

Stevenston High Kirk

# The Challenge

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Winter Edition  
2012



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# The Challenge Magazine

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**Winter 2012  
Edition**

*We would appreciate articles for the next issue of the Challenge to be emailed to Margaret Durham ([margaretdurham@uwclub.net](mailto:margaretdurham@uwclub.net)) or Mildred Burns ([millieb@mb38.orangehome.co.uk](mailto:millieb@mb38.orangehome.co.uk)) or, if you do not have access to email, to be handed in to St Monach's Aisle by Sunday 10th February 2013.*

# A View From the Manse

This Christmas, as I look out onto a very dark world, I reflect on the lives of missing girl April Jones, the countless schoolchildren abused by those in positions of influence and power, the floods and storm damage that have devastated so many lives and homes around the globe, the tyranny of cruel dictators and their violent regimes, the rise of militant atheism, the ridiculing and discrimination of sincere Bible believing Christians, the rise of anti-semitism, etc. This year has also been a difficult year for many who have known what it is to struggle with ill health, depression, addictions, financial worries, unemployment or bereavement.

As we enter into the dark winter nights, I want to encourage you to look up. What do we see? There on the black canvas of a night sky we see a revelation of God's glory. The heavenly lights in the midst of utter blackness somehow bring the heavens and the universe alive.

I often scan the remarkable photos taken from the Hubble telescope. These images which take us deeper and deeper into the created universe, convince me more and more of a glorious Creator God, who in the beginning, created the heavens and the earth. Despite the earth's dark, formless and empty beginning, it soon comes alive as God's Spirit moves over the waters.

In a voice that can wake the dead, God declares, "Let there be Light!" and there was light. Soon the whole universe would light-up as God would throw stars into space, and each star revealing the glory and majesty of God.

Over this advent season we are reminded again of that glorious occasion when a star shone brightly upon that dark night sky over Bethlehem, declaring the glory and majesty of God in Christ. Below, in the midst of all the stench and decay, a greater light was shining. For this was the night when God took on human flesh and became a baby. Christ the Light of the World was born - "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of his people Israel."

At first glance we presume that it was the star that had been drawing the Magi, but no, it was the light of Christ that was drawing the star, the shepherds, the Magi and the heavenly host.

It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit of God would move again in power, renewal, refreshing, and reviving... causing hearts to burn again with the light of Christ.

May Christ, the Light of the World, draw you to himself and shine upon your heart and home this Christmas as you invite Him even into the midst of your darkness.

Your friend and Minister

*Rev Scott Cameron*

## GUILD NEWS

Dear Friends,

As you know, our Guild Meetings started up again on Thursday evening, the 4th October and we are well into our New Session.

Amazingly, the Guild Movement, is celebrating it's 125th Anniversary and some special events have been organised by the Ardrossan Presbytery.

Locally, there has already been a Communion held in Dalry Trinity Church and on Monday the 19th November "125 Songs of Praise" is being held in Kilwinning Old Parish Church at 2.00pm.

Our High Kirk Guild has been enjoying our weekly meetings, some of which, have been held in the afternoon, to save us going out in the evening, when the weather might be unpleasant. So far, this has not actually worked too well, as some of the afternoon weather has not been very great! However, we look forward to our future meetings with Mrs Logan on "Hat Making" (15th November 7.15pm.) Mr Mackie "Holiday Talk" (22nd November 2.15pm) and "The Tartan Ladies" (29th November 7.15pm.) All are welcome to join us on the 29th, tickets are £3.50.

Our Topic for the 2012 – 13 is "Lets Talk About Being a Christian in Todays World" and our Projects for 2012 – 15 are:- Building a Better Rwanda, Heart for Art (Dementia), Making a Difference in Liberia,

Passage from India, Juluis Project, Out of Africa into Malta.

My thanks as always for the support of our Members and Friends and to all who contribute to the running of our Guild, and also our Catering Committee.

God Bless.

Marie Seaton.

## WORD ALIVE 2013

TUESDAY 16TH APRIL – TUESDAY 21ST MAY

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone who supported our recent Word Alive as we walked through the Psalms.

Thanks to all who read the Psalms and to Nan Walker for being our pianist. The singing was quite outstanding and the time of fellowship was enjoyed by us all. Special thanks to Scott and Antonia for opening their home and for endless cups of tea and coffee!!

It was encouraging to have so many people at these studies, including many who came for the first time. Do put these dates for next year in your diary, and the subject...which has still to be decided!!...will be in the next Challenge.

N C

## 3rd Stevenston Girls' Brigade



### "To seek, serve and follow Christ"

At the A.G.M. held in Bothwell on 15th September, we were shown the new proposed uniform which will be introduced soon. Explorers and Juniors will have the same coloured sweat shirts.

The Praise Service was held in St Kentigerns in Kilmarnock. It took the form of an hour of different crafts followed by a thanksgiving service.

On 20th October three girls took part in the "Olympic Challenge" in the Citadel, Ayr. This was an initiative to encourage girls to take part in sport. Girls enjoyed zumba, an assault course, football skills, judo, archery and crafts. It was a most enjoyable day of activities.

On 31st October we had a themed party. On 3rd November the divisional swimming gala will be in Troon. This is the first time our company will participate. 11th November will be Remembrance Sunday. Representatives of the company should be at the church at 10am.

We have been informed that our capitation fees have to be £20 per girl. To help fund this, the company plans to hold a sponsored "Hush In". Explorers will be quiet from 6.30 - 7 pm. Juniors and Brigaders will be quiet from 6.30 - 7.15pm.

