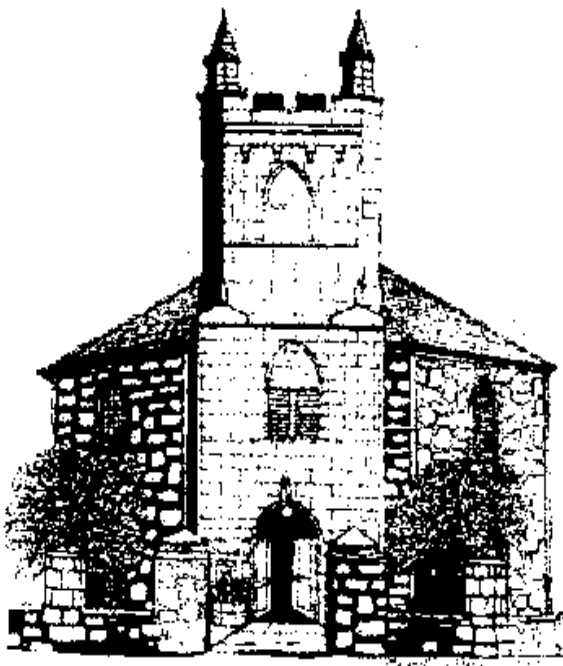


**CALDER UNITED FREE CHURCH
LOCHWINNOCH**

**AUTUMN
NEWSLETTER**



OCTOBER 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

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. E. Waddell
Mr J Waddell

Minister's Letter

I remember when churches were.....

(I am sure you can fill in the space)

Nostalgia for the past, memories of full churches, huge Sunday Schools and organisations etc.

This came to mind when I was on holiday and saw a plaque on a church wall with a quotation from one of my favourite Bible books – Haggai.

Haggai 2:9 “The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,” says the Lord Almighty.

The Old Testament prophet Haggai and his friends were looking at the recently rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. The old Temple of Solomon had been destroyed by the Babylonian army and 70 years later a little band of returning people had rebuilt the temple. Some of those who remembered the great old building were asked for their opinion of the new temple. It was smaller, made with poorer materials. The great craftsmen of the past were not available and the workmanship was shoddy by comparison. The old building had been filled with gold and silver, wood and stone shaped by skilled metal smiths, carpenters and sculptors to create a place of beauty, opulence, awe and wonder. They looked at the poor substitute for a temple and asked “Does it not seem to you like nothing?”

God was not looking at the building but the hearts of his people, people who wanted to give of their best to God. The new temple and its people would bring more honour and glory to God than those of the past. It would be a centre of true worship,

prayer and loving service. We long for our churches to be full of people and that is no bad thing. God longs for hearts full of willingness, faith, hope and love, congregations of people who love God and with whom God can do much.

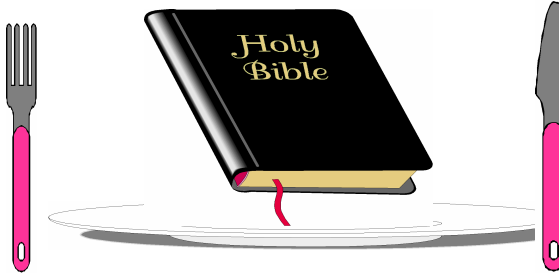
As some of you may have already guessed the wall with the plaque and the Haggai quotation is the old Coventry Cathedral. The remains stand next to a beautiful modern Cathedral. The verse is on the ruined remains and rightly so. Devastated it may have been by bomb and fire but the ruins stand witness to the mercy, forgiveness and reconciling power of God. In the old Cathedral people come to pray for our troubled world. They pray that God will bring reconciliation to homes, communities, countries and between nations. People still worship with repentant hearts asking for God to transform the world.

I think the words in the second part of Haggai 2:9 are very apt and a great encouragement, "in this place I will grant peace " declares the Lord.

Open and faithful hearts not great crowds or huge temples are what God considers of first importance.

Archie Ford

**CALDER UNITED FREE CHURCH
FOOD FOR THOUGHT**



Last Monday of Every Month

(Sept – Mar)

7.30pm

Calder Church Hall

Topics this session – 2010 – 11

Christian Missionaries of the 19th Century

Trinity

Deborah

Esther

Women in the New Testament

Ethical Problems

Specific dates and speakers intimated monthly

An opportunity to share a meal and discuss issues of faith

Please come along

All welcome

CD Recordings of Sunday Services

Please remember that we record the Sunday Services and issue them on CD to anyone who is unable to attend morning worship.

