



Bon Accord Free Church N e w s l e t t e r

Glorify God. Be like Jesus. Change the world.



November 2017

Editorial

'Behind every great man...' – An introduction to Katherine Van Bora

For the editorial this month I'll share a wee talk I gave to the Bon Accord Lunch Club this week that looked at the Reformation or Martin Luther in particular from a very homely or domestic perspective; namely his wife and marriage.

Katie, as Luther called her, was one of twelve nuns who in 1523 escaped from their convent allegedly in herring barrels but, more likely, in the back of a covered wagon! The nuns were placed under the care of Martin Luther and, one by one, were married off or returned to their families. A couple of years later only Katherine remained and the simplest solution on the horizon was for Martin and Katherine to marry.

Luther's motivation appears to have been less than romantic and the reasons he gave, no doubt tongue in cheek, were that he married '*...to please his father, rile the pope, cause the angels to laugh, and the devils to weep*'. His marriage was also a theological statement; an act of rebellion against priestly celibacy as a practice devoid of biblical warrant.

In truth Luther needed a wife. He speaks of his bachelor years and recognises that '*... the bed was not made for a whole year and became foul with sweat... (I) worked so hard and was so weary I tumbled in without noticing it*'.

As with all new husbands (and wives) the married state took a little getting used to and Luther remarked that '*... one wakes up in the morning and finds a pair of pigtails on the pillow which were not there before!*'

Luther saw marriage as a character forming; in some regards taking the place of the monastery in the matter of character formation. He is reported to have reflected in the following despairing terms:

'Good God... what a lot of trouble there is in marriage. Adam has made a mess of our nature. Think of all the squabbles Adam and Eve must have had in the course of 900 years!'

On another occasion he mused; '*All my life is patience. I have to be patient with the pope, the heretics, my family, and Katie*'.

But for all his grumbling Martin loved Katie dearly. She was a rock in their home; a farmer, administrator, counsellor, and nurse... as well as a mother.

In a letter dated to 1535 he includes the following greeting; *'My Lord Katie greets you. She plants our fields and pastures and sells our cows (and) in between she has started to read the Bible'*. On another occasion he addressed Katie in these terms; *'To my beloved wife Mrs. Dr. Luther, mistress of the pig market, lady of Zulsdorf (where they had a farm), and whatsoever other titles may befit thy grace'*.

Luther also reflected on how love in marriage matures with the passing of time; *'The first love is drunken. When the intoxication wears off, then comes the real marriage love'*.

The marriage was blessed with six children and they adopted four more orphan children from their circle of relatives. Of his first son, Hans, Luther remarked; *'... Hans is cutting his teeth and beginning to make joyous nuisance of himself'*.

I'll finish with one final quote from Martin about Katie;

'At home I have good wine and beer, and a beautiful wife or – shall I say – lord!'

As we remember and celebrate Luther (while also recognising his flaws) we also thank God for Katie; without whom his ministry and influence would, I am sure, have been greatly curtailed.

David

November Communion

We look forward to welcoming the Rev. Iver Martin, Principal of Edinburgh Theological Seminary, as our guest preacher over our Communion weekend (10 - 12 November).

The communion weekend is an appropriate occasion for folks to become members of the congregation be that by profession of faith or by transfer from another congregation. If you would like to become a member of the congregation or would like to know a little bit more of what this involves or means please speak to or e-mail David (minister@bafreechurch.org.uk)'.

Following the evening service there will be a time of fellowship and a light supper.

Update from Emma Tidey

Dear Friends,

The last few months have been busy as I finished my diploma in tropical diseases and have started studying theology at Oak Hill College, London. I'm studying full time for a year at Oak Hill to help prepare for missions and working with AIM. Sharing a lovely flat with six other girls is lots of fun and I've been enjoying learning Greek and tackling this term's essay topics. I've been attending London City Presbyterian Church (LCPC) which is also my placement church this year. At the moment AIM has said to focus on Bible College instead of deciding which team/country to go to, so we will be discussing different opportunities towards the end of my studies.

Over the summer I was on a short term mission outreach in the Mediterranean with AIM. Our team had a focus on reaching African refugees and migrants with the gospel. We started our trip by joining other teams at a church in Spain for three days of training. The church there is actively involved in helping refugees, and we thrilled to attend a wonderful baptism service for 36 new believers at the beach on the day we arrived. It was exciting to hear of families coming to Christ and to see how God is working.



