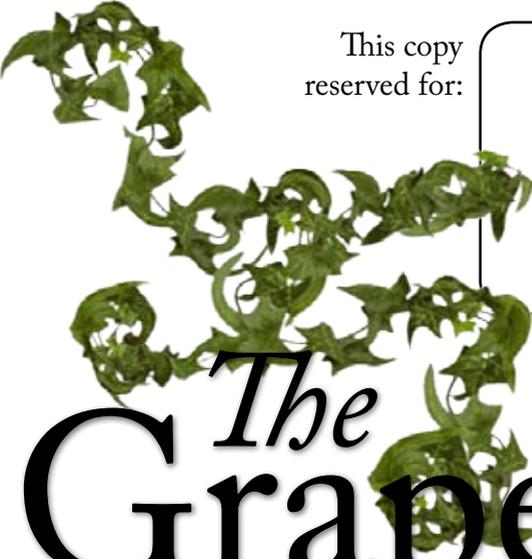


This copy
reserved for:

*Friends and visitors
of St Andrew's Parish Church*



The Grapevine



Easter 2007

St Andrew's Parish Church Magazine

Spring 2007

Volume 6, Issue 1

www.standrewsblantyre.com

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*Large print editions of The Grapevine are available.
Please contact Elsie Balneaves to arrange this for future issues.*

MINISTER'S LETTER

332 Glasgow Road
Blantyre
G72 9LQ

Dear friends,

When you think about it, there are very few things that we do entirely alone. In the realm of sporting achievement we might look at Dame Ellen MacArthur and her exploits in the single-handed round-the-world yacht race and be amazed at her gritty determination and perseverance. Yet even in that most single-minded of events, she acknowledges that what she does would be impossible without a team of supporters behind her.

We are about half-way through a year under our new church constitution. The different Action Groups made up of elders and church members are starting to come into their own, though two of them are still at an early stage in their life and work. You can read about some of the work in these pages and about some of the events being organised by the various groups.

Many ministers in the church complain that ministry is a lonely profession – and that it can be when the minister is seen as ‘above’ everyone else. That is not how I see things in St Andrew’s and the new way of working, inevitably with the odd teething problem here or there, as is the nature of these things, shows me that we are a church that strives to work together better as a team.

Personally speaking, it has been a true delight to have Steven Preston with us for the past months as he completes his first formal placement as part of his training for the readership. With his many years of experience as an member and elder at Claremont Parish Church in East Kilbride, it has been great to bounce ideas around and I think both Steven and I have benefitted from the teamwork that has developed. Steven’s very first ‘published’ sermon can be found in this issue of *The Grapevine*.

My very best wishes to you all,
especially in this Easter season.



CHURCH NEWS

Steve Price: Gospel Illusionist



As a special fun event for the end of March St Andrew's will be hosting Steve Price, a Christian magician. He uses magic both to make us laugh, but also to share a few stories with us. Make sure you bring family and friends to this event, it will be one to remember.

Friday 30th March 2007

7:30 p.m.

Tickets:

£3 adult, £2 child

www.stevepriceillusions.co.uk

Ladies Evening

Wednesday 28th March & 30th May, 8 p.m.

With a range of different themes the Ladies Evening has been a great hit, whether it is a quiz night, food sampling or simply a time to pamper yourself!

There will be two more Ladies Evenings before the summer on 28th March and 30th May, from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Entry is £1 to cover refreshments. Take along your favourite mug too (no, not him!).

More information is available from Helen Finnie on 01698 822434.

CHURCH NEWS

3rd Blantyre Brownies: Leaders Needed

We would like to thank Susan Steele and her co-leaders for all their work with the girls in their care in 3rd Blantyre Brownies. Due to changed circumstances, they will be stepping down as the leaders of the Brownies.

This means that we have an opening for someone to get involved in leading the Brownies in St Andrew's. Sadly, unless

Brownies

we can find new leaders we will no longer have a Brownie unit at St Andrew's. This will be a great loss to the girls currently

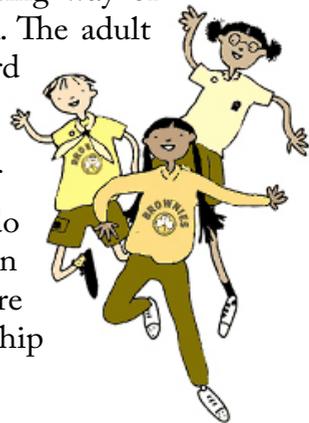
in the unit, but also to the Rainbows and Girl Guides.

Why become a Brownie Leader?

Being a leader can, and should, be a rewarding experience, giving women the opportunity to challenge themselves, to explore different environments, to meet new people and make a difference in the lives of girls in their community, giving them purpose, a sense of responsibility and confidence.

