



Cornton Baptist Church

Demonstrating God's love in action
in the community of Cornton



Magazine
April 2010

April 2010 - Church Magazine

Welcome to the latest edition of the church magazine.

We hope you enjoy the updates and articles. Thanks to all who have contributed.

Please let us know of any articles you would like to include next time around, or any ideas of what you would like to see included.

The Editors

Contents	Page
• Pastor's Ponderings	2
• Church AGM	4
• Thanks	5
• Deacon's Despatches	6
• Birthday Scheme	9
• Jesus - the Theme of the Old Testament	10
• Events of Interest	11
• Easter Eggstravaganza	12
• "When Everything Is Different"	14
• Start-Up Stirling - An Update	15
• Flourish Women's Conference	16
• Tea Rotas	17
• Ladies of Leisure Coffee and Cake	17
• The Workers Hymnary	18
• Church Signs Seen in the UK	19

Pastor's Ponderings

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

This year is marching on for us and Easter has passed already. Easter is such a wonderful time of the year - particularly for Christians. The entire Passion narrative speaks to us of our Lord's commitment to His people and to His Father's plan. Jesus came and lived among us; He was the Word become flesh and made His dwelling among us. He then went to the cross bearing our sin upon His back. He took the punishment which was ours so that we could be forgiven and could enter back into a right relationship with God our Father.

Friday was a dark day. Jesus' followers were confused and lost; they were sad and sorrowful. But that was Friday...Sunday was coming. And Sunday came and as the women went to the tomb they discovered the stone rolled away. Jesus was alive. We now have that resurrection hope and joy. As Christians we ought to live joyfully with that resurrection hope - Jesus rose again and has now ascended into heaven to prepare a place for each one of us.

I want to encourage us to be like the women - Mary Magdalene and the other Mary. They seemed to be watching everything that happened during that weekend. On the Friday we read in Matthew 27:55-56 that they were watching the crucifixion. They saw all that happened. They heard Jesus' cries from the cross. They saw Him die. Then we read in 27:61 that they were sitting opposite the tomb as Joseph placed Jesus' body inside. They stayed to see what would happen and then they followed. They were keeping an eye on Jesus' body.

And then in 28:1 we read that on the Sunday they went to look at the tomb. They wanted to check all was well. They were sad and sorrowful. And they were there. And because they were there, they were the first to hear of and witness the resurrection.

And then the angel gives the women some instructions: 'come and see', and 'go and tell'. The women went and saw the empty tomb. They saw the place where his body should have been but where there were only the grave clothes. They then went and told the disciples the surprising but good news - Jesus is alive. What joy must have filled their hearts that day despite the fear and confusion.

The encouragement for us is to 'come and see'. We cannot come and see the empty tomb but we can come and see Jesus as revealed in Scripture. Keep reading God's Word. The Old Testament points to Jesus coming and the New Testament speaks of His life and death and resurrection before going on to point to His Second Coming. Keep reading. And keep coming to church to hear that Word preached and proclaimed. Take the study questions away and use them - and come along to the Bible Study where we have a great time thinking through what God is saying to us.

The encouragement is also to 'go and tell'. The women went and told the disciples. Our task is to go and tell others the Good News. That starts with our families and friends, and our work colleagues and associates, our neighbours and all those we meet.

For the women the joy overflowed into words to tell. When we are walking close to God the natural thing is for us to speak about our faith to others. We will want them to have what we have.

We will want them to know what we know. We will want to see them in heaven one day. So go and tell. Don't keep it to yourself.

Blessings

Hamish

PS. I want to encourage us to keep praying for Graeme as well. It is a sad time for us as he stands down and takes time out to recuperate and then plan his next steps. We want to thank God for him and for his time among us. He has done much to consolidate the work among the young people and to build relationships up with them. They will miss him greatly as we do too. Pray that he gets well and then that God leads him into a job where he will feel right at home.

Church AGM

The Church AGM will be held on Thursday 27th May, please put this date in your diary and make every endeavour to attend.

If you would like to have transport arranged in order to attend the meeting please speak to Jim Ross or any of the Deacons and we will arrange this for you.

Please speak to Jim or Hamish if you would like anything put on the agenda for discussion at the meeting.

Jim

Thanks

Dear Family,

We are now some time on from Christmas when Michael was unwell in hospital following a seizure at home, but we wanted to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to you all for your prayers and support.

It was hugely uplifting to know that our church family were remembering us before our God, as Hamish passed round our daily updates.

We are of course so pleased that after a fairly traumatic week in the excellent care of Stirling Royal and Yorkhill Hospitals that Michael has made a full recovery and that the doctors have no reason to suspect that there should be any reoccurrence. Praise be!

