

## Bruce Neill writes on Safeguarding

### Safeguarding Congregational Registers

All congregations are required to maintain a Safeguarding Register. Safeguarding is not limited to 'child protection' but is about the protection of 'vulnerable groups' which usually means children, young people (under 18) and vulnerable adults. An example of someone who could be described as a vulnerable adult in this context might be an elderly person living alone and appearing to have a degree of mental frailty. All those who as part of the work of your congregation have regular contact with any who in terms of the regulation would be considered as vulnerable should be on your Safeguarding Register, and if they have not attended one of the church's safeguarding training courses they should seek an early opportunity to do so, and apply to be admitted to the Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Scheme. The Safeguarding Register should be attested by the Kirk Session at the first meeting for regular business in the year, and in any case before the Presbytery's annual Inspection of Records.

A new edition of the Safeguarding Congregational Register was introduced at the beginning of this year. This is the one which should now be used and two copies of which should be presented at the Inspection of Records at the end of April. You can download copies of the Register from the Church of Scotland website. Open the website. Click on Safeguarding Services down at the bottom of the front screen, then scroll down till you come to Key Publications and click on that. Then look for Safeguarding Forms and click on that. The forms are numbered; look for SG07 (Safeguarding Congregational Register). The form is in 3 pages (for really big congregations!), you will probably only need to print pages 1 and 3, and they can be printed back to back if that is more convenient. You will need two copies to be completed for the Inspection of Records.

Also on the Safeguarding Forms page you will find SG11, Safeguarding Audit for Congregations and Presbyteries, and Safeguarding Audit Checklist and Guidance Notes. Download and print both of these. The Audit is a check to allow your Kirk Session to be sure it is complying with the safeguarding requirements laid down by the General Assembly. SG11 should be presented at the Inspection of Records. You will get it back so there is no need to do it twice. The Audit is also intended to be a helpful aid in preparation for Local Church Review, when the time comes for that.

A copy of the above has been circulated to all Safeguarding Co-ordinators. Please encourage and support your congregational co-ordinator. Good safeguarding practice is a responsibility of the Kirk Session.

## The Last Word Bob Higham

### Revival Can Happen in Berwickshire

During the 19th. century Duns became a stronghold of the United Presbyterian Church with three congregations in the town. The Free Church was also prominent in the area, as in 1880 there were eleven congregations in the Free Church Presbytery of Duns and Chirnside. Evangelistic meetings were organised in each of these congregations during 1883-4 to considerable effect.

In Duns, meetings continued for five weeks under the auspices of the Duns Evangelistic Association (the outcome of a time of revival some years previously). The Holy Spirit's power was very evident and the effect was extensive. The 'Report of the Free Church of Scotland on the State of Religion and Morals, 1884' states 'Not only the townspeople, but persons from all parts of the surrounding country came under the influence of the work; and many of the large farms in the neighbourhood, communities of twelve and fifteen families, were literally swept along by the wave of blessing, till scarcely a household in each community was without some new-born or newly revived soul'.

In Greenlaw, 'the soul-hunger of the people showed itself in the large attendances and anxious faces that nightly filled the hall'.

'Similar meetings in Chirnside continued for fifty nights in succession, with open-air and cottage meetings also proving most beneficial'.

'In all the communities affected, the movement appears to have borne "precious fruit" of lasting effect, and deputies visiting these townships in October 1884 were impressed with the spiritual life existing in the congregations'.

Bob Higham sent in this 'copy of a note' put out with the presbytery papers a few years ago because it concerns what he believes to be the basic need in Scotland (and anywhere in Christendom) for revival brought through the activity of the Holy Spirit. Bob believes that this is sorely needed so that we can be galvanised to be agents of God's mission in the world and he was prompted to write in after the same thought was raised by Sandy Forsyth in his presentation to our Presbytery Conference session in February.

The quotations in the article come from 'Glory in the Glen' by Tom Lennie. This is a Christian Focus publication issued in 2009 and is a history of evangelical revivals in Scotland between the years of 1880 and 1940.

The revival in Eyemouth in the early 1920s is also described in this book.



# Duns Presbytery News

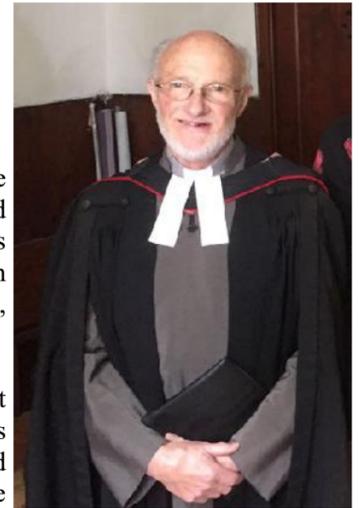
## "to keep you in touch with life in our small Borders Presbytery"

Easter Edition, 2017

### Moderator's Musings

One Saturday in February we spent the morning and afternoon together as Presbytery first of all in conference, then, after lunch, conducting regular business.