Rosie Millard, a journalist and Brownie leader, says, "It's a really entertaining, amusing and rewarding way of spending an hour and a half each week. The adult company is also engaging so I look forward to Brownies on two levels."

If you think you may like to get involved in leading the Brownies, or if you know someone who may be able to do so, please do ask them. Cath Williamson (01698 825829) can provide you with more information about what Brownie leadership involves.



CHURCH NEWS

Materials Action Group Update

It has been a busy few months for the Materials Action Group as we have continued to develop our programme to maintain and improve the church property.

A recent property inspection by the Presbytery helped to prioritise the work.

The Manse was in particular need of work, not having been wind and water tight for some years. That has now been rectified with five new double-glazed windows (three remaining single-paned windows will be replaced in 2007), and the complete replacement of the roof. The total cost for this essential work was approximately £23,000. This helps to bring the manse up to the standard expected by the Church of Scotland.

It is planned to replace a number of the windows in the church itself this year as the wooden frames in many cases are increasingly rotten.

These are major expenses, but there is a lot of smaller work being arranged by the group, such as redecoration of the church, repainting of church windows and doors, and so on. These are jobs that you can help with. Dates to put in your diary for doing this work are listed below, from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

- Saturday 10th March
- Saturday 28th April
- Saturday 12th May
- Saturday 2nd June
- Saturday 16th July

Please contact either Lorraine Brown (01698 825977) or Jon Dorricott (01698 825700) for more information.

St Andrew's
Action
Groups
Material

CHURCH NEWS

Money Action Group Update

At the Stated Annual Meeting (see below) the full financial results from 2006 will be presented but the Money Action Group are very encouraged with the continued level of giving during 2006. This has allowed the Materials Action Group to continue with some of the major fabric repairs that have been necessary for some time.

The benefits of giving by Gift Aid (for those who pay income tax) was again proven with a total of £8,710 reclaimed from the inland revenue. To put that into perspective, it means that Gordon Brown has paid half of the bill for replacing the manse roof (see previous page) and that has to be a result!

If you are not giving regularly to St Andrew's we encourage you to do so and this can be done via Freewill Envelope or Standing Order from your bank account. Signing a Gift Aid declaration will mean we can also claim back the tax you have paid and make your offering go that much further.

St Andrew's
Action
Groups
Money

giftaid it

Total Monthly Giving

October 2006	November	December	January 2007
£4860	£4298	£4259	£3791

St Andrew's Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting for 2007 will take place on Tuesday 27th March in the Church at 7:30 p.m.

This meeting is open to all church members and you are encouraged to attend. The accounts for 2006 will be presented and the budget for 2007 approved at that meeting.

WORSHIP

Easter Services

Easter will soon be with us when we'll remember the greatest comeback in history! As usual we will be producing Easter Cards for delivery to our parish and would ask for your help in delivering these to all the homes in this area.

With our Palm Sunday service will be two mid-week services which lead us on the journey to the cross that must be taken before the wonder and glory of Easter Day can arrive.

Palm Sunday Cradle Roll Service

1st April, 11 a.m.

St Andrew's Parish Church

Maundy Thursday Communion

5th April, 7 p.m.

in the Church

Good Friday Labyrinth

6th April, 7 p.m.

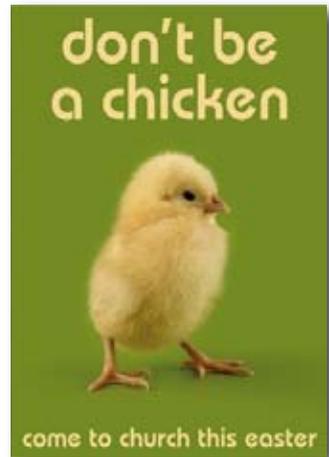
in the Church Hall

Easter Sunday All-Age Service

8th April, 11 a.m.

St Andrew's Parish Church

with help from our Wastewatchers!



Cradle Roll Service

The Membership Action Group has decided to reintroduce a Cradle Roll for St Andrew's that will list all the children who have been baptised in the church.

Each year we will have a special Cradle Roll Service to which all the children will be invited. Our service for 2007 will take place on Palm Sunday.

WORSHIP

Magnify

Joint Praise Service

We will have another series of *Magnify* Joint Praise Services continues during the Spring of 2007 bringing members together to worship from the congregations of Hillhouse Parish Church, Livingstone Memorial Church and St Andrew's. We always welcome friends from the other churches in Blantyre to these services.

The dates and venues are listed below. Please come along to share with us in these *Magnify* services.

Sunday 25th March, 7 p.m.

