



## Spring Harvest

Blackbraes and Shieldhill  
Parish Church  
linked with  
Muiravonside Parish Church  
Summer 2011

**From the Manse  
June 2011**

Jesus prays for his disciples- John Ch17, v21

'I pray that they may all be one, Father! May they be in us, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they be one, so that the world will believe that you sent me.'

Dear friends,

Much has been happening in these last few months in our two churches, and we have lots to be thankful to God for.

On Easter Sunday we welcomed two new members into each church, and we wish Karen, Caroline, Fiona and Scott every blessing as they join our fellowship and in time offer their gifts for the enrichment of our churches.

Another highlight this year was the Joint Braes Holy Week Services which took place every evening of Holy Week. Each evening the host church was 'packed' and the singing was fantastic. People met old friends and even made new, and the whole week was a wonderful witness of Christian Unity to the people of the Braes. Each service was different, and each had something unique to offer, and those who attended felt spiritually uplifted and renewed in faith. Prior to Holy Week we received an invitation from our friends at St Anthony's Chapel, Rumford to take part in an ecumenical Station's of the Cross service which several Braes ministers and elders took part in. It was a memorable evening and good to share worship with fellow Christians from another denomination.

Sadly, our enquirer Mrs Liz Orr is almost coming to the end of her placement and she will leave on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Liz has been a great blessing to our churches and has enriched our worship especially with her beautiful and heartfelt prayers. We will miss Liz greatly but wish her all the best as she pursues her call to Readership, and we will continue to remember her and her family in our prayers.

Meantime I pray that you have a relaxing and enjoyable summer and God's blessing be upon you and your family.

***Yours minister and friend,  
Louise***



**New Members**

***Jesus said to Peter  
'Feed my sheep, take  
care of my lambs.'***

Blackbraes and Shieldhill

Miss Karen Manson  
Miss Caroline Tsang

Muiravonside

Mr Scott Queen  
Mrs Fiona Queen

**Baptisms**

***'Whoever welcomes a little child like  
this in my name, welcomes me.'***

Blackbraes and Shieldhill

Baby Ethan Roy Delaney-Middleton  
Infant son of  
Carol and Roy Delaney-Middleton  
29<sup>th</sup> May 2011

**Marriages**

***'Meanwhile these three remain -  
faith, hope and love. But the greatest  
of these is love.'***

Blackbraes and Shieldhill

Stacey Kennedy and David Christie  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2011

**Deaths**

*The Lord will protect you as you come  
and go, both now and forevermore.'*

Muiravonside Parish

Mr Andrew Hoggan

Mr Alex Kidd

Mrs Helen Kolon

Mrs Agnes Forrester

Mrs Agnes Campbell

Mr George Blyth

Mrs Joan McLachlan

Mrs Janice Mitchell

Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish

Mr Joe Lewis

Mrs Muriel Clink

Baby Emily Thomson

Mr William Dick

Mrs Dorothy Bell

Mr James Bennett



I would like to thank the members and friends of Blackbraes and Shieldhill and Muiravonside churches for the get well cards and the kind thoughts I received during my time in hospital. I would also like to say thank you to everyone who visited me in hospital.

I have been home now since Tuesday 24 May and I am making good progress, and hopefully it won't be too long until I am able to join with you again at Sunday worship.

***Helen McKinnon***



**The Sunday School took part in the Easter Family Service at Blackbraes and Shieldhill Parish Church**

## Future Hopes



I can hardly believe that my placement at Blackbraes & Shieldhill & Muiravonside churches is nearly at an end. It seems no time since 14<sup>th</sup> November 2010, when I walked along from the War Memorial in Shieldhill to the church, wondering how I would get on and what lay ahead for me. All I could do was to trust God for what he had in store for me.

I can say in all sincerity that I have been richly blessed through getting to know you. The weeks of sharing in worship, prayer and fellowship have been very precious to me. Thank you for the many ways you have shared God's love with me: for your warmth and friendship, prayer and encouragement: for laughter, cups of tea and salmon sandwiches and copies of CDs.

