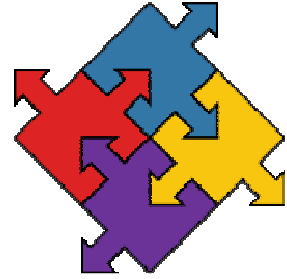


The Net

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

Study Leave – first reflections

It's amazing how time feels when you think about it from different perspectives – sometimes it passes really fast and at other times it feels the clock hands are turning very slowly. Writing this, I'm four weeks into my five weeks of study leave, the first two of which, spent at home, seemed to pass in a flash, while the latter two, spent in Yorkshire, have felt more drawn out and reflective.

So what have I learned and what thoughts am I bringing back to the congregation? I'll be writing up the first draft of these this coming week, but the most 'in your face' thing I have been reminded of is the obligation of every church to give people a good welcome. Going to different churches each week on my own, and going to new, and quite alien, places to stay on my own, I was looking for a welcome and good companionship. My prayer before going to Ampleforth was that I would find 'companions on the way.' That prayer was more than answered and there were some lovely Christian people with whom I shared that part of my journey. But I was truly amazed at how poorly churches welcome people and look out for the stranger. The experiences made me think afresh about the welcome we need to give to people who come to us.

The interviews I have conducted locally and in Yorkshire will help shape our understanding of the context in which we engage in

mission, and I think that some reflection on them will give us a few ideas to explore about the ways in which we might engage in that mission. As the time has gone past, I've become aware that this is not really a five-week project, but one that will continue to develop and grow, hopefully bearing fruit as we go along. Learning is a life-long experience; curiosity and inquisitiveness are important attitudes for us to retain. This is especially true as we try to touch the lives of others with God's love in a culture that is increasingly receding from its Christian past. I'll be sharing more of my thoughts on this in the coming months.

Sunday Mornings

Because of the disruption from the impending redecoration of the Sanctuary, and for additional reasons, the Kirk Session revised its thoughts on when to implement the anticipated changes to the structure of what we do on Sunday mornings. But over the summer, in **July and August**, we will be following a similar pattern to the one we followed in Advent, so there will be **one all-age service at 10.30am**.

Fabric Developments – update

After our unanimous vote at the Annual Meeting to proceed with the redecoration of the Sanctuary at the best tender price, the bureaucratic processes are being ticked off one by one. All is going according to plan. The Presbytery has given permission and the General Trustees have decided to give us a grant of ten thousand pounds towards the work, in addition to a loan of the same amount. The final details are being worked out (including the consultations on colours that we require to make). At the moment we have no estimate of a start date, but when the date has been fixed and alternative accommodation has been arranged, this will be communicated as soon as possible.

Celebrating the AV/KJV – A Pathway into the Holy Scripture.

As many of you will already know, 2011 marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the Authorised or King James Version of the Bible. There are a number of national and local events to celebrate this, including a nationwide project called 'The People's Bible' – an

opportunity for people today to hand-write a few verses of the KJV, and the final product will be published.

Over the course of the Sundays of June and the first part of July, we will be thinking about the Bible and the roles it plays in our lives as Christians. We'll read some passages from the KJV, and some from more contemporary versions as well. The title of the series is taken from a book by the Bible translator, William Tyndale (c1492 -1536), and most of Tyndale's translation survived within the KJV, even though he, himself, was martyred for his faith by authorities in Belgium. His ambition, even his prayer, was to make the Bible so widely available that the most ordinary person, famously expressed as 'a boy that driveth the plough,' would have a good knowledge of it.

But what of the Bible today? And what role should it play in our lives? And how can we understand such a large and varied book? We'll be reflecting on these questions and more in these weeks, so get reading and thinking, and if there are any special questions you have, let me know and I'll see what we can do to help answer them.

And Finally...

Whether you are spending the summer at home or have the opportunity to be away, I hope that it will be an enjoyable and refreshing time for you. Jane and I are heading for a campsite by Lake Garda this year, our first time in this part of Italy. We are looking forward to visiting Milan, with its historic Cathedral, and that other 'holy place' for some, the San Siro stadium! I'm going to try to find out more about the great early Bishop of Milan, Ambrose, who had such an influence on the church through his preaching and teaching. And it was in this historic city that Constantine signed the Edict of Milan, establishing Christianity as a religion tolerated in the Roman Empire. This led in time to the Age of Christendom, from which we are only now emerging. Thankfully, Milan is not only a city of Armani and Prada!