St Andrew's Parish Church

Sunday 29th April, 7 p.m.

Livingstone Memorial Church

Sunday 27th May, 7 p.m.

Hillhouse Parish Church

Community Carol Singing

Thank you to those who came out to sing for our Community Christmas Carol Singing outside ASDA in December. A total of £125 was raised for the Blantyre We Care Group.



WORSHIP

Exploring the Labyrinth



Over the past year the Magnification Action Group has been exploring different ways to worship God. Last Easter and at Christmas time a lot of time and energy were spent preparing 'labyrinths' to explore both the Easter and Christmas stories.

What is a labyrinth? It is actually an ancient way people used to use to quieten their souls and meditate upon God.

In our modern-day versions, we provide various stops along the route of your journey around the labyrinth. At each one you will discover a little more of the story and there will also be activities to help both your mind and your body get involved.

At our Christmas labyrinth, for example, at each stop a different decoration for the Chrismon Tree was made:

including stars, angels, cribs, shepherds crooks and gifts. People who have taken part in the labyrinth have been moved by the experience, and have found it helpful in going deeper into the meaning of these two Christian seasons.

The Magnification Action Group will be preparing another labyrinth this Easter, though slightly different to last year's one.

We encourage you to spend some time exploring the Easter story on Good Friday.

Good Friday Labyrinth

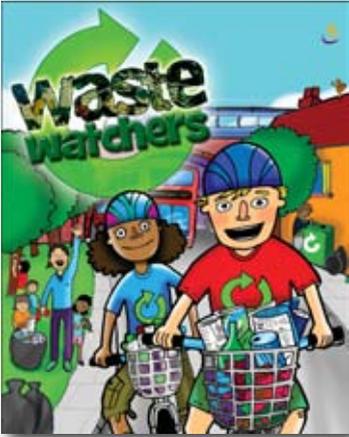
6th April 2007

Church Hall

open from 7 - 9 p.m.



Members of the Magnificatio Action Group having laid out last Easter's labyrinth in the Church Hall



EASTER HOLIDAY CLUB

Monday 2 – Friday 6 April

It is that time again... holidays are coming! And we will be getting ready with a new Holiday Club for P1-P7 aged children. The Holiday Club is open to all the children within our church family, to their friends and to any others who might like to join us. It is sure to be a lot of fun, just like our past Clubs.

The Holiday Club called *Wastewatchers* has an environmentally friendly message that will explore God's creation, caring for the world, and how Jesus can transform lives. The resources we will be using have been produced with *A Rocha*, a Christian nature conservation organisation.

As with our previous Holiday Clubs each morning of the week will be packed with music, drama, games, crafts, and much more. Please make sure you note these dates for your children or grandchildren.

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Holiday Club for as many mornings as you can manage. If you will be available contact Cath Williamson (01698 825829) who will provide you with more information. Also keep a note on the church notices where intimation will be made for upcoming planning meetings and any requests for materials that may be needed for the Holiday Club.



CHARITIES

Sing for Life: Anthony Nolan Challenge

The ANTHONY
NOLAN Trust



Taking back lives from leukaemia

Last year nearly 100 Churches including ourselves took part in a massive sponsored hymn sing! Their efforts raised £100,000 to help take back lives from leukemia. In St Andrew's we raised £800 from our singing and giving.

An invitation has been extended from the Anthony Nolan Trust to even more congregations to join in *Sing for Life 2007*.

There was such a good response to this service last year, and so many of you commented how fun (even if tiring!) it was to sing all those hymns and songs.

The challenge is again to sing 50 hymns (or verses)! As with last year we plan to do this in conjunction with our Spring Jars of Grace Offering. However, we need your help to suggest songs and hymns for us to sing. Suggestion slips are available now in the entrance vestibule. Please return them in the offering baskets on a Sunday morning.

Sing for Life: Sunday 25th March 2007

www.anthonynolan.org.uk

Jars of Grace Offering

Our last Jars of Grace Offering in September raised £320 for the Christian Blind Mission (CBM). CBM is an independent aid organisation for people with disabilities. It supports the provision of services to persons with visual and other disabilities in more than 1,000 projects in 113 developing countries.

Thank you for your generosity. Our March Jars of Grace Offering, as you will see above, will be combined with the *Sing for Life* service.

If you would like to read more about CBM's work please see:

www.cbmuk.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID

Christian Aid Week 2007

13th – 19th May

Christian Aid Week at St Andrew's

There will be a variety of ways for you to be involved in Christian Aid Week 2007 within St Andrew's Parish Church. And there are always opportunities for new ways to raise awareness and funds to support Christian Aid. If you would be interested in helping to do this then please contact Peter Johnston, Christian Aid area representative for Blantyre, on 01698 828633.

