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Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

“Signpost” comes to you with the greetings of the minister and congregation of Alloway Parish Church. Contained within you will find a variety of articles, which we hope are informative of church and community life.

I find, as one gets older, every year should be treated as a special year. Inside you will read that 2011 is the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. On reading a more modern version, one lady quipped, “If the King James was good enough for Moses, it’s good enough for me.”

While I find there is “wonderful music” in the old version, ministers are always on the lookout to communicate the Bible truths in a more modern idiom. Indeed, it is important to translate the Bible in our own cultural terms. The famous Japanese version of the 23rd Psalm is case in point. It comes as a great reminder that, in our lives of busyness, we all need to be still, to reflect, contemplate, pray and be thankful.

*The Lord is my Pace-setter, I shall not rush;
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.
He provides me with images of stillness,
which restore my serenity.
He leads me in ways of efficiency
through calmness of mind,
and His guidance is peace.
Even though I have a great many things
to accomplish each day,
I will not fret, for His presence is here;
His timelessness, His all importance,
will keep me in balance.
He prepares refreshment and renewal
in midst of my activity,
By anointing my mind with His oils of tranquillity.*

*My cup of joyous energy overflows,
surely harmony and effectiveness
shall be the fruits of my hours,
for I shall walk in the place of my Lord
and dwell in His house forever.*

(Toki Miyashina)

Assuring you of a warm welcome from the church, which was purpose built for worship and service in the village.

Yours in Him,

Rev Neil McNaught

Remembering Jack Mustarde

*Lives of great men all remind us
We can make our lives sublime,
And, departing, leave behind us
Footprints on the sands of time.*

H. W. Longfellow (1807 - 1882)

A service of thanksgiving was held last year for the life of a former member and parishioner, Glasgow born plastic surgeon Mr Jack Mustarde. Jack died in Tetbury on the 16th of October 2010. He was 94 years old.

Jack's life from the outset was full of adventure. During the war he served in the Medical Corps. He served in Tobruk, chiefly as an eye surgeon. On returning home he honed his skill as a reconstructive surgeon, serving with distinction as a consultant in Canniesburn and in the local Ayrshire hospitals.

In his seventies Jack retired to Ayrshire. However, soon he would be giving a whole new meaning to 'active retirement': he set out to speak in Ghana. He found himself tasked by the President of Ghana to set up a hospital and centre of excellence for plastic surgery in his country. No such facilities were available

there at that time. There was much work to be done. Money was raised and donated from many sources, and finally, at a cost of £300,000, on the 27th of May 1997, Ghana's President Rawlings opened the new hospital.

In 1992 BBC Scotland made a television documentary called "The Hospital that Jack Built". He was given the award "Great Scot of the Year", and was awarded the OBE for services to Ghana. President Rawlings made him Knight of the Order of the Volta.

In the year 2000, members of Alloway Parish Church paid for an operation a day for a full year in the hospital. Jack's work continues under Martin Webster. More information can be found at www.resurgeafrica.com.

At his service a young surgeon from Jack's Hospital in Ghana, who had travelled all the way to represent the staff, movingly quoted in his tribute:

"What we do for ourselves dies with us. What we do for others and the world remains and is immortal."

Rev Neil McNaught

From the Assistant Minister

By the time you read this I will be gone ... I have really enjoyed my time as part of both Alloway Church and the communities of Alloway and Doonfoot, and particularly enjoyed meeting people around the area. It's been great to be here! As I write I have been elected Minister of Gartcosh and Glenboig Churches (North Lanarkshire, just east of Glasgow), but I hope there will be opportunities to come back and visit in due course.

With every blessing to you and yours for a joyful Easter,

Dave Slater

Alloway Flower

Fellowship

presents



SUNDAY FLOWERS

A demonstration by Ada Paul

Wednesday 27 April 2011
At 7.30 pm in the Large Hall

Tickets available from Flower Fellowship Members

The Flower Fellowship

The Flower Fellowship currently comprises some 50 members of the congregation who, on a rota basis, arrange the flowers in church on Sundays and during the summer opening, as well as decorating the church at Christmas, Easter and Harvest.

If you would be interested in joining the Fellowship, please contact either Christine Bryson (tel 441714) or Mollie Milliken (tel 441186). A warm welcome is assured.

The King James and Other Bibles

The English Bible, a book which, if everything else in our language should perish, would alone suffice to show the whole extent of its beauty and power.

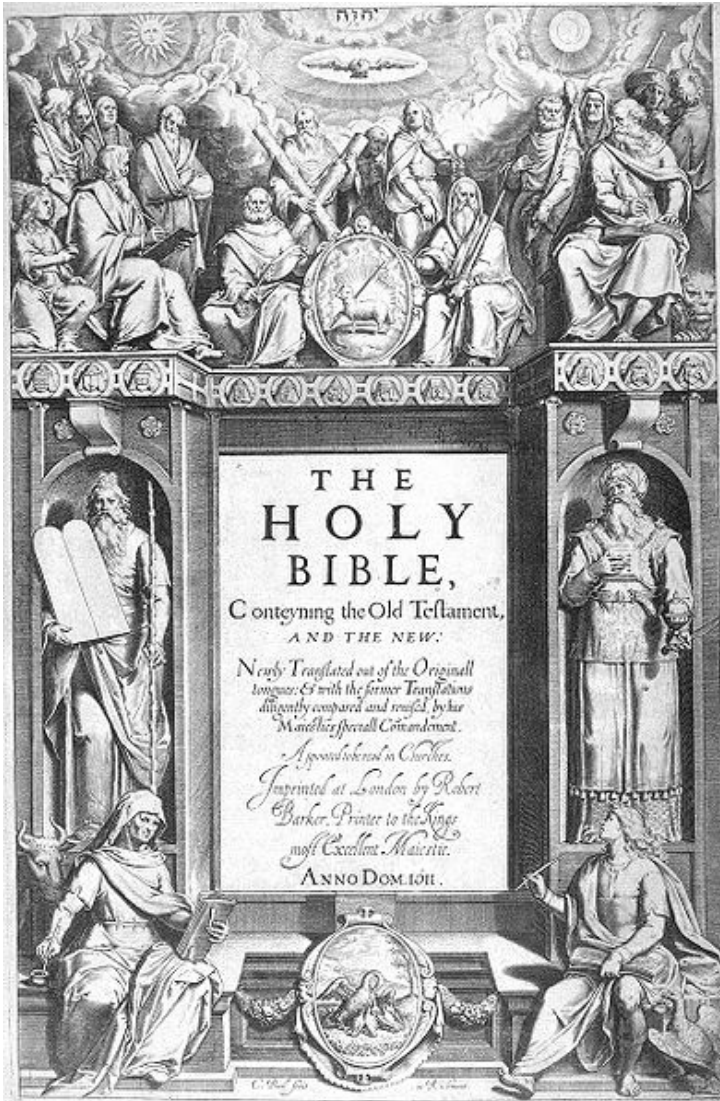
Thomas Babington, 1st Baron Macaulay (1800 – 1859)