A significant aspect of what made it such a good day was the fact that we were joined by members of the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles.



Rev. Bruce Neill



Jungle Tales

Before leaving for her first charge, Hanneke Marshall wrote this short article about a holiday club at Duns which she had helped to organise: Jungle Tales activity day — a roaring success! We had a great time on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February with 40 primary school children turning up for our Jungle Tales activity day held in Duns Church Halls. With sterling help and input from Mark Bruce, the BCYT youth worker, Sally and her team organised a day packed full with messy games, tribal challenges, Bible stories acted out and some real-life jungle animals.

Whereas Duns Parish Church has organised holiday bible clubs in the past, this summer we felt unable to do so, but instead we have now so far organised two activity days during school inset days (our first one was in November). Both days have been advertised through social media and the primary school (leaflets and plug during assembly). We are very pleased with the response and this time were oversubscribed by 20 kids. We have had great feedback from the parents and are hoping to keep in touch with the families to invite them to future events.

A nice aspect of getting a team of helpers and leaders together for these days was that folk from the different kirks in our united congregation have come along and got to know each other in the process. This involved teens right up to 'grannies' and because it was a single day it felt a manageable commitment for all!

I would recommend this approach if you feel a holiday bible week is too big an ask to organise and staff. If you had a Messy Church, I can see how it would also be a good way to tie in with or perhaps get new folk interested in coming.

In the morning we listened to two speakers, each focusing on change in the Church, and this was followed by a lively discussion. In the afternoon, before we turned to the routine business of Presbytery, we had the opportunity to listen to a presentation from Heather Major, our mission research project worker. Creating the post to which Heather has been appointed, and finding the funding to support it, is a new initiative by Presbytery, one tangible sign of Presbytery's commitment to change in the Church.

It has probably always been true that the Church is changing; after all we live in a changing world, and to be relevant and effective in our mission we need to take note of that. However we do not always find change comfortable, especially if, like me, you have been involved in the life of the Church for many decades. We need people today who can provide the leadership to challenge and encourage the Church to move forward, people with the wisdom and insight to recognise what we need to let go, and what we need to cherish and value.

No, living in a time of change is not always comfortable. One of my teachers in theological college used to say that when you look back at times of great change in the Church, like the Reformation for example, the issues, and the outcomes can be clearly analysed and described, but at the time, for those living through it, it must have seemed incredibly messy and scary and uncertain. Living in a time of change is not always comfortable, but then, God's people have always been a pilgrim people, and if we can discern the guidance of God in our own day, can we do any other than rise up and follow?

## The Readership

### Christine Taylor writes

*It was he who gave some to be apostles,  
some to be prophets, some to be evangelists,  
and some to be pastors and teachers.  
(Ephesians 3:11)*

I wonder if anyone out there has given any thought to what they can do to enhance God's Kingdom: I know I did.

In 2004 I saw a flyer for applicants to the Readership. I asked my minister Rev Ann Inglis if she thought I could do that. Before I knew it I was off to a selection weekend, presented to Presbytery and enrolled in the University of Aberdeen. I began the course in 2005 and I can assure you that although it was not easy going back to studying in my 50's I am so pleased I did for it was one of the best experiences of my life.

After three years' study and practice placements I was set apart as a Reader on July 10<sup>th</sup> 2008. Since then my life has been so full and overflowing that I am now encouraging all those who feel they have something to give to the Kirk and to God to consider the Readership.

Our Presbytery has only two Readers, Alison and myself, so it would be wonderful to have company. If you feel this is your calling speak to your minister. I continued in study until I gained my BTh. but that was for my own fulfilment; the Readership only requires the Certificate in Christian Studies, all of which is completed at home through distance learning.

If you decide this is the way forward for you, trust me, there is a great deal of help and support within the Presbytery; pray on it and with God's guidance you could be having as much fun as Alison and I.

## Church & Society news

### by Bea Nicholson

#### *Fancy a Cup of Tea with a Refugee?*

The Scottish Refugee Council works with refugees to help make sure their voices are heard, to help them achieve their aspirations and use their skills, and to help them connect and bond with local communities – whether on their street, in the classroom, at work, on the football pitch or in a knitting group.

The Cup of Tea with a Refugee campaign uses one of Scotland's favourite pastimes to bring people together. Refugees are often just seen as statistics or news stories — help change the conversation and show that they're real people, just like us. Why not host your own event and find out what it's like to be a refugee living in Scotland? Find out more on this website:

<http://www.cupofteawitharefugee.com/>

### *Climate Change Changes Lives*

The Church of Scotland has heard the cries for help from churches around the world, from Africa, India, South America and the islands of the Caribbean and Pacific Oceans...I call on world leaders to listen to these voices and commit to the actions set out in this statement. You can read the full statement on the COP22 faith website:

<http://www.interfaithstatement2016.org/>

### *Speak Out - Caring for Creation*

#### **How should we respond?**

Christian Aid and Church of Scotland partner churches around the world have repeatedly pointed to the injustice at the heart of climate change: the richest countries have been responsible for the great majority of greenhouse gas emissions while the poorest suffer the worst consequences. This demands a practical and theological response.

