

CONNECT Newsletter

the baptist union of scotland



First Steps!



Step Out season is well underway, with teams of young folk out and about in Scottish Baptist churches. Step Out Coordinator Jillian Ferguson tells us more...

For those wondering what a Step Out team is, here's a quick guide to a typical Step Out week:

Sunday: Teams arrive at the host church and introduce themselves at the evening service. Afterwards, they have a team meeting and get ready for Monday's activities.

Monday – Friday: Days start with a team meeting and prayer, normally involving those from the church who help out at the kids' club. Then it's the most manic, but exciting, 2 hours during the kids' club which, this year, is set on a farm and is called *Tractor Tales*. After the club teams debrief, tidy up and set up for the next day. Following lunch they can have a devotion time before an afternoon rest and setting up for any evening youth activity.

Thursdays: By Thursday, everyone is tired, and nippy with one another, so Thursdays are known as "Crabbit Thursdays". To combat the crabbit-ness tea, chocolate and sleeping is always taken in large quantities on a Thursday!

Saturday: Typically a day off, for the team to chill out, but can involve a church barbecue or ceilidh.

Sunday: Teams are involved in the morning services letting churches and parents know what's been happening during the kids; club and youth activities. After lunch, its time to pack up and head home for some

well earned rest - unless, of course, you're a member of the *Step Out Plus* team...

Step Out Plus is basically the summer team of the Baptist Union of Scotland. They train for 3 weeks then do 6 weeks of mission - with a week off in the middle - then 2 weeks of debriefing at the end. Now let me introduce you to the Team:-

Kirsty Robertson

Age: 18.

Home Church:

Broughty Ferry.

Step Out Venues:

Coatbridge, Leven, Brechin, Montrose, Harestanes and Cornton.

Occupation: About to start Law at Aberdeen University.

Reason for doing Step Out Plus: To fill up my summer for God.

Favourite Crabbit Thursday pick-me-up: A Starbucks Frappuccino.

Favourite Bible Verse: Romans 8:38 – 39 It shows that, whatever happens, God will never leave me.

Gordon Stewart

Age: 19.

Home Church:

Lossiemoth.

Step Out Venues:

Coatbridge, Alva, Brechin, Montrose, Lossiemoth, Dundee Central.

Occupation: Going into 3rd year of

Primary Teaching at Aberdeen Uni.
Reason for doing Step Out Plus: To help children and young people hear the good news about Jesus.

Favourite Crabbit Thursday pick-me-up: Malteasers and a cup of tea
Favourite Bible Verse: Philippians 4:6-7 It shows God cares about everything, so no point in worrying because God has it planned.

Levi Madison

Age: 18.

Home Church:

Lossiemoth.

Step Out Venues:

Coatbridge, Inverkeithing, Castle St. (Inverness), Montrose, Harestanes and Cornton.

Occupation: Don't know... yet!

Reason for doing Step Out Plus:

To build a stronger relationship with God, see Scotland and have new experiences.

Favourite Crabbit Thursday pick-me-up: Irn Bru and Paddy (*Step Out Plus* Mascot!)

Favourite Bible Verse:

Proverbs 3: 5-6 because it reminds me that I need to rely on God and not myself.

Andrew White

Age: 17.

Home Church: Leven.

Step Out Venues:

Allander Evangelical, Leven, Leslie, Buckhaven, Lossiemouth and Knightswood, Glasgow.

Occupation: Starting a course on Working with Communities at Adam Smith College, Kirkcaldy.

Reason for doing Step Out Plus:

I felt God had called me to do it: everything pointed in this direction.

Favourite Crabbit Thursday pick-me-up: Percy Pigs (or Eric the Elephants, 3 for £1).

Favourite Bible Verse: Acts 1:7- 8

I don't know what God has planned, but He does: I just need to follow Him and do it.

Jonathan Golder

Age: 17.

Home Church:

Castle St. Inverness.

Step Out Venues:

Allander Evangelical, Inverkeithing, Castle St. (Inverness), Buckhaven, Peterhead and Dundee Central.

