



The Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

There are three fundamental principles on which the Church of Scotland stands - and by which the church stands or falls - and with which the church proceeds into new phases of our work. They are:

- That the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments are our supreme rule in all matters of life and faith - i.e. supreme rule of how we behave and what we believe
- That the Westminster Confession is the subordinate standard which is set in place to help us understand what is the genuine Christian faith as found in the Bible
- That we are a Reformed Church, which when it reforms itself further, does so *always in accordance with Holy Scripture*.

It has long been a matter of unease in many that there are a great number of people in the church who do not adhere to these principles and yet demand the rights and privileges of staying within the denomination and doing as they please, usually advancing their cause by omitting these three matters or using or omitting the laws of the church for the same purpose.

What was once done by stealth is now openly advocated and what was hidden is now unmasked. At this Assembly one person stood up to declare that we now know better that the Bible on certain moral matters. See clearly what is being said here. If the Bible is the Word of God - and it is - then what they were saying is that *we now know better than God*. Neither the Moderator, nor either of the Clerks, nor any former Moderator or Principal Clerk rose to their feet to rebuke or correct what was said. So in one fell swoop, the Bible is set aside as of no further value or influence in the church except insofar as it agrees with what *we* say.

In a magazine printed for ministers, one minister who trained at the same time as me wrote that they had never read the Westminster Confession, and so did not believe the Christian faith as expounded there, and counted themselves blessed never to have read it.

So our subordinate standard is buried.

As to the future, our new decision of this General Assembly with respect to same-sex relationships sets out to reform the church in a way that is *not* in accord with Holy Scripture. We are required to accept as ministers those who refuse to submit to Scripture and have brought the whole denomination into the place where what the Bible consistently throughout the Old and New Testaments rejects as a valid Christian lifestyle must be deemed acceptable.

Every aspect of our denominations foundation has been systematically destroyed. What are we to do? Be quiet? Do nothing? Go on as if nothing significant had taken place?

Imagine someone destroying the foundations of your house. Could you go on living there as if nothing significant had happened? Of course not, because at some point the whole edifice must collapse and the whole building come crashing down and all is destroyed.

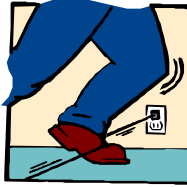
That is where we are in the Church of Scotland.

We as a congregation must consider what to do. The Kirk Session and Congregational Board must take the lead in this. Let us remain united and seek the wisdom and guidance of God in this matter, so that the truths of the gospel which have been imperilled can be proclaimed in all their grace and truth. One person, and one person alone, must be honoured in all we say and do, namely our Lord Jesus Christ, and his Cross high and lifted up in all its glory as the place of salvation for all who believe.

May our Lord richly bless us all at this time as we wait upon Him,

Richard G Buckley

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE



In October, 2009 a Health & Safety Committee was formed. The members of this Committee are Peter Kay, Alistair McKenzie, Norma McKenzie, Isabel Whyte and Bob Wilson.

This was required for a number of reasons: mainly we have an old building and things that were acceptable when the church was built do not meet current legislation. Although church buildings do not come under the same Health & Safety regulations as business premises, we still have a duty of care to everyone coming in to our buildings.

The Committee firstly carried out a risk assessment throughout the church and church halls. The deficiencies we found we have graded into high priority, medium priority and low priority, and we are working our way through this. Copies of the risk assessment forms are available on the Drummond Desk for the information of the congregation.

We have joined the Church Safety this is website dedicated to Health and safety in places of worship. You will have noticed we have displayed Health & Safety Posters and our own Health & Safety Document throughout the church and halls.

We have made a start on the risk assessment list, e.g., high boiler instead of the urn, longer handrails on staircases, and the hole in the floor at the top of the right-hand aisle repaired.

All this takes time and we would ask you to bear with us. We will keep you updated at regular intervals on the progress.

Health & Safety is, however, **everyone's** responsibility, and we would ask if you notice anything which may be causing you concern to please speak to a member of the Committee.

