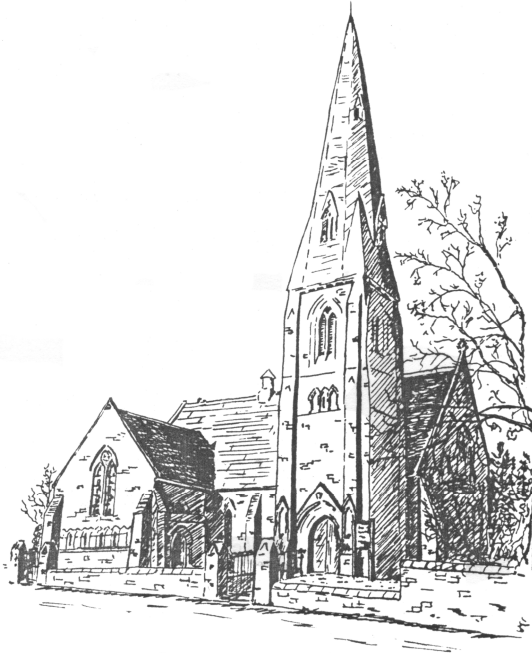


SPOTLIGHT



St Ninian's Craigmalen Parish Church of Scotland, Linlithgow

Newsletter

August 2008

**Minister: Rev. W. Richard Houston, B.Sc., B.D., M.Th.
29 Phillip Avenue, Linlithgow. Tel: 202246**

**Session Clerk: Mrs. Jane Gent,
4 Avontoun Park, Linlithgow. Tel: 843207**

**Church Officer: Mrs Fiona Hunter,
Newlands, Mains Road, Linlithgow. Tel: 844846**

Charity Number SC011348

FROM THE MINISTER

One of Jesus' most important sayings is that we should love our neighbours as ourselves. If you study the other world faiths you will find that each of them has a similar injunction. Some are expressed positively telling people to do to others, as they would have others do to them, or negatively, such as being urged not to do to others anything that is hateful to ourselves. A common way of referring to these statements is that they are a 'Golden Rule' that human beings should follow.

Most mornings before I start work, I read the newspapers, particularly the letters pages. In addition, if there is time, I will read comment on topical items on the internet. Some editors allow members of the public to comment on their articles on the internet, but on the occasions when I read the comments, often I end up dismayed at their intolerance, especially those that comment on religious matters or faith. Usually I find that the intolerance comes, in equal measure, from those who profess and do not profess faith. Both sides unshakeably convinced of their rightness and the truth of their claims. For some contributors 'Love Your Neighbour' does not extend to those who hold opposing views, only those who agree with them; we can say the same of politics, philosophy, and other areas of human life too. Sadly, where there is no common ground, or love for neighbour there is no prospect for agreement or accommodation either.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote "he who begins by loving Christianity better than truth will proceed by loving his own sect or Church better than Christianity, and end in loving himself better than all." Today, we could adapt Coleridge's words a little and write that "those who love their truth better than truth will proceed by loving it more than truth, and end in loving themselves better than all." Of such is the foundation of intolerance of others.

The poet Samuel Taylor Coleridge wrote "he who begins by loving Christianity better than truth will proceed by loving his own sect or Church better than Christianity, and end in loving himself better than all." Today, we could adapt Coleridge's words a little and write that "those who

love their truth better than truth will proceed by loving it more than truth, and end in loving themselves better than all." Of such is the foundation of intolerance of others.

Jesus reminded us to love others as we love ourselves, and Paul told us that we "see in a mirror darkly." When tolerance extends only to those with whom we agree, the result is intolerance of others. Those who love their truth better than truth itself should remember that from such intolerance comes much human misery.

Richard

August 2008

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISM:

- 1ST. June: Chloe, infant daughter of Collette and Jim Maxwell
13th.July: Daniel Duncan, infant son of Pamela and Philippe Amatller

Suffer the little children to come unto me

DEATH:

- 25th.May: Margaret Rintoul, Meadowvale Care Home, Bathgate and formerly of 9, Preston Crescent
26th.May: Robert McQueen, 73 Philip Avenue
6th.June: Martha Barnes, 26, Preston Road
6th.June: Joan Stevenson, 13, Braehead Drive

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this sad time.