14th November - Our dedication service will be held in the church hall at 6.45pm. We would be delighted if parents and friends attended.

Christmas Pantomime is on Saturday 8th December. Cost will be £15. It is in the Palace Theatre at 2pm. Christmas Party will be on 12th December.

We are extremely grateful for the support of the congregation and especially for the help given to us by Mrs Durham, Mrs Cochrane and Mrs Rodgers.

Yours sincerely

Janet Montgomery (Captain)

## When We Were Married

When we were married they told us we were one.

But they never told us what to do when half of one is gone.

What do you do with half a life, or half a will to care?

What do you do with half a heart, now the other half's not there?

You were the other half of me, a heart linked to my own.

What do I do with half a life now I am on my own?

Roy Lessen says:

Continue in the things that concern Him; He will continue to take care of the things that concern you.

Continue to give Him all that is yours; He will continue to give you all that is His. Continue to wait on Him;

He will continue to be faithful to you.

Continue to seek His highest;

He will continue to give you His best.

**Bettine Meney**

# Twists and Turns

## Naomi Clarke

My childhood was spent mostly in Largs. As a young kid I went to Sunday school. I can't remember most of that as I only went for a short while but I got to know about the Lord in that short time. My parents were not believers, however, so my only contact with Christianity at that time was that one day a week at Sunday school. Some years later when I was in secondary school, there was a lunch time Scripture Union club at Largs Academy which I went to, more as something to do than anything else. I went along to that but all I can remember from it was enjoying the songs. I also went to a Christian youth club at Brisbane Evangelical Church around this time. Through the youth club I decided to go along to that church and I got to know a little bit more about the Lord.

At that time, though, I was having a lot of personal troubles and was sent away to a children's home for a year. Life got even harder after this and the children's home didn't help. After I got home, I took an overdose, started hurting myself by cutting my legs and arms - I was a right mess. I moved out of my family home and got a variety of live-in jobs (mostly working with animals) and met my first husband. Eventually we married and settled in Halewood in Merseyside, but that marriage was a total disaster and for years I had no contact with the Lord. My husband was abusive and I eventually felt I had to leave him. We eventually got divorced. In the meantime, I had met Oliver and initially moved in with him as a lodger, but love grew from that and we were married in 1995. Life changed, things got better and we had a good relationship. In fact life was good for years but Christ had no part of it back then. Oliver was a Police Sergeant in Manchester and had been a Christian in

his childhood and early teens, but had also drifted away from the Lord.

Around 2000 my earlier troubles resurfaced (they'd always been there, I guess, but just suppressed). I became suicidally depressed, took overdoses, started to hurt myself again, and spent my life crying and hiding in my bedroom. I realised that I had no friends and needed more out of life, so we went along to some clubs like a local sailing club and other places but that didn't fill the feeling of being lost and lonely, and didn't fill the emptiness inside me.

Eventually, I thought "why not try church?" The people at churches were supposed to be loving and caring, and apart from anything else I could make new friends there. Off we went and after trying a few different ones, we found ourselves at Bury Baptist Church. It was great: the pastor was one-in-a-million and made a huge effort to help both me and Oliver. I got into really wanting to know the Lord, and my husband's childhood faith came back full-strength, too. He got baptised and I thought that if I got baptised then God would fill me with his love and everything would be all right, but it didn't quite happen like that. I hadn't realised at that stage that being a Christian doesn't necessarily insulate you from life's troubles. I still went along to church but felt nothing. I am someone who tends to live off their feelings and got angry with myself thinking I was too bad and damaged for the Lord to want me. I thought that I did not believe enough and that everyone was so much better than me with their faith. I still carried on going to church, though.

After Oliver retired from the Police in 2007, we moved up to Saltcoats. I was still ill, taking the odd overdose and cutting but we kept going to church. After a couple of "false starts" at churches that weren't the right places for us, we eventually came to the High Kirk. At first I



# My First Holiday to America

Anne Dickson



On my first day in Queensbury, we drove to a small town situated by Lake George. Down by the lake side were three large river boats, one which was preparing to sail. We managed to purchase tickets and booked our lunch. We made our way on board and found that our table was situated beside a window which had a panoramic view of the lake.

Passengers from four buses joined the river boat, and of course they were 'Senior Citizens,' and they did know how to enjoy themselves. Although elderly, and some accompanied by their walking sticks, it did not stop them dancing with their partners. Many of the couples must have been married between fifty and sixty years. The entertainer, played mostly 'easy listening' music on the keyboard, he also gave us a running commentary on the historical facts of the large houses as we sailed passed them.

On that day the weather was sunny and warm, the water smooth, and the sail very enjoyable.

My journey to New York started on a train from Albany, and it followed the Hudson River, passing small communities at the side of the river, and houses concealed by trees. (I wonder how many of these places coped with the storm.)

On arriving in New York, I was eager to see as much as I could, because I was only going to be there for one and a half days.

My first impression of New York was you seemed to be enclosed within an area surrounded by high buildings. The streets were a moving mass of traffic, especially the yellow cabs, buses and the cosmopolitan New Yorkers. I found the people of this city very friendly who could not do enough to help visitors find their way around their hometown. Coming from the theatre one night, and trying to stop a taxi was difficult, but a hotel doorman had stopped a limousine taxi for a young man, who stepped forward and paid the driver to take us back to our hotel.

Time Square was another experience I will never forget and I could not be in New York and not visit 'Ground Zero' where rebuilding is still taking place. (At the moment I can only think of the destruction that has taken place in New York, but, the resilience of the people will soon have their city on the road to recovery.)