Occupation: Starting Theology at Aberdeen University, pending my exam results.

Reason for doing Step Out Plus: I feel it's the right thing for me to be doing this summer.

Favourite Crabbit Thursday pick-me-up: A Subway.

Favourite Bible Verse: 1 Timothy 1:12 – 17 It reminds me of God's grace even though we're sinners.

Feed your Faith with the Christian Worker Certificate

This well-established 2-year study programme continues to attract participants all over Scotland and is a popular way to feed your faith and increase Bible knowledge.

Former and current students say:-

"...The course appealed to me because it offered a taste of theological study and a chance to gain a deeper understanding of what I believe and why I believe it..."
M McNeill, Wigtown.

"... The flexible nature of the course meant I could work around family commitments."

L Watson, Bristo.

"The CWC course is relevant as it looks at modern church life and challenges the student to look at their own place and role there... The study is of God's living word which has been changing me as I complete my assignments."
E Williamson, Dunrossness, Shetland.

"I greatly enjoyed and benefitted

from the Course's combination of disciplined intellectual study and the challenge to practically apply that study both personally and in the context of the local church. I also appreciated the encouragement and fellowship of the Study Days."
Anne Berry, Dunfermline West.

"Studying the module on the person and work of the Holy Spirit was a starting point which encouraged me to read more widely and understand more of His work in my life."
M Wright, Peebles.

Beginning in October 2010, the course needs at least 5 hours study per week with assignments during the winter months. To enrol, or for more info, contact: George Petrie, 56 MacFarlane Place, Uphall, EH52 5PS, 01506 856274, geopetrie@yahoo.co.uk Application forms are also available as downloads on www.scottishbaptist.org.uk



Spotlight on The Ministry Resource Team



This is a small group, of both ministers and 'lay' people, that has existed since *Challenge to Change* and aims to oversee ministry issues and be a creative forum as we look at what Baptist ministry may be like in the future.

The Team recently met for an over-night in Helensburgh to think, pray and plan together. John Greenshields and I very much treat the group as 'our diaconate' and look to it for support, guidance and accountability. With two members of College staff also present it affords a particularly good opportunity for the Union and College to stay in close partnership.

It was particularly good to welcome Alan Donaldson to this meeting. We spent time reading Scripture, praying, sharing summaries of books on ministry we have been reading, discussing a paper on what 'competency' does and does not mean for ministry and reviewing our practices as a Board of ministry.

Key themes we looked at included:

- ▣ Clearer and safer procedures for the Board of Ministry
- ▣ What should be the optimum size of the Board of Ministry and how should Board members be appointed?
- ▣ In what ways could the present national debt crisis present an opportunity (rather than a problem) for the way pastoral ministry is lived out?
- ▣ The growing significance of bi-vocational ministry and how to value it and encourage it.
- ▣ What is God saying to us through the offering of younger, gifted, creative and 'different' people for ministry?
- ▣ How do we react for those who are trained but struggle to settle in a church?

It will be very apparent that this is a key group within the life of our Union and we value your prayers for its continuing work. If you were in Helensburgh on the longest day of the year and saw a motley group of Baptists following the Clyde, deep in conversation and licking Dino's ice creams, you may just have spotted us at work!

Andrew Rollinson, Ministry Advisor

Missional Church

This was the 2010 theme of the Scottish Baptist Ministers' Fellowship (SBMF) Conference and 108 Baptist ministers, plus a good number of day visitors, from all over Scotland and beyond, joined together for this annual event. This was the highest attendance at the conference that anyone can remember and, when we consider the size of the Baptist constituency in Scotland, a remarkable proportion of pastors meeting together - something that we ought to be encouraged about and encourage more.

