

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

CONTENTS

Ministers' Updates

Dates For your Diary

Congregational News

Missionary News

Finances

Eastern Europe For Christ
Camps

Remarkable Witnesses

Rotas

Activities



November 2004

MINISTER'S UPDATE

It wasn't too difficult to decide what to tell you about this month! The Court Case has been dominating my horizon for a considerable time now. At last it is here. I want to thank God first of all for the calmness and confidence in him that he has given to myself and the others involved on behalf of the Free Church in Court. He has taken away our anxieties and fears and that is a great thing. I also want to thank you for your prayers. It is a great thing to know that you are supporting us in prayer, and praying that this attack on the Free Church would not be allowed to hinder the work of the gospel.

I also want to thank God for our lawyers – John Miller, our solicitor, of Simpson and Marwick, Free Church Law Agents since 1900, and John Wright QC, our Senior Counsel – but especially Ruth Charteris (Morrison), our Junior Counsel, who did a marvellous presentation of our defence in her opening submission to the Court. We are also thankful to God for the Judge, Lady Paton. She pays attention to every detail and ensures that anything unclear is clarified before she moves on.

If you wish to follow the details of the case and have access to the internet, I am putting daily reports on the Free Church website – www.freechurch.org. Here I will summarise some of the main points and give some background, particularly for those who may be new to the Church.

This case has been brought against the Free Church by a group who left the Church in January 2000 and set up what

they call the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). They were disgruntled that the Church would not allow them to go on disturbing the peace and unity of the Church by continuing a long drawn out campaign to have one of our Professors disciplined.

As a result they started an action in the Court of Session in which they are claiming that they are the “true” Free Church and as a result entitled to the assets of the Church. They assert that there is a fundamental principle of the Free Church called “a continued right of protest (CROP)” and that because they were denied that right, the majority (that's us) have departed from the constitution of the Church and therefore forfeit entitlement to the property. Of course no one had ever heard of this CROP before 2000.

If they won, they would own the Free Church Offices and College on the Mound, funds which are invested on behalf of congregations and various essential activities of the Church, as well as liability for our pension fund which needs to be built by several million pounds. They could also then proceed to claim most congregational property, churches and manses, as well.

This hearing in the Court is a debate concerning relevancy. That means it is concerned not directly with the facts alleged. Rather, it asks the question, “Even if all the facts that the FCC allege were true, would they be entitled to the remedy they are seeking?” In other words, it concerns basically the question, “Have the FCC shown that there such a thing as

CROP in the constitution of the Free Church?” Of course we are arguing that the answer is no, and we are urging for their case to be dismissed.

The legal debate was opened by Ruth Charteris for the Free Church who showed from past legal cases involving voluntary Churches that such a case as the present must be decided on the basis of adherence to the fundamental and essential principles of the Church, and that these principles are shown in the original documents of the Church. She then went on to show that the FCC have not specified in their pleadings where the principle of CROP exists in these original documents at the time the Free Church was formed in 1843.

The FCC opening submission was made by Mr Dawson. His main tack has been to try to show that a fundamental and essential principle of a Church need not be laid down in original documents, but can be inferred from how the Church responded to the later actions of individuals. It appears that the purpose of this is to show that because the Free Church allowed protests from James Begg and others in the late 19th century, the right of continued protest must be an essential principle of the Free Church.

The case will continue for the next two weeks until Wednesday 3rd or Friday 5th November and the Judge will probably take approximately two months to give her judgement.

We all need to keep on praying that justice would be done, and that the work of the gospel would not be harmed.

Alex MacDonald

ASSISTANT MINISTER'S UPDATE

November is the month that I associate with the American holiday of Thanksgiving. On the 25th, we will be celebrating with family and friends a meal of turkey, cranberry sauce and all the trimmings. In many ways the holiday has become a secular celebration – a long weekend giving families the opportunity to gather for a few days. However, for the Christian, this celebration reminds us of the many reasons we have every day to be thankful. God is good and we should celebrate his goodness by thanking him and appreciating all the good gifts that he has given to us. As we read (and sing) in Psalm 106: “Praise the LORD. Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.”

