

Summer Tron Times

Newsletter | The Tron Church Glasgow | June 2013

Biblical Body Building

'the whole body...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.' Eph. 4:16



Dear Friends,

Some of the most encouraging times for me personally in the routine of our congregational life are the several occasions each year when I lead a new members' class, and then, with Richard Henry our Session Clerk, meet individually with those wishing to join our fellowship here at The Tron. It is always exhilarating to hear people's stories, and to wonder afresh at the infinite variety of ways and means our Lord uses, weaving his web of grace and mercy around their lives to draw people to himself.

More recently, these times have been not just encouraging and exhilarating, but exhausting—because we have been blessed with so many new folk coming among us. But if we are to be worn out in gospel work, may it always be with that kind of fatigue, from 'right hand' gospel ministry, not the defensive (yet necessary) 'left hand' work we have had more than our fill of in recent times! There is a kind of tiredness that is delicious, that gives a constant gentle reminder of joys recently experienced, like the satisfying awareness of aching muscles after an invigorating day's walking in the beautiful Scottish hills. What our bodies might otherwise sense as pain is transmuted into pleasure by the richness of the experience such happy exhaustion reminds us of. Just so, too, in the enlivening work of real gospel ministry.

Speaking thus in bodily terms is indeed appropriate, because church membership is a 'body' matter. 'We, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another' is how Paul puts it in Romans 12:5, and that is why tangible membership of the church is important. It simply expresses the reality that we cannot be united truly with Christ without being united truly (and therefore visibly) with Christ's people. We are 'members one of another', and real Christian discipleship takes that seriously and seeks to live out that truth visibly in a meaningful commitment to the living body of a real church family.

Indeed, so interdependent are we as Christians that our own personal health, preservation and growth in Christ is completely bound up with the health, preservation and growth of the whole body, the church to which we belong. It is as the whole body is built up that each part—'every joint with which it is equipped'—is built up (Eph 4:16). That is entirely obvious when we think about

the body metaphor; legs cannot lengthen without the body growing taller, nor can the whole body gain height without the legs getting longer. You simply cannot separate these things, nor can you prioritise the order. It is not the legs which make the body grow, nor the body which makes the legs lengthen, but every cell in the whole organism (where there is a healthy metabolism and an input from a health-giving diet and exercise) is working in concert, quite imperceptibly to the human eye, so that the whole body builds itself up. The body grows, and all its 'members' with it.

And so it is with real Christian growth and real church growth: 'the whole body...when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.' (Eph. 4:16)

It is a wonderfully liberating thing to realise that the vast mountain of so-called 'church growth' literature which abounds in the contemporary era is rendered largely unnecessary if we simply grasp that one little sentence of the apostle Paul! We don't need to be cast down by our lack of understanding of the '101 essential steps' to creating church vitality in the 21st century world. We don't need to feel inhibited by a lack of grand and detailed 10 and 20 year plans. Nor must we all have a PhD in urban ministry or postmodern culture. We just need to be a church

where 'each part is working properly'.

That means, according to Paul in Ephesians 4, that those set apart for the specific teaching ministry of the word of God—the pastor-teachers—are to be devoted to that ministry (and never distracted from it) so that all members, 'all the saints', are people equipped 'for the work of ministry', that is, 'for the building up of the body of Christ'. It is the people, not the pastor, who build the church. Together, 'speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.' (Eph 4:11-16)

It is the church where ordinary members are simply engaged in real gospel partnership, where they are being equipped for ministry and are committed together to the Lord Jesus Christ and his gospel in willing ministry, that builds itself up in love, to the glory of Christ.