The next trip was to Niagara Falls which was stunning, to see this volume of water drop at the Falls, to send spray into the air, which at times, could be higher than the Falls itself. The boat trip was an experience, because you found yourself near to the base of the Falls. You could only marvel at its wild beauty, man could not make. I loved to watch the sunrise over Niagara Falls, you could only wonder at God's creation. The rainbows were made when the sun shone on the spray from the American and Niagara Falls reminding us of God's promise.

Other places I visited, the friendliness of the people was overwhelming, it did not matter where you were, shopping, in a restaurant or sight seeing, and they wanted to help you.

I will not forget my first holiday in the United States and the very special people that I met.

# GREAT HYMNWRITERS

## JAMES MONTGOMERY

James Montgomery (1771 – 1854) was born in nearby Irvine, was the son of a Moravian Missionary, and he worked in Yorkshire Shores before joining the Sheffield Register as an assistant editor in 1792.

Four years later he became editor and for thirty one years he continued to edit the renamed Sheffield Iris. Twice he was imprisoned for radical political opinions. He advocated foreign missions...the Bible Society...and the abolition of slavery.

James was always ready to assist the poor and defend the down-trodden. In time, however, his integrity and worth was recognised and he was even awarded an annual pension by the British Government as a reward for his contribution to society. He never forgot that his own parents had given their lives in bringing the Gospel to the natives of the West Indies.

James Montgomery wrote many poems and many of his 400 hymns are still being sung. Today most hymn books including 'CH4'..'Praise'..Mission Praise' to name a few contain a number of his hymns.

Some are well loved like...'According to Thy Precious Word (communion hymn)...Angels from the realms of glory (Christmas hymn)...Forever with the Lord...Hail to the Lord's anointed...Stand up and bless the Lord...and what I consider to be one

of his finest... his hymn on prayer... 'Prayer is the souls sincere desire.

Why not find a hymn book and read over this great hymn. Its words and teaching are both moving and instructive...amazing...to think that someone who was born just a few miles down the road was used of God to enable countless multitudes to express their faith in such a wonderful manner.

Next time we will look at a more modern hymn writer.

Yours in a mode of praise

*Norman Cruickshank*

## The Fireside Pulpit

Dr Sam Gordon's latest DVD in the Fireside Pulpit series is now available - this is number 3 and is entitled: Let's Talk About Jesus.

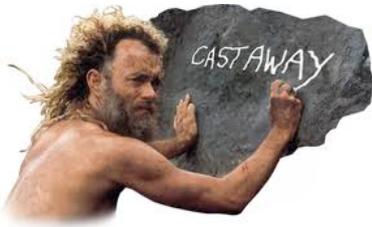
The DVD has five 22-minute studies on it, each filmed in a friend's lovely home in Aberdeenshire - it looks at each of the Levitical Offerings of Leviticus 1-5.

If you would like a copy, please let Sam know ... you can send him a cheque for £15 and he'll happily put one in the post for you!

There's an online study guide and it's well illustrated throughout ... numbers are limited!

**Contact:** Dr Sam Gordon, 75 Grange Avenue, Bawtry, DN10 6NR.

## Castaway



Our Castaways have the opportunity of taking 8 cds of their favourite music, 3 books (apart from the Bible) and a luxury item...

Our Castaway in this edition of the Challenge is **Mildred Burns**.

### Music:

1. In The Sweet Bye and Bye – Willie Nelson
2. The Rose - Bette Midler
3. Who's Sorry Now – Connie Francis
4. You'll Never Know – Ella Fitzgerald
5. Blanket on the Ground – Billy Jo Spears
6. Teddy Bear – Elvis Presley
7. 57 Chevrolet – Billy Jo Spears
8. Too Young – Nat King Cole

### Books:

1. The Pursuit of God - A.W. Tozer
2. Anne of Green Gables -Lucy Maud Montgomery
3. Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson

### Luxury:

Bar of Soap

## Vitamin F

Why do I have a variety of friends who are all so different in character? How can I get along with them all? I think that each one helps to bring out a "different" part of me.

With one of them I am polite. With another, I joke. I sit down and talk about serious matters with one. With another I laugh a lot. I listen to one friend's problems. Then I listen to another one's advice for me.

My friends are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When completed, they form a treasure box. A treasure of friends! They are my friends who understand me better than I understand myself. They're friends who support me through good days and bad. We all pray together and for each other.

Real Age doctors tell us that friends are good for our health. Dr. Oz calls them Vitamin F (for Friends) and counts the benefits of friends as essential to our well being. Research shows that people in strong social circles have less risk of depression and terminal strokes.

If you enjoy Vitamin F constantly you can be up to 30 years younger than your real age.

The warmth of friendship stops stress and even in your most intense moments, it decreases the chance of a cardiac arrest or stroke by 50%.

I'm so happy that I have a stock of Vitamin F!

In summary, we should value our friends and keep in touch with them. We should try to see the funny side of things and laugh together and pray for each other in the tough moments.

Thank you for being one of my Vitamins!

**Submitted by Naomi Clarke**

## Excuses! Excuses! Excuses!

Moses spent the best part of forty years in a palace in Egypt as a scholar – then he spent another forty years in the desert as a shepherd – then, at the grand old age of eighty, when most folk are wanting to slow down and take it easy, God called him, and the rest is history...for Moses spent his last forty years as a saviour to the nation.

Moses discovered his finest years were still ahead of him. When most people his age would be living in a retirement home, putting their feet up, playing golf, doting on their great grandchildren, this guy was out there, on the trail, doing business for God. That tells me, serving Jesus in world mission isn't just for the young.