Thanksgiving should characterise our prayers, our relationship with one another and our relationship with the church. Too often we take blessings for granted; we are not truly grateful. I am sure that everyone could list many things about which they are thankful but do we realise that “every good and perfect gift is from above.” (James 1:17)

As a church we have much to be thankful for. For the past three Thursday evenings, people have been gathering for Christianity Explored and new people have come along each week. Every Sunday visitors join us to worship and some have stayed! Kids clubs reach out to neighbourhood children and every Monday we visit Bethany House in Leith. All of these activities are great and we need

to thank God for his goodness, but we also need to seek his blessing because without his blessing, our best efforts will be in vain. Please continue to pray for the ongoing ministries of the church and I hope that we all adopt an attitude of thankfulness not just on November 25th but all throughout the year.

Yours faithfully,
Bob Akroyd

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christianity Explored

The Christianity Explored Course continues to meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm in the hall. The course continues as follows:

- Nov 4 What is Grace?
- Nov 11 Jesus - His Resurrection
- Nov 18 What is a Christian?
- Nov 25 Continuing as a Christian

Late Night Bible Studies

We continue to meet on Thursday evenings from 9.30 to 11pm to study the Gospel of Matthew. The topics for the studies are:

- Nov 4 Matthew 7: The Sermon on the Mount (III)
- Nov 11 Matthew 8: The Centurion, various healings and calming the storm
- Nov 18 Matthew 9:1-34 More healings and the calling of Matthew.
- Nov 25 Matthew 9:35–10:42 Sending out the twelve

Student Lunch

Young people (and not so young people) mark your calendars: Friday afternoons 1pm – Free food at Buccleuch! Please come along and bring your friends!

Prayer Breakfasts

We continue to meet weekly at 9am on Saturday mornings for prayer, food and fellowship. Thanks to all who have made these breakfasts possible and thanks to all who attend. If you haven't been able come, please stop by one Saturday morning to enjoy this special time of fellowship and prayer together.

Home Bible Study

The next home Bible study will be on **Wednesday**, November 10th. We will continue looking at character Studies in the Old Testament. Please look out for the study sheet listing the subject and venues nearer to the time.

Youth Fellowship

- 31 Oct Muslims – Rev. Duncan Peters
 - 7 Nov Reaching out to Mormons - Dr. Carl Mosser
 - 14 Nov Mission Prayer Night
 - 5 Dec Glorifying God at work - Donald Forsyth
 - 12 Dec Culture and the Christian - Alex MacDonald
- (See Alasdair Black for details)

THE BIG W

What does God say about work? Why did He give it to us? What does He expect from us as workers? Come and think about these

issues and more in the next Big W meeting on Friday 12th November at 7:30pm in Buccleuch. Fergus MacDonald will help us to think about these things together and speak about God's view of work. Cakes will be provided.

Steven Hammer

Ladies' Fellowship

Buccleuch Women's Fellowship will meet at 54 Strachan Road on Friday 5th November at 7:30pm. Come for a chat, swap books and enjoy some low fat snacks! (Or Chocolate-*The Editor*). See Mary Campbell for more details.

Drug Proofing Course

This course has now begun and will meet at the home of Dolina Macdonald on the following dates: 1st and 8th November. Speak to John MacRae for more information.

Guest Speakers

On Wednesday November 17 at 7.30pm, our own Catriona Macdonald will speak about the work of the gospel in Azerbaijan and Central Asia. Please come along to hear about this exciting work and pray for the extension of the gospel in these lands.

Communion

We celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday November 21st. There are pre-communion services on Friday 19th November and Saturday 20th November at 7.30pm. The services on Sunday are at their usual times of 11 and 6.30 and the evening service is a joint service for all three Edinburgh

congregations. Ken Cameron is preaching on Friday and Ronnie Mackay is preaching on Saturday and Sunday. If you are interested in joining the congregation by professing faith in Jesus Christ or by transferring your membership from another congregation, the session would be delighted to meet with you on Friday or Saturday evening after the services.

Guest Service

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday November 21 at 6.30pm when Ronnie Mackay will be our guest preacher. Please take this opportunity to invite your friends to church to hear the Good News about Jesus Christ and pray that God would use this occasion to challenge and convert those who attend.

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session: (7.30pm, Manse)

7th December

Deacons' Court: (8pm, Manse)

15th November

Harvest Thanksgiving

There will be a retiring collection on Sunday 7th November for TearFund.

Congregational Meeting

Our permission to have an assistant minister and Bob's appointment as our assistant end at the 2005 General Assembly. The Kirk Session have called a congregational meeting on Wednesday 24th November at 7.30 pm to discuss proposals for either renewing our permission and reappointing Bob, or

petitioning the Assembly to introduce a new arrangement of collegiate or associate ministries (which would be on a more permanent basis than the present assistantship). Details will be available at the meeting. Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.