Grace and Peace,

Jared.

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

JUNE

Saturday	4	1000	Coffee Morning at Balfour House
Sunday	5	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Communion Service
Tuesday	7	1930	Kirk Session
Thursday	9	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	12	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service
Thursday	16		Home Groups
Sunday	19	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service with Alan Campbell of the Scottish Bible Society
Thursday	23	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	26	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Morning Service

JULY

Sunday	3	1030	All-age Communion Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Thursday	7	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	10	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Sunday	17	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Thursday	21	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	24	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Sunday	31	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>

AUGUST

Thursday	4	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	7	1030	All-age Communion Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Sunday	14	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Thursday	18	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	21	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>
Sunday	28	1030	All-age Family Service incorporating <i>GodSpace</i>

SEPTEMBER

Thursday	1	1930	Praise and Prayer
Sunday	4	1000	<i>GodSpace</i>
		1100	Communion Service

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

---oooOOOooo---

~ SNIPPETS from the KIRK SESSION ~

2 March 2011

- During July and August there would be a single all-age worship service, incorporating GodSpace, at 10.30am.
- In future, communion would be celebrated on the first Sunday of every month, *including* July and August.
- Two children from the SU Group at Prestonfield Primary School would be sponsored to attend a Scripture Union camp, as in 2010.
- The draft Accrued Accounts 2010, incorporating the Trustees' Annual Report, the Summary Finance Report and the draft Budget 2011 were approved.
- The Kirk Session approved the Budget 2011.

- A 'Gift Day' would be held later in 2011, probably in the autumn.
- The Session heard about progress with the two phases of the Refurbishment Works. The first phase, the redecoration (including plasterwork and joinery), was estimated to cost £44,700 and the second phase, the lounge and vestibule works, £55,350. The Session noted that these estimates were subject to change as more detailed work was undertaken.

20 March 2011

- The Kirk Session approved a retiring offering to help with the tragic situation in northern Japan with the earthquake, tsunami and nuclear reactor failures.

30 March 2011

- A representative from the Scottish Bible Society would be coming to Priestfield in June to take part in a Sunday service and a representative of the Gideons would be taking part in the 11am service on Sunday 11 September.
- Norman Henderson indicated that he was willing to serve for a further year as Presbytery Elder and he was duly elected by the Kirk Session.
- The Internal Ministry Group proposed that in future free or subsidised tickets should be made available for inviting guests to church social events such as concerts. This would allow such events to be used in a missional way. The Kirk Session approved the proposal.
- The Reaching Out... Group proposed arranging an informal party in the church garden on Friday 29 April, the day of the Royal Wedding of HRH Prince William and Miss Kate Middleton. The opportunity would be taken to invite the local community. The Kirk Session approved the proposal.
- The Tea Group, where spouses of overseas students meet with each other and with members of the congregation and Friends International to converse in English, had expanded. The Group now meets weekly on Mondays as well as on every second Thursday. The congregation's team comprises; Helen Douglas, June Henderson, Helen Hibbert and Joan Macgregor. The Kirk Session noted the growth, with appreciation.

- The Student Ministry Group was exploring the provision of study space for students, perhaps in the Lounge. The Kirk Session approved the proposal.
- The Kirk Session approved the detailed budgets for each of its Committees for 2011.
- The Session progressed the Refurbishment Works and gave authority to;
 - Negotiate with tenderers to achieve a final tender specification and price.
 - Apply to Presbytery for consent to proceed with the works.
 - Prepare a Business Plan and apply to the General Trustees for a loan.
 - And also instructed that the development of Phase 2 of the Refurbishment Project, the remodeling of the Lounge and vestibule areas, continue in parallel with the finalization and undertaking of Phase 1.
- The Kirk Session approved proceeding with a scheme to modify the church roof drainage which had been the cause of several recent leaks into the building. The cost would not exceed £1,150.00 plus VAT.