You will understand, then, the sense of joy and thanksgiving that I felt as your pastor when time and again, upon recently interviewing our new members, we were faced with abundant testimony to the way in which the whole fellowship has been at work, quietly and without ostentation, but solidly building itself up in love, and adding to our number the 27 new members we welcomed on May 19th. Among this large and varied group, in age, stage and nationality, there are stories which bear a telling witness to the diligence of so many, for which I thank the

Lord, and in which I hope that you are all also greatly heartened and encouraged, 'knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain.' (1 Cor 15:58)

Some of our new members have found their way to us through Christianity Explored, where they were brought by a friend in the congregation, or encouraged by those serving in the various building evangelism teams. Others were first encountered out in the street by someone sharing the message of Jesus in George Square or Sauchiehall Street, and then being invited to come to a church service. One such, having been thus encountered by Euan Dodds some years ago, but having had no interest in Christ, through a tortuous journey including trouble with the police, and a spell in prison, remembered Euan's words about Jesus, cried out to the Lord to help him, and then on his release sought out the church again, professed Christ, and has been disciplined through the international bibles studies.

One lady in her 70s, almost immediately on coming to our church, was picked up by some of our 'senior' women, and quickly made to feel at home in the Ladies Fellowship and a morning ladies bible study. It was a particular encouragement that she first came just a week or so after our move to Bath Street, and so having known nothing else, to her The Tron has

always been where and what it is today! Another, at the opposite end of the age range, was first brought along to Tron Youth by a school friend, found her way into our fellowship that way, and is now keenly involved in our student work.

Someone else, new to Glasgow and Scotland, wandered into the building one weekday, and was greeted so warmly by one of our members that she decided to come back on Sunday, and has now found a real spiritual home here with us. Another, similarly, first came to a Sunday service some time ago, rather nervous about being in a large church, but was made so welcome by someone sitting beside her that she immediately felt at home. Someone else started coming to church occasionally just when his parents were visiting, to keep them happy, but then became gripped inexplicably, started coming more regularly, and over time has come through to real and living faith in Christ, much to his parents' joy! Another girl who was baptised on May 19th was brought along to church by her fellow Thai flatmate, who herself came to faith and was baptised just last year; I will never forget the joy I felt when, on our first Sunday service after our move to Bath Street, she came to tell me the good news that she had trusted in Christ on that particular day!

I could go on, but these few brief cameos are surely sufficient to demonstrate the many and varied ways in which surely 'each part is working' in the body we know as the fellowship of The Tron.

**Your ministry...our
ministry together...
is building up the
body of Christ**

Must this not encourage us all? For such evidence of Christ's body working properly and growing must surely speak of Him 'who is the head, from whom the whole body...builds itself up in love', the Spirit of our Lord himself, being present and active in our midst, to will and to do according to his good pleasure. We have felt so conscious of his special presence among us in these recent days of upheaval and change, sweetening our hearts where otherwise bitterness could have taken root, and giving us the oil of joy in the place of mourning. But here, to add to the sense of his healing fragrance, is clear sight of his heartening fruit; we may have had to abandon a few inanimate stones, but the Lord has not abandoned the living stones of his true building here! Rather, he is here in the midst, adding to our number, and making the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.

So my dear brothers and sisters, be encouraged! Old or young, newcomer or veteran, on the front stage or in the back room,

seen or unseen — none of your labour in the Lord is in vain! Your ministry — our ministry together — is building up the body of Christ. And believe me, nothing could be so humbly thrilling for any pastor than to be surrounded by such an army of 'rival' gospel ministers, as I seem to be here!

So, keep going! 'Each one of you go on speaking the truth with his neighbour, for we are members one of another.' (Eph 4:25) And so let The Tron go on building itself up in love, each part working properly, as together we keep our eyes fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ, from whom alone comes the life-giving Spirit by which his body grows.

Yours in the glad thanksgiving of a living church,

William J U Philip

William J U Philip

Home news

How quickly we learn to adapt! Perhaps it has been because we wanted to! Whatever the reason, 25 Bath Street already feels like 'home' and although we appear to be bursting at the seams in some places there is always room for more. Standing out on the pavement with his long pole inviting folk in every Sunday and Wednesday is **Ali**, one of our newest members, and already quite a number have ventured in....and stayed. Work has just begun on the former McCormack's premises next door which will extend and enlarge our facilities and we look forward to that.