This year marks the 400th anniversary of the publication of the *King James Bible*, the “Authorised Version”. It remains to this day one of the finest literary treasures of the English language, and it has become such a familiar part of our cultural heritage that we can all too easily forget that it is, in fact, totally foreign. It is, of course, a translation.

For everyone except perhaps a few biblical scholars, the Bible is inevitably a translation. It has been translated into more than 2,000 languages and is the most translated book of all time. The original language of the Old Testament was Hebrew (except for a few passages in Aramaic). The New Testament was originally written in Greek.

During the 3rd and 2nd centuries BC, the Old Testament texts were translated from Hebrew into Greek for the Greek-speaking Jewish communities in Egypt. These translations became known as the *Septuagint*, from the Latin word for seventy. It refers to a rather dubious account of how seventy-two Jewish scholars translated the texts for Ptolemy II’s Royal Library in Alexandria. The story goes that each scholar translated all the Old Testament texts independently, in total isolation from the others, in seventy-two days, and that all the translations turned out to be identical.

Although the *Septuagint* had fallen into disuse among the Jews by the time of Jesus, the early Christians of the first three centuries after the Crucifixion used these Greek translations of the Old Testament texts, since Greek was the common language of the Eastern Mediterranean at that time. They remain in use to this day as the Old Testament of the Greek Orthodox Church.



The title page of the first edition of the King James Bible. The Apostles Peter and Paul are shown seated immediately above the text, the remaining Apostles standing around them. The figures of Moses and Aaron are standing on either side of the text. Seated in the four corners are Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

Old Testament passages were also being translated into Latin during that early period. New Testament texts were becoming available then too. Together they were known to Greek-speakers as *τὰ βιβλία* (*ta biblia*, the books), the origin of our word 'Bible'.

The language of these Old Latin manuscripts was generally of a rather poor quality, which prompted Pope Damasus I to commission a revision of the texts of the four Gospels in 382. The man charged with this revision was Sophronius Eusebius Hieronymus, better known today as Saint Jerome. He translated the four Gospels, but he did not stop there. In 405 he completed what was to become the definitive Bible of Western Christianity for more than a thousand years: the *Vulgate*.

The earliest translations into Old English were interlinear glosses, translations of the Latin *Vulgate* text written between the lines of mediaeval manuscripts. The oldest extant translation of a biblical text into English is an interlinear gloss added to the *Lindisfarne Gospels* in the tenth century. The manuscript itself was written much earlier, around 715.

It was in the 14th century that interest in English translations of the Latin Bible grew rapidly, in spite of opposition by the church. The first complete Bible in English, translated by John Wycliffe with the assistance of a number of other like-minded theologians, appeared in manuscript in 1382.

The new technology of printing with moveable type, which arrived in the mid-15th century, was immediately applied to the production of Bibles. In fact, the first book printed in this way was a Bible: the *Gutenberg Bible*. But the language was still Latin.

The first biblical text to be printed in English was William Tyndale's 1525 translation of the New Testament. Tyndale was inspired by his famous contemporary, Martin Luther, who translated the Bible into German. And, like Martin Luther, he went back to Greek and Hebrew sources, rather than working from the

Latin text of the *Vulgate*. Together with his subsequent work on translating the Old Testament, it formed the basis of the first complete and authorised edition of the Bible to be printed in English. Known as the *Great Bible*, it was published in six editions between 1539 and 1568, when it was replaced by the *Bishops' Bible*.

In 1560 another Bible in English appeared on the scene. The work of Protestant refugees in Geneva, it became known as the *Geneva Bible*. Its association with Knox and Calvin made it the natural Bible of choice in Scotland. It was the first Bible to be printed in Scotland in 1579, and a law was passed requiring everyone who could afford the price to buy a copy.

But all translations seem destined to be revised and replaced. In May 1601, King James VI of Scotland attended the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland at which yet another English translation of the Bible was proposed. Two years later, he became James I of England as well and, at the Hampton Court Conference in 1604, the matter of a new translation was raised there too. James disliked the existing translations, particularly the *Geneva Bible*, and readily agreed to the creation of a new English Bible.

The task of revising and translating was shared among forty-seven Church of England scholars, working from original Greek and Hebrew texts, and the earlier English translations, particularly Tyndale's translations. Started in 1604, the work was completed and published in 1611. Although it is often referred to as the "Authorised Version", it was never officially authorised for use in church services. Nonetheless, it caught on and replaced even the *Geneva Bible*, which was last printed in 1644.

Despite its popularity, the *King James Bible* has not been immune to a bit of interference. In its long history it has been subject to several revisions well into the twentieth century. And the twentieth century has also brought other modern translations, providing a variety of styles to suit every taste. That is, until ...

Jim Andrews

Springtime in Holland

In April 2010, 49 people from Alloway Parish Church set off on a five day trip to Holland, travelling by coach and ferry via Newcastle to IJmuiden (Amsterdam). Our first stop in Holland was at the Keukenhof Gardens, where some seven million flowers provided a wonderfully colourful display of nature's glories and the creativity of the human mind. It is a great showcase for the Dutch flower industry, and we mingled with many nationalities from all over the world who had come to see this exceptional springtime wonder. Thankfully, we were blessed with sparkling weather for this, mainly outdoor, exhibition.

