



# GOOD NEWS

*News from and for local churches*

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## From The Pulpit

CHILDREN in an African village can go to school thanks to the missionary work of members of **Broughty Ferry New Kirk.**

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## Local news

Send in your news to the media relations unit: [mediarelations@cofscotland.org.uk](mailto:mediarelations@cofscotland.org.uk)

**FALKIRK Old and St Modan's Church** has reopened following nine months of repairs and refurbishment works.

A rededication service will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September with former Moderator Very Reverend Sandy McDonald as guest preacher.

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**THE Presbytery of Gordon** has designated 2010 a Year of Mission.

In the run-up to 2010, congregations will be encouraged to reflect on the meaning of "mission" and make plans to reach out to their parishes in new, creative and exciting ways, which will reflect the love of God.

[Click here to read more:](#)

THE first images of a Church of Scotland church made from beer cans, tyres and shipping containers have been released.

The proposed new building for **Colston Milton Parish Church** is to be part of a larger community campus.

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## Press releases

News from the media relations unit

CAR-SHARING, getting the bus, cycling and walking to church are just some of the ways the Church of Scotland could be reducing its members' carbon footprints, it claims in a report today.

The report urges congregations to examine the environmental impact of travel patterns and proposes a ground-breaking initiative to reduce unnecessary car use by parishioners.

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A SENIOR Church of Scotland figure has praised the decision that meant the Lockerbie bomber was released on compassionate grounds by Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill.

Reverend Ian Galloway, Church and Society Council convener, said the decision sent a message to the world about what it is to be Scottish.

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THE Guild's National Conference will hear first-hand testimony about the plight of HIV/Aids in Zimbabwe from an experienced Scottish medical worker.

Mary Miller, wife of former Church of Scotland Moderator John, will give the keynote speech at the Caird Hall on September 5.

[Click here to read more:](#)



**“Our vision is to reach out to the local community and this refurbished building will help us to do so.”**

Reverend Robert Allan,  
Falkirk Old and St Modan’s



## FALKIRK CHURCH REOPENS AFTER REPAIRS

FALKIRK Old and St Modan’s Church has reopened following nine months of repairs and refurbishments works.

Back in 2007 when concerns were first raised about the state of the church roof, the Kirk Session met to discuss the situation and agreed that they wanted to raise the £500,000 required to repair the roof and to ensure the future viability of this town centre building.

But more importantly the Session, and the congregation, agreed that they didn’t just want to “repair” the church, but to “prepare” it for the future. This meant making the building more suitable for

servicing the community in the town and for multi purpose use by various organisations, as well as retaining its focus as a sanctuary. Internal refurbishment has, therefore, taken place as well as repairs to the exterior of the building.

Initially an appeal was made to the members which raised £150,000. With fundraising events raising £13,500; grants of £250,000 from Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund and donations from Falkirk Council, the Church of Scotland, Weston Garfield and the Baird Trust, the work was completed in July this year.

Reverend Robert Allan,

minister at Falkirk Old and St Modan’s Church said: “Our vision is to reach out to the local community and this refurbished building will help us to do so.

“We had an overwhelming response to the original appeal for donations and the reaction to our newly refurbished building has been very positive and encouraging.”

A rededication service will be held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September with former Moderator Very Reverend Sandy McDonald as guest preacher.

Falkirk is named after the “Faw Kirk” and the church has a long historical association with the town.

## 2010: A YEAR OF MISSION FOR GORDON PRESBYTERY

WHAT images does the word “mission” conjure up for you?

Perhaps, it is that of a sepia-coloured past. For some that image could be David Livingstone and Mary Slessor who took their faith in days long gone by to the four corners of the globe, with the courage and conviction of their belief. Yet the reality in 2009 is that missionary work is

closer to home. We are in a missionary position closer to home.

Those readers of Good News who have grown up within the Church of Scotland so easily take their faith for granted. It’s woven into the fabric of their lives. Yet for a growing number of people in our society the Christian faith is something with which they feel little or no affinity.

A generation ago the problem was that people knew the Christian story they just didn’t see the connection to their lives. Today we can’t even take for granted that people even know the story anymore.

