

May 2008

Dear Friends,

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation has perhaps ceased to be a significant event in the life of the church in recent years, often held following morning worship rather than as an evening event. This is now even more the case as under the new charity regulations it is the elders and members of the Congregational Board who are responsible for approving the Annual Statement of Accounts rather than the AGM. This year therefore the AGM was incorporated into the May meeting of the Kirk Session and Board and thanks should be recorded to the member (singular) of the congregation who turned up!

I would therefore like to take this opportunity through the magazine to thank a number of people on behalf of the congregation. I thank our music staff, Jim Marshall and Jim Letham, for their contribution to worship at Melrose, and John Wilson assisted by a number of others at Bowden. I would also wish to thank all choir members. Thanks also to our secretary Joyce O'Neil, our church officer Ian Douglas, and Mig Moore and Sara Garry for cleaning duties at Melrose and Bowden respectively. Also to be thanked are the large number of office bearers and volunteers who contribute to the life of the congregation in so many ways. Two people who deserve special thanks at this time are Allan Forrest and Eileen Redhead. Allan has served as treasurer for the last two years, has steered the congregation through all the changes required by the new charity regulator and been involved in the significant fund raising for the roofing works and Al Shurooq School in Bethlehem. Eileen steps down after two years as Guild President and has contributed greatly to the work of the Guild in that time.

In March last year we started the family services at 10.00a.m. at Melrose, held monthly, and supported by a number of families. As these continue it is hoped that other families may also wish to attend and we can develop our work amongst children and their parents. At the same time the numbers attending Sunday School on a regular basis has declined to the point where it is hardly sustainable and in all probability will not continue after the summer. I would like to thank all those who have helped out in recent years but especially Jill Howard and Wendy Maguire for their commitment over this last year in particular when numbers have often been very small but they have continued to give of their time. I would be very happy to hear from parents as to whether they think the provision of a monthly service is adequate or what can be provided on a weekly basis.

In the meantime I hope all enjoy the summer, the numerous church events and concerts, and the Melrose Festival which begins with the traditional Kirkin' Service on 15th June. As Melrose is an increasingly popular tourist area may we always be alert to ensuring a warm welcome to visitors who join us for worship in our two churches.

Yours sincerely,

***An Invitation to Holy Communion
Last Sunday of June, July and August
9.30a.m.
Bowden Kirk***

GUILD NEWS

I am now at the end of my second and final year as President. When I agreed to take on the role of President, I was still very "green around the gills" as to the workings of a Guild within the Church of Scotland, but Jenny Lindsay was a great help to me, and I leaned on her a lot, for which I thank her. I would like to thank all the Committee members for their support and hard work, especially Isa Scott as Secretary, who put together a very interesting programme, and Jenny Lindsay as Treasurer. Also I would like to thank the ladies of the committee who showed commitment to the kitchen and co-ordinated, with the help of members, a lovely tea every Meeting. I must also thank Margaret Young who played the piano for us so beautifully and Ian, our Church Officer who was so obliging when preparing the hall for our Meetings.

We have had a variety of speakers this season, which we have all enjoyed, especially Janice Whiteford, who was our Speaker at the Invitation Tea. Janice, who is a District Nurse, gave us a talk about her involvement with the Vine Trust. She worked, for a short while, on one of the Amazon Medical Ships and through her slides, showed us the amazing work they do to help the local people, especially the poor people of Peru. I would like to thank everyone who attended the Invitation Tea and who gave so generously to the retiring collection thus enabling us to send the sum of £190 to the Vine Trust. I am sorry that we had to cancel our usual May Outing this year. This was due to lack of numbers and therefore not economically viable. I hope the members who wanted to go, were not too disappointed.

The Guild is going modern next season and the new President is a "job share". Greta Leitch, Grace MacKinnon and Cathy McCulloch are sharing the role. I am sure that, in their capable hands, the Guild will go from strength to strength and I wish them every success. The next Meeting of the Guild will be in October and this is our Dedication Service which is held in the Chapel. Enjoy your summer break and I hope the weather is kind to us.