If you know of anyone who would like to have a CD of any service then please contact either Mark Brown (842209) or Alec Harley (843449) or speak to us on a Sunday Morning – one of us will be sitting in the front row of the balcony at the sound desk.

We are always on the lookout for more people to go on a rota for looking after the sound desk on a Sunday Morning. If you think you could help please let us know.

Women's Association

We are just about to embark on a new session of our Women's Meetings, and we would be very pleased to welcome anyone who would like to join us. We meet on the first Tuesday of the month throughout the winter, except January. There is a syllabus available, cost 20p.

Hopefully the Sunshine Bags will be collected by now, if you still have one please bring it along to the Church or have someone bring it for you if you can't manage yourself.

I am also sharing the letter from our Convener, which will let you see some of the work the Sunshine Bags contribute to.

Elizabeth Martin.

UNITED FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
WOMEN'S HOME AND OVERSEAS COMMITTEE

Convener:
Mrs M Patterson
01862 892063



11 Newton Place
Glasgow G3 7PR

August 2010

Dear Ladies

Greetings in the name of the Lord Jesus.

As we prepare to begin the new session of our Women's Meetings, it is a good thing to reflect on the past year and to thank the Lord for His continued faithfulness to us as women of the Church. I would encourage you to "keep on keeping on" in your Christian life and service for the Lord.

On behalf of the committee I would like to thank you for your support and generosity towards our Special Gift for the Pandita Ramabai Mukti Mission in India which amounted to £4,010 and was received on behalf of the mission by Mrs Margaret Robertson, Ayr. We were privileged to have as our speaker in the morning, Miss Elaine Duncan from the Scottish Bible Society who took up the theme of our new Bible Study leaflet "In Christ - Serve one another in Love"

The Winter Project which amounted to £2,276 was presented at the afternoon meeting to Peter and Ella McIntyre, missionaries in the Philippines, who were our guest speakers representing the Far East Broadcasting Association (FEBA), the recipients of this gift. As a committee we are extremely grateful for these generous gifts.

As your new Convener, may I assure you of the continued interest and prayers of the whole committee for all our Women's Associations throughout the United Free Church.

We value your prayers for us as we meet in Glasgow that the Lord would lead us in all our plans and decisions.

Wishing you God's richest blessing in the year ahead.

Yours in His service

Moirra Patterson

Moirra Patterson
Convener

Registered Scottish Charity No: SC002167
A Designated Religious Charity



The 1st Lochwinnoch Boys'

Brigade Company is now underway for this Session and all sections are meeting on Tuesday nights. The Company Section will no longer be meeting on a Friday night.

This year for the first time the Anchor Boys are enrolling boys in Primary 1.

New boys will be made most welcome to any of the sections irrespective of their age.

Anchor Boys meet from 6pm till 7pm – Primary 1, 2 & 3

Junior Section meet from 7pm till 8pm – Primary 4, 5 & 6

Company Section meet from 8pm till 9pm – Primary 7, Secondary 1 through to 6

Anyone wanting more information should speak to Mark Brown (842209), William Graham (843947) or Sandra Marsh (843031)

ABCs

Thanks again to everyone who supported us with our sponsored walk around Millport. The weather was good although a bit windy. We walked at a leisurely pace and were joined by a few people on the way, including Mark and Amanda Brown, Ryan and Kate Bain, one of the teachers from school, and her six month old son, Corrie. Thanks must also go to Donna McPherson, Moira's sister who joined us. Thank you for your great company, it made the journey so much better. We raised a total of £784 for Breast Cancer Research. Mrs Bain was delighted with our efforts!

Once again the ABCs helped out at the Summer Club in August. The theme was "going on a journey" — how appropriate after our trek round Millport. We helped with games and crafts and serving juice and biscuits for the children and making tea and coffee for the leaders. We really enjoyed helping out and were glad that once again the Summer Club was a great success.

Some of us took part in "Together in Christ" at Dunblane High School on Saturday 28th August. We really enjoyed the Youth programme and thanks again must go to Laura and Gordon and also to Nathan for all their hard work.