ACCEPTED BY CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFER:

Ruth Hattersley 28, Prestonfield Gardens

Duncan and Pat McIntyre 15, Highfield Crescent

SERVICES IN AUGUST, SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER:

3 rd .August	11:00am	Morning Service
10 th .August	11:00am	Morning Service
17 th .August	11:00am	Morning Service
24 th .August	11:00am	Morning Service
31 st .August	11:00am	Morning Service Informal Communion
7 th .September	11:00am	Morning Service
14 th .September	9:45am 11:00am	Early Morning Family Service Morning Service
21 st .September	11:00am	Morning Service
28 th .September	11:00am	Morning Service
5 th .October	11:00am	Morning Service
12 th .October	9:45am 11:00am	Early Morning Family Service Morning Service
19 th .October	11:00am	Morning Service
26 th .October	11:00am 6:30pm	Morning Service Evening Service

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at both services.

DOOR DUTY ROTA

August 2008	September 2008	October 2008
Mr J Chapman	Mrs J Torrance	Mr A Stewart
Mrs P Chapman	Mr A Scott	Miss L Murray
Mr A Hunter	Mrs J Scott	Mr L Peden
Mrs M Davidson	Mr W Robertson	Mr L Howlett
Mrs H Aitken	Mr G Sommerville	Mrs S McFadyen

FLOWER ROTA

August 2008		September 2008		October 2008	
3	C. Coutts	7	E. Stewart	5	R. Johnstone
10	G. Bathgate	14	M. Cunningham	12	H. Aitken
17	B. Bruce	21	B. Findlater	19	M. Brown
24	J. Torrance	28	C. Millar	26	C. Wylie
31	I. Lockhart				

CAR ROTA

	August 2008	September 2008	October 2008
Route A	B. Pringle	B. Laing	D. Steven
Route B	J. Skinner	E. Stewart	D. Clark

KIRK SESSION & CONGREGATIONAL BOARD:

The Kirk Session will meet in the Longcroft Hall on the 16th.September at 7:30pm.

The Congregational Board will meet in the Longcroft Hall on the 14th. October at 7:30pm.

INTERACTION BETWEEN LINLITHGOW CHURCHES AUGUST 2008

INTERSERVE are holding a meeting in Glasgow on 2nd August, in Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church, 13 Kelvingrove Street - 'I Will be Exalted in the Earth' - 9.30am-5pm - hear what GOD Is Doing in the Arab world from people who work there - same event repeated in Kemnay Church Centre, Aberdeen on 9th.

CARE FOR SCOTLAND are introducing 'THE NEW EUROPE SHOULD PREFER THE NEW ATHEISM' - this is the title of a fascinating debate at the Edinburgh Festival on Saturday 9th August in the Usher Hall. Debaters are Dr John Lennox, Fellow in mathematics and chaplain at Green College, Oxford and journalist Christopher Hitchens, outspoken member of the 'New Atheists'. Chairman of debate is James Naughtie of the BBC's 'Today' programme. Tickets £10 - online: www.eif.co.uk/event/new-europe-should-prefer-new-atheism.html

ST JOHN'S CHURCH will be hosting an evening about Romania on Wednesday 27th August at 7.30pm - Anne Wilkinson was recently there helping to run a Post Abortion Course, through Crossline - a high percentage of pregnancies in Romania end in abortion - hear Anne tell of her journey and visit - refreshments to follow talk.

HEALING AND RENEWAL SERVICE in St John's Church, Union Road, at 6.30pm on Sunday 31st August - all those without evening services are most welcome.

SPECIAL DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES:

St Michael's Parish Church are holding a Flower Festival, with arrangements from churches and organisations in the town on 18th -20th September - please enter it in your diaries now - a must for all in Linlithgow!

