



# TIDINGS

March 2020

Issue No. 357

## From the Study

Dear Friends,

As I write this letter we are all facing a time of real crisis and uncertainty. The Coronavirus is now within our communities and folk are quite rightly alarmed about the infection spreading. There have been other crises in my lifetime but this is the first time that the threat of a pandemic has actually become a reality. We are all uncertain of what the next weeks and months will bring.

So I want to ask you to be sensible and to look after one another, friends, family and neighbours. We will continue to meet as a worshipping community as long as we can but some of the social events which are part of our life together may have to be cancelled for a while.

Some people would see faith as an insurance policy, but the journey into Lent shows us that this is not the case. Lent is not a lovely cosy story. It is a story of challenge and courage and the Resurrection story gives us the courage to face the challenges of these next weeks.

I pray that a vaccine will be found and that the measures we are taking will stem the spread of the virus. May those who govern us be given wisdom and discernment as they take taxing decisions.

May God's love surround you and yours and his spirit give you peace.

*fiona*

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Please see the back page for Coronavirus advice from NHS Scotland

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**Congregational News***George Goodall***Funerals Conducted**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Member/non-member</u>	<u>Minister</u>
John Baillie	14 August 2019	Non-member	Fiona Mathieson
Archibald Mack	21 November 2019	Non-member	William Watt
Isobel Laing	12 December 2019	Member	Fiona Mathieson
Sheena Grainger	7 January 2020	Member	Fiona Mathieson
Bill Robertson	23 January 2020	Member	Fiona Mathieson

**Deaths**

District 14	Isobel Laing	November 2019
District 32	Sheena Grainger	December 2019
District 14	Bill Robertson	January 2020
Postal	May Bell	January 2020

**Baptisms**

Emma Eileen Sheila Corson	8 December 2019	Parents Jamie and Anna
Connor Johnston	15 March 2020	Parents Colin and Alana

**95th/95thA Rainbows***Aileen Buchanan*

The Wednesday Rainbow Unit has enjoyed a fun term of Taking Action and with much laughter, fun and games encouraging each other to make a difference in not only our local community but the wider world. We have been collecting items of good quality clothing that may not fit the girls now and unwanted toys as a way of helping others. The charity we have decided to help and have been finding out about is Barnardo's. We have been exploring changes we would like to see in our community and we are going on a visit to see what is available in our local library.

When the weather is warmer and the ground dries up we are going to plant some flower seeds in and around the church gardens.

For information about how to put your daughter's name on the waiting list please email: [95arainbows@gmail.com](mailto:95arainbows@gmail.com) or [aileenbbuchanan@gmail.com](mailto:aileenbbuchanan@gmail.com)





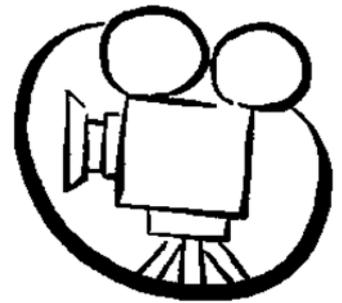
## Children and Families

*Elinor Denholm*

Children and Families events are certainly proving popular for the Carrick Knowe community. Prior to Christmas, the hall was buzzing with children making amazing festive crafts and families enjoying a hearty meal at our movie night. We now have many familiar faces coming to the events but also welcome new folk at every activity. Word is spreading that the Church is offering families a safe, fun and happy place to be.

We have just tried out a movie afternoon where we had two different age groups attending, a short film for younger children and then a feature length movie for the whole family. No meal, just popcorn and juice. This worked well for the audience and the children, having voted for *The Life of Pets*, certainly made a great choice.

Ready Steady Bake continues to encourage families to bake together and the results produce look and taste good. The recent bread was being munched as the children left the hall! We have had to limit the number attending this activity so remember to book early and not leave it to the last minute.



Tots Music is a joy to run. Some of the children have attended for over a year and it is a joy to see them grow in confidence and enthusiasm as we sing and make music. The adults contribute too, as their voices support the wee ones and they show great enthusiasm even to some of the crazy actions.

As I type this, more cases of Coronavirus are being identified. We will carry on as normal but being prepared to follow guidance should the situation change. Watch out for any updates.

These events can only take place with the support of parents and helpers. Thank you to all those folk who have washed dishes, wiped down tables and tidied up. We could not do it without you!

If anyone would like to come along to any of our events, you can contact me on by phone or text on **07749957822** or email me at [mrs.denholm@btinternet.com](mailto:mrs.denholm@btinternet.com).

