

SCOPE

Penicuik South Parish Church



September 2016

Hello from the Manse,

So the holidays are now absolutely, well and truly over. What recollections do you have of yours? Often holidays do feature on those top 10 lists of stressful things in life. Hopefully not in your case this past summer. There's one thing that I really liked this past summer.

Generally, I don't like surprises but when I go to a gallery expecting to see a painting and then see other paintings that I didn't expect to see I really like that surprise. I found two paintings by Giovanni Moroni in Vienna I wasn't expecting. I know I'm easy pleased.

Then I went to Belgium to celebrate my 25th wedding anniversary. Even on a bad day Brussels' Grote Markt ranks among the most beautiful medieval squares in Europe – that's why it's a UNESCO World Heritage site. I knew that before going. What I didn't know was that every two years it is also home to the *Flower Carpet*. The Flower Carpet extravaganza dials up the charm factor of the capital's historic main square from merely scenic to positively spectacular, thanks in large part to hundreds of thousands of Ghent-grown begonias. So, for those who didn't know, and that was me until a month ago, every two years a new floral pattern, 75 metres long by 25 wide, is conceived by landscape architect Mark Schautteet and laid at the doorstep of Brussels City Hall by an army of over 100 volunteer flower arrangers.

The 20th 'Carpet' celebrated the relationship between Belgium and Japan – see *Scope's* front cover. The beauty

is all down to the begonia. Belgium is the world's largest producer of begonias: 60 million bulbs each year! 80% of the total production, cultivated almost exclusively in the area of Ghent since 1860, is exported, primarily to the Netherlands, France, the US plus a few to the UK too. Their range of colours is simply stunning and that's just during the day - at night the 'Carpet' comes alive in a massive sound-and-vision spectacle. A light show unfolds accompanied by an original soundtrack. I did get quite a pleasant surprise.

But all the statistics don't quite cover the main issue for me: if you are in the square at ground level, you don't actually see anything that makes sense – you are too close and viewing the design from too small an angle.

All the elite of Brussels society long to get personal invites to the parties in the various ancient buildings around the square so they can see from a good vantage point. It's a 'big deal' to get an invite. Belgian TV cameras were everywhere! I got to visit a first floor building the second day. Seeing the Flower Carpet from higher up did get me thinking about how much perspective was crucial if I wanted to see this stunning floral spectacle. Perspective was the defining issue. And not just for Flower Carpets. Look at the back cover if you don't believe me.

Let me come back to that thought biblically. The *let the children come to me* passage is one you'll have heard many times before but its familiarity shouldn't stop us going back to it again and again. It's crucial. "Whoever

does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it” (Mark 10:15).

Why do people hear you share the gospel and dismiss it? Why do some folk ‘get’ church and others don’t? Why do some children come to the holiday club and just leave it after the week and yet others (it happened this year) other children ask if they can have a Bible and come to church?

Without reducing everything to vacuous platitudes, the point remains valid: everything does come down to people’s perspective. It’s not the gospel that’s the problem; it’s the fact that people have a jaundiced view i.e. faulty perspective. We are all too close to our own lives. ‘Standing back’ to take a proper view of our lives here and in eternity is more than we are able to see. Your friends need to you stay friendly and offer the perspective that God alone can offer. Unless we can accept God as a child does it seems false. Unless our perspective is ‘heightened’ by the Holy Spirit nothing changes – that needs to be our personal and corporate prayer point this September and this autumn.

Yours sincerely,
Ian Cathcart

Here are some thoughts about the holiday club.

Many people say that teachers get far too many holidays. With no bias whatsoever I disagree!

With that attitude that I needed more time to rest, I initially approached the holiday club with a slight annoyance - I'm telling you this because there are times when 'other things' get in the way of God's work. Within a few minutes of the holiday club starting all this changed. What a week!

I had the privilege of working with an amazing group of Christians from churches throughout Penicuik - ranging from age 12 to beyond (don't want to give away any secrets but lets just say that the Queen has some competition ha! ha!). Also, the honour of working with an amazing number of young people in group chat, crafts, games and snack was awesome. P7s certainly eat a lot of snack! What has also been an added blessing from the holiday club is the decision by some of the young folks to come to church. God is Good! His plan is perfect and the fact that He allows us to take part in it is amazing (Ian may have something to say about that based on the fact that some P7s gave him a very hot but disguised chilli cup cake !). I finish with an honest statement. "I can't wait until next years holiday club"

