

SCOPE

Penicuik South **Parish Church**

every day may not be good,



but there's something good
in every day.

Contents

Letter from the Manse	Page 3
Revd Canon John on justice for Christian celebrities and in particular Sir Cliff.	Page 6
Recommended Summer Reading	Page 7
Church Picnic Intimation	
MY TRIP TO SCRIPTURE UNION CAMP	Page 9
Leprosy Mission letter	Page 10
Poetry from Maisie Bruce	Page 11
Sunday Praise, Laptop and Sound Rota	Page 12
Fancy a trip to the Fringe – some recommendations	Page 13
The Bible readings for July and August	Page 16

Hello from the Manse

“¹⁴ And we urge you ... ¹⁵ See that no one repays anyone evil for evil, but always seek to do good to one another and to everyone. ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ *give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.* ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit. ²⁰ Do not despise prophecies, ²¹ but test everything; hold fast what is good.”

1 Thessalonians 5

Here's the recent application of verse 18 in my life. I've told you already, I hope, that the trip to Ben More with the Mauricewood Primary's P7s was a positive experience ... *most of the time*. The gorge walk was demanding; the rock face climb was a challenge; and the abseiling ... was actually a whole lot more enjoyable than I thought possible.

However, the physicality of the Monday to Friday experience meant by Thursday night I was – the technical term I believe is – knackered. Nonetheless, it was almost 10p.m. and bedtime. So I had to the enforcer and get everyone into their bed and get them to sleep. It was at this point that 'the conversation' kicked-off. The boys in the dorm all started asking 'faith' questions. Were some of the boys seeking to delay the 'lights-out'? Absolutely. Were some of the boys just asking profound questions because they wanted to have a spiritual discussion? A great big 'yes' to that as well. We had a 45 minute conversation that made the whole week worthwhile – even the rock climb. Five days invested to get 45 minutes 'gifted' to the chaplain. The sort of conversation you would pay money to have.

But I do find myself thinking – or maybe even you're thinking – was it just a good conversation *in your head*? How profound was it really? Specifically, what did the boys themselves actually say about it afterwards?

So cut to the big P7 finale pantomime: all the teachers, all the parents and all the P7s on the stage doing their stuff. I'm there in the audience as the chaplain but obviously the focus is on the children and rightly so. But afterwards various parents start talking with me – “so you survived Ben More” was the usual tenor of the conversation. The P7s had obviously said Mr Cathcart was a Ben More. So once assuring them I had only started walking again I confirmed it was a good week. That was my light-hearted script and I thought that would be it – the P7s be the focus.

Then one mum diverted from the script. She said “I know you had good week – my son was quite clear about it. After the hugs and the kisses getting off the bus and getting home we asked the question - What do you like best Ben More: the ropes course; the gorge walk; the kayaking? Do you know what my son said? ‘The best bit mum was the conversation on Thursday night with Mr. Cathcart.’”

So firstly, recognise just how much it was good decision to go to Ben More. Secondly, ask God to bless me in the follow-up. It's not a church-based ministry, it's a school that I'm in - I need to be ‘child-centred’ in my approach. Pray that I honour God in that ‘child-centred’ Beeslack setting after summer. Thirdly, and above all else, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus in you. God's not finished church. Don't let your *tough* circumstances rob you (as they have from in the past) of time with God thanking what He's doing here in now through the various ministries in this church. Give thanks in *all* circumstances.

Have a great summer. Pray for the sun – and give thanks when it's raining too.

Yours sincerely,

Ian Cathcart

Sir Cliff and the very troubling state of British justice

I was delighted to hear the news from the Crown Prosecution Service that Sir Cliff Richard 'will face no further action over allegations of historical sex abuse'. I am pleased that these enquiries have finally been closed because I have had a number of meetings with Sir Cliff over the years and have always found him to be a good, gracious and honourable man.

Yet the announcement must not go without comment. As Sir Cliff's statement points out, there are a number of disquieting aspects to the way in which the enquiry has been handled.