When we shine the flashlight on Exodus 3 and 4 we come face to face with the present – tense God, the God of today! A God who meets us where we are, shapes us, and takes us where he wants us to be. A God who specialises in restoring failures, and Moses really blew it (Exodus 2). He made a real mess of it, but God didn't write him off. So far as God is concerned, failure is never final. He is God of the second chance!

God's way is rarely an easy option, but it's always the best one! Moses tried to weasel out of God's call! A bit like: 'Lord, here am I, send my sister!'

God is calling us out of our comfort zone, he wants us to leave the familiar behind, he wants us to take a

risk – you see, the Lord loves to lead his people into places where they have never been before. He calls us to go beyond the boundaries of our safety net...without excuse!

Excerpt from – Selah - Messianic Testimony's Newsletter  
Submitted by Billy Aitken

## LETITIA LAMB



This the tale of Letitia Lamb  
Who strayed away from her loving Mam.  
To see what lay on the other side  
Letitia wandered far and wide.

Letitia's Mam was in a state  
When she found the time so late.  
For lambs who wandered rather far  
would not know how to follow a star.

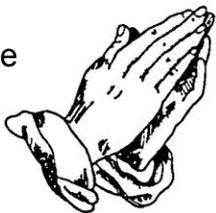
Letitia's Mam's resounding bleat  
Brought the shepherd to his feet.  
In answer to her cry of woe  
He called his dog and away did go

Cold and hungry and so sad  
Seeing the shepherd Letitia was glad  
Just like gentle Jesus of old  
The shepherd carried the lamb to the fold.

Taken from Poems and Tales for Kirk  
Bairns by Maisie McCall  
**Submitted by Janet Dawson**

# THE PERSECUTORS AS WELL!

Dorothy Rose



It's very good that we pray for the persecuted Christians in many countries of the world – there are many publications giving news of these, and encouragement to pray for those under attack for their faith in God.

But I feel we mustn't forget those who do the persecuting, in our prayers, as well.

Saul – read Acts 8:1-8 – was a persecutor, and very avid in his persecution of the Christians. When Steven was stoned to death, there was Saul, gloating over his cruel death. (Compare Saul with some of the rabid leaders of terror that do the same today.)

Well – don't ever forget this – when Saul was on his way to Damascus, ready to persecute the church, God stopped him dead in his tracks, and spoke to him about his persecution of those who believed in Jesus. What a wonderful, heart-stopping event that must have been, especially for Saul, who heard from the Lord that it was He, Himself, who was being persecuted by Saul's actions.

I won't go into the whole story of Saul's blindness and his regained sight, later on. Why I want to remind ourselves of this tremendous event in Saul's life, is that even a chief persecutor, bent on killing more Christians, when face to face with the Lord Almighty, can be so changed, and that he later became one of Christianity's missionary leaders, even willing to face flogging, imprisonment, and death, for the Lord's sake.

Let us also pray for the persecutors – let us pray that God Himself will meet them and so change them, as He did Saul into Paul!

## MISSIONARIES

Ask ten Christians, "Who is the greatest missionary in the New Testament apart from Jesus Christ?" and chances are at least nine will answer without hesitation, "The apostle Paul!"

But did you ever stop to consider that missionaries today face even greater challenges than Paul did in his day? For example:

Paul did not need to learn a foreign language. Every part of the known world spoke the same language – Greek.

Paul did not need to adjust to a totally foreign culture. Rome ruled the known world, providing the same rights and privileges for Roman citizens everywhere. A little bit of Rome awaited Paul every place he went. Not so for today's missionaries!

Repeatedly in his letters, Paul asked for prayer as he travelled and ministered (see Colossians 4:3 and 1 Thessalonians 5:25 for example.) Don't your missionaries need the same???

Locate a picture of a missionary or a missionary family on the wall of High Kirk hall, and pray for them daily. Make Philippians 1:3,4 ("I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy...") your daily discipline in prayer on their behalf.

Adapted from The Daily Walk Bible.

## WHERE DID YOU COME FROM

Where did you come from, Baby dear?  
Out of the everywhere into here.

Where did you get your eyes so blue?  
Out of the sky as I came through.

What makes the light in them sparkle and spin?  
Some of the starry spikes left in.

Where did you get that little tear?  
I found it waiting when I got here.

What makes your fore head so smooth and high?  
A soft hand stroked it as I went by.

What makes your cheek like a warm white rose?  
I saw something better than anyone knows.

Whence that three cornered smile of bliss?  
Three angels gave me at once a kiss.

Where did you get this pearly ear?  
God spoke, and it came out to hear.

Where did you get those arms and hands?  
Love made itself into hooks and bands.

Feet, whence did you come, you darling things?  
From the same box as the cherubs wings.

How did they all come just to be you?  
God thought of me, and so I grew.

But how did you come to us, you dear?  
God thought of you, and so I am here.

## The Bathtub Test



During a visit to the mental asylum, a visitor asked the Director which is the criteria that defines a patient to be institutionalized.

"Well," said the Director, "we fill up a bathtub. We offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient, and ask the patient to empty the bathtub."

OK, here's your test: (Those with an abnormal tendency will scroll to the bottom to get the answer before taking the test.)

1. Would you use the spoon?
2. Would you use the teacup?
3. Would you use the bucket?

"Oh, I understand," said the visitor. "A normal person would choose the bucket as it is larger than the spoon."

"No," answered the Director. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

***Submitted by Dan McNeil***

## You're Next!

Old aunts used to come up to me at weddings, poking me in the ribs and cackling, telling me, "You're next." They stopped after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals.