The task of the church in our place and time is not to grow defeatist or introspective but to refocus its attention on what God is doing in this

world, finding ways of sharing who God is and what God means to us in ways that make sense to this generation. The task of the church in our place and time is to rediscover mission.

To that end, the Presbytery of Gordon has designated 2010 a Year of Mission.

In the run-up to 2010...  
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## 2010: A YEAR OF MISSION FOR GORDON PRESBYTERY

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...congregations will be encouraged to reflect on the meaning of "mission" and make plans to reach out to their parishes in new, creative and exciting ways, which will reflect the love of God with Presbytery-wide events to stimulate thought and prayer, and to celebrate the love of God.

**"The task of the church in our place and time is to rediscover mission."**

Presbytery of Gordon

The members of the Home Mission Team at Ellon Parish Church ask you to take up this prayer in the months leading to

2010, asking for God's guidance as they prepare their plans:

"Go and preach the gospel. Use words if you have to," – St Francis of Assisi.

*Eternal God,  
Reaching out across  
time and space,  
To call us into being,  
And into fellowship with  
you and one another,  
Hear us as we pray.*

*This world we live in is  
yours,  
In all its beauty and  
fragility,  
This country we belong  
to is yours,  
With all its character  
and history.*

*These people we live  
with are yours,  
The people of our  
church and parish,*

*The ones we love,  
The ones we struggle  
with,  
The ones we fear,  
The ones we do not know.*

*God in your wisdom,  
You have chosen people  
like us,  
To take your message of  
love to the world,  
But that world begins at  
our doorstep,  
And the threshold of our  
sanctuaries.*

*The world begins not on  
some distant shore,  
But with our families, our  
neighbours, our  
colleagues, and our  
friends,  
We are not adequate for  
this task, Living God.*

*We so rarely see the  
world through your eyes,  
But with you all things are  
possible.*

*Do what you need to do in  
me,  
To make me an  
ambassador for the  
Kingdom.*

*Do what you need to do in  
us,  
To make our churches  
places where people  
encounter you,  
In ways that move their  
souls to prepare the  
ground,  
For the seeds of truth to  
be sown and tended.*

*Then let us share the  
gospel with those you  
loved and died to save,  
Using hands and feet and  
eyes and ears,  
Using time and effort and  
money and compassion,  
And using words, the right  
words, when we have to*

**Amen.**

## INVERNESS TRINITY REACHES OUT TO LOCAL KIDS



INVERNESS Trinity recently held their first ever holiday club for primary school children.

The holiday club was called Merkinch Mountain and 28 children registered.

During the week there was singing, crafts,

games and Bible stories, all presented with energy and fun.

Highlight of the week, at least for the boys, was the visit of Grant Munro, captain of Inverness Caledonian Thistle football club.

The children then helped to lead the Sunday

morning service, and although it was different, it was greatly enjoyed by all who attended.

Minister Reverend Alistair Murray said: "It was good to see those who were willing to give up their time and use their talents so that the children felt welcome and important."

## NEW CHURCH IS PURE RUBBISH

THE first images of a Church of Scotland church made from beer cans, tyres and shipping containers have been released.

Designed by architect Lee Ivett, the proposed new building for **Colston Milton Parish Church**, in the north of Glasgow, is part of a larger community campus to be owned and built by the people of Milton.

The sanctuary will be constructed in large part from old car tyres, while other parts of the building will be made from straw bales and old shipping containers.

Last year the congregation decided their future lay in a more environmentally-friendly building, as their current place of worship has a massive carbon footprint and an astronomical heating bill of £8,000-a-year.

Members wanted an ecologically-sound new-build church, but were told this would cost millions of pounds. So they now hope to make it themselves with the help of their local community.

The church received a £43,000 grant from the

Scottish government's Climate Challenge Fund to carry out a feasibility study, and these images show their dream and that of their community could soon become a reality.

**“It is a win-win-win situation, the community will gain confidence and skills... local groups will get a new home, and the environment will benefit from lower carbon emissions.”**

Reverend Christopher Rowe, Colston Milton

Already members of the community have collected almost half a tonne of beer and soft drinks cans. Because of the volume of cans being brought to the manse, Reverend Christopher Rowe has had to create a collection point next to the church.

