



baptist union
of scotland



July 2015

Sports Day and Step Out Send-off

The Priesthood of all Believers



Here I am, writing this editorial in the International Mission Centre, Birmingham, the training centre for BMS World Mission. Soon I will meet with 20 other Baptist mission leaders to discuss the issues of small declining churches, and how we might see many of them rebirthed in the coming years. I anticipate hearing stories from rural Asia and Welsh valleys, the southern counties, and I will be sharing stories from Scotland. Through SKYPE I will be joined by Rev Ian Macfarlane, Rev George Mackenzie and Rev Bob Baxter to tell the stories of what God is doing in Oban, Hawick and Motherwell, just 3 of many encouraging examples of churches that have experienced a new lease of life in the past 5 years.

I am completely convinced that we are seeing the first fruits of a greater harvest in Scotland. I continue to pray not only for individual church growth, but for springs of living water to overflow from our churches into other churches and unreached communities, particularly amongst Scotland's poorest communities.

I am equally convinced that future fruitfulness will be dependent on a recovery, not only of the theology, but the practise of the priesthood of all believers. Each of us is called to be a witness. Through a combination of our being, doing and saying, we all have the opportunity to play a part in holistically proclaiming a gospel of reconciliation, transformation, hope, and opportunity.

Within this month's Connect you will read about our "Step Out" teams and their summer mission

"Future fruitfulness will be dependent on a recovery, not only of the theology, but the practise of the priesthood of all believers."

programme. These teenagers will live together and love one another through tensions, trials, spiritual attacks and human weakness. They will seek to serve the churches and communities where we place them: supporting child care, encouraging teenagers into a new lifestyle, engaging in community clean-up and other practical ministry. They will encourage and challenge those who work with them and who receive their care. They will also proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ to those whose hearts are open to receive. They will speak of the impact Christ has made in their own lives, share stories about others and teach directly from the Bible.

In reading their stories, maybe we can hear God speak to us, reminding us that his mission needs witnesses, priests who will pray for neighbours, family, colleagues and friends. God needs witnesses who will serve those same people with grace and without expectation of reward, who will stand up against injustice and proclaim righteousness, who will give a reason for the hope we have and say what we believe.

Alan Donaldson

Roberta Hope

Roberta passed away early on the morning of 25th June, following a long period of illness. Roberta had faithfully served the Baptist Union of Scotland for 30 years. Her ministry among us began as receptionist, going on to adopt a variety of responsibilities over the years, including PA to the Mission Advisor, the resident computer expert, communications officer, including editor of Connect and retirement property supervisor. With a remarkable memory, she carried a living history of our Union. We mourn her passing, give thanks to God for her and commend her brother Raymond and sister-in-law Amanda to your prayers.

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Sports Day 2015



Over 500 people turned out for our largest annual gathering of Baptists in Scotland. We returned to the University of Stirling's sports grounds that are in the shadow of the Wallace Monument. The day was besotted with wet and often blustery conditions. However, it failed to dampen the spirits of those who turned up for a fun and competitive day out. The only casualties of the weather were the gazebos that, despite being deeply anchored into the ground, were swept away in one of the many 50 miles per hour gusts.

Whether it was on the track, football pitch, badminton and netball courts, with an egg and spoon or even on the dance mat, our young people, aged from 5-21, really got stuck in. 16 lanes for the primary school aged events meant no heats. Going straight to finals elevated the sack race to be the most hotly contested final of the day.

After lunch, the weather brightened up for



Some Dads just can't resist! James Faddes, Leslie Baptist, spoils a perfectly good photo.

the finish. Close battles were fought. Peoples' expressions were upturned.

Prizes were then handed out to the winning teams and individuals. Kirkintilloch fended off the challenge of Bearsden Baptist to take the overall trophy.

Rev. Nick Cox, Pastor of Southside Christian Fellowship, Ayr, and Christians in Sport, our partners for the day, took the final talk. Nick told the story of his friend, Brycey, who played a club rugby match in a blizzard that made it almost impossible to see. Brycey got really cold and was frustrated about not being in the game. At one point in the game he saw a person running towards him, whom he tackled hard to the ground. Unfortunately, it was



Nick Cox presents the Rev. John Craib, Bearsden, with the Runner-up trophy

the referee - who was only coming over to tell him that the game had been abandoned.