26 April 2011

- Jared's study leave would run from 30 April to 4 June.
- In future the church would fund ministerial travel by purchasing a Lothian Buses 'Ridacard' by monthly direct debit, rather than continue to pay car allowance.
- Attendance at the Holy Week and Easter Day services had been significantly higher than in recent years with 35 people attending on Maundy Thursday, 38 on Good Friday and 96 on Easter Day.
- Jared had had informal discussions with Rev John Urquhart of Craigmillar Park Church and Rev Ian Maxwell of Kirk o'Field about the possibility of a joint conference, perhaps also including Reid Memorial Church. All are relatively small congregations and all are members of Newington Churches Together. The conference would fit with the emerging Presbytery Plan discussions. The Kirk Session approved the development of the proposal for detailed consideration.
- Jared had had discussions earlier in the day with Rev Dr Harriet Harris, Edinburgh University Chaplain. Discussion indicated

much common ground which linked with Priestfield's terms of tenure and its focus on student ministry.

- The former Social Life Committee, although formally disbanded by the Kirk Session in March 2009, had continued to meet informally and serve the congregation in a range of practical ways. The Kirk Session agreed to formally reconstitute the group.
- The Session agreed to the formation of a new Furnishings and Contents Group. Andrew Steven, Helen Hibbert and Elizabeth Walls had all agreed to serve on the group.
- Crème Easter eggs and Easter cards were given as a blessing to passers-by outside the church doors. They had done this on four occasions over the Holy Week/Easter period. About 100 eggs and had given and there had been a very positive response from people.
- Progress had been made with the Refurbishment Works and necessary forms had been completed and submitted to Presbytery and the General Trustees. Presbytery's Fabric and Deployment of Resources Committees were considering the application on the same evening that the Session was meeting.
- A number of elders spoke appreciatively of the attractive garden and all the work that Eric Hobson had undertaken planting it up. The Kirk Session approved a suggestion that the planting should be funded by individuals sponsoring groups of plants.

7 June 2011

- The next meeting of the Kirk Session is on Tuesday 7 June at 7.30 pm in the Lounge.

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Once again we extend our sincere thanks to all who went round with the envelopes, collected the envelopes and collected using cans. Because of the current economic situation, we feared that when we came to count the money it would be much less this year. We are very happy to announce that we have again managed to collect over £3000. The total came to £3506.41. Of this, the coffee morning raised £117.40 and two who donated plastic bags of small coins

brought in £21.37 and £19.41. The number of gift aid slips returned was 95.

We want to thank all who took part in all of the above ways, in praying for the collectors and in counting the money. **THANK YOU!**

Isabel Murray



New research carried out by ComRes for the Bible Society reveals that a high proportion of people, nearly half those surveyed (46%), think that the Bible is an important book and that, even though they don't read it often, it does have valuable things to say. The poll also shows, however, that there is considerable confusion about the Bible's content and where some familiar English phrases – such as 'my brother's keeper' and 'a drop in the bucket' – come from. Is it Shakespeare, Dickens, Blair or the Bible?

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible, one of the world's most significant and influential books. Fiona McDonald, from the Scottish Bible Society (SBS), says, 'Over the last four centuries people's attitudes and beliefs about the Bible have changed dramatically. Today's average UK citizen may have some broad concepts of what the Bible is, but very little knowledge or experience of what the Bible actually says. I remain convinced that, regardless of your position on faith, the Bible is a book worth reading, if only to stimulate us to think about some of the deeper issues of life.'

The People's Bible is a novel 21st century way to approach the Bible again and to make your mark in history. A joint venture between SBS and the Bible Society in England and Wales, *The People's Bible* project will begin at Edinburgh Castle on 19th June 2011, the anniversary of the birth of King James VI of Scotland, at the castle, in 1566. Thereafter, this handwritten, online, digital Bible will take to Britain's high streets, visiting towns and cities across the UK, giving

people the chance to re-engage or engage with the Bible for the first time. *The People's Bible* project will feature contributions from senior public figures and celebrities and part of it will be bound and presented at a national service of celebration, at Westminster Abbey on 16 November 2011. This service will be attended by Her Majesty the Queen.

Thousands of people are expected to answer the call to 'Make Your Mark in History' and hand-write a couple of Bible verses, creating a unique legacy for future generations in the form of a handwritten Bible that will also be accessible online.