- At the end of April we will be putting out Christian Aid envelopes ready for your donation through the Order of Service. These should be returned either on Sunday 13th May or 20th May. Extra envelopes will be available should you not receive one. Please do ask your elder about receiving an envelope if you cannot make it to church yourself.
- A special Christian Aid service will be held on Sunday 13th May to mark the start of Christian Aid week and following the service there will be a **Christian Aid Lunch** in the Church Hall organised by the Sunday Funday Club. Cost will be £1.50. Please make a point of staying to enjoy the fellowship while supporting Christian Aid.
- In addition, we will be **collecting outside ASDA** during the week. Janette Young (01698 820721) will be organising this. If you can assist Janette for an hour or two during the week, then please make contact with her. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

Find out about two of the projects Christian Aid is involved with to alleviate modern day slavery on the next pages.

www.christianaid.org.uk



FAITH IN ACTION

The Modern Day Slave Trade

The 23rd August marks the International Day of Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. In the United Kingdom it was abolished by royal decree, after both Houses of Parliament had passed the Slave Trade Act, on 25th March 1807. This followed the tireless work of William Wilberforce (pictured), a committed Christian, who fought for justice and freedom for people who were considered sub-human by many of his contemporaries.

You might think that slavery is a thing of the past, but you would be wrong. Modern day slavery exists – people are forced to work for little or no money and around the world people are trafficked for profit.

NO LAND, NO RIGHTS

Emmanuel Mbele is a South African farmer who has repeatedly faced the prospect of eviction from his homestead. For years white landowners threatened Emmanuel and his neighbours with relocation to a 'black area'.

"We had a very bad relationship. They stopped us from accessing resources and they impounded our livestock.

"We had to pay to get the animals back. It was about 100 rand per cow, per day, and if you couldn't afford it



they just kept them." Emmanuel explains.

Emmanuel's story is not unique. Years after the end of apartheid rule, most land still remains in the hands of a white minority.

There are huge wealth, power and education gaps between landowners and tenants. Poor families are particularly vulnerable to abuse and eviction if the landowner is ruthless.

Although some landowners treat their tenants well, many endure appalling living and working conditions. They work very long hours for very low wages, with no say over their own lives.

Slavery... I didn't know about all these forms that existed. I think it's largely because we aren't expecting it. It is hidden.

Generally people would not believe that it is possible under modern conditions.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu

FAITH IN ACTION

Mistreatment of farm dwellers ranges from widespread economic exploitation to violent abuse. In 2005, one farmer was found guilty of beating a farm worker and then throwing him to the lions to be eaten alive.

Since 1994, families have been able to make claims to have land returned to them but this is a long and complicated legal process.

Christian Aid partner AFRA helps poor families to negotiate these proceedings and it has helped Emmanuel claim land of his own, so he and his family will never face eviction again.

NO FREEDOM NO CHOICE

Emmanuel is one example of someone who has been forced to live in conditions one might consider tantamount to slavery. But Tanu Khantin from India is a slave in every sense of the word.

Tanu Khantin from India was abducted when she was 11 years old and taken to the red light district of Mumbai.

She was moved from brothel to brothel as she refused to be drawn into being abused. She tried to run away many times, but was always brought back and tortured.

She was finally rescued and held in a remand centre by the authorities and was referred on to Christian Aid's partner, Sanlaap, a women's rights centre helping young female sex workers to escape from the sex trade.

Tanu has found out that she is



These girls at the Sneha shelter have been rescued from sex work. The shelter is run by Christian Aid partner, Sanlaap. It gives them time to recover from trauma and equips them with vocational skills.

HIV-positive and now receives counselling to cope with her ordeal and the knowledge of her HIV status.

What Emmanuel and Tanu have in common above all is their lack of choice.

They have both been forced into exploitative situations that, without the help of outside agencies, they could not escape.

Supporting organisations like AFRA and Sanlaap is to help combat modern forms of slavery and enables individuals can choose to live with the dignity that is due to them.

While remembering the abolition of the slave trade some 200 years ago should encourage us to celebrate liberty, it should also encourage us to commit to bringing that liberty to men, women and children across the world today.

SERMON

The Kingdom of Heaven is like...

preached on Sunday 25th February by Steven Preston

Matthew chapter 13 comes almost at the mid-point of Matthew's gospel. It is one of five discourses in the gospel where Matthew focuses on Jesus' teaching. So far we have covered two discourses including what we call the Sermon on the Mount and here we focus on the third teaching section which is filled with parables.