After an overnight stay at our Hotel in Noordwijk, our coach took us to central Amsterdam and a visit to the Anne Frank House, a museum with a very personal story. It is a fascinating insight into recent European history. A house where the bustling crowds of visitors become quieter, more reflective and thoughtful, as they make their way up and down its steep stairways and corridors. A sense of sadness for the father, Otto Frank, who survived the Nazi persecution, but whose immediate family did not. The bitter-sweet recognition that a girl, who wanted to be an author in life, actually achieved it after her death.

Then it was a total change of scene as our travellers went off to sample the various delights of Amsterdam before returning in the evening to Noordwijk.

Our last day in Holland was again in central Amsterdam - this time at the Begijnhof, an enclosed courtyard of 14th century residences, the former homes of the Catholic Sisterhood of the Beguines - an oasis of calm in the middle of urban clamour. The original chapel of the Beguines was taken from them in 1578 during the Reformation, re-opened for Protestant worship in 1607, and now comes under the Church of Scotland's Presbytery of Europe. It remains one of the oldest buildings in Amsterdam. Today it is a lively church serving some 330 English-speaking worshippers



The Begijnhof, Amsterdam

from 30 different countries. We enjoyed a talk on its history and function, and were privileged to have Communion served to us in this historic sanctuary. It was fascinating to realise that the Pilgrim Fathers worshipped in this church for 18 months before deciding to sail to America on the *Mayflower*.

After further explorations in central Amsterdam, we made our way to the ferry terminal at IJmuiden and back overnight via Newcastle to Alloway.

We had witnessed the joyous colours of Keukenhof, the cruelty of humans to one another and the turbulent history of our own Christian heritage – a lot to experience in five days.

Donald & Sheena Kemp

Our New Neighbours

Robert Burns Birthplace Museum – the National Trust for Scotland’s largest ever project – has opened its doors to the public. It is the culmination of a 5 year project to build a new home for one of Scotland’s most important literary collections.

In 2009, Burns Cottage and smallholding were reopened following extensive renovations, including the transformation of the old museum into a new education centre. The next part of the project was to build a brand new museum in the south of the village, to showcase the collection given to the National Trust for Scotland in 2008.

Opened to the public in December last year, the new museum houses an exhibition of 350 objects from the birthplace collection. Visitors can see highlights from the collection grouped into three main themes, as well as a unique exhibition of Burns portraiture by Ayrshire artist Peter Howson. Twenty five interactives in the museum space and an immersive cinematic show in the main gallery help bring the collection to life, and aim “to make the birthplace of Burns a place of inspiration for every visitor”.

A new café offering a wide range of snacks and meals, and a museum shop stocked with new products – some made especially for the museum – are also now open to the public.

David Hopes, Project Curator: “The opening museum is something that a huge number of people have been working on for the best part of five years. There is absolutely no way this could have happened without the firm support of the local community, not least Burns Clubs, the Burns Monument Trust (the former owners of Burns Cottage and Museum, and Burns Monument), and Alloway and Doonfoot Community Council. It has been an honour to work alongside so many inspirational people, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the material legacy of Burns matches the high esteem with which the poet is regarded, especially here in Ayrshire.”

But Nat Edwards, the Museum Director, is very clear that the new museum is only the beginning of the rebirth of Burns in Alloway: "Although the project to create Robert Burns Birthplace Museum is nearing its end, there remains much work to be done to ensure visitors and local people continue to be inspired by the poet's birthplace."



"Inspired", by Peter Howson – one of the portraits in the special exhibition, Howson: Burns Revealed, which runs till 3rd July 2011. Reproduced by kind permission of the artist.

Climbing the Heights for Basic Education

On the 23rd September 2010 I stood on the roof of Africa at 5,893m/19,334ft above sea level on Mount Kilimanjaro. For me and my fellow walkers (one from Ayr and others from across the UK and USA), the climb was the toughest physical challenge of our lives. But as a team we made it, overcoming altitude, exhaustion, and sub-zero temperatures to reach the summit to see the sunrise – a truly spiritual moment for all of us.

Driving us on during the difficult time was always the thought of raising as much money as possible for our chosen charity. With a population of over 12 million, Mali is among the least developed and poorest countries in the world, ranking 168 out of 177 in the 2008 United Nations Human Development Index. An estimated 69% of the population lives below the poverty line, surviving on less than \$1 a day. This has a huge negative impact on the lives of children, as it forces them into working the land from a very early age, and deprives them of an education, which in turn has devastating effects on the future of the community. (A literate young woman in Africa is 40% less likely to contract HIV/AIDS.)

L'Agence Evangélique de Développement du Mali (AEDM) is a Malian community organisation established in 1994 to help the poorest people by promoting health, education, democracy and human rights. One of their most successful projects has been the establishment of their Passarelle or 'second chance' schools supporting children aged 8 - 12 to develop numeracy and literacy skills before entering mainstream education, which they had previously missed out on. Our aim was to raise £3000 to provide schooling for one community: 23 children in the village of Ogodouroukoun will benefit from the school. Having now raised over £5000, we are on the way to helping a second community break out of the cycle of deprivation. If you could help, please visit www.justgiving.com/kilimanjaro-or-bust. Many thanks.

Jamie Gale

Lunch for £3.50

Do you know where you can buy a two-course lunch in Alloway for just £3.50? I do. Let me give you some sample menus.



This food can be enjoyed at a leisurely pace with lots of time for friendly chat, or as a quick bite if you need to rush.

Unfortunately this deal is only available on the last Thursday of September, October, November, January, February, March and April from 12.00 to 1.30 pm.

Where do you find this wonderful offer? At Alloway church hall.

You will be made most welcome. So, why not give it a try.

Have You Got the Bug?

I mean the Stamp Collecting Bug! I have. It crept up on me slowly around the time I was in primary 4 and took a firm grip. Now I know some of you are probably thinking “stamp collecting, that’s for old folks”, but I can assure you it is fun for everyone. You can do it wherever you wish, at home or with friends in an organised club, whatever the weather. It doesn’t need to cost much and you only need a few basic items of equipment to collect stamps: tweezers to help you handle the stamps with care, a magnifying glass, as no matter how good your eyes are there’s lots of fine detail hidden on stamps, and a stock book or album to store your stamps.

