

# Parish Press

Monthly magazine of South Holburn Church, April 2011



**Warm congratulations to our finance convener Raymond Kelly and his new wife Moira, who were married at Glasgow University Chapel by the Rev George Cowie on Saturday, March 26.**

**Sunday worship is at 10.30am. Sunday School meets in the hall prior to service and the crèche in room 1. Parent and Toddlers Group meets Thursdays from 9.15am/11.15am. Bowling Club meets on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am/12pm at Pitstruan.**



Saturday, April 2: 1pm to 4pm Silent Auction in the Hall  
Sunday, April 3: 3pm Service in Riverside Nursing  
Monday, April 4: 2pm Guild – The Guild’s Got Talent  
Thursday, April 7: 2pm Bridge of Dee Guild  
Saturday, April 9: 10am to 11.30am Coffee Morning for Guild  
Projects  
Sunday, April 10: 3pm Service in Bridge of Dee Court  
Sunday, April 17: 3pm Service in Gairn Court  
Monday, April 18: 2pm Guild – Guild Rally DVD  
Wednesday, April 20: 1pm Lunch Club  
Thursday, April 21: 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Service with  
Communion  
Friday, April 22: 7.30pm Good Friday Service for Area Churches  
Sunday, April 24: 8.45am Short service in church garden followed at 9am by bacon rolls and toast served in hall, with egg decorating for the children. 10.30am Easter Sunday Communion Service. 3pm Service in Balmoral Court  
Wednesday, April 27: 7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting  
Thursday, April 28: 7.15pm Girls’ Brigade Open Night  
**Donations for Instant Neighbour, the charity caring for the needy in our city, can be placed in the boxes at the back of the church any Sunday - non-perishable food items only please.**

## From the manse

**In recent weeks disturbing events have been happening in a number of different countries around the world.**

As a result our prayers at South Holburn have included the peoples of North African countries, which have been experiencing unrest – and in particular, we have been remembering the situation in Libya, where British service personnel are now helping to protect civilians from attack. We have also been praying for the people of Japan, in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake and tsunami. The scale of that disaster is surely beyond all imagining. It can be hard for us to grasp the reality of these situations from the relative the comfort and peace of our homes in Scotland.

We feel powerless when we are confronted by so many troubles, which seem to be far beyond our reach. We cannot

explain why such things can happen - and the stories of human suffering can present a real challenge to our faith. As we draw near to the festival of Easter, we remember that Jesus wasn't distanced from the suffering of the world. Things began to go wrong, very soon after he entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. Although he had been welcomed with apparent enthusiasm, people in the city soon began to plot against him. There was to be little peace and comfort for Jesus: just four days after Palm Sunday he was arrested and beaten; on the fifth day he was put to death on the cross. The account of Jesus' suffering can be conveniently forgotten if we merely focus on the events of Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Indeed, I sometimes meet people who tell me that they would never attend church for a Good Friday service, because they⇒

⇒prefer to avoid thinking about the crucifixion. Yet, to avoid Good Friday is surely to miss one of the most significant achievements of Jesus. It is there that his story becomes interwoven with modern-day events, wherever people of today experience pain and sadness. On Good Friday we encounter Jesus, alongside any who experience disaster. We discover that God doesn't avoid our troubles, but instead shares in them completely. This year at South Holburn we will be hosting the area service for Good Friday and welcoming guests from other

local churches. Our worship will include an anthem sung by a joint choir and we will be reflecting on the seven sayings of Jesus from the cross. I invite you to come to this event, even if you feel uncertain about marking Good Friday. Our act of worship we will embrace any who are suffering in our world today. Although we might prefer to avoid Christ's hour of need, he doesn't avoid our time of need. On Good Friday we know that the saddest parts of the world are never forgotten by God.

*George S. Cowie*



<b>Sunday School:</b> Lorraine Johnston . . . . .	574899
<b>Creche:</b> Lesley Ellis . . . . .	894121
<b>Boys' Brigade:</b> Mike Paterson . . . . .	877676
<b>Girls' Brigade:</b> Lesley Bills . . . . .	596596
<b>The Guild:</b> Alison Dale . . . . .	01569 760273
<b>Parents and Toddlers:</b> Pat Moir. . . . .	319217
<b>Bowling Clubs:</b> Colin Rae. . . . .	593061

## GB Ready Steady, Come Dine With, Masterchef From Lesley Bills

**C**ompetition season for the Aberdeen Division of the Girls' Brigade is over and display night preparations are well underway.