In verse 10 the disciples ask Jesus: "Why do you speak to the people in parables?" His reply at face value only seems to add to the confusion: "The knowledge of the kingdom of heaven has been given to you, but not to them. Whoever has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. This is why I speak to them in parables: 'Though seeing, they do not see; though hearing, they do not hear or understand.'" (v. 11-13).

In fact Jesus is saying that for some people parables are the only way of explaining and teaching about the kingdom of God, about what it means to follow Jesus and commit your life to him. Many people find children's talks easier to understand because they have to be very literal. My aunt told me about a student minister on placement at her church. She said: "He must have been awful well edu-

cated because nobody ever had a clue what he was talking about!"

Jesus often didn't speak in a literal way instead he used stories and metaphors. Jesus was using the people and events of daily life 2000 years ago which people could relate to in order to explain what he meant by the kingdom of heaven. Nevertheless, Jesus realises that some people will take things at face value and frankly miss the points he makes. Arguably the danger for us of missing the point in 2007 is greater since we have to reinterpret Jesus teaching for today's world. At the recent Reader's training weekend we were thinking about some of the difficulties of interpreting Jesus' teaching today and we were reminded that the disciples spent three years 24/7 in the company of the master tutor and even they struggled from time to time to understand what Jesus was saying. That's in fact what verse 11 means. There would have been many times when Jesus would have taught the disciples and they would have learned far more than the general public simply because they spent far more time than the average person with Jesus. So what does Jesus mean in verse 12 when he says that whoever has some knowledge of the kingdom of heaven will be given abundantly more knowl-

SERMON

edge but whoever doesn't have much knowledge will lose what they have completely? Surely Jesus isn't being awkward or grudging in some way.

William Barclay argues that Jesus is simply stating a fact of life. He gives examples of hard working students who apply themselves to whatever courses they are doing. They learn far more and their knowledge and satisfaction is far greater than lazy students who just skim the surface and scrape a pass if they're lucky. Students who don't really think things through. Jesus wants us to use the minds that God has given us. "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, strength and mind". If you are going to be good at anything in life, if you're to have any hope of really understanding anything, you have to apply yourself, you have to practice and hone your skills, you have to train or rehearse. In short you have to give your all. You know the saying 'use it or lose it'.

Remember what Jesus said in Matthew 7:7 "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened".

Here Jesus promises that when we seek him and look for him in our daily lives we will find him and we will gradually discover more and more for ourselves what the king-

dom of heaven is like. We must have a genuine desire to seek Jesus in every area of our lives. If we are to commit our lives to following him we must be proactive not simply passive. We need to allow Jesus to be a part of every area of our lives so that increasingly his priorities become our priorities. A very silly man once said "religion is alright as long as it doesn't interfere with your daily life".

That is the attitude of the first type of person mentioned in the parable of the sower. They are like the path where there is no soil at all. God's seeds of faith don't begin to grow in lives where there is no understanding whatsoever.

The second response to Jesus isn't much better and is represented by rocky ground with presumably a thin soil. The seeds of faith aren't rooted in good, fertile soil so after a short time faith dies. Perhaps an example is when someone goes to an evangelical rally such as a Billy Graham-style rally. They listen to the message, they respond, they go forward to the front, they are surrounded by other people praying and singing. What an atmosphere, brilliant, fantastic. They go to a local church, they go back to work, they've still got bills to pay, the kids are still acting up, they start to tell people about their new found faith, some people are indifferent, others laugh, some may be positively hostile. Jesus hasn't cast a spell to magic away

SERMON

the realities of daily life. They conclude that Jesus hasn't changed their lives the way they expected. They're not in it for the long haul. They expected instant answers. And find it easier just to blend in with the crowd again and go back to the way things were when instant solutions don't appear. Don't get me wrong, many people have come to faith and grown in faith through big events. My point is that a real and lasting faith must have a willingness to commit to Jesus for the long term through thick and thin, good and bad.

In similar vein there is the soil which has thorns growing in it where the seeds of faith grow for a while but gradually "the worries of this world" and other interests and loyalties squeeze in and push God to the side. Eventually there is very little which is distinctive to mark out this person as being a follower of Christ.

Finally there is the good, fertile soil which produces an abundant harvest. The people in whose life the kingdom of heaven is growing. They respond positively to God. They are like the man in the parable of the hidden treasure or the merchant in the parable of the pearl. Both men realise that their discovery of treasure and pearls is valuable above anything else in life. Both men sell everything they have to buy what they have found. The good soil represents the people who realise that God's kingdom is valuable above

all else. They allow him space in their daily lives, they are willing partners in building the kingdom in the here and now but also have the bigger picture in mind which sees that the best is yet to come.