Our meetings will start again on Saturday 5th September at 7.30pm. If you are in Secondary 1 — Secondary 6 you are very welcome to join us.

Monica Murray.

Summer Club

The Summer Club this year was great fun. The story was Pilgrims' progress. It was a good story and made a fine puppet show. The weather was lovely and so we played games outside a lot. We also did a craft every day. We took home our efforts the next day once whatever we had made was dry. I am looking forward to the next Summer Club.

Angela Graham.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the McKillop Hall on Saturday 20th November from 10am –12 noon. There will be the usual stalls and we are always grateful for any donations. These can be handed in to the Church Hall any Sunday morning.

We will give you more information nearer the time, but please put the date in your diary. Any offer of help on the day or the week leading up to the fayre will be gratefully received.

If you are unable to help, come along for a coffee, a chat and do some Christmas shopping.

Irene Arthur.

Favourite Bible Stories.

Sermon on the Mount.

My favourite bible story is from the Gospel of St. Matthew, part of the Sermon on the Mount. In this materialistic world we all need reminding of the important things in life. This passage was a particular favourite of my mum and dad and it helped them through a difficult time in their early married life. I can always remember them telling me about it, which is probably why it is so special to me. The passage talks about nature – the birds, the lilies, the grass – and how our heavenly father takes care of them and then goes on to say ask ‘Are you not more valuable than they’. Living in Lochwinnoch we see this beauty of nature all around us and we should therefore be reminded on a daily basis of the help and strength that is available to us with all the many things that cause us to worry.

Matthew Chapter 6 v 25 – ‘Do Not Worry’

Mark Brown.

The Prodigal Son

At face value, this seems to me a complex story of greed, despair, forgiveness, love and jealousy.

But it is really a simple illustration about God's attitude to all of us.

How easy is it for us to say.....

" He hasn't been through our doors for years. What makes him think he can just turn up whenever he likes?"

Jesus told his disciples this story to illustrate that no matter how we waste God's gifts to us, He will always welcome us back into his family, but only when we truly and humbly ask for his forgiveness.

We need to see ourselves, not as an angry brother or sister, but as a prodigal. We are just like the younger son. We have often strayed and continue to stray from righteousness and are in need of God's forgiveness.

The father in the passage has compassion and love for his son. He sees him at a distance and knows he is coming back long before his son arrives.

Surely it would be easier for us to say.....

"He hasn't been through our doors for years, WELCOME BACK!"

After all, is this not what God would say?

Alan Murray

The Twelve Disciples.

One of my favourite parts of the Bible is when Jesus calls twelve very ordinary men to be Apostles or Disciples.

Simon Peter and his brother Andrew were fishing by the sea of Galilee when Jesus called them to be "fishers of men." They left their nets and followed him.

Similarly James and John, sons of Zebedee, were also fishermen who followed Jesus when he asked them to do so.

Some time after Jesus had healed many people he was now again by the lake when he saw Levi, son of Alphaeus, (who is also called Matthew in some versions) sitting at the collectors' desk.

Tax collectors at this time were very unpopular because they generally defrauded people and so when some Pharisees saw Jesus having dinner at Levi's house they jeered and asked why Jesus was having dinner with tax collectors and sinners. Jesus overheard their question and replied, " it is not the healthy who need a doctor but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repent."

Before deciding on the final twelve Jesus went into a mountain and spent the night in prayer then next morning he added the following seven people to the five he had already chosen.

Bartholomew.

Thomas who later doubted that Jesus really had risen from the dead.

Thaddaeus different versions describe him in different ways.
 Judas son of James and Judas brother of James.

Simon the Zealite or Canaanite.

Judas Iscariot who later betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of
 silver.

James the son of Alphaeus.

Philip from Bethsaida.

These twelve men were given authority to drive evil spirits out to heal every disease and sickness. As they went around the country carrying out these instructions they also preached. Jesus has preached wherever he found people and his disciples did likewise.

They were not given any money and were told not to take any food with them. What faith these men had that their physical needs would be provided.

After Judas Iscariot's suicide Matthias was chosen by lots to be the twelfth disciple.

I find it incredible that from these twelve men the "Good News" has spread throughout the world. When they started "Going out to all the world to preach the gospel to every creature" they did not have planes, trains, buses, car or even bicycles yet they still succeeded in their mission by preaching to people who then carried out the work they had begun.

