

# faith@work

the magazine of glenrothes baptist church



july 2015



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# THE PASTOR'S PAGES



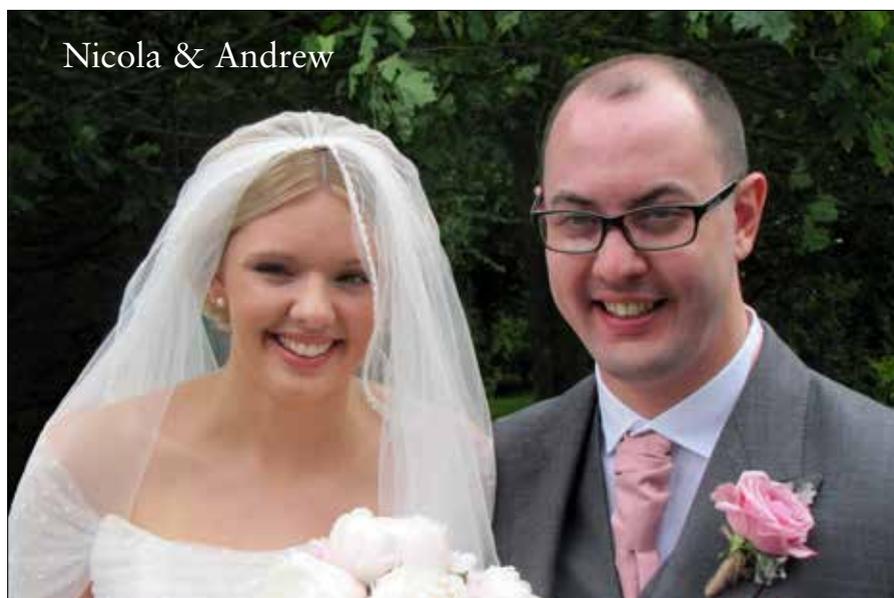
*No guilt in life, no fear in death,  
This is the power of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath.  
Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man,  
Can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

We sing these words of Stuart Townend and Keith Getty all the time from the hymn *In Christ Alone* and they are certainly true for every individual Christian. As of late these words have hit home with many in our church family. The first half of 2015 has indeed been busy, and a time that won't be forgotten—one of newness and massive change.

The first Sunday morning of this year started off with a word from God through the lips of Paul Greer quoting Isaiah 43:19, 'Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.' I don't think many of us realised just how apt that word would be. These profound words would set the tone to huge changes the Lord would sovereignly bring about in the life and ministry of our church so far this year. I'm going to bring to light four huge changes that have been happening over the past few months in GBC.

## 1. Weddings

The first huge change that has been happening in the life of our church is that of marriage. God's plan of taking two separate people and making them one is as amazing as it is life-changing. God has blessed our church with many young Christian couples who desire to glorify the Lord in the covenant of marriage. It has been my pleasure and joy so far this year to marry Scott & Caroline Clark (12 June) as well as Andrew & Nicola Brown (4 July). Thank you to the many people who have been praying for Brittany and I as we have continued to lead



the marriage-preparation courses. The next wedding is that of Simon Dirom & Michelle Ross in August.

We are delighted that all three couples are moving into Glenrothes, and will be living among us! Get to know them all and pray for them as they start their new lives together. All of these weddings have been joyous occasions, and this has continued to remind me of God’s faithful covenant love of his bride, the church. Every time a couple says their vows, it reminds me of God’s unconditional promises to us. Every wedding meal reminds me with joy of looking forward to the marriage supper of the Lamb when Christ returns and we will be with him forever.

## 2. ‘From life’s first cry ...’

Other than coming to know Jesus and getting married, nothing changes your life like having a baby! Until I became a father, I didn’t know what it was like to understand God’s true unconditional fatherly love for his children. In these parent/child relationships, God blesses us with the opportunity to experience and understand so much more of himself and his relationship with us. Christians are given the opportunity to walk with God more closely as their Father, as well as to glorify him more fully as parents.

Please pray for these new parents—that they will be equipped to bring their children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (*Eph. 6:4*), and that they will love God with all their hearts. As an overflow of their walk with Christ, pray that these parents will talk of Jesus and his ways when they ‘walk along the road’ and as they ‘lie down and wake up’, and that God’s Word would be the centre of every home (*Deut. 6*). Here are a few couples to pray for—

**OLIVIA ANNE ROWORTH**—born 26 February, 2015

John & Stefanie Roworth, our former deacon and his wife (now members of Duncan Street Baptist, Edinburgh) welcomed their beautiful daughter into the world earlier this year. Congratulations to the entire Roworth family.

**EZRA JAMES NEWBOROUGH COWAN**—born 1 April 2015

Homegrown missionary Alexander & Mary Beth Cowan welcomed baby Ezra just in time for Easter. Pray for the Cowans as plans for their

missionary move to Rwanda in 2016 are under way—and now with baby in tow! This is no easy task.



**ETHAN LUKE GILFILLAN**—born 13 May 2015

The Lord’s time is always perfect ... even if it is five weeks early from when a due date is supposed to be! We praise God for the healthy delivery of Ethan, who was there at his own baby-shower. Pray for Kevin & Sarah Gilfillan as they bring up this boy.

**LUCILLE JAMES BEVERIDGE**—born 1 June 2015

We rejoice with Andrew & Rebecca Beveridge and their whole family with the gift of this little girl. What wonderful news to see this lovely family settled with their first baby! Continue to pray for them as they raise Lucille in the ways of Christ.

**ISAAC DAVID JAMES MCNAMEE**—born 2 July 2015

After many years of prayer, we are delighted that God has blessed David & Laura with their first baby—a boy, aptly named Isaac as the Lord has heard their (and our) prayers.

May all of these children be set apart for the glory of God and to know and walk with Jesus Christ all the days of their lives.

... And that's not all! As I write, we are still awaiting Danielle Dryburgh's bundle of joy who is due in just a few days! And there's Helen & Luke Higdon (Associate Member & missionary in America) who are due their baby Ellie Clare in the October holidays. Thankfully, soon-to-be gran Rachael Golz hopes to be there when baby arrives. Please pray for and encourage all of these parents, soon-to-be parents, and grandparents!

