

Pollokshields Church of Scotland Glasgow

# VISION

Minister: The Rev. David Black 423 4000  
Session Clerk: Mrs. Mary Morrison 632 1659

September  
2009

## Showstoppers

### Holiday Club - August 2009



The Rev. Paul Jupp led this year's Holiday Club, a five day exploration of five show-stopping, iconic events and people that changed the course of history - The Creation, David, Daniel, the Incarnation and the death and resurrection of Jesus.

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## *Services for September 2009*

<i>6th September 11 am</i>	Morning Worship, Crèche and Junior Church (Road Race Day so check routes and timings in press and on web sites.)
<i>13th September 11 am</i>	Sacrament of Holy Communion
<i>20th September 11 am</i>	Morning Worship, Crèche and Junior Church
<i>27th September 11 am</i>	Morning Worship, Crèche and Junior Church Pulpit exchange (David Black on Interim Moderator duty)

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## **Ken's 75**

After the morning service on Sunday 23rd August instead of tea, coffee and biscuits the congregation found laid out in the hall a delicious lunch buffet.

The occasion was Kenneth Ross' 75th birthday. His daughters Sylvia and Claire had organised the surprise party and Andrew gave us an insight into the many and varied leisure activity his father enjoyed.

All the congregation were invited, plus members of Kenneth's interest groups such as bowlers and ramblers.

Over 100 were there to congratulate him and wish him well.

# Minister's Message

September is going to be a month which challenges us and our community involvement. Three major events offer us opportunity to engage with the local community - the Half Marathon; Doors Open Day and this year, the Eid on the Drive event.

Twice a year we struggle to get to worship due to road closures for the road races, whether we live in the parish or beyond. But this also gives us an opportunity to welcome people unable to get to their home congregations that day.

Doors Open Day has been one of our successes in the past few years thanks to so many volunteers welcoming people into our building.

We aim to have our new notice boards in place for this year's event, and we acknowledge the fact that we have been able to purchase these thanks largely to a grant from Glasgow City Council's Pollokshields Area Fund.

Our two local Councillors were supportive of our fund application because they, like the Council, recognise the work we do in helping reach out to all parts of our community, regardless of race, ethnicity or faith background.

Our participation in Eid on the Drive has been a factor in this and we would want to continue to offer that support this year, albeit that if Eid does fall on a Sunday, our ability to gather for worship together needs to be protected as well.

All of us who live and worship in Pollokshields should be free and able to celebrate and worship in peace and security and show what community harmony and cohesion is all about.

With all good wishes,

**David R. Black**



The new session of The Guild commences on  
Monday 7th September at 7.30 pm.

This will be a 'Welcome Meeting' with a buffet supper.

The first afternoon meeting is on Monday 14th September, at the new starting time of 2.00 pm, when the speakers are Majors John and Joan Swan, Salvation Army.

On Monday 21st September at 7.30pm we have a Musical Evening with our own organist, Liam Devlin.

New members, male and female, will be most welcome, but visitors are always welcome at any of our meetings.

Our Autumn Coffee Morning takes place on  
Saturday 19th September at 10 am  
in conjunction with Doors Open Day.

Donations of books, home-baking etc. will be most welcome.



# **THE GUILD**

## **COFFEE MORNING** **Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> September**

**10.00am - 12noon**



**BOOKS**



**HOMEBAKING**

**Admission £1**

## 259th Glasgow Guides

Last term saw our unit reach its 1st birthday and numbers continue to grow. We welcomed two new members, saw two of our unit gain their 1st Challenge Badge and gained a new leader, Debbie. We now have enough Guides to have two patrols, and hope to grow this term with some Brownies coming to join us!

August saw four girls join a group of Guides from Sheffield and head south for a week of fun and friendship in the Swiss Alps. Activities included tobogganing, swimming and visiting 'Our Chalet' - one of the four guiding worlds centres - and eating lots of chocolate!

This term we will be doing lots of fun activities (as usual) chosen by the Guides as we involve them in planning our programme. The start of term will be extra special as September sees the start of Girlguiding UK's centenary celebrations.

Guides will start back on the 9th September at 7.30 pm in the Church Hall. For more information on Guides, or if your daughter/ward wishes to join Guides, please contact me for more information.

Nicola Joiner  
Unit Guider

*nicola.joiner@gmail.com*

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## Biblical Connections

In each of the following groups all the items have a common connection. What is it?

1. (easy) Cain, Jael, Jehu, Ehud, Abner.
2. (harder) Obadiah, Philemon, 2 John, 3John, Jude

Answers on page 14

## **I had a dream...**

I had a dream - well not quite. It was a nightmare. I dreamt that the church could not pay our ministers. Actually, it was not a dream. It is a possibility. At the moment, in order to pay our ministers the Church is drawing on its Reserves at startling rate. In a few years time the Reserves will have run out, and if the contributions from congregations to the Ministry Fund do not cover the payments to ministers for their salaries then the Church will become bankrupt. Then what? The prospect is horrifying.

