

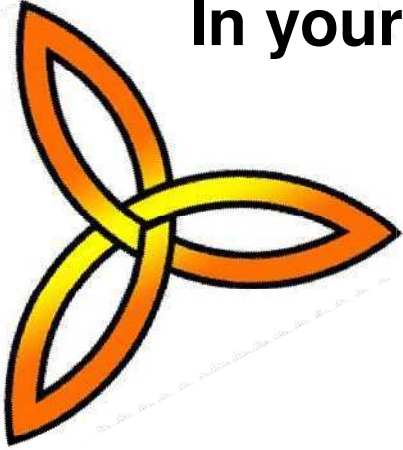
May 2011

**E
N
C
O
U
N
T
E
R**

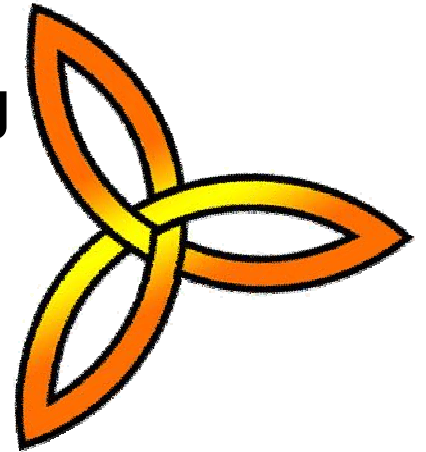


Inside this month ..
Christian Aid Week – Baden-Powell Challenge
Plus all the usual congregational news.

**May the Sending One sing in you,
May the Seeking One walk with you,
May the Greeting One stand by you,
In your gladness and your grieving**



**May the Gifted One relieve you,
May the Given One retrieve you
May the Giving One receive you
In your falling and your restoring**



**May the Binding One unite you,
May the One Belov'd invite you,
May the Loving One delight you,
Three-in-One, joy in life unending**



Dear Friends

Celebrate Easter! Well we certainly did!

A beautiful morning up the Bass (well for some), a delicious breakfast and then a time to celebrate in worship. Celebrating Christ's Resurrection, but also celebrating our own lives from one to one hundred and everything in between.

But of course it is not a past event. The beauty of Easter is that it becomes part of our ongoing lives. Oh sure the chocolate eggs will disappear from the shops, but all the things that are really Easter stay with us. Life, love, joy and hope.

Yes life will have its' challenges. Yes love might not be all we thought it would be. Sure we may not feel like being cheerful every day. But when we lose hope life is at its' bleakest. It is then that we most of all need to remember the Resurrection message – "Lo, I am with you till the end of all time!"

So if you were celebrating your 100th birthday – and at least one of us was. If you were enjoying having the family with you – and some of us were able to do that. If we were simply enjoying the beautiful spring morning or maybe even a little uncertain about what lies ahead for us in the next wee while, may we all hold that sense of God with us. Yes I know that sounds a bit like Christmas greeting but then that is what the Christ child was all about.

"Thine be the glory, Risen conquering Son. Endless is the victory thou o'er death hast won."

With best wishes.

Jan B Groves



April's meeting was conducted by the members of the committee and we were joined by members of St. Andrew's guild.

Our speaker for the evening was Eleanor Forbes from the Aberdeen branch of the national charity "Street Pastors". The group was first started up in London and branches have spread up all over the country. The Aberdeen group is formed from various churches in Aberdeen and led by an Officer of the Salvation Army. They provide both physical and spiritual support to people who are on the streets of Aberdeen during the weekend.

Every Friday and Saturday night nine people, split into groups of three, walk (between the hours of 10pm and 4am) on busy Union Street and the side streets, where most of the night clubs and young folks congregate. They provide anything from a listening ear to a pair of flip flops. The footwear being for young ladies who cannot walk in high heels after a night out. They are in constant radio contact with CCTV monitoring unit of Grampian Police.

The Street Pastors can diffuse a situation where often police attendance acts as an inflammatory presence. The volunteers work only one weekend a month, but at other times attend training courses and fundraising events. It was a very interesting and enlightening talk with an excellent video showing their work in Aberdeen.

We retired downstairs for hospitality where Mrs. Florence, who is 100 years old on the 24th of April was presented with a surprise birthday cake.

Our next meeting is our summer social on the 28th of June come and enjoy a lovely meal and the singing voices of "Spectrum", further information from Ann-Marie Coleman or Margaret Harrow.



Baden - Powell Challenge

Congratulations to Harriet Paterson who has recently attained her Baden-Powell Challenge Award - the highest award available for Guides.

To gain the award Guides have to complete 10 “clauses” out of 5 different “zones” - *celebrating diversity, healthy lifestyles, skills and relationships, discovery and global awareness.*

Harriet writes of her challenge.

From Zone One I chose three clauses altogether. The first was Agility which involved skipping, walking and ball control. For the second I organised a Sports Competition for other patrols involving gymnastics, javelin and long jump and for the third, as a complete contrast, with two friends Ruth and Louise, who both also attained the award, I planned a Reflection session which I really enjoyed.

In Zone Two several of us chose to do an International evening so I focussed on France and brought in food, drink and activities to do with France. I gave each girl a copy of our Guiding song "taps" in French.

Also in Zone Two I spoke to my patrol about Fairtrade and showed them a DVD about people working on a Fairtrade cocoa plantation. I organised a quiz about this kind of chocolate then they designed their own Fairtrade chocolate bar. I made some chocolate tiffin using Fairtrade chocolate and cocoa.

4

Zone Three was a bit special with a visit to see "X Factor Live" tour. I was so excited! Jamie Archer was really good and got the crowd excited! My favourite acts of the night were John and Edward who I hated on the live shows, but I loved them on the tour. In fact I loved it all so much I'm going back this year!

A "Welcome to Guides" poster completed the Zone 3 part and for Zone Four I organised a trip with my patrol to 10 Pin Bowling. I'm not very good at it but we had a lot of fun!

My favourite clause was to organise an activity based on today's clothing. I got female templates and my patrol used them to design their ideal guide uniform. It was very interesting to see what we would like to wear to guides - everyone had different ideas.



Harriet gets her award watched by sister Olivia

In Zone Five, I made a collage that reflected myself. It contained pictures of me with family and friends, sweets I like and tv programmes I enjoy watching.

In November 2010 I went on my B-P adventure to Cullen. I have made some really good friends on this camp and did really fun activities - making Christmas decorations, going for a walk round Cullen, making our own cocktails and loads more.

Firmly I believe, Lord
 That your prodigious mind
 Created this whole earth.
 To your artist's hand
 Beauty owed its birth:
 The stars and the moon,
 The cottages, the lakes,
 Little boats bobbing
 Down river to the sea,
 Vast coffee plantations
 White cotton fields
 And the forests felled
 By the criminal axe ...

In you I believe,
 maker of thought and music,
 maker of the wind,
 maker of peace and love.

Christ the worker,
 I believe in you,
 Light of light and God's true
 Only begotten son,
 That to save the world you,
 in Mary's humble womb grew
 and became human.



I believe that you were
 beaten,
 treated with scorn,
 martyred on the cross
 under Pilate's command

I believe in you, friend,
 human Christ,
 Christ the worker,
 death you've overcome.
 Your fearful suffering
 brought the new human
 being
 born for freedom.

You still rise again
 each time we raise an arm
 to defend the people
 from the profiteering
 dominion,
 because you are alive on the
 farm, in the factory
 and in school.
 I believe your fight goes on,
 I believe in your resurrection.

Christian Aid - Helping people in poverty out of poverty.



Christian Aid Week is a time to celebrate **transformation**. When we give our time, money and energy on Christian Aid week, we are looking beyond ourselves and enabling others to do what seems to be impossible. Imagine a world which offered an abundant life for **all**. Jesus showed us this world, one in which we stop living for ourselves and start living for others, a world in which we redefine the concept of looking after our neighbour.

Christian Aid partner, *Soppexcca*, is committed to this concept. It helps our neighbours in Nicaragua in real and practical ways - ways which beat poverty and thus transform lives.



Gustavo Adolfo Talavera is one example of a life transformed. An illiterate coffee farmer, he had few prospects in life until Soppexcca gave him a loan, allowing him to expand his farm then build an environmentally-sound processing plant.

However Gustavo wanted to break the cycle of poverty for the next generation too; he had a dream of his children being able to read, write and be educated. Again Soppexcca helped the community to gather their resources and a group of parents worked together to build a school.



Now, twelve years on, they have formed the *Los Alpes Co-operative* and have added a health centre. Transformed lives, indeed.

Such initiatives are not only worthwhile in themselves, they help to drive others too. Five years ago Eladio Simeon Pineda was one of a group of poor farm labourers, barely surviving, when Soppexcca offered them credit to establish themselves as a co-operative of coffee farmers. They now have their own Community Fund. And what do they hope for? A school, clean water and latrines for all. Such basics for us; such dreams for them. But Eladio knows it's possible: they can see the bigger picture so they work to make it happen.

These two communities have progressed from basic survival to a more abundant life. Two improbable dreams have come true - thanks to the dogged determination of the people and the practical assistance given by Soppexcca. So next time we give time or money to Christian Aid, remember - the reality is that ***it transforms lives***.



David & Rebecca Morton - Malawi

c/o Nkhoma Hospital, PO Box 48, Nkhoma, Malawi

Dear Family and Friends,

Hebrews, Chapter 2, v 8 says about Jesus, "In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him." In my experience, especially here and now, that last sentence is one of the most understated in all of Scripture.

A few days ago a three week old baby girl was brought to Nkhoma. The mother had died at the birth with unclear details. The baby was seen shortly after with a birth weight of 2.7 kilos [about 6 pounds] and left in the care of family. When brought to us three weeks later she weighed 1.9 kilos [4.2 pounds], was critically ill with fever, diarrhoea, hypothermia and apparent sepsis. Initial care required careful monitoring, placement in an infant warmer, intravenous fluids, antibiotics, tube feedings and prayer.

However, the infant warmers [and we do have some nice ones with electronic temperature monitoring and vital sign monitoring], were all occupied by newborns and in any case this girl could not be placed in the delivery room because of the potential of cross infection to the other babies. So we did the best we could by putting together a more basic arrangement with heaters and hot water bottles, and moved her to the children's ward. But then the family members who brought her were nowhere to be found.

As with most rural African hospitals, we are very dependent upon family members to act as guardians and provide the basic care while a patient is hospitalized. However, we arranged for one of our own staff to help, further stretching our already thin staff. The next day we got our chaplain involved and located family who came to take up their role. Then the next night the girl died. "Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him."

We admitted 1200 patients to the children's ward in January many of whom are eligible to be covered under the service level agreement with the district. When we submitted the bill, however, the reaction was that the bill was too high to cover. It did not seem to help matters to point out that the one of the reasons we had so many patients was that the government units around us did not have any drugs to treat malaria for most of the month (for reasons best known to the district).

One answer to prayer though, is that we have not ourselves run out of our main oral malaria drug, LA, and that the donation program is still operational, though it takes more effort to get the drugs to us.

Financially, in addition to the less than enthusiastic response to our January invoice to the district health office [it totalled over 4.2 million Malawian Kwacha, or \$28,000], we have not yet been paid for December [3.2 million Kwacha or \$21,000].

Being down to three doctors is also putting a strain on us. These are the things to pray for:

1. That I will have faith to see that all things are subject to Christ.
2. That another doctor will come soon, one who has experience in surgery and obstetrics, and has his/her own funding.
3. That the district will pay what they owe so the hospital can continue to obtain what we need to provide care. Patients never stop coming so we have to care for them the best we can with what we have.
4. That our staff will do their jobs with faithfulness.
5. That I will be better able to carve out time for prayer and devotional life. I did manage to memorize Psalm 6 this last week though Psalm 13 is more where I am right now.
6. That we will have great wisdom in treating so many difficult patients and know how to handle the losses.
7. That we will know joy and not be overwhelmed.

Thank you for your prayers and give thanks for all the people and churches that have so generously helped the hospital.



Photo : Jim Hatter

Congratulations to Bess Florence who celebrated her 100th birthday with us on Easter Sunday.

We were delighted to be able to be part of her special occasion as we celebrated life in our Easter morning worship.

Calendar For May

- Sun 1st **11.00 a.m.** Worshipping Together. Crèche available.
- Mon 2nd **7.30 p.m.** Acorn Centre Management Committee meets in the Chapel
- Wed 4th **7.30 p.m.** “Stillness and Silence” – an opportunity to take time out.
- Sun 8th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Junior Church and Crèche.
- Mon 9th **7.30 p.m.** Congregational Board meets in the Church
- Tues 10th **7.30 p.m.** Kirk Session Ministry Sub Group meets in the Library
- Sun 15th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship for Christian Aid Sunday
2.00 p.m. Hospital Worship in Donbank Ward
6.30 p.m. Christian Aid Dedication Service in Kemnay Church.
- Christian Aid Week. See next page for full details.
- Tues 17th **7.30 p.m.** Kirk Session Worship Sub Group meets in the Library.
- Sun 22nd **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship with Act of Child Blessing. Junior Church and Crèche.
- Tues 24th **7.30 p.m.** Junior Church Leaders meet in the Acorn Centre
- Sat 28th **10.00am** Safeguarding training for volunteers in the West Church Chapel
- Sun 29th **11.00 a.m.** Morning Worship followed by short celebration of the Lord’s Supper. Junior Church and Crèche.

Christian Aid Week 2011
15th – 21st May

Books and Bakes

West Church Hall,
Mon -Sat
10am till 4pm.

House to House Collection

(which last year raised about £7,000)

If you are able to volunteer – either to help organise a section of the collection, or in collecting door to door please contact Irene Strachan 01467 642995

Christian Aid Dedication Service

Kemnay Parish Church
6.30pm Sunday, May 15th

Inverurie West Parish Church
Plant Sale

Saturday 28th May 2011

10.00 a.m. - 12 noon

A whole range of plants available
Including annuals, perennials and shrubs.