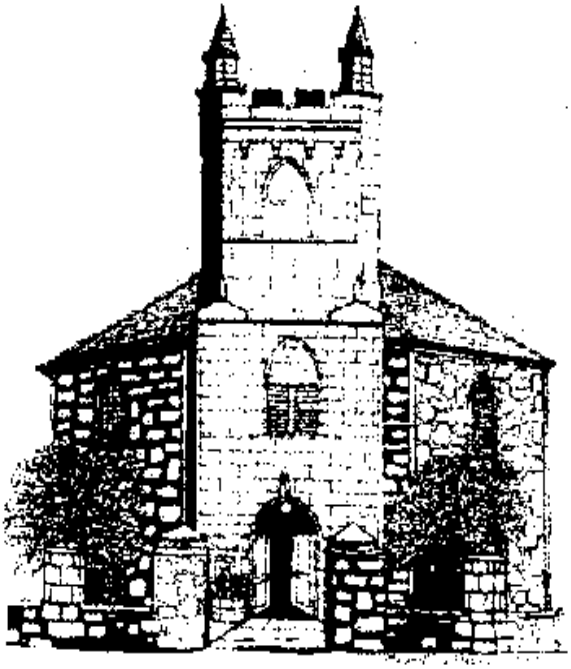
CALDER UNITED FREE CHURCH
LOCHWINNOCH

SUMMER
NEWSLETTER



JUNE 2010

OFFICE BEARERS

Minister
Rev A Ford BSc
Calder Manse
Tel842405

Session Clerk
Mrs J Andrew
1 Viewfield Avenue
Tel.842347

Treasurer
Mrs. M. McKinlay
91 High Street

Crèche Organiser
Mrs. S. Gater
14 Viewfield Avenue

Clerk to the Board
Mrs. E. Martin
57 Semple Avenue

Preses
Mr. R. Thomson
6 Spiers Road

Organist
Mrs. M. Holmes
8 Harvey Cottages

Sunday School
Mrs Lynne Harley

A.B.C. Leader
Mrs. M Murray
2 Beechburn Crescent

Woman's Association
Mrs E. Martin
01505843345

Court of Session

Rev A. Ford
Mrs. J. Andrew
Mr. M. Brown
Mr. J. Browning
Mr. J. Caldwell
Mrs. M. Frew
Mrs. E. Graham
Mrs. J. Graham
Mr. W. Graham
Mrs. Helen Gulliver
Mr. D Lawrie
Mrs E McAllister
Mrs E McKellar
Mrs. Margaret McKinlay
Mr. A Murray
Mr J Spiers
Mr R Thomson
Mr. I White

Committee of Management

Preses: Mr R Thomson
Treasurer: Mrs M McKinlay
Clerk: Mrs E Martin
Mrs C Adam
Mr. W .Arthur
Mr M Brown
Mr G Frew
Mr W Gamble
Mr H McKinlay
Mrs J McNab
Mrs. Ann McRae
Mrs A Turner
Mrs. E. Waddell
Mr J Waddell
Mr I White

All are welcome to join in the celebrations of 'significant' birthdays and anniversaries on

Sunday 27th June

At 11.00am and afterwards in the Church Hall

Please give names of anyone who is <u>celebrating during 2010</u> to Archie Ford or Janie Andrew

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

In my last letter, I spoke of my encouragement in the number of people attending groups that involved one form of Bible Study or another. This Newsletter has a Bible focus and includes a number of articles in which members share a favourite Bible story. If you would like to do the same and write something please forward it to Betty McKellar and we shall be delighted to include it in a future edition.

Most of us have built a considerable collection of such stories, often without realising. This may have begun at school, Sunday School or from parents. Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, Noah, Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, Jacob and Esau, Joseph, Benjamin and the ten other brothers and we are only in Genesis. We know the names and the stories of faithfulness, disobedience, greed, selfishness, love and controversy that make up their lives.

It was only as an adult that I began to fully realise that these characters were people like us who had very human frailties and failings. They were not always saintly or godly in their thoughts or dealings. Through their lives God was in the midst teaching, challenging, correcting and working out his purposes. Through their experiences, we learn about God and what he wants for our lives and our communities. This is why the Bible is so special to believers.

As God was to Noah and Abraham, so God is to you and me. God calls us to service and faith. God gave His instructions to Adam and Eve and God shows us His way and says, “walk in it.” Joseph experienced many twists and turns through his years but we are reminded that God is always near.

I am looking forward to hearing your favourite stories and what they mean to you, me and many more people who will read them.