First of all, whether by carelessness or design, the enquiry was carried out in a way that ensured the maximum possible publicity. For instance, how and why was the BBC tipped off (surely illegally) that there would be a raid on his home?

At a time when a number of music and media celebrities of the last few decades are being outed as paedophiles or predatory sex offenders, the highly publicised investigation seems almost to have been calculated to make some mud stick.

Second, the sheer duration of the enquiry – almost two years – has produced the maximum possible psychological pressure. In English law there is the long-established and honourable principle of someone being 'innocent until proven guilty'. Here, however, we have a man who has, in effect, been sentenced to public sneers and insinuations, not simply before being found guilty but before he was even charged or tried.

Finally, all that Sir Cliff has been offered is the flat statement that the police 'have closed their enquiries'. This is a long way from a declaration of innocence: in many minds the shadow of suspicion will linger.

Looking at the whole sorry and vastly expensive affair, I find myself wondering with some unease if there are now people in the Crown Prosecution Service who are specifically seeking high-profile targets with a view to dragging them down. And, in a similar frame of mind, I find myself further asking whether, in an age in which it is fashionable to be openly opposed to religion and specifically to Christianity, Sir Cliff was targeted precisely because of his openly stated faith.

One definition of the term witch-hunt is 'a campaign directed against a person or group holding views considered unorthodox or a threat to society'. There is a very thin line between seeking to prosecute and seeking to persecute. Some of us will suspect that in this case that line may have been crossed.

It is not enough that this wretched investigation be allowed to slip into history. Someone needs to be asked some very hard questions about how this was so badly mismanaged.

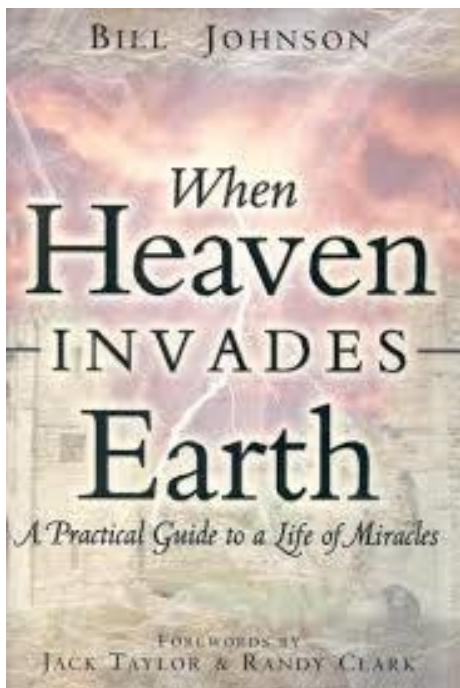
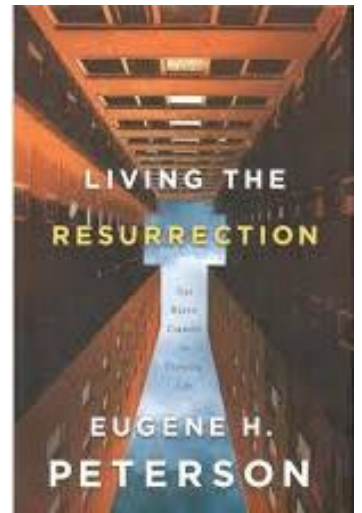
The point of any justice system is to catch the guilty and spare the innocent. This has done the very opposite.

I esteem Sir Cliff Richard for his character, integrity and grace which exudes from him and I pray he may continue to be an inspiration to many in the years ahead. 20 June J.John Revd Canon