In the same way Brycey didn't recognise the referee in the blizzard, we fail to recognise who God is. Our picture of God can be like seeing him through a blizzard. But a relationship with Jesus is the only way of seeing and knowing God clearly and perfectly.

A huge thanks to all staff and volunteers who made the day go so well. Our partners, Christians in Sport, helped provide many of the referees - please check out how they're reaching the sports world for Christ. It was great to see hundreds of young people enjoying sport and the company of friends. See you all at Sports Day 2016.

Rory Martin



Ready to Step Out

The Step Out Leaders' training weekend recently took place. Yvonne Faddes took time out on an intense weekend to chat to two Step Outers before they embark on a summer of leading holiday clubs and youth outreach.



Emma Gray, 15, Denny Baptist Church

This is your first year doing Step out, what made you decide to do it this year?

Last year I was approached by a couple of the older youth from my church who had previously done Step Out. They said I would love it and that it helped bring them closer to God so I went for it.

How are you feeling about it?

I am nervous but excited that I am able to be a part of a different church and make an impact on some of the young children.

How did you find training?

The training weekend was amazing. I did have to come out of my comfort zone a little to meet people, but once I had done that it was great. I found out so much about what I'm going to be doing and how to be closer to God. It felt amazing to not be judged for being a Christian as everyone else there was also one.

What do you hope that the churches will gain from having a Step Out team?

I hope the churches will gain some more families to join their church and also that the churches will have a holiday club each year.

What teams are you on?

I'm on the Dumfries and Inverkeithing teams

Describe yourself in 3 words

Confident, passionate and chatty.

Jonah Butchart, 18, Ellon Baptist Church



Why Do You Choose To Do Step Out Every Year?

I enjoy teaching young people about God and giving them an opportunity to move forward in their faith. I also enjoy building new relationships.

What Experience Have You Gained Through Doing Step Out?

I have gained experience in youth work and have developed into a youth leading role in my home church. I have also developed my own faith.

What Do You Hope Churches Will Gain Through Having A Step Out Team This Year?

A good relationship with non-Christian kids, and that they will use what we have given them throughout the week and will involve it in their own youth programme.

How Did You Find Training?

I found it very helpful – especially the leaders' training.

Where Are You Going On Step Out?

Leading in Galashiels, Wigtown and Inverkeithing.

Describe Yourself In Three Words.

Confident, energetic, enthusiastic.

See Prayer-Link sheet for details of dates

A wee break...

There won't be a Connect in August. Thank you for taking the time to read the magazine. We hope you've been encouraged by the stories featured this year. Pencil in September for the next issue. Have a great summer!



July Prayer Link

Sunday 5th

Granton, Iain Dickie - Last month we as a church celebrated our 75th Anniversary with a great weekend which included a meal and ceilidh on the Saturday and a worship service on the Sunday where Rev Andy Scarcliffe was our guest preacher. It was brilliant to see faces from down through the years joining us in our celebrations. Another highlight was our Easter celebrations where we joined Bristo for Good Friday and had a baptismal service on Easter Sunday. We thank God for His hand upon our fellowship over these years and look forward to what He has for us in the days to come.

Grantown-on-Spey, Rick Moeller -

- Continued blessing on the restart of our Sunday School.
- Holiday Bible Club (August) as we ask for the Lord's blessing in a special way.
- Start of monthly children's meetings to follow up our Holiday Bible Club.
- Pastor as he begins to serve local football club as Chaplain.
- Discipleship and growth of new believers.

Sunday 12th

Jenny Wilson: PA to Baptist Union of Scotland

General Director. Give thanks for a busy but productive couple of months for me with organising conferences, Council and Sports Day. Please pray for me as I continue to make preparations for this year's Assembly and provide PA support for Alan.

Hamilton, David Wilson - We are grateful to God for recent baptisms, and for the fact that a number of people who have been attending the church have taken the step of committing to church membership. We have recently appointed an Associate Pastor, Ross Ferguson, and already there are positive developments in our ministry to the local schools and the Hamilton campus of the UWS. Pray for us as we seek to develop a clear vision for the church, that will help us to be more effective in ministry to our local community.