We have been glad and encouraged to welcome many into membership in recent weeks (see Pastoral letter and new members' insert) but always there are some who, for a variety of reasons, are leaving us. Three of our long-time members went to be with the Lord in March/April: **Jean Lennie** who was so faithful and a good friend to many died after being in hospital less than a day; **Leonard Aldebert** whose great interest was the Glasgow Gaelic Choir, sadly spent many years latterly in and out of hospital; and **Mungo Orr**, a former elder from George Duncan days and always a very welcoming person, died after a long illness.

Some of our very faithful students are graduating and, though we shall miss them, we wish them well as they take up their careers — **Eleanor Watson**

(medicine) goes to Dumfries; **Andy Ritson** (medicine) to Aberdeen; **Kenan Barker** (engineering) hopes to find work in Glasgow; **Laura Porteous** (music) to Stirling as a UCCF Relay worker; **Alana Barrie** (law) to Dundee as a UCCF Relay worker.

We warmly congratulate those who have just got married — **Vicki McIvor** and **Brian Cunningham**, **Shona Brown** and **Andy Hurst**, and **Jenifer Wood** and **Alasdair Cameron** (see pictures on page 6) Congratulations also to **Paul** and **Hannah Worth** on the arrival of baby **Ethan**; **Paul** and **Heidi Hodgkinson** on the birth of their twins **Dana** and **Cora**; and to **Ross** and **Jennie Campbell** on the birth of **Ivor**.

We are grateful to God that despite a potentially disabling accident at home, **Phyllis Grant** is slowly recovering; **Catherine Kirkwood** and **Mina Allan** are making good progress since their surgery and **Gillian Sewell** too is now much better. Several of our older members are in care and we do not forget them — **Scott Thomson** is in Canniesburn; **Jessie Bellingham** is in Ailsa Craig care home, **Sophie Lowe** is in Tollcross; **Iris McKenzie** is in Wyndford Locks; **Nan Bailey** is in Edinbarnet nursing home; and **Dorothy Begg** is in Hallhouse nursing home in Fenwick. Several of our nonagenarians are well enough to make the effort to be in church on Sunday mornings.

cont'd on page 6 ►

Growing families ...



Rupert & Jen Hunt-Taylor with Phoebe and new daughter Evelyn



Paul & Hannah Worth with, Aiden, Ella and baby Ethan



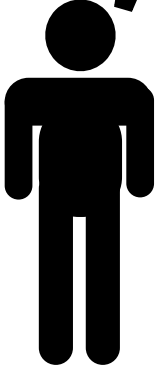
Paul & Heidi Hodgkinson with Theo, twins Dana and Cora, and Micah