Just how does this come about? The Church of Scotland has 964 ministers in parishes, according to the Church's Blue Book for the 2009 Assembly. The Church can only pay about 800 ministers without drawing on its Reserves. This means we have too many ministers.

What is the answer? We are t trying to raise more cash, but with a declining membership this will not cover the situation. We could reduce our ministers' stipends, but that is really unthinkable (or is it?) I suspect we will in due course see our ministerial manpower drop to around 800, and as that happens we will have to spread our ministerial resources more thinly on the ground.

I firmly believe that we do have a duty to "bring the ordinances or religion to the people of Scotland through a territorial ministry" as the Third Declaratory Article states, but that depends on resources available, and on how they are deployed.

According to plans drawn up by Presbyteries, there are 1,230 posts in Scotland eligible for a minister. These plans clearly constitute a wish list. They cannot be filled by our present numbers, and they will need to be revised. If we cannot afford the number of ministers we have at present, then Presbytery plans will have to be redrawn to give more realistic targets.

I hope the Church will have the wisdom and the courage to face this problem before it is too late.

*K.G.Ross*

## **News from Shona Morrison**

It is tempting to say, “Remember Shona? The big sister of the two pipers?” But Shona is now a congregational ‘personage’ in her own right, as the following letter from her shows:-

“To set the scene I’m in India, sitting at a small desk in an orphanage that houses 80 children and several elderly people. I have just finished drinking a small in cup of India’s national drink - chai. There was a big storm last night so the temperamental electricity has just been restored. There are noises of children playing outside, men chatting indoors and the fans whirring overhead.

“I had a fantastic time travelling around the north of the country. India is a real assault on the senses; sights, sounds and smells! It is also an extraordinary country, the colours, people, food, scenery, buildings, markets, roads... you get the idea. It is wonderful but it can be terrible at the same time. At times throughout my first month here the poverty I thought I had got used to would suddenly hit me like a brick and fill me with questions about how people are being forced to live like this. My travels over the year exposed me to people facing difficulties in many places and while it made me appreciate how lucky I am to have a chance to travel the world in this way I also felt the need to try and give something back. That’s why I’ve ended up here, in a small village called Vellatur in Southern India. My days tend to include playing with the kids and teaching them English, working on the Mission’s communication needs and trying to make them let me help with the cooking! “It is now a year since I set off from Glasgow Airport without much more than a backpack, a few pre-booked flights and no real plan of what on earth I was doing. I started off in the backpacker world centre - Bangkok in Thailand. Within a few hours I had ventured outside my hotel, was sitting on the kerb eating some noodle concoction from a roadside vendor and watching two elephants walk down the road!

“I had arranged a three week tour of Thailand to get me started and hopefully as a way of meeting more people. It took me all around the country and I got to experience some truly amazing sights and activities. Thailand was filled with lots of incredible temples, palaces, streets, foods, markets artwork, beaches, scenery and people. I could take up the whole of VISION with a list of the sights I was lucky enough to witness but it would be unfair to the other writers!



“I would like to give a mention of my favourite place though, a tribal village in the middle of the jungle in Chiang Mai. We had to trek through humid, overgrown, slippery rain forest for two days to get there but it was worth every uphill step! We stayed for two nights in a village where we got to visit the school, try our hand at ‘rice pounding’ and generally learn about their lives there. The village was completely self-sufficient, even growing their own cotton to make clothes and it really made me stop and think about how many ‘things’ we have and never use or even need at home. I fell in love with the place and got quickly used to the different way of life - bathing in the river, sleeping on floor mats etc., though eating a deep-fried cricket was more of a challenge! It was here that I first thought about volunteering, when we were helping to teach English to the school children . I thought what an honour it would be to help with something that is so easy for us but can make a real difference to them, and also to experience a completely different way of life in the rural part of a country.”

*How Shona’s travels took her eventually to the Mission at Vellatur, and what she did there, you can read in the next issue of VISION.*

*For further information: [shonahmorrison@hotmail.com](mailto:shonahmorrison@hotmail.com) or [www.missionfortheruralpeople.org](http://www.missionfortheruralpeople.org)*



Pollokshields Churches Together  
 Holiday Club

# SHOWSTOPPERS!

10 - 14 August 2009



Bible teaching - Paul tells the story of David and Goliath

This will be the Rev. Paul Jupp's last year master-minding and leading the Holiday Club. He himself would be the first to acknowledge the hard and imaginative work of the members of the Pollokshields (and other) churches, who played their part in the preparation, the leading and the administration and in many other ways facilitated the running of SHOWSTOPPERS.



Lesley Lucas and her Crafts group.



Irrelevant, but fun! (Maya Perssons and Ailsa Henderson)



Mary Cumming's drama 'slot' included Danielle Goodbrand (L) as 'The Teacher'



Anna Kaehne enjoying the all-important refreshments

## Absalom

King David's children? What a pair!

First, his eldest son Amnon rapes his half-sister Tamar. Then, Tamar's brother Absalom in revenge kills Amnon. Fearful of David's wrath Absalom flees across Israel's northern border to Syria, and for three years lives there in exile.

King David in time grew 'consoled' concerning Amnon's death. His spirit longed to go to Absalom.

