

ECCLESIA

*The church in the heart of the town,
with the town in its heart*



November 2011

**Irvine Church of the Nazarene
8 Eglinton Street
Irvine
www.nazarene.org.uk/irvine**

Pastor's Page



Most of you will at least be aware of Mandy the manse dog. Mandy is a six-year old retired rescue greyhound, who in her early days around the home, earned herself the nickname 'Asbo' (given by Pastor Alan Robertson). If I tell you she ate a Bible, spread a 3lb bag of flour around the dining room, opened a cupboard and stole a bag of potatoes, red onions and three tins of coke - and that's just for starters - then you will understand the proposed name change.

I am pleased to say that Mandy is a very different girl now; she understands that 'no' means no, will go to bed when told, sits down on command, and is responding well to a whistle recall - though there is a bit to go before she can be released in public.

Mandy has learned the house rules, she continues to learn the boundaries, the appropriate responses. We are not fooled, there still lurk many of the old instincts of kennel life, of the dog track - the chase, the bring down - but bit by bit she is adjusting well to cats and small dogs although the grey squirrels still need to be alert!



You will note from the above that her change was both instant and on-going. One day she was living alone in an outside kennel, had been for over five years. The next she was in a centrally heated home with carpets and a 13.5 tog duvet and part of a family.

It reminds me of what the apostle Paul said 'you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household'

That is a wonderful thought - once a foreigner, a stranger, an outsider, detached but now a citizen, a member of the household, a part of the family, known, accepted and loved.

Upon confession of our sinful state and expression of our faith in the saving power of Jesus Christ we are saved and can say - 'once I was ... but now I am'.

Once she was in a kennel, now she is in a home. Once I was alienated from God, now I am a part of His family ... once I was in my sin, now I am forgiven ... once I was in darkness, now I walk in the light ... and so we could continue. In an instant Christ has changed my status, my life.

Then came the incident with the flour, and the one with the onions, and the one with the Bible ... you can take the dog out of the kennel but taking the kennel out of the dog; that takes time. It would have been so easy to condemn her back to an outside kennel again, but no, she had been rescued from that. Mandy had been brought in - warts and all as they say.

It's another wonderful thought - God brings us into the family, warts and all. Then he works with us, patiently, lovingly, with purpose. It's not what we are that He sees but what we can become.

When I work with Mandy she mostly works with me, but not always. When she doesn't we simply backtrack and start again and keep doing so until we get it right. How important it is that we work with God as He seeks to lead us in His paths, as He seeks to show us His way, as He seeks to iron out the wrinkles in our lives.

We respond, not because we have to but because we want to; it's out of love for the one who has first loved us. It needs to be this way if it is going to work out; it's the best working environment to be in, and the rewards cannot always be fully expressed in words.

Speaking of love, Mandy is learning to kiss at the moment - much to the disgust of my wife and maybe some who might come to visit!

Pastor Des

Alpha Course

A Joint Churches 'Alpha' course continues to be held in the town. The course is running for ten weeks from 29th September with food being served at 6.00pm and subject exploration commencing at 7.00pm. The venue is The **Salvation Army, 19 Townhead, Irvine.**

See alphamail@hotmail.com

Pastor's Preaching & Pulpit Supply

NOVEMBER	AM (11.00)	PM (6.15)
Sun. 6th	Des Robinson	Des Robinson <i>communion</i>
Sun. 13th	Jim Strachan	Willie Ferguson
Sun. 20th	Des Robinson	NMI
Sun. 27th	Des Robinson	Des Robinson

LIFE GROUPS

- Wednesday - 7.30pm in the Church with Pastor Des
Subject : Living Life in Light of Eternity
- 7.30pm in Maureen's home with Ann
Subject : The Prodigal God
- Thursday - 7.00pm in Findlay / Ella's home with Findlay
Subject : Christianity Explored

A big thank you!

October proved to be a demanding month for those who are always willing to throw in their lot with catering activities. The additional work that came in over and above the harvest, anniversary, and baptismal meant at one point three teas in eight days. As usual you were there for the setting up and taking down that consumes much more time than the event itself.

To **Tom** and **Buddy** for the hours they put in on Friday, Saturday and Sunday preparing the church for the baptismal and dismantling all that is involved.

Silver Liners

What's that in your hand?

When Moses had fears for the journey,
God asked him, "What's that in your hand?"

"It's only a rod", said Moses; but God had a miracle planned
And marvellous things were accomplished with that plain and simple rod;
It became an awesome weapon when fully surrendered to God.

When David faced mighty Goliath, God asked, "What's that in your hand?"