Yours in the Lord

Archie

FAVOURITE BIBLE STORIES

This was a "mother and daughter" exercise.
Two sets of mothers and daughters wrote about their favourite stories for us, and their thoughts will inevitably encourage us to think about our own choices.
Enjoy reading them. Refer also to the originals.

Julie and Angela Graham.
"The Shipwreck of Paul"

This is the story of Paul on his journey heading for Rome. There is a storm at sea as the boat passes Crete, and for about two weeks the sailors struggle to keep control, eventually heading for a rocky bay which they discover is the island of Malta. The sailors must have been very afraid of drowning and being thrown onto the rocks, but they all survive and find shelter in a cave. The people of Malta are kind to them and the sailors stay for several months before continuing their journey to Rome. Paul heals a local official and then other people come to him for healing.

I like this story because I visited Malta about twelve years ago — the only time I have been somewhere named in the Bible. It is a beautiful island with lots of sandy bays but some of the coastal areas are very rocky and dangerous. The bay (called St. Paul's Bay!) is visited by tourists and there is a St. Paul's Cathedral on the island and a church called St Paul's Shipwrecked.

Although Paul had not intended to go to Malta, his message and the miracles that were reported to have happened in his presence began the conversion of the islanders to Christianity.

Acts 27: 39 – 44.
Acts 28: 1 – 10.

Julie Graham.

Martha and Mary.

The story I have chosen is" Martha and Mary". It's about two sisters who invited Jesus to their house. Martha gets so busy preparing that she has no time to listen to Jesus. Then she sees her sister, just sitting, listening to Jesus. She is very angry, so angry that she goes up to Jesus and says "Lord don't you care that my sister has left me to do all the work on my own? Tell her to help me." " Martha Martha" Jesus answered her " you don't need to be worried about all these things. There is only one thing that I want and Mary is doing it: Listening to me, Mary was right and she will be rewarded."

I like this story because it's about two sisters.

Angela Graham.

Luke 10: 38 – 42.

Margaret McLeod and Linda Lewis.

The Prodigal Son

As a child, one of my favourite stories was the Prodigal Son. I feel strongly that the story is just as applicable to day as it was in biblical times. So many modern teenagers think that they know it all and go off to do their own thing, irrespective of whether it's hurting the parents or not.

But I'm sure mothers will agree with me that no matter what they do, although we don't LIKE them for what they do, we never stop LOVING them. We would all kill the fatted calf to celebrate the return of a child who had gone off the rails. And we would placate any jealousy from other siblings. All part of a mother's job, to try and keep peace and harmony within the family. Forgiveness is never easy, but it is always possible.

Margaret McLeod

Luke 15: 11-31

Ruth

The story of Ruth is the most easily understood book of the Bible. In the days when Judah was ruled by Judges, God was feared, respected and loved by all his people.

Naomi is the main character in the story, but Ruth is the

heroine. They came together when Naomi and her husband and two sons moved to Moab (Ruth's homeland) to escape the famine in Judah .Ruth subsequently married one of Naomi's sons, but sadly, by the end of a ten year period, Naomi's husband and her two sons had died.

When word reached Naomi that God had come to the aid of the Judean people by ending the famine, she decided to return to her roots in Bethlehem. She told her sons' widows that they should stay with their people and hopefully find husbands to care for them. However, both daughters-in-law pledged their allegiance and wanted to go with Naomi. One of the young women, Orpah, was persuaded to stay, but Ruth was adamant and said "where you go I will go, where you stay I will stay, your people will be my people and your God, my god"

Naomi was at times bitter at the misfortunes God had inflicted upon her. Ruth meanwhile did all she could to see that her mother-in-law was loved and well provided for.

Family connections in these days were very important and it was Naomi who encouraged and advised Ruth as to how she should go about finding a suitable "kinsman" as a prospective husband - one who could love and care for Ruth and carry on the family line. Ruth did as she was told and worked extremely hard in the fields of Boaz, a farmer who was a "kinsman". Ruth treated Boaz with the greatest respect and in turn, Boaz favoured Ruth with great kindness and mercy, giving her gifts of food which she was able to share with Naomi.

Inevitably, Ruth and Boaz fell in love and married. The Lord blessed them allowing Ruth to conceive and through time, she gave birth to a son called Obed.

There was great celebration especially now that the Family Name and Records could continue.