The Klub

Coordinator: Nigel Anderson

PROGRAMME

2 Nov 7pm Video Night – Joint Klub
Venue to be announced

26 Nov 7pm Regular Klub

10 Dec [Early] Christmas Party – Joint Klub
Venue to be announced

Nigel Anderson

Blythswood

Jeremy Ross of Blythswood, who is also studying for the Free Church ministry at the College, will speak about the work of Blythswood at our midweek meeting on Wednesday 1st December. Blythswood was pioneered by Jeremy's father, the late Rev. Jackie Ross, APC minister in Lochcarron.

Coffee Morning

Keep the 4th December free!

There will be a coffee morning in the hall to raise funds for upgrading the outside of the church. Anyone with ideas for the coffee morning or are willing to help please speak to Christina Cumming or Moira Mackay.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Many in the congregation will remember Daniel and Marion Sladek (née Donahue), and their young son Conrad.

Daniel, Marion and Conrad left Edinburgh on Monday 11th October for Rogart in Sutherland. Daniel, who completed the course at the Free Church College, will provide supply preaching until he receives a call elsewhere. They will be staying in the Rogart manse and Marion has said that they would be delighted to have visitors!

Let us remember Daniel, Marion and Conrad and the Rogart congregation in our prayers

Ruth Macleod has begun her course in Aberystwyth, and she writes 'My course is an MSc Econ in Archive Administration, which is essentially the professional training needed to become an archivist. At the moment I've only had one proper week of it and it's pretty intensive but is going OK so far.'

Ruth's address is
35 Edgehill Road
Aberystwyth
SY23 1LZ

Congratulations

Congratulations to **Alasdair Black** and **Esther Sced** on their engagement during the summer. They are planning to get married on 15th July 2005 in Buccleuch .

We also congratulate **Nick Middlemiss** and **Martha Forbes** on their recent engagement and wish them every

blessing as they plan for their wedding and wish them every encouragement in their life together.

Congratulations to **Richard Lytle** who is now Richard Lytle MSc (Facilities Management). It took 4 years of hard work, but it has paid off. He has sworn not to do any more studying ever again - so we can hold him to it (or so says Sarah, at least).

Congratulations to **Alex** who has been nominated to be the Moderator of the next General Assembly of the Free Church.

Let us remember Alex in all his responsibilities.

Retiral

We congratulate **Iain Gill** on his retiral as General Treasurer of the Free Church, a post he held for 30 years. This is an outstanding achievement on both his and Isobel's part and we thank them for their extraordinary commitment and hard work. The presentation made to Iain at this year's General Assembly featured in a recent Monthly Record, along with a very nice photograph of Iain and Isobel.

We wish them God's blessing and trust they will enjoy health and fulfilment in their many activities and interests in the years ahead.

Anna MacDonald

Bereavements

We extend our sympathy to Mrs Gailey whose sister Catherine died recently and to Richard Lytle whose aunt died. We pray that they and their families might find

comfort and grace from the "God of all comfort." (2 Corinthians 1:3)

Thank You

James, Roszie, Mia and Caleb Forsyth moved to Jackson, USA during August so that James could pursue Post Graduate Studies in Theology at Reformed Theological College. This all happened extremely quickly and many of us in the congregation felt that we were not able to say a proper goodbye! It was decided therefore to organise a couple of events on 18 September with the proceeds to provide James and family with a gift from the congregation.

James as we know is also a scholar of the "round-ball" game and a sponsored football tournament was held in the Meadows during the afternoon with competing teams of Buccleuch, St Columba's, St Paul's and St George's and Gillespie F.P's. Almost 40 footballers participated (including some golden oldies and veterans!) with St Columba's coming out on top. A real festival of football was enjoyed with James's sister Sarah presenting the cup to the victorious St Columba's captain Scott Lamont.

In the evening Mary Campbell and her team hosted a magnificent supper with a Scottish/American theme in relaxed surroundings in the church hall.

We hope to send at least one thousand dollars to James and Family as a result of this venture and pray that God would continue to bless James and Family in the USA.

Thanks to all who contributed to the

success of the fund raising day.

Roddy Macleod

Health and Safety

For Health and Safety purposes the Deacons' Court have a list of those people who are medically or first aid trained, on the main noticeboard. This is so that if someone becomes unwell, as does occasionally happen, those people with training might be called on for assistance. Please note: This is not in place of calling the ambulance, but so that basic life support/advice might be provided, while an ambulance is on its way.