My deepest thanks to your minister, Louise, for her friendship, loving care, understanding, encouragement, support and guidance. I have enjoyed all our meetings and conversations over coffee and lunch [at various venues]. I know you appreciate how blessed you are through the ministry of Louise and I encourage you to be faithful in praying for Louise, David, Sophie and Victoria. These months have been a time of exploring my sense of God's call to the ministry of Readership, of growing in my faith and learning more about my Lord and myself. My Local Review takes place on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> June and I should know within a week, if I have been successful to go forward for the two years of training.

My last Sunday of worship at both churches will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> of July. My prayer and desire is to serve God through his calling, to be a channel of his love and grace and to keep on learning from my Master.

I think of that hymn "I the Lord of Sea and Sky" and in particular the last line: "I will hold your people on my heart". That is how I will remember each one of you, with much fondness. I say farewell, but with the hope that I will see you again in the future.

***Love and blessings,  
Liz Orr.***



## Drew's view

**Spring Harvest Skegness April 9-14, 2011**

In April, I had the pleasure of attending a five day Christian gathering with a group of thirteen other people from Blackbraes Shieldhill and Muiravonside Churches called the “Spring Harvest.”

It was held at the Butlins Holiday Camp in Skegness. Now I don't know about you, but I have never been to Butlins. Before I arrived there, the first images that came into my mind were conjured up from a t.v. show that was on in the early eighties called “Hi de Hi.” I imagined rows and rows of chalets. I also imagined waking up every morning to the sound of a xylophone on an ancient tannoy system, then a cheery female voice with a Welsh accent resounding around the camp saying, “Good morning Campers... Hi de Hi!”

But because it was a Christian event, I had imagined it would probably be adapted to sound something like this:

“Good morning Campers... Hi de Hi! Worship is about to start in the Crazy Horse Saloon, so if you go past the Olympic Sized Swimming Pool, it is just beyond the Novelty Rock Emporium!” And, of course, I couldn't be further wrong. I found myself in a really comfortable and modern chalet which was actually like a small bungalow, in a place so well run, that it was a model of efficiency. I would join what seemed like impossibly long queues stretching around buildings, no less, for dinner. I thought I would still be there next Monday! But incredibly, these queues were processed in a matter of minutes and in no time, I was tucking into a delicious meal.

Moving on to the Spring Harvest, it was a week to encounter God, learn from his Word and grow with your friends and family. There really was something for everyone. Three major worship events were held each day in a Big Top which could hold about five thousand people. In the morning, there was a half hour family worship service which was aimed primarily at children. Lots of activities took place, including a giant painting of a biblical scene which was painted there and then, while the service was taking place.

Then kicking off at 10am, after a hearty breakfast, you could choose one of two in-depth Bible studies – a traditional exposition, which this year gave a really detailed study of the book of Malachi, or a more creative interactive one – giving you the opportunity to explore God's Word in different styles.



Next up, you could choose from several Zones to apply what you've learnt at the Bible Studies to everyday life. There was something for everyone. Whether you were a new Christian, a leader, an academic, or simply someone who wanted to find out what Christianity is all about, there was a style to suit you. The Zones were designed to make taking the teaching home and applying it to your church life really easy.

Afternoons offered sermons exploring big questions, alongside hands-on worship and training streams. Again there was a choice of events to suit everyone. There was even a tranquil place called the Prayer House, where it was possible to spend some time in quiet reflection and peaceful contemplation. The afternoon also offered lots of organised sports and leisure activities, plus all of Butlins' facilities. There was also an exhibition in a huge, light and airy place called the Skyline Big Top. Scores of Christian related gifts and resources were on sale, from follow-up books on the Bible Study sessions, to CD's featuring the songs of worship performed in the Big Top.