Sunday 19th

Ivy Young, BUS Ministry Administrator. I am thankful for some holiday time with my family. Although meetings are quiet during the summer weeks, preparation is ongoing for a Board of Ministry training day for new members, and accreditation interviews in August, and also a candidate's conference in September.

Hawick, George MacKenzie - We give thanks to God for some recent growth in attendance and membership. The Almond Tree café in the High Street has proved very successful in many ways and enables good contacts with the community. We plan to start "Café church" after the summer, and are also in the process of appointing a youth and children's worker.

Recently 4 of our children became Christians while attending SPREE in the Borders. Pray for our YG (youth group) as we have over 30 attending, but they are not quite connected to the rest of church life yet.

High Blantyre, Stephen Younger - Give thanks with us for the last session: God has again supplied for all our needs. We have maintained a full-time ministry for another year and have continued our contribution to Chaplaincy in local schools and our involvement in witness and worship with our fellow Christians in Blantyre. Our numbers have shown a small increase and the Fellowship is in good heart. Pray for a planned Church kitchen up-grade and refurbishment, for our Pastor's on-going PhD studies in Education, for our Scripture Union groups, and for our ongoing financial challenges.

Sunday 26th

Hillview, Martin Clarke - Please pray as we seek the Lord and ask Him to guide us in planting a church in the Kintore area of Aberdeen. Hillview is sending a team of 10 to Cape Town, South Africa to work with two missionaries that we support. They will be primarily working at a camp for the children and youth from Masiphumelele – a township to the south of Cape Town. Pray that we would be able to share the Father heart of God to all we come into contact with.



August

Sunday 2nd

Inverkeithing, Ross Brown - Inverkeithing is changing, the new road bridge opening next year, transport changes and a potential 350 new homes being built. This makes with a challenge for I.B.C. to rise to - please pray we will do so. As a church we are reviewing all our work. Pray for us as a congregation as to what the way forward is. With many of our young people moving away for education and work, please pray for the rebuilding of this work. Sunday school is changing to "A Step Out format" each week, commencing this month. Please pray for more children to come along. The Haven Café, Parent and toddlers, and nurse-led clinic for mums with new babies continues to be successful. Week by week the community contacts are many. A Step Out team is set for August, to work with us. Please pray for a successful week with children, young people and parents.

Irvine - We have been without a minister for a number of years, and our numbers are small but we have a faithful fellowship. Please pray for the vacancy committee, as they look out for a settled ministry. We have a generous commitment to BMS World Mission both in prayer and in support.

Sunday 9th

Islay, Jim McNulty - We are a small church but one with a big heart. Our strap line is "Focused on Christ, Centred in the Community". Please pray that the involvement we have in the community and the schools will be effective. We are thankful that we can have a Scripture Union Bible Holiday Club on the beach. Pray for all the children who attend.

Keiss - We give thanks that the youth club still continues on Friday nights in Keiss primary school with over 65 different children attending over the past term and 45 in regular attendance aged 5 to 15, see link <https://vimeo.com/128018178>. We give thanks for the recent 'iSingPop' project in partnership with the local school that saw Wick Baptist church

packed with families and friends of the children for the end of week concert. See link <https://vimeo.com/128059157>.

Sunday 16th

Kingspark - We're thankful for God's faithfulness and blessing in our service, worship and fellowship together. We continue to seek His will for the church pastorate and want to be (1) ready in obedience to face challenges to our expectations and hopes, (2) open to God doing something new and/or unexpected in our church life, and (3) courageous in answering His call to possible steps of faith to really let Him have His way among us.

Sunday 23rd

Kirkintilloch, David Gordon - Pray for No52 - our new café situated right on the main street; pray for increasing use by the wider community and that customers will feel welcomed and sense something of the love of God. At the end of July we have a 'mission team' in Uganda; pray that will be a transformational experience. From 27th – 31st July our summer holiday club 'Polar Explorers' will be held; again pray that the children will understand something more of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

Kirkwall, Tim Proudlove - Praise God for His leading during a year of pastoral vacancy. We are delighted to have our new minister, Tim Proudlove, who began his ministry with us in June. Please pray for Tim, Claudia and their children Johanna and Jakob, that they will settle in quickly, and that God would bless Tim's ministry with us. Pray for recent converts, baptisms and new members that God would guide their lives and witness. Pray too for plans for renovation and extension of our buildings, and that we would make an impact for Jesus in our community.

