

### A chuckle or two!

I regularly receive from friends around the globe examples of comic events from Church life. You may wish to peruse the following:

**LOT'S WIFE:** The Sunday School teacher was describing how Lot's wife looked back and turned into a pillar of salt, when little Jason interrupted, "My mother looked back once while she was driving," he announced triumphantly, "and she turned into a telephone pole!"

**MOSES AND THE RED SEA:** Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School. "Well, mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved." "Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked. "Well, no, mum. But, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

### **Flower Rota**

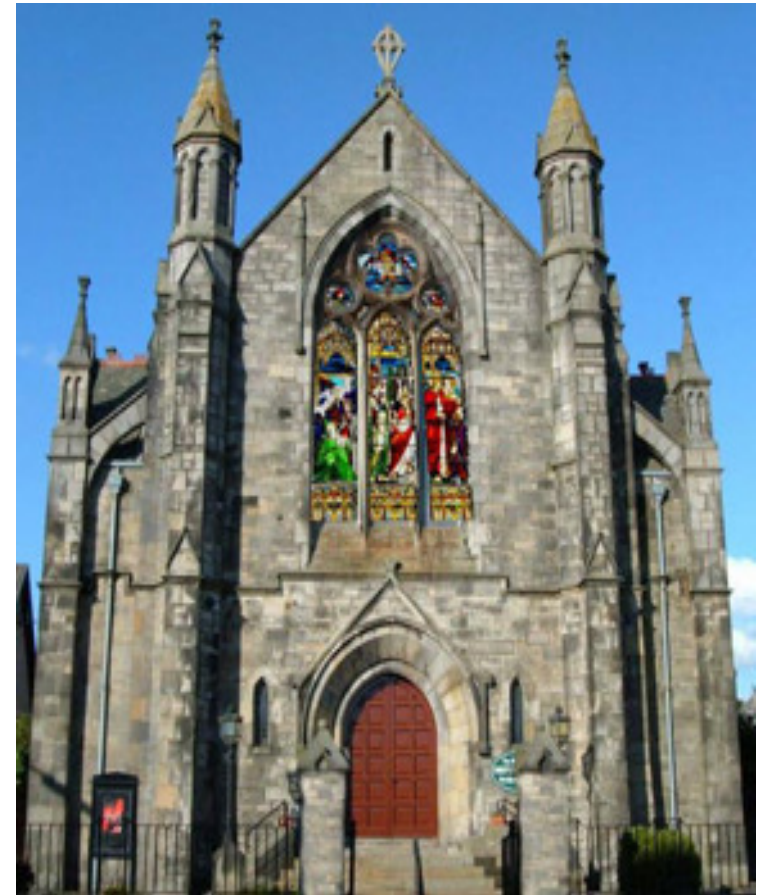
April 4th Mrs. M. Stewart  
April 11th Mrs. A. Learmonth  
April 18th Mrs. M. Simpson  
April 25th Mrs. M. Baxter  
  
May 2nd Mrs. E. McAllister  
May 9th Mrs. E. Young  
May 16th Mrs. N. Kirkland  
May 23rd Mrs. B. Haddow  
May 30th Miss E. Barton

Please make sure that contributions for next month's Newsletter are with the minister by April 28<sup>th</sup>.

## **Bathgate EU United Reformed Church**

(Charity registered in Scotland - SC 014304)

### *Newsletter April 2010*



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## From the Minister – April 2010

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise again from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations”

Luke 24 vv 46, 47

Dear friends,

Why did Jesus die? You might find that a bit of a strange question. Is it not obvious why he died? Well, that depends on what meaning we attach to the question. One answer might be ‘Jesus died because he was crucified.’ Another answer might be ‘Jesus died because Pilate and the religious authorities put him to death.’ Another answer might be ‘Jesus died, because he was obedient to his Father’s will.’ Luke, in the closing chapter of his Gospel, suggests that we should understand Jesus’ death as the central part of God’s plan to save us: that repentance and forgiveness should be proclaimed in his name to all the nations. In other words, Jesus died that you and I might repent and be forgiven.

How does Jesus’ death bring us forgiveness? There are several ways of explaining how Jesus’ death brings us forgiveness. Luke’s Gospel suggests we should understand that Jesus’ death and resurrection break through the barriers between God and man, barriers which our sin had caused. By his cross and resurrection Jesus defeated all that is evil, and this means that if we repent, and put our faith in Jesus, then his victory becomes our victory, because God’s forgiveness is offered to all who put their faith in Jesus Christ. By his death on the cross, Jesus has restored us to communion with God the Father – and through the power of the Holy Spirit we may now share that Good News with all the world.

Why did Jesus die? He died so that we and all people might be restored to fellowship with God. May that Good News be yours during this Eastertide, and may that Good News be proclaimed to all nations!

Yours friend,

*John S. Bremner*  
Minister

## Church Review

As a Church, we have now entered our 5th year of Rev John Bremner’s ministry, and, as part of the Ministerial Terms of Settlement, the Church and the minister are to be “reviewed”.

The Church Profile was compiled during our vacancy and contained our goals and aspirations for the future of the Church. Now we must revisit our Church Profile to see what has been achieved since our minister’s induction. A panel of 9 people from all aspects of our church have been selected to review the Church Profile and report to the Review Committee, which has been appointed by the Synod of Scotland. The Committee will visit our Church on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2010** and attend morning worship and stay on afterwards for tea and coffee. The minister will be reviewed separately by someone from the Synod of Scotland, and once the two Reviews have taken place a report will come back to the Church with recommendations for our future ministry. Watch this space!

Aileen Baird  
(Church Secretary)

## Bathgate Christian Bookshop

A reminder to you that the Bookshop AGM will be held in our Church on April 21<sup>st</sup>, starting at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to come along. We are also looking for new members of the Committee, as well as more volunteers for the shop itself. So if you would like to help, please see the minister.

## Scots Night

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 7 p.m. – come along and enjoy a “Scots Night” with familiar music and food. The cost will be £5 per person. See Aileen Baird for more details.