Summer Time requires some Summer Books

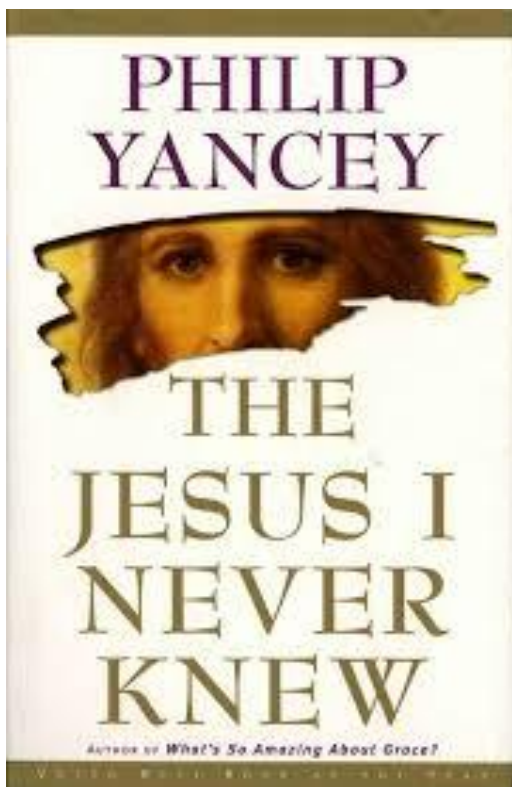
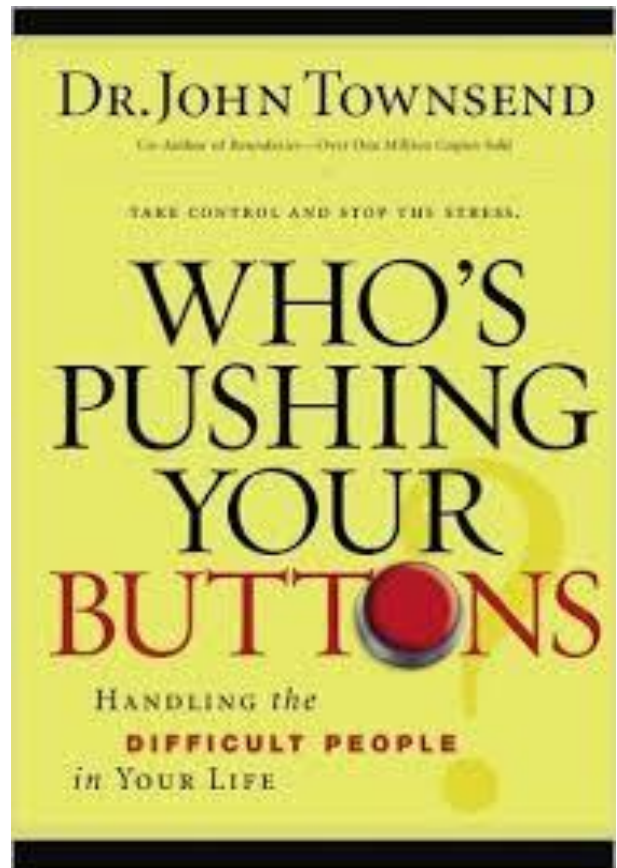
All these books are in the wee library at the back of the sanctuary in where the tea and coffee is served before the service. You may have already them – you have put them in the library. However if you've not read them they may very bless you this summer.

It's a few weeks ago now but I did focus on Peterson's '**Living the Resurrection**' in a Sunday morning service. The fact is simple: anything Eugene Peterson writes is worth reading as many of you will already know. As the title suggests this is about getting Easter into your every day living and seeing the resurrection power in your life. He's pastoral and very caring – it's a very gentle book.



Bill Johnson pastors Bethel Church, in Redding, California. The church has been in revival for several years. Some people may disagree with him but it's hard to dismiss what Bill Johnson has done and through his church. Find out for yourself. Revival church are usually a challenge because everything seems phenomenal and how do we get that here. Just read it and be blessed anyway – **When Heaven Invades Earth.**

Dr John Townsend is psychologist and best-selling author best known for his book entitled 'Boundaries.' But this one is '**Who's Pushing Your Buttons**' However, in this book he deals with a subject that few admit to needing help to address. It will help those who have deal with 'anger-management' problem people. Either way his sound advice is a tremendous help. Dare you read – remember we al see red sometimes. Wouldn't it be good to know why – and what to do about it.



Philip Yancey is one of my favourite authors. It's his authenticity that is so beguiling. Even when you don't agree with his conclusions you will find he nothing convincing. You normally have fixed ideas about Jesus from all kinds of people earlier in your faith. Why not look for '**The Jesus I Never Knew**' and find out how amazing and accepting the real Jesus is. Even if you've read already – read it again – he is that good.