On the outreach we heard stories from people who had risked their lives crossing the Mediterranean in search of a better life. Others had spent time in Calais or were hoping to make their way across Europe. Each day we walked around the city looking for opportunities to have conversations. There were two refugee camps nearby and while we didn't go into these, we met many Eritrean, Somali, and Ethiopian people who came into the city or were living nearby. Other highlights of the trip included being invited into a convent for a Kenyan meal and having a surprise Ethiopian breakfast.



Prayer points

- That the conversations we had about Christ on the outreach would remain in people's minds and that many would come to know Him. Also that the Spanish church we visited would continue to be faithful to Christ and to mentor and build up the new believers.
- For my time of study at Oak Hill Bible College in London; that this year will be a time of preparation, fellowship and of growing closer in my relationship with God. Also that through my church placements I will be able to gain more skills for cross cultural outreach, and that I will use this time of preparation for service wisely.
- For guidance on which area I should serve in and that God would continue to prepare me for this.
- Please pray that I will be actively witnessing for Christ and sharing the gospel at every opportunity.

Thanks for reading and praying. If you would like to get in touch my email is emmatidey1@hotmail.co.uk I'd love to hear from you.

Emma

AIM Prayer Group

Now that Emma is progressing along the path that will take her to service in Africa, we'd be very glad to welcome any who would like to join the little AIM prayer group who meet monthly at the Strudwicks' home (please speak to Isobel Morison for the address). The next meeting is Thursday 30 November at 7pm. Marsali Campbell is another of the Scottish missionaries who is in our prayers.

Alison Strudwick

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Thanks to all who came along and supported the MacMillan Cancer Support Coffee Morning on 29 September. Together with the Little Lambs families we managed to raise £265 – despite the rain!

Thank you to all who contributed and gave of their time to help out in various ways. It's always fun to get together over tea and cakes!

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

The deadline for returning showboxes is this Sunday 5 Nov. but as it will now be another week before the boxes are collected by Blythswood, if you haven't participated there's still time! Leaflets are on the entrance table and explain everything you need to know. There are also plenty empty shoeboxes left over so if you prefer, you could simply donate some items and boxes can be made up with what we have.

This is such a good cause, so go on ... take part and make someone happy this Christmas who might otherwise have nothing.

Church Cleaning

Thanks again to the fantastic number of volunteers involved in church cleaning. It's been running for 2 months now and feedback so far has been very positive. The new rota will be drawn up sometime in December so please let Rachel know in plenty time if you need to change the day you have previously chosen or if there are dates you know you cannot manage. Also, if anyone else wants to join the list of volunteers you are welcome!

Finally, as the remaining teams get their chance to clean, any further feedback on ways to improve our system would be appreciated!

November 2017 Cover

Our cover photo this month is of David and Cassia Boyd.

Cords and Student Hospitality

Bon Accord has two schemes which link students and young workers with other members of the congregation;

Cords

Two students are allocated to an older member of the congregation, and the idea is that the trio meet on a regular basis for prayer, discipleship, mentoring and friendship. Your participation is encouraged!

Student Hospitality

A group of students is allocated to willing host families and individuals within the congregation, and the idea is that the hosts invite the students in question to their home for a meal at least once a term.

If you're able and willing to care for and help students and young workers through either or both Cords and Hospitality (which we hope you are) please contact Donald or Anne Smith.

December Dates for Your Diary

3 December	Baptism
9 December	Sunday School Christmas Party
10 December	Congregational lunch
15 December	Spanish carol Service
17 December – pm	Carol Service @ Bon Accord
24 December – pm	Carol Service @ Bon Accord

Bon Accord Website

The Bon Accord website is now back online at www.bafreechurch.org.uk

Views from the Pews Chairs! – Bon Accord People

Thanks to **Matthew Macleod** who is answering our questions this month...

Please tell us a little about yourself. Where are you from [and what brought you to Aberdeen]?