So, *The People's Bible* needs people! **YOU** are invited to come along to one of the events, where you will be asked to write at least two verses of the Bible in your own handwriting. SBS says: 'If you do decide to come along, you'll get to visit a ScribePod, play with our iPad-based scribe stations, write on digital paper with a pen with a built-in camera, see your handwriting streamed live on a big screen and more.' **No idea what that means? Don't let that put you off!** This is your opportunity to handwrite part of the Bible. You simply write your verses with a special pen, and the technology does the rest! Dates when *The People's Bible* will be in Edinburgh are given below.

Once written, the scripture verses will be uploaded from the digital pen to the internet and will be available on-line at www.thepeoplesbible.org Luke Walton, Culture Programme Manager at Bible Society, says, 'We hope that this project will help people, once again value the Bible. Making a connection with the text helps us both to appreciate its role in our own culture, history and politics, and it can enrich our lives personally.'

Location	Date and Time
Castle Street	21 June (A.M)
Christian Heritage Centre, 1 Johnston Terrace	22 June (A.M.)
East end of Princes Street	23 June (A.M.)
East end of Princes Street	24 June (A.M.)
Fort Kinnaird	25 June (A.M.)
Fort Kinnaird	26 June (A.M.)

The People's Bible will also be in Edinburgh on a number of dates at the end of August. Further details later.



praise 2011 gathering



400 voices from over 150 Scottish churches
with special guests Ian White and Brad Goodine

10-12 June Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow 7.30pm

Tickets from www.glasgowconcerthalls.com 0141 353 8000

18 June Usher Hall, Edinburgh 7.30pm

Tickets from www.usherhall.co.uk 0131 228 1155

Tickets from £12 **on sale now**

find out more at www.praisegathering.org.uk

Our partners



≈ STUDENTS ≈

The end of the academic year was celebrated with chocolate cake for everyone after the service on 22 May. Some will return in September and, of course, we hope to extend a welcome to new students also.

FRESHERS IN SEPTEMBER

We aim to extend our mission to freshers by again giving away freebie bags during the Freshers' Fair. As well as fun and useful items, the bags contain an invitation to come and meet us. We hope to double the number to 500 and, to achieve this, we will be looking for your help to take part in the assembly-line process of filling the bags. More details will be given in August.

FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL

FI is again organising Edinburgh International Outreach (EIO) - 4 weeks of mission in July, seeking to reach out to the many international language school students who come to Edinburgh. It is based in Carrubbers Christian Centre in the High Street. It is fast approaching and preparations are underway. Christian students, from around the UK mainly, volunteer to lead the mission. Accommodation is required for them in two week slots. Cooks are also required to prepare evening meals. If you can help with either of these, please contact June Henderson (667 4823) for more information.

Prayer Points -

1. Pray that those who have finished their studies are guided by God towards the next stage in their lives.
2. Pray that those who return are refreshed, having had a relaxing summer, and are ready to meet the challenge of the next step in their courses.
3. Pray for language school students arriving in Edinburgh over the next couple of months, that EIO will be able to make contact with them.
4. Pray for Christian students to become team leaders of EIO and for offers of accommodation for them.

Prayer and Meditation ~



Rules for living

“HIS...POWER HAS GIVEN US
EVERYTHING WE NEED FOR LIFE...”

2 Peter 1:3 NIV

Here are **three rules for living**.

First: Learn to control the climate around you

Negativity is contagious; look out for its 'carriers'. Love them, lift them, but don't let them infect you.

Filter what people say to you through God's Word. '...God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power (ability and a can-do attitude) and of love (which always looks for the best) and of a sound mind (which is stable and consistent)' *2 Timothy 1:7 NKJV*.

Second: Learn to laugh at yourself

A woman who'd been given a lovely plant took it home, watered it, fertilised it and set it in the sun. A year later she discovered it was silk - and she still laughs about it.

When you're secure in God's love and approval you can laugh at yourself; it's a mark of spiritual maturity.

Third: Learn to factor God in

Ever hear of the 90/10 rule? When 90 per cent of the circumstances are uncontrollable, focus on the 10 per cent you can do something about.

Paul did that:

'...We were troubled on every side; without were fightings,
within were fears. Nevertheless God...'

2 Corinthians 7:5-6 KJV

Note the words '**Nevertheless God**'.