MY TRIP TO SCRIPTURE UNION CAMP

The day before I left for the camp I felt scared, excited, anxious, happy, and thrilled. We had loads of excellent activities.

MEALS:

At meal times the food was superb we had fajitas, steak pie, and a roast diner for tea. For breakfast we had cereal and we also had bacon eggs and sausage. For lunch we had many different things but all of them were enjoyed. I **loved** the hot chocolate and we got whipped cream and marshmallows as well.

ACTIVITIES:

The list of activities would drag on to the end of the page so I will only mention some of them. We had the choice art, volley ball, a campfire, rounders on the beach, a huge flying fox, a super fun assault course, and going to the beach. We got to choose what activities that we wanted to take part in and there was so many activities to choose from.

DORMS:

To sort the dorms we all got a card with a country on them which were our activity groups but not everyone in your dorm was in your same activity group.

BIBLE STUDY:

At the end of each day we all gathered at the big comfy chairs and read a chapter of the bible. We looked at 'the three kings' and each night we looked at a different king.

SONGS:

We sang loads of great songs during the day and after the bible study.

IF I WAS ASKED IF I WANTED TO GO AGAIN THEN I WOULD DEFINITELY SAY YES BECAUSE I ABSOLUTELY LOVED IT.

Earlier this year Joyce was asked if Abigail, our granddaughter, would like to go to the SU camp with Hannah this summer and when we asked her she jumped at the chance. You can see from her article that they all had a great time. So much so that she wants to go back again.

Just in case you didn't know the camp was down near Dunbar/North Berwick at Scoughall by the coast in the middle of know where (almost). Get your thinking caps on, who do you know who would enjoy an adventure.

Regards Fred

ADVANCE NOTICE

After the great success of last year – thank God for the good weather, I can tell you we are going to do it again this year.

CHURCH PICNIC 28TH AUGUST
AFTER THE MORNING SERVICE

THE LOPROSY MISSION

On behalf of the local committee represented from all of the churches in Penicuik we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks once again to all our faithful supporters of the Leprosy Mission.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who came along, or who contributed in any way, to the huge success of the Pancake Coffee Morning that was recently held in St Mungo's Hall on Saturday 4th June 2016.

Good fellowship was enjoyed by all over coffee and freshly baked pancake.

We raised just over £1000 on the day, which has gone up to the amount of £1600 with generous donations still received after the event. All monies raised this year will be donated to Purulia Hospital in India to continue their work in helping and comforting Leprosy Sufferers.

May we also take this opportunity to thank all those who continue to support us by their kind donations throughout the whole year. We would like to thank Debbie Hall in particular this year for the beautiful quilted knee rugs that she gifted to be sold at the coffee morning. Should anyone still wish to purchase one of these bright colourful rugs please see Wilma or Liz or contact Jean Thorburn on 672022.

Thank ypu again one and all and God Bless.

Liz Murray & Wilma Wilson

Maisie Bruce is not able to be with us on Sunday mornings, but she still takes time to find things for Scope.

WHY DO I DOUBT HIM?

When your heart is crushed with sorrow and your eyes are never dry.
You think you don't deserve it, and you ask the reason why:
But the little birds keep singing and the little children play
And God sends His golden sunset at the end of every day.
Why oh why then should I doubt him, when he numbers every hair?
Is He my heavenly Father and I a child of His loving care?
But one day I shall see him, when I reach that golden shore.
I'll see Him in His beauty and doubt Him never more.

SOMEBODY ELSE

There's a clever young fellow called Somebody Else,
There's nothing this fellow can't do.
He's busy from morning till late at night
Just substituting for you.
When asked to do this or asked to do that,
So often you're set to reply -----
Get Somebody Else, Mr Chairman please,
He'd do it much better than I.
There's so much to do in the parish,
So much and the workers are few,
And Somebody Else gets weary and worn
Just substituting for you.
So next time you're asked to do something worthwhile,
Come up with an honest reply.
If Somebody Else can give time and support,
It's obviously true, so can I.