## **The Grace Outpouring** by Roy Godwin

I was given this book to read by David Wilson in November 2011, and given my reading speed I think it was a long time loan. How wrong could I be! I started reading and couldn't put it down. This book tells the story of God's amazing work in a small Christian retreat in South Wales. I have shared oftentimes at the evening service of excerpts from the book and by Christmas last year just about everyone at the evening service had read the book. We bought about six copies to give as presents, and the way God was working so excited us that a group of us who regularly attend the evening service thought a visit would be worthwhile. So I phoned and the first available date was February 2013. It won't be long now!

The book tells of Roy and Daphne's call to Ffald-y-Brenin and how God moved and taught them how to bless others through prayer. It has had a real impact on me.

There are many stories I could share but the one I would like to give is when Roy was looking for the Lord to show him His will. While out walking, he prayed the words "open the door, Lord. Open the door!" He prayed this for about an hour and when he returned home his phone was ringing. It was one of the trustees from Ffald-y-Brenin who explained that they were still looking for new caretakers and God had told her to phone him and tell him that this was the door He was opening. Please read this book! We are going to Wales on 8 February and there are a couple of places still available. If you are interested please speak to me. We are going there looking for great things from our great God.

***Billy Aitken***

## **Gift Sunday - 4th December 2012**

The Bible tells us that "it is more blessed to give than to receive." This being so, the congregation of the High Kirk should be well blessed, what with the amounts given to Mary's Meals, Sammy's School, Christian Aid etc. It is therefore almost apologetically that it has been decided to designate 4th December as "Gift Sunday". This is to allow everyone an opportunity to brighten up Christmas for children much nearer home - from across the Three Towns, in fact. We are appealing for donations of suitable Christmas presents to be distributed by members of the Three Towns Children and Families Team.

Last year the response to this appeal was overwhelming. Social Services staff were very impressed by the amount of toys and other gifts donated and a lot of local children had a much happier Christmas than they had anticipated. We are sure that this year we can do just as well again so please consider donating toys or clothes etc that would be appropriate for any age up to 16 years. Please leave the presents unwrapped to enable the Social Workers to decide which present may be suitable for which young person but feel free to provide wrapping paper if you so wish. Please also make sure that all donations are new, or in first class condition.

If you have any questions about any aspect of this appeal, please contact me on 554527.

***Helen Wilson***





## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW STEVENSTON? - QUIZ

- |   |   |    |  |
|---|---|----|--|
| 1 | When did Stevenston achieve Burgh status?<br>1948, 1950 or 1952                                     | 10 | Where was Warner's Brig?   |
| 2 | What is Stevenston's motto?   | 11 | Where is the Penny Farthing Bridge?  |
| 3 | What does the black diamond on our coat of arms signify?  | 12 | Where in Stevenston did 'Bonnie' Lesley Baillie live?                                    |
| 4 | What family surname is defined on the coat of arms?   | 13 | Where is the 'Bonnie' Lesley monument sited?   |
| 5 | Who was Stevenston High Kirk's first Minister in the present building?                              | 14 | In which local hotel was 'Stivinston' Lodge founded?                                     |
| 6 | Who 'came doon frae the Isle of Skye' in February 2002?   | 15 | Which present day street was known as coo-rodde?   |
| 7 | Which is the only book of the Bible starting and ending in the same letter?                         | 16 | Weaver's Brae is now known as?   |
| 8 | Other than coal mining, chemicals and explosives, name two industries in the town (of bygone days). | 17 | Which former Ardeer Thistle Junior footballer scored ninety three goals in one season?   |
| 9 | Where was the Jubilee Bridge?   | 18 | Which present day commodity (other than dynamite) was invented by Alfred Nobel?          |
|   |   | 19 | Name the Dance Band that played at Ardeer Recreation club from early 30's to 1964?       |
|   |   | 20 | Why were more than fifty men 'lifted' at Ardeer Recreation Club Dance Hall in July 1960? |

*Submitted by R Thompson*

## Venetia's adventure with Sarah

When we arrived at Berwick on Tweed  
We discovered we'd crossed the border indeed  
But the gracious driver of the local bus  
Accepted my bus pass without any fuss

We had travelled far and wide  
To visit wee towns on the other side  
Yes on our journey and through out that day  
We had ne'er planned from beautiful  
Scotland to stray

Soon back in Scotland we did arrive  
Not knowing our destiny would take a long drive  
To Melrose it took us an hour and a half  
Over which we both did later laugh

Oh this adventure we will never regret  
For even when lost it is useless to fret  
On the bus through the windows we did gaze  
At the scenery so beautiful, which did us amaze?

The river Tweed we did constantly see  
It was so majestic, and did give us much glee  
So were the wee towns, they were truly quaint  
If I were an artist I would want them to paint

Time came for us to journey home west  
Having of the borders seen what was best  
When our train left Glasgow it was not so grand  
And I said to myself "this is Tatty land"

Tatty originates from the word tattered  
It refers to an object which is, old, worn, and battered  
So were some buildings that I saw with my eyes,

On old building sites, which was no surprise?

Then I thought it is Ayrshire that is Tatty land true  
With fields full of tatties that the farmers grew  
In the winter the coos in the globber trample  
But of Ayrshire tatties there are really ample.