Our willingness to serve God is key. God never conscripts people to serve him. He offers life in abundance, life in all its fullness, life which he has given us so that we might enjoy him forever but as Jesus implies in the parable of the sower and rather more explicitly in the parable of the weeds and the parable of the net there will be those who reject him.

As we approach Easter we remember that Jesus didn't go to the cross because everyone thought he was a great guy and willingly accepted him with open arms. We must be careful never to sanitise the great loving sacrifice which Christ willingly and obediently made on our behalf at Calvary. George McLeod once said "Jesus was not crucified on an altar between two candlesticks, he was crucified on a rubbish dump between two convicts".

Sin was and is a reality. We cannot deny the evil which is present in the world in 2007 but remember also what Jesus said "You will have trouble in this world but take heart for I have overcome the world". Somehow in some mysterious way, which if we're honest we don't fully understand this side of heaven, Jesus dealt with all our

SERMON

sin through his death and resurrection. That's the Good News.

Not one of us can earn God's love or is free from sin. That is why no one is in a position to judge other people yet how readily we do. I'll give you an example. At Claremont Church we have a Sunday morning prayer meeting at 9.15. I drove into the car park one morning and as I was getting out of the car a woman passed the church casually dressed, unlike me, who I didn't know but who clearly wasn't going to the prayer meeting. In an instant thoughts along the lines of the Pharisee "Thank you Lord that I am not like her" had shot through my mind. I had judged that woman. I knew nothing about her but one thing is for sure God loves her as much as he loves me and I need God's grace as much as she does.

Wonderfully, God's grace is freely given. God does not require us to earn his love. He loves us beyond anything we can imagine. We are not perfect, we fail, sometimes very badly but God's love and his grace can handle that. The good soil does not represent perfect people who understand God and his kingdom fully and perfectly, people who don't have struggles and doubts and fears and questions. But it does represent people who willingly roll up their sleeves and put their heart and soul into following Jesus. And look at the results as described in the parables of the mustard

seed and the yeast. From a tiny seed grows a tree and a small amount of yeast works its way all through the dough. These two analogies describe the difference which willing faithful Christians can make in today's imperfect world. God uses these people to grow his kingdom.

There are many examples from history but for the moment one will suffice. This year is the two hundredth anniversary of the abolition of the slave trade. William Wilberforce as a follower of Christ committed himself to fight and campaign with all he had in him to bring an end to the evil of the slave trade. It was a long hard battle. There were many who had a vested interest in maintaining the slave trade. There were those who twisted the bible to try to justify such a trade claiming it was God's will. In our own lifetime there were those sadly in the church who sought to justify apartheid in South Africa. Nevertheless Wilberforce and his supporters persevered and in the end played their part in growing God's kingdom on earth.

In conclusion, each of us must ask ourselves what difference we are making in the world. What are we doing to play our part in building the kingdom of heaven, God's kingdom? No one can say "There is nothing I can do, I can't make a difference".

God says you can. Are you willing?

NEXUS Scotland 2007

A Dynamic New Christian Event for Scotland

23rd – 25th August 2007 SECC

The team (including our own minister) that brought *The Big Saturday* to the SECC in September 2005 have formed a partnership with Scottish Christian Resources Exhibition to produce an event both larger and more inspiring than either *The Big Saturday* or previous Scottish Christian Resources Exhibitions, encouraging us and other churches in faith, ministry and mission.



The event will again be held in the SECC but in Hall 3 which is twice the size of the previously used hall. The exhibition will take place over three days and the hall will be filled with a mixture of resource exhibitors, local church exhibitors and various special feature areas.



A full seminar programme will be held with daily themes of Church Without Walls, Education and Youth.



On the final Saturday, the Armadillo will again host a massive children's event, and the day will be finished with a rousing worship event.

www.nexusScotland.org

STEWARDSHIP

Building on God's Generosity: Talents



In Jesus' parable of the Talents the Master of the house gave different talents to each servant. Those talents were gifts from God. The first two servants used those talents wisely and made them grow. The Master was pleased and gave them more talents. The third servant hoarded his talents and did not use them, nor did he make them grow, so they were taken away from him. The lesson is clear. Use your talents or lose them.

Each of us has varied talents. As an example "The ability to smile" is a talent. If that smile is hoarded and not used, that ability to smile slowly disappears. When you smile the inner essence of your soul is visible to others. That ability to smile through whatever comes your way will help others learn to cope with the trials in their life. To share that smile with another human being is being a good steward of the smile talent that was freely given to us by God!

There are many talents that we possess. The stewardship of talent calls us to search out those talents, nurture them, and help them to grow, and then share them with other human beings.

Our first and greatest commandment is to "To love our God with our whole heart, our whole soul and our whole mind." We do that by using our God given talents for the benefit of others, and doing that brings us directly to our second greatest commandment, "To love our neighbour, as we love ourselves."