Our main speaker was Rev Steve Gaukroger, formerly of Gold Hill Baptist and now engaging in an itinerant ministry with Clarion Trust. His theme of *Missional Church* was deeply appreciated - as was the general rapport that we enjoyed with him. He broke the theme into 3 sub headings - *The Missional Pastor*, *The Missional Context* and *The Missional Strategy*. The seminar sessions were also well received; *Back to Church Sunday* with Michael Harvey; *Into Deep Water - the Politics of Believers' Baptism*, with Stuart Blythe; and *Biblical Counselling* with Jason Sexton.

Plain facts can never convey the feel of an event. It was good to be together - *really* good. We prayed, laughed and enjoyed one another's company in a great venue and around some excellent food.

In 2011, we look forward to deepening and strengthening that fellowship further as we welcome Rev David Coffey, President of the Baptist World Alliance, as our main speaker. And - news hot off the press - in 2012 we are to be joined by Professor Don Carson.

If you are a pastor serving one of our Scottish churches, or are retired from Baptist pastoral ministry, why not connect with us at our Day of Prayer (with a new missional focus) on 7th March in Perth, or at our next Conference in June 2011 back in St Andrews.

Pray for Jeremy Balfour as he takes over the Chair of SBMF for the next three years.

Jim Turrent.



Blessings Ahead at Rosyth

Gilmour Lilly, Rosyth Baptist's minister, was at Spurgeon's College when I trained there in the early eighties, so it was good to renew my friendship with him when I visited the church, in June 2010, for their Anniversary Weekend.

On the Saturday night, we decided to unpack "How do we share our story?" Once we've earned the right, how do we *actually* engage with people and share what Christ means to us?

For many this is scary territory so I was pleasantly surprised at the enthusiastic discussion which ensued. We covered issues like "What is the Gospel?"; "How do I tell my story?" and "What is my greatest fear that keeps me from sharing?"

The enthusiasm of some of the younger people was challenging but some older members of the church also freely shared their way of reaching their friends. There was disarming honesty in the admission of things people felt prevented them from sharing.

On Sunday morning, our focus was "Moving forward with God", thanking Him for the past but trusting implicitly for the future.

Much of the congregation dispersed to each other's homes that afternoon, for lunch and friendship, but we met again in the evening and thought about what it means to engage with a culture with few connections to a 2000 year old gospel. "Is that a difficulty or an opportunity?"

Over the weekend I felt God saying that He has good things ahead for the fellowship at Rosyth. There was a sense of something "bubbling under" that was about to overflow in blessing. Of course God's promises do not come without our taking responsibility as co-workers to make things happen. So pray for our sisters and brothers at Rosyth Baptist, that God will abundantly bless them as they share the Living Christ in Fife.

Andy Scarcliffe

Vive Le Tour!

Coinciding with the three month anniversary of Alan's appointment as General Director was a tour round 5 cities in Scotland where Alan was introduced to our family of churches.

Each night Alan was interviewed by singer/song writer David Currie, of Dumfries Baptist Church, whose disarming questioning and musical presentations set the tone for a relaxing and extremely encouraging evening.

Each night, David unpacked the various ways God had used Alan and shown his faithfulness to him in the past. As a result we rejoiced together, laughed together, prayed together - and when "the Professor" appeared with his challenge to get on the BUS, the overwhelming

response was a desire to travel together.

The words "Thank you for your honesty, openness and vulnerability" were repeated to Alan often as people left each night. "I'm on the BUS and looking forward to the adventure" was another recurring theme.

Reflecting back on the tour Alan said "It was so exciting to hear the stories of what God is doing in our churches around the country." With regards to a future vision for the Union Alan commented "I was encouraged by the



enthusiasm for the phrase Building Missional Relationships which seemed to engage with people's heart for our family of churches at this time."

In response to feedback given at each event Alan is planning to do a tour again next year - but beware! This one might include a bike...

**Catch up with the General Director on his Blog at
<http://bustravellingtogether.blogspot.com/>**



Notice Board



Familiar Face at Lossiemouth Helm



Rae Mackenzie

On Saturday, 19th June, Lossiemouth Baptist Church celebrated the Induction of Rev Rae Mackenzie into the role of Pastor, succeeding Rev. Trevor Wilson. Rae comes to us from the post of Lossiemouth Baptist's Youth Pastor and so is well known to us all.