Mr Rowe said: “The response from the people of Milton has been fantastic. People of all ages have been helping collect old cans from the woods and bringing them in from home. These cans alone have cut nearly 10 tonnes of CO2 from



*The sanctuary (above) and office space (below)*



Milton's carbon footprint.

“This time last year we were just dreaming and people thought our ideas were a bit mad but we have now shown that it can be done.

“Our new building may be ‘pure rubbish’ but it is also beautiful, we will be taking unwanted things and using them to create something new and exciting.

“It is a win-win-win situation, the community will gain confidence and skills through this project, the congregation

and other local groups will get a new home, and the environment will benefit from lower carbon emissions.”

The church will be part of a purpose-built centre for the whole of the local community, and other resources include a childcare facility, an internet café, a large theatre, office space and a games hall. It will be owned by community group LoveMilton, a new development trust set up as part of the project.

It is hoped that building could commence next summer.

## FROM THE PULPIT – BROUGHTY FERRY BOOST FOR UGANDAN KIDS



*The last brick is put in place*



**“As church leaders we have been inspired and given a wider vision.”**

Reverend Catherine Collins, Broughty Ferry New Kirk

IN THIS month's From The Pulpit we hear how members of Broughty Ferry New Kirk helped to construct a school for Ugandan schoolchildren.

CHILDREN in an African village can go to school now everyday thanks to the missionary work of members of Broughty Ferry New Kirk.

Twenty congregation members and their friends Broughty Ferry in June to build a classroom for the Watoto Childcare Ministries in Uganda but the story really starts almost two years ago.

Back in December 2007 the Watoto Children's Choir performed in a special Christmas Carol service to a packed church.

The congregation was so inspired by the moving stories they heard and the faith of the children, many of whom either orphaned through war, Aids, poverty, or rescued child soldiers, that they had to do something for the children of Uganda.

The congregation raised £10,000 to cover the cost of the two-week trip with different sponsored events including concerts and a ceilidh, as well as the minister, Reverend

Catherine Collins, getting into shape in the gym by covering 250 miles.

Watoto has built three villages in Uganda, each with its own school and homes for up to eight children.

The Broughty Ferry New Kirk team's job was to build one classroom from handmade bricks, supervised by local workers.

Ms. Collins explains: "Everything had to be done by hand – and for a team including lawyers, teachers, accountants and school pupils, a whole new set of skills to learn.

"In addition we took part in church run 'seed projects' – voluntary community work to show the love of Christ in action, helping at a baby home, painting a very basic nursery school and clinic and even filling holes in the road."

The group also attended Watoto church services in Kampala, held in a former cinema and a sports stadium. The services started at 8am and could last anything up to two hours.

Services were loud, lively and modern. Uganda has a very low life expectancy

and the bulk of church members were young.

According to one pastor, what attracts people is seeing the church working and caring in their communities.

She said: "We saw extreme poverty and crumbling infrastructure in a country where a pastor told us: 'This is the third most corrupt country in the world'.

We met housemothers, played with children, spoke with pastors and teachers who are convinced Christ has called them to change lives.

"We were given a warm welcome and genuine hospitality and we too have been changed.

As a group we are closer, as church leaders we have been inspired and given a wider vision.

"When people ask, 'Did you enjoy your time there?' we all hesitate before saying, 'It's hard to put into words. It was an experience and it will take time to sink in'.

"Was it worth it?"

"Many times yes".



## KIRK BID TO REDUCE UNNECESSARY CAR USE

CAR-SHARING, getting the bus, cycling and walking to church are just some of the ways the Church of Scotland could be reducing its members' carbon footprints, it claims in a report today.

The report, by the Energy Savings Trust and commissioned by the Church of Scotland, urges congregations to examine the environmental impact of travel patterns and proposes a ground-breaking initiative to reduce unnecessary car use by parishioners.

It argues reducing car travel to church could result in less congestion, improved health and

wellbeing for members, reduced transport costs, as well as helping the environment.

