

Report from the Chair - AGM - 11th June 2008

It is a privilege to be speaking to you tonight and first of all I would like to thank everyone for their support during the last year.

We have again had, thanks to all of you, a busy and successful year and I would also like to thank, on your behalf, the clergy in the town for their continued support and encouragement.

We are quite a small group of fellow Christians but by working together and sharing ideas and experiences, we are able to serve God in many ways in our town and surrounding villages.

For almost a year we have been blessed with all our churches having ministers and leaders but at Easter Peter Berrill left Christ Kirk to return to Ireland and our prayers are with Peter and his family. Christ Kirk are fortunate to have Catriona Weatherspoon, a Reader in the Church of Scotland, with them at this time and we pray that God will soon lead them to their new Minister. Here at Coaltown we are delighted to welcome Rev. Kathryn Price and look forward to meeting with her and working with her in the future through our Churches Together meetings.

It is always good to come together in fellowship and over the past months we have been able to do so many times.

In October during 'One World Week', the Tear Fund DVD 'Make a Miracle' was presented in St.Ninian's Church and although this was not well attended, it was a very enjoyable evening.

Also in October all the clergy were invited to our meeting so we could discuss with them our thoughts and plans for the future. We would like this to be regular invitation and hope as many as possible of their number will be able to attend.

At our November meeting a delegation from the Scottish Bible Society gave us a presentation to introduce us to the Bible World Studio. As we meet tonight the Studio is here in Glenrothes and this is due mainly to the fantastic fund raising efforts of our treasurer Allan. The Studio is proving to be a great success with many exciting activities for the children to participate in. All the schools in the town have been invited to bring some of their pupils to the studio and thankfully all the places have been filled. This is a fun way for the children to learn more about Jesus and we give thanks that this has come to fruition. It has been achieved through a lot of hard work and consistent prayer and we say well done to Allan and his supporters.

December brings our well loved Carol singing in the town centre. This is always well supported and this year the money donated was given to help bring the aforementioned Studio to Glenrothes.

Advent studies were again held in various churches and a joint Carol service took place in Leslie Baptist church. This was a joyous spirit-filled evening.

During the week of prayer for Christian Unity it was agreed to hold a joint service in St.Margaret's church when those attending were invited to bring a packed lunch to eat together before joining in fellowship and worship. However it was noted that the daily lunch time services in St.Luke's were missed and this would be brought to a future meeting for discussion.

A prayer evening was held in St.Ninian's church on the Monday and our ever popular fellowship meal this year was held in Markinch Parish church. Again this was a great success, the food was delicious and plentiful, the entertainment by members of St.Columba's church was excellent and the fellowship was heart-warming and uplifting.

The Lent study material this year was 'Pathways to Prayer'. Five groups met during the time of lent and it was reported these were quite well attended with a good mix of people from different churches in some of the groups.

During Holy Week we had the Stations of the Cross in St.Mary's church and an ecumenical service was held in Christ Kirk. Most of the churches in the town had a time of worship throughout the week and St.Ninian's church was open on Good Friday afternoon for prayer and meditation.

At our April meeting we were delighted to welcome back the Rev. Jeanette Allan. Jeanette gave us a very informative presentation on Scottish Churches house in Dunblane in relation to their Jubilee appeal. They need to raise £500,000 to be able to upgrade the house and over £32,000 had already been raised due to a lot of hard work and dedicated prayer. This is an ecumenical house and we, as an ecumenical group, were asked to pray that the balance needed would be forthcoming so that the project can be completed. We were also invited to visit Dunblane at any time.

In May members of some of the churches in the town do door-to-door collections for Christian Aid week and Churches Together manned the stall in the town centre.

I am pleased to say the Gravy Train is successfully continuing in it's service to the Big Issue vendors and the homeless in the town. The meals served on a Wednesday are always enjoyed by the young folk and it is a humbling experience to meet with these vulnerable people and to serve in this way in God's name.

During last summer Pray across Scotland prayer walk came through Glenrothes on their way to Edinburgh and some of us met with the team in St.Columba's church. After a short time of worship we walked with the team round the council offices and down through the town centre stopping to pray for the council workers, shop assistants and the shoppers. Prayer was said for the Rothes Halls and all those who visit there before we returned to St.Columba's for tea and coffee.

Another big event this year is the 60th Anniversary of our town and Churches together were invited to join the group planning the various celebrations. We are discussing the possibility of a Songs of Praise being held in the Town Centre later this year.

Plans are going ahead to make Glenrothes a Fairtrade town and again we were invited by Cllr Fiona Grant to take part in the preparation of this application. Some of the churches in the town already use Fairtrade products and some have Fairtrade stalls on a Sunday morning. It is heartening to note that some of the factories and offices in Glenrothes use these products too and many shop now sell quite a few.

The Glenrothes Area Futures Group also asked Churches together to join their meetings to add support to various important issues happening in the town.

It is good to look back over the year and see again the opportunities God has given us to work together for Him. We have achieved much but this was only possible by communicating with each other and sharing our abilities and our Faith.

In trusting in each other we are trusting in the Lord and we give thanks for all these opportunities he gave us and look forward in Faith to the challenges waiting for us in the coming year.

I thank you all for making this group a warm and welcoming place to be.

Thank you.