For St Andrew's Parish Church to function we need people of all talents to use those talents. To help us discover more about that, the Ministry Action Group is organising a special meal on 1 June 2007 in the TACT Hall. Invitations will be coming around to you in due course.

This will be an opportunity to think about our own talents, how we use them and to see if there are ways they can be used within St Andrew's.



CHURCH HOLIDAY

Blackpool 2006

Plans are already afoot for the 2007 Church Holiday to Torquay, but just so you know what you are missing, May Shaw shares with us the diary from last year's holiday.

Monday 5th June arrived at last. Everyone arrived on time at Hamilton Bus Station where we were met by Harriet Strump, director of Glenton Travel (an English company of 25 years which has just recently started in Scotland).

Speaking with Harriet I was informed that we were the only people going on the coach and that we could arrange the excursions with the driver to suit ourselves. We certainly couldn't miss the bus when it arrived, complete with Big Black Scotty Dog on the side.

Harriet introduced me to our driver, Peter, (no, not the minister) and after loading the luggage into the boot we were ready to board the coach. As we were boarding we each received a wee doggy bag and, you guessed it, it came with Scotty Dog logo too.

A few minutes later we were on our way to the first stop at Moffat Woolen Mill for coffee and some irresistible bargains... The sun began to shine and that is how it remained for the rest of the week.

After arriving at the hotel on the north shore, getting settled into the rooms some of us headed for a walk along the prom before dinner and the evening entertainer Sharon with whom we joined for all the songs.

The first excursion on



CHURCH HOLIDAY

Tuesday was to Fleetwood and it was sweltering! The market there had numerous stalls both inside and out and after many hours of walking around the stalls it was time to rest the weary feet and head back to the hotel. The entertainer was James who had a constant stream of jokes but we always beat him to the punch-line!

Wednesday after breakfast we were off to Southport to look for more bargains in the shops and there were lots of bags on the way back - just as well we had the coach to ourselves. Southport is a lovely place and in the brilliant sunshine it looked particularly nice. Tired, sunburnt and weary it was back to Blackpool for dinner. With no entertainer



Southport's famous pier as the sun sets

we made our own and kept everyone laughing with our attempts at charades; we had sore sides by the end of the night. It was great for everyone to let their hair down - what a tonic!

Thursday was a free day so some went into Blackpool and other to Cleveleys by tram to look for the shops. Our last night had arrived all too soon but the night went off with a bang as Janice Craig assisted the resident entertainer, Sharon, providing great entertainment for everyone.

After breakfast on Friday we said our goodbyes to Blackpool and headed northwards stopping along the way at Bowness on Windermere. Again the sun was still shining as we had our lunch at the lakeside.

It was a great holiday with lots of fun, laughter and sunshine. We even had walks along the promenade at 7:30 each morning!

We are all definitely looking forward to this year's trip to Torquay and we have more folks coming with us this year so we can expect another fun time, especially with everyone's uncle Hughie!

PUZZLE PAGES

A Wordsearch for Easter

A I S P R I N G O H R I S E N
L P A S S O V E R E T R I A L
I B B C A L V A R Y M A S M J
V M B U N P R E D E E M E D E
E O A A H T O G L O G L A D S
R T R G E T H S E M A N E U U
A R A E D C W G T S P I C A S
C R B L R A G O U L F E N C P
H E R O I S L R R I E G A A R
R T S E N P E E C S E S R C I
I S T A S J M U N L H A A J E
S O M B E T R A Y E D I E U S
T O I R A C S I R E T E P D T
R R E H C R U H C Y O J P A R
G A R D E N O I T A V L A S N

ALIVE
ANGEL
APOSTLES
APPEARANCE
ARREST
BARABBAS
BETRAYED
CALVARY
CHRIST
CHURCH
CROSS

CRUCIFIED
DEATH
EGGS
EMMAUS
GARDEN
GETHSEMANE
GOLGOTHA
ISCARIOT
JERUSALEM
JESUS
JOY

JUDAS
MAGDALENE
MARY
PARADE
PASSOVER
PEACE
PETER
PILATE
PRIEST
REDEEMED
RISEN

ROMANS
ROOSTER
SALVATION
SANHEDRIN
SPRING
TOMB
TRIAL
WORSHIP
(Use left over
letters form a
word. Ans: p.26)

PUZZLE PAGES

An Easter Sudoku

Here is another special Sudoku for Easter. Not using numbers as they usually do, but letters instead. The principle is the same. What do you have to do? You have to find all the letters of the phrase we're looking for in each of the 3x3 squares, plus all these letters will also be found in each row and each column. All you have to do is work out where they go. Don't guess, you can get into a right mess! Try and work it out.