## Chicken and Chorizo Sausage Bake

(enough for five or six people)

### Ingredients:

2 tablespoon(s) olive oil  
12 chicken thighs (bone in with skin)  
750 grams chorizo sausage whole if baby ones or cut into 4cm chunks if regular sized  
1 kilograms New potatoes halved  
2 Red onions peeled and roughly chopped  
2 teaspoon(s) oregano dried  
1 Orange's zest

### Method:

- Preheat the oven to 1800°C/gas mark 7. Put the oil in the bottom of 2 shallow roasting tins, 1 tablespoon in each. Rub the skin of the chicken in the oil, then turn, skin-side up, 6 pieces in each tin.
- Divide the chorizo sausages and the new potatoes between the 2 tins. Sprinkle the onion and the oregano over, then grate the orange zest over the contents of the 2 tins.
- Cook for 1 hour, but after 30 minutes, swap the top tray with the bottom tray in the oven and baste the contents with the orange-coloured juices.

## Near death experience in Thaba 'Nchu, South Africa

### Dorothy Rose

Do you really want to live for ever? Are you prepared for your life in eternity? Do you wonder what you will find to do to pass all that time in heaven? Have you a sneaking doubt about wanting to be in heaven for ever?

Is that what is stopping you from taking the decisive step of faith to salvation and eternal life in Christ?

Well, you don't need to worry about what you will find to do in heaven to pass eternity – all the dimensions that “enclose” us on earth, will disappear! We will not be bound by petty things like time and space!

Once we are face to face with our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ, a totally-satisfying, overwhelming satisfaction of all our needs and desires will saturate us. Just being in His wonderful Presence will fill us with joy and praise as we become one with Him.

How do I know?

I know because of a vision I had long ago, when I was ill, and near death. I was unconscious of the oxygen being administered to me; Eddie told me later that my pulse was terribly slow (12 beats a minute) and the pupils of my eyes were enormously dilated. He and a nursing sister from the mission hospital where we worked were next to my bed, waiting for the inevitable – my death.

But while I was unconscious, I had this vision:

I felt dreadfully cold, and was sure that someone had maliciously swapped my blood for ice-water. I found myself in a cave with many tunnels, and walked up and down, looking for someone to tell

that my blood had been swapped for the ice-water!

At last, at the end of one of these tunnels, I glimpsed the figure of a person at the far end. I hurried towards that person – it was a man – eager to tell him about my condition.

BUT, the moment I reached the end of the tunnel and saw who was standing there, I forgot everything and just stood, looking at the figure. My eyes were drawn straight away to His eyes – all else was not important – and His eyes were so full of love I just couldn't look away from them! My whole being was drawn to Him – I knew He was Christ, my Saviour!

I opened my mouth, not knowing what I was going to say – the words just spilled out of my mouth, “Lord, I am ready – may I come?”

And the Lord replied, “No, not now; your children are still too young!”

And I opened my eyes and was conscious of my surroundings again! I was again completely normal – even asked if the drink next to my bed was my Coke, as if I had simply been asleep, and not so near death.

The nursing sister asked me, “Dorothy, just before you became conscious again, you spoke; you said “Lord, I am ready – may I come?” What did you mean and to whom were you speaking?”

And I told Eddie and the sister how that Lord had appeared to me and how the wonderful, incredible love in His eyes had drawn me to Him.

Now I know, just as surely as I know I am sitting at the computer right now, that one day I shall be in the Lord's Presence for ever, and will not want anything else, except to love Him and praise Him for all eternity!



Dear Friends

It's hard to believe but here we are in the month of December (well, almost) ... how quickly time flies! It reminds me of the words of James, when he writes: 'Your life is like the morning fog—it's here a little while, then it's gone' (4:14). Whatever way we look at it, the exciting news is, we're getting nearer to the second advent of our Lord and Saviour ... that's what keeps us plodding on, one step at a time, one day at a time!

So much has happened in our lives in the last couple of months – and our testimony pays a glowing tribute to the faithfulness of our heavenly Father. 'God is good.' All the time! Aside from the normal routine of keeping on top of admin, I've had the immense privilege of sharing the Word in a variety of places throughout the UK ... and, one of the cherries on the cake, another 4-day visit to the land of Israel. Bearing in mind the current situation in the Middle East, it would be appropriate for each of us to take to heart the words of the psalmist David, when he exhorts us to 'pray for the peace of Jerusalem' (122:6).

The last few days have been spent in Germany ... what an honour to spend quality time with those special

people who work with us in Messianic Testimony. Jakob & Katharina are based in Cologne, Anatol & Ludia are in the border city of Aachen, whilst Ivan & Anna are labouring for the Lord in Koblenz. You can see each of them in the photos below, going from left to right. The photo on the bottom right shows Ivan and Anna's three young children: Luisa, Johanna and Matias.

The next couple of months are guaranteed to bring many opportunities to meet with folks around the world who are, like you, enthusiastic supporters of MT; in fact, you will see from my diary that the last full week in January will be spent in Sebring, FL (about 2 hours south of Orlando) at the SIM Bible and Missions Conference – it's a busy schedule with me preaching at 12 meetings over the course of the week, so your prayers are absolutely vital. Honest ... that's what keeps me on the firing line.

As we come to the end of this year, Lois joins me in sending to each one of you our heartfelt gratitude for all your support, both in finance and prayer – it makes a colossal difference to know that you are partnering with us in this great work of God. Our desire is that 2013 will prove to be a year of increased fruitfulness in all of our lives.

Sam & Lois Gordon

# Jewels in Moz

I arrived in Mozambique just over a month ago and I can hardly believe how quickly time has passed already! I love it here even with all the challenges of not having running water a lot of the time and the electricity often going off. I have only had three showers since arriving, the rest of the time we have bucket baths. Today is a good day the water and power has been on most of the day. I'm typing this in my little room while laughing at the girls' joy in all being able to have a shower. Perspective changes out here and you quickly learn to celebrate and have joy in the simple things in life.