*[More details and photos on pages 11-13 — Ed.]*

### 3. '... to final breath'

On the other end of life, it has been very difficult for our fellowship to say goodbye to our dear friends Charlie Cook, Harry Newborough, and Margaret Johnson. All were stalwarts in this church who faithfully poured out their lives for the gospel of Jesus Christ. These men and women of God stand as giants upon whose shoulders we stand today in Glenrothes Baptist Church. They have now finished their race and keep the faith. They have now joined that great cloud of witnesses in Hebrews 11, and will be dearly missed. When we think of them, may we be doers of the Word of God when it says,

Therefore since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the founder and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God (*Heb. 12:1-2*).

Please remember our dear sister Pauline Cook, Lesley, and Charlie, as well as Margaret Cowan, Rachael Golz, Lorraine, Alexander, Helen, Stephanie, Christopher, and all of the rest of the families and close friends who will continue to mourn for much time to come. Praise God that we mourn in the reality that this is not the end!

### 4. New Assistant Pastor

One final change that God has brought about recently to GBC is the calling of Matthew Marshall. Following a 94% affirmative vote at our



AGM, we are delighted to have Matthew starting with us on 3 August as Assistant Pastor of Mission. This is an historic change for Glenrothes Baptist Church, as we have never had an Assistant Pastor. Pray for our eldership as we thankfully now have four shepherds. Pray for Matthew and me that we will find it a joy to work alongside one another and complement each other's ministry. We pray that the church may be built up and more disciples made. Matthew will

be ordained and inducted at a special service on **22 August**. All are welcome.

Pray for Matthew, Lorraine, Elijah, and Annabelle as they seek the Lord's provision for the right house and that they may be able to settle (and the kids start school). They will be moving from Romania with very little. Having lived as faithful missionaries for about a decade, they will not have a lot to their name here, nor the means to get it. Our hope is that when they find a house, the Holy Spirit will burden you to generously give and care for all the needs of this family, providing everything they may need for a house down to the tea in the cupboard. Pray and ask God what he would have you do—even if it is something small. When things progress, our Church Administrator, Loma, will make known the needs of this family so that you can give as you are able.

In all of these huge changes in life and in our church—no matter what comes our way—my prayer is that we commit every aspect of our lives to God and sing with joy,

*Till He returns or calls me home,  
Here in the power of Christ I'll stand!*

Your pastor  
***Jacob Brothers***

## OUR CALL TO LEAVE ROMANIA

Isn't it amazing how the Lord works far outside of our understanding and even recognition many times? Our departure from Romania and our calling to Scotland is a great example of the Lord's sovereign hand at work in our lives.

This all began a couple of years ago, as the Lord prompted me to begin changing the way leadership worked within the ministry in Romania. I felt a strong leading of the Holy Spirit to begin handing over more and more responsibility to others with the vision of creating a more sustainable team that could carry the work God had set for us, into bigger and more diverse ministry in the future. This was accompanied with the prayer for more workers.



The Lord abundantly provided with the full-time missionary, Callum King. Callum was commissioned and sent out by St Peters Free Church in Dundee in May 2013 and has proved to be a literal God-send ever since. Alongside Callum came the provision of many new national volunteers who joined our teams of workers who now support the ministry there.

Callum specifically came on board to relieve me of the responsibilities of practical development and construction at Friendship Camp, so that I could focus on our other ministries and the bigger picture of development in Romania and also latterly in Hungary. The sense of clarity in the Lord's calling over Callum's life to full-time missionary service was encouraging, but at the same time there was apprehension over how he would fit into permanent life in Romania and also the





new responsibilities of overseeing large development projects and leading visiting teams. However the Lord knows what he is doing, and we were reminded again of how, when we let him take the lead, and patiently seek him, he brings things about in ways we would never dream. Callum not only slotted into Romanian life like a native, he picked up the language incredibly quickly, and he managed to step up to the new responsibility with an ease that can only have come from the Lord. What I am trying to say is, the Lord's hand was so evident in the whole situation leading up to Callum's coming, and his fitting into new life in Romania.

Not long after these things, the Lord began to create in me a deeper sense of his calling into pastoral ministry. This initially began through the work I was doing with our church in Romania—Harvest Metanoia Arad—where I was being given lots of opportunity to serve and preach. The senior pastor there, Cristian Barbosu, invested time in mentoring me and encouraging my growing passion for Christ's church, and it was through this that I came to the uneasy point of realizing the Lord had been at work (unbeknownst to me) in releasing me from my current ministry and beginning to call me into a new season of ministry. I say uneasy, because that's how it felt. Everything we had known for almost ten years, all of a sudden became temporary. We knew the Lord was loosening the roots for us there and the fact we had no idea where he would take us and what he would ask us to do in the future was a challenge. And so we embarked on a period of around six months of praying and seeking the Lord through where and what he would

have us do. There were opportunities for me to serve in several places, and though my flesh cried out for them, I knew in my spirit that it was not of the Lord. Then in October last year, I submitted myself to a time of testing before the fellowship of Glenrothes Baptist, who had commissioned me in the first place to full-time ministry. After the Church's clear affirmation of the Lord's calling on me towards this work, it became clear from then on as we began to pray and seek, that the Lord was leading me ever more clearly towards pastoral ministry in Scotland.

And so here I am, in the doorway to a whole new season of ministry, this time in the role of Assistant Pastor of Mission for Glenrothes Baptist Church. I am humbled by what God is doing in my life and in our family, and we are very excited about what this new season of ministry holds. The challenges will certainly be great, and the learning curve steep, but with the Lord's help we pray we will see him do more incredible things for his kingdom.

I recently received word from Oak Hill seminary in London of my acceptance on their three-year course for Pastoral Leadership and Church Planting. This year they will begin a new partnership between themselves, Acts29 and the Porterbrook seminary based in Sheffield. These are three renowned and well-respected theological seminaries who specialize in a specific stream of church ministry training. What's most exciting is that for the first time ever they will



With Mr Gita (pronounced 'geetsa') and his wife Felicia ('fel-ee-ch-ee-a'), our neighbours in Sistarovat.

unite resources and offer this unique course to which I have applied and have been accepted. Pray for me as I embark on this venture starting in September.

So when you look at things from an eternal perspective, you begin to see how the Lord was at work long before we even knew what was about to come, preparing the ground both here and in Romania. As we sought to follow him and honour him in each direction we took, he has clearly led and blessed each step of the way. As we look forward to the years ahead, we are confident that just as the Lord provided and blessed in the past, he will continue to provide and bless in the future—not for our gain or benefit, but for his glory.