## ECO Congregation

*Keith Cumming*



The eco congregation group is now up and running. Its role is to encourage the congregation to -

- Make the link between environmental issues and the Christian faith.
- Take practical action in the church and in the home to reduce our environmental impact.
- Influence attitudes and take action in the local or global community on issues like climate change.

More information will follow but in the meantime you can find out about what being in an eco congregation means on their website, [www.ecocongregationscotland.org](http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org)



## Kirk Session

Finlay Buchanan

Like all Church of Scotland congregations, we take part in a five-yearly Local Church Review. This involves meeting a small group of ministers and elders from Presbytery, looking at our successes over the past five years, the challenges we face, and our priorities for the coming five years. The Presbytery team were particularly impressed by our Children and Families work, the improvements carried out on our halls, and the Remembrance Day poppy project. Looking forward, we have set ourselves six objectives for the coming five-year period:

- To establish more secure funding for our 'In It Together' Project.
- To continue to nurture the young families who worship with us and indeed all within our community under the age of forty.
- To continue to support our older people.
- To ensure that our complex remains a well-equipped space in the right place.
- To review the role of the elder and ways of developing leadership.
- To obtain an Eco-Congregation Scotland award.

It's a challenging set of targets, but the Session are committed to serve our community and we believe each of these objectives is essential for our continued success.

### EASTER SERVICES

You are very welcome to join us at any of our Easter services.

	<b>Palm Sunday</b>	
Sunday, 5th April	11.00am	Carrick Knowe Parish Church
	<b>Holy Week Reflection Services</b>	
Monday 6th April	6.30pm	St. Anne's Parish Church
Tuesday 7th April	6.30pm	St. Anne's Parish Church
Wednesday 8th April	6.30pm	St. Anne's Parish Church
	<b>Maundy Thursday Communion</b>	
Thursday 9th April	6.30pm	Carrick Knowe Parish Church
	<b>Joint Good Friday Service</b>	
Friday 10th April	7.00pm	Carrick Knowe Parish Church
	<b>Easter Sunday Worship, Carrick Knowe Parish Church</b>	
Sunday 12th April	9.15am	Reflective Communion Service
Sunday 12th April	11.00am	Family Service with Communion

*Between the Easter Sunday Services, from 10am, we will be serving bacon/egg rolls in the hall.*

*After the 11am service there will be an Easter event behind the church for children.*



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## **Carrick Knowe Dynamos**

### **A short history**

*Rodger Thom*

- How did they start?
- What did they do?
- Who were they?

The start was in 1980 when there was concern that when youngsters left the Sunday School at the same time they went to Secondary School, there was nothing for them at the Church. There were a series of meetings between our minister, Bill Clinkenbeard, Pat Gilmour who was Sunday School Superintendent, Mike Palmer, BB Captain, Alex Gilmour and I.

At the last of these meetings on 4 September 1980, it was agreed that we should proceed to establish a group for this age group. This brought some questions to be answered.

1. When and where would it meet?
2. Who would lead the group?
3. Who would join?
4. What would we have as a programme?

The answers came out thus.

1. The Session Room was available and Sunday morning at 9.30 for an hour was chosen to enable the leaders to attend Church.
2. The three to start up the group were Mike Palmer, Alex Gilmour and I. Only Mike had any training through the BB for working with young people, Alex and I had none. There was no training in those days on working with young people.
3. We knew we had some who would join, being related to the leaders or children of friends of the leaders and Mike hoped that some on the BB would join as this would take the place of the BB Bible Class.
4. We discovered Presbytery Resource Centre at Morningside Church could have something suitable.

At the Centre we found a course called "Why do I do?" which would take them through questions such as why do I get up in the morning, why do I go to school ending with the Ten Commandments and Jesus' teaching.

After due publicity, the first meeting was on Sunday 21 September 1980 - this can be taken as the start date of the Dynamos. Seven turned up which we felt was a good start. We maintained this number and sometimes we reached double figures. Overall that year we had a core of eight regulars.

Our first outing was on Sunday 16 November when we went on the first of our visits to other denominations, in this case St Thomas Episcopal Church in Corstorphine. The downside was that the sermon was 25 minutes - we were used to 10 to 15 at Carrick Knowe.

Our final activity of the year was on Sunday 21 December when the group helped with Christmas pies and teas/coffees after the Christmas service. Remember no Cloisters back then. I noted we made £15 that day.

