



# GOOD NEWS

*News from and for local churches*

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## SEPTEMBER'S GOOD NEWS:

Deadline for articles

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2010

Email:

[gbell@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gbell@cofscotland.org.uk)

## Local news

Send in your news to the communications team: [gbell@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gbell@cofscotland.org.uk)

THE Kirk's only Hungarian congregation recently held a day camp for over 50 children, 100 years after the Scottish Mission Girls' School was opened in Budapest.

Organisers from St Columba's Budapest had 54 children from a variety of Christian, Jewish and Muslim backgrounds.

[Click here to read more:](#)

LONGNIDDRY Parish Church is set to host a second visit from one of Nashville's great bluegrass bands, "Craig Duncan and Friends".

Their concert takes place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm.

[Click here to read more:](#)

A PRESBYTERY in the north-east is holding a day of celebration to commemorate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Reformation.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August officials from Kincardine and Deeside Presbytery will gather at Auchenblae for a series of short services and talks about the great reformers like John Knox.

[Click here to read more:](#)

## Press releases

News from the media relations unit

CONGREGATIONS have been urged to get in touch with the communications department at 121 as soon as possible if they require further copies of the Church of Scotland 2010 Annual Review.

The third Annual Review is proving popular with many churches, and interested parties are asked to contact the communications team by **Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August.**

[Click here to read more:](#)

A NEW Christian bookshop has opened in the heart of Edinburgh's city centre, next to the Church of Scotland's headquarters.

The Kirk has announced that a Living Oasis Bookshop will temporarily fill the vacant premises on George Street, where Wesley Owen previously was. It is being launched by the Nationwide Christian Trust.

[Click here to read more:](#)

A CHARITY run by a Church of Scotland minister has raised £60,000 to help those affected by January's earthquake in Haiti.

Through its international aid efforts, Glasgow the Caring City has been able to supply medicines to 10 emergency clinics, as well as provide tented accommodation, daily food and safe water to over 2,500 people.

[Click here to read more:](#)

## SUCCESSFUL SUMMER MISSION FOR BUDAPEST CONGREGATION

THE Kirk's only Hungarian congregation recently held a day camp for over 50 children, 100 years after the Scottish Mission Girls' School was opened in Budapest.

Organisers from St Columba's Budapest brought together 54 children, 12 young people, and 10 adults from a total of 15 different nationalities or ethnic groups.

In the spirit of Jane Haining, matron at the school and protector of Jewish as well as Christian girls before being deported to Auschwitz, the camp welcomed children of Christian, Jewish, and Muslim traditions.

The participants in the camp were like those of the host congregation in that, although representing several nationalities, most of them were local, coming from Hungarian, expatriate and refugee backgrounds.

Starting each day with one of Jesus' parables, participants considered such basic truths as God's love for all people and the mandate for us to love one another. Children also enjoyed singing (including one song in Hungarian and another in Swahili), playing games, and

expressing creativity through crafts.

The summer day camp has taken place several times since Scottish missionaries were allowed to return to Hungary after the fall of the iron curtain, but has gained new momentum in the past three years.

"The experiences have always good ones," said Reverend Aaron Stephens, the current minister at St. Columba's, "and when I meet people who took part in even just one week several years ago, it is that memory that they will share when they realise where I serve as minister."

What is new, however, is the co-operation with other institutions and church agencies. The Vörösmarty School, once part of the Scottish Mission, served the lunches and offered its courtyard, gymnasium, and a classroom for the camp's use.

The Refugee Mission of the Hungarian Reformed Church sent two women from its Nanny Programme to help with the children. This programme was created as a job training opportunity for refugee women, and the two who



*The above bead design was made by one of the children, and reads "Jesus" in Arabic*

helped out were from Iraq and Pakistan.

Also from the HRC were two staff members from its School Integration Program – an Iraqi gentleman who once led Christian Youth in Baghdad, and a Canadian missionary who teaches Hungarian as a foreign language.

For the second year in a row, Americans from College Hill Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati came to volunteer. A Polish theological student who has helped before came again this year in part to fulfill internship requirements, a Kenyan theological student contributed to worship leadership, and the whole program was designed by an American from the RCA who came to Hungary as a volunteer with the Ecumenical Diaconal Year Network.

With so many cultures represented and a wide range of ages, there were sometimes complications. As Hungary is a society where pork is the main meat, for example, the helpers from the nanny programme occasionally had to cook a separate lunch for those children who for religious reasons could not eat what was served by the school.

On the last day, smiling children were asking a tired but satisfied group of adult leaders when the next camp would take place. In order to accommodate the growing demand for such experiences, St. Columba's is looking for volunteers from more churches. For information, please contact Aaron Stevens at [revastevens@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:revastevens@yahoo.co.uk) or +36/70-617-7394.

## WORLD-CLASS BLUEGRASS AT LONGNIDDRY

LONGNIDDRY Parish Church is set to host a second visit from one of Nashville's great bluegrass bands, "Craig Duncan and Friends".

Their concert takes place on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August at 7.30pm.

Two years ago, this group from Tennessee played to a capacity audience at the church as part of their 2008 tour of Scotland. Their music brings together banjo, mandolin, fiddle, guitar and bass, for an authentic sound of the South Eastern United

States.

Their instrumental line-up is coupled with top quality singing of secular and sacred songs by each of the band's members.

Longniddry's minister, the Reverend Dr Robin Hill, himself a bluegrass mandolinist, is excited by the band's return to Scotland: "Craig is quite simply one of the world's finest fiddle players, and he's also a brilliant entertainer.

"It is a huge privilege to have him come back to



*Craig Duncan and Friends*

Longniddry with his wonderful band. This is a rare opportunity to hear bluegrass at its virtuosic best, and we are looking forward to welcoming another capacity audience on the night."

Tickets, priced £7.50 each

(concessions: £5; accompanied children: free) are on sale in advance from Longniddry Parish Church and from Longniddry Dental Practice, with any spare tickets available on the night. All are welcome.

## KINCARDINE AND DEESIDE CELEBRATES THE REFORMATION



*Very Reverend Sandy MacDonald will preach at Auchenblae*

A PRESBYTERY in the north-east is holding a day of celebration to commemorate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Scottish Reformation.

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> August officials from Kincardine and Deeside Presbytery will gather at Auchenblae for a series of short services and talks about the great reformers including John Knox and George Wishart.

At 6pm at Auchenblae Church former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Very Reverend Sandy MacDonald will preach the sermon during a service of thanksgiving.

Earlier in the day there will be a short thanksgiving service for early

missionaries to the north-east of Scotland at St Palladius Church ruins, and a service marking the reformers at the George Wishart Memorial.

In a couple of additional extras, the Auchenblae Heritage Group will supply visitors with a guided map of the village, and there will also be exhibitions in the primary school and village hall courtesy of local pupils and Aberdeenshire Libraries.

Organiser Reverend Ronald Gall said: "George Wishart was born in the area and was on of the martyrs, so we felt it was very appropriate to have the celebration at Auchenblae. Everyone is welcome to join us, regardless of denomination."

## CHRISTIAN AID HOSTS HOLYROOD CLIMATE CHANGE EVENT

CHRISTIAN Aid is hosting a discussion on climate change during the Scottish Parliament's Festival of Politics.

The event will explore the unjust effects of climate change and whether we should look to politicians or ourselves to respond to the challenges global warming brings.

Head of Christian Aid Scotland Reverend Kathy

Galloway will talk to writer and activist Alastair McIntosh and Michael Northcott from the University of Edinburgh.

It takes place on Thursday 19 August at 11am at the Scottish Parliament. The event is free, but ticketed.

To reserve tickets, which will incur a booking fee, contact The Hub on 0131 473 2000.



*Reverend Kathy Galloway*

## HAITI APPEAL RAISES £60,000

A CHARITY run by a Church of Scotland minister has raised £60,000 to help those affected by January's earthquake in Haiti.

Through its international aid efforts, Glasgow the Caring City has been able to supply medicines to 10 emergency clinics, as well as provide tented accommodation, daily food and safe water to over 2,500 people.

Chief executive officer, Reverend Neil Galbraith, currently Moderator of Glasgow Presbytery and minister in Cathcart, said: "Our priority, as a development charity responding to international

disasters, is to protect the lives of children living in crisis.

"We do so by addressing four key emergencies in the daily life of a child survivor of a disaster – health, nutrition, education and security.

"During our public appeal for Haiti we generated cash incomes of £60,000.

"In addition to this, we also received a £17,000 grant from the Scottish Government to assist our shipping programmes, reducing the delivery time of aid to the disaster zone and empowering our local partnerships to assist more victims.

"Through our links with business and industries we secured new medical, nutrition, shelter and hygiene products, which supported the victim relief efforts, with an estimated market value of £6 million."

In partnership with a consortium of international development charities, Glasgow the Caring City has also invested money in the reconstruction of the Good Samaritan School in Cite Soleil.

It is hoped that the nine classrooms will be ready for the target completion date of January 2011, a year after the earthquake.



*As well as providing food relief, Glasgow the Caring City is also rebuilding a nine-classroom school*

Two of these classrooms will be named in recognition of the charity's input - the new front gate and security wall which have already been completed are being painted blue in tribute to the Scottish charity.

## REMINDER – ANNUAL REVIEWS

CONGREGATIONS have been urged to get in touch with the communications department at 121 as soon as possible if they require further copies of the Church of Scotland 2010 Annual Review.

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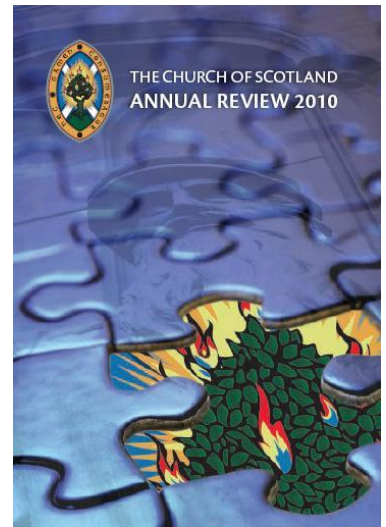
With good stewardship in

mind, the team asks that anyone within a commutable distance of Edinburgh consider the possibility of picking extra copies up from the Kirk's headquarters on George Street instead of having parcels mailed out.

This year is the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland and the stories in the Review reflect how the Kirk is constantly re-forming and facing the challenge of change.

The size of the booklet has changed this year from A4 to A5. This has the effect of reducing print and distribution costs, and the Kirk has also received financial support from Newton Investment Management, one of the Church's investment managers, for the production of the Review.

You can view a copy of the Review online here: <http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/organisation/organnrevindex.htm>



*The 2010 Annual Review*

## MODERATOR BACKS COMMUNITY PAYBACK ORDERS

THE Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has praised the Scottish Government decision to replace short prison sentences with community payback orders.

MSPs voted on the Criminal Justice and Licensing (Scotland) Bill at the end of June and Right Reverend John Christie voiced the Kirk's clear opposition to the use of short periods of imprisonment.

The Moderator said: "Most professionals in the criminal justice field recognise that sentences of less than three months for minor crimes are

inappropriate and do little or nothing to rehabilitate an offender.

"Community sentencing for offenders is proven to offer significant advantages in terms of reducing significantly the likelihood of re-offending.

"The most up-to-date figures show that 74 per cent of offenders who were jailed for six months or less re-offended within two years of release, whereas just over 40 per cent of those given a fine or community service order re-offended.

"Taking these two factors together it seems that community sentencing

offers a significant improvement in management of those convicted of minor offences."

Mr Christie also responded to criticism that it was a "soft" option: "The alternative to short sentences is not letting people off, but a sensible and just and robust response which benefits the community because it intervenes in a cycle of crime and punishment.

"With the prison population increasing by almost a third over the last decade, we have to do something to relieve the problems of overcrowding. Increasing the use of

community sentences instead of short periods of imprisonment leaves prisons free to focus on the rehabilitation of serious offenders."

The Church of Scotland has been actively engaged with the prison system for many years, drawing on the experience of chaplains, prison support workers and volunteers.

A report to the 2007 General Assembly called "Alternatives to Custody" advocated the need for quality community sentences as well as encouraging church groups to get involved in the criminal justice system.

## CHRISTIAN BOOKSHOP OPENS NEXT TO KIRK'S HQ

A NEW Christian bookshop has opened in the heart of Edinburgh's city centre, next to the Church of Scotland's headquarters.

The Kirk has announced that a Living Oasis Bookshop will temporarily fill the vacant premises on George Street, where Wesley Owen previously was. It is being launched by the Nationwide Christian Trust.

Angus Macpherson, convener of the Church's Central Services Committee, said: "The Central Services Committee is very pleased that Living Oasis are temporarily taking over the George Street bookshop. We warmly welcome them and wish them every success.

"This will continue the ministry to the Church and the wider community so faithfully carried out by the

Wesley Owen bookshop for many years."

IBS-STL UK, the company behind former tenants Wesley Owen, went into administration last year, and the premises have been unoccupied since the bookshop closed in February.

The new store opened on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July.



*121 George Street  
Church of Scotland headquarters*



*A quiet day in  
Greenock*



*The camera spots  
former Mod*



*Getting ready  
to Hoover*



*Hope they're not  
instructions!*



*"What was that?!!"*



*A quick get-away*

## FORMER MOD CAUGHT ON CAMERA

AFTER 12 hectic months of non-stop engagements, you can understand why some former Moderators try to keep a low profile as they settle back into parish life.

Very Reverend Bill Hewitt was doing his best to keep his head down in public, until he was cheekily caught on camera by an unknown visitor who then sped off into the distance.

Mercifully for the communications office it was not a News of the World photographer with a scandalous front page scoop, but the Google Street View camera car capturing parts of the Westburn parish in Greenock.

As the photos show, Mr

Hewitt must've been following Paul's teaching in the first letter to the Thessalonians – making it his ambition to lead a quiet life, to mind his own business and to work with his hands... in this instance preparing to Hoover his Jeep.

The uninvited visitor swooped down taking photos as it went, catching a series of shots of last year's Moderator outside his manse.

Mr Hewitt said: "Despite today's spiritual vacuum, it's nice to know the work of former Moderators is still recognised.

"Perhaps I should do a valet service to supplement the stipend."