With much love,
The McFarlane Troop

Dear all,

Just a wee note to say thanks again for all your encouragement and support during my time working with the church. I very much enjoyed it and hope what I've been able to contribute has been of service while I am sure it will prove to be valuable experience for me in the future. I certainly hadn't expected it to be cut so short but, as we are reminded in Isaiah 55:8-9, I'm sure God has His purposes! I probably won't be around for a few weeks as I take some time out but look forward to seeing you all sometime in the near future.

Yours in Christ,
Graeme

Deacon's Despatches

Ever wondered what goes on at a Deacon's meeting each month?

Time is always given at the Deacon's meeting to a time of devotions and Bible study. Our current study is proving very challenging, as we have been studying 1st Timothy 3, considering the qualifications and characteristics required of us!

We also spend time in prayer for those within and connected to the church, for the various activities of the church and of course for our Pastor and his wide-ranging ministry.

How good it has been as a church family over these past few months to enjoy Jubilee celebrations, a baptismal service, dedication services and to receive new members into church membership.

We are often asked to consider requests for donations. For example, in the last few months gifts, either regular or one-off, have been given to:

- A leaving gift for Gary Smith, former Youth Adviser of the Baptist Union
- Start-Up
- Easterhouse Baptist Church (church extension)
- BMS
- Stirling Street Pastors
- International Friends in Stirling
- Scottish Baptist College

On the subject of giving, the Deacons would very much wish to thank John and Irene Meiklejohn for their excellent efforts over these past few years in coordinating our fundraising. As this activity naturally settles down, John and Irene would like to take a step back from being the main organisers of fundraising activity. John, Irene, thanks for all you have done in this regard - before, during and after our church extension and renovation.

It is particularly pleasing to see our building being used for 'non-church' activities, part of the reason for our recent church extension, as we seek to demonstrate God's love in action in the community of Cornton. Signposts meet most weeks, providing counselling services to drug and alcohol addicts by appointment. The nativity services for the local nursery a few months ago gave our Pastor a great opportunity to share with more than a hundred children and parents as this link continues to flourish.

Matters relating to Finance in particular continue to keep Colin busy. We are blessed to have Colin who deals with the varied matters so ably. Please continue to pray for Colin in his role as church treasurer.

Remember Jim also and all he does as church secretary.

Much of our focus of late has been on the youth work. We give thanks to God for the continued healthy numbers of our Kids Club (more than 60 each week) and the Youth Café (around 20 each week). Like us, I'm sure your heart is warmed each Sunday at our thriving Crèche and Sunday School!

We give thanks too for all Graeme has achieved in his time as Youth and Community Worker. For the work that has been consolidated and strengthened in the last year as a result, and

for the Youth Strategy document that has been produced that will allow us to continue this work as we prioritise new ways to further develop our work with children and young people.

We have begun the process of appointing a new Youth Worker. Adverts will be in Youthwork magazine and their website from mid-April (May edition of the magazine), Baptist Union Connect, Baptist College, ICC, and SCYWF.

Some other items that we have been considering lately have been

- reporting of various church statistics for the Baptist Union yearbook
- providing feedback on the Baptist Union of Great Britain Pension Scheme conditions and the ongoing funding level
- formalising the Pastor's Terms and Conditions (a little behind schedule!)
- the need for sound-proofing of the hall
- reporting to our funders on our youth work activity
- the sending of a summer mission team to Seahouses to partner with former members John and Hilda Holwell

Please be encouraged by the prayers of your Deacons. We meet early each Monday morning, to give God thanks for the weekend past, to pray for the events of the coming week and to remember you before the God we serve together.

If you have anything that you wish to raise with the Deacons, or for any questions about the life of the church, please do speak to any one of us, at any time.

Your Deacons

Birthday Scheme

Thanks to all members of the BMS Birthday Scheme for the generous donations you made in 2009. £360 was raised and sent to BMS World Mission.

I am delighted to say that the number of people participating in the Birthday Scheme in our church continues to rise, with 5 new members joining last year.

We also have a new Birthday Scheme Secretary as just before the end of the year I handed over to Nan Ferguson, who will be happy to give information to anyone who would like to join this year.

I have enjoyed sending out the cards - and hopefully most have arrived on time even if sent from my holidays! Thanks again to Colin Smith for checking the books - and to all of you who have contributed over the years for your part in enabling BMS to support those on the mission field.

Ruth Smith

Jesus - theme of the Old Testament

In *Genesis*, He is the seed of the woman.

In *Exodus*, He is the Passover lamb.

In *Leviticus*, He is the high priest.

In *Numbers*, He is the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night.

In *Deuteronomy*, He is the prophet like unto Moses.