"It's only a sling", said David; but God showed him how he could stand
And face unafraid on the hillside that Philistine nine feet tall.
And soon the giant Goliath lay dead from a pebble so small.

To Bunyan in Bedford prison God asked, "What's that in your hand?"

"It's only a pen", John answered, but , led by the Spirit's command,
He penned the book 'Pilgrim's Progress', a blessing surviving the years.
So a pen to the Lord consecrated has helped conquer doubtings and fears.

And now God is asking the question of us, "What's that in your hand?"

It might be a small gift He's given; it doesn't have to be grand,
But if it is used for His glory, His multiple blessings we'll know;
And as we surrender to Jesus, His love and His peace He'll bestow.

Betty Jo Mings

What is that in **your** hand? So often we de-value the gift God has given to us; we feel that others are more talented than we are but, when we dedicate that gift to His service, great things can be accomplished. Don't make excuses; with God all things are possible! Try not to be like the song writer who, contemplating how much Christ has done for him, and though he had already given much, could say, *"By and by when I look on His face/hands I'll wish I had given Him more!"*

Ronnie

Eurasia Regional Conference - Belek, Turkey



Representing UK & Ireland



A time for
Worship



A time for
networking



.....and of course
a time for eating

.....Personal Reflections

No matter what I write I know it will be inadequate to describe the atmosphere, sights and sounds of the Regional Conference which included people from 9 different time zones, not to mention umpteen nationalities and even more numerous languages and dialects. There were 638 of us according to Dr. Gustavo Crocker! The setting was superb on the south shores of Turkey, in a lovely hotel with 'wall to wall food'. As you begin the first day you feel overwhelmed and even shy among the crowd. However once you see a group eg from India report and sing praises in their native style and tongue you feel free to smile when you next meet them in the corridors. They are part of the Nazarene family of which you are a part. They are trying to tell others about Jesus through their local churches just as we are. As I have already said in my NMI page it was special to meet missionaries I had either met or know of before and catch a flavour of their work as each part of the region reports as to what is going on in their Districts. I have to say that I found the ordination service on the last evening especially moving. However if you want to find out why you'll have to come along to the NMI service 20th Nov when as many of us who attended will be giving further details and highlights. See you there.

Ann Goodwin

Having recently experienced EC11 I continue to reflect upon many of the sessions and seminars which I attended. The sessions were exciting, it was great to worship with people from many different countries, they were also extremely challenging and I personally have been challenged to step forward in mission, be it in the UK or elsewhere. As a placement student with Momentum UK Ltd I was able to meet with many church planters from across the region and discuss the work they they are involved in, this was both encouraging as I am involved in a local church plant and once again challenging as it brought the realities of church persecution to the forefront of my mind. However the church is at an exciting place and there are many exciting things happening in our region and I pray that God will continue to bless his servants throughout our region.

Zoe

Women's Fellowship

We have started our studies of End Times Prophecies and have found them to be both historic and relevant to today's world particularly with the turmoil in the Middle East. The thing it teaches us is that we must have continuous faith and always keep God at the helm of our lives.

With continued study we are looking forward to discovering how further Chapters of Daniel can give us insight into the Second Coming of Christ.

We had a successful and inspiring outreach lunch with Lorna from "Teen Challenge" who give us good insight into the work carried out by the Organisation which was set up in 2007 to help solve Scotland's drug and alcohol addiction problems.

We also had Testimony from John who told us that through the Love of God he has been able to "get clean" from both drugs and alcohol. Today he is able to minister and testify of God's saving Grace. Since getting saved he has also been blessed with a lovely wife and the gift of a baby son.

We would ask you to pray for this vital work to continue among addicts throughout the UK.

Audrey Patterson

NYI



The NYI are still working through the Loaded series for their Sunday Night programs.

This month there are 2 events happening in the district for our youth,

The NTC house party 11th - 13th November down in Manchester

The WAY event on 26th November in our Houston Church at 7pm

Some of our youth will be attending both of these events.

On the 4th December the NYI will be taking the church service.

Carissa

Dedication



Carissa and Norrie Hyndman presented their baby daughter **Taylor** for dedication on Sunday 16th Oct. They were joined in the church service by family and friends.



Thank you very much to the Sunday School for singing at Taylor's Dedication and to all the ladies who helped with the baking and serving. Thank you for all the lovely gifts Taylor received. It is very much appreciated.

Love Norrie and Carissa

Baptism



Sunday 23rd Oct. saw a mother and son pass through the waters of baptism. **Margaret and Jamie Davie** have been with us in the church for a couple of years now. Margaret has found great fellowship within the ladies ministry and Jamie has become a regular in the youth department.