When you're facing a mountain always remember:

God can move it,
He can level it,
He can tunnel through it, or
He can help you climb it.

All you have to do is factor Him in by seeking His face
and consulting His Word.

'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom...'

Colossians 3:16 KJV

Keep a rich deposit of Scripture within you and draw on it daily.

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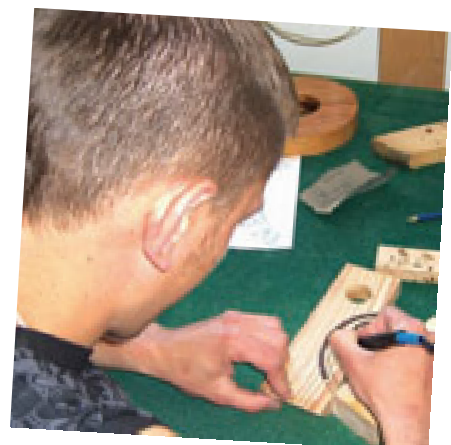


GREYFRIARS RECYCLING of WOOD PROJECT

If you attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May or if you watched any of the proceedings on TV, you will have seen some of the craftsmanship of the Greyfriars Recycling of Wood (GRoW) team. Using solid oak timber from Tranent Parish Church as well as recycling some of the existing timber from the General Assembly building, the whole team worked for three months to manufacture the bespoke pieces of furniture, including two lecterns and a table to be used by the Moderator.

Started in 2008 and run in partnership with the Edinburgh Cyrenians, GRoW is a community enterprise, established as part of the Grassmarket Community Project to provide work, training and enhanced life opportunities for people who have had long term homelessness and dependency problems. Developed by a group of service users and members of the local community under the leadership of Workshop Manager, Tommy Steel, GRoW has been very successful in teaching joinery skills to its workforce.

GRoW's ten regular supported volunteers spend four days a week transforming unwanted old, often antique, church pews into beautiful bespoke pieces of furniture or gifts, finished to the highest standards of craftsmanship.



After a programme of modernisation, GRoW has been donated wood from a large number of churches around Scotland and among the types of timber donated are oak, beech, Douglas fir, ash, yellow pine, mahogany and parana pine. As well as recycling timber from pews, the team have refurbished all kinds of church furniture, including communion tables, pulpits, chairs and lecterns. They work sympathetically with the design of the furniture they receive, retaining where possible the original church features.

GRoW have made mirrors, seats, tables and chairs, even fireplaces from pine, oak and beech - unique furniture with a social conscience.



Their wooden gift range includes pens, pencils, clocks, candle holders, bowls, plates, wine racks, signs and key rings. They are also happy to discuss commissioned work.

After receiving wood from a church, GRoW will often arrange to return with a range of gift items from that wood, which means that parishioners can enjoy having a bit of the church pews at home.

How you can help:

There are a number of ways in which you may be able to help.
Contact GRoW ~

Wood – if you have any high quality wood you would like to donate

Time – if you would like to volunteer your skills, whether to assist with workshop supervision, teaching new wood working skills, administration or sales and marketing.

Tools and Equipment – if you have woodworking machinery or hand tools you no longer need and wish to donate.

Sales Outlets – if you could stock some of their products or invite them to a craft fair or coffee morning to display their gift range.

Copies of GRoW's current catalogue are also available on request.
Please contact the workshop leader, Tommy Steel.

Telephone (office): (0131) 225 3686 or go to the website

grow@greyfriarskirk.com



THE GUILD

“Called to walk humbly with God”

As Christians on our journey through life, we all endeavour to walk with God, but how often do we remember that we are called to walk **humbly** with God? These words will be uppermost in the thoughts of Guild members next Session when we consider the third and final part of our three year Theme, taken from the book of Micah chapter 6 verse 8 - “And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.” We have already reflected on the words “to act justly” and also “to love mercy” and now we follow these with perhaps the most important call, “to walk humbly with God“. Why is this the most important call? Because from our walk with God, acting justly and loving mercy should spring. (Jesus said ‘I am the Way, the Truth and the Life’.) So this Theme is all about living the Christian life, our daily walking with God.

However there is another strand to this call - the difficult word ‘humbly’ which has meanings both derogatory and good - as in our text. Uriah Heep, in Charles Dickens’ novel “David Copperfield”, made a great play of being “umble” but underneath he was a malignant hypocrite who, in the end, fell victim to his own malice. We talk of eating humble pie, which means to abase ourselves. The dictionary defines humility as ‘a modest or low estimate of one’s own importance’ and in the Christian context, it reflects our relationship with God.

In scripture we have the supreme example of humility - “and being found in human form He humbled Himself and became obedient unto death” (*Philippians Chapter 2 verses 6-8*). If we keep our eyes fixed on Jesus as we walk the Christian way, our pride should begin to take a back seat and we will learn the real meaning of humility.

In this invitation to journey with God, the offer is that of a Father guiding a child. He is the important one - not us. God seeks our co-operation as we walk with him and, having gained it, promises to care for us as well as offering companionship and friendship. To ‘walk humbly with God’ is the beginning of a wonderful journey, a

blueprint for life. Although there will be dark days as well as joyful ones and at times our resolve may weaken, God's promise stands firm. Looking forward in faith, we will carry on with this journey and all that we may achieve will be for His glory.

Finally, let's remember the very simple words written by Albert Camus:-

Don't walk in front of me, I may not follow.
Don't walk behind me, I may not lead.
Just walk beside me and be my friend.

Details of the Guild syllabus for Session 2011/2012 will be available in the Autumn.

Mary McKendrick

The following hymn, "*Called to act justly*", was written by a Guild member for the launch of the new Theme, under the strategy "What does the Lord require of you?" The words are based on Micah chapter 6 verse 8 and the hymn covers all three years of the Theme:

Guild Hymn - **Called to act justly** (Tune: *Bunessan*)

1. Called to act justly, called to love mercy,
Called to walk humbly with your God -
Acting as He does, loving like Jesus,
Treating your neighbour just like the Lord.
2. What does the Lord want? How should you worship?
What does the Lord require of you?
Yearlings and shearlings? Rivers of olives?
Bloodshed of children - innocents too?
3. Not this for our God, righteous and loving,
Tender, forgiving, reaching to us!
He wants our praise in daily obedience,
Turning to Him in love and in trust.
4. What is your life for, what is your calling,
What does the Lord require of you?
Treat folk with justice, love and forgive them,
Put the Lord first in all that you do.

5. Called to act justly, called to love mercy,
Called to walk humbly with your God -
He who requires us, guides and inspires us,
Ever beside us, ever our Lord.

Prayer and Meditation ~

God 'First' in All Things



“...I REQUIRE YOUR...FIRSTFRUITS...”
Ezekiel 20:40

God wants to be number one in your life!
When He's not, things won't work out right for you.

Instead of asking God to bless your agenda,
ask Him to give you an agenda He can bless.

Jesus was able to say yes to one thing and no to another because
He understood God's agenda for the day.

Can you point to a single stressed-out or
confused moment in Christ's life?

No, when conflict arose He said,

'...I always do what pleases Him'
John 8:29 NIV

That's because He took time to consult His Father.

How long are you going to allow yourself to be pulled in 101 different
directions? Nothing will change until you decide to give God what He
requires - your 'firstfruits'.

**Don't give Him the part of your day when you're worn out,
can't think straight and can hardly keep your eyes open;
give Him the best part of your day.
That's where your true priorities will be discovered.**

From getting dressed to setting your schedule, ask Him to help you make choices that glorify Him. As you become more and more aware of His presence, it'll be impossible to 'compartmentalise' Him. Ordinary events will become sacred events because He's involved in them.

Ask Him to direct you in the choices you make and to empower you for the jobs you need to get done.

Keep Him first in everything you set out to do, and He will show you the path that leads to peace. Following the moment-by-moment leadership of the Holy Spirit will cause you to enjoy every day of your life.

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These daily devotional excerpts are taken from Word for the Day and are used by permission from United Christian Broadcasters Ltd, P.O. Box 255, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 8YY.

Free issues of the daily devotional are available.

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**THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**
**Special Commission into Same-Sex Relationships
and the Ministry**



Among the major reports debated at the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May this year was the Report of the Special Commission, appointed in 2009, to consider Same-Sex Relationships and the Ministry. This issue has been a matter of contention for some time and many people on all sides hold their beliefs very firmly.