We currently have six people on the list, but it would be helpful if there were more. If you are first aid trained and willing to help, please give Jonnie McCrea (07715 169 337) your name.

Jonnie McCrea

For The Under Sixteens

WORD SEARCH

I came across this remarkable paragraph, and having read it several times, realised that there were sixteen books of the Bible hidden in the text. I know not if it was by design or purely a fluke. I challenged my friends to find the sixteen and some kept looking so hard for the facts, they became confused and questioned the truth of the statement. Some queried the numbers, and a few were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalised. To others, it was too big a job. To some, a complete revelation. I must confess I found it a most fascinating search, especially when I had completed the task.

Yes, there are some really difficult ones to spot, and you may require judges to help you. I will admit that it usually takes some time to find the sixteenth. There will be loud lamentations when it is found. One friend says she brews a cup of tea to help her concentrate. See how well you compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen books of the Bible hidden here.

First person (under the age of sixteen) to find the sixteen books will receive a small prize from Bob.

Ladies Away Day 2004

The 25th Sept was the third time in succession that we gathered for an "Away Day" at Aviemore, and since the attendance exceeded 300 enthusiastic women, from teenagers to grandmothers, there must be some attraction. It was a day of fellowship, learning, and sharing, with freedom from domesticity, for which most of these people have the responsibility at congregational "tea meetings".

This year Joan MacDonald from Buccleuch, Catriona Lamont from St Columba's, and Joy Fraser from Smithton-Culloden were the speakers. The theme, "Open heart - Open home" was a challenge to all.

Joan and Catriona both spoke from their wide experience, sharing the joys, pitfalls, and blessings of making themselves and their homes open in the service of the Lord. They were assisted by a small group of girls who illustrated what not to do. The singing was led beautifully by a music group from St Columba.

After an excellent lunch there was

time to catch up with old friends from different places, from Lewis to Kilwinning. We were able to browse at stalls of crafts and various Christian interests, which many had been working at over the past year.

Then Joy Fraser and a group of friends, each of whom lives alone, told of the blessings they have discovered from sharing their homes with each other and being as family in mutual support. The theme of the day was summed up by a brilliant rendering of a monologue by Catriona Lamont.

Missionary interest was provided by Joan Cameron, who shared something of the joys - and difficulties - of settling at home after so many happy years among the people of South Africa.

To all who had the responsibility of organising the whole day we owe much, and trust that it will accomplish their desire that all who attended will feel more able to fulfil their part in open hearts and homes in our congregations

Lilian Ross

E-mail directory / Congregational Directory

The new congregational directory is being prepared for publication. If you are not currently in the directory and would like to be included, or if you are included in the previous directory and would like your name to be omitted, please let Bob Akroyd know by 'phone (664 6306) or by e-mail: bobandheather@talk21.com. If your address/phone number has changed or if you would like your e-mail address listed

in our new directory, please also contact Bob. This year we are including an extra column for mobile phone numbers, so if you want this number included, again let Bob know.

Missionary News

From Douglas and Julia:

For the first time during Doug's Pastoral tenure in South Africa, he is the Interim-Moderator of only one District - Knox. His time as Interim-Moderator of Dewar finished last week (9th Oct) when Rev M Mafuya was inducted as Minister. It was a relatively short vacancy and since the people knew who they wanted as their minister it was finalized very quickly.

It is likely that Doug will be given another District in the new year. A call has been signed by Tabase District (Rev KWR Cameron's former District) to Rev Buntu A Mtishe of King District.

Knox District had its quarterly Communion Service in Mamata on Sunday 5th of September. The weather was truly horrendous, but the number of people attending in the small Church building surpassed everyone's expectations.

As well as the preaching and communion, we welcomed five new members by profession of faith and two by disjunction certificate. We also ordained Mr K Sali (from Zikhalini location) as a Deacon.

Knox has 54 men on its Preaching Plan. Yes, 54! Almost all of these individuals preach and expect to do so at least once a quarter. Recently the men

asked for a Workshop for preachers. This was a real answer to prayer. Sadly the day of the meeting coincided with the heaviest rains we have ever seen in the Eastern Cape. It rained for 36 hours and deposited 25cm of precious rain. The countryside is now green and lush and the dams are full. Naturally the Workshop was cancelled and we hope to re-organize it for another day next month. Please pray for the men who preach - that they may rely on the Lord and preach biblical and relevant sermons that challenge their hearers.