Wedding



Pastor Alan Robertson was married to **Pastor Jenny Simmons** in our Sheffield Heeley Church on Saturday 1st October. The service was taken by **Rev Bruce Lloyd**, Pastor of the church.

Graduation



Saturday afternoon, 22nd October, was the graduation service for **Nazarene Theological College, Manchester**. The graduation and service took place in the Whitworth Hall, Manchester University. **Brian Robertson** who came up through our church's youth received his **BA Theology** award. The guest speaker was **Dr. Gustavo Crocker [Regional Director]**.



What's On



Tuesday 1st Nov. - Church Board Meeting (7,15pm)

Sunday 20th Nov. - Alabaster Offering (am service)

Advance notice

Saturday 10th December - Song ministry by 'Justified' (N. Ireland)
- Speaker **Pastor Sam Gordon**

Church Membership

What a wonderful privilege to receive a further four new members into the church fellowship. **Christy Kerr** has grown up through the church and is an active worker within the youth department. **Pastor Jim and Sadie Strachan** have served the Lord for many years and are particularly well known for their work with the Railway Mission. Jim has given pulpit supply to our church over a number of years. **Margaret Morrison** had connections with the Church of the Nazarene many years ago and has returned to her roots. All four were welcomed by the congregation during our Anniversary services on the 9th October.

The deadline for articles & items for next month's magazine will be the evening service on

Sunday 20th November 2011

Please give your article to Irvine Boal
or e-mail him at

irvineboal@msn.com

Prayer for our Nation

Freedom of Speech

Once again freedom of speech is under threat as an employee is persecuted for sharing his opinion, in his own time, on Facebook.

A Christian employee of a housing association in Manchester has been demoted from his managerial post and had his salary slashed by 40 per cent because of his Facebook comments about same-sex civil partnerships in churches.

Mr Smith noted a news report from the BBC News website, headlined "Gay church marriages get go ahead".

He posted a link to the report on his Facebook page, adding the comment "an equality too far". Colleagues later complained to managers at Trafford Housing Trust, and after an investigation, the managers started disciplinary proceedings against Mr Smith.

His employers concluded that he was guilty of gross misconduct.

Mr Smith appealed against the decision, but it was upheld by senior managers.

The Scottish Government is proposing new anti-sectarian laws, but opponents say they are so badly worded that free speech and religious liberty would be damaged. One of the proposals is to clamp down on people using the internet to stir up sectarian hatred, but critics will say that the jailing of Stephen Birrell the man who wrote sectarian hate comments on Facebook will lead to doubts about whether new laws are really needed and shows that the current law is sufficient to deal with the problem.

Some snippets from the House of Lords

The "appalling" content of sex education resources which are being used with children as young as five has been criticised by a Conservative Peer. Lord Eden of Winton he also hit out at the "damaging impact" that television programmes can have on the nation's children.

He was speaking during a House of Lords debate on the Education Bill making its way through Parliament.

Lord Eden sounded a warning about sex education saying that "the content of material, and the fact that it is projected to our children in schools from the age of five, is appalling. "This is something that does need to be tackled sensibly."

Lord Avebury, a Liberal Democrat peer, has tabled an amendment to end the requirement for collective worship at all schools apart from faith schools.

Earlier this year a secularist campaign group said that Christian assemblies should be banned because they breach children's human rights.

The National Secular Society wrote to Education Secretary, Michael Gove, demanding that the law on Christian assemblies be abolished.

The Church of England said: "To deny children the entitlement to take part in worship at school is to deny them a learning experience that is increasingly important in the modern world."

Please continue to pray for the Christians who are amongst those in "authority over us" that God will strengthen, protect them and help them stand and please feel free to join with us on a Friday from 10.30 till noon. **Pat**



Hi Everyone.

Autumn has arrived in all its colourful splendour and it feels it happened overnight as we returned from Turkey on wed 18th October. You will probably read about our escapades in this magazine but we hope to report to you in person on Sunday evening 20th November. Irvine will have some pictures and each person will give a brief report on what the conference taught them or their overall impression. Also with Callum's help we hope to try and teach you the theme chorus.(hopefully with more success than our last attempt) I have to say that I enjoyed the conference more than I expected to and it has broadened my perspective of the Region. I can at least tell what countries are included and to see each people group praise in their own way was for me a tiny taste of heaven. Amazingly we may not have understood the languages but we understood our oneness as we worshipped in prayer and praise.

Another highlight was to personally speak to the Scott's, our LINKS family for this year. The Gschwandners were also there and I passed on regards from the Irvine church.

On Sunday morning, 20th November we will collect our Alabaster offering which I know many of you gather faithfully over the year. Again I would ask if you could change all the coins into paper as far as possible and save our treasurer's muscles as she trips to the bank!