In 1981 we met for the first time as the Dynamos Sunday 25 January. Where did the name come from? The first eight regulars were Richard, Bobby, Norman, Fiona, Ailsa, Maureen, Michelle and Austin. The first four names ended DYNA and Dynamo jumped out from that!

Last two occasions of our first year were putting on a play at Church and the first of our weekends away to Falkland Youth Hostel. The play was the start of Dynamo services.

In the next issue of Tidings I shall give details of our weekends away, services we took and visits to other religious faiths.



## The Guild

Beryl Liston

By the time you read this issue of The Tidings the Guild's 2019/2020 Session will almost be at an end - how time certainly flies "when you are enjoying yourselves".

At the end of November we had a lovely lady, Rosy Carmichael, whose talk was entitled "Christmas Gift" - she made "holly wreaths" from old kilts! We were all surprised how she could upcycle bits and bobs and the outcome was fantastic. Rosy was probably my personal favourite and the memory of how one piece of tartan could be made into so many different items will never leave me.

Santa did visit the Guild and a brilliant night was had by all.

We started the second half of our session with a talk from the Rev Douglas Nicol "From the Borders to Beijing". Many of you will remember Douglas when he looked after us during Fiona, our Minister's Study Leave. It felt as if we actually travelled with him and if you ever need guidance he is your Travel Agent extraordinaire.

Into January and we had a visit from Wiltshire Farm Foods and were able to sample their wares. The Scots Night went well when Angus and Fiona provided the Address to the Haggis and recitations.

February came and another successful Coffee Morning raised £482! These funds will go towards the good causes the Guild Support. Bad weather cancelled one of our meetings and then we had a fantastic talk from Mike Palmer (no, not our Elder) on his life in the Royal Navy and how his career brought him to work on The Royal Yacht Britannia.



As we move into March we have heard about Cramond Island and are holding our last Open Night when The Rannoch Singers will be entertaining us. The last few weeks will be taken up with a talk on Memories of the Edinburgh Cinemas and Victoria and Albert's Love Affair with Scotland.

The BIG SING - is on 19 May and many of our ladies are going along to sing their hearts out! - This is when Guilds from all over join in a BIG SING on May 19<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Assembly Hall on the Mound.

The Guild are having two outings this year - on 2<sup>nd</sup> June we are off to Dundee to visit the Jute Museum and round off the day with High Tea at the Leapark Hotel in Grangemouth. The second trip is on 18<sup>th</sup> August when we visit the Puppet Theatre in Biggar (they are putting on an Adult Show for us!) then we go to Peebles for a shop or browse and then High Tea at the Green Tree Hotel.

If you are interested in joining us on our outings speak to a member of the Committee as we usually have a spare seat or two on the Bus.

If what you have read interests you please come along and join us when we start up on the first Tuesday in OCTOBER. Watch out for intimations of our start date. You can be assured of a warm welcome.

On behalf of the President and Committee Member can I thank you for your support of our Coffee Mornings, Open Nights and raffles.

Have a brilliant summer and we look forward to seeing you in the autumn.



## 95th Guides

Aileen Buchanan

### Help needed!

The 95<sup>th</sup> Guides will shortly start working on their 'Fixing' badge, where they will learn various skills for their futures including what to do if a fuse blew at home, how to mend a rip in your jumper, and changing a tyre. We're looking for volunteers to join us for an hour on a Monday evening in May to help the Guides learn valuable fixing skills - particularly how to sew on a button, hem a skirt or trousers, and different types of stiches. If you'd be willing to lend us a hand please speak to Fiona Buchanan.



For more information or to register for the 95<sup>th</sup> Guide Unit (girls aged 10-14) contact Fiona [fionaebuchanan@hotmail.com](mailto:fionaebuchanan@hotmail.com) / 07870 560 858

## Crochet Friends

Mary Kerr

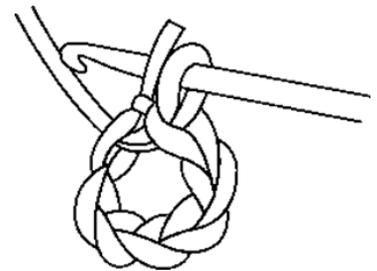
Thank you for all the kind comments about the Remembrance Display. We added to the display on the gate and decorated the communion table as a backdrop for the wreaths.

Our teddies and blankets for SIMBA were appreciated and we know they will be used in Memory boxes given to bereaved parents. We are also making blankets and pillows for dolls prams for Mother and Toddler Group.