Eileen Redhead, President

Mid-Week Lunch

Numbers have been dropping at the lunches and prices of food have been rising so there was a smaller than usual surplus of cash to distribute at the year end. (March)

It is good that we are able to give even a little to help others in need.

Surplus was distributed as follows: -

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Chogoria Hospital | £150 |
| Scottish Borders Africa Aids Group | £150 |
| Christian Aid | £150 |
| Parish Church | £200 |

Future mid-week lunch dates:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------|
| Wednesday June 25 | Margaret's team |
| Wednesday July 23 | Pat's team |
| Wednesday August 27 | Kath's Team |

12.15 – 1.30p.m. price £2.50

There is an Ecumenical Service at 11.45a.m. prior to the lunch and again numbers have also dropped and it would be excellent to see additional people filling the seats.

Pat Mackenzie

SHALLOWFORD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ATLANTA

As mentioned in the last issue of the magazine the Youth Choir of the above Church are visiting us again arriving on the evening of Tuesday 10th June until after breakfast on Thursday 12th with their concert on Wednesday evening.

To date we have had a disappointing response to our appeal for accommodation on a bed and breakfast basis for the two nights and I hope you will be able to provide accommodation for either two youngsters or one adult. Your help with this will be much appreciated.

Their performance is on Wednesday 11th June at 7.30pm in the church. The programme opens with several sacred anthems from the late Renaissance and Classical period. These anthems are followed by a musical "**Celebrate!**" which actually combines two sacred musicals: **A Season to Celebrate** by Allen Pote and **Celebrate Life** by Buryl Red. **Celebrate!** tells the story of Jesus in simple, dramatic terms using drama and creative movement as well as traditional musical settings accompanied by cello, flute, guitar and piano. It communicates to young and old alike, the experience of celebrating the life of Jesus Christ.

The Chapel Touring Choir travels each June for almost two weeks. This is the Choir's third tour of Scotland. The young people have sung in over twenty five states, three Canadian provinces including Nova Scotia. All members of the touring choir sing in the Chapel Choir at Shallowford Presbyterian Church Atlanta, Georgia where the choir leads Sunday worship regularly.

The programme is free and open to everyone.

AL-SHUROOQ SCHOOL FOR BLIND CHILDREN, BETHLEHEM

We have now remitted to the school the grand sum of £31,697.51 being the amount raised by or congregation over the last year or so. Construction of their new building is progressing rapidly. To date, skeleton works on the outside is finished for all three floors. Internal finishes of plastering and tiling have started on the first and second floors. The funds we have provided will be used to equip the kitchen to a higher specification. Once it is done the school will send us pictures, they are also going to erect a brass plaque at the entrance of the kitchen indicating that the kitchen was only made possible by the generosity of our congregation.

It looks as if they could be moving into the new school by September. It has always been their cherished wish to have their own premises, and not keep moving from one building to another, Eventually, and after much prayers and perseverance, this dream is being fulfilled.

Doris Saba the Director has asked that we convey their very deep gratitude for such a generous donation. They are greatly humbled by the generosity, love and dedication of all their friends who have made this project possible.

The children and staff, say "thank you" to each and every one of you.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOOKSHOP

Spring Cleaning your bookshelves? Books on any topic, in saleable condition are always welcome for the August Community Council Bookshop Event . Books can be handed to or collected by Val Miller (tel 01896 822578). Funds raised are for local projects.

SUMMER FETE

The annual summer fete will be held on Saturday 26th July in Bowden Village Hall from 2.00pm. – 4.00p.m. There will be the usual stalls and teas. Volunteers will be most welcome and are asked to contact either Liz Sanderson (01835 822736) or Moyra Inglis (01835 823482) as soon as possible as a preparatory meeting will be arranged.

BOWDEN BOOK

As part of the village environmental challenge programme Bowden WRI have updated the 1965 version of the Bowden History. Copies of this book are available to all interested parties free of charge although donations would be acceptable. All monies will be given to the Sandy Logie Clinic. Enquiries to Moyra Inglis, 01835 823482.