In *Joshua*, He is the captain of our salvation.

In *Judges*, He is the judge and lawgiver.

In *Ruth*, He is the kinsman redeemer.

In *I & II Samuel*, He is the trusted prophet.

In *Kings and Chronicles*, He is the reigning king.

In *Ezra*, He is the faithful scribe.

In *Nehemiah*, He is the rebuilder of the broken wall.

In *Esther*, He is the Mordecai.

In *Job*, He is the ever-living redeemer.

In *Psalms*, He is the Lord our shepherd.

In *Proverbs & Ecclesiastes*, He is true wisdom.

In *Song of Solomon*, He is the true lover and bridegroom.

In *Isaiah*, He is the prince of peace.

In *Jeremiah and Lamentations*, He is the weeping prophet.

In *Ezekiel*, He is the wonderful four-faced man.

In *Daniel*, He is the fourth man in the fiery furnace.

In *Hosea*, He is the eternal husband, forever married to the backslider.

In *Joel*, He is the baptiser with the Holy Spirit.

In *Amos*, He is the burden-bearer.

In *Obadiah*, He is the Saviour.

In *Jonah*, He is the great foreign missionary.

In *Micah*, He is the messenger with beautiful feet.

In *Nahum*, He is the avenger.

In *Habakkuk*, He is God's evangelist pleading for revival.

In *Zephaniah*, He is the Lord mighty to save.

In Haggai, He is the restorer of the lost heritage.
In Zechariah, He is the fountain opened in the house of David for sin and for cleansing.
In Malachi, He is the sun of righteousness arising with healing in His wings.
He is the theme of the Old Testament; every bit of it is His story.

John MacArthur

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Events of Interest

CARE are hosting a "Call to Purity" - a day of worship, fellowship, reflection, challenge and support for Christian men at Stirling Baptist Church on Saturday May 15th 2010 from 9.45am-4.15pm.

Stirling Baptist Church plan on running another Alpha Course reaching out to Chinese students in the summer. Please contact Lesley-Anne Evans (admin@stirlingbaptist.co.uk) for more details if this is of interest to you.

Kirkintilloch Baptist Church are hosting "Flourish", a women's day conference at on Saturday 24th April 2010, full details on page 16.

Easter Eggstravaganza

"Brilliant Day", "Fantastic Cakes", "Lots to do", "The Bouncy Castle was great fun", "I loved the butterfly that was painted on my face", "I can't believe it's free", "Thanks for having us". These are just some of the comments coming from people after the 'Easter Eggstravaganza' event in Cornton.

On an Easter Saturday where we were not sure how the weather would stay, Cornton Baptist Church opened their doors and grounds for their now annual Easter Eggstravaganza - a free family fun day. The weather stayed relatively bright for most of the time with the rain only making an appearance towards the end. The locals came out in force to enjoy a great family time together in the early afternoon.

Parents and Grandparents enjoyed tea and coffee and lots of home baking as the kids enjoyed the activities on offer. Inside the under five's were well catered for with an area for themselves complete with jigsaws and other fun things to play with. Also in the Church there was face painting and craft activities to join in with. There were many tigers and butterflies walking around after having their faces painted.

Outside as the rain stayed away, kids bounced up and down on the Bouncy Castle. The challengers came and went on the inflatable Bungee Run and everyone had a great time. People tried their skills at the football shoot-in but it was harder than it looked.

The day drew to an end with Hamish Wishart, pastor of the church, leading everyone in a couple of the great kids' songs they sing in church and at the kids clubs. He then shared a short

story using a paper trick to explain about the Easter message - God's love for us in the death of His Son Jesus on the cross.

The day finished with all the children going home with an Easter Egg from the Church.

This was a great family fun day and Hamish summed it up saying, "I was amazed by how many people came to share in the fun of the day - it was a terrific day and everyone had fun. People came at the start and were still there at the end, not wanting to leave. We simply wanted the community to have a fun Easter weekend and to share a little of God's love with them - after all Easter is all about God's love for us. The Church is very much part of this community and I hope people will come back at other times and to other events and activities we hold."

Folks, just to add to above - a big thank-you again to all who helped on the day!

Hamish

“When Everything is Different”

This is the title of a book which is also different from any other book I have read! It has been written by Samuel and Clara, the children of our German friends who work in China. To quote the cover - 'This book is a rare and unique gem. It has beautifully reflected the efforts children make at cross-cultural adaptation, which so often go unnoticed.'

The book has a sub title “Exploring your New Country with Panda and Jo”. Panda, a bear from China befriends Jo, a little dog from a different country, and helps him get used to the different food, games and customs he meets. Their stories are interspersed with the children's own accounts of the situations they faced when they moved to a new country to live.