You can see we like to keep busy and make things which the community can use.

Like other groups we are always looking to grow and if you would like to join us on the first Tuesday of the month at 7.30pm in The Terrace you will be welcome. Bring a friend if you are a bit shy to come on your own. We are a group of various ages and interests and there is always something to chat about apart from what we are crocheting or knitting. We leave the pub about 9pm and the time just flies.

Look forward to seeing you. We do not break for the summer so if you only want to come for a couple of meetings, please do.



## Church Cherry Trees

Aileen Buchanan



I recently read the following in the June edition of Tidings for the year 1953.

**Coronation Trees** The four trees - flowering cherries - in front of the church and hall are "Coronation Trees" and in due course will bear a plate indicating the fact and naming the donors, The Scout Group, The Woman's Guild, The Sunday School and the Girls' Association.

Can anyone remember what happened to the fourth tree and also where the plate that is mentioned was placed and where it may now be found?



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## Fight for Sight

Charlotte Clarkson

### Why our Easter Retiring Offering is supporting Charlotte

This year I am fundraising for the charity Fight for Sight who have pledged to put money into more research for the condition which caused me to go permanently blind in my right eye.

Acanthamoeba Keratitis (AK) is a rare but serious infection of the eye, caused by microscopic organisms called Acanthamoeba, which are common in nature - in lakes, swimming pools, hot tubs as well as domestic tap water, soil and air. AK is most common in people who wear contact lenses, but anyone with an injury to their cornea, the clear window in the front of the eye, is susceptible to developing this infection.

Unfortunately, there is such little awareness of the risks water can have for contact lens wearers or anyone with an eye injury; amongst physicians and members of the public. So many people I have spoken to recently have been shocked and completely unaware of the dangers of mixing water with their lenses, and many tell me that they wear their contacts when they shower or go swimming. (If you know anyone who does this *please tell them to stop!*)

In July 2018, I was on a gap year in Canada when something flew in my eye and scratched my cornea. Some water must have been trapped in my eye and as a result of that, and a combination of continuing to wear my lenses, the parasite was able to penetrate my cornea. My symptoms started the following day - a sensation of having grit in my eye, redness, pain and light sensitivity. The first doctor I saw assumed I had a styne but within a couple of days my eye was much worse and I was referred as an emergency to an ophthalmologist.

For 2 months, I was misdiagnosed with a different eye infection but none of the medication I was given was making any difference to my increasing pain or symptoms. Eventually, the 4th specialist I saw suggested I may have contracted AK. The doctor took a scraping of my eye (*yes, it was just as awful as it sounds!*) to try to confirm. However, this test came back negative. AK is very difficult to detect and this has severe consequences for patients as it is prudent that aggressive treatment starts ASAP.

Despite the negative result I was started on treatment immediately as a precaution. As there is currently no universally agreed treatment for AK my doctor was *researching articles online to try and follow which drugs other physicians had recommended*. This involved administering toxic eye drops to my eye hourly, (all day and night) for 11 days. They were almost as painful as the condition itself and caused my eye to become even more aggravated and bloodshot.

I did have some improvement, however, in North America (and in many other parts of the world) the medication is extremely hard to come by and is typically not covered by medical insurance. My doctor told me that as he had no experience of treating the condition and there were more reported cases of it in the UK, he recommended I fly home to Scotland. It was an absolutely devastating time for me and I still had no idea if AK was the correct diagnosis.

I had an emergency consultation with a corneal specialist when I arrived back in Edinburgh in October 2018, but even he couldn't determine exactly what was causing the damage to my eye. He decided to play cautious and kept me on AK medication but at a reduced rate. Over the next 6 weeks I made a number of emergency visits to my doctor when my symptoms would suddenly flare up and cause me major pain. And yet, we still had no answers. I had tentatively gone back to work part-time in an effort to get back to normal life but the constant emergency hospital visits weren't helping.



One morning in December I woke up to discover I was blind in my right eye. My specialist took another scraping and admitted me to the hospital immediately whilst nurses administered the awful eye drops every hour. They caused my eye to go completely bloodshot, swell, and water continuously. Both my eyes became severely light sensitive and I was put in my own darkened room. I lay in agony, wearing sunglasses and a cap, feeling more depressed and hopeless than I ever have. I couldn't read a book, watch TV, look at any visitors or answer my friends messages. It was extremely isolating and I felt like I was trapped in my own head.

