

Canonbie Chronicles

Edition 10. Autumn 2011

www.canonbiechurch.org.uk

Dates

- Holy Communion – 4 Sept.
- Every Monday from 5 Sept, Bible Study in church at 7:30pm. Everyone welcome.
- 17 Sept. Wedding of Luke Warwick & Lyndsay Anderson. 3:30pm.
- 25 Sept. Back to Church Sunday. See the Minister's letter.
- 2 Oct. Revd. Lindsay Thomson leads Sunday Worship.
- 9 Oct. Harvest Festival.
- 16 Oct. UNITED SERVICE AT NEWCASTLETON – Commissioning of John Bailey. See back page. No service at Canonbie Church.
- 17 Oct. Parish Reappraisal Committee meet with the Kirk Session.
- Soup Kitchens, Village Hall 29 Oct. & 26 Nov.
- 14 Nov. Congregational Board.
- Craft Fayre, Village Hall, 5 & 6 Nov.
- Film Night, Canonbie Church (title to be announced) 26 Nov.
- Christmas Concert with Langholm Orchestra, Canonbie Church, 4 Dec.

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Letter from the Minister

The Manse, Newcastleton. Tel. 013873 75242

Dear Friends,

There are lots of people who believe in God, but say they do not find attendance at church services helpful. They are part of a recognised trend in “Spiritual, but not religious” thinking. “I don’t have to go to church to be a Christian”, and “You are nearer to God in the garden than anywhere else on earth” are common ways of expressing this.

This is true,but. The Bible teaches us that we belong together, and we miss out if we are not playing our part in the life of the church.

You know the old story of the Minister who went to visit a member who had not been to Kirk for a while. The two men sat in front of the fire. Silently the minister took the poker and lifted a burning coal out of the fire and onto the hearth. As they watched it, the coal turned from red hot to white, to black as it cooled. Then, without saying a word, the Minister again took the coal and slid it back into the fire, where it quickly glowed red hot again. You get the point.

Our society is increasingly individualistic. We hear stories of people who live on their computers, a “virtual” life.

Jesus offers us REAL life, “life in all its fullness” (John 10:10), and the way to experience that fullness of life is by joining in – having a relationship with God, our sisters and brothers in faith, and in community.

25th September is designated “Back to Church” Sunday. We invite every regular attender to invite someone else to the Sunday service that day who does not usually come, that we all may find a welcome, and life in all its fullness.

God bless,

Steve

Summer 2011 news

Spree in the Borders

Nearly 20 people from our church camped out in the pouring rain at Whithaugh Park, Newcastleton to take part in this Christian outdoor activity weekend, 17-19 June.

Mission Rescue

Around 30 youngsters of primary school age attended our holiday club daily, 15-19 August. Activities were run by our adults and youth helpers following a programme from Scripture Union.

Focussing on the story of Moses, the week was a complete success with new families joining us in worship the following Sunday. Many thanks to all who helped stage the week and contribute to ‘pot luck’ lunch on the Sunday.

Our missionaries

Canonbie United Parish Church Kirk session has recently discussed the possibilities of seeking partner congregations from one or more churches in Scotland or abroad. Charlie Foster has been asked to explore opportunities to build relationships with a church in Zimbabwe as he and Ruth lived and worked there in the early nineties. But we also decided to pursue renewed contact with Barrie and Tillie Flitcroft, missionaries of the United Free Church in the United States. Barrie comes from Canonbie and Tillie worked in Gretna. As former members of the United Free church congregation, they are known to many people in this area. Liz Findlay recently sent an e-mail to Barrie and a very interesting response was received. Copies are available in the church but the content is summarised here.

Barrie and Tillie left Canonbie 41 years ago to work as missionaries in Vietnam where they operated an orphanage and leprosy settlement outside Danang. This

was followed by 14 years in South Korea where they developed a ministry to the blind. They continued with this work with 3 years in the Phillipines. In 1989 they established EQUIP International in North America as an independent charity to train mission workers. This developed not only as a training facility but as a mission agency. EQUIP International has trained approximately 3000 workers for 700+ agencies working in 154 countries.

Barrie's e-mail closes by asking friends in Canonbie to pray for someone to come forward to continue the work of EQUIP International as he and Tillie look towards retirement.

Canonbie United Parish Church Kirk Session encourages you to respond to that prayer request. Please speak to Anthony Lane or Liz for Barrie's details if you would like to contact them.

Visit the website: www.equipinternational.com

John Bailey's commissioning to OM

Many people in Canonbie will know John Bailey of our Newcastleton congregation who recently started work for the international charity Operation Mobilisation (OM) at their offices in Carlisle. OM works across the globe, spreading the Gospel and providing Christian resources worldwide.

John has already worked abroad for OM, but on Sunday 16 October he will be formally commissioned at a special service in Newcastleton Church. Canonbie people are invited to attend this service and consequently there will be no worship at Canonbie that day.

"Media hype on a single issue surrounded this year's General Assembly. Whatever individual feelings may exist, the Assembly has made its decision – and the time has come for the Church to move forward and concentrate on what it does best: - spreading the Gospel message and caring for the poor, impoverished and disenfranchised in our society today"
Read it in "Life & Work" - copies in the foyer.

Canonbie United Parish Church building.

Its nearly 3 years since we completed the transformation of our church building. Whilst we are using it much more than we ever did, there remains plenty of space to be used by the wider community. Canonbie Church is a 'state of the art facility,' warm and comfortable which is available for meetings, conferences, exhibitions and hospitality events. The Church Board continues to explore opportunities to hire space within the

church and realise much needed revenue to help with our running costs. Please spread the word and contact Dorothy on 013873 71227 for bookings.

We have played host to parties from other churches wanting to hear of our experiences in redeveloping the church building. A group of approx. 20 people from Peninghame parish (Newton Stewart) called on us in July.