I hardly know what to start talking about as God has done so much since I got here. I have been on two bush evangelism outreaches. We go to a nearby village and camp out for two nights. This photo was taken while I was meeting the Chief and King of the village. The Chief of the village is selected by the people and the King of the village is because of blood line. To show respect and honor in the Mozambican culture you go low. We go into the villages with the heart to show what Jesus looks like. loving on the children, showing respect to the leaders and serving the peoples needs. Part of this outreach team had doctors and nurses on it and many people got

free medical treatment that they wouldn't have normally been able to get. We also take some extra food with us and feed as many of the children as we can. As part of the outreach we go round the village in small teams and pray for the sick and stand amazed as people get healed. The more I see of what God does the more I realize that he is completely beyond my understanding, but I still love the pursuit.

I am so blessed with the girls who share my house. Each of their stories are unique and its truly amazing the wonderful way that God has turned their lives around. And even in this season the Father is pouring his love out on them all. They are each encountering what it truly means to have an intimate relationship with the Father and breaking away from religions and traditions. God is meeting each individual in a way that is personal and unique and I love being part of that.

My own journey has been very challenging at times and also wonderful to be a part of. I am getting stretched and learning a lot. Please pray that God continues to show me what he is doing in every situation. Pray for wisdom to make the right decisions and that I manage my time well.

**You can follow Julie's latest news on her blog:**  
<http://jewelsinmoz.blogspot.co.uk>

**If you would like to support Julie financially, please contact the Minister or Julie - through her website. Please remember her in your prayers!!!**

## Maureen Kilpatrick

Maureen always appreciated the wonderful childhood she had at Hillcrest Drive. As the only daughter of 2 school teachers (Jimmy & Agnes Kilpatrick) - her future career was never in doubt! Sadly, at only sixteen her beloved father, a Boys Brigade leader and Sunday school teacher, at the High Kirk, and Head of English at Dalry Academy, died suddenly at a school Christmas party. In the years that followed, Maureen and her mother regularly visited with her aunt and uncle at Christmas, as there was a close family bond. In recent years Maureen would spend Christmas by volunteering for duty at the Ayrshire Hospice.

Maureen was Dux at Glencairn Primary, and though a top English student at Glasgow University, Maureen chose to be a primary teacher like her mother. She always knew her own mind and, without offense or fuss, quietly went her own way. She did have leadership qualities but preferred to be a good influence by example and humble hard work. She was never interested in seeking "glory" or credit for the things she would do.

As a teacher, she had a wonderful gift of encouraging her pupils to work hard, and to excel in where they were strong and not to get too discouraged at the things they couldn't do. If you were a pupil of Maureen's, you may well remember her points system, with its reward of a Mars Bar. With her winsome and encouraging teaching methods, she was asked to consider helping with Special Needs. In a spell of remedial teaching at Auchenharvie

Academy, Maureen joined forces with the head teacher, Mr Wilson's wife to set up adult literacy classes for North Ayrshire.

In early retirement Maureen was allowed to follow a long held childhood dream of entering into the caring profession. She had always thought about having two careers, and hoped that she could serve the caring profession in the same length of time as she had served as a teacher. She devoted herself to nursing her mum through cancer, and after her mother's passing, Maureen devoted the next 18 years of her life to Hospice Care as a volunteer. She and her mother had a wonderful partnership and were great companions on their travels throughout Europe, especially Switzerland where they returned several times.

She was a very private person, and exceptionally gifted at turning any conversation around, and away from herself to listen to the concerns and interests of others. This made her a wonderful counsellor and a very special friend to so many of us here.

She had such a large heart for those who struggled with health issues, bereavement, brokenness, hurts, or just struggled with life in general. She was an excellent listener. She always made you feel that you were valued, and what you were going through really mattered to her. She was a great encourager; always had a word of encouragement for everyone no matter their circumstances; always calm and full of wisdom.

Although growing up in the church, it wasn't until she nursed her mother that she began to ask deep questions

about the Christian faith. It was at this time when she made a deep heart commitment to following Christ. In January 1999, she became an elder and devoted her life to the church and to sharing the good news of the Gospel. She bravely took on leadership of the Girl's Brigade, despite her misgivings about her suitability and lack of youthful enthusiasm for the task. As one friend commented, "Only Maureen would leave her somewhat academic comfort zone for this one!"

She was a hard worker, taking on the role of Beadle, encouraging unity amongst the other churches in the town, attending the annual Week of Guided Prayer, and helping in the formation of our Prayer Meetings and Open Days to reach people who felt they couldn't get back to church. Her Christian faith meant everything to her. Many of us will never forget her dramatic public prayers, her voice always genuinely earnest, clear and sincere.

As Maureen grew in her faith, she became fearless, and always looked out for the under-dog. Intensely disliked senseless, greedy, consumerism, and was always giving generously to various charities. She worked tirelessly raising awareness for charities such as Mary's Meals, Sammy's School in Kenya, Christian Aid, and many others.

Maureen has left her mark through the lives of all the people she loved and cared for. If you were a friend of Maureen's, you were a friend for life. She made great efforts in communicating with quite a network of friends, sometimes combining theatre or gallery visits with long, chatty meals

out, regularly going to Edinburgh and Glasgow to meet old school friends, university friends, and Jordanhill College reunions. She relished the banter, as well as the close relationship formed through those occasions. She also loved walking, talking and rambling, and if all three could be done on the Isle of Arran, then she was very much at home.