Before anyone calls to tell me they can't read the following table, I know the font is small but this is just to give those on the various rotas Sunday by Sunday another reminder of when they are on.

As we go to print the August Rota hasn't been made up yet so get your availability in quick and if anyone finds they can't do their Sunday it is up to each of you to find someone to swap.

Regards Fred

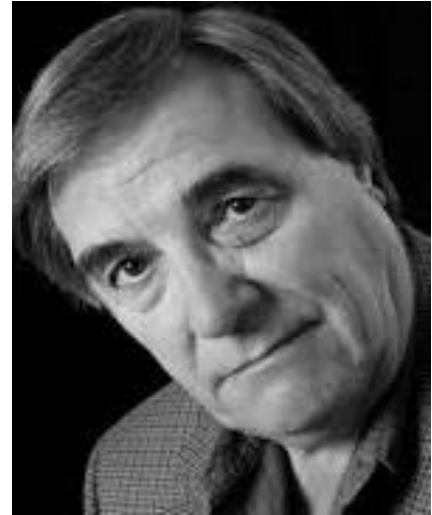
Name	3RD JULY	10TH JULY	17TH JULY	24TH JULY	31ST JULY
DONALD	SOUND		SOUND		
DOUGLAS H					
FRED					
KEVIN		OVERHEAD			OVERHEAD
JOYCE M			OVERHEAD	OVERHEAD	
SALLY				SOUND	
DOUGLAS W	OVERHEAD				SOUND
JACKIE		PLAYING			PLAYING
MARY		SOUND	LEAD		
VICKY		SINGING			LEAD
CAROLINE M				LEAD	
CHI CHI	SINGING			SINGING	
SANDRA	SINGING				SINGING
CAROLINE T	LEAD		SING/PLAY		
GRAHAM					
JOYCE H		LEAD		SINGING	
REBECCA					SINGING

Faith on the fringe

My Life's Journey

An evening with C. S. Lewis courtesy of David Payne. The year is 1963 and one summer evening you visit C. S. Lewis (for 55minutes). His engaging conversation and spontaneous humour made him one of the greatest raconteurs of *his* day – his faith makes him one to return to in our day.

Boxoffice 0131 618 6967



Greenside at Nicholson Square, EH8 9BX (Lime Studio)

5-13, 15 & 22-27 Aug – 18:30hrs £11, conc £8.50

Soweto Spiritual Singers (South Africa)

55 minutes with the group that opened the S African World Cup with R Kelly – inspirational harmonies and fabulous dance straight from Soweto.

Boxoffice 0845 260 1234

C scala, Saint Stephen's Stockbridge, St Stephen St /St Vincent Pl,
EH3 5AB

3-29 Aug – 16:45hrs £15.50-£13.50, conc £13.50-£11.50

Cillis Gospel Choir

This talented 26-member choir from Bavarian choir will be in town for one night only – 75 minutes of fresh arrangements of favourite gospel and spiritual songs. Boxoffice 0131 226 0000

Canongate Kirk, 153 Canongate, Royal Mile, EH8 8BN

13 August – 17:00hrs £10, conc £8

West End has Faith

West End Has Faith in the Fringe features stage professionals working in London's West End and on tour sharing 90 minutes of musical theatre, songs, stories & testimony!

Boxoffice 0131 447 5086



Edinburgh Elim, 18 Morningside Road, EH10 4DB (mainstage)

22-27 Aug – 19:00hrs £12, conc £10, fam £30

The Diary of Anne Frank

Moving, intense and darkly comic drama about the lives of 8 people hiding from the Nazis during WWII. Claustrophobia contrasts with Anne's bright enthusiasm for life. 1 hour of drama you won't forget.

Paradise in Augustines, 41 George IV Bridge, EH1 1EL (Studio)

7-12 Aug - 17:00hrs £5, conc £3, fam £12 Boxoffice 0131 510 0022

Remember there's also the International Book Festival which has loads of stuff on that's worth looking at – below are just two that you might want to attend.