The Deacons' Court is planning to extend the building at Ngqwele/Mdisa (Macleod Memorial Church). We have had plans made that will see the adding of an extra 84 square-metres of space. This will include an extra seating and also a vestry. Naturally this will be a costly enterprise and so far we have raised R70,000. We would value your prayers for wisdom as we seek ways to raise the money within the Congregation, the Ngqwele location, the District and other external contacts.

Doug continues to work among the children of the locations blinding them with his silky skills and tactical expertise (or is it his very pale legs?). Lots of good contacts are made each week and the kids seem to enjoy it too.

It is hoped that a Knox Youth Camp will be held at the end of the year down on the coast near East London. For the first time the young folk themselves are organising it and everything seems to be well in hand.

Doug has almost finished teaching

Hebrew to Dumisani. Five Diploma students have lasted the course and are now starting to get to grips with the Hebrew Bible. Their final exam is scheduled for the 11th November.

Julia is getting back into the women's work which she enjoys very much. She has missed meeting with the Mamas and the young women and is looking forward to re-establishing the work.

Personal

Please pray for our application for Permanent Residence. Our file has been 'lost' by the Department of Home Affairs. This has proved very frustrating for Doug as he deals with the Department and he needs wisdom as to how to proceed. In the meantime we have had to re-apply for Temporary Residence.

(Thanks To Catherine Thomson For this Up-To-Date News)

News From Mark Higgins

Mark is working in the area of Darfur, Sudan (with Tearfund) with the aim to run feeding, sanitation and health education programmes in this area. Many will remember Mark who worshipped in Buccleuch a number of years ago.

This is an extract from an e-mail sent to Mairi Forsyth:

'A couple of weeks ago the SLA (the "rebels") apparently were attacked by the Arab nomad militia (jinjaweed) just south of Masteri, 10 people were killed in the battle, last weekend (early Sunday morning) the SLA attacked the police station in Masteri as revenge, the local

army shelled the SLA in defence some of the shells landing in town.

Apparently. since then the Arab nomad militia has threatened to burn down Masteri - a town of 20,000 people.

We have been unable to go to the any of the towns in the South West since the initial attack - so we have been unable to run the feeding, sanitation and health education programmes.

Last Thursday the local chief from Masteri came to El Genenia to see the government and came to see us and an NGO called Medair who we work with very closely - the people in Masteri are very scared.

As we have now had long enough to assess the security situation we will travel down to Masteri tomorrow - to continue the programme, and to show solidarity and support for the people in the area. Although there is a degree of tension in the area it is safe to travel.'

Please remember Mark and his colleagues as they carry out this vital work in very tense and dangerous circumstances.

Worship Together

Aged between 18 and 40? Then you are invited to an evening of worship, praise and prayer at St Paul's and St George's Church (York Place), Saturday 27th November 7.30pm-9.30pm (coffee and muffins from 6.30pm). This event is one of many organised by Ten10 - a Mission Scotland initiative seeking to encourage young Christians around Scotland. Come

and be inspired!

Catriona Macdonald

Prayer focus during Ramadan (15 Oct - 13 Nov)

Ramadan is one of the high points in the Muslim year when many Muslims around the world fast from sunrise to sunset. I remember several of my friends fasting during all or part of this time when I was living in Central Asia. They usually took turns at holding big evening feasts to which they invited friends and neighbours as well as the local Muslim leader.

Please remember to pray especially for Muslims during this time. Many Muslims stay up all night during the 'Night of Power' which commemorates the first revelation of the Qur'an given to Mohammed. They believe that prayers offered this night have a special power. This year it takes place on 26th October. Please consider setting time aside to pray for Muslims on this date, asking for an outpouring of God's Spirit on our Muslim neighbours world-wide. Pray too for those seeking to reach Muslims since it's not uncommon for them to experience problems and setbacks during the month of Ramadan. Prayer information is available from www.30-days.net.

Catriona Macdonald

September 2004

General fund

Income of **£78,513** is £4,237 behind budget.

Expenditure of **£20,801** is c£1,900 less than the budget. The main under spends are as follows:

Area	Variance	Explanation
Repairs & replacements	(£1,488)	Insurance cheque from last year
Student levy	(£1,134)	Invoice for financial support levy not yet received

The Minister's expense claim for September is not included in these figures.

Church funds

Remittances of **£54,000** are c£10,000 higher than last year and exactly £3,000 ahead of budget. The £54,000 represents 76% of our net ordinary income of **£70,662**.