Ruth, through being the lovely person that she was - selfless, dedicated, caring and loving, had changed the lives of Boaz and Naomi forever. Naomi, after losing three members of her family, had gained a precious daughter and more importantly, a baby grandson who was indeed a Godsend and would need her loving attention for the rest of her days.

Ruth had provided a "purpose in life" again for Naomi.

Linda Lewis

Ref. The Book of Ruth

Sisters Katie and Amy Beverland

Noah and Moses

It is always a pleasure to see the work and drawings of the Beverland children, and they have not disappointed us. Their pictures of Noah and Moses are delightful.

My favourite Bible story is Noah's Ark.
I like it because he saved all the animals.

My favourite Bible story is Moses. He is hidden in a basket to keep him safe. He is rescued by a princess.

Summary of Report on Quinquennial visit on 21st / 22nd March 2010

The Rev T. Ireland, Mr Fergus Henderson and Mr Gus Pender visited the congregation on Sunday 21st and Monday 22nd March 2010 and report as follows.
We were greeted on both occasions on arrival and warmly welcomed. During the morning service there were 65 adults present and 6 children. There were additional 6 adults and children in the crèche.
The Rev T Ireland brought greetings from the Presbytery and conducted the service and preached the Word to an attentive congregation. Mr Fergus Henderson delivered an appropriate children's address and selected an equally appropriate chorus. Mr Gus Pender read from the Scriptures of both the Old and New Testaments. It was quite obvious that there was great warmth of feeling within the sanctuary and a sense of anticipation from the hearers. It was truly an uplifting experience! An extremely informative Intimation booklet was distributed to each worshipper on arrival and contained a detailed Order of Service. In addition a supplementary booklet was distributed which contained thoughts for each day of Holy Week.

Examination of the fabric of the church buildings:

The outside stonework of the church building is in remarkable condition, with minimal pointing being required. Nothing of any significance appeared to need attention.
The Boiler House lies below ground level, and is subject to periodic flooding. A new sump pump has been fitted to address this problem. The roof has been stripped back, and new timbers and slates fitted. The Portacabin where the Sunday school meets needs repairs on a regular basis. This maintenance is necessary to extend the life of such a

structure. A number of improvements and repairs have been carried out inside the church building. The inside of the church is bright and well decorated, and the vestry is very appealing. Equally, the hall is bright and the decoration is in keeping with the rest of the premises. The kitchen too, is modern, and food hygiene is closely monitored. No obvious problems with the inside of the premises were noted.

The Manse:

While the manse is an older property, the structure of the building is both robust and sound. Repair work to one side of the roof has been carried out, by replacing the lead flashing. Further work to the other side of the roof will be carried out in the near future. It has been proposed to replace the sash cord windows in the manse with double glazed units. Redecoration of the manse is carried out on an ongoing basis, and the minister and his family are satisfied with the programme which is in place. The kitchen has been updated and has been furnished with modern units.

Concern has been raised with the Water Board that periodically the manse grounds are subject to flooding. At the time of writing this report, no action has been taken to remedy the situation.

Meeting with the Committee of Management:

Twelve members were present and a lively and frank discussion took place.

The church is insured for £2, 188,067, while the manse is insured for £303,665, both are indexed linked.

Financially, the church has broken even in 2009, and the receipt of a few donations has made this possible. They have sufficient funds to cope in 2010 should further donations not be forthcoming.

The Target is paid monthly and in full, and an additional

£1000.00 was forwarded to the church offices. We were greatly impressed!
The Court had nothing they wished to raise with Presbytery.

Meeting with the Kirk Session: The Work of the Eldership:

The elders are elected by sealed lists, and a pulpit ministry is exercised prior to the election, outlining the importance of the high standards expected of elders elect. Instruction is also given prior to admission. The Session feels that their strengths lie in the fact that they are friendly and easily approachable. On the other hand, they feel that their main weakness is supporting their minister with pastoral care. They are earnestly seeking to address this matter and are sincere in their endeavours to rectify this. Almost all the Kirk Session has undertaken elder training. Communicant's classes are held if and when required. The Lord's Supper is administered three times a year, with a joint service held with the parish church on the first Sunday of the year. The Lord's Supper is also observed on Maundy Thursday. The children of believer's are baptised.

Worship:

The church is both attractive and welcoming, and the Word of God is faithfully preached. All age groups are catered for and the music is also relevant to all. Periodically the Teen Group, the ABC's conduct services. Various people engage in prayer and read from the Scriptures. The elders are good example to the church by their regular attendance at public worship. Prayer Union material is made available, and there is a strong prayer support for the minister by the Kirk Session and the church in general. A study group meets on a Sunday evening. There are no house groups.