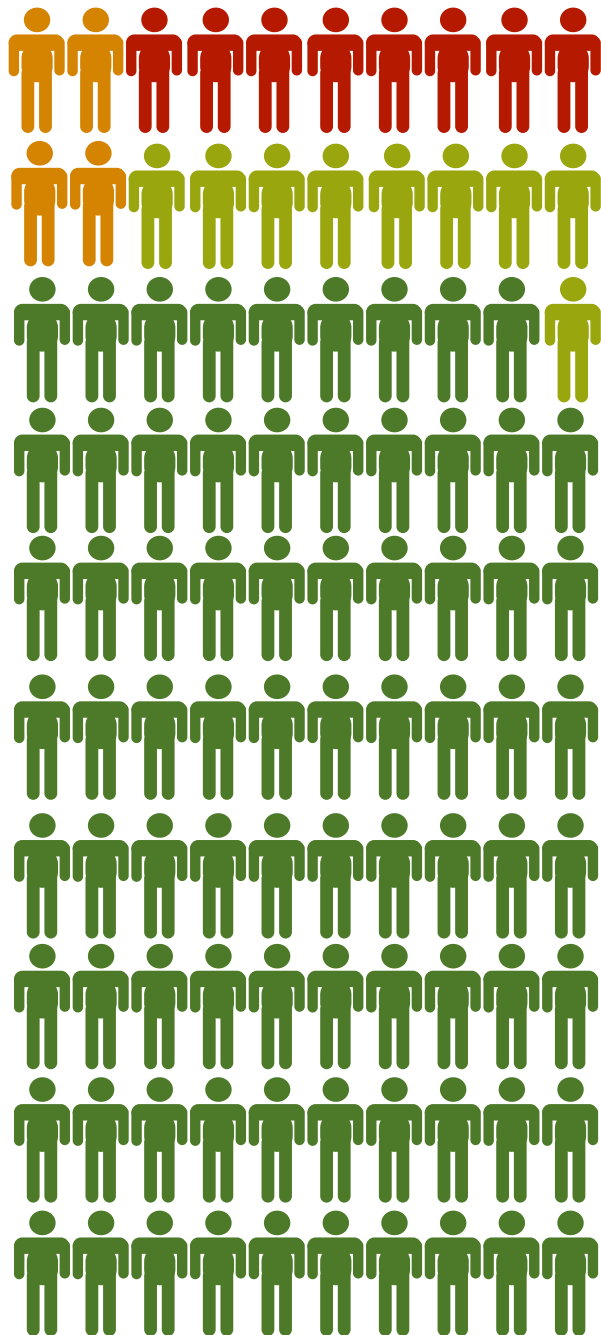
Ross & Jennie Campbell with son Ivor

found in translation

turning the Father's word into a mother tongue



The American Bible Society reckons there are some 900 different English bible translations! In the UK, we have a feast of ways to enjoy God's word. But imagine if we only had Latin or Greek or Hungarian texts. We may get a sense of some words but God would seem more distant. While the Bible is written in specific languages (Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic) God delights in being understood clearly in people's heart languages. Bible translators have been the driving force in preserving and recording the language and culture of indigenous people groups around the world. The motivating factor for enduring often great hardship has been the belief that to understand the gospel (and that in our native tongue) is of greater worth than gold. That's why Wycliffe Bible Translators and their partners are working day and night across the world on over 1500 translation programmes and over the last 70 years have impacted 214 million people across a staggering 799 languages. **The Tron Church** are delighted to be part of this historic movement.



In 2013, an estimated **500 million** speakers are without any bible in their mother tongue

% of World with access to Bible in their mother tongue.



no known scripture

portions of scripture

new testament

full bible

7000+

languages spoken in the world*

< 2000

languages without any of the Bible

* Global language estimate from SIL international. All other statistics adapted from Wycliffe Global Alliance; Language and Translation statistics 2012



Who was John Wycliffe?

“The morning star of the reformation”

Wycliffe instigated the first English Bible translation in the 14th century to “helpeth Christian men to study the Gospel in that tongue in which they know best”. This was dangerous stuff, allowing peasants to read and understand what the authorities were teaching. After death his body was exhumed and burned as a heretic by the Church of the day. Many who followed down the centuries suffered in life the same fate for seeking to make known the bible in mother tongues.

‘The Giant of Africa’ is not a reference to our very own David Rowbory but the country his family now calls home — Nigeria. Africa’s most populous nation and one of the top 20 economies in the world also contains over 500 languages.

David and Julie with Rebekah, Elizabeth and Abigail return to Jos in summer 2013 with Wycliffe Bible Translators. David will be consulting on new testament books for the Gworok language (spoken by 50-100,000 people) working closely with another four languages (Duya, Waci, Ninkyob, Maya) and doing training with a bunch of others.



In recent years the city has been rocked by violence from islamic extremists blowing up churches, and retaliation by Christians. ‘The danger,’ David says, ‘underlines the need for more bible translation and better grasp of God’s care for the persecuted church. Not only that, there are problems of the prosperity gospel weakening the churches.’