CAPPELLA NOVOCASTRIENSIS SUNDAY 15TH JUNE 8.00PM

The Choir was founded in 1960 by Dr Frederick Hudson to specialise in singing music for worship. It has about 40 members, and often sings unaccompanied.

Cappella sings in churches throughout the North East, as well as giving several major concerts each year. These concerts frequently promote unjustly neglected music.

In recent years Cappella has given a number of performances of early music with period instruments provided by Newcastle Baroque, or on occasion by period brass ensembles such as QuintEssential and the English Cornett and Sackbut Ensemble.

Monteverdi's *Vespers of 1610* has been performed on two occasions in Durham Cathedral.

In 1999, with the aid of the Lottery Fund, the City of Newcastle, the Sir James Knott Trust and individual subscriptions, Cappella commissioned a chamber organ from Neil Richerby of Lammermuir Pipeorgans. This organ, his "Opus 34", has been a valuable asset to the choir's performances.

The choir has also appeared on Tyne Tees Television's *With Voices Raised*, and at Christmas 2007 was featured on BBC Radio 3's *The Choir*.

In praise of Mary and Cuthbert.....

Cappella always enjoys singing in churches around the Northumbrian region and is looking forward to crossing the border for the first time to sing in Melrose.

The choir is embarking on a five year musical journey in honour of St Cuthbert, singing in venues closely connected with this inspirational evangelist. Where better to start the pilgrimage than in Melrose, where Cuthbert had the vision that took him eventually to Lindisfarne, and into the history of the Golden Age of Northumbria?

Cappella will sing **Palestrina's Mass 'Assumpta est Maria'**, and the motet on which the mass is based. The choir divides into two for **Victoria's Magnificat 'primi toni'** – a powerful contrapuntal setting. Also included are two motets, by **Bruckner** and **Rachmaninov**. But the concert will start with **John Tavener's 'Ikona of St Cuthbert'**, written for Durham Cathedral, a fitting beginning to this challenging musical project.

MELROSE SPORTS 2008

In between hanging up his Rugby microphone and taking out his tennis racket (raquet?) our Sports Correspondent, Mac Brown, sent us the following report.

"On Saturday 12th April, 2008, Melrose Rugby Football Club celebrated the 125th Anniversary of seven-a-side rugby at the Greenyards, where it all began in April 1883. The abbreviated game was the brainchild of local butcher, Ned Haig, and is now well-established world wide.

In his 2008 programme article Jack Dunn remembers the Melrose Jubilee Sevens in 1932, "when the weather could not have been worse. It rained and rained solidly for five hours and the field was described as a sea of mud, at the end of the day".

So, after all these years, what has changed? Certainly not the weather!

This year's Tournament was rather special in as much as it took place over three days,

with Veterans, Ladies and Youths Tournaments held on the Thursday and Friday prior to the main event on the Saturday. The Thursday and Friday events were very enjoyable despite cold and wet weather, and Mike Aitken, as coordinator, did a huge amount of work to ensure their success.

Melrose Sevens has always drawn big crowds and this year was no exception. 'Sports' is the old term, a memory of a time when other aspects of sport were included.

Its success comes from a combination of having a social day out and being able to see some of the best Sevens teams in the world in action. Melrose Sevens is arguably the best, bar those on the IRB (International Rugby Board) circuit, and it still leaves us all slightly bemused as to why the Scottish Rugby Union did not have the guts to hold the IRB event at the Greenyards (instead of Murrayfield), particularly in this auspicious year - but that is another story.....

Our guest Sevens teams this year included the Chinese Agricultural University; the Gold Coast Breakers from Queensland; the Roma Seven (without one Italian in their side); the Shimlas from the Orange Free State, making their third successive visit to the Greenyards; Ulster Rugby from Northern Ireland; and Leicester Tigers, who despite playing some wonderful rugby will probably be remembered for their ill-tempered and ill-disciplined play.

Selkirk, the holders of the 'Kings of the Sevens' title, were beaten by Melrose who went on to make the semi finals before beating the holders, the Shimlas, in a very tense and exciting tie.

The final was won by a young Scottish Thistles team, who never let Leicester get into their stride, and were almost out of sight by half-time. The Thistles' performance augurs well for the future of Scottish Sevens.

At one stage the weather was not conducive to great rugby but the crowd, which was larger than usual, were treated to some rugby of the highest order and, in the end, the sun came out to cap another memorable Sevens day.

On the periphery the marquee in the Gibson Park hosted discos and Rock Bands, as well as serving as a beer tent. On the Saturday night of the Sevens, Kelly Brown (Ruth and Bertie's grandson) stole the show when he sang with The John Beattie Band. He has had a great rugby season and, who knows, after rugby a singing career may beckon !

As for the announcers, Ian Houston, Roy Mack and myself have the privilege of sitting in the fantastic Press Box, which offers great views over the ground. We share the duties of announcing team news and scores (as well as 'lost' and 'come to the office' items) during what is a very long day, but one which passes all too quickly. When Y Jaicheng of the Chinese team scored, and was announced, Ian, rather than even attempt to repeat the name, intimated that 'the same gentleman' had made the conversion. This raised one of the biggest cheers of the afternoon.

The Club deserves many plaudits for running a highly successful and enhanced Tournament to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of that first Tournament. Ian Cooper, the Sevens Convenor; Gordon Chisholm, Sevens Secretary; Christine McGhee, Club Secretary; Andy Purves; and Keith Robertson take great credit, along with many others, for a truly magnificent effort of organisation.

To complement the Tournament the souvenir Programme was of the highest calibre, and Colin Brown, Programme Convenor, must be justly proud of it.

I could mention many more people for their contributions, but suffice to say that the officials and helpers do it all for the Club and the game and for no self-reward. Long may this continue!”

Mac Brown

AN ODE TO ROSIE

As part of our community roundup we asked our Melrose in Bloom correspondent for news of the current season’s doings – and before we could stop him he launched into what looks like verse. If you can stand it – here is the news, from the Vineyard Bard. (To be read across the way)

Rosie’s back in town today
Accoutred for the floral fray,
Fully serviced, nice and clean,
Ready t’ improve the Melrose scene

Full of gas, full of oil
Well geared up for daily toil.
Mission Statement loud and clear
‘Out and start another year.’

And yes, it’s Melrose Blooming true
She has a new Committee too,
Uncle Owen in the chair
And Auntie Viv the Treasuraire.

Rosie has a new present,
She thinks the hose is heaven-sent.
Some think it’s simply ‘state of the art’
But we know where John plays his part

Big Dunc is still on the computer
The planner, yes, the watering ‘router’.
The planters all a drink must get,
The hanging baskets – don’t forget!

Through the town our Rosie speeds,
Stopping only for the deid heids,
And then down to the river trips –
A camel’s load of water ships

Chicaning through our new piazza
Hoping to avoid disaster,
Then gliding slowly ‘long the road
(She doesn’t want to shed her load)

Slipping ‘tween the cars and vans
She seizes any parking chance,
Setting her juicy cans a-dance,
Skooshing the water from her lance.

Litter’s hers, and spent beer cans –
No wonder she’s so many fans,
Rain or sun, it’s all the same,
Weeding, beastie-spraying’s the game.

Waterers drift about their tasks,
Dodging draymen humping casks.
But posing for the tourists’ snaps
Is only for the purist chaps.

Finishing off the Banks and Bakers –
Surely there are no further takers?
We may be finished for the day
But Chairman urges (so does Ray) ...

‘Keep it up, there’s lots to do,
Try to win a plaque – or two.
Come on, Rosie, do your bit,
We want to make Melrose a hit’

Rosie says ‘thanks’ for all contributions
As she goes about her daily ablutions.
It’s hard work making this town pretty
- Almost as hard as penning this ditty!

MUSIC AND MEMORIES

The Gospel According to Clara – Aged 7

At supper recently our seven year old daughter told us that she has now fully understood Easter properly. Here's her version of the story....

It all started after Pine Sunday when people waved pines as Jesus rode on a donkey into Jerusalem.. The pine needles would have been sharp on the donkey's feet so they (the crowd) took off their cloaks and laid them on the ground to stop his hooves getting prickled. Then Jesus had a big feast with his friends and he took one piece of bread like this and was tore it into 13 bits all exactly the same size. But Judith decided to betray Jesus.

The king in Jerusalem was jealous and a bit scared of Jesus and decided to get rid of him. Jesus had gone to a garden for a bit of 'quiet time' and was so tired he'd fallen asleep. Judith woke him up with a kiss on the cheek so the soldiers knew this was Jesus. They wrapped Jesus in a red cloak and one of his friends helped him carry a big wooden cross. There was a big storm. After Jesus was killed they took him off the cross and wrapped him in white bandages and put him in a cave and there was a gardener mowing the lawn and picking up leaves and stuff. The gardener approached Mary and pulled down the hoodie he was wearing and said,

'Hello Mother'. Mary was very happy as her son Jesus had hatched out of the cave – and that's why we have Easter eggs.

By kind permission of St Columba's Church of Scotland, London



Dedication Lunch, Sunday 27th April - "And not a hard hat in sight"

FATHER'S DAY

The third Sunday in June is Father's Day. Ever wonder how the idea of Father's Day came about? Well....

It all started way back in 1909 because of a woman in Spokane, Washington, named Sonora Louise Smart Dodd. That year she heard a church sermon about the merits of setting aside a day to honour one's mother. Mother's Day was just beginning to gather widespread attention in the United States at this time. But Sonora Louise Smart Dodd knew that it was her father who had selflessly raised herself and her five siblings by himself after their mother had died in childbirth. So the sermon on mothers gave Sonora Louise the idea to petition for a day to honour fathers, and in particular, her own father, William Jackson Smart.

Sonora Louise soon set about planning the first Father's Day celebration in Spokane in 1910. With support from the Spokane Ministerial Association and the YMCA, her efforts paid off, and a 'Father's Day' was appointed. Sonora Louise had wanted Father's Day to be on the first Sunday in June (since that was her father's birthday), but the city council didn't have time to approve it until later in the month. And so on June 19, 1910, the first Father's Day was celebrated in Spokane.

Gradually, other people in other cities caught on and started celebrating their fathers, too. The rose was selected as the official Father's Day flower. Some people began to wear a white rose to honour a father who was dead, and a red one to honour a father who was

living. Finally, in 1972, President Richard Nixon signed a presidential proclamation declaring the third Sunday of June as Father's Day - a permanent, national holiday.

Today, Father's Day is a great time to celebrate any sort of male role models, like uncles or grandfathers, as well as dads. Certainly Father's Day has become a day for greeting card companies to rejoice, and sales of the most popular gifts for Dad (shirts, ties, and electric razors) increase considerably. Perhaps most telling of all, though, is how children continue to see their fathers: more 'collect calls' to home are recorded on Father's Day in America than on any other day of the year!

Courtesy of Parish Pump

SMILE LINES

How to make your wife more efficient

An efficiency expert was delivering a seminar on time management for a company's junior executives. He concluded the session with a disclaimer: "But whatever you do, do NOT attempt these task-organizing tips at home," he said.

"Why not?" he was asked.

"Well, I did a study of my wife's routine of fixing breakfast," he replied, a little embarrassed. "I noticed she made a lot of trips between the refrigerator and the stove, the table and the cabinets, each time carrying only one item. So I told her: "Darling you are making too many trips back and forth carrying one item at a time. If you would only try carrying several things at once you would be much more efficient." He paused.

"Did that save time?" one of the executives asked.

"Actually, yes," the expert answered, "It used to take her 20 minutes to fix my breakfast. Now I get my own in seven minutes."

"The congregation was wonderful," said the visiting minister after the service. "They were so polite that they covered their mouths when they yawned."

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