We needn't worry about the ministry left behind in Romania; not only will Callum do an amazing job, but the Lord will continue to provide and bless long after we are gone. Continue to pray for Callum and the team there as they embark on a ten-week-long summer of over-full camps—over a thousand kids in all!—not only that they would enjoy great fun and fellowship, but, sitting under the Lord's word in teaching, the Lord's favour would be over them all, as they are called to repentance and faith!

*Matthew Marshall*



'Home, sweet home!'

## A QUIVER-FULL OF FIRSTBORNS!

*Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord,  
the fruit of the womb a reward.*

*Like arrows in the hand of a warrior  
are the children of one's youth.*

*Blessed is the man [and woman, and church!]  
who fills his quiver with them!*

*(Psalm 127:3-5a).*

**W**e give thanks to God and rejoice with the proud parents in the safe arrivals of so many firstborn babies in recent months—and more on the way! See also pages 3–5.



*John and Stefanie [Edinburgh] with*

**Olivia Anne Roworth**

Born 26 February 2015 at 1.05pm

Weight 6lb 8oz

Length 53cm



*Alex and Mary Beth  
[Alabama] with  
Ezra James  
Newborough  
Cowan  
Born 1 April 2015  
at 3.21pm  
Weight 7lb 15oz  
Length 51cm*



*Kevin and Sarah with  
Ethan Luke Gilfillan  
Born 13 May 2015 at 9.48am  
Weight 5lb 6oz  
Length 46cm*

*Andy & Rebecca*  
*with*  
**Lucille James**  
**Beveridge**

Born 1 June 2015  
at 11.04am  
Weight 8lb 10.5oz  
Length 54cm



*David & Laura with*  
**Isaac David James McNamee**

Born 2 July 2015 at 4.45am  
Weight 7lb 3oz  
Length 51cm

# BAPTISM

Paul Callan

Baptised 5 July 2015

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*'I am here to do what I'm told and completely surrender to God's will for me and stop being so pig-headed and stubborn.'*



## Paul's testimony

### Before Becoming a Christian

I grew up in the small village of Balmullo and my parents sent me to the local Sunday school, but I can't remember much about it; all I can really remember of it was total chaos and I am not sure how much biblical teaching there was if any.

### Starting to go to Cupar Baptist Church

Mum started going to Cupar Baptist Church and dragged us along for the ride. I started to develop some friendships with other teenagers my age and to enjoy the social side of it. Then the rest of my family started to come—Dad and grandparents.

Slowly, through having such great leaders of some of my Bible classes, and youth leaders, I started to learn more about God and the love he had for me. However, I hadn't really given myself to God completely, and I still was a bit of a jerk—as I was a very stubborn teenager. I also enjoyed partying with my school-mates, a lot of whom were not living like God wanted me to. I thought it was OK as it was '*Better to ask for God's forgiveness rather than his permission!*' even though living the Christian life.

### Giving my life to Jesus

One weekend, I don't know when or where, my youth group went to a Baptist Youth Assembly. During that Assembly, after a speaker finished his talk (I'm not even sure what the talk was about), he asked anyone who wanted to accept Jesus into their life to stand. At that moment I realised that I was a bit of a jerk and needed Jesus in my life. And then just like that I felt a shock like electricity up my spine and I found myself standing up like a right weirdo—but, hey, I didn't care! I needed Jesus in my life more than looking like a weirdo for a few minutes while the speaker prayed for us.

I still continued going to church, and my leaders and church family helped to encourage me to grow more in my faith.

## The Journey

### Surprising blessing, if you trust him

I was asked to come on a Scripture Union youth weekend. At the end of the weekend they encouraged us to share the good news of Jesus with a friend. I prayed about this as I was very nervous about looking like an idiot. I had a friend Mel who I sat next to on the bus home from school. I planned to share my faith with her. I planned it out in my head and it was bullet-proof with every possible question and reaction covered.

That week I asked her about her weekends which led me into my perfectly laid out plan. However it didn't go to according to my plan: when I said I was at a Christian weekend she smiled at me and told me that she was a Christian too, and went to St. Andrews Baptist church. I was gob-smacked; I had not factored this outcome in my '*perfect*' plan, and that really bothered me. Anyway this led to a great friendship and we supported each other through the latter end of high school.

### First attempt to be baptised

In my youth group many of us decided to get baptised and went to baptism class—and I chickened out of it and everyone else got baptised. I felt I wasn't in the *right place spiritually* and *not good enough* to be baptised, so I talked myself out of doing it.

I've always been very hard on myself and have struggled with this for years and still do. I like order and perfection a little too much and found it difficult to ask for forgiveness as I couldn't even forgive myself for making a mistake, which just frustrated me even more. I would spend a day just beating myself up over it, and still do find it difficult not to be so hard on myself.

### Throughout the years

Throughout the next few years, the Lord continued to have his hand on me although sometimes I didn't always want to know about it.

- He gave me good Christian friends at school and later on in life.
- He helped me through the trauma of my parents' divorce and all that led to.
- A Saturday job in The Lighthouse in Cupar, spending time with Christian friends, and the prayers of others saved me from totally losing all my marbles.

- He even helped me accept the death of best friend Angie who I still really miss, but she is with the Lord now, so that's OK.
- A motorcycle accident made me realise some important things; he taught me some hard lessons in that moment:
  1. I shouldn't have idols in my life, which was what my bike had started to become.
  2. I wasn't a MOTOGP champion and needed my pride put in check.
  3. Because I survived the crash without even a little tiny scratch I have no war wounds to brag about.

The Lord has a brilliant sense of humour in putting me in my place. I did once ask the Lord that if he was going to tell me something he should make sure it's direct and to the point. I don't think I listen to God when he tries to guide me subtly, but I didn't expect such clear leading to change career even though I had prayed for clear guidance.

### **Giving up on Church**

I had been drifting away from the church and relying on my own logic, although Jane Crockett, my friend's Mum, was always nagging me about not going to church; they always knew if I'd been to church or not, and what church I had been to. I still don't know how far the Crockett's Spy Network goes; they always seemed to know when and where I attended church. Like loving parents they were worried for me.

I could not find a church that worked for me, and kind of gave up attending church regularly. So one Sunday I plucked up the courage to give Glenrothes Baptist Church a try.