We remember Maureen as a greatly loved niece to Chris & the recently deceased Vernon Roberts, and Jean and Orrie Gilbert. She was also a cherished cousin to Lesley & John, Freda & Harry, Rhona & Lorna. At the High Kirk she was an amazing elder and friend. And to each one of you, who knew her well, she was like a sister.

We will miss Maureen deeply, but we are delighted for Maureen that she is at home with her Saviour and Lord, who she loved with a passion. We therefore give thanks to God for her life and witness.

**When my life work is ended,**  
and I cross the swelling tide,  
When the bright and glorious morning I  
shall see;  
I shall know my Redeemer  
when I reach the other side,  
And His smile will be the first  
to welcome me.

Oh, the soul-thrilling rapture  
when I view His blessed face,  
And the lustre of His kindly beaming eye;  
How my full heart will praise Him,  
for the mercy, love and grace  
That prepares me for a mansion  
in the sky.

# Events

## DECEMBER

- 2nd **Family Gift Service** at 10.30am  
Please bring any Christmas gifts you would like to donate for vulnerable children in our community.  
**Carol Service** at 3pm in Bonnie Leslie.  
**Christmas Cracker** at 5pm in the Hayocks Community Centre. A great night for all the family.
- 4th **Lunch Club** in the Church Hall (12 noon - 2pm)
- 9th **Communion Service** at 10.30am.  
**Carol Service** at 3pm in the Three Towns Nursing Home.  
**Christmas Evening Fellowship** at 7.15pm in Church Hall.
- 12th **Carol Service** at 1.45pm in Thistle Day Care Centre.
- 15th **Open Church** from 10am-12noon (with mince pies & hot drink)
- 16th **Nativity Family Service** at 10.30am  
**Town Carol Service** at 6.30pm (High Kirk)
- 24th **Christmas Eve Service** at 7pm.
- 31st **Hogmanay in the Manse** from 7.30 - 10pm.

## JANUARY - HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

- 20th **United Service** at 3pm (St John's)
- 21st **Christian Unity Week starts** (9am at St John's: Monday - Friday)
- 27th **Annual Pulpit Exchange** at 10.30am (Speaker: Rev James McNay)
- 29th **Kirk Session** at 7pm (approval of accounts)

## FEBRUARY

- 3rd **Family Service** at 10.30am
- 10th **Stewardship Sunday** at 10.30am (Preacher: Rev Norman Cruickshank)
- 12th **Lunch Club** in the Church Hall (12 noon)
- 17th **Stewardship Sunday** at 10.30am
- 19th **Kirk Session** at 7pm
- 24th **Stewardship Sunday** at 10.30am  
**Worship Service** at 3pm (Three Towns)

## EVENING FELLOWSHIP NIGHTS

From January 2013 we are hoping to hold our Evening meetings in the Hayocks Community Hall at 7pm every week. We also hope to provide a light supper on these nights. We will have a varied programme of events. So please share with your friends and ask them to join us - especially those who are unable to make it to church in the mornings.

## STEWARDSHIP MONTH

Join us throughout the month of February as we consider the theme of "Talents".

An opportunity is also given to Members who would like to give a special "thanksgiving offering" towards our general funds.

## DAILY READINGS

DATE	DECEMBER	JANUARY	FEBRUARY
1	Luke 2:21 - 40	Joshua 1 - 5	Isaiah 23 - 28
2	Matthew 1	Psalms 1 - 2	Matthew 11 - 13
3	Luke 2: 1-20	Job 1 - 2	Romans 9 - 10
4	Mark 9: 33-37	Isaiah 1 - 6	Genesis 16 - 19
5	Matthew 4:12-17	Matthew 1 - 2	Judges 1 - 6
6	Acts 20:35	Romans 1 - 2	Psalms 15 - 17
7	Exodus 25	Genesis 1 - 3	Job 11 - 12
8	Matthew 25:31-46	Joshua 6 - 10	Isaiah 29 - 33
9	Isaiah 9:6-7	Psalms 3 - 5	Matthew 14 - 16
10	Matthew 1:22-23	Job 3 - 4	Romans 11 - 12
11	Genesis 1	Isaiah 7 - 11	Genesis 20 - 23
12	Revelation 2:1-5	Matthew 3 - 4	Judges 7 - 11
13	Psalms 150	Romans 3 - 4	Psalms 18 - 20
14	Acts 15:22-31	Genesis 4 - 7	Job 13 - 14
15	Luke 1	Joshua 11 - 15	Isaiah 34 - 39
16	Matthew 2:1-12	Psalms 6 - 8	Matthew 17 - 19
17	Galatians 4:1-7	Job 5 - 6	Romans 13 - 14
18	Isaiah 58	Isaiah 12 - 17	Genesis 24 - 27
19	Luke 11:1-13	Matthew 5 - 7	Judges 12 - 16
20	John 1	Romans 5 - 6	Psalms 21 - 23
21	John 21:25	Genesis 8 - 11	Job 15 - 16
22	Psalms 100	Joshua 16 - 20	Isaiah 40 - 44
23	Matthew 25	Psalms 9 - 11	Matthew 20 - 22
24	John 3:16	Job 7 - 8	Romans 15 - 16
25	Luke 1:26-56	Isaiah 18 - 22	Genesis 28 - 31
26	1 John 1	Matthew 8 - 10	Judges 17 - 21
27	1 John 2	Romans 7 - 8	Psalms 24 - 26
28	1 John 3	Genesis 12 - 15	Job 17 - 18
29	1 John 4	Joshua 21 - 24	
30	1 John 5	Psalms 12 - 14	
31	2 & 3 John	Job 9 - 10	