David works with teams of local Nigerian translators, helping them choose the best words to convey the meaning of the text and faithfully expound the bible message. ‘The process is hard for my colleagues, many of whom have never before written in their mother tongue.’

Nigeria

population: 162.5 million

languages: 504

full bible: 19



Wycliffe’s work in 2013

pray

for the work of translators worldwide and those without mother tongue translations.

give

to organisations working on new translations overseas. A very simple way to make an eternal difference.

go

overseas to work for Wycliffe or serve them at home. Speak to internationals in the church who don’t have English as their first language. What challenges do they face in church?

@

‘Wycliffe’ have just launched a fascinating timeline on the history of bible translation. Interestingly the situation in Nigeria today is similar to that in Armenia in 404 AD.

www.wycliffe.net/BTT.html

Home news *cont'd*

Tron@2 the twice-monthly alternative service continues to flourish with good numbers of both men and women and some new people coming along each time. **Terry McCutcheon** leads and is ably assisted in the teaching by **Jonnie Miscampbell** and **James Latter** and by several others. The Monday morning ladies bible study which **Isabel Murray** leads and the Monday afternoon ladies fellowship led by **Jo Skelton-Smith** have both finished their formal programmes for the year although occasional informal summer meetings continue. Both have had a most encouraging session and have welcomed several newcomers and both have greatly appreciated the help and support of their respective apprentices, **Paul Brennan** and **Jen Keogh**.

Many of our young (and not so young!) people are off on camps or missions over the summer — Arran and Africa, Lendrickmuir and Ukraine, Thailand and Kenya...and many more equally exotic places.

One group, in particular, led by **Agnes Brough** and including **Richard Henry**, **Hazel Logie**, **John** and **Lynn Kerr** and **Stephen** and **Lynn Ballingall** are going to a Christian school in Zambia where they will be involved in bible teaching, school assemblies and preaching. **Jen Keogh** is going to Malaysia with OMF's Serve Asia project.



Shona & Andy Hurst were married on 28 March at House for an Art Lover Glasgow

Jenifer & Alasdair Cameron were married on 1 May at St Columba's Church Kilmacolm



Vicki & Brian Cunningham married on 25 January in Birmingham, Alabama, USA



Away news

compiled by Ruth Hodgson

Kenny Macleod in Slovakia looks forward to meeting up with **Euan Dodds** in Budapest next month. He is presently preparing for this summer's English-speaking camp which was such a success last year and he's expecting to have talks soon re further teaching opportunities in a Christian school and a specialist English-language school.

Bill and **Margaret Dunlop** have just completed five years' work in Westminster Theological College, Kampala, Uganda. Bill has felt privileged and has found it exhilarating to teach many gifted students of diverse backgrounds from many parts of East Africa. Margaret helps students who have difficulty with English (the language used in teaching). They hope to have perhaps six months at home this year to regain strength and then reapply for visas to return in 2014.

David and **Julie Rowbory** plan to return to Nigeria next month. As well as keeping in touch with his translation work in Northern Nigeria, David has

given invaluable assistance in the church with all the sound systems. Since baby Abigail's arrival they have managed, as a family, to tour the length and breadth of UK keeping up with supporters and friends. **Rebekah** and **Elizabeth** are already excited about going back.

Carol Whipp has served God with WEC over very many years and most recently in Wolverhampton working with Neighbours Worldwide. Carol's mother, who became a Christian last year is in declining health at home in Australia. Carol therefore intends retiring towards the end of the year and returning permanently to Australia that she might be able to help care for her mother. Needless to say, Carol will have much work to 'tie up' here as well as much preparation to start a new chapter of her life 'down under'.