The Induction was carried out by Rev. Andrew Rollinson, Ministry Advisor, Baptist Union of Scotland, and Rae was "preached in" by Rev Dr. Stuart Blythe, Scottish Baptist College.

Greetings were brought from our local fraternal and other churches and the service was followed by tea and fellowship.

Rev. Dr. Stuart Blythe preached at both morning services on Sunday 20th.

Rae was born and bred in Edinburgh and educated at Currie High School in Edinburgh and Stirling University, where he obtained a Bachelor of History 2:1 Honours Degree.

It was at this time that he fully committed his life to the Lord and felt the call to go to Bible College.

After finishing University, he studied for three years at the International Christian College and simultaneously worked as the part-time Youth Pastor at Wester Hailes Baptist Church in Edinburgh.

During this time he obtained a degree in Theology with Applied Youth Ministry and met his wife to be, Michelle.

Over the next four years he served as Children and Youth Minister at Kirkintilloch Baptist Church before moving to Lossiemouth Baptist Church as Youth Pastor and getting married at the same time.

His past three years in Lossiemouth have been a time of great blessing for the Youth and Children's work in the church.

Both he and his wife are excited about the opportunities ahead in the church and are confident that, as God calls, He also equips and blesses.

Claire Stewart

Impressions of Induction



David White

We moved into the Manse on Monday 28th June and, because it is next door to the church, had an eye-witness view of all the preparations that the church community was undertaking in readiness for the following Saturday's Induction.

This was an important event in the life and work of the newly constituted Fort William Baptist Church.

The church building had been painted and cleaned inside and out; the video and sound system installed in the church hall; chairs, crockery and cutlery were borrowed for the refreshments after the service. The place sparkled and the atmosphere was electric with anticipation.

Induction day, 3rd July, arrived and the church was full of members/friends from Fort William, Dumfries and Sheddocksley Baptist churches, as well as from the Scottish Christian Hillwalking Club (some of whom had travelled from much further afield). And we must not forget the representatives from many of the local churches and Christian fellowships.

The ministers who had supported the fellowship during its vacancy, Neil Innes, Jim Barclay and Raymond Arnold, also attended.

It was very much a family affair - the church family - and was one of celebration and hope.

As a church community we were aware of God's grace and guidance and have a certainty that God was and will be with us.

Rev Dr Jim Gordon led the service, Raymond Arnold led the congregation in prayer for the induction and laying on of hands and Heather Major and David Currie sang a solo each.

John McAskill explained the long, difficult and sometimes painful journey that the Fort William Baptist Church (FWBC) community had made to reach today. He offered, on behalf of the church, sincere thanks to the United Free Church for the gracious and generous way they had gifted the church property to the fellowship so that they could continue to be a witness to Fort William.

David followed by giving a brief history of his calling to ministry and then discussed how his story had intersected with that of FWBC.

Rev Dr Jim Gordon spoke on the passage in Luke 7:36-50 and using this, other Bible passages and contemporary stories he described the nature of ministry: in essence that we learn of Jesus, from Jesus and we express that learning in our service to Jesus.

Paula White

Baptist Honoured

Congratulations to Morgan Jamieson, an Elder and a member of the preaching team at Newton Mearns Baptist Church, who has, in the Queen's Birthday Honours for 2010, been awarded an MBE for his services to healthcare.

Engagement Diary for August

- 1** John Greenshields, our Ministry Development Coordinator, preaches in Pitlochry Baptist.
- 5** Andrew Rollinson, our Ministry Advisor, is at an Awareness Training event, along with the Child and Vulnerable Adult Working Group.
- 8** Andrew Rollinson is in Wester Hailes today, at the Ordination of Gavin Hunter. General Director Alan Donaldson visits the Bathgate church and Andy Scarcliffe, our Mission Advisor, leads worship in Barnton Baptist.
- 10** Andy Scarcliffe meets with Rev Richard Higginbottom.
- 12** Our Core Leaders meet today.
- 13** Until 15th August, BMS Scottish Coordinator Derek Clark leads a *Kairos* course in Glasgow.
- 14** The Scottish Baptist Theological Society meets this evening.
- 15** Alan Donaldson preaches in Leven Baptist Church, Andrew Rollinson at Carbrain and Andy Scarcliffe in Barnton Baptist.
- 19** Our Core Leaders have their regular Strategy Meeting today.
- 21** Over this weekend, Andrew Rollinson is at Gavin Hunter's Induction to the church at

Westray in Orkney.