As I was saying, I joined a stamp club when I was in Primary 4 at Doonfoot Primary School and, having learned the art of handling the stamp hinges (things you stick stamps down with), I was very soon encouraged to enter my first competition. I collect stamps on a particular theme, rather than a country, to tie in with my chosen competition topic. My first entry, ‘Rainbow Flowers’ was four pages, then I moved on to eight-page entries, which included one called ‘Rabbits and Hares’ and another entitled ‘A Walk in the Park’ based around Bellisle Park. Now at secondary school I am doing sixteen-page entries, my latest being on things that fly other than the obvious birds and aeroplanes!

You can get stamps on so many different themes you will always find a subject to interest you whether it be flowers, animals, sports, famous people, cartoons, books, films ... get the idea? You can relate it to other hobbies you may have, like dancing or golf (saves you getting soaked at the first tee!). I have even done a one-page entry on Robert Burns entitled ‘Farmer to Poet’

It takes quite a while to gather enough material for your chosen subject, display it neatly and create a story or write up some information on your collection. Having done all this, it is then out of your hands, as it does the round of stamp competitions both locally and nationally. Then you can sit back and wait to hear how

it has been received by the judges. The interesting thing is an entry that wins at one competition doesn't necessarily do well at another, as it depends what the judges are looking for. I have been really lucky and to my surprise have won many trophies and ribbons, including the UK 'Young Stamp Collector of the Year'.

Working with stamps has taught me how important it is to pay attention to detail and how to lay out your work to make it interesting for the reader, which has helped me with my school work and projects. A bit like noses, stamp collecting seems to be running in our family, and my sister, also an avid collector, is now fast on my heels. She too has won many awards for her displays.

Of course you don't have to enter competitions; you can collect stamps purely for fun, swap them with your friends and learn about other countries. Stamps have been around since the issue of the 'Penny Black' in 1870 and, hopefully, will be around for many years to come, so that the thousands of people around the world who enjoy stamp collecting can continue with their hobby and introduce a few more to it along the way. So, whatever your age or your interests, start your collection today. It's something that will grow with you and can capture a moment in time. Every stamp tells a story.

Claire Mitchell

Easter Services

Holy Week is from Monday 18th to Sunday 24th April.

Weekday services will again be united services with Ayr St Columba Church. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday services will be held each evening at 7.30 pm at Alloway Parish Church. The Maunday Thursday Communion Service will be held at Ayr St Columba Church at 7.30 pm.

Easter Sunday Family Service at Alloway Parish Church is at 10.30 am.

A Year in the Life of a Youth Worker

Alloway Parish Church is fortunate to have a dedicated and enthusiastic youth worker. As well as being involved with the organisations for young people in the Church, she has also become well known for her work in the primary schools in Alloway and Doonfoot.

All I can say is a year in the life of a youth worker goes by incredibly quickly. It seems like just yesterday that I was sitting down and writing for Signpost 2010, and here I am embarking on an update for 2011.

It has been a very busy year for the young people in the Parish. We have enjoyed many events. I would like to take this opportunity to tell you about a few of the highlights. None of these would, of course, be possible without the ongoing support of the Youth Committee of the Church, and also the army of volunteers who step up to support me and the young people at various events and activities.

We were pleased to support the girls who, last summer, took part in Touch the World Christian Missions. Fundraising activities were a jewellery collection, plant stall and a concert in the church. The concert was a joyous evening, when a group of young people came together with a mix of worship and other entertainment – dance, song, comedy and music.

The girls were thrilled to have received great backing for their efforts, raising not only the amount of money they needed to fund their trips, but also enough to pass on a cheque for £846 to the charity for the ongoing Mission work, both here in the UK and in the orphanage in Bulgaria. All of this enabled the girls to step up and out of their comfort zones, to stand up for Christ and to change lives, as they became fruitful disciples, living out their faith and changing the world in Jesus' name.

In June we took part in the Pop Connection event at both of our Primary Schools. This was an exciting religious education,

music and citizenship project for pupils in P5, 6 and 7. They learned seven songs, recorded them, then finished with the pupils from both schools coming together for marvellous and incredibly uplifting concerts in the Church for parents, congregation and the wider community.

After the concerts there was an opportunity for everyone to purchase the fabulous CD. Altogether 300 have been sold. I have lost count of the number of people who have congratulated the Church on making this investment in the two schools in this way. We have a wonderful CD, which I know will provide the pupils with life long memories of this time. We will be announcing soon our plans for yet another amazing experience for the pupils! I am so excited already!

During the last week of the school holidays a huge team of volunteers came together to provide a fantastic summer holiday club – “The Razzamataz Robots”. Altogether we had 60 children and young people enjoying crafts, songs, dancing, dramas, games, snacks and Bible talks, whilst having great fun and experiencing God’s love through all of the leaders, who had given so freely of their time. Plans for next year have already started, when we hope our numbers will grow even further.

In September members of the Youth Group were away at “Fort Rocky”. This is a Christian activity weekend in Glenshee, Perthshire. We had an amazing time. We learned so much about one another, ourselves and God. Being away from home and spending real quality time with the young people is an absolute privilege. To watch the group genuinely connect with the love of God and understand the significance of this unconditional love, and start to take responsibility for their own relationships with Him, is tremendous!

The Alloway Youth Players were thrilled to perform their Panto “Hood” to excellent audiences. This whole project was the work of the young people themselves. Special mention should be

made of Rachael Bamford, who produced and directed the show. Rachael found the script, painted the scenery, gathered props, organised rehearsals, and sold tickets. To me, the excellent performances were just the added bonus – what I witnessed at each rehearsal was the relationships that blossomed within the group; this to me was what it is all about. A real sense of teamwork was evident, and credit should be given to Rachael and Duncan for this.

December of course is always a highlight for any of us who work with the children. Their excitement is infectious. There is nothing so special as watching the Nativity plays, as they re-tell the most famous story in the world in their own wonderful and powerful way.

Alongside these highlights are the regular activities which, from week to week, allow me to spend time with the youngsters not only at Church, but also in the schools, Youth Club, Cosycoffeehouse, Funday School, Bible Class, SU Groups, D Talks worship, uniformed organisations, assemblies and class visits.

I learn so much from them with their questions and thirst for learning. Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.” (Matthew 19 v 14). I pray that, with God’s guidance and prompting, I am able to help children connect with the truth of the Bible early in their Christian lives; this to me is the most incredibly exciting and fulfilling part of my work.