### **First going to GBC**

On my first time in Glenrothes Baptist Jacob was preaching on Joshua Chapter 9 about the Israelites being tricked by the Gibeonites because they used their logic and did not ask God. I was like that, and it was like I was the only one in the room and God was being extremely direct with me. So I think I was in the right place.

Plus after the service lots of people wanted me join their HBF. I've never been so popular which was very encouraging. The Lord was making his point loud and clear, and there was no subtlety involved at all. And this was where I was to be.

## Why I Am Here

Marlyn asked me if I had gotten baptised and when I said I hadn't she said, 'Why not? You're a Christian.' She gave me a handout which had 40 reasons why I should get baptised. And the feeling of not being in the right place spiritually and not good enough came back.

I spoke to my old pastor about baptism as I needed to sort it in my head—I was worried that because I didn't have the warm fuzzy feeling, there was something wrong with me, and because I only had the matter-of-fact 'Jesus is my Lord and that's just the way it is'. However Bill did assure me that there were many things not right with me, but that wasn't one them.

Someone told me 'How can you expect God to pour out his blessing on you if you don't take this little step of faith?' Also, someone else told me very recently 'Paul, you've been on the train long enough—pay the fare or get off the train.'

So I am here to do what I'm told and completely surrender to God's will for me and stop being so pig-headed and stubborn and do what I am told. What comes to mind is the people in the Bible who don't do what they are asked; it doesn't end well for them and the Lord has been very direct with me. ☚

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## Holiness

Anyone can use the word, of course, but without Christ holiness tends to have all the charm of an ingrown toenail. For, very simply, if holiness is not first and foremost about knowing Christ, it will be about self-produced morality and religiosity. But such incurred self-dependence is quite the opposite of what pleases God, or what is actually beautiful.

God is not interested in our manufactured virtue; he does not want any external obedience or morality if it does not flow from true love for him. He wants us to share his pleasure in his Son. What is the greatest commandment, after all? 'Love the Lord your God' (Mt 22:36–37). That is the root of true God-likeness. Nothing is more holy than a heartfelt delight in Christ. Nothing is so powerful to transform lives.

MICHAEL REEVES in *Christ Our Life*

## FROM THE TREASURER



It was agreed at the budget meeting in November last year that we would keep the budget at £1754 per week, but as you can see we have only exceeded that in April—in fact that is the only month since our budget meeting that the offerings have reached target! May was particularly poor, partly because it was a five-Sunday month. We also received in April £3628.50 which was the Gift Aid tax returns for the period January-March.

Month	Average weekly offering (£)
March 2015	1707.40
April	1819.53
May	1583.32
June	1670.56
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>£1754 per week</b>

We used the Anniversary Thanksgiving offerings to help supplement our General Fund and we have received £3644.60. From those who gave under Gift Aid we will receive an additional £546.25 in tax returns, giving a total of £4190.85. We had hoped for £4000, so well done to everyone!

However, wouldn't it be good if the weekly offerings were better and we were able to use the Anniversary Thanksgiving Offerings for some other cause?

Just a reminder to everyone who is employed and pays tax that you could, by signing up to Gift Aid, add *an extra 25%* to your offerings without increasing what you give.

From your Treasurer,

*Helen Clarkson*

# BIOMASS IS GO!

The project to replace the obsolete heating system in Glenrothes Baptist Church has been under consideration for many years and finally came to fruition when we were awarded a 75% grant by Fife Environmental Trust, from Landfill Community Tax Funds, to install what is deemed an environmentally-friendly biomass heating system. This has been installed by a local company, Alba Heat & Power, owned by a Christian from Kirkcaldy.



The final stages of preparation work involved ripping out the stage to prepare for the arrival of the hopper and the control unit.



The installation commenced on 19 May, with the actual hopper, boiler, and control unit arriving shortly thereafter.

The installation process has not been without its difficulties, as unforeseen problems arose due to the nature of the building, its age, and the materials that the workmen were having to drill through in order to install the pipework.



The area that was the stage was quickly transformed into two separate rooms; one to house the hopper and one to house the control unit and boiler.



Once this was completed, and the pipework and new heaters installed, we then took delivery of our first load of six tonnes of biomass pellets on 17 June, so that the engineers could begin testing the system. The commissioning of the boiler took place on Saturday 20 June and the heating system is now in full working order.

**Russell Robertson**

*[to whom the grateful thanks of the whole congregation are due for overseeing this project!]*

## ALL NEW FOR THE THOMSONS

On the 5th of June we packed a van and left Glenrothes, headed for our new home in Edinburgh. Joanna and I had come to the town almost ten years previously as a newly married couple moving into our first home—and now we have moved on with three children and many memories of Glenrothes, and in particular Glenrothes Baptist Church.



As we leave we will miss many people, but we go to Edinburgh knowing God's leading and guiding in the whole process. Everything has come together as we have thought and prayed about the move as we have felt God confirming his call to the work I am involved with for Scripture Union Scotland. Over the past few months there have been some changes to my role, but come the end of the summer I will be the Scripture Union Scotland Regional Worker for West Lothian and Falkirk. I will still be working from our office in Edinburgh and so my daily commute has now changed from about an hour each way to a minute each way! Already this has made a massive difference, especially on days where I have evening work meetings (which are quite frequent).

Over the summer we will also be doing some familiar things. We will again be going to Whiting Bay on the Isle of Arran to lead the beach mission there. The mission will run from 18 July to 1 August. Also coming from GBC are Ciara Marshall, Joanna Pollock and Claire Pollock; we would appreciate your prayers for this event once again.

As we settle in Edinburgh things have begun well with Emily making a good start in her new school and we're starting to feel at home in our new surroundings. We are also seeking for where God would have us be a part of the local church here and how he would have us serve there. It has been a real privilege to serve alongside you in Glenrothes and we look forward to standing with God's people here in Edinburgh too.

As we leave Glenrothes there are exciting things happening at GBC and we look forward to seeing what God is doing, both in you and through you as you seek to reach the community with the Good News of Jesus. Edinburgh is only 35 miles away—so I'm sure we will keep in touch with what is going on.

If you would like updates on my work with Scripture Union Scotland I'd be very happy to send you my prayer letter three times a year. Drop me an email on [gavin.thomson@suscotland.org.uk](mailto:gavin.thomson@suscotland.org.uk) and I'll add you to my mailing list.