22 Andy Scarcliffe preaches in Bristo Baptist Church, Edinburgh and Derek Clark speaks in Ellon Baptist.

23 Over the next 3 days, our Union's Mission Resource Team meets.

24 Our Union's Trustees meet today. Andrew Rollinson visits the Cupar church for a "Better Together" meeting this evening.

25 The leaders of the Scottish Baptist Women's Fellowship meet today.

26 Derek Clark speaks in Elgin Baptist.

27 Alan Donaldson begins a 4 day visit to our Shetland churches. Until 29th August, BMS Scottish Coordinator Derek Clark leads a *Kairos* course in Glasgow.

28 Andrew Rollinson takes our greetings to Wester Hailes Baptist at the Induction of their new pastor, Daniel Ralph.

29 Andy Scarcliffe preaches in Bristo Baptist.

30 Derek Clark attends a BMS Lothians' Support Group meeting - Duncan Street BC, Edinburgh

31 Our Union's Council meets today.



Prayer Link: August

Sunday 1st

East Mains: Revs Jim McGillivray & Mark Cairney. Please pray for: "Turning Inside Out!" – Some years ago, God called us to engage with the community by turning ourselves inside out! There have been 3 aspects to this: opening our buildings up to community groups; becoming more involved in community activities, and building a Centre for the Community in our grounds. The result of obeying God's call has far exceeded our expectations, with a large number of groups using our buildings, an increasing number of people being helped and cared for by the Church, and a steady flow of people coming to faith in Christ. The next phase of our building project will start this autumn. Pray that God will continue to supply the resources needed for his work, bring many people to faith in Christ, and keep us faithful to His call.

"A Leading Question." The continued growth of the Church encouraged us to review how the Church was organised and led. We needed a structure that would be dynamic, flexible and responsive to God's leading. Following 18 months of prayer and discussion there has been a complete restructuring of the Church and Leadership. Pray for the new Leadership Team in the significant responsibilities they now have; that God would grant them wisdom, inspiration and skill.

Vision, Strength, Revival – It is an exciting time to be a Christian in Scotland as we wrestle with new ways of making Church relevant to our changing culture. This is the passion that inspires us all, for there is still no greater thrill than seeing people being transformed by the power of the Gospel. Ask God to continue to give us His Vision and His Strength to accomplish it. Pray for Revival in East Kilbride and throughout Scotland.

Easterhouse: Rev Sandy Weddell.

The fellowship wants to give thanks for the many churches and individuals who sent gifts to help us build our new annexe. We moved into it at the turn of the year and it has been a great blessing and encouragement to us. Pray that, as a group, we might be wise in our use of our premises. On 29th of August we have a special Thanksgiving Service to celebrate our Pastor

being with us for 30 years. Please remember us on that day.

Sunday 8th

Elgin: Rev Graham Swanson. We have much to give thanks to God for. The appointment of a new church worker; ongoing work in the Seafield area of the town; a new work begun in New Elgin and links with the other Baptist churches in Moray. Please pray that, in these days of great need, God, through the preaching of His Word and the power of the Holy Spirit, will move in mighty power and that many will come to a living faith.

Ellon: Interim Minister Rev Jim

Clarke Please pray for the fellowship at Ellon Baptist Church. We have recently decided to move forward and set up a Search Committee to find a new minister to work with the church to reach the people of Ellon and the surrounding area. Pray too for the relatively new diaconate as they settle into working together serving the family they love at EBC.