Norma McKenzie

N E W S F R O M R A C H E L

Hello everyone!

Hope you are all well! Sad times being away for so long, but it's been an awesome 5 months and I'm excited for another one before coming home. I've been at a mission school in Northern Zambia called Sakeji. I've been teaching wee bits, lower school maths and language, upper school modern studies and current affairs. I've learned that I'm definitely not a teacher, but I'm giving it my best shot! I'm also helping with Sunday school and, would you believe it, I'm also teaching the piano! I know.

It's been an overwhelming experience in terms of seeing God at work in my life. Being away from home, and everything I know, has shown me clearly that God is the only thing that remains the same wherever I go. Seeing Him answer each of my prayers has put me in a position of being unable to doubt Him, and helped me to realise how I need to embrace His word and definitely made me want to!

Please can you pray that I'll continue to pursue God and look for His guidance in all that I'm doing out here, and also that I'll know when I should come home. I'm so aware that His timing is perfect and His plans are better than mine, so please pray that my faith will be strengthened and I trust Him fully with the next few weeks!

See you soon!

Love,

Rachel

WOMEN'S HOUR

The Women's Hour concluded another successful session. This was in spite of having to cancel some of their programme because of the inclement weather In November, December, and January.

The meetings which did go ahead were interesting and varied, and started with Andy Laing describing his vision for Youth Work in the church and concluded with his father, Iain Laing talking about his visit to Uganda. Iain had gone out to see the on-going work in Kiryanyonza village, Lowera where a church, clinic, 2 schools, an orphanage, a farm and a number of other projects have been completed.

We would especially like to thank members of the congregation, Jean Ross, Ella Crichton, Charis Brodie and our Minister for giving their time to come along and address the meeting

The attendance at our meetings was good and averaged 24 over the session. This number included 3 new members. This year we decided to donate our surplus funds to a number of Christian Charities which included Tear Fund, MAF, Lodging House Mission, Channon and others.

Our annual outing this year went to Callander and then on to the Scottish Antiques and Crafts Centre in Doune for high tea.

Janet Wilson would like to thank the Committee and everyone who helped in any way towards the success of the Woman's Hour over the past session.

Janet Wilson



Navigators ("Navs") is an international Christian organisation which currently has over 4000 staff working in more than 100 countries worldwide. In the UK the Navigators work in a variety of contexts amongst: students, graduates, local churches, business & professionals and communities.

In universities, Navs helps students to investigate the Christian faith, to study the Bible for themselves, to live out their faith and to learn to help others do the same. A major way this is done is through small discussion groups. For many the relationships formed in these groups are key to their spiritual journey, challenging and encouraging them. These groups provide a safe and honest environment to learn together.

Mark Girvan, who graduated in July from Strathclyde University, will be joining Navs on a year-long program called 'Connect'. This will involve an element of self-development, equipping Mark for leadership, and he will also be responsible for the day-to-day running of Bible Study groups among the student community in Glasgow.

We wish Mark God's blessing in this new venture as he seeks to serve the Lord.

If you would like to receive Mark's newsletter, either by post or e-mail, please give him your address.

WHAT MAKES A MINISTER...?

“I have been appointed by Presbytery to issue to you and this congregation a charge. The immediate result of this is to make one feel very conscious of one’s own failures and shortcomings which would prevent one speaking to you from any position of personal authority or success.

Therefore I would just like to outline to you (and indeed for those of us who have been called to the pastoral ministry) some aspects of this ministry that the Apostle Paul laid upon the young Timothy. In his letters he shows Timothy how he might be ‘a good a minister of Jesus Christ.’

By your answers to the question given a few minutes ago.... I know that this is your earnest desire.

The first quality or mark of a good minister is that he will safeguard and teach sound doctrine. This is the first thing the apostle mentions. Timothy was to warn and instruct the members of the church in the pure doctrine of the gospel. So.....you must nourish your own soul in the truth of God’s word so that you are able to instruct others also.