*Julie Griffiths
Youth and Schools Worker*

100th Ayrshire (Alloway) Scouts



World Tour – Belgium 2010

Last year the Scout Troop travelled to Belgium for their summer camp. It had been some years since Alloway Scouts had attended an international camp and it took a year to plan and organise.

Nineteen kilted Scouts and four Leaders left Ayr railway station at 8.13 am on Friday 16th July and travelled to London via Glasgow. Having sat all day (well 6 hours) in the train, we hiked from Kings Cross station to Islington Scout Centre on Holloway Road. This was quite a hike on a very hot evening and carrying full rucksacks, but we got there eventually. The kilts attracted lots of attention. In the Centre with us were some Japanese Scouts heading to Blair Atholl camp in Scotland. They played games with the boys and were good fun.

Saturday morning was an early start with breakfast at McDonalds across the road and then onto the coach and away at 6.30 am. The Japanese Scouts got up to see us off. We travelled to Folkstone and through the Eurotunnel on the coach, then on to Brussels, and finally De Kluis Scout Camp in the Belgian countryside outside Leuven, where we were met by the local representative – an Aussie who lived in Belfast. The beauty of arranging the camp through a Youth Tour Operator is that you arrive and the tents, cooking equipment, dining shelters are all up – you just move in! We did.

The week was virtually wall-to-wall sunshine with only a quick shower of rain Friday lunchtime while at the theme park.

The programme was a mixture of Scouty type things – rafting, mountain biking, climbing and swimming and tourist visits to Bruges, Brussels, and Leuven – often mixing the two. The coach did not stay with us, but returned to England; so we used the Belgian rail network extensively to get around. There are great discounts to be had for travel to some places when you include the entry price as well – also all under 12s were free – but, even so, on Monday we parted with €1,550 for group travel for the week. You’ll have seen from the photos in the Ayrshire Post our summer camp uniform – wonderful bright fluorescent yellow T shirts – this is so that we stood out – we could see the Scouts and they could see us. We did, however, keep counting, as we regularly collected rail workers in their yellow high-viz vests.

Everybody enjoyed the week and all the events but I think the winners were the Oceade swimming pool at the Heysel in Brussels, where twenty-three of us went down a flume chute at the same time (and almost got ourselves kicked out as the max permitted was five people at a time) and Walibi Theme Park. The roller coaster made out of oversized matchsticks had us going round and round again for more excitement. Some other roller coasters were pretty awesome and left you all over the place when they stopped. By the end of the week we were pretty tired and ready for home. We left the site sorrowfully, but almost all slept on the bus back to Islington in London. A quick feed of chicken and chips, then bed.

The journey home was eventful in that we almost didn’t make the train and it stopped at Carlisle (due to a fracas involving the train manager), where we had to wait for another to take us on to Glasgow. We finally made it back on Sunday 25th at 7 pm – tired but very happy and having had a fantastic experience.

This year – a home camp in Scotland, then the Alloway World Tour continues.

*May Gaffney
Scout Leader*

1st Alloway Guides



Celebrating Centenary Year

We started off our Centenary Year with a march through the town and to the Citadel where all the Guides, Brownies and Rainbows from all over the county were gathered in the halls, which were decorated with hundreds of colourful balloon arches and decorations. We sang songs and celebrated the start of our Centenary Year, letting loose a huge net of balloons on the ceiling, which fell onto the crowds. We did lots of different crafts, and there was a shop where we could buy badges, Centenary rubber ducks and loads of other cool items. At the end of the day we were all given little party bags.

During the year we had to collect “Adventure 100 Points” by doing different challenges, games, hosting different nights and having different experiences. There were all kinds of topics and challenges you could try, all shown on the Guiding 100 Map. There were different sections you could choose from, such as Ice Cool and Wacky 100. The activity that I remember most was when our Guides went to the Pudsey Bear Live, in the BBC Scotland studios in Glasgow, and got to be on television with our cheque. We raised £414 for “Children in Need” by collecting one pence pieces and arranging them into the form of a Pudsey Bear.

We did many activities in and out of the halls, like go-karting in the Emotion Centre and having theme nights in the halls. We went ice skating in Glasgow, and also had a night with hot chocolate and marshmallows.

A highlight of our Centenary Year was definitely the Centenary County Camp. Although the bus journey was disastrous with not enough sick bags to go round, we had to camp out in the cold. About six other girls and myself had to fit into a four-man tent, and we were all very tightly packed into our tent a bit like sardines. But we were all very warm, wrapped up in our sleeping bags. Each girl got to choose the two adventurous activities they would like to take part in, and I decided to do the ropes course and the zip line. The ropes course was an obstacle course in the air, which was quite challenging, but great fun. The zip line was definitely my favourite – throwing myself off the high platform and flying over the lake at high speeds.

The Centenary finally finished off at the Citadel, when Girl Guides around the UK made their promise at 20.10 hours on the 20th of the tenth month of 2010. We were all given a special Promise Badge to mark the occasion. Good luck to Girl Guiding for the next hundred years!

Jennifer Ross

Baden Powell Awards

First Alloway Guides restarted in September 2005 and for the first time we have had girls achieve their Baden Powell Award, the highest award that a girl can achieve as a Guide (Queen's Guide is now a Senior Section Award).

Although we were slow off the starting blocks in getting up and running with our programme to help girls achieve the Baden Powell Award, we did it in style, as in all nine girls from the unit achieved it in 2010 – a very fitting personal achievement for these girls, particularly in the Girl Guiding Centenary Year. Kate, Nicola and Fiona were the first three to get established on the Award, and I think it is thanks to their motivation that other girls have been inspired to take up the challenge.

The Award is based on five different zones, *Healthy Lifestyles, Global Awareness, Discovery, Skills and Relationships* and *Celebrating Diversity*. The candidate must choose one option from each zone and a further five options which can be from any zone. This enables each girl to choose things that match her own interests and pose a challenge to her as an individual.

We learned a lot about the girls as individuals through the choices they have made. Some examples of activities that the girls undertook are: planning and running a guide evening on an international theme; organising a Book and a Bun party; finding out about the life of a child in a developing country by linking with children through our church partnership with Bandawe and through Plan International; learning a new skill such as playing the piano or guitar, even learning how to build flat-pack furniture.