Give thanks for our Interim Minister, Jim Clarke, and his wife Margaret, who have given sacrificially of their time and gifts to work with EBC for the past 18 months now and continue to do so.

Pray for bridges to be built between those in the church and those parents and children who regularly attend Toddler Groups and Kids' Club. Praise God that He is blessing our fellowship with new members and baptisms as well as new and exciting opportunities to reach the young people of Ellon through music.

Sunday 15th

Erskine: Rev Peter Dick. The first 8 months as new minister here have flown past. There is much to feel blessed about in the church with a renewed sense of vision and purpose. Many activities are now taking a break over the summer but we would value prayers for the Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade and especially for the leaders: they need more support. Pray too for our *Alpha* course starting in September.

We are a small church with more vision than resources but pray that God will provide in His usual surprising way.

Falkirk: Rev Gordon MacIndoe. We give thanks to God for all His

goodness to us in so many ways. We would value prayer for the arrangements for and fruitfulness of a Bible Exhibition we are hosting at the church from Thursday 16th September to Friday 24th September. 16 Primary Schools have booked their P7 classes for the available "sessions", which means over 500 pupils will visit to find out about the Bible. Please also pray for the fruitfulness of a new outreach called *Cafe Church*, meeting monthly at the local Costa Cafe, and also the continuing outreach of our charity shop in Bainsford. Thank you for your prayers and may God richly bless your own churches.

Sunday 22nd

Fort William: Rev David White. Please give thanks for the church, for their witness as a United Free church for over 80 years before their move to the Baptist Union.

Pray for sensitivity in the transition from a Presbyterian form of governance to a Congregational governance, with all that entails, i.e. leadership structures, ways of decision-making, patterns of worship.

Pray also for healing for those who have been disaffected by the denominational move. Pray that our new Pastor, his wife Paula and their family would settle quickly and that God would give His wisdom in terms of priorities

Fraserburgh: Please pray for the church and its pastor, Rev Jim Newell.

Sunday 29th

Galashiels: Rev Arthur Hembling. We give thanks to God for our new minister, Rev Arthur Hembling, and his wife Wilma, and for a new season of opportunity in Galashiels. The church is in good heart and, following our vision Sunday at the end of June, we are at a new stage in the church's life and keen to see it developing as a missional community.

We face a challenge in the months to come as to how best we can develop and use our building, and what opportunities God wants us to take to reach the many needs of those around us. A number of events, from September onward, are planned and designed to help us build relationships with the community as well as with those

"warm contacts" the church already has. We look forward to running an *Alpha* course, holding a baptismal service, developing our prayer life as a church and exploring new ways to deepen our togetherness as a fellowship. Please pray that hearts will be opened to the Good News and that, as a Christian community, we will be passionate about our faith.

Gariochchurch. Give thanks for recent growth in the number of our small congregations (Community Groups), for new leaders, and for greater focus and clarity in what it means for each group to be church. Give thanks for the gariochchurch Leadership Team as it has gelled creatively over the past 9 months.

Pray for our four Community Groups as they each meet with local representatives from the Council's Caring Services to identify particular needs in their different towns, and explore how they can engage with their respective local communities most helpfully and effectively. Pray that they may wisely steward their Mission Budgets as they reach out within their localities.

And ...

please keep praying for the 2010 Step Out programme.

- ▣ **teams and leaders,**
- ▣ **the host churches**
- ▣ **all those who come along to the events being run during the mission**

IMPORTANT REMINDER! The Baptist Assembly in Scotland: 2010

Many issues vital to our Union will be addressed at this year's Assembly, so please remember that the cut-off date for booking your place is 1st September.

DON'T MISS OUT!

On your registration form, you may want to sign up for the **brown bag lunches** we're offering (*fabulous value at £5 per lunch bag containing sandwiches, juice, crisps, fruit and a biscuit - but our caterers need numbers in advance*) as there are no shops close to The Vine, our Assembly venue.

Look forward to seeing you in Dunfermline!