The balance on the general fund at 30 September is a deficit of **£822**. By curtailing our additional contributions to central funds we should be able to restore the general fund to a small positive balance before the end of the year.

Whilst I am confident that we will give more to central funds than we did last year, in both absolute [£74,000] and relative [70%] terms, we may not achieve the full 77% of net ordinary income.

Fabric fund

Description	Amount	Paid to:
Church - wall & gates	£7,252	Stonemason
Church – roof repairs	£2,826	Morris & Spottiswood Ltd
Manse – bathroom	£7,141	Various
Assistant's Manse -		
Service and parts for boiler	£395	Arnott & Mann Limited
Total expenditure to date	£17,614	

Millennium fund (for the expenses of the Assistant Minister)

No comments.

Other special funds

Donation of £50,000 received in June. No other comments.

Statement of financial activities	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Special Millenniu m	Funds Other	Total
Gross ordinary income	£78,513		£10,614	£52,239	£141,366
Transfer to fabric fund	-£7,851	£7,851			£0
Net ordinary income	£70,662	£7,851	£10,614	£52,239	£141,366
Expenses	-£20,801	-£17,614	-£10,861	-£1,632	-£50,908
Surplus before EDO and central funds	£49,861	-£9,763	-£247	£50,607	£90,458
EDO	£0				£0
Church funds	-£54,000				-£54,000
Surplus for the year to date	-£4,139	-£9,763	-£247	£50,607	£36,458
Opening balance - at start of year	£3,317	£37,462	£247	£910	£41,936
Closing balance	-£822	£27,699	£0	£51,517	£78,394

Balance sheet	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Millenniu m Fund	Other Fund	Total
<i>Fixed assets</i>					
Guardwell Crescent	£146,775				£146,775
Loan from Bank of Scotland	-£99,450				-£99,450
Loan from Bob & Heather Akroyd	-£45,703				-£45,703
Fixed assets at cost less debt	£1,622	£0	£0	£0	£1,622
<i>Other items</i>					
Advance to Alex for expenses	£535				£535
Advance to Bob for expenses	£238				£238
Deposit for YF weekend away	£360				£360
Cash	-£2,444	£27,699	£0	£51,517	£76,772
Bills to be paid	-£1,133				-£1,133
Closing balance	-£822	£27,699	£0	£51,517	£78,394

Other special funds comprise

Special donation	£50,000
Sunday School	£542
James & Roszie Forsyth	£342
Willie Raeburn	£253
Missionary support	£200
Mother & Toddler	£100
CWI	£50
Romania	£30
	£51,517

EEFC CAMPS 2004

I had attended EEFC camps for two summers before this one, going to two camps each time. I knew that this summer was possibly going to be my last big holiday for a long time, so I decided to go to four camps in a row, the maximum possible, a feat usually only attempted by EEFC legend Mr Andy Johnstone. To make the summer even more epic, the plan was to drive out with my good friend Andrew Martin in my beautiful almost-pink Fiat Punto, going straight from Free Church Camp in Oswestry. Whenever I told anyone about my plans they always seemed very concerned: how would I manage all those camps, could I cope with the driving in Romania, would the Fiat make it?

In the end, God worked everything out. After an excellent camp in Oswestry, our only complaints on the way out were a skipping CD player, some fairly wet weather, a blockade of farmers and getting repeatedly lost while trying to navigate our way out of European cities including Luxembourg, Freiberg, Schaffhausen, Győr and Budapest.

Back in May, I had been asked to be the main leader of the UK team at our first camp in Hejce. Before the camp, I was slightly worried about my responsibilities. My main areas of concern were how well I would be able to deal with any difficulties that arose among the UK team or in our relationship to the Hungarian leaders, on top of the work of teaching English and leading a Bible study every day. Again, God graciously answered my prayers. The Hungarian

leaders were a joy to work with: really well organised, committed to Christ's cause and great fun. The same goes for the British team. It was a real challenge for me to see the great affection they had for the campers. The English lessons and Bible studies were also good. I had a few Roman Catholic girls in my class and I felt we got to explore the question of whether we are saved by deeds or by faith quite well. Some other highlights were teaching Scottish dancing and seeing some incredible lightning. Unfortunately, the lightning was accompanied by some pretty heavy rain and one night involved digging a trench around some of the boys' tent in an effort to divert the torrents of water.