Knightswood, Gus Macaulay - Please pray for our holiday club this summer, led by our Ruth Kelso and with a team from our church and Step Out. Please pray for the kids who come, their families and for Jesus to be central to everything we do. Please also pray as we consider our future vision and direction,



as we seek to make the Good News about Jesus known to our community in new and effective ways.

Ladywell, Jim McFarlane - We continue to give thanks to God for His continued goodness and blessings. It has been good to see some new people coming to worship with us. The YF is very strong with almost 30 attending on a Sunday evening. Thank God for opportunities for our Pastor to serve in two of our local schools. We would value your prayers as we have several within the fellowship who are unable to attend due to severe health conditions. Please also pray for new openings within our community as we appoint a Youth and Community Worker in September 2015.

Larbert, Ken Bleakley - Praise the Lord for 5 baptisms and 4 additions to our membership during the month of June. We are thankful for this encouragement and request prayer that the Lord will continue to pour out His blessing upon all His Churches in this area. May this be the beginning of a great harvest of people for His kingdom.

Largo - LBC praise and thank God for the ministry, teaching and preaching of our Ministry Leader, Rev John Cropley, and the prayer ministry of his wife, May. We thank God for His Spirit of love and unity in the fellowship and praise Him that so many seek to learn at Bible Studies. We pray that the Lord will equip and direct us so that we can reach the young in the village and all who have a great need for His love and salvation.

The National Team

John Greenshields - After time at the Ministry Forum involving UK colleagues, and the latest National Settlement Team gathering, I have a long weekend visit to Islay planned. July also means a number of annual interviews with pre-accredited ministers, preaching engagements, and time to prepare for Martin Hodson's arrival in August. Your prayers for all the above are greatly appreciated.

Alan Donaldson - Pray for a time of refreshment on holiday with some of the family. I am looking forward to my first "Baptist World Alliance" meetings in Durban, South Africa in the middle of July and meeting with many of our preaccredited ministers on a one to one basis over the summer. With visits to Tiree and Dingwall planned for mid August and a silver wedding to celebrate at the end of the month I'm anticipating a summer of joy and thanksgiving.

Jacqueline Primrose - Please give thanks for all God's goodness to us - for the blessings of living and working in community with one another - with all the joy and challenge that brings. I give thanks for all those I work with - they spur me on. Proverbs 13:20 says: 'Walk with the wise and become wise,' - this is my privilege.

Please pray that although the summer does give an opportunity for the pace to slow a little, that things continue to happen well. Pray that we will support our Step Out teams and that the ongoing planning of Council and organising of Assembly will go well.

Jim Purves - Please pray for visits with ministers across Scotland over the summer, together with the preparation and publication, in print and online, of updated and new materials and resources in mission and ministry. For meetings of Trustees, National Team, Board of Ministry, Mission Initiative group and the FBBI Ministry Forum; and for new personnel recruited to serve in these areas. Also, refreshment for those who serve, enjoying a break over the summer months.



Step Out 2015



Please remember to pray for the Step Out teams as they head out to serve in our churches this summer. Team members will be at the following locations for

July

Sunday 5th

Dumfries - Abbie Nelson and Mark Thomas will be leading a six strong team.

Galashiels - Meanwhile, on the other side of the Borders, Jonah Butchart will be leading a team down in Gala.

Sunday 12th

Brechin - Members of the Angus church will be leading some of our Step Outers at a holiday club.



Sunday 19th

Knightswood - Ruth Kelso will be at the helm on home turf in the west-end of Glasgow

Sunday 26th

Tillicoultry - Bethany Smith will be leading a team in the Clackmannanshire town.

Wigtown - Jonah will again be leading, this time in the Dumfriesshire town.

August

Sunday 2nd

Broughty Ferry - Dez Johnstone is heading up the group in the Dundee suburb.

Sunday 9th

Inverkiething - In the last week, Craig Menzies and Bethany Smith are sharing leadership responsibilities in the shadow of the Forth Road Bridge.

Cornton - Last but not least, a team of eight, led by Sam Donaghey, will be active in Stirling this week.

Follow their Journey

Please 'Like' the Step Out page on [Facebook](#) to keep up to date.