The next day, my specialist told me that, 6 months after my initial symptoms, I had finally tested positive for AK. I didn't know whether to rejoice, at finally having some answers, or weep in despair that my prognosis was so awful. I was discharged from hospital just before Christmas 2018 and for those of you who remember seeing me in my sorry state at the Christingle and Watchnight services will know it was not *'the most wonderful time of my year'*. The following months were spent in eyepatches, sunglasses and hats whilst my eye was still too light sensitive to face daylight. I tried my best, with the help of some wonderful friends and family, to keep getting out and about and try to keep my spirits up. I saw 2 different counsellors to get the support I needed and tried to stay as positive as possible. Every morning I tried to remind myself that despite this horrific situation, I still had vision in one eye.

By Spring 2019, I managed to take off my eye patch and cope with sunglasses alone. There was a huge white cloud-looking shape across my eye; a scar. I still have it to this day, and it is the reason I can't see out of my right eye. Over the following few months I slowly reduced eyedrops, the sunglasses were only needed outside, and the hat came off completely. By July I was given the okay to go and volunteer at my job in Canada for 4 weeks. Returning to my second home and spending time with my friends again pumped life back into my soul and I began to feel like I was getting some control of my life back.

As of Feb 2020, I am down to 5 eyedrops a day. My doctor is hoping that by December I will be off all medication and back to living life as normally as I can. I'm excited to not have to bring eyedrops around with me wherever I go and to not hear my alarm screaming at me to take my drops every few hours. However, there is no way to determine whether the *Acanthamoeba* is completely dead or just lying dormant. We will never know for certain if it is safe to take me off the medication or if I'll have a flare up and be back to square one again. It's going to be a terrifying time, but I'm keeping my hopes up!

I'm no longer experiencing any light sensitivity or pain and my eye is not swollen. I feel a million times better than I did this time last year, but the sight in my right eye will never return. I have adapted really well to one functioning eye and I feel really lucky that the scar on my eye is not very obvious, so to look at me, most people wouldn't notice anything; but I do.

Every day I look in the mirror and I see my little cloud. I'm reminded of it every time I open my eyes. The scar I can't see through. The scar that reminds me how strong I am. The scar that could have been prevented, had there been more awareness of AK.

The money raised is going to help Fight for Sight fund research into more effective treatment and diagnosis of AK. Many cases could also be prevented by the provision of better information about the infection to contact lens prescribers and wearers. I would be so grateful for your support in my fundraising efforts and helping me raise awareness of the dangers of mixing water with contact lenses!

Donations can be made online at [www.justgiving.com/fundraising/c-clarkson](http://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/c-clarkson) or via the retiring offering on Easter Sunday.

Thank you so much.

Charlotte Clarkson

**Sunday Club***Elinor Denholm*

Yes, Christmas is long past, but we certainly remember the amazing nativity presented to the congregation on the 22nd December by the Sunday Club children. The number of children taking part has grown and we were delighted to welcome three children who regularly attend the activities to cast. Our donkey was brilliant, a solo from an angel just amazing and a bit of a tussle between the baby donkey and the innkeeper's helper over the baby Jesus, very entertaining! Fortunately, the real baby Jesus slept peacefully in Mum's arms (and yes we had a real baby!) Well done everyone and what will we do this year?



Since Christmas, we have been looking at the life of Jesus, from a boy to a man, comparing childhood today to in his time. We have looked at the friends Jesus had and this has resulted in the children painting or drawing faces of their friends at Sunday Club. At the end of one creative session, parents arrived to collect the children and there was complete silence as the children were so engrossed in their work. The pictures are displayed in the Primary Room so do pop in to have a look.

We are a happy little band in Sunday Club but always have room for more. If you know of anyone who would like to come along and join the fun of Sunday Club, let me know.

**With every gift, we help Rose stop this climate crisis.**

In Kenya, the rains haven't come. Again. For villagers who farm the land, that means life is getting even harder. Rivers are bone dry, and crops wither in the fields. The drought is starving people of food, water and the chance to earn a living.

At 67 years of age, Rose walks for six hours to fetch water for her grandchildren. She tries hard to give them the kind of life she remembers from when she was a girl: when the rivers flowed with water and the crops bore fruit.

Grandmother Rose shouldn't have to go hungry. A simple earth dam, built with the help of Christian Aid's partners and your donations, could completely change her life. This Christian Aid Week, you can be one of the hundreds of thousands of our supporters who give, act and pray to stop the climate crisis driving people like Rose to hunger.

Through lots of different fundraisers, Christian Aid Week brings people together as one community against global poverty and injustice.