Our first three girls received their awards in Church. Annie, Lara and Jessica received their awards at the Ayrshire South Annual Review (attended by all the guiding leaders in the county), and Chloe, Katie and Kathryn chose to have their awards presented by the County Commissioner on our final evening of the term, when we went ice skating at George Square.

“So, what’s next?” you ask. Well, as these young people have moved on from Guides, we have been welcoming new faces. Having welcomed seven new girls in September, and six more after Christmas, we now have a much younger and less experienced Guide group. We are getting to know them, and our older girls are showing them the ropes and inspiring them to achieve their own personal best too.

*Lynn Cooke
Unit Guider*

Touch The World Transform May 2010

In May 2010 I returned to the Isperah Orphanage in Bulgaria. This time I went with TTW Transform, an adult team who, each year, return to the orphanage to do some essential maintenance and building work. We were joined by four Bulgarians who used to live at the orphanage when they were younger. Transform also spend time in the Muhalla, the run down district of the town, working with people from the church there. The people were very happy to see us all. When we joined them to worship, I found it very uplifting. God is in the heart of these people, even though they live in such terrible places, with so little.

This time my experience was very different and, in a lot of ways, a lot more challenging. In 2009 the main part of the trip was to take the children to the mountains for a holiday, only visiting their home for a single afternoon; this time, however, we were at the orphanage every day.

Every night we had team devotions. These really helped to lift our spirits, sharing stories with other members of the team and what they had achieved each day.

The highlight for me was being able to use my artistic talent at the room we had created for the Sunday School. This was room in a house of a lady who goes to the church. She had given over this space, so that the youngsters could come together to learn something of God's love for them. In the room, Jackie and I painted a couple of murals - Noah's Ark and a picture of Creation. I love the idea that these children will see our pictures each Saturday.

Throughout the week we organised kids' activities for the orphans, for when they returned from school. Each day we told the children a different Bible story - Noah, Joseph, David and Goliath and Jonah. We did dances and crafts, like animal masks and crispy cakes. We spent time with the older girls, doing hair and make-up; of course, they insisted on doing mine too. We had

taken hygiene packs for them – simple things like toothbrushes and paste, hair brushes, deodorant and shampoo. They simply loved their gifts – some things we would see as daily essentials were great luxuries to them.

For our last night we tried to do something really memorable. We organised a Scottish night. We taught them all Scottish dancing, ate shortbread, macarons and oatcakes. Some of the men in the team had taken kilts, which made it an even better time. We presented one another with encouragement cards, which made the evening very special. Although I was the youngest member of the team, it was wonderful to hear that my involvement was appreciated, even if it was just painting.

Saying “Bye” to the four Bulgarians was really tough; we had got to know them so well during the week. It was very hard to hear about their lives and the bad times they had, but encouraging and amazing to hear how God in their lives has helped them, and also about how the team has had an impact on the way they live their lives now.

TTW have made a huge commitment to this orphanage and this community: land has been purchased to build a church for them; every trip TTW seek out church members they can help by improving their homes; essential maintenance is done on the orphanage’s building, as well as improvements to the very basic living conditions; and, most importantly, they tell the children and the staff at the orphanage about God, and how much He loves and cares for them all. I feel quite sad that I have no plans to return in the near future, as I am now away at University, and will therefore be studying each May for the next four years. However, I will continue to pray for them all, and I hope when I find a new church family in Edinburgh, I can tell them about my Mission work, and who knows maybe another church will get involved and help?

Jess Griffiths

Touch The World – In Tune With God

Touch The World would traditionally start their summer missions with a training camp at Auchincruive. In 2010, however, the traditional missions were not possible. So the Board of TTW decided to give us a new experience. Cara, Jess and I went off to Soul Survivor Festival in Staffordshire along with twenty other young people. Soul Survivor is a five-day camp for young Christian people; in fact, about 4,500 altogether. It allowed us to journey together through worship, prayer and the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Each day there were three seminar slots. Each member of the team was expected to go to at least two. Jess, Cara and I went to seminars like – Playing the Game God’s Way – Starting University – Soul Sister – Five Ways to Grow your Relationship with God, and Soul Action, Mission Impossible. We had team devotions, interesting showers, occasional flushing toilets, and even sometimes some toilet roll! There were different venues open for coffee, chat, dancing and fellowship. We visited the “Tool Shed”, which was a market place for Christian resources.

The highlight for us all was the main meeting times. The talks were really good, interesting and sometimes funny, had powerful messages and were relevant to young people. There were three different worship leaders with the band. Worship was made up of songs we already knew and some that were newly written by the band. People worshipped with no inhibitions, singing as loud as they could and dancing around, not caring what other people thought. The prayer was incredibly moving. It took us a couple of times to get used to it all, but after that we found it quite reassuring and comforting.

On the last night of Soul Survivor it was a fancy dress, fairytale cartoon costume theme in the main meeting. It was very bizarre worshipping along with Batman, Fred Flintstone and Buzz Lightyear – just to mention a few.

I felt that God was with us. Our faith had grown during Soul Survivor. It was great preparation for Mission. We got to know one another well. We were challenged and encouraged to step out of our comfort zone and grow closer to, and more like, Christ. It was amazing!

Megan Andrews

Mission is all about us giving back to God. Our time back in Ayr was an opportunity to do a whole load of things to serve God in our local town.

So that we built on the sense of community we had got at Soul Survivor. It was decided that we should stay together as a team, sleeping in the Meadowgreen Centre, Troon. Our parents kindly made up a rota to feed us – we ate really well.

The first two days were spent in training. We learnt puppets, dances, dramas, balloon modelling, crafts and street evangelism. It was also a chance to plan the Lochside Fun Day and the two church services we lead on the Sunday. At the Lochside Fun Day the whole team was involved. We had different stalls and the Lochside “Lympics”. It was a good turnout; in fact, the planning team from Lochside were delighted with the numbers and how much the people joined in. On Sunday we lead worship at Southside in the morning and Craig Tara in the evening.

Monday was the real start to Mission. Every morning the team split up to do various tasks, such as cleaning out the “Touch Ayr” lock-up, helping at a mother-and-toddler group, cleaning up the “Domain” Youth Centre in Lochside, going to the home of a single parent to help her with her four children, and some decorating. In the afternoons the tasks were working at the small talk café or the seafront with children’s activities, like face painting, balloon modelling etc, planning the Taste Youth Club, or gardening. Every evening we ran the Taste YC at Doonfoot PS. Thirty-six P7s and S1s joined us for a whole load of messy games, team activities, challenges, talks, girls’ night, boys’ night and a fancy dress party.