E. McAllister.

Samuel

Many of us have Sunday School to thank for our favourite bible-stories - stories which captured our imaginations in childhood and stayed with us as vibrant pictures in our minds throughout our lives.

The story of Samuel has been with me from my early days, and I'm grateful to a long-forgotten Sunday-school teacher for telling it. She must have been a vivid teller of tales . . .

Poor Hannah, so wretched in her childlessness, how she longed for a child! I could picture her weeping and praying to God to send her a son. I appreciated the vow, which seemed to me to be more of a bargain than a vow, that she would give the child up to the Temple so that he might do God's work all the days of his life, if only God would grant her wish. I felt Hannah's joy when her prayer was answered and the boy was born, and when she named him Samuel. I recognised her pride when she kept her promise and took Samuel as a small child to the priest, Eli, to be brought up as God's servant.

Best part of the story, of course, was the darkness of the Temple when the voice came to the child in the night - "Samuel", and again, "Samuel" [I still think of the name in syllables as Sam - u - el] and when Eli told the bewildered boy to listen one more time because it was God who was speaking, and to answer, "Speak, for thy servant is listening " . . .

I read the story afresh, from the Bible this time, before I

started writing down my memories of it. It's a much more complex tale than I could have comprehended at the time. But I'd got the crux of it, and that voice saying "Samuel" still feels very real.

It is somehow relevant to our own lives, even today.

Isn't there a quiet voice within us all which speaks to us as loudly as the one that said that word "Samuel" in the darkness of a Temple night?

It tells us the paths we should tread and the ones we should avoid. If only we always listened to it!

Read the whole story 1 Samuel, chapters 1 - 3

Betty McKellar.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Baptism

Sam Crozier Gordon Lochhead Avenue

Wedding

David Whitehill & Annie Stewart Jones

Funerals

Ernest Walker	High Street
Nan Williamson	Spiers Road
Flora McMillan	High Street
Anne Turner	Mansfield
Margaret Arnold	Ranfurly Care Home

CALDER UF CHURCH

PROVISIONAL CALENDAR

Sept 10 - Feb 11

Day	Date	Time	Event
Sat	25 th Sept	8.30am	Men's Breakfast
Mon	27 th Sept	7.30	Food for Thought
Sun	3 rd Oct	11.00am 6.30pm	Communion Praise Service
Mon	4 th Oct	7.00pm	Burnt Offerings
Tues	5 th Oct	7.30 pm	Women's Association
Mon	11 th Oct	7.30 pm	Managers
Sun	24 th Oct	11.00 am	Harvest Thanksgiving – Parish Church (date to be confirmed)
Mon	25 th Oct	7.30 pm	Food for Thought
Sat	30 th Oct	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast
Mon	1 st Nov	7.00 pm	Burnt Offerings
Tues	2 nd Nov	7.30 pm	Women's Association
Mon	8 th Nov	7.30 pm	Managers
Sun	14 th Nov	10.45 am	Remembrance at War Memorial Service in Calder Church with Uniformed Organisations
Mon	15 th Nov	7.30 pm	Session
Sat	20 th Nov	10 – 12	Christmas Fayre
Sat	27 th Nov	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast
Sun	28 th Nov	Tbc	St Vincent's Hospice – Light a Life *(tbc)
Mon	29 th Nov	7.30 pm	Food for Thought
Mon	6 th Dec	7.00 pm	Burnt Offerings
Tues	7 th Dec	7.30 pm	Women's Association – Salvation Army
Mon	13 th Dec	7.30 pm	Managers
Sun	19 th Dec	11.00 am	Nativity Service – Parish Church
Fri	24 th Dec	11.15 pm	Watchnight Service
Sat	25 th Dec	11.00 am	Christmas Morning Worship
Fri	31 st Dec	7.00 pm	Walk of Faith
Sun	2 nd Jan 2011	11.00 am	Joint Communion Service in Parish Church
Mon	10 th Jan	7.30 pm	Managers
Mon	17 th Jan	7.30 pm	Session
Sat	29 th Jan	8.30 am	Men's Breakfast
Tues	1 st Feb	7.30 pm	Women's Assoc
Sun	6 th Feb	11.00 am 6.30 pm	Communion Praise Service
Mon	7 th Feb	7.00 pm	Burnt Offerings
Sun	13 th Feb		AGM