In the evenings, a choice of Celebrations let you encounter God with thousands of others in Spirit-filled worship and with inspirational speakers. There was nothing more moving than hearing five thousand people singing "How Great thou Art," in a huge Big Top. There was also an alternative worship session for people who preferred a smaller venue with quieter surroundings. So if you were, perhaps, uncomfortable in crowded places, you were not left out. At the end of the day, at 10.30pm the After Hours entertainment got going. We had music, drama, chat and comedy – with the odd debate and praise party thrown in. I was looking through the brochure listing these events one evening and spotted one show which proudly boasted that it had, "Some of the funniest comedy in Christendom except when God decided to invent bowels!" I was immediately hooked and decided to give this show a try. I wasn't disappointed. I was treated to lots fun - from an exciting game show called "Spot the Vicar!" right through to a thrilling round of "Church Family Fortunes," where two groups of people chosen from the audience, battled it out to name such diverse things as "Women in the Bible," right through to "Assorted Names for Clergy."

The thing that I got most from my trip to the Spring Harvest was that as Christians, we are not alone. Sometimes it is easy to get disheartened, with falling church attendances nationwide and very few people turning up to church events. However, being at the Spring Harvest and seeing literally thousands of people praising God at the top of their voices, with their entire heart and soul, made me aware of just how much God is loved and how much he loves us. At the Celebrations, we were urged to renew our love affair with God.





Even if we have already loved him for years, we were told we can renew this love over and over again.

In the handbook that accompanies the conference, there is a short passage by Pedro Arrupe that sums up everything the Spring Harvest believes in and is about:

“Nothing is more practical than finding God, that is, than falling in love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes the imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, what you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything.”

I came back with my love affair renewed.

## Poetry Corner

### **Time to stand and stare**

I wish this world was a quieter place,  
With people moving at a slower pace.  
No time to look at the flowers and trees,  
And golden leaves on the autumn breeze.  
No time to see a rainbow bright,  
Or the golden moon and stars at night.  
God created all these things,  
The butterflies with their gossamer wings.  
Take time to listen to the birds that sing,  
For God created everything.  
He gave it all to you and me -  
It is up to us to look and see.

***Submitted by Andrew McDermott - Muiravonside***

**The Eurovision Hymn Contest**



I think I must be the only person in Great Britain who watches the Eurovision Song Contest the whole way through!

When the magical, (or depending how you look at it,) “dreaded” Saturday evening arrives, I tune into BBC1 and settle myself down with lots of coffee. (Although maybe something stronger should be recommended!) I then lose myself for three and quarter hours in a world of:

Denmark always voting for Sweden.

Cyprus always voting for Greece.

Songs that sometimes are great or more often, so bad that they are really funny.

The results of the Norwegian Jury.

And of course, *nul points* for the United Kingdom!

You are probably wondering why I do this. After all, Great Britain never seems to have much chance of winning nowadays, although a lot of our entries aren't any worse than the winning songs. In fact, they are often a lot better. In addition, quite a fair proportion of the entries are often sung in the native language of each country with no subtitles. As a result, in most cases, I don't even have a clue what they are singing about. I then simply try to hazard a guess about what the words mean, just like people in other countries, who won't be able to make head nor tail of the British entry either.

All in all, it should be a recipe for a disastrous evening. But I love the sense of chaos that always unfolds as the night progresses. I marvel at the seemingly endless stream of contestants, who always seem to have some kind of gimmick to get them noticed (perhaps to distract the viewers from the song!) by either wearing silly hats, or costumes that go from the sublime to the ridiculous. I feel great sympathy for the two presenters, who are usually perched on a very elaborate stage that suddenly starts revolving for no conceivable reason whatsoever. While this is all happening around them, they bravely try to speak three different languages and keep some order and continuity going while the votes come in rather sporadically sometimes.

Yet somehow, incredibly, it all seems to work out in the end and a winner is declared!