Thanks for your friendship and support over the last almost ten years!

*Gavin, Joanna, Emily, Felicity and Noah*

*You can find them here —*

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## SUNDAY SCHOOL 2015

As most people know by now the Lord needs the Thomson family in another part of Scotland so we will be losing them from Glenrothes Baptist Church (see pages 22-23). On behalf of the Sunday school leaders and the many children that Joanna has taught we would like to say a great big THANK YOU for your time and faithfulness in investing the gospel into our lives. My granddaughter Bethany was quite upset when she learned that Emily and Felicity would be leaving and to be honest all the leaders and children in their groups will miss their input on a Sunday morning.

As of 1 June 2015 we are learning about the prophets, e.g. Amos, Jonah, Isaiah, etc., using the *Gospel Project for Kids* material. The *Gospel Project for Kids* is a three-year curriculum which will last realistically 4 years (we started in September 2013). It takes the kids right through the Bible from Genesis to Malachi and from Matthew to Revelation. Each lesson, whether it's about Abraham, Job, or Ezekiel always points to the gospel of Jesus our Lord; this really helps the kids make sense of the Bible. Each group has the same lesson but at different levels. We have three groups in the Sunday school:

- ♦ a younger group ages 3 to 7 led by Sue Roworth and Ciara Marshall
- ♦ a middle group ages 7 to 9 led by myself and Brittany Brothers
- ♦ an older group ages 9 to 12 led by Joanna Pollock and Jan Stenhouse. Stephanie Golz also helps when needed (thank you Stephanie!).

After the summer holidays we hope to purchase a TV with a built-in DVD player so we can get the full use of the material because at the moment we are using our laptops which isn't practical, and the kids can't hear or see properly. If anyone has one that they don't use it would really be appreciated and would save the church some money.

After the summer holidays and when the new session begins we are aiming to introduce the Catechism for kids. The goal is to get the children to memorise at least one a month.

What is Catechism you may ask?

In 1 Corinthians 14:19 Paul says, 'In the church I would rather speak five words with my mind, in order to instruct others, than ten thousand words in a tongue.' In Galatians 6:6 he says, 'Let him who is taught the word share all good things with him who teaches.' Acts 18:25 says that Apollos 'has been instructed in the way of the Lord.'

In each of these verses the Greek word for 'instruct' or 'teach' is *katecheo*. From this word we get our English word 'catechize'. It simply means to teach biblical truth in an orderly way. Generally this is done with questions and answers accompanied by biblical support and explanation.

Below are the first twelve catechism questions that we will go through in the 2015/2016 session, Lord willing.

1. Who made you? *Ans:* God.
2. What else did God make? *Ans:* God made all things.
3. Why did God make you and all things? *Ans:* For his own glory.
4. How can you glorify God? *Ans:* By loving him and doing what he commands.
5. Why ought you to glorify God? *Ans:* Because he made me and takes care of me.
6. Are there more gods than one? *Ans:* There is only one God.
7. In how many persons does this one God exist? *Ans:* In three persons.
8. What are they? *Ans:* The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
9. What is God? *Ans:* God is a Spirit, and has not a body like men.
10. Where is God? *Ans:* God is everywhere.
11. Can you see God? *Ans:* No; I cannot see God, but he always sees me.
12. Does God know all things? *Ans:* Yes; nothing can be hid from God.

As you can see they are simple but very effective in teaching our kids about God. Please could you pray for the Sunday school kids and leaders and if you feel led to help disciple the church family children on a Sunday morning then please contact me.

Your brother in Christ

*Stephen Dewar*

## FRIENDSHIP HOUR DRIVE

This year the Friendship Hour drive went to visit the Kelpies at Falkirk. On arrival, a Tour Guide, Jennifer came on board and gave



us an excellent and lively talk on the background of this amazing project.

The two horses that were modelled for the Kelpies were Baron and



Duke, two working horses still in Glasgow. (In fact, both horses were brought to Falkirk to see their models!) The structure, over 30 metres high and the highest of its kind in the world, pays tribute to Central Scotland's working horse heritage on the canals from years gone by. The Kelpies are made of stainless steel which doesn't rust reminding people of the steel industry that used to be in Scotland. The Kelpies are within The Helix—a recreational park for families, with an adventure play-park, splash-and-play fountains, boating, etc.—a lovely place for a family day out.



Most of the forty-three on the coach managed to get up close and photographed the occasion. Because of the bright sunlight it was difficult to see the finished snaps and a number of mine had part of my

thumb included!

After a lovely walk around the structure and back alongside part of the Forth and Clyde Canal, we rejoined our coach for the short journey to the Beancross Hotel for lunch.



*Lunch at Beancross*

The Beancross had been recommended by Douglas and Marilyn Munro and it certainly lived up to our expectations!

Our final part of the day took us for some Retail Therapy to the Sterling Mills Homestore and Shopping Outlet at Tillicoultry. While some shopped at one area, others relaxed with a drink in a temporary marquee erected while refurbishment was on-going in the Hub Café. Many took the

opportunity to check the Garden Centre in the warm sunshine or admire the nearby Ochil Hills.

Our sing-song on the way home in the bus reminded us of trips when we went on Sunday School outings, Bible Class holidays, etc. Bella is our oldest member at 97, with Nell 95 and Gina (90 next year) our

most senior friends, down to young and energetic Ann Laing and all the rest in between! We enjoyed the company of ladies from the Lomond



*Rosemary, Audrey, and Ella at Sterling Mills*

Centre Club which meets on Fridays, and Rosemary McLeary’s sister Audrey, from Barnstaple, also joined us—the furthest travelled to be with us! We were sorry Sam Stevenson and David & Eileen couldn’t join us because of health issues.



*Smiling faces in the Sterling marquee*

We enjoyed conversations and it was good to have time to share, since Tuesdays are sometimes busy. We dropped off Maisie (from the Lomond Centre Club), and discovered she lives in Alan McAndrew’s old house! The McAndrew family were part of our church years ago. Alan was Dad to Marilyn Clunie and Grandad to Kirsten Brown (née Clunie). Memories came crowding back!

We restart our session on **Tuesday 8 September** at 2.00pm and new members of bus-pass age are most welcome. Please pray for our many members in the Friendship Hour.