While this book is written primarily for children, it provides rewards for readers of all ages, giving an insight into how children interpret the world, often with a child-like and sincere faith.

Kath Arton.

If you would like to order a copy, the cost will be around £5.

Start-Up Stirling - An Update

With the economic climate showing little sign of improvement, the need for our support for homeless people has never been greater.

The number of packs being distributed has reached an all time high with 17 starter packs, 21 emergency packs, 18 welcome packs and 37 toiletry packs being distributed during the month of February. Every item donated helps - whether it is a jar of coffee or a carton of washing up liquid, it all makes a difference. Financial contributions are needed also to purchase the new items included in the packs (e.g. pans, kitchen utensils and towels to name a few).

Due to a shortage of housing stock, many people are spending longer in temporary accommodation. Stirling Council Homelessness Service staff have confirmed that additional housing stock and extra temporary accommodation will become available in the next few months. This will mean the demand for packs will continue to rise steadily.

We are grateful to the small number of people who give generously month by month. If more people gave even one item each month, the amount our church contributes would increase substantially. Just look for the yellow box in the atrium on the first Sunday of each month!

Kath Arton

Flourish Women's Conference

You are warmly invited to the Flourish Women's Conference
Saturday 24th April 2010 at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church.

£5.00 early bird or £7.00 if you register after 11th April.

Speaker:

Kay Cathcart (Morningside Baptist Church, Edinburgh)

Seminar Choices:

Children; The Church of Today

Christian Marriage

Drug Addiction

Stress and Distress

Washing feet the Jesus Way

Programme:

9.30am Registration, with orange juice, croissants & pastries

10.00am Welcome, notices & worship

10.30am Speaker - Kay Cathcart

11.15am Refreshments & home baking

11.45am Seminar

12.45pm Lunch

1.45pm Seminar

2.45pm Refreshments & home baking

3.15pm Speaker - Kay Cathcart

4.00pm Worship

4.30pm Close

For more info visit www.flourish-kbc.co.uk, e-mail
flourish@kirkiebaptist.com or call 0141 578 6006



Tea Rotas

Morning

11th Apr Ruth Smith
 18th Apr Nan Thomson
 25th Apr Liz McQueen

2nd May Roni Fleming
 9th May Carol Smith
 16th May Audrey Hamilton
 23rd May Netta Denison

Evening

11th Apr Nan Thomson
 18th Apr Mags McKee
 25th Apr Catherine Hanlon

2nd May Kath Arton
 9th May Morag Wishart
 16th May Roni Fleming

Ladies of Leisure Coffee and Cake

I have booked the Tea Room on Pike Road in Stirling on 7th May for 10.15am in the morning if any lady would like to join me. It's simply for a good blether and some lovely cake!

I feel as if I never get the chance to catch up with my fellow ladies on a Sunday morning. Thought this might be a nice way of meeting up. There is no age limit on the invitation and I'm happy to offer transport/directions if needed!

Anyone interested, please add your name to the list on the board!

Fiona McFarlane

The Workers Hymnary

Dentist's Hymn	Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman's Hymn	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor's Hymn	The Church's One Foundation
The Tailor's Hymn	Holy, Holy, Holy
The Golfer's Hymn	There's a Green Hill Far Away
The Politician's Hymn	Standing on the Promises
Optometrist's Hymn	Open My Eyes That I Might See
The IRS Agent's Hymn	I Surrender All
The Gossip's Hymn	Pass It On
The Electrician's Hymn	Send The Light
The Shopper's Hymn	Sweet Bye and Bye
The Realtor's Hymn	I've Got a Mansion Just over the Hilltop
The Massage Therapists Hymn	He Touched Me
The Doctor's Hymn	The Great Physician

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

45 mph God Will Take Care of You

65 mph Nearer My God To Thee

85 mph This World Is Not My Home

95 mph Lord, I'm Coming Home

100 mph Precious Memories

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Church Signs seen in the UK

Adam blamed Eve, Eve blamed the snake
and the snake didn't have a leg to stand on

There are some questions that can't
be answered by Google

Down in the mouth?
Come in for a faith lift.

As you pass this little church,
Be sure to plan a visit,
So when at last you're carried in
God won't ask "Who is it?"

Speak well of your enemies.
After all, you made them!

Let us help you study
for your final exams.

God is perfect...
Only man makes mistakes.

The meek shall inherit the earth
if it's alright with you!

We are the soul agents
in this area.

Gambling is a sin
Bet you can't give it up!

Happy Easter to our Christian Friends
Happy Passover to our Jewish Friends
To our atheist Friends.... Good Luck!

www.cornton.org.uk