

MY VIEW

September sees us stepping out into a new church year, with summer holidays now behind us - and hopefully refreshed and rarin' to go. Since the last issue it has been quiet, but we now anticipate a much busier time. The article by Murray Mathers has caused a bit of a stir and we have had quite a healthy response. These can be found elsewhere in this issue and if you feel you would like to have your say, do send them in for publication. Indeed, we would like to have your views on anything that is happening in the church, anything you want to share and help us to bring forward all that you would expect.

During this month we have seen the Boys' and Girls' Brigades in church on Sunday 20th September on their opening parade, and the following Sunday the Harvest Thanksgiving service with Harvest lunch in the Hall.

Reading the current edition of Life & Work, the editor, Lynne McNeil, comments on food wastage by the general public. Evidently Britons throw away 5.4 million tonnes of food each year, which is stated to be a quarter of what we buy. Now that is a sobering thought, each of us throw away a quarter of the food we buy. Also, this goes a long way to help increase global warming with consequent changes in weather patterns. Now I ask the question - is the outcome of this having an effect on our own church?

I raise the above question as our Fabric Committee is facing a daunting task in repairing the north spire, due to dry rot caused by water influx through the joints of the stone blocks, which requires re-pointing, and a severe blockage of a water pipe from the roof gutter, which in turn increased the flooding of the building surface. I have no doubt that we will manage somehow to repair the damage.

Obviously food wastage is only one of the ways that can contribute to the fault; there are many other contributing factors. I don't think for one moment that we could tie food waste through to climate change and on to the damage to our church building, but then maybe this could be one of the items we raise in our prayers. At this point, I

recommend Life & Work to our members - there are many more thought provoking articles in this publication of The Church of Scotland.

Sunday 4th October sees us celebrate Communion when the retiring offering is for The Seagull Trust, which does a lot of work for children in unfortunate circumstances. This also includes the use of their barge on the Union Canal based in the Falkirk High Station area. We urge members to contribute liberally. There will also be a Communion in the evening in the Hall.

Bill Smart

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

September 2009

Twinspire Magazine

Polmont Old Parish Church

You asked for our views on Murray Mather's article, and I'm very sorry to say that primarily mine are disgust and dismay!

Disgust and dismay at one particular and objectionable phrase used. A phrase, which not only lowered the tone of the article but the tone of an otherwise excellent magazine. It was the language of the gutter, not the language of a church magazine. In these days when standards seem to be decreasing alarmingly everywhere, we have got to keep church standards high, and this phrase is certainly not doing that!

With regard to the two main points mentioned - the prayer meeting, and the healing service - they have both to be approached with dedication and humility. They have also to be worked at with sincerity and faith, remembering that "when two or three are gathered together in His name", Christ is there among them.

The main emphasis should be on God's actions and Will, and not on our own in both. We should be concentrated on God, not on ourselves - and willing to be used as channels of God's love and healing.

I write as a person whose ministry was very much based on prayer and Christian healing. The main thing is for God's will to be done, and that we are endeavouring hard to follow it, remembering always how Great God is! We should be pointing people to God at all times, and not to ourselves through our prayers and Christian healing.

Henry Munroe