My interest in the Eurovision Song Contest actually goes back a long way, to a warm and sunny Spring Saturday back in 1972. By sheer coincidence, I went on a trip to Edinburgh with my parents on the day that the Contest was being held in that very city, in the Usher Hall. I remember there were lots of people milling about the city than usual, even for a Saturday morning. There was such a cheery atmosphere. We were immediately aware of a great sense of excitement that was almost tangible. Also noticeable was a

real feeling of friendship, as we witnessed when visitors from lots of countries all gathered around us in a café we had stopped at. The only thing that was being animatedly discussed, in a myriad of languages, was the up and coming Contest.



Later in the morning, we went for a stroll through Princes Street Gardens. It was there, that we happened to chance upon several photo shoots that were going on. We were lucky enough to see at close hand, some of the artists who would be performing that evening. During a pause in the sessions, the artists all talked and joked with each other, as well as waving and saying a quick “Hello” to all of us who had gathered to watch. I was thrilled that they had spoken to us because even then, as a young boy, I was struck by the friendship and camaraderie amongst them. I read later that the contest had first been set up in the 1950s, just over a decade after the Second World War had ended, to foster through music, this very sense of friendship and camaraderie amongst different nations that I had just witnessed.

We returned home later that afternoon and in the evening, tuned in to watch the Contest. Soon, we recognised one or two of the performers, who had spoken to us. They were now representing their countries, a daunting responsibility in itself, but I remembered how they were so happy and carefree a few hours earlier. I silently willed them to do well. They had been so busy that morning and their thoughts must have been on the concert which was happening in a matter of a few hours. Yet despite this, these musicians had taken the time to wave and talk to onlookers who were complete strangers to them. They couldn’t have been nicer to us. I remember being so thrilled by this. I felt had a connection with the Contest, just by the mere act of having spoken to some of its contestants. I’m delighted to say this sense of affinity has remained with me right up to the present day.

Every time the Competition is broadcast, it brings back some good memories and I am reminded of this really exciting morning in Edinburgh, which to me, seems so long ago now and yet the Contest has somehow survived and is still here and going strong, despite the passage of time. The performers I met would probably now be in their sixties, yet they are just as much part of the Eurovision Song Contest’s history as this year’s competitors are. It’s a pity nowadays, because the Contest is even more politically motivated than it was in these more innocent times, with all sorts of tactical voting going on. However, I suspect that even though the various countries are very partisan in who they vote for, the musicians taking part have exactly the same camaraderie as they did all those years ago. This can be seen time after time, when the camera switches to the “Green Room,” where lots of fun goes on, while they are all assembled waiting on the votes coming in.

It is wonderful how music has no boundaries or language barriers and unites people, not just in concerts or competitions, but in worship as well. Recently at the Spring Harvest, I got the chance to see thousands of people all worshipping God and singing along to modern songs of praise, as well as the more traditional hymns. These people were from lots of different ecumenical backgrounds and were having the time of their lives together in a large auditorium. Lots of new friendships were made and people were united in God for these five days, no matter what their denomination or religious preferences were.

Some people had even travelled from countries in Europe to be at the Spring Harvest and while I was there, I got to thinking how marvellous it would be if there was a big international event which could take place each year, where people from different nations could get together, worship God and have a Eurovision Hymn Contest. Every country has their own favourite hymns which are a part of their culture, just as some of the very well known hymns that we sing are a part of ours. At this special gathering, each nation could choose and enter a favourite hymn. What's more, people could vote, even if it was just for fun, for the hymn they enjoyed either singing to, or listening to the most. Each country would also get a chance to experience how God is worshipped in song from other countries. Subtitles could be put up on a big screen, so that the audience and viewers at home could understand the words and sense of praise that were being conveyed.

Back home in the U.K. it would pose such a dilemma about which hymn we should enter. Should we go for an older traditional one like, "Abide with Me," written back in 1847 by Henry Francis Lyte? Or would we go for more contemporary songs of praise like "Shine Jesus Shine," written much more recently, in 1987, by Graham Kendrick? One exciting consequence that could result in such a contest is that it might encourage new songs of praise to be written, as they would be performed in front of a large audience and the contest would be shown all over Europe.

It is a lovely dream and all probably wishful thinking on my part, but this would be such a wonderful experience to be a part of. Of course, Denmark would still vote for Sweden. Cyprus would still vote for Greece. Everything would probably still all hinge on the result of the Norwegian Jury, as often happens! However, at the end of the day, every song would be a winner because God is being worshipped, no matter what language the song is being sung in or which country is singing it.

One thing is certain. No country would ever get *nul points* again!

**Drew Roberston**

## Spring Harvest

Over the past two years we have had the opportunity to attend the Spring Harvest festival at the Butlins Holiday Centre in Skegness, Lincs. Spring Harvest is a Christian gathering held over 5-6 days at a time of year that is obvious in the spring of each year. Next year the Skegness gathering will be held from April 10<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> although if these dates are not suitable there is a separate venue at Minehead, Somerset where you can have a choice of three weeks from March 31<sup>st</sup> – April 15<sup>th</sup>.

There is lots to do during the day with around twenty different venues with various activities which normally last for between a half to one and a half hours each. Each activity/meeting can be run by an individual or a team depending on the theme of each. Activities can be passive or interactive although it is up to everyone if they want to partake or just observe. Events can include bible study where a team of guest speakers give their interpretation of selected bible passages and speak in depth on the year's selected theme. The interpretations given by different speakers can be diverse and give food for thought. Some of the activities for younger people are more active with the audience really getting involved in play acting etc.

You are free to wander in and out of all events as they are taking place so if your selected event is not what or is less than you expected you can just leave and go to another event. To assist in selecting the events you would like to attend it is possible to purchase an event planner at check-in on arrival. If there is no event that appeals to you at a particular time the butlin's facilities are available for use - these include swimming pool, two funfairs, relaxation spas, cinemas etc

We found the whole experience rewarding and beneficial and would encourage everyone to give it a try.

***Alice and Alastair***



### **WHAT I OWE MY MOTHER:**

1. My mother taught me TO APPRECIATE A JOB WELL DONE.  
'If you're going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning.'
2. My mother taught me RELIGION .  
'You better pray that this will come out of the carpet.'
3. My mother taught me LOGIC .  
'Because I said so, that's why.'
4. My mother taught me FORESIGHT.  
'Make sure you wear clean underwear, in case you're in an accident.'
6. My mother taught me about CONTORTIONISM .  
'Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!'
7. My mother taught me about BEHAVIOUR MODIFICATION.  
'Stop acting like your father!'
9. My mother taught me about ENVY.  
'There are millions of less fortunate children in this world who don't have wonderful parents like you do.'
10. My mother taught me about ANTICIPATION.  
'Just wait until we get home.'
11. My mother taught me MEDICAL SCIENCE.  
'If you don't stop crossing your eyes, they are going to get stuck that way.'
13. My mother taught me HOW TO BECOME AN ADULT .  
'If you don't eat your vegetables, you'll never grow up.'
14. My mother taught me about my ROOTS.  
'Shut that door behind you. Do you think you were born in a tent?'
15. My mother taught me WISDOM.  
'When you get to be my age, you'll understand.'

***How many more can you add to the list?***

## On Top of Kilimanjaro

I am very proud of my son Robert Junior who was in an International Party of fifteen employees from Grant's Distillery who have branches worldwide. Twelve members including Robert made it to the top. The journey took five days. It was not plain sailing as the group



experienced conditions of rain, hail and snow. The weather was so bad that eight Sherpas turned back and would not go any further. On Day four the party got their first glimpse of the mountain. It was awesome. The rest of the climb was very steep and Robert was glad that he had put in the training prior to going. He trained by climbing several munros. His companion on these climbs was his faithful Staffordshire bull terrier, Storm, who thoroughly enjoyed the experience. On day five the party stood on the mountain top, the highest point in Africa. Robert enjoyed the fellowship they shared as 15 individuals came together to pit their strength and resolve against the mountain. The view from the top was well worth the climb.

Getting to the top took a trek of 36 miles and a climb of 5896 metres. Robert had a spiritual experience as he climbed the mountain. He prayed every night to his very dear departed mother to look after her big son on the mountain. He felt strong and safe all through the trek. He was hoping to reach the summit and be the closest to her in his lifetime. The final climb was made through a mist of tears of relief, joy and thanks. He did not want to ruin his tough guy image having been a soldier and a first Dan in martial arts, so he joked that he had sunscreen in his eyes. He eventually told the rest of the party the emotions he was feeling quite unashamedly imagining his mother smiling down with pride on him. This was a special moment for him. It took a further three days to descend to base camp where a celebration dinner awaited.

After three plane journeys, he arrived home to a warm welcome from his partner Tina and his faithful dog Storm.

The group sought sponsorship so that they could support the charity "**Water Aid in Africa**". The party raised over £10 000 for that charity.

**Robert Thompson**



**South Africa Link  
19 May 2011**



**Dear All**

We hope that you had a wonderful Easter. We were invited by a former student to participate in the Easter Celebration in his congregation at Newcastle in Natal. The programme started from Thursday and continued right up until the Climax service on Easter Sunday! We did everything from uniforming new members into the Manyano, baptising, admitting new members, ordaining new elders and washing the feet of the elders and minister of the congregation! All these events took place in the many services over the whole weekend.

While in Newcastle we met the young man below who disturbed us quite a lot throughout the weekend. He was so involved in the church through the youth but looked so out of place most of the time because he was obviously from a very poor and deprived background. His shoes had the soles hanging off, his trousers were so shiny with age but despite that he was very clean and well presented. We discovered that he was indeed from a very poor family and despite the fact that no other member of his family attended church he was very faithful and committed. In the photograph you can see him being admitted as a new member by Graham and there was not one family member there to support or encourage him.



Before we left we arranged for some of the funds sent to us by SA Link to be used to buy a load of groceries for his family and some new shoes and clothes for Mkhusele and his siblings. We hope that he will continue to grow in his faith and become a vibrant member of the Madedeni Congregation.

We hope that this finds you all well, and ask for your continued support in prayer as well as financial. Hopefully you are satisfied with how we administer the funds you so generously send to us. May God bless you all.

***With lots of love  
Sandra and Graham***

## Notes From a Shieldhill Garden



***Some seed fell among thorn bushes, which grew up and choked the plants. Matthew ch13 v7***

These past few weeks I have been engaged with the never ending battle with weeds; not thorn bushes but dandelions and nettles.

Nettles are persistent weeds with great creeping roots that can choke other plants. They sting if brushed against but this week I have been harvesting nettles because this is also a very useful plant.

Nettles will only grow on fertile soil. If you have nettles in your garden you have good soil and other plants will happily grow. It is a plant that is a rich source of nitrogen and so I put some nettles into the compost heap. They act as a compost activator and will help the compost to rot down. A plant food can be made from nettles. Chop the nettles plants and put them in a bucket that has a lid. Fill the bucket with water and cover with the lid. Leave this for 4 to 6 weeks and your plant food will be ready to use. Drain off the liquid and dilute it to a ratio of 1 part nettle juice to 10 parts water. This food will be rich in nitrogen and other minerals and you can feed it to your tomatoes, tubs and hanging baskets; the down side being that is a bit smelly.

Nettles are a good source of iron. Nettle soup was on the menu in my house this week, a mix of potato, leek and nettle tops in some chicken stock and it was whizzed in a blender.

Nettles can also be cooked like spinach, sweated down in some butter with a crushed clove of garlic. Don't cook for too long or your nettles will be bitter and use only young leaves, as old leaves are tough. Wear gloves when collecting the tops of young nettles to protect yourself from the stings.

Nettle leaves can be infused to make tea and can be used to make beer and wine. Nettles have been used to make rennet in vegetarian cheese making. When boiled in lots of water with salt added, vegan rennet is produced.

Nettles make a green natural dye and when alum is added the colour changes to yellow and can be used to dye wool.



If nettles sting you, look for a dock plant because rubbing the sting with a dock leaf will sooth the sting.

Small tortoiseshell butterflies lay their eggs on nettle leaves, as do the large tortoiseshell butterflies that are now extremely rare and so nettle patches are important for that species of butterfly.

Try to look on nettles as a crop rather than a weed but you do need to dig out as much of the root system at the end of the season as you can because they will spread to choke the other plants.

Gods creation of all the different plants gives usefulness to the most unlikely plants and Jesus' parable of The Sower uses plants to tell us to go out and spread his word, tell other people the good news. I think He is speaking to us, encouraging us to hear His word and to be strong in following Him.

**Rena Moore**

Poetry  
Corner

**Friendship is a matter of time**

Friendship is really a matter of time,  
The time that it takes to be kind,  
The time that it takes just to listen and talk,  
To help someone find peace of mind.....

Friendship is really a matter of time,  
The time that it takes you to do,  
a thoughtful and generous favour,  
That wasn't expected of you....

The time that it takes just to answer a call,  
To let someone know that you're there.  
Friendship is really a matter of time...  
The time that you take when you care.....

**Submitted by Rita Braes - Muiravonside.**

**The Knots Prayer**

Dear God  
Please untie the knots that are in my mind,  
my heart and my life.

Remove the have nots, the can nots  
and the do nots  
that I have in my mind.

Erase the will nots, may nots,  
might nots  
that may find a home in my heart.

Release me from the could nots,  
would nots and should nots  
that obstruct my life.

And most of all Dear God,  
I ask that you remove from my mind,  
my heart and my life  
all of the am nots  
that I have allowed to hold me back  
especially the thought  
that I am not good enough.

Amen

**Author Known to God**

Tea, coffee and a chat are always  
available in the hall after services –  
please stay if you can.





### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2011**

The amount raised in the door-to-door collection in Shieldhill and California during Christian Aid Week was £1671 - an excellent amount considering the current financial climate and at a time when so many charities are in need of funds. Thanks are due to everyone who contributed towards this sum and to the volunteers who helped with the collection.

It was also very encouraging that so many people were able to collect their small change in the CA money boxes and/or donate small bags of money they had already collected themselves. This has added considerably to our total, as shown below. Thanks to all concerned!

To mark the beginning of Christian Aid Week we held a snack lunch in the hall on 15th May. This was well supported and raised £65.

One of our members, Elizabeth Paterson, very kindly donated some scarves she had knitted and suggested that all proceeds could go towards Christian Aid. Thanks, Elizabeth!

Thanks are due to everyone who donated and also to the volunteers who helped to collect, count and bank the money. We pray that the money raised during Christian Aid Week will help transform many lives around the world. The breakdown of the Christian Aid Week total is as follows:

	£
Door-to-door collection	1671.00
Money boxes	203.00
Lunch	65.00
Sale of scarves	<u>18.00</u>
	<u>£1957.00</u>

**Marion Zacks**  
**Christian Aid Organiser**



### Lemon and Blueberry Muffins

280g plain flour  
1 tbsp baking powder  
Pinch of salt  
115g brown sugar  
150g frozen blueberries  
2 eggs  
250ml milk  
85g melted and cooled butter  
1 tsp vanilla extract  
Grated rind of 1 large lemon



Preheat the oven to 200°C, or gas mark 6.

Sift the flour, baking powder and salt into a large bowl. Mix in the sugar and blueberries.

In another bowl, lightly beat the eggs and mix in the milk, butter, vanilla and lemon rind. Make a well in the centre of the dry ingredients and pour in the liquid ingredients. Stir everything together but don't over mix.

Divide the mixture between 12 paper cases, and place cases in a muffin tin. Bake in the preheated oven for 20 minutes, until well risen, golden brown and firm to the touch. Leave the muffins in the tin for 5 minutes, then serve them warm. Or if you're not hungry, move the muffins to a wire rack to cool and store them in an airtight container.

Boys and girls this is your page.  
Give your stories and news to Yvonne if you  
want to put them in the magazine.  
Have a great summer!