapel. Despite all the difficulties and problems of working in Jerusalem, they gave a very positive and encouraging message. Please remember them in your prayers.

Helen Douglas

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The idea for 'Knitting-together!' arose out of knitting sheep for the Cameron Toll Sheep Trail, which happened before Christmas. By the time you read this, we will probably have met 4 or 5 times. Over that time we have had 14 different people taking part. The age range is from 8 to over 80, so there is room for people of any age!!

So, thank you everyone for coming! You have all been very patient whilst we have sorted out what is going on!

Here is a summary of what is happening. We are very flexible.

- ❖ We had started to knit for the Greenfields Project which supports remote villages in Kenya and Uganda. A variety of items are needed for "Mama Bags" which are given to Mums after 3 ante-natal visits to encourage them to attend. However, a more local charity, EMMS International, is keen to have knitted articles for an orphan care programme in Malawi. It may be good to focus on this need, which we have a personal connection with.
- ❖ A variety of knitting opportunities are available - squares for blankets, booties, mittens, hats, vests, cardigans, jumpers, etc.
- ❖ If anyone knows of a local group who would like something knitted - for instance one of the Care Homes - it would be good to hear about it.
- ❖ People can bring their own knitting if they wish.
- ❖ There may be seasonal knitting projects, such as hats and scarves for the shoes boxes, or Christmas specials, such as the sheep trail, which we can support.

- ❖ It is possible to have help to learn to knit (and people have helped and been helped) or, maybe, to crochet!
- ❖ This is a time to chat but also to be quiet if you wish - a relaxing time.
- ❖ We have refreshments together.

When we are in the lounge again, it will be a good opportunity to welcome others - either those who would like to learn to knit, those who do not go out much or those who would just like a chat.

Although the day and time we meet can vary, Wednesday evenings at 7pm in the Session Room seems to be the most suitable time at the moment.

Please feel free to come - we will certainly be carrying on through June. A plan of what to do over the summer will then be made and a note will be put in Connections.

Diane Cross

---oooOOooo---



Things are progressing well at the Newington Basics Bank (BB), which has now been up and running for three months. Over the weeks, hundreds of kilos of food have been given away to a variety of clients who have been referred to the BB. Volunteers also engage with clients, befriending them and giving appropriate support when required.

There are **three main ways** in which we can support the work of BB – volunteering, donating food or toiletry items, and giving prayer support:

Volunteering – BB runs at Community Church, South Clerk Street from 10.30 to 13.00 on Thursdays. If you are interested in volunteering, feel free to email them for more information (newingtonbasicsbank@gmail.com). Whether you can commit a

couple of hours each week or can offer some help once or twice a month, they can always do with an extra pair of hands.

Not available during the day on Thursdays? BB are receiving so many food donations, they have recently started sorting the food cupboards on a Wednesday evening from 19.30. Being able to date, stack and sort through donations the evening before helps things to run a lot smoother at BB so, if you would like to help with this, please let them know (newingtonbasicsbank@gmail.com).

Do you come to church by car on Sunday mornings? If so, could you volunteer to drop off donated goods at the Community Church once in a while? It will only take a few minutes of your time. Contact Barry Greenwood to have your name added to the rota (barrymgreenwood@hotmail.com).

Donating food or toiletry items – Support from BB takes the form of up to six weeks supply of food in situations where clients may be in such an impoverished state that they can not afford to buy food. When clients are referred, they attend the chosen venue, where they are offered a "shopping list" of food and basic toiletry items from which they select what they need for the week.

The "shopping list" is given below. A box is available each week in the upstairs hall to receive your donations.

Basics Bank would be happy to receive donations of the following:

DRY GOODS

Biscuits
Bread
Breakfast Cereal
Fresh Fruit & Veg
Lentils
PASTA
Rice
Sugar

TOILETRIES

Deodorant
Shampoo
Shaving Foam/Gel
Shower Gel
Soap

TINS & JARS

Beans
Custard/Rice Pudding
Fish
Fruit
Jam
Macaroni
Meat
PASTA Sauce
Soups
Spaghetti
Tomato
Veg (Corn, Peas, Carrots)

DRINKS

Coffee

Toilet Paper
Tooth Brush
Toothpaste
Washing Powder

Tea
Juice
Milk

Giving prayer support - as a church and as individuals, we can support BB with prayer. BB provides a regular list of prayer needs, which are emailed to all those on the list. If you would like to receive these updates and don't already do so, please contact Eleanor Forbes (eleanor.forbes60@btinternet.com)

Many of you have been supporting the work of BB since it started in February. We are most grateful to you for all your gifts of food, time and prayers.

Barry Greenwood

---oooOOooo---

Prayer and Meditation ~

Gratitude—it's contagious!



“IN EVERYTHING GIVE THANKS”

1 Thessalonians 5:18 NKJV

Author Barbara Johnson was frazzled; she was running late, and on the bus to work she had to stand. Her attitude was going downhill fast when a cheery voice from the front of the bus announced, ‘Beautiful day, isn't it?’ She couldn't see the man, but she listened to his commentary as he described the lovely scenery...this church...that park...a cemetery...a firehouse. His grateful attitude lightened the mood of everybody around him.

Then, as Johnson got off the bus, she caught a glimpse of the speaker: an average-looking man wearing dark glasses and carrying a white stick!

Paul said, ‘In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God.’

We don't thank God **for** trials, we thank Him **in** them.