Joab, the king's commander-in-chief, knew how David was feeling and persuaded him to allow Absalom to return. Two years later there was a face-to-face reconciliation.

Happy ending? Far from it. Absalom, an ambitious and clever tactician, gathered around himself a band of followers, and ingratiated himself with many of the local folk, with the aim of proclaiming himself king. Now it was David's turn to flee.

War followed, At one point during the war Absalom was riding his mule under a big oak tree. His head (possibly his famously long hair) got caught. The mule carried on; Absalom was left hanging. When Joab heard of this he went and plunged three javelins into Absalom's heart.

David mourned for Absalom, even though his son had waged war against him to usurp the throne.

David's lament is poignant:

*O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom!  
If only I had died instead of you -  
O Absalom, my son, my son!*

## **Absalom**

**from previous page**

There is a striking similarity between the story of David and Absalom and our own relationship with God. Like David who had a son whom he loved God had a people whom he loved. Absalom sinned and went into exile; humanity sinned and went into darkness. David never stopped loving Absalom; God never stopped loving his people.

David lamented, "If only I had died instead of you"; God's reaction was not an "if only..."; God's own son Jesus died instead of Israel - to redeem not only them but us too!

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## **The Stamp of Originality**

In June Royal Mail issued a set of postage stamps portraying mythical creatures - a mermaid, a unicorn and so on. Now is your chance to choose your own subjects, for a set on the theme 'Our Biblical Heritage'.

VISION is offering a prize find the six best subjects for a set of stamps based on Biblical people and events. Since our Christian heritage includes both the Old and the New Testaments, your choice could range from Creation to Armageddon with anything in between.

What are recognisable iconic events? People would not be easily enough recognised, so preferable to 'Solomon' would be 'Solomon with two women and one baby'.

Lists of six Biblical events, suitable for reproduction postage stamp size, should reach the Editors by Sunday 20th September.



## **Dan**

### **“... from Dan to Beersheba ...”**

HERE we now say “from John o’ Groats to Land's End” meaning everything in the Great Britain from the northern to the southern extremities. So in the Bible we find “from Dan to Beersheba”, meaning everything in Israel from the north to the south.

When Joshua cast lots to determine where the various tribes should settle when they reached the Promised Land, the Danites were allotted an area just north west of the Dead Sea. Jacob’s blessing had likened Dan to a viper (Genesis) and a lion’s cub (Deuteronomy) but despite their imputed aggressive character the Danites were unable to hold on to their land under pressure from their alien neighbours and the majority migrated north, further north even than the Sea of Galilee, and settled to a new home near the source of the River Jordan. This they called ‘Dan’, after their forebear. They remained there until deported by Tiglath-pileser.

Further south the Danite minority, who had remained near some of the other tribal territories, had as their neighbours the hostile Philistines. Here was where Samson, a Danite and the last of the Judges, was a real thorn in their flesh. He could be described as a ‘big thicky’, as the stories of his exploits show. His legendary strength, his sensual passions and his hot-headedness led him to wreak havoc among the Philistines, and eventually to go to own death in Gaza.

The Canaanite Dan was eventually absorbed into Judah, and there is no trace of it in modern atlases.

*D.D.M.*

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**“Seek ye the Lord  
while he may be  
found....”** Isaiah 55.6

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Last Session Rainbows were very busy, taking part in the Guiding 'Change the World' challenge, for which we raised money to plant trees with the Woodland Trust. Our year ended with an outing to Blair Drummond Safari Park.

The new session of Rainbow Guides begins Tuesday 1st September 6-7 pm. Over the next year we will be celebrating the guiding centenary by completing activities to earn an 'Adventure 100' badge.

All girls aged 5 or 6 are welcome to come along to make crafts, play games and have lots of fun.

*Toucan (Helen McGregor 423 4096)*

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## **Biblical Connections**

*Answers to Quiz on page*

1. All are murderers - **Cain** killed Abel (Genesis 4.8), **Jael** killed Sisera (Judges 4.21), **Jehu** killed Joram (2 Kings 9.24), **Ehud** killed Eglon (Judges 3.21, **Abner** killed Asahel (2 Samuel 2.23).
  
2. All are books of the Bible with only one chapter.

## **Bloopers!**

### **Supplied by Murray Henderson**

*The following are actual clippings from church newspapers and bulletins;-*

Barbara remains in hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requires tapes of Pastor Jack's Sermons

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. say "Hell" to someone who does not care much about you and hopefully they will respond.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoy sinning to join the choir.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to help cripple children.

For those of you who have children and don't know it we have a nursery downstairs.

Please place your donations in the envelope along with the deceased person(s) you want remembered.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5.30 pm. Prayer and medication to follow.

Views expressed by contributors are their own  
and do not necessarily reflect those of the editors  
nor of The Church of Scotland

The purpose of VISION is to record the life and work of the congregation.  
No editors on their own can know all that people do and feel and want, so it  
is up to you, whether you are an office bearer, the leader of an organisation  
or an ordinary member, to keep us informed.

Be in touch!

Send us original articles, views, snippets of news –  
anything you would like to share with other people

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