The next week in Hódmezővásárhely, on the south eastern plain of Hungary, also featured an uncharacteristic amount of rainfall. Again, the Bible studies were profitable while the English lessons were great fun, involving speed dating, a surly waiter, and a robbery in a grocery store (all role plays of course). At this camp it was great to see Christians who had really matured since I had first met them. It was also excellent to see many campers who have no Christian connections throughout the rest of the year coming back, as was the case at all of the camps. I would like you to pray for these campers, that God would put them in contact with Christians who are concerned for them in the places where they live.

Next, it was on to Romania. The driving here was fine apart from the incredible impatience of the drivers, which oc-

asionally manifested itself in some kamikaze overtaking manoeuvres. More concerning were the enormous potholes in some of the roads, but again the Punto pulled through. These two final camps presented different challenges, what with tiredness setting in and having to write talks with minimum preparation beforehand. At my second last camp in Mahanaim there was an unusually low number of campers, which at first was a little dispiriting. By the end of the week however, this turned out to be a blessing, as it made English teaching easier, and allowed for good relationships to be made with the campers. The boys in particular, who had no church background, were very open and interested in Christianity.

Finally, it was on to our last camp in Bucsin. The best things about this camp were the high level of English among the campers, the incredible singing during worship and Scotland's sensational penalty shootout victory in the notoriously hard-fought annual football match (which involved the camp leader scoring the winning penalty in his socks). All that was left was to drive all the way back across Europe, but not before chasing some mice out from under the bonnet of the car who had settled there during our stay in Bucsin. The journey back, in the company of Iain Meredith, took in the sights of Bratislava, Prague and Heidelberg.

Throughout the summer I sought to do my best for the God whom I serve, as well as for those people whose generosity had enabled to me go. I know that

many times I let them down, but I am convinced that God's purposes will not be thwarted, and that he is able to use jars of clay like you and me to carry the treasure of the Gospel to all the nations of the Earth.

Rob MacDonald

REMARKABLE WITNESSES

John Knox: 1514 - 1572

In the previous article I gave the year of Knox's birth as 1514. There are differences of opinion as to that. Thomas M'Crie and the early Free Church writers give his date of birth as 1505 and that at the age of 15 he went to study at Glasgow University. More recent historians offer a year for his birth a decade later and suggest that he studied at the University of St. Andrews. One aspect that seems certain is that he was born in Haddington, East Lothian and brought up there.

Completing a course of studies, he prepared himself for the priesthood, but seems to have found employment as a notary apostolic, representing clients in church courts, and drawing up marriage contracts and wills in the area around Haddington. By 1543 Knox seems to have become a protestant and was acting as a tutor to the sons of Sir Hugh Douglas at Longniddry. After the death of James V in 1542, when Mary Queen of Scots was less than a month old, Scotland was ruled by a regent who, for a short time, encouraged the distribution of the Bible in English and who ap-

pointed two protestant chaplains. Knox associated himself with those who loved the Word of God.

By 1545, George Wishart's preaching was well known and, when he came to Edinburgh early in 1546, John Knox accompanied him as a bodyguard - especially since Wishart had been threatened by a priest-assassin in Dundee. For five weeks Wishart preached in East Lothian, staying with different lairds in the area, but he was seized by the Earl of Bothwell and handed over to Cardinal Beaton who took him to St. Andrews and had him executed.

Knox continued his work as tutor, but had to move from place to place to avoid capture. In May 1546, Cardinal Beaton was murdered by some of the leading men in Fife. They took over the Bishop's castle in St Andrews and were joined later by other leading Protestants. A year later, in April 1547, Knox joined those in the castle bringing with him the boys he was tutoring. There his gifts as a Christian teacher and preacher were recognised as he lectured on the Gospel of John and there, in the castle, the congregation called him to be a minister of the Gospel. Very reluctantly Knox acceded to their request.

The Queen Mother had requested help from the French to retake the castle. A French fleet arrived in July 1547 and, by placing cannon on high buildings near the castle, breached its walls and forced the surrender of those inside. The French Admiral took them to Rouen in France where the lairds and gentlemen

were held as prisoners and the others were kept as slaves to row the French galleys. In 1548, the French fleet sailed for Scotland and John Knox was among those forced to help row one of twenty-six French galleys - soldiers from the fleet even besieged Haddington. An oarsman's life was not a happy one - chained to a bench, working with six men to each oar, poorly fed and with the threat of the overseer's whip. For a time Knox was very ill, but recovered. In February 1549, Knox and others were released at the request of Edward VI of England and his Council. Knox returned to England.