To get you started, some of the letters are already filled in. Have fun! This puzzle is rated 'Medium Difficulty'.

The letters you need to place form the phrase:

GOD WITH US

H					U			
	D	W	H	S	I			
	T	U	G				W	H
W		S						
T	I						G	U
						T		W
U	G				W	H	I	
			D	O	H	U	T	
			U					S

CHURCH NOTICES

Baptisms

*Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them
in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

September 2006

- 10th Andrew Dickie, son of Craig & Alison Dickie
17th Karen Jacqueline Ralston, daughter of Anne Ralston

October 2006

- 1st Ms Mary-Jane Rachel Margaret Wyper, adult baptism
1st Rachel-Jane Kay Wyper Greenhorn, daughter of Matthew
Greenhorn & Mary-Jane Wyper

November 2006

- 19th Mr Greig Andrew McDade, adult baptism
19th Abby McDade, daughter of Greig & Sharon McDade

Funerals

*I am the resurrection and the life.
Whoever has faith in me shall live, even though he dies.*

November 2006

- 13th Mr William Thomson, 7 Windyridge Place, Blantyre
24th Mrs Esther Graham, 38 Boswell Drive, Blantyre
27th Mrs Mary Nodwell Neill Brown, Avonbridge Home
28th Mr Frank Brown, 40 Schoolhouse Lane, High Blantyre

December 2006

- 2nd Mr William Beaton, 63 Small Crescent, Blantyre
11th Mrs Martha Hampsey, 45 Knightswood Terrace, Blantyre
14th Mrs Jean McLean, Kirkcare, High Blantyre
28th Miss Elsie Booth, 39 Greenlees Park, Cambuslang

January 2007

- 9th Mr Andrew Gibson, Victoria Nursing Home
16th Mr Frank McMahan, 6 Hardie Street, Blantyre
22nd Mr Walter Forsyth, 27 Dundonald Street, Blantyre

Mystery Word from WordSearch is RESURRECTION

USEFUL INFORMATION

St Andrew's Parish Church

Church Street, Blantyre, G72 0NY

www.standrewsblantyre.com



Minister

Rev. Peter Johnston
332 Glasgow Road
Blantyre, G72 9LQ
Tel: 01698 828633
Email: peter.johnston@standrewsblantyre.com

Session Clerk

Mr. Andrew Williamson
124 Craig Street
Blantyre, G72 0NG
Tel: 01698 825829
Email: andy_williamson@rohmhaas.com

Assistant to Session Clerk

Mrs. Elsie Balneaves
321 Glasgow Road
Blantyre, G72 9HN
Tel: 01698 824155
Email: elsiebalneaves@hotmail.com

Treasurer

Miss May Shaw
88 Morris Crescent
Blantyre, G72 0BZ
Tel: 01698 824117

Church Officer

Mr. George Greenhorn
9 Jedburgh Street
Blantyre, G72 0ST
Tel: 01698 828468

OTHER CONTACTS

Brownies (3rd Blantyre)

Susan Steele, 825138

Organist / Church Choir

Susan Menzies, c/o 827930

Guides (6th Blantyre)

Maureen Cochrane, 711081

The Guild

Margaret Scullion, 827059

IQ Group

Jim & Lorraine Brown, 825977

Ladies Evening

Helen Finnie, 822434

Prayer/Quiet Time

Mary Dick, 325347

Rainbows (3rd Blantyre)

Wilma Dunn, 301237

Sunday Funday Club

Catherine Williamson, 825829

Traidcraft Stall

Carolyn Johnston, 828633

Tuesday Tea Room

Isabelle Menzies, 827930

THE GRAPEVINE TEAM

Elsie Balneaves, Lorraine Brown,
Peter Johnston and Tom Willis.
Submissions to any member of
the team are always welcome.

Youth Fellowship

St Andrew's Church, Blantyre

Sundays 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Sunday 11th March

We're taking a trip to the cinema. Film and exact times to be confirmed on 8th March.



The Youth Fellowship is open to young people (P7 to age 17) both in St Andrew's and to those who do not presently come to the IQ Group.

There is badminton, table tennis, X-Box, Music and other things to do. We hope that the Youth Fellowship will be a safe place where young people can be in touch with the life of the Church even if they are not attending on a Sunday Morning.

Contact Lorraine or Jim Brown (825977) or Malcolm McCormack (325257) for details.

Youth Fellowship Dates

March

11th Cinema trip
25th Off

April

8th Off for Easter
22nd

May

13th
27th Off for Holiday Weekend

June

10th Final fellowship before
Summer break

September

9th First fellowship after Summer
23rd Off for September Weekend

October

14th
28th