So then, a good minister of Jesus Christ will always remember that he is engaged in a strenuous spiritual warfare. He must be prepared to fight. And so must you.....-not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, for Satan is a powerful foe, doing his utmost to break up the work of God. And no one is in a better position to receive his attacks than the minister of the Gospel. Hence he must use the shield of faith – a deep trust in God and in what He is.

And then a ‘good minister’ of Jesus Christ will endeavor to be a good example of godly living to others. Some people may have thought that timothy was too young to have this calling, but Timothy could silence all criticism by his Christ-like conduct. The first duty is not only to preach, to teach, to visit

or to comfort (all of which are important) but to display in his own life the truths he believes and teaches – to be an example to believers (and to non-believers) in word, in behaviour, in love, in Spirit and in faith.

A 'good minister' too will be studious and conscientious in his work for the Lord....You must be faithful in your private reading and devotions. You must take great care of your inner life. We may crowd out our times of waiting upon God by a mad round of activities whether it be in the congregation, Presbytery or local community. Sadly, this is all too easy to do. How important it is for ministers to be conscientious in this preparation and in the matter of prayer and in the cultivation of a close walk with God.

A 'good minister of Jesus Christ' will take every reasonable care of his body. This was Paul's concern for Timothy and it is the solemn duty of the 'good minister' to do this. He cannot do his best work if he is overtired and nervy. Remembering his body is the temple of the Holy Spirit he must have regular habits of eating and sleeping, of taking regular exercise and relaxation – he must try to take time off.

Finally a 'good minister' will live and labour in the light of the judgement seat of Christ. At the close of the letter Paul reminds Timothy of this. He will remember that one day soon he will give an account to his Lord of the way in which he has lived. And like every other believer he will 'receive his reward' or he will 'suffer loss'.

As to the congregation... may the gladness felt at this time encourage you in your witness and teach you never to find fault with the Lord's deployment of his servant. May I exhort you always to remember that any minister is God's servant among you – he's not your servant. In these days of changing Presbytery plans may you exhibit a loving relationship with other congregations in the grouping and beyond and display a real unity in spirit in the work of serving the Lord Jesus. Since no one knows at this time what a new Presbytery Plan may

mean for any of us in the Presbytery of Glasgow in these challenging times may God grant that you share one another's burdens in as many areas as possible.

May you find a delight in praying for yourminister and for other congregations in your area, since this is a practical and helpful way of cementing good relationships. Hence you will find real harmony in your service of Christ, because it is only as we realize that we exist to serve Him who dies for us and who is one day returning will we find that love and unity which is a sign of vital Christianity."

From the charge given to a Minister at his induction



*Our congratulations go to **Rev & Mrs Alexander**, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in June, and to **Stuart and Morag Anne Girvan**, who celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary in July!*



Our congratulations also go to **Robbie and Charis Brodie** on the birth of their son, **Benjamin**; and to **Oliver and Susan Ward** on the birth of their son **Ethan**.



The Bible is read in countries around the world; art, literature and music have been based on language and stories from the Bible. It has arguably far more influence on the English language than Shakespeare or any other author.

2011 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Translation of the 1611 King James Bible (also known as "The Authorised Version")

Since 1525, when William Tyndale produced the first printed translation of the New Testament in English, there had been a steady flow of Bible translations. Then in 1601, there was a new initiative in Scotland:

1601 - 16 May, a meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland took place in the Parish Church of Burntisland, Fife, attended by King James VI of Scotland. It was at this meeting that the proposal to have a new translation of the Bible was first discussed.

1603 - James VI of Scotland became James I, King of England

1604 - The Hampton Court Conference on the future of the church; at this conference it was decided to commission a new translation of the Bible in an effort to provide a new translation which would be acceptable to everyone.

1611 - The King James Bible was published, despite considerable problems printing it.

1620 - The Pilgrim Fathers set sail to America, taking the English Bible with them. This was an immensely important step in the diffusion of the Bible world-wide, which was further enhanced by its use during the expansion of British influence across the world with the East India Company, the establishment of colonies in Africa, and the discovery of Australia and New Zealand.