*Eric & Ella Walls*

# GRAIN GAME GOINGS ON



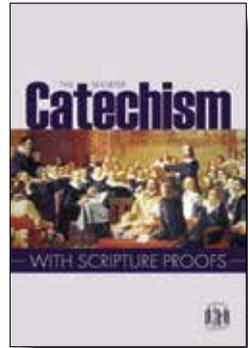
## From the Cowans

As we continue our work here in Tuscaloosa with the Grain Game, the month of May saw a few personal milestones. Firstly, a huge well done to Mary Beth who graduated with her Masters in Business Management from Liberty University. We are praying that she will find an opportunity to use this to volunteer with an NGO while we are in Africa. Ezra made it to two months old without any parenting disasters, which is definitely an answer to prayer! Finally, my parents made it safely to America from Scotland to see their newest grandchild (see page 4).

I have been planning Grain Game's work in Africa, and in October I will be there for almost three weeks to oversee, and lead, leadership training in the countries of Rwanda and Kenya. Pray that we will be able to assemble the right people to be trained and that God will bless these new leaders and multiply them. Below is a picture of me and Rodgers, our partner and main contact in Nairobi, Kenya, and also a loyal friend.



I have been helping Ray Gibson with a discipleship class for a group of men who are new believers. They are real ‘rednecks’, and roll up on their Harleys to learn theology—but they do put their cigarettes out before the class starts! We have been doing the basics of theology with them using the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*, and I was delighted to find that the edition we are using is the booklet published by Banner of Truth in Edinburgh. I was able to tell them that I knew someone who worked there!



As Jacob Brothers once said, ‘a call to ministry is a call to train’, and in May I started the journey which will hopefully end with my degree in Biblical Studies from Moody Bible Institute. I have started off by taking a New Testament class from Shelton and it has been great so far. Then next semester I will take Old Testament.

Part of our work in Tuscaloosa is also to raise financial support for our ministry. Before we can move to Rwanda we have to be fully funded—it will be so much easier to do our job in Africa and a lot better use of our resources if we are based there. There is a lot of work still to do before we plan to leave in 6 months.

*Please pray for:*

1. The continued work at Green Village trailer park, and that God will open up doors for a church to be planted there.
2. Our work in Kenya and Rwanda, that leaders will be raised up who understand the importance of life-on-life discipleship.
3. God to open up people’s hearts to the nations and that he will raise up people who are willing to sacrificially support this work and vision financially.

Because they haven’t heard,

*Alex, Mary Beth and Ezra Cowan*





## From the Higdon's

*As Helen flies back to the States after a time with family in Scotland, Luke has been on Eurotrek in Ukraine, Serbia, and Hungary . . .*

**I**t was hard leaving Helen in Scotland this year to do camps solo style for a while.

**Beregove, Ukraine:** One of our long time friends and contacts in Ukraine is the pastor of Beregove's church, Valentin Nehro. Through much prayer and discussion with his family and church, Pastor Valentin has decided to become GG's Director of Operations in the Former Soviet Union. Additionally, as if that wasn't exciting enough, the team of leaders in Beregove are going to be supporting and helping him and leading more camps in their region in the coming years. The first meeting with the kids since camp went well. They had 28 kids return for it.

**Kishegyes (Mali Idos), Serbia:** The kids in Kishegyes this year had much more energy than I remember! We really had a great week with them. They could not get enough cups of water poured on their heads. We had about 40



kids come through camp this year but when I got a chance to sit down with

the Pastor near the end of the week he said only about 10 kids come to the church. Please pray that all the kids of Kishegyes would have access to the gospel and biblical teaching somehow during the other 51 weeks of the year. Pray that God would raise up someone to minister to the kids of Kishegyes.

**Telecka, Serbia:** The weather got up to 100 degrees and without air conditioning it actually felt hotter inside the gymnasium where we had camp than it was outside. The kids in Telecka are a lot of fun and had tons of questions for us when we got to sit down and do group time. Many of them however are unchurched and get no spiritual food for the other 51 weeks of the year. Please pray for the kids and for Monika, our contact in Telecka, that God would open up doors and hearts to plant a church in Telecka for these kids. The only church in Telecka is the Catholic church in the middle of town.



**Debrecen, Hungary (12 July):** Tomorrow I will be leaving my hotel around 7:30 for the hour commute to Tiszafured then we will finish camp there around 12 and come back to Debrecen where I will need to meet up with the Teglaskert leaders so that we can begin camp there at 2:30. We will finish camp in Teglaskert around 5 pm each day and then be back at the

hotel around 5:30. I'm looking forward to seeing both groups of kids again but this could be a more tiring week.

On Tuesday (14 July), Helen will be flying back home to Tuscaloosa. Please pray for her as she struggles with once again having to say goodbye to family for a time.

Please continue to pray for all the kids that we've been blessed to teach and share with this summer.

Please know we are grateful for your continued prayer support and being such a big part of this team.

I am very excited to announce that we can now attach a name to the newest member of our family. We are having a daughter and her name is Elizabeth Clare. She will be called Ellie and her due date is October 16th.



Please continue to pray for good health for Helen and Ellie.

Grace and peace be with you,

*Luke & Helen & Baby Ellie*

PHILIPPIANS 3:20 & PSALM 24:1-2

[Adapted from *Luke's Prayer Letters during Eurotrek* — Ed.]

## ELISABETH ELLIOT (1926–2015)

On October 28, 1949, twenty-two year old Jim Elliot, then completing his studies at Wheaton College, Illinois, wrote in his journal:

*He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain that which he cannot lose.*

In less than seven years he had given his life as a missionary in Ecuador, attempting to reach the Auca Indians (now known as the Huaorani) with the gospel. He was speared to death along with fellow missionaries Peter Fleming, Roger Youderian, Ed McCully, and missionary pilot Nate Saint on January 8, 1956. Jim Elliot left a wife—Elisabeth—of just over two years, and a baby girl—Valerie—ten months old.

Early in the morning of June 15, 2015, Elisabeth Elliot herself died, aged 88. She had been suffering from dementia. She was ‘one of the



most influential Christian women of the 20th century’ (*Christianity Today*). Wheaton College President Dr Philip G. Ryken, said,

Elisabeth Elliot has inspired generations of evangelicals to pursue personal holiness and to offer their lives without reservation to missionary service around the world.