Jackie

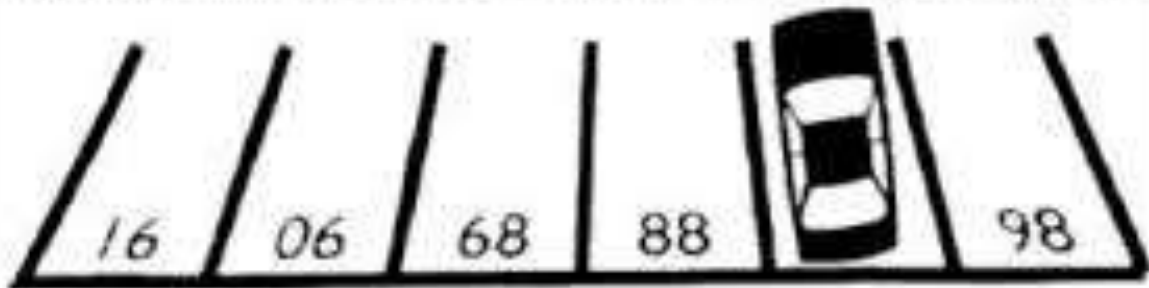
I am God's child (John 1:12)
I am Christ's friend (John 15:15)
I am united with the Lord(1 Cor. 6:17)
I am bought with a price(1 Cor. 6:19-20)
I am a saint (set apart for God). (Eph. 1:1)
I am a personal witness of Christ. (Acts 1:8)
I am the salt & light of the earth (Matt.5:13-14)
I am a member of the body of Christ(1 C or 12:27)
I am free forever from condemnation (Rom. 8: 1-2)
I am a citizen of Heaven. I am significant (Phil.3:20)
I am free from any charge against me (Rom. 8:31 -34)
I am a minister of reconciliation for God(2 Cor.5:17-21)
I have access to God through the Holy Spirit (Eph. 2:18)
I am seated with Christ in the heavenly realms (Eph. 2:6)
I cannot be separated from the love of God(Rom.8:35-39)
I am established, anointed, sealed by God (2 Cor.1:21-22)
I am assured al I things work together for good (Rom. 8: 28)
I have been chosen and appointed to bear fruit (John 15:16)
I may approach God with freedom and confidence (Eph. 3: 12)
I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil. 4:13)
I am the branch of the true vine, a channel of His life (John 15: 1-5)
I am God's temple (1 Cor. 3: 16). I am complete in Christ (Col. 2: 10)
I am hidden with Christ in God (Col. 3:3). I have been justified (Romans 5:1)
I am God's co-worker (1 Cor.. 3:9; 2 Cor 6:1). I am God's workmanship(Eph. 2:10)
I am confident that the good works God has begun in me will be perfected. (Phil 1: 5)
I have been redeemed and forgiven(Col.1:14).I have been adopted as God's child(Eph
I belong to God
Do you know
who you are!?

!
"The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make His face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn His face toward you
and give you peace.."
Numbers 6:24-26

Contributed by Maisie Bruce

| Sunday Services | Worship Theme | Readings |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| 4 th Sept 11.15am | The Apostle's Creed: I believe in the communion of saints. You're connected to every person who worships God – past, present & future. You'll share fellowship with everyone who's ever praised Jesus. Incl Communion | Hebrews 11:20-31 |
| 4 th Sept 7.00pm | Our Counter Cultural God: Everything from the Olympics through to our own society wants a perfect performance when and where it's required – Jesus really does walk to a different drum beat. Where is it in your life you need to <i>not</i> meet expectations? Incl Communion | Mark 8: 1-13 |
| 11 th Sept 11.15am | The Apostle's Creed: I believe in the forgiveness of sins. Luther changed his view on forgiveness when he read Galatians. Have you really? Where do you still need to let forgiveness radically enter your life? Do you understand what happens when you don't? | Matthew 18: 21-35 |
| 11 th Sept 3.00pm | Traditional Service: A Flower Carpet of Perspective | Mark 10:13-16 |
| 11 th – 7pm | Worship Service | (Ps 77) |
| 18 th Sept 11.15am | The Apostle's Creed: I believe in the resurrection of the body. The hardest line in the whole creed! Not because we object to what we understand – but because what you understand is probably wrong! Do you truly believe the <i>biblical</i> teaching on the resurrection of your own physical body or is it just some Greek myths?!?! | 1 Cor 15: 35-49 (1-58) |
| 18 th Sept 7.00pm | Our Counter Cultural God – The Rich Young Man – Do you hold all the 'right beliefs' about God but just don't like the of idea obedience to the specifics that God says to us individually – come and reflect on true faith/obedience | Mark 10: 17-31 |
| 25 th Sept 11.15am | The Apostle's Creed: I believe in the life everlasting. Do you realise that you will spend eternity in Heaven with Jesus worshipping your saviour and loving Him forever and ever and ..? | Revelation 21:1-22:6 (sel ver) |
| 25 th -7pm | Prayer Service (Ps78: | 40-72) |

Hong Kong Elementary School First Grade Student Admissions Test Question



香港小学入学考试题: 21 题 Hong Kong Elementary School Admissions Test Question #21

What parking spot # is the car parked in?

请问汽车停的是几号车位?

请在20秒内完成回答

Please answer within 20 seconds

SO, IT TURNS OUT

W V - 1 0 E R S R M D

REALLY /S EVERYTHING