To mark this anniversary we will be holding a celebration on Wednesday 16th November 2011 (16-11!!).

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER DETAILS

MY BIBLE

In **Genesis** the world was made by God's almighty hand.

In **Exodus** the Hebrews marched to gain the Promised Land.

Leviticus contains the Law: holy and just and good.

Numbers records the tribes enrolled, all sons of Abraham's blood.

Moses in **Deuteronomy** records God's mighty deeds,

Brave **Joshua** into Canaan's land, the host of Israel leads.

In **Judges** their rebellion oft provokes the Lord to smite,

But **Ruth** records the faith of one well pleasing in his sight.

In **1st** and **2nd Samuel** of Jesse's sons we read,

Ten tribes in **1st** and **2nd Kings** revolted from His seed.

The **1st** and **2nd Chronicles** see Judah captive made,

But **Ezra** leads a remnant back by Princely Cyrus' aid.

The city walls of Zion, **Nehemiah** built again,

While **Esther** saves her people from the plot of wicked men.

In **Job** we read how faith will live beneath affliction's rod,

And David's **Psalms** are precious songs for every child of God.

The **Proverbs** like a godly string of choicest pearls appear,

Ecclesiastes teaches how vain all things are here.

The mystic **Song of Solomon** exalts sweet Sharon's Rose,

While Christ the Saviour and the King the rapt **Isaiah** shows.

The warning **Jeremiah** apostate Israel scorns,

His plaintive **Lamentations**, then their awful downfall mourns.

Ezekiel tells in wondrous words of dazzling mysteries,

While Kings and Empires yet to come **Daniel** in vision sees.

Of judgement and of mercy **Hosea** loves to tell,

Joel describes the blessed days when God with man shall dwell.

Among Tekoa's herdsmen **Amos** receives his call,

While **Obadiah** prophesies of Edom's final fall.

Jonah becomes a type of Christ now risen from the dead

Who warns us that our judgement lies a few short days ahead.

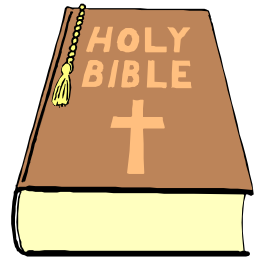
Micah pronounces Israel lost—lost, but again restored.

Nahum declares on Nineveh just judgement shall be poured.

A view of Chaldea's coming doom **Habakkuk's** visions give,

Next **Zephaniah** warns the Jews to turn, repent and live.

Haggai wrote to those who saw the temple built again,



And **Zechariah** prophesied of Christ's triumphant reign.
Malachi was the last who touched the high prophetic chord,
Its final notes sublimely show the coming of the Lord.
Matthew and **Mark** and **Luke** and **John** the holy Gospel wrote
Describing how the Saviour died, His life and all He taught.
Acts proves how God the apostles owned with signs in every place,
While Paul in **Romans** teaches us how man is saved by grace.
The Apostle in **Corinthians** instructs, exhorts, reproves,
Galatians shows that faith in Christ alone the Father loves.
Ephesians and **Philippians** tell what Christians ought to be,
Colossians bids us live to God and for eternity.
In **Thessalonians** we're taught the Lord will come from Heaven,
In **Timothy** and **Titus** a Pastor's rule is given.
Philemon marks a Christian's love which only Christians know,
Hebrews reveals the gospel was prefigured by the Law.
James teaches without holiness faith is vain and dead,
And **Peter** points a narrow way in which the saints are led.
John in his three epistles, on love delights to dwell,
But **Jude** gives awful warning of judgement, wrath and hell.
The **Revelation** prophesies of that tremendous day:

When Christ—and Christ alone—shall be the trembling sinner's stay.



Passion Play in Glasgow

The play, which tells the story of the last week in Jesus' life, will be performed in the heart of Glasgow – **George Square** on **6th October, 2011**.

Tickets are required for entry; visit www.glasgowpassion.co.uk