This year the girls have competed in quite a few of the competitions and challenges and have worked very hard for each one. We were also pleased to host the Bible Competition in February which found the hall and two upper rooms busy with activities taking place. Three of our brigaders headed off to Harlaw Academy on Saturday, February 19, to take



part in the final competition for the year – Ready Steady Cook. The girls were tasked with preparing a two course meal for two people for ⇒



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⇒ under £10. As with competitors in any sport/event, good preparation was vital. Having planned menus, undertaking basic culinary tests then practising their meal for the girls in the company, a final rehearsal was all that remained to be done. Two guests were required. Who could we ask? Enter South Holburn's own Greg and John (for the Masterchef fans) the Rev George Cowie and Session Clerk Alan Johnston. Our guests were pleased to be asked

but that turned to concern when they discovered they had to score the meal out of 10. As you can see from the photographs they did indeed enjoy their meal of pan fried chicken breast in a cream and mushroom sauce with rice. This was followed by homemade cheesecake topped with flaked chocolate served with fresh strawberries and coulis and each scored the girls 10 points.

**Well done to Rachel, Emily and Erin!**



The Sunday School give us a pictorial reminder to take a daffodil along to church on Easter Sunday (April 24) to light up the cross.

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## Now and the future of our Malawi partnership

**A** successful Malawi evening meal was held recently in Aberdeen, in support of the city's churches special link with Malawi.

And it comes as Aberdeen Presbytery considers a proposed new three-year partnership covenant with Blantyre Presbytery in Central Africa.

As part of the twinning, both presbyteries affirm that as members of the world-wide Church of Jesus Christ, engaged in God's mission to the world, they belong together and wish to learn from each other's experience and diversity.

They also declare they want to share their understanding of the faith they hold in common and their vision for the future so that they may become more faithful and effective witnesses in the work of God's Kingdom.

During the next three years, the presbytery promises to seek to express their partnership

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through congregational linkages and exchange visits, regular communication and exchange of resources and informed prayer.

The covenant is due to be signed by the Moderators of both presbyteries.

The covenant spells out how the partnership will take shape in three different areas.

### **Congregational link and exchanges**

The two presbyteries are to facilitate congregation-to-congregation partnerships, including providing guidelines for communication links, exchange visits and reviews of such links. Visits may be presbytery to presbytery or congregation to congregation.

It is now recognised that both presbyteries have undertaken visits which have allowed each to experience their respective churches and cultures and further such visits are no longer required within the next three years. Visits must now be project/task orientated with a clearly defined purpose. Such visits would

facilitate an exchange of talents, offering practical help, training and advice. The emphasis of each visit should be on learning from one another and offering skills and resources which would be of mutual benefit. Normally, only those who belong to partner churches will engage in such visits and each presbytery must ensure that those participating are suitably qualified to do so.

### **Communication and resources**

Efforts will be made to ensure regular communication between the Presbyteries and partner congregations, exchanging news of developments and issues of concern, including prayer requests.

Such communications can be by post, texting or e-mail. Failure to communicate after one year, by any partner congregation, will result in that congregation being withdrawn from the partnership.

As a minimum, on the first Monday of every month, there should be an e-mail exchange between presbyteries to bring each fully up to date with general developments and church news.

Both presbyteries and all partner congregations may exchange resources which will encourage and support one another in their journey of faith together. Each presbytery and partner congregations will inform one another of appropriate projects which could be supported in ⇨

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## Brian Smith

painter and decorator  
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REGISTERED MEMBER OF  
THE BRITISH CHIROPODY  
ASSOCIATION

⇒Aberdeen and in Blantyre.

### Informed Prayer

Aberdeen and Blantyre  
Presbyteries will engage in and  
deepen their partnership  
through prayer for each other.

### Adminstration

The partnership will be  
reviewed after three years and  
where appropriate renewed.  
It will be further reviewed  
every three years thereafter.  
Congregational links will be  
revised with the presbyteries'  
review of the partnership.



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