Throughout the week the team were given a time to be in the prayer room. The whole of the week's activities were prayed over and brought to God. The prayer room was a quiet space for us to come closer to God. It had different areas to focus prayer – the Bible, map, prayer wall, and faces for individual prayer. The whole experience changed how we look at other people. Sometimes we judge unfairly. We met some really lovely people who are trying so hard to improve their local area. Mission was very rewarding. It gave us a great feeling of satisfaction that we were doing something good for our town.

Cara Moynihan

1st Alloway Boys Brigade Trip to Barcaple

On August 22nd I went with my fellow Boys Brigade members to Barcaple Adventure Centre. We did a lot of amazing activities, from tree climbing to zip wire, and assault courses to fun games, and puzzle solving at night. On the first night we didn't sleep well because some of the boys were coming in and raiding our rooms. But on the second night we were so tired after all of the activities we had done on the Saturday, that we went straight to sleep.

The beds, I thought, were OK, but I still dreamed of my own comfy bed at home.

At Barcaple all of the staff were Christians, and every night, when it was dinner time, the chef said a prayer before we ate. The food was delicious!

On the Saturday, even though I had sprained my ankle, I still stood proud and tall, and did some of the activities; I also got piggy backs from some of the officers!

Wallace Kerr

Pop Connection

Pop Connection was a schools event organised by Alloway Parish Church for the pupils at both of the primary schools in the parish who are currently in P5, 6 and 7. It was a huge success. The concerts were incredibly uplifting. It was very clear that the pupils had really enjoyed the experience. The event brought the pupils from the two schools together for an exciting religious education, music, and citizenship project. For those taking part I am in no doubt also an experience which will provide lifelong memories. Here is a report from a pupil at Alloway about her time with Pop Connection.

Andy is a song writer and a recording artist who works for Pop Connection. He drove from Manchester in June to come to Alloway and Doonfoot Primary Schools to teach us seven songs for the concert at Alloway Parish Church. The seven songs we had to learn and perform were: *Hold On, Dancing like my Dad, In the End, Oh Happy Day, Love, Peace and Happiness, Why* and *I Will Reach for You*.

We all learnt them really quickly, so now it was time to record them. Andy brought along his recording equipment, which included microphones. Andy then recorded all of the children in P5, 6 and 7 from Alloway and then took a short journey to Doonfoot to record the children there.

He then returned to the recording studio in Manchester for a week and worked hard, combining the two sets of recordings.

We all met at Alloway Church and performed a “Pop Connection” concert. At the end of the concert we were able to buy a CD of the event with all seven songs on it.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed it – we would love to do it again!

*Antonia Dunn
Alloway Primary School*

Our Trip to the National Children's Assembly of the Church of Scotland

From the 16th to 19th October this year, Cameron Kerr and Matthew Cooke went to represent Alloway Church at the National Children's Assembly on Iona. They are both in P6, so this was quite an exciting thing to do – leave their families and spend the weekend away. This is their report of the weekend.

We arrived on Iona on the Saturday afternoon. We got to meet our room mates and got settled in our rooms. We met the leaders of the weekend. As well as the leaders from the Church of Scotland, there were about fifty people from the Iona Community.

All of the boys on the trip stayed at the Macleod Centre, which we all called "The Mac". All of the girls stayed at the Abbey. We didn't share the same rooms, but got mixed with other boys from other churches. Everyone was very friendly. We have made two really good friends.

Every day of our trip we went to the Abbey for worship. Each morning we would join the public service. In the evenings we would enjoy our own worship time there. We used Fischy Music, which we liked. The Abbey was very beautiful, and had lots of history. It is maintained by Historic Scotland. We both noticed the portable pulpit and removable chairs; it was only the choir who sat on pews. The communion table was made of Iona marble.

We were all allocated to work groups. There were five of them – Pigs, Cows, Ducks, Dogs and Cats. We had activities in these groups, and we were also given an opportunity to prepare the Abbey for worship.

On the Sunday we had to get up at 8.00 am, Monday 7.30 am and Tuesday 7.00 am.

The team had organised workshops for us all – Mime, Craft, Art, Music and Puppets. We had to choose two for Sunday

afternoon and two for Monday morning. Matthew chose Mime and Art for Sunday, and Music and Puppets for Monday. Cameron chose Art and Mime on Sunday, and Craft and Music on Monday.

In the craft sessions, three banners were made with fabrics. The banners showed three important words: they were Humility, Compassion and Justice. These words were used all the time throughout the weekend. In Mime we did lots of different things, including a mime of the Iona Lord's Prayer. In Puppets we learned how to lip sync and to move the puppets around. In Music we used our Fischy songs and hymns. However, our favourite was the Mime sessions.

Lights out was at 10.00 to 10.15 every night.

We had got very excited when we saw the programme and couldn't wait to tell our Mums. It said we were going to be Digging Deeper - we were so excited - a Treasure Hunt? But no. We were going to Dig Deeper into our Bibles. We weren't disappointed though; Digging Deeper was fun, and we both learned so much.

On Monday, as well as worship and workshops and free time, it had been planned that we would make a pilgrimage on the island. The weather was not good enough though, and so we had a longer visit to the Abbey. We also climbed Dunn. On the top of Dunn you could see from the top of the island to the bottom. Dunn is the highest of three hills on the island, it is 343 metres high. Robbie nearly broke his thumb, and had to have it checked at the hospital on Mull.

When we were on Iona, we took lots of photos of the scenery, including Pyramid Mountain and views from the top of Dunn, and stunning views of Iona and Mull.

There were not many street lights. So that meant you could see stars on a clear night. We saw the Big Dipper, otherwise known as the Plough. One of our friends saw Orion when we were walking to the evening service at the Abbey.

At meal times we sat in a family format – this meant we all got mixed up a bit. The food on our trip was lovely. Don't tell Cameron's Mum, but the macaroni cheese there was even better than hers! (He says.) Hot chocolate and stories were so good every night, after we returned from the Abbey.