Pastoral:
Elders visit their members three times per year, and on other occasions when necessary. They are seeking positive ways in extending the pastoral care within the church by recruiting others who would be suitably trained in this vital ministry.
Care of Leaders of the various organisations is exercised and help is always to hand.
A whole host of organisations meet in the Calder Church and also joint meetings in the Parish Church. Some are the well known uniformed organisations such as the Boys' and Girl's Brigades and Women's Association, while others are innovative: -

- .Burnt Offerings - which is a chance to learn cooking skills, while chatting about faith and life.
- Food for Thought - which is an opportunity to eat and chat about issues of faith and life.
- A Men's Breakfast
- On a Wednesday evening the church is open to everyone for prayer and meditation.
- Summer clubs are also held.
- A choir also contributes to the life and witness of the church.
- Joint ventures with the Parish church are ongoing.
- The organisations meet the needs of the community.

All necessary Child Protection issues are rigidly covered and are updated as and when they are needed.
Mission and Outreach:
The Vision of the Session is to be where the people are. Their concern is to reach their community. An extremely attractive large-format calendar has been produced and

has been distributed within the community. The organisations already highlighted are a means of outreach, however the minister also visits the local school on a regular basis and this is an honest attempt to reach the children of Lochwinnoch for the Lord.
The congregation are well informed of what is going on at Presbytery and General Assembly.
The congregation have a well-focused and balanced view of worldwide missions at home and abroad and support various causes, such as Mary's Meals, Christian Aid, Maxie Richard and Mission Sunday. Ten percent of all fundraising goes to these causes.
The church is very approachable and is highly respected within the community.
Lochwinnoch Calder plays a major role in the life of the community.

The Kirk Session without the Minister:

The usual complaint came up, namely that the minister had too much work to do. The Committee Work within the Denomination needs to be reviewed once again so that the burden on already overworked ministers is reduced. Such is the cry from nearly every Session!

The Minister Alone:

He was very encouraged and had no complaints.
We returned to meet with the Kirk Session, and the Rev T Ireland thanked them for their frank and open discussion.

Conclusion:

The Calder Church is a source of great help in the community and the elders and minister are extremely approachable in uncertain economic times. However, the main thing is that the Gospel is being proclaimed and surely a harvest of souls will follow.
Your deputies were very impressed and our visit to Lochwinnoch was part of a learning curve within our lives.

Deliverance:

1. **Presbytery gives thanks for the excellent leadership of the Rev Archie Ford, and the example he sets.**
2. **Presbytery gives thanks that the Calder Church is approachable to all who need help of any kind.**
3. **Presbytery gives thanks that the Kirk Session are exploring ways in which Pastoral Care duties can be extended to others within the fellowship.**
4. **Presbytery gives thanks for the diligent manner in which the Committee of Management maintain their buildings.**
5. **Presbytery gives thanks for the on - going relationship they have with the local Parish Church.**

APPRECIATION

Early summer, and it's the green time. Lochwinnoch gardens look their best. Our hearts lift at the sight of them, for flowers are a pleasure to behold.

Throughout all the year, however, Sunday worshippers in Calder Church are able to enjoy the displays of beautifully arranged flowers on the communion table, and this seems an appropriate time to remember Elsie Holmes who was the lady of the flowers for many years.

It's a lovely title to be remembered by, and she well deserves it for her unassuming dedication to the task. She even looked the part, and we think of her with fondness and affection. Hers was a life well-lived, and we miss her presence among us.

Mary Russell was another well-liked character in our congregation. She was affectionately known as the seller of tickets, and worked tirelessly over many years to make sure that all the fetes and teas that the Church organised were well-attended. She herself came to all these events, and had a word of chat and a ready smile for everybody. We miss her too.

Elsie Holmes and Mary Russell – two fine old ladies who never really seemed to be old, two very different personalities – the Church is strengthened today from the input of their past energy and talents, and our lives are enriched from having known them. We give thanks for them.

B.McKellar

WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Hopefully by the time you read this, summer will have arrived, so its time for us to distribute our Sunshine Bags. If you don't currently receive one and you would like to help us in this way just get it touch with me.

The money collected last summer has been distributed between Feba Radio and Glasgow City Mission. These two were our winter projects and we also gave to the Ramabai Mukti Mission in India, Salvation Army, Enable, Prayer Union, Womens Home and Overseas Committee. One of the projects for the coming session is to be Erskine Hospital the other has still to be decided.
So please put any loose change in your Sunshine Bags every time the sun comes out and may God bless you for thinking of others.