Edward VI, although a teenager, was a strong supporter of the Reformation and Knox was welcomed. He was appointed to be a preacher in Berwick and in 1550 he was moved to Newcastle where he continued his ministry. In 1551 he was appointed one of six chaplains to Edward VI by the Privy Council and over the next two years he was called to London from time to time. In 1552 he refused to be made Bishop of Rochester and in 1553 he declined to become vicar of All Hallows in London. It is felt that Knox was concerned that he might become over-involved in administration when his desire was to be a preacher. During this time Knox also had many enemies who denounced him publicly and had him summoned before the Privy Council on at least two occasions.

1553 was a critical year for Knox. Edward VI, now in his seventeenth year, developed either pneumonia or pulmonary tuberculosis which was obviously

bringing him to the end of his short life. Knox realised that Mary Tudor, Edward's half-sister and a strong Roman Catholic, would probably become queen and that her attitude to Protestant religion would be very different from Edward's. Also at this time, after some years of opposition from his future father-in-law, Sir Richard Bowes, he became engaged to Marjory Bowes with the support of Elizabeth Bowes, Marjory's mother. During his time at Berwick and Newcastle, it would not have been easy for him to go to Scotland because of the political situation there, but many Scots crossed the Border to hear him preach.

On the 6th July, 1553, Edward died and with his death came very significant changes. Mary was recognised as Queen of England and her determination to bring the country back to obedience to the pope was gradually made obvious.

Knox had learned much during the five years he spent in England. He had also exercised considerable influence on its progress in that country. Personally, he had grown intellectually and spiritually, and his faith and understanding of what vitally concerned the Church of Christ had matured in the years since he had been torn from Scotland. However, more years of training and preparation still awaited him.

(to be continued)

WMM

ROTAS

Crèche

31 Oct	Heather Akroyd	John/Anne Macrae
7 Nov	Evelyn MacDonald	Norma Maclean
14 Nov	Mairi Forsyth	Rebeca Topping
21 Nov	Kirsty Clunie	Neil Campbell

Amplifier

31 Oct	Ken MacKenzie
7 Nov	Rob MacDonald
14 Nov	Douglas MacDonald
21 Nov	Graham Hardy

Cleaning

6 Nov	Heather Akroyd	Alison MacDonald
13 Nov	Donald Mackay	Alasdair Black
20 Nov	Lois Eddie	Nick Middlemass
27 Nov	Richard/Sarah Lytle	Rachel Morrison

Door Duty

31 Oct	Eric Mackay	Jocelyn Hammer
	Steven Hammer	Neil Campbell
7 Nov	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Nigel Anderson	Colin Macleod
14 Nov	Willie Mackay	Rob MacDonald
	Calum MacLean	Kenneth Macleod
21 Nov	John Macrae	Neil Macrae
	Iain Gill	

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday	11:00am	6:30pm
7 Nov	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
14 Nov	Alex MacDonald	Colin MacLeod
19 Nov (Fri)	Preparatory Service	Ken Cameron
20 Nov (Sat)	Preparatory Service	Ronnie Mackay
21 Nov	Communion Ronnie Mackay	RonnieMackay (Guest Service)

Creche and Sunday School during morning service.

*Youth Fellowship after the evening service – see Alasdair Black

Monday

BG's Youth Club	7-8pm – contact Jonnie McCrea (337 9233)
*Bethany House Outreach	8-10pm – contact Bob Akroyd (664 6306)
Deacons' Court	8pm monthly – contact Andy Cumming (667 9291)

Tuesday

Informal English Class	2-3pm – contact Ena Mackay (447 5937)
Campaigners	6:30pm – contact Colin MacLeod

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting	7:30pm
*District Bible Studies	7:30pm (2 nd Wednesday of the month)

Thursday

Christianity Explored	6:30pm – meal followed by discussion
Late Night Bible Study	9:30pm (with food) – contact Bob Akroyd (664 6306)
*Eight-a-side Football	9:30pm – contact William Lytle (477 1403)

Friday

Mothers and Toddlers	9:30-11:30am
Student Lunch	1pm (free food during term!)
Women's Fellowship	as announced

Saturday

Prayer Breakfast	9am
------------------	-----

CONTACTS

Minister	Alex MacDonald (667 4651)	AlexJMacDonald@blueyonder.co.uk
Assistant Minister	Bob Akroyd (664 6306)	BobAndHeather@talk21.com
Newsletter/sheet	Moira Mackay	Moira@theMackays.fsnet.co.uk

Buccleuch and Greyfriars web page

www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk