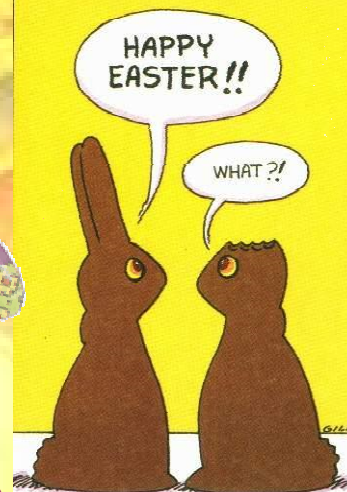




'The Resurrection Shuffle'
edition

Rainy Dayze

APRIL / EASTER 2010



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

On Being: Keep walking

John Orr

Emerging Thoughts

Mark Lowey

The things you hear: at ministry training conference

Signs and wonders?

Church signs or
church crimes?

Notes From Langholm

Scott McCarthy

General Assembly 450: an exhibition

Candidate 'Lite': 'Foxy' Knoxy's Word to the Wise: Preaching Beards

Nikki Macdonald

Newsletter Notes:

As ever, your input/ ideas
gratefully received!

On Being: keep walking...

Walk with me through Easter. A walk of joy and expectation, of fear and trepidation, of death, of unknowing, of confusion and hope, of exhilaration.

Walk with me and hear the crowds. "Hosanna," they cry. They are crying out for a King, a mighty deliverer and yet they are calling it out to a man on a donkey. Just a bit of fun and a laugh. Mind the branches. Mind the cloaks. What is that whispering below the shouting? Yes indeed, this is the man who raised Lazarus from the dead.

Walk with me and hear the crowds. No longer, "Hosanna!" The cries have turned to "Crucify him!" They have no king but Caesar, they say. A change of tune. A change of heart. No whispering any more, just the name of a murderer on their lips. The festival fun has gone. The walk is no longer a dance in joyful celebration, but a weary, stumbling, bleeding, cross-burdened trudge to a place of death, hopelessness and despair, the end of dreams.

Are you still walking? Can you bear to walk to that place? Keep walking if you would. Perhaps it would be easier to walk on, head bowed, avoiding the sight of pain and bloodied brow. The cry now only a cry of passion, of forgiveness, of finality.

Now is not a time for walking. Instead:
a time of stillness, of fear, of not knowing, not yet, understanding; the place of faith.

But faith is not a place of inaction, so walk with me. No! Run! With others; responding to unbelievable claims, to... an empty tomb.

Keep walking, but which way? Back home, to a closed and bolted door, not daring to hope, afraid of what it all might mean? Or along a path, wandering and wondering, not sure of anything?

Either way, an encounter which changes everything. The walk becomes a journey of discovery. The bolted door is no barrier to enlightening intrusion.

But maybe you still doubt. Maybe your walk can only take you so far. There are plenty of places to stop along the way; plenty of resting places to say, "This far and no further." Each step a challenge, taking you further into bigger questions, more choices, a path that seems never-ending, a destination known but the path before you winding and twisting, full of festive joy and unwatchable sorrow, full of waiting and full of hope, full of questions asked and answered but understanding proving elusive. Only faith keeps walking the path through Easter... and beyond.

Walk, not with me, but with the One who says, "Follow me."

John Orr



Emerging thoughts...

There has been loads of chat recently about the emerging church. The first to coin the phrase 'emerging church' is said to be Karen Ward from the 'Church of the Apostles' in Seattle who started a website in 1999 (www.emergingchurch.org). But what is it?

According to the wide range of literature available on the subject it's a conversation, a missional community, or in the words of Karen Ward its "taking the red pill, going down the rabbit hole and enjoying the ride. Its Dorothy not in Kansas anymore but finding her way home." For those within it 'the emerging church' is an umbrella term which covers many different movements that are an expression of new forms of church which attempt to relate to the emerging culture. For the large majority they are a reaction to the traditional church, or

even a protest against the traditional church. Why? Because in the opinion of some of the leaders of the emerging church, traditional churches have got it all wrong. They do not speak the language of the culture, nor create the kind of community that is attractive to someone in today's post-Christian environment.

In terms of theology the gospel of the Kingdom is the main message embraced by the emerging churches. Their focus is on community and the Kingdom of God. Therefore, emerging churches are missional communities arising from within post-modern culture, who seek to be faithful in their place and time. Watch this space!

Mark Lowey



The things you hear: at ministry training conference

On ministry with children:

'Jesus didn't usually talk rubbish!!'

'you can't offer boys 'Jesus in your underwear type songs'

On the Guild:

'Anyone who underestimates the Guild does so at their peril'

'Don't mess with the Guild'

On Social Responsibility:

'I'm right all the time'

'People you don't know will think you're weird and people you do know, know you're weird'

'Relational is transformational'

'glocal' [global and local]

In worship:

'I'd like to read a quote from Karl Barth's Church Dogmatics, I found it in this very handy book Church Dogmatics for Dummies, which I would highly recommend, anyway back to Karly baby'

In general:

'So... 121 owns our bodies'

'That's twice you've made somebody cry this week'

'For camels they use bricks, but in Siberia they use their teeth'



Signs and wonders?

Church signs or church crimes?

Sign boards can sometimes be a bit like an American 'spaghetti' Western: 'good, bad, or downright ugly.'

All over the world, church sign boards attempt to impart messages about the church they advertise. But sometimes, it all goes horribly and hilariously wrong.

Witness this sign to the right: it's less 'joyous future' and more 'abandon hope all ye who enter here'.

Seen any interesting specimens lately? Feel free to share the various 'wonders' you've come across in your travels.

Simply email the editor with your jpeg at the address below.

Signs will be displayed in the September edition of Rainy Dayze for your delectation and delight.

Copy due:

1st week of August, 2010.

N.M.Macdonald-2@sms.ed.ac.uk



Notes from Langholm: Scott McCarthy



As a former student at New College and a newly-ordained minister, I offer these brief thoughts on training and beyond.

Identify placement congregations that best suit your training needs.

I found it helpful to draw up a list of 8 at the beginning of the process. Ministries Council will listen to what you say and a focused approach on your part will help them. Be prepared to argue your case for a particular charge and have other options in mind. Remember your probationary placement is by far the longest: if you can, save your first-choice charge for then

Consider whether you want to be the chaplain to the congregation or the minister to the parish. I've always felt a call to be the latter but I am aware of some ministers who see themselves as the former. In large towns and cities it's becoming increasingly difficult to be minister to the parish as a whole. However that possibility was one of the main attractions to Langholm, Eskdalemuir, Ewes and Westerkirk. Langholm itself is the only town of any size in the parish and it is a very close community. People know their neighbours. They stop to chat with you in the street. It's a wonderful opportunity to get closer to the people you serve.

Don't rule out rural or semi-rural charges. During my training, one of the first questions a supervisor asked me was if I'd be prepared to consider a country parish. Almost without thinking I replied that I was but frankly I don't think I ever expected to end up in one. Much is made, wrongly in my view, about the goldfish bowl environment of small communities. I appreciate that I'm only 3 months into the job and indeed the charge itself but there is much to be grateful for in such a tightly-knit community, especially if your ministry is a relational one.

Very best wishes to you all!

Scott McCarthy, Langholm, March 2010

*'chaplain
to the
congregation
or
minister
to the
parish?'*

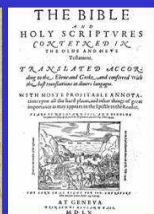
Reforming Scotland

1560-2010

All
people
that
on
Earth
do
dwell,
Sing
to
the
Lord
with
cheerful
voice



His
truth
at
all
times
firmly
stood,
And
shall
from
age
to
age
endure.



450th Anniversary

General Assembly 450



It's the 450th anniversary of Protestant reform in Scotland.