Currently, it is estimated that 27 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions in the UK are transport related.

The report says places of worship play a very important role within local communities and often generate significant volumes of traffic.

However, it accepts elderly members and parents with young children may have particular mobility issues, but travel plans will take into account public safety,

time pressures and availability and reliability of public transport.

A pilot project was successfully undertaken at Gilcomston South Church in Aberdeen which found that in a year, travel to church was responsible for over 40 tons of carbon dioxide emissions, a year, mainly from the congregation's cars.

The Church of Scotland has been the driving force behind the Eco-Congregation Scotland movement, and the 2009 General Assembly agreed every church must achieve a five per cent year-on-year carbon footprint reduction.



*Gilcomston South Church in Aberdeen piloted the scheme*

**“reducing car travel to church could result in less congestion, improved health and wellbeing for members, reduced transport costs, as well as helping the environment.”**

Church of Scotland-commissioned report

## CONVENER WELCOMES RELEASE OF LOCKERBIE BOMBER

A CHURCH of Scotland convener has praised the decision that meant Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi was released on compassionate grounds by Justice Minister Kenny MacAskill.

Reverend Ian Galloway, convener of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, said:

“This decision has sent a message to the world about what it is to be

Scottish. We are defined as a nation by how we treat those who have chosen to hurt us. Do we choose mercy even when they did not chose mercy?



*Reverend Ian Galloway*

“This was not about whether one man was guilty or innocent.

”Nor is it about whether he had a right to mercy but whether we as a nation, despite the continuing pain of many, are willing to be merciful.

“I understand the deep anger and grief that still grips the souls of the victims' families and I respect their views.

”But to them I would say justice is not lost in acting in mercy. Instead our deepest humanity is expressed for the better.

”To choose mercy is the tough choice and today our nation met that challenge.

“We have gained something significant as a nation by this decision. It is a defining moment for all of us.”

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**NEXT EDITION:**

October 2009

Please send all articles and/or letters to Nick or Gordon at the media relations unit by:

**MONDAY 21 SEPTEMBER**

**GUILD NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

THE Guild’s National Conference will hear first-hand testimony about the plight of HIV/Aids in Zimbabwe from an experienced Scottish medical worker.

Mary Miller, wife of former Church of Scotland Moderator John, spent two years in the African country working with children and adolescents with HIV/Aids, and she will give the keynote speech at the Caird Hall on September 5.



Justice is the key theme for the Guild this year, and as well as Mary Miller, Right Reverend Bill Hewitt, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will deliver an address on

climate change.

The Guild, prominent campaigners against human trafficking, prostitution and domestic abuse, raised almost £1 million for the Church last year.

**PRIORITY AREAS EVENT**

“RECYCLED” churches could provide the answer to decaying buildings and rising energy bills for the Church of Scotland’s poorest congregations.

The Priority Areas committee, which deals with churches in the most serious areas of deprivation, has organised a one-day conference that will focus on more environmentally friendly and cost effective church buildings.

Colston Milton Parish Church, in north Glasgow are hosting the event on September 5, and it is hoped many congregations could take inspiration from their vision to build a church

out of recycled materials. Reverend Martin Johnstone, Priority Areas secretary, said: “For many of us making ends meet and paying the bills in our churches is a huge and ongoing challenge.

“And that challenge has become consistently more difficult in recent years when heating and lighting bills have seemed to be going through the roof, much of the time quite literally.

“When we add to the problem of escalating costs the concern which many of us have about the huge damage that we are doing to our environment it is clear that we need to do something, and soon.”

**NATIONAL YOUTH ASSEMBLY**

IN A change of venue from previous years, the Church of Scotland’s National Youth Assembly takes place at Stirling University from 4-7 September.

This year’s proceedings centre around four key themes:

- engaging with 21<sup>st</sup> century spirituality
- engaging with other faiths,
- engaging with issues of identity
- and engaging with wealth.

The Panel on Review and Reform will be discussing the future of the Church of Scotland with delegates, whilst the Church and Society Council will speak about mental health and young people.



More than 250 people are expected at the four day event for a mixture of worship, debate, activities and reflection.