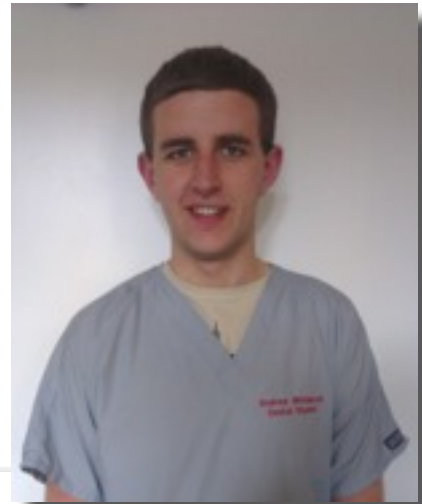
Darren and **Susan Wall** with **Elsbeth** and **Catriona** are returning to Cambodia for the school summer holidays. The girls are hoping to have the opportunity to spend some time at Hope School with

staff and former classmates, and they all hope to renew friendships and enjoy some time at the OMF holiday home. Susan recently had a worthwhile mini home assignment in Scotland and Darren continues to get to grips with implementing the administration changes of the mission in the office at Borough Green, Kent.

Scott and **Nok Murray** with **Cara**, **Shane** and **Ray** hope to come home from Thailand in 2014 for a break. Finding replacements to cover at least some of the huge variety of tasks that Scott (as hospital director and surgeon and much more) and Nok (overseeing public health, student supervisor, ante-natal clinic and much more) undertake in Kwai River Christian Hospital is far from easy.

SPOTLIGHT on

Andrew Whitmarsh



Spiritual Fillings

Visiting the dentist is one of my least favourite things but thankfully I organised to meet Andrew well away from the dental hospital and in a restaurant where there was no need for numbing needles or the dentist drill.

For this edition of the Tron Times we caught up with Andrew Whitmarsh, a third year dentistry student studying at the University of Glasgow.

Andrew originally hails from Coleraine, a large town nestled not too far from Northern Ireland's stunning North Antrim coast. Andrew grew up in a Christian family something he is particularly grateful for.

'Growing up in a Christian family is such a blessing and I am so grateful to God for giving me this start in life. I can't remember a time when I did not know the gospel and while I can't recollect the exact time and date I accepted Christ as my Saviour I do remember that moment when I made a clear and conscientious decision to follow Jesus.'

Andrew was always clear that he wanted to study dentistry and always felt led to do so in Glasgow though the journey into this course was not as straightforward as he had initially planned, involving a number of twists and turns.

Throughout his studies at school Andrew was on track to achieve the A Level grades he needed to join the

course – 2 As and a B. But a mistake with his A Level grades resulted in a change of plans.

When the results came through in August 2010 Andrew's biology grade had fallen from A to B meaning that he was unable to join the course, as scoring an A in this subject was a key requirement.

But God had a plan.

“ I should trust God more about his plans for my life ”

'Dentistry was all I ever wanted to study at university so there was no plan B. My plan then was to take a gap year, repeat my studies in chemistry and try and get the grade back up to the A I needed to join the course in 2011. The free time I had in this year gave me a wonderful opportunity to serve my home church at Coleraine Baptist where the pastor gave me a part time apprenticeship role in the church ministry team.

'God really has taught me a lot about his providence and how should trust him more about the plans he has for my life.'

Later that year Andrew got a call from his school to say they had made a mistake with his grade. His coursework

scores had not been added but that when they were, this would take his grade up to an A. He was quickly offered a place on the 2011 dentistry course and able to ditch his repeat A Level studies. He was also able to join part of the Cornhill training course in Belfast as part of his gap year at Coleraine Baptist. This training has been a major part of Andrew's life, especially in his current role as CU president at Glasgow University.

The CU has a vision to reach every student with the gospel and one of the key challenges this year will be reaching students from non-christian backgrounds by ensuring the CU is not just a Christian club but is a place where Christians are equipped and mobilised at university to go out and reach their friends and fellow students.

This summer Andrew is involved in a number of youth camps back in Northern Ireland before going on a short holiday with his family.