Many other tributes have been made:

Steve Saint—son of Nate Saint—posted about his ‘Aunt Betty’s’ death on Facebook, saying:

Tens of thousands of people will mourn her loss. I will certainly be one of them. But isn’t it incredibly wonderful that our loss is certainly her gain. She can think and talk once again! Let’s remember her daughter Val and son-in-law Walt and her eight grandchildren. Let’s also remember and pray for her husband Lars who cared for her and saw that she was cared for during her ten year battle with the disease which robbed her of her greatest gift.

John Piper, who served for 33 years as pastor of Bethlehem Baptist Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota, wrote—

Just like Jesus, and Jim Elliot, she called young people to come and die. Sacrifice and suffering were woven through her writing and speaking like a scarlet thread. She was not a romantic about missions. She disliked very much the sentimentalizing of discipleship . . .

And then there was her tough take on feminism and her magnificent vision of sexual complementarity. When Wayne Grudem and I looked around thirty years ago for articulate, strong, female complementarian voices to include in our book *Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood*, she was at the top of the list.

Elisabeth Elliot (née Howard) was born in Belgium of missionary parents. She studied Classical Greek at Wheaton College, believing that it was the best tool to help her with the calling of New Testament translation into an unknown language. It was here that she met Jim Elliot. They went individually to Ecuador to work with the Quichua Indians, and married in 1953 in Quito. Their daughter, Valerie, was born in 1955.

After Jim Elliot’s death, Elisabeth wrote *Through Gates of Splendor*, telling the story of the five Auca martyrs, and then, in *Shadow of the Almighty*, a biography of her husband. She continued to work in Ecuador with the Quichua for two years until 1958, when, with her three-year-old daughter and fellow missionary Rachel Saint, she went



to live with the very tribe that had killed her husband, a story told in her book *The Savage, My Kinsman*.

In 1963, Elisabeth returned to the United States, and became a much-loved speaker and writer. Her many books include *Let Me Be a Woman: Notes on Womanhood for Valerie*; *Passion and Purity*; and *Secure in the Everlasting Arms*.

In 1969, she married Addison Leitch, professor of theology at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in Massachusetts. Just four years later, Leitch died. In 1974 Elisabeth was appointed an Adjunct

Professor on the Faculty of Gordon-Conwell. In 1977, she married Lars Gren, a Hospital Chaplain.

From 1988 to 2001, Elisabeth could be heard on a daily radio programme, *Gateway to Joy*. She almost always opened the programme with the phrase,

‘You are loved with an everlasting love,’ – that’s what the Bible says – ‘and underneath are the everlasting arms.’ This is your friend, Elisabeth Elliot . . .

Let us leave the final word to Elisabeth herself—this from *The Elisabeth Elliot Newsletter*, July/August 2002:

There is nothing by which death can hold any of His faithful servants, either. Settle it, once for all—YOU CAN NEVER LOSE WHAT YOU HAVE OFFERED TO CHRIST. It is the man who tries to save himself (or his reputation or his work or his dreams of success or fulfilment) who loses. Jesus gave us His word that if we’d lose our lives for His sake, we’d find them . . .

A quiet heart is content with what God gives. It is enough. All is grace.

*Colin Roworth*

# CONNECTED BY GRACE

## Part 5: John Thornton (1720-1790)

### III. Dying Well

*We have been looking at the life of the great Christian philanthropist John Thornton, grandfather of Lady Lucy Smith (the daughter of Viscount Balgonie), who assisted my great, great, great grandfather, William Roworth (1789-1886) in obtaining pulpit supply for Sion Chapel Nottingham, where the Roworths worshipped. We now conclude his story ...*

#### The Death of John Thornton<sup>1</sup>

In 1782, Thornton became seriously ill with an unknown ailment, but recovered at that time. The illness seems to have returned some years later, but did not prevent him from continuing the travels with his friends which had been a feature of his life. In January 1789, in the midst of winter, his friend William Bull accompanied him on a trip to visit his daughter Lady Balgonie, in Fife. In May of that year he suffered an accident that caused considerable haemorrhaging, which Henry Venn believed to be fatal. However, it was not until September of 1790 that Thornton became really ill and he was sent to Bath on 16 October in the hope that the spa waters would help. He died there on 7 November, and his body was returned to Clapham for burial.

In his final days, his sons gathered round him and he exhorted them to hold fast to the faith. They asked him if he was now happy. He replied, ‘Yes, happy in Jesus; all things are as well as they can be!’ His last words were ‘Precious, precious . . .’ but he did not have the strength to add ‘Jesus’.<sup>2</sup>

Amongst the funeral sermons was one preached by William Bull in his



A portrait of John Thornton painted (by Gainsborough) for the Marine Society

church at Newport Pagnell, on what seems the most appropriate of texts—Matthew 25:21, ‘Well done, thou good and faithful servant.’

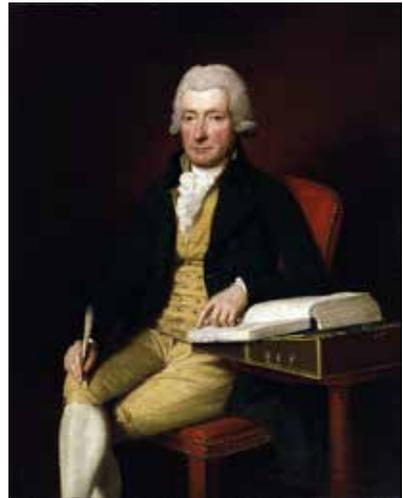
*In memoriam*

We have already mentioned some of the things said about John Thornton following his death, by friends such as Henry Venn, William Bull, and Thomas Scott.<sup>3</sup> Richard Cecil, in his memoir of John Newton, wrote:

Mr Thornton was a Christian . . . a Christian indeed; that is, he was alive to God by a spiritual regeneration. With this God he was daily and earnestly transacting that infinitely momentous affair—the salvation of his own soul; and, next to that, the salvation of the souls of others. Temperate in all things, though mean in nothing, he made provision for doing good with his opulence, and seemed to be most in his element when appropriating a considerable part of his large income to the necessities of others . . .

Mr Thornton was a philanthropist on the largest scale—the friend of man under all his wants. His manner of relieving his fellow men was princely . . . [Instances of it] were so much out of ordinary course and expectation, that I know some who felt it their duty to inquire of him, whether the sum they had received was sent by his intention, or by mistake. To this may be added, that the manner of presenting his gifts was as delicate and concealed, as the measure was large . . .

But with all the piety and liberality of his honoured character, no man had deeper views of his own unworthiness before his God. To the Redeemer’s work alone he looked for acceptance of his person and services: he felt that all he did, or could do, was infinitely short of that which had been done for him, and of the obligations that were thereby laid upon him. It was this abasedness of heart towards God, combined with the most singular largeness of heart toward his fellow creatures, which distinguished John Thornton among men.<sup>4</sup>



*William Cowper*  
A portrait by Lemuel Francis Abbott,  
1792

When it was obvious that her father was dying, Lady Balgonie had approached the poet William Cowper, through William Bull, to write an epitaph for Thornton. This Cowper gladly did, although the poem, written in 1790—‘In memory of the Late John Thornton, Esq.’—was not published until 1803. George Ella, in his monumental biography of Cowper, says of it,

It starts off rather laboriously in praise of Thornton, in the traditional style of the age, but gradually becomes more pointedly evangelical and at the same time more poetic.<sup>5</sup>

Space forbids us reproducing the epitaph in full, but the following final lines will give a flavour of it:

And tho' God made thee of a nature prone  
To distribution boundless of thy own,  
And still, by motives of religious force,  
Impell'd thee more to that heroic course;  
Yet was thy liberality discreet;  
Nice in its choice, and of a temp'rate heat;  
And, though in act unwearied, secret still,  
As, in some solitude, the summer rill  
Refreshes, where it winds, the faded green,  
And cheers the drooping flow'rs—unheard, unseen.  
Such was thy Charity; no sudden start,  
After long sleep of passion in the heart,  
But steadfast principle and in its kind  
Of close alliance with th' eternal mind;  
Trac'd easily to its true source above,  
To Him, whose works bespeak his nature, Love.  
Thy bounties all were Christian, and I make  
This record of thee for the Gospel's sake;  
That the incredulous themselves may see  
Its use and pow'r exemplified in thee.<sup>6</sup>

## Conclusion

What are we to make of John Thornton? He lived at a time and in a manner far removed from us. And of course he was not perfect—even if the eulogies suggest it! His son Henry had some very harsh things to say about him as a father, and even as a businessman, accusing him of negligence

in both respects.<sup>7</sup> His ‘being occupied rather with the care of Christian churches in general than with his own particular family afforded us none of that advantage which his presence ought to have supplied.’ How hard it is for the believer who desires to put his Lord first in everything, to find the correct balance of priorities in daily living!

Writing of another Christian businessman who used his wealth for the cause of Christ, Garry Williams had this to say:

We must remember that we do not become more godly simply by considering examples from the past. The root of change is found in considering Christ and delighting in him.<sup>8</sup>

John Thornton’s life points us beyond himself to the Saviour it was his chief desire to make known. His ‘discreet liberality’ in Christ’s cause had incalculable effects in the lives of multitudes of people of every class and station. His support for John Newton, in particular,<sup>9</sup> in turn influenced William Wilberforce—with all that that entailed for the abolition of the slave trade. But more than that, it gave the Christian church the richest of legacies through Newton’s writings. And to John Newton we turn next.

#### Notes:

1. I am indebted to Milton M. Klein, *An Amazing Grace: John Thornton and the Clapham Sect* (New Orleans: University Press of the South, 2004), for most of the information regarding Thornton’s death.
2. *The Letters of Henry Venn* (London: Hatchard & Son, 1836; repr. Banner of Truth, 1993), p. 492. Venn says, writing to his daughter, that Thornton’s words were reported by the nurse attending him.
3. *faith@work*, August 2014.
4. Richard Cecil, ‘Memoirs of the Rev. John Newton’, in *The Works of John Newton* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2015), pp. lxxv-lxxvii.
5. George M. Ella, *William Cowper: Poet of Paradise* (Darlington: Evangelical Press, 1993), p. 508.
6. *Ibid.*, p. 509. Klein quotes the full poem in *An Amazing Grace* (pp. 127-129).
7. Stephen Tomkins, *The Clapham Sect: How Wilberforce’s Circle Transformed Britain* (Oxford: Lion Hudson, 2010), pp. 36-39.
8. Garry J. Williams, *Silent Witnesses: Lessons on theology, life, and the church from Christians of the past* (Edinburgh: Banner of Truth, 2013), p. 153. Williams is writing of John Laing (1879-1978).
9. *faith@work*, March 2015.

**Colin Roworth**

## SOME FUTURE DAY

*Perhaps some future day, Lord,  
Thy strong hand  
will lead me to the place  
where I must stand  
utterly alone;  
alone, Oh gracious Lover,  
but for Thee.*

*I shall be satisfied  
if I can see  
Jesus only.  
I do not know Thy plan  
for years to come.  
My spirit finds in Thee  
its perfect home:  
sufficiency.*

*Lord, all my desire  
is before Thee now.  
Lead on —  
no matter where,  
no matter how,  
I trust in Thee.*

ELISABETH ELLIOT

## THANK YOU

The Newborough, Cowan and Golz families would like to say a very big 'Thank You' for all the cards, flowers, gifts of home baking, hugs, and prayers and messages of comfort they received on the homecall of Harry. It does not seem real yet that he is not here as he was such a big personality. We appreciate all the efforts many people made to make his Thanksgiving Service a memorable one. Once again, 'Thank You'.



*The first delivery of pellets for the new heating system (see pages 20-21).*

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GLENROTHES BAPTIST CHURCH, CHURCH STREET, GLENROTHES KY7 5ND  
*"to glorify God through worship and witness"*

**Sunday worship at 11:00 am and 6:15 pm.**

**Pastor:** Rev Jacob Brothers  
Tel. 01592 566784  
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*Thank you to everyone who contributed to this issue of **faith@work**.  
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or on 01592 755773 or 07977 234046.*

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FRONT COVER: The *Kelpies*, near Falkirk, the largest equine sculptures in the world, were visited by the Friendship Hour on 9 June (see pages 26-28). Unveiled in April 2014, the attraction was officially opened by the Princess Royal on 8 July this year.  
Photo: *Wikimedia Commons*

[www.glenrothesbaptistchurch.org.uk](http://www.glenrothesbaptistchurch.org.uk)