Become an eco-congregation! Join the largest and most rapidly growing community environmental movement in Scotland with a network of local groups and a range of online resources. Eco-Congregation Scotland can help you respond to climate change in worship, in action and in advocacy. See website for more information:

<http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/>

Who is looking after your money? If you have a bank account, savings, investments or a pension you may be financing climate change. By carefully choosing where to put any savings or by engaging with your pension provider you can make a difference. Christian Aid and the Church of Scotland are both investigating this issue. Careful and ethical investment can help us move more quickly to a low carbon economy. For more information see Christian Aid's "Big Shift" web page:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/campaigns/climate-change/the-big-shift>

### *Invite the Eco-Congregation Chaplain to Your Church in 2017*

Eco-Congregation Scotland Environmental Chaplain, the Reverend Trevor Jamison, regularly preaches and leads worship for congregations across Scotland. He is available, willing and eager to come to your congregation.

Respecting the traditions of worship in your church, Trevor:

encourages the congregation to celebrate God's goodness in creation

shares news and information about the Eco-Congregation movement

affirms green-friendly, practical actions your church takes

preaches sermons that engage positively with scripture from a "green" perspective

Trevor also offers talks to groups on issues relating to Church and environmental issues. For more information go to <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/chaplain/>

To contact Trevor Jamison: Telephone 0131 667 1788 or 0131 240 2274 or Email:

[trevor@ecocongregationscotland.org](mailto:trevor@ecocongregationscotland.org)

### *Conversation Welcome*

At the end of January 2017, the Joint Public Issues Team (Baptists Together; Church of Scotland; United Reformed Church and The Methodist Church) launched a new resource, one that will invite church groups to sit down and have healthy, balanced conversations about our shared society. Conversation Welcome will explore how we can build God's Kingdom together in the run-up to the invocation of Article 50 and the resulting departure from the European Union. The pack will lead participating groups through theological reflections about how we treat others, use our resources and make decisions, and then invite carefully considered conversation and prayer.

"Over the last year, we have seen an awful lot of debate, perhaps some conversation would be welcome?"

The materials will explore four questions/themes:

- What kind of society do we want for future generations?
- How should we treat others?
- How should we use resources?
- How should we make decisions?

The resource can be found here:

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/eu-referendum/conversationwelcome/>



**From  
Stephen  
Blakey**

## **EXPLORING NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ALPHA COURSE**

After a very successful Alpha Course run in Gavinton Village Hall in the Autumn, we are trying to explore how best to move things forward. Would you, or anyone from your congregation, like to be involved in a future course gathering people from a wider geographical area?

25 of us met week by week from early September to mid November. Christine Taylor (with a fair degree of support from her man!) dealt with all the practical setting up and

catering requirements, while Hanneke Marshall ran the course and shared the teaching with Stephen Blakey. The group included folk from right across the extended Duns and District Parishes, plus three 'guests' from Selkirk. We had a great age range, with a crèche available for the very young.

Attendees represented a wide range of spiritual and theological backgrounds. Some folk were at a very early stage in their faith journey and even unsure about making a commitment to following Jesus. Others have been living out the Christian faith for many years. Not everyone completed the course, one or two feeling that while they were pleased to have dipped their toe into the water, that was enough for the time being. Others joined later on or just attended the Holy Spirit Day.

It was a good course, with great food and company, excellent teaching and engaging conversations. We do plan to run it again, and would be open to doing so in conjunction with others from across the Presbytery. If you are at all interested, please let Beth know at

[admin@dunsanddistrict.org.uk](mailto:admin@dunsanddistrict.org.uk)

## **A 'thank-you' message from Hanneke**

Even though as I write this I don't yet have a firm date for my ordination and induction as minister of St Machar's Ranfurly Church in Bridge of Weir, this is now on the horizon.

As I prepare to leave Duns and District Parishes and as such Duns Presbytery I want to thank you all who have welcomed me into the fold in the past year and a half. It has been rather nice to be in a small presbytery, as it has been much easier to get to know people. The times where we've shared food and conversation in smaller groups in particular, have been helpful.

I want to thank you all, ministers and presbytery elders alike, for making me feel welcome. I think the current year's approach with an emphasis on professional and congregational development is a very inspiring model. Perhaps it will one day be something to suggest to my future Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley!

A particular thanks to Dane, as we've had inspiring and encouraging chats on a number of occasions and I have appreciated his advice and enthusiasm for ministry.

I pray that God will bless and bring to fruition your witness and service in this beautiful part of Scotland.

Connected in Christ,  
Hanneke Marshall