Walking away from the restaurant and back to the office I felt challenged by Andrew's passion and commitment to share the gospel and was reminded of the words of CT Studd: "Only one life, will soon be passed, only what's done for Christ will last."

in conversation with Andrew McIntyre

Other ministries

It is good to hear of progress in Trinity Church, Aberdeen where **David Gibson** (assoc. minister) has been holding the fort but where **Peter Dickson** (minister) is now sufficiently well to slowly pick up some work again. They continue in good heart meeting in a hotel but are actively seeking new permanent premises. **James Torrens** in Inverness tells of growing opportunities among internationals and also in the primary school where he is chaplain. Being a new church they are now in the process of admitting people to membership and are encouraged by a number of non-Christian men who have been coming along.

Last month **Alex Bedford** began a Christianity Explored course on Wednesday evenings organised by St Margaret's Church, Tollcross where Alex often preaches. He continues with his itinerant preaching ministry plus his regular open-air work in Sauchiehall St and Buchanan St where, though the audiences may be small, he frequently has some very fruitful one-to-one conversations.

Kenny McKie was greatly encouraged by the Good Friday offering which has meant that most of the jobs in his West of Scotland SU staff team remain secure. Kenny has responsibility for three large camps including Base Camp (for training leaders) where **Agnes Brough** is also involved and camps at Lendrickmuir and Kings Cross.

Jonathan Keefe is encouraged by the response of those attending the small group bible studies in Galatians. His Church family seem to be getting to know one another better and new ventures of a community breakfast and a youth drop-in are starting up.

'The witness of the CUs in Scottish colleges and universities is really effective and many students have become Christians,' says **Caz Dodds** (UCCF assistant team leader). Caz has found the Uncover project (using Luke's gospel) to be particularly fruitful. **Scott Hamilton** who has just finished his year as a UCCF Relay Worker in Heriot Watt University is encouraged that Jake has become a Christian through the Uncover project.

Murdo Maclean is heartened by the understanding and response to Christianity Explored in his prison ministry. The choir project under **Matthew Todd** (in Mt Vernon) is going well, and despite denominational difficulties for the faithful, there is still a desire to continue reaching out with the gospel.

Phil and Emma Copeland are pleased to see the young people in Christ Church Harpenden taking the bible seriously and becoming passionate about sharing Jesus Christ with their mates at school.

Oli and Susan Ward and family are well settled in Stirling and Oli is enjoying working alongside Calum Jack in North Parish Church. They look forward to an addition to the family in October.

Andy Baxter is on the staff of UCCF and is based on Strathclyde and West of Scotland University campuses. He has been encouraged to see CUs mounting evangelistic events and positively reaching out with the gospel. He feels his apprentice experience and training have stood him in good stead.

Paul Brennan



What next?

Joining the Tron staff team for a 3 year period and following in the footsteps of Rupert and Terry by studying at the Pastors' Training Course.

Lessons learned?

From the church leadership — a great deal about how to keep church focused on the main thing despite potential distractions in a turbulent year.

Won't forget...

Five seconds of fame on BBC's Reporting Scotland re: issues with the CofS. Must come under that term in my contract about 'undertaking any necessary tasks...'

Jen Keogh



What next?

Craigie College Ayr to train as an English teacher

Lessons learned?

More consideration of the wide range of ages and stages of people who make up a church family.

Won't forget...

The mystery of the flying teabags at mainly music! Culprit (2-yr old LC) was hidden at the back of an open cupboard..

Jonnie Miscampbell



What next?

Job-hunting probably in accountancy but also still being involved in bible teaching.

Lessons learned?

Lots! Teaching the bible is about feeding and shepherding people on God's behalf.

Won't forget...

Murder mystery at a Tron Youth Weekend when someone thought Agnes was choking to death!

Andrew Rooney



What next?

Not sure! Maybe continuing on NHS nurse bank or, preferably working with Reachout Trust.

Lessons learned?

That ministry is 10% upfront work and 90% behind the scenes. Definitely not a one day a week job!

Won't forget...

At the RTW weekend away a game of 'Andy Gemmill impressions' was judged by his wife. Annie couldn't believe how many 'Gemmillisms' we'd missed!

THE TRON APPRENTICES

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