This Christian Aid Week (10-16 May), please:

**Give** generously to help Rose and her community build a water dam, providing fresh water to help families survive the drought.

**Act** to call for a New Deal for Climate Justice to help restore creation and build a world where everyone can thrive.

**Pray** for a radical change of heart for politicians, and that, as a global community, we will care for people living in poverty.

**Together we stop this climate crisis.**

Join us at [caweek.org](http://caweek.org)

**Christian Aid Week****10-16 May 2020****'Like' us on facebook**



**First Thursday**

*Aileen Buchanan*



We have enjoyed a great turnout of new and old friends since the start of the year and our entertainment has been excellent. Fiona Buchanan, Morven Langlands and their friend Alison Craig gave us a good start to the year with their toe-tapping selection of reels and Scottish music. The Gilmerton Singers were a delight and very entertaining and we recently enjoyed the return of the Edinburgh College Music department. Every year the standard of the students seems to get better and better. We are now looking forward to the Easter Lunch which will be held on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April from 1pm - 3pm.**

**From our Mission Partner**

*John McCulloch*

This is an extract of an article from our Mission Partner entitled **'Israel Epiphany from Behind the Wall'**.

During this season of Epiphany, as we are invited to reflect on how God is revealed and manifested in our world, it can be easy to fall into despair. At a time when the dividing walls of fear, exclusion and injustice across our fragile world seem ever more intractable, it is difficult to believe that God's kingdom can be established in such a world as ours.

Holding on to hope, when society at large is walking away from church, can be a struggle. These challenges are felt as acutely here in the place of Christ's birth, as they are back home in Scotland. The Christian communities across the Middle East are dwindling. The military occupation is now in its 53rd year, and is becoming more entrenched. The situation in Gaza, as we all know, is even worse. Christians number around 800, from a total population of 2M, and are trapped in a situation of chronic privation and suffering.

It is in this context, that The Church of Scotland here in the Holy Land tries to contribute in some small way, standing with those who are working for peace and justice across the political and religious divides. Although our contribution here is small, and Christians constitute a minority; the message of Epiphany reminds us that God-incarnate was made known to the world in vulnerability. The wise men who came from the east did not come to a military garrison or well-guarded palace, but to a stable. That fact invites us to imagine a different kind of world, where wealth, power, status and privilege are not accepted as normative, in a world where so many have nothing. The apostle Paul understood how the evangel of God's kingdom subverted power, wealth and worldly status through weakness: For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. Here in the place of Christ's birth, it is at times difficult to hold on to hope, both in terms of the decline of the church, and the political situation here and across the Middle East. Although the church here is small, and the structural injustice of this land is deepening from year to year, it is important to remember that God's kingdom, insignificant in the eyes of many is still at work. There are signs of hope here, in the very place where God took on human flesh, through those who are working to bring light through the cracks

Cont. on page 12



cracks in the wall, like Wi'am, which offers a space for conflict transformation, restorative justice, and mediation (<http://www.alaslah.org/>). The Nassar family at The Tent of Nations, who continue to plant trees and cultivate their land whilst surrounded by encroaching settlements (<http://www.tentofnations.org/>). The Al-Shurooq School for the Blind ([www.nsfvh.org](http://www.nsfvh.org/)); the YMCA Beit Sahour (<https://ejymca.org/>); the J.A.I., Joint Advocacy Initiative ([www.jai-pal.org/en/](http://www.jai-pal.org/en/)); Bethlehem Bible College (<https://bethbc.edu/>) and the L'Arche Bethlehem (<https://larchebethlehem.org/>).

This is just a brief conspectus of some of the Church of Scotland partners and friends here in Bethlehem. They are all part of God's upside-down kingdom, where hope, renewal and justice for our suffering world is not handed down through political top-down structures, but is birthed in communities of compassion, who like our saviour, embody healing and love.

We are called to be a church which follows in the footsteps of Christ, standing with all who are marginalised, occupied, crushed, put-down and considered weak and insignificant, in a world intoxicated by cravings for power, wealth and success. May we be such communities, both here in the Holy Land and back in Scotland. May we not give up, may we not lose hope, for God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong.

John McCulloch

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## **Paraprosdokians**

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous.  
*(Sir Winston Churchill loved them).*

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak.
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up - we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- Knowledge is in knowing that a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice.
- Just going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a mechanic.
- You're never too old to learn - something stupid.

***Spread the Laughter, Share the Cheer and Let's be Happy, while we're here!***