Gratitude is like a boomerang. It blesses the recipient, makes a 180-degree turn and blesses the person who gives thanks.

One Bible teacher says: ‘Whatever crisis there is in your life, before it ever came God made sure you’d be able to endure it...others have gone through exactly what you’re going through...and made it through victoriously...with every temptation God promised to “...make a way to escape, that you may be able to bear it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

Trials and ““escape ways” are inseparable.
But the devil doesn’t want you to know that,
so every time you go through a test, he tells you there’s no way out.

I learned long ago when the devil keeps pressuring me,
it’s always an indication that “the way out” is about to be revealed...

We need to do what God says. “Rejoice!”
Remember, “...The joy of the Lord is your strength” (Nehemiah 8:10).

When you have His joy, it gives you strength for the journey’.

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Prayer and Meditation ~

Finding comfort in troubled times



“BUT GOD, WHO COMFORTS THE
DOWNCAST, COMFORTED US . . .”

2 Corinthians 7:6 NIV

You say, “Surely Paul was too spiritually mature to feel downcast?”
Apparently not! The chief apostle and leader of the church
experienced discouragement, stress, restlessness, and even fears.

“When we arrived in Macedonia province, we couldn’t settle
down. The fights in the church and the fears in our hearts
kept us on pins and needles. We couldn’t relax because we
didn’t know how it would turn out.” *2 Corinthians 7:5 TM*

So, where do we turn for strength in our times of trouble?

Consider some ways God sends us comfort and encouragement:

(1) ***He comforts us by His presence.*** “Now may...God our Father,
who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal comfort and a

wonderful hope, comfort you and strengthen you in every good thing” (*2Thessalonians 2:16-17 NLT*). It is God’s nature to be with us, to give us comfort when we’re mourning (*see Mt 5:4*); brokenhearted (*see Psalm 147:3*); overwhelmed (*see Psalm 145:14*); worried (*see Isaiah 41:10*); sick (*see Psalm 41:3*).

But we must acknowledge His presence and accept His comfort!

- (2) ***He comforts us by His Word.*** “Remember what you said to me, your servant—I hang on to these words for dear life! These words hold me up in bad times; yes, your promises rejuvenate me” (*Psalm 119:49-50 TM*).
- (3) ***He comforts us through our prayers.*** “The moment I called out, you stepped in; you made my life large with strength” (*Psalm 138:3 TM*).
- (4) ***He comforts us through godly friends.*** Paul writes: “God...comforted us by the coming of Titus.” (*2 Corinthians 7:6 NIV*)

**Today, look for those who bring comfort,
and practice comforting others.**

---oooOOOooo---

*These daily devotional excerpts are taken from The Word for Today
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8YY.*

Free issues of the daily devotional are available.

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THE GUILD

“A Fellowship to Build”

Our Theme for Session 2013/2014 has been given the title, ‘A Fellowship to Build’. Fellowship is probably the main reason why most of us attend Guild meetings. Yes, we go to learn more about the Bible, to pray, to praise, to worship and to learn from our speakers, but mostly it is because of the friendship and support we enjoy from other members. Jesus and his disciples enjoyed a

wonderful fellowship which committed them to give up everything and follow Him. God does not usually ask us to make such a sacrifice, but we do hear speakers who have made enormous sacrifices when they have heard His call.

As a Guild, we can 'Build Fellowship' by reaching out into our own communities. We must learn not to keep the love, support and friendship we share, a secret. Don't be afraid to sing the praises of the Guild. We should take every opportunity to practise what Jesus taught us – 'To love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind, and to love your neighbour as you love yourself'. (Matthew chapter 22 verses 37 and 39).

Jesus and his disciples enjoyed the fellowship of eating together. We always say we are never short of food at a Guild event! We should not be afraid to use that strength in our armour to link with those who are not part of our Church Community. Let them see our love and caring. There is no need to 'preach' to people if you are uncomfortable with that, but let them see your love working through your deeds. The Bible tells us that, from the earliest of times people have gathered to share food together. Indeed, some of Jesus' happiest times were spent in the houses of friends sharing a meal. We should not forget the words taken from Hebrews chapter 13 verse 2 --- 'Be not forgetful to entertain strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares'.

It is always good for us to have fellowship with other Guild members and to take an active part in the social life of our Church. These have their place but fellowship involves actively doing God's will. Fellowship in the New Testament sense is an inner unity expressed outwardly. It is not just being together, but doing together. It is not just doing anything together, but it is working together to accomplish God's will.

May we all help to build a fellowship with God – that allows God to build a fellowship that can reach out into the community.

Mary McKendrick

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Church Flowers



FLOWERS

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 9th Mrs P Smith
 16th Mrs J Fitzsimmons
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 Mrs S Messer
 Mrs I Murray

JULY

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 Miss M Mason
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AUGUST

4th Miss E Forbes
 11th Mrs M Baron
 18th Miss M Mason
 25th Miss C Stiff

Mrs F Ferguson
 Mrs June Henderson
 Mrs June Henderson
 Mrs R Watson

SEPTEMBER

1st Mrs J Flett

Mrs R Watson

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~ Within the Congregation ~

NEW MEMBERS - *By Certificate*

March

Mr Robert Kimmitt
 Mrs Jean McLeod

DEATHS

March

Mrs June Dorward

April

Mr James Black

May

Mr John Withers

Correction: in the Spring 2013 issue we reported the death of Mrs Winnie Paterson. This should have read: Miss Winnie Paterson.