Elizabeth Martin.
Secretary

Calendar Competition 2011

First of all, I would like to thank everyone who entered the competition last year. More people gave of their time and many entries were received. It is extremely interesting to see the different interpretations of the same text. I would like to encourage even more people to enter again this year, along with all those who handed in entries in previous years.
A big thank you must go to the small committee who have the very difficult task of judging the entries. May I add that it is not until the winners are handed over to Mark Brown that the photographers' names are revealed. An enormous thank you must go to Mark Brown and Irene Lawrie, both of whom work

extremely hard, in a short period of time, to produce the church calendar.
The calendar competition is open to both adults and children. The children have only to take the photo of their choice and an appropriate verse will be added to winning photo. Teenagers and adults must take a photo to match the given verse.
The closing date for the competition is the close of service on Sunday 26th September 2010. Please give your entries to Sheila Gater on or before this date. Entry donations are 50p per photo per child and £1 per photo per adult. Good luck and wishing you a good summer for taking these all important photographs.

Mr Ford has very kindly chosen the following verses: -

Jan/Feb	"Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains." Psalm 36:6
Mar/Apr	"a spring of water welling up to eternal life." John 4:14
May/Jun	"you will be called Repairer of Broken Walls." Isaiah 58:12
Jul/Aug	"He climbed a sycamore tree to see Jesus." Luke 19:4
Sep/Oct	"His rule will extend from sea to sea." Zech 9:10
Nov/Dec	"This is the way, walk in it." Isaiah 30:21

SUMMER FETE

SATURDAY 5th JUNE
in
MCKILLOP HALL

10 am — 12 noon

Donations gratefully received for all stalls

RENFREWSHIRE SOUND
Talking Newspaper for the blind
16 Barscube Terrace
Paisley.

Could YOU be a volunteer?

Renfrewshire Sound is a weekly "talking newspaper" bringing local news to visually impaired people in the Renfrewshire area. Each Thursday evening volunteers record the news from the Paisley Daily Express and Paisley & Renfrewshire Gazette onto (at the moment) audio cassette tapes.

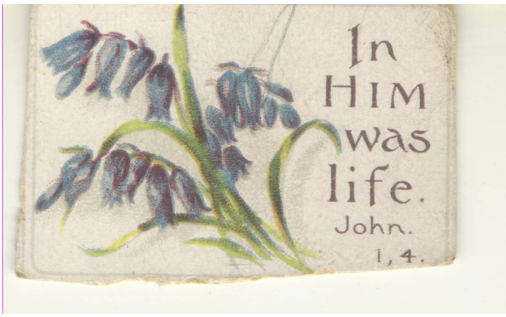
Volunteers are needed to read articles from these papers, use recording equipment and do various other jobs to ensure that the tape is ready for distribution on a Friday morning. If you could spare around two hours either on a Thursday evening or Friday morning, please contact the team on 0141 848 6116. (Please leave your name and contact telephone number if no one is available to take your call)

or

Margaret Weir - tel. 01505 702268
E-mail m.weir397@btinternet.com

FOR THE OLDER FOLK
Memories of Sunday School

Do you remember?



Congregational Register

Baptisms

Ben Barry Craig	Johnstone

New Members

Ian Morton	Glenpark Road
Gemma Morton	Glenpark Road
Aileen Craig	Johnstone

Funerals

William Murphy	Harvey Terrace
Agnes Glass	Harvey Terrace
Barbara Connell	Calder Street
William Wilson	Calder Street
Gordon MacFarlane	Crookhill Gardens
William MacIntyre	Johnstone Drive
Brian McLinden	Crookhill Gardens

Provisional diary
June – Sept 2010

Day	Date	Event
Saturday	5th June	Church Fete
Sunday	6th June	Communion
Wed – Fri	9th – 11th June	General Assembly in Perth
Sunday	13th June	Morning Worship
Sunday	20th June	Sunday School Prize Giving – Joint Service in Calder Church
Sunday	27th June	'Celebrations' Sunday + Lunch + Teddy Bear's Picnic
Sundays	JULY	Joint Services in Parish Church
Sundays	AUGUST	Joint Services in Calder Church
Weekdays	To be confirmed	Summer Club
Sunday	5th Sept	Worship in both churches resumes
Sunday	26th Sept	Preparatory Service
Sunday	3rd October	Communion

Further information on these and other events will be given in the weekly Order of Service / Intimations.