Eric Liddell: True Sporting Hero

Having won the William Hill Sports Book of the Year award twice for his biographies of cricketer Harold Larwood and football legend Brian Clough, Duncan Hamilton is now aiming for a hat-trick.' **For the Glory**' addresses Olympic athlete Eric Liddell, the Christian runner who refused to race on Sundays, and later spent time in a Japanese internment camp. Hamilton discusses the legacy of one of Scotland's great public figures and a genuine sporting and Christian hero.

Theatre Studio, Charlotte Sq, EH2 4HQ Boxoffice 0845 373 5888

Thu 18 Aug 7:15pm - 8:15pm £12.00, conc £10.00

Scotland, Slavery and Amnesia

The British Academy, no less, are sponsoring a one-off lecture by Professor Tom Devine on a hot topic for Scotland ...not just England or America. Did slavery help make Scotland great? That's the uncomfortable question at the heart of a project led by Scottish historian Sir Tom Devine. In **Recovering Scotland's Slavery Past**, edited by Devine, leading scholars reveal telling details, such as compensation paid to Scottish owners when slavery was abolished. Can Scotland be described as an abolitionist nation, untainted by a slavery past? Perhaps not after this event. Box office 0845 373 5888

Baillie Gifford Main Theatre, Charlotte Square, EH2 4HQ

Wed 17 Aug 8:15pm - 9:15pm £12.00, conc £10.00

Just to help you understand, over July and August we are still using the SU Bible reading notes individually but just to have a bit of a change over these two months we'll be looking at the Apostles' Creed – a quick summer summary of a summary of the faith! There are lots books on the Apostles' Creed so if you want to read round the sermons – go right ahead!

Summer Services	Themes	Reading
3 th July – 11.15am	The Apostles' Creed: Why creeds are important & why these first 4 words are the most important of all – "I Believe in God" : "without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists" (Heb. 11:6).	Hebrews 11:1-17 & 11:39- 12:2
10 th July - 11.15am	The Apostles' Creed: The whole doctrine of God in three words "Father Almighty ... Maker." May the real you meet the real God	Matthew 7: 7-14
10 – 3pm	Traditional Service – The Apostles' Creed I	
17 th July - 11.15am	The Apostles' Creed: Jesus was "conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate" – 100% human + 100% divine yet still submitted to human authority :let Peter explain	Acts 2: 22-39
24 th July - 11.15am	The Apostles' Creed: "Crucified, died, buried and (the strange bit, if you recall) descended into Hell." That's four words for Jesus death in a creed of 110 words – <i>you do the maths!</i> Where's the focus!	1 Peter 3: 13-22
31 st July - 11.15am	The Apostles' Creed: "He ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. He will come again to judge the living and the dead" Resuming former glory and judging those who responded to that glory.	Col 1: 1-11

7 th Aug – 11.15am	Holiday Club Service – come and meet the Guardians of Ancora! (that’s the children). And maybe even play the internet game at home as well.	Acts 10: 34 - 43
14 th Aug - 11.15am	The Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in the Holy Spirit” The creed has covered maker and Saviour but God is three in one and can only be followed when we live in that faith and walk in the Spirit.	John 14: 15-27
14 th - 3pm	Traditional Service – The Apostles’ Creed II	
21 st Aug - 11.15am	The Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in the Holy Catholic Church. I believe in the Communion of Saints” People say, “I like Jesus, but I don’t like the church.” But it’s always been a package deal!	Romans 12:1-13
28 th Aug - 11.15am	Back to School With God – School is all about work – but Jesus is all about priorities.	Luke 10: 38-42
4 th Sep – 11.15am	The Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in the forgiveness of Sins” This belief has <i>not</i> always been anchored in Easter –Luther reclaimed it – never lose it again	Matthew 18: 21- 35
11 th Sep - 11.15am	The Apostles’ Creed: “I believe in the Resurrect- ion of the Body & I believe in the Life Everlasting. Be of good heart - we are going home!	John 11: 17- 27

give
thanks
in all circumstances

1 Thessalonians 5:18