DIARY DATE

Bathgate Concert Orchestra will be giving a concert in our Church on **Friday, 7th November** at 7.30 p.m. The concert will also feature our own "Spectrum". Please put this date in your diary now and come along for a great evening's entertainment.

More details later or contact Jane Gent at 843207 or

jane.gent@yahoo.co.uk

THANK YOU

The following letter has been received in response to the offering held after the April Communion service:

Dear Rev. Houston:

I am so thrilled and blessed to receive the news from Mrs. Patricia Chapman that you have raised £200.44 for the printing of the New Testament in Vietnam.

Thank you very much from the bottom of my heart. Your support means a lot to me.

In light of all that are going in Vietnam, I believe that on the truth from God's Word would be able to liberate the people from the terrible power of evil and darkness over there.

Thank you very much for giving me a hand in spreading God's Living Word in the places that needs it most.

May God continue to bless your ministry and all sisters and brothers in Christ in Scotland.

Respectfully yours,

Bau Dang

(San Diego, California)

SUNDAY SCHOOL UP-DATE:

Sunday School will resume after the Summer Break on Sunday 7th.September at 10:40am in the Longcroft Hall.

SPECTRUM:

Members of Spectrum are reminded of the rehearsals which will be held at 7:45pm in the Sheilds Room of the Longcroft Halls on Wednesday 20th.August and Wednesday 3rd.September.

GUILD:

Would all Guild committee members please note that there will be a Committee meeting on Monday 8th.September at 7:30pm in the Committee Room of the Longcroft Halls.

The Guild Dedication Service will be held on Monday 22nd.September at 7:30pm in St. Ninian's Craigmailen Parish Church. This will be a joint service with St. Michael's Guild. All interested are welcome.

FLOWER BOARD AND FLOWER BOX

The Flower Board for 2008 is at the main door of the Church. If you would care to place flowers in the church, perhaps for a special anniversary or for a birthday, could you please write your name and phone number at the appropriate date and someone will be in touch with you nearer the time. If you have any queries speak to Fiona Hunter on 844846. After each service the flowers are given to those who have been ill or are coping with bereavement. They are much appreciated. Cash donations for flowers can be placed in the Flower Box.

GIRLS' BRIGADE:

We start the session on Wednesday 27th.August with a registration and games night and would welcome new girls as well as our regular members. You are guaranteed lots of fun with games, crafts, singing and bible study. Each year we take the girls on a trip to the pantomime.

The sections are:

Explorers (P1 – P3) 6:15 – 7:30pm

Juniors (P4 & P5) 6:15 – 7:30pm

Seniors (P6 & P7) 7:00 – 8:30pm

Brigaders (S1 +) 7:00 – 9:00pm

Further information can be obtained from Morag Gent before or after morning service or on 01324 871276

3RD. LINLITHGOW BROWNIE PACK:

Just a wee reminder that Brownies start back on Thursday 4th September, usual time and no uniform.

If you need more information please contact Susan Erskine on 844890.

BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE:

Anyone wishing to place an entry in our Book of Remembrance in memory of a loved one, should please contact Mrs. M Reid on 844257 or Mrs. B Ingham on 843993.

LIFE & WORK:

In the current issue the Moderator, the Rt. Rev David Lunan explains his approach to the Moderatorial year. This month's profile is May Nicholson who as a reformed alcoholic, set up the Preshal Trust, helping disadvantaged people in Govan. In addition Jackie Macadam spends a dramatic evening with the Street Pastors in Perth.

All this and more at only £1:60 per copy.

Spare copies are available, for purchase, in the book rack at the main door of the church.

A LITTLE LIGHT RELIEF:

A teacher, during a nature lesson, said that although a whale was a large mammal it had a very small throat. A little girl stated that was not true as the Bible said that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

The teacher reiterated that it a whale could not swallow a human as it was physically impossible.

The girl replied, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to Hell ?"

The girl replied, "Then you ask him."