In order to mark this historic occasion, the General Assembly will:

- Hold a special act of worship on Sunday afternoon at 2pm [tbc]
- Host a multi-media exhibition in the foyer of New College exploring various aspects of the Reformation in Scotland.

Professor Jane Dawson, Chair of Reformation History at New College, is acting as a consultant on this project.

'Foxy' Knoxy's Word to the Wise: preaching beards

Facial hair letting you down?

Preaching beard lacking in Reformed gravitas?
Tired of older Reformers throwing theological sand in your clean-shaven face?

Why not try: PREACHING BEARDS™!

Made specially from the hair of pedigree, prize-winning Angora rabbits on the Isle of Sanday*, all-new PREACHING BEARDS™ come in two colours: black or white.

That's right, definitely no shades of grey here!

Hear the hushed murmurs of your congregation as you stride up to your pulpit in your long and luxuriant beard!

Watch with pleasure, from your 6 feet above contradiction pulpit position, at faces staring up at you in rapt attention, straining to hear every word being filtered through your beard of authority!

'Before I received my preaching beard, I just felt naked. My ministerial life was a meaningless abyss of self-loathing, failure and despair. My preaching lacked the 'zing' that comes with the choreography of beard stroking that always denotes wisdom. Since I started wearing my PREACHING BEARD™, the sick are healed, the dead are raised and the congregation stays awake during my sermons. Thank you so much!'

Lazarus B. Raysed, minster, St John of Knox Presbyterian Church, Cumberbund.

'Baptisms were an ordeal before I ordered new, 100% gravitas guaranteed PREACHING BEARDS™. Babies screamed when I approached. Toddlers burst into tears. Since I started wearing my PREACHING BEARD™

children flock to me. My PREACHING BEARD™ is so strong that it can take the weight of 3 babies and a toddler swinging from the long, luxuriant locks and into the baptistry. The optional 'slide' accessory is great too.'

Noah Wheretogo, pastor, 1st Baptist Church, Auchtermuckle

'Thank you for transforming my approach to minstry! My authority as a woman in ministry was often under attack. Since wearing my PREACHING BEARD™ however, the congregation sit transfixed as I proclaim the word.'

Shirley U. Musbjokin, priest, Valhalla Episcopal Church, Fetlar.

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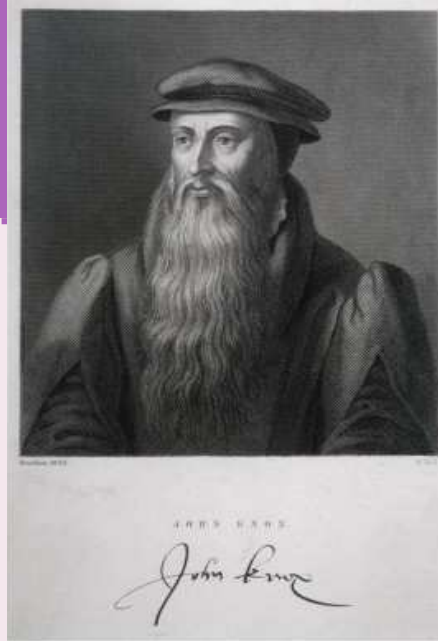
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For more information on how to purchase your PREACHING BEARD™ contact Nikki Macdonald



Newsletter Notes

Newsletter: comes out 3-4 times per academic year, unless the dark forces conspire and conquer.

This is a call for volunteers:

If you'd like to write a short article or poem for inclusion; fancy doing the wee prayer/ reflection slot for 'On Being'; have ideas for competitions/ or a wee silly something for 'Candidate Lite'; or would like to get involved with helping to put together the newsletter... here's your chance! Talk to Nikki.

Next edition's theme:

'it's a new dawn, it's a new day, it's a new academic year'



Copy due beg. August 2010.

Articles generally no longer than 150-250 words.

Email the editor: N.M..Macdonald-2@sms.ed.ac.uk