Thank you again for your continued involvement in NMI.

In Jesus Name
Ann Goodwin.

Turkey Earthquake

Pray for the people of eastern Turkey where a 7.2 earthquake struck on October 23, to date more than **530** are reported dead and another **1,600** injured and many still unaccounted for according to the BBC. Some 2,262 buildings are in ruins. Pray for the people still trapped under rubble. Pray also for rescuers, that they can reach the victims and do so safely.

Ten Million Decisions

Praise the Lord that more than **10 million** people have made decisions to accept Christ through the ministry of JESUS Film Harvest Partners. Of those indicating a decision for Christ after a showing of the JESUS Film, more than **4 million** have been involved in initial follow-ups (that is 37.5 percent). We give thanks to God for His continued blessing on the ministry of JESUS Film Harvest Partners [NMI Prayer Mobilization Line].

A Big Thank You



On Sunday 25th September, Harvest Sunday, **Pastor Des** presented **Pastor Claire** with a gift from the church in recognition of the work she has done over the past 4 years. Her contribution to the work and ministry of our church has been appreciated by all. The NYI, who she worked closely with, decided to write a tribute song [see opposite page], based on the ABBA song Waterloo, which they performed at the close of the presentation. As a church we wish God's richest blessing on her ministry in the Troon, Church of the Nazarene and we look forward to further fellowship with her.

Waterloo for Claire

Hey Claire, you came to us around two thousand and seven,
Big scare, when we caught sight of your big wig, oh no
it was your hair,
The vicar of dibley we thought,
But the chocolate éclair that we got,

Super Claire - sorry to see you walk out the door,
Super Claire - promise to love you for evermore,
Super Claire - couldn't forget if we wanted to,
Super Claire - we want to say that we'll miss you
Super Claire - we want to say that we'll miss you

Hey Claire, the welsh accent you have really confused us,
But when, you sang in church your voice it did amuse us,
You gave up your chocolate for lent
But at the tuck shop your money was spent.

Chorus

We're wishing you all of the best
But we doubt that you'll get any rest

Chorus

Celebrations

Anniversaries

- | | |
|----|------------------------|
| 04 | Thomas & Isobel Turner |
| 16 | David & Karen Wallace |

Birthdays

- | | |
|----|----------------------|
| 01 | Sarma Gilchrist [65] |
| 05 | Aimee Foy |
| 06 | Sharon McConnell |
| 06 | Faye McGeachie |
| 07 | Kevin Miller |
| 07 | Stephanie Culbert |
| 08 | Moira Conway |
| 08 | Margo McPherson |
| 09 | Aileen Storrie |
| 09 | Tom Ferguson |
| 09 | Isabel Robertson |
| 13 | Laura Macmillan |
| 14 | Robert McManus |
| 16 | Paul Robinson |
| 19 | Ben McGeachie |
| 20 | Mary Campbell |
| 21 | Rev Des Robinson |
| 22 | Nan Conway |
| 22 | Joshua Foy |
| 23 | Rev Tom Goodwin |
| 23 | Rev Claire Fender |
| 23 | Sadie Thompson |
| 24 | Ella MacDonald |
| 28 | Margaret Mounce |

Serving us this month

COMMUNION STEWARDS

Ronnie Payne & Andrew Robertson
assisted by
David Findlay & Findlay MacDonald



DOOR STEWARDS

Tom Ferguson & Hazel Ferguson **am**
Morag Robertson & Andrew Robertson **pm**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

06th Elaine Kerr
13th Fiona Murray
20th Margaret Hart
27th David Purss



TEA ROTA

6th Alice & Isobel
13th & 20th Margaret & Marion
27th & 4th Dec Diane & Morag

CLEANING ROTA

4th Morag, Marion & Fiona
11th & 18th Ann & Alice
25th & 2nd Dec Elizabeth & John



Weekly Programme

SUNDAY	11.00a.m.	Morning Service
	12.30p.m.	Sunday School
	6.15p.m.	Evening Service
	8.00p.m.	NYI
MONDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
TUESDAY	2.00p.m.	Over 50's Fellowship
WEDNESDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
	7.30p.m.	Life Groups
THURSDAY	10.00a.m.	Parent & Toddler Group
	1.15p.m.	Women's Fellowship
	7.00p.m.	Life Group
FRIDAY	10.03a.m.	Prayer for the Nation
	7.30p.m.	F.L.A.S.H. (Youth Fun Night)

CONTACT OUR PASTOR

Rev Des Robinson

telephone; 01294 218273

**Irvine Church of the Nazarene
Mission Statement**

*To glorify God and help
people become fully
committed followers of
Jesus Christ*