During the past two years, the Commission has consulted widely on the issue, within the Church both nationally and internationally. In addition, it has commissioned and received expert opinion on the current scientific understanding of the basis of sexual orientation, and on the legal context within the church operation.

On Monday 23 May, the General Assembly held a full and open debate on this controversial issue. In a Statement issued after the

day's proceedings had concluded, the Moderator, Right Reverend David Arnott, thanked the commissioners for the 'courteous and compassionate way in which this was carried out'. One of our elders, Ian Murray, who listened to the whole debate as it happened, says: 'Everyone who contributed to the debate seemed to have done their homework and we pray that, as a church, we will work together to do what God wants us to do in the coming days, as we face so many unknowns.'

The Report is clear that, although the Commission had been unable to reach unanimity on many issues, the core of their remit is 'the peace and unity of the Church'. As a way forward, the Assembly voted to establish a theological commission that will further explore issues around same-sex relationships and the ministry of the Church and report to the General Assembly of 2013.

In a written statement, the Moderator clarified the decision of the Assembly:

"The Church has agreed to embark on a path that will allow us in two years time to consider lifting the moratorium on acceptance for training and ordination of people in a same sex relationship.

This direction is one that explores inclusion but the new theological commission will report in two years time on that matter and no decisions have yet been made.

We very much hope that people who disagree with what has been decided will nevertheless remain in the Church and work with us as we seek to find a way forward."

"The existing moratorium on the ordination of ministers in same sex relationships is continued until 2013 so nothing will happen immediately. Importantly, the dialogue will continue."

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~ **LECTIONARY READINGS** ~

June to August 2011

The Revised Common Lectionary, created in 1983, is a three-year cycle of Bible readings, used by churches around the world. It is planned so that passages of Scripture are read at appropriate times and so that the whole Bible gets read. The weekly readings given overleaf each suggest passages to read from the Old Testament, Psalms, an Epistle and a Gospel.

Sunday 5 June ~

Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14, 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Sunday 12 June ~

Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34; 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

Sunday 19 June ~

Genesis 1:1—2:4a
Psalm 8
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

Sunday 26 June ~

Genesis 22:1-14
Psalm 13
Romans 6:12-23
Matthew 10:40-42

Sunday 3 July ~

Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67
Psalm 45:10-17
Romans 7:15-25a
Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

Sunday 10 July ~

Genesis 25:19-34
Psalm 119:105-112
Romans 8:1-11
Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

Sunday 17 July ~

Genesis 28:10-19a
Psalm 139:1-12, 23-24
Romans 8:12-25
Matthew 13:24-30

Sunday 24 July ~

Genesis 29:15-28
Psalm 105:1-11, 45b
Romans 8:26-39
Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sunday 31 July ~

Genesis 32:22-31
Psalm 17:1-7, 15
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:13-21

Sunday 7 August ~

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33

Sunday 14 August ~

Genesis 45:1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11:1-2a, 29-32
Matthew 15:(10-20), 21-28

Sunday 21 August ~

Exodus 1:8—2:10
Psalm 124
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20

Sunday 28 August ~

Exodus 3:1-15
Psalm 105:1-6, 23-26, 45c
Romans 12:9-21
Matthew 16:21-28



Church Flowers



FLOWERS

DISTRIBUTION

JUNE

5th Church Flower Fund
 12th Mrs P Smith
 19th Mrs J Dorward
 26th Mrs J Fitzsimmons

Miss M Mason
 Mrs June Henderson
 Mrs June Henderson
 Mrs R Watson

JULY

3rd Mrs F Ferguson
 10th Miss M Robertson
 17th Church Flower Fund
 24th Mrs Jess Henderson
 31st Mrs R Badenoch

Mrs R Watson
 Mrs C Mackenzie
 Mrs C Mackenzie
 Miss N Watson
 Miss N Watson

AUGUST

7th Mrs M Baron
 14th Church Flower Fund
 21st Miss M Mason
 28th Miss C Stiff

Mrs A Stiff
 Mrs A Stiff
 Mrs J Macgregor
 Mrs J Macgregor

SEPTEMBER

4th Mrs J Flett

Mrs P Smith

~ Within the Congregation ~

DEATHS

May ~

Mr John Forbes Guthrie Court Care Home

‘I am the Resurrection and the Life.’