Everyone was presented with a special gift to remember their trip. We had these hats and bags, the CD of Fischy Music called "Down to Earth" and "The Message" – a set of four CDs with the Bible on them.

On the Tuesday morning, after we'd packed up and got our luggage onto the van and trailer, we had our last worship time at the Abbey. We caught the ferry back to Oban and met Matthew's family there, before travelling back to Ayr.

When we were away, we both learned a lot: lots about the Island of Iona and the Abbey, but also about God. Our faith has been strengthened and we have enjoyed worshipping more.

We would both absolutely love to go back, but understand that other children should be given the chance to go away. It is quite sad, but there might not be another National Children's Assembly. We have been asked to sign a petition to say that we would like it to continue. If it does, and you are asked to go, say "Yes" – you will enjoy it – we promise!

Matthew Cooke & Cameron Kerr

We would like to thank all our advertisers most sincerely for helping us to defray the cost of publishing this magazine. May we ask anyone who uses their services to let them know where they saw their details.

Girl Guiding UK



Ultimate Tall Ships Adventure 2010

Last year two Rangers from Alloway took part in an exciting and memorable adventure aboard the sailing ship Lord Nelson. Each girl went on a different section of the round-Britain trip. Martha Andrews sailed on the Oban to Aberdeen stretch.

After months and months of fundraising and constant planning the 16th of June finally arrived! I was lucky enough to be chosen to take part in a leg of the Ultimate Tall Ships Adventure which was taking place as part of the celebrations for the Girl Guiding Centenary Year, and yes, it was definitely ultimate! The voyage took place around the UK over the summer on a tall ship owned by the Jubilee Sailing Trust and I was on the Oban to Aberdeen leg.

Over the course of 11 days we made our way around the top of Scotland via various places such as Stornoway and Orkney. As crew members we had to help run the ship 24/7 doing everything, from climbing the mast and the yardarms to do sail work, to navigating and helming, as well as helping to prepare meals. We were split into four watches, forward port, aft port, forward starboard and aft starboard, each with a watch leader. I was one of the youngest crew members on board, the youngest in my watch, but got treated equally to everyone else. Everybody on board had to pull their weight and do tasks to the best of their ability at all times. This meant you spent most time with your



The Lord Nelson

watch, so you became close to them, especially when getting up at 4 am for duty!

As you can probably imagine, a ship full of 14-to-30-year-old females was mayhem a lot of the time; we just joked and laughed and smiled constantly for the whole 11 days! The only disabled member of the crew was my watch leader, Abi, who has a condition called arthrogyrosis. This affects the muscles, making the joints stiff and leading to difficulty in movement, but she definitely did not let it get her down! She was one of the most experienced members of the Girl Guiding crew, as she had sailed aboard the *Lord Nelson* before. She had a great sense of humour

and made sure we were all having a blast every second we were on board. Her ability and determination were just amazing and on the final day, while we docked in Aberdeen, our watch assisted her in climbing the mast, which really put an exciting ending to our adventure!

Those 11 days were definitely my mountain top moment, not to mention a totally once in a lifetime experience!

Martha Andrews

The Aberdeen to Newcastle leg was completed by Emily Hunter.

My trip aboard the *Lord Nelson* is an experience I will never forget. My leg of the voyage circumnavigating the British Isles carried me from Aberdeen to Newcastle on a ten day adventure. There were 40 guides, senior section members and leaders on board, as well as a small permanent crew. Everyone on board took part in the daily running of the ship, from the exciting jobs of stowing sails and helming to the not so coveted jobs of peeling vegetables and cleaning the loos!

After leaving Aberdeen we sailed north to begin with and then east into the North Sea (we travelled nearly a third of the way to Denmark) before sailing back to land and harbouring for a short stay in Leith, where we moored next to the *Royal Yacht Britannia*. After a sightseeing day in Edinburgh, we headed back to open sea and sailed down to Newcastle.

As a result of being close to the same people for ten days, I made lots of new friends from all over Britain, whom I hope to keep in contact with. Sailing on a tall ship is an amazing experience that I would recommend to anyone, and one that I would love to repeat in the future. I would like to thank everyone who supported us during our fundraising.

Emily Hunter

My Head Teacher

Last summer Mrs Nicholson retired as head teacher at Doonfoot Primary School. This poem was written by one of her pupils to mark her retirement. To suggest that it was to celebrate her retirement might be interpreted in the wrong way. It really celebrates her years of hard work and dedication, and the memories that her pupils have of her.

For twelve years you've been Head Teacher,
Never did anyone better feature.
You've helped us and guided us along the way,
Very rarely did you miss a day.

Fun and laughter we've all had,
But I know some days we must have made you mad.
You have always shown a caring way,
And helped us all through each day.

Memories, there must be one or two,
Dolphin House and sports days, to mention but a few.
Numerous concerts and assemblies, parties and trips,
All the words of wisdom that have passed your lips.

Teachers and children you've seen come and go,
We are all going to miss you of that I know.
But now as you finish the truth must be told,
Mrs Nicholson you've got a heart of gold.

Lynne Mitchell

The Cover

Our cover this year shows the Robert Burns Memorial Window. It was designed by Susan Bradbury and installed in 1996 to mark the bicentenary of the poet's birth. Susan described her work in *Through a Glass Brightly*:

The Doon, (with the famous Brig o'Doon in the background) is shown flowing through rich green vegetation and the fields of rural Ayrshire. The sparkling texture of the water (lenses and seedy glass) recalls Burns's phrase "crystal streamlets" and one can see "the rose and woodbine twine". The corners of the scene are filled with creatures and plants mentioned in various poems: hare and partridge, hawthorn and hazel, a wee mouse, crimson tipped daisies and "within the bush her covert nest, a little linnet fondly pressed" and a "warbling bird". The theme of the natural world is joined to a theme of praise and thanksgiving by inscribing on the lower area of the window the first verse of Burns's "A Grace before Dinner".



Every year a team of dedicated volunteers keeps our doors open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm, Monday to Friday each week during the summer months (except when there is a wedding or a funeral). We have a fascinating collection of Scottish stained glass, dating from Victorian times right through to the present century. There is no charge for entry, but in 2010 around £1,300 was raised and donated to Ayrshire Cancer Support.

Cover photo by Eric Ness