My Name is Matthew Macleod, I'm 23 years old, I'm from Inverness and I moved to Aberdeen 5 years ago to study. I'm married to Catriona and we have a miniature poodle puppy called Jasper, we also have two gerbils and I'll take this opportunity to offer the gerbils free to a good home... I studied Forensic and Analytical Science at Robert Gordon University and I'm currently employed as a laboratory technician with SGS UK. I also play the accordion which is something about me that not many people know, though living in a flat and trying to be a conscientious neighbour means I'm very out of practice.

What does a typical day look like for you?

First things first I take the hound for a quick walk round the block before heading to work. I work in an oil, gas and chemicals laboratory which basically involves analysing samples to see what's in them (or how much of something is in them) based on the clients' requirements. Only about half of my time in the lab is actually spent testing samples, there's a lot more to working in a lab; booking samples in, updating various records and logs, testing and calibrating apparatus, shipping samples to other labs, disposing of samples we're finished with and reporting results to the clients. To name but a few of my daily tasks! Evenings are normally spent relaxing with Catriona or seeing friends, both of which I enjoy immensely.

How did you become part of Bon Accord?

Quite simply, I was brought up in the Free Church and, knowing them to be solid, evangelical, Christ-focused congregations, I came along on my first Sunday in Aberdeen. I did have intentions to check out other congregations but, feeling at home almost right away, that ended up never happening. Living in Woolmanhill Halls in my first year (a 5 minute walk from BA) was certainly a bonus!

Please describe how you became a Christian?

I was brought up going to church, Sunday School and YF as well as the Boys' Brigade which (though increasingly nominally these days) is a

Christian organisation. Despite never doubting the existence of God throughout my life, I wasn't converted until I was in my mid-teens. I distinctly remember hearing a sermon on the crucifixion in which the preacher went into very graphic detail which sort of, "got the ball rolling" in my mind that it wasn't simply enough to believe that God existed, you needed to trust in him to save you from your sin, because He went to the cross to pay the price for you. From there it was a gradual process of growing in my understanding of scripture to the point where I finally put my trust in Jesus, when I was about 16.

How do you try to keep growing as a Christian?

I think fellowship with other believers is such a massive blessing. The Guys' Bible Study at Bon Accord has been a huge benefit to me, it's a great time every week to catch up with my friends and have a laugh, but most importantly to read God's word, pray and sing praise to Him and to discuss His word openly and freely in a non-judgemental environment. Regular personal prayer is also of great help to me; there's no limit on how often or where you can pray to God, He'll always hear you, even if it's just a few words!

Do you have a favourite Bible passage/verse?

It's hard to pick just one Bible passage or verse but one that I always come back to when asked is Isaiah 53 v. 5, "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed." The reason I love this verse especially is because it simply describes the gospel story and it was written generations before Jesus was even born.

What do you like most about Bon Accord?

That it really is a church family, you can strike up a conversation with anyone after a service and just chat away. Students and young workers are always looked out for and offered food on a regular basis. The preaching is Christ-focused and the worship is heart-felt. Oh, and the congregational lunches are next level!

3 Likes - Runrig, Irn-Bru and Scrubs (the TV series, not the medical clothing).

3 Dislikes - Spiders, vegetables and spiders.

Glorious Women's Conference

Beach Ballroom, Aberdeen

Saturday 24 February 2018

11am-9.30pm

(Lunch 1-2pm provided)

(Dinner 5-7.30pm not provided)



Our heart is to give women time and space to KNOW who they are in God, to GROW in their relationship with Him and with other Christian women and to GO and live this out in their church and community.

This year we are delighted to have Arianna Walker speaking at Glorious. Arianna is an international speaker, an author and the CEO of Mercy UK – a Christian charity committed to educating leaders, equipping individuals and empowering churches. Mercy UK runs free of charge residential homes for young women with life controlling issues, delivers pastoral leadership training days for church leaders and 'people helpers' and produces discipleship resources for individuals, church groups and prisons.

Using real life stories and anecdotes, Arianna's message of hope and transformation inspires Christians from all walks of life to live free and stay free.

Worship will be led by Lynsey Clarke

Website: www.gloriousconf.com

Email: info@gloriousconf.com

You can also find us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter

There will be flyers at the door of Bon Accord from Sunday.

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday school on Sunday 12 November due to the communion service. There will be Under 7s downstairs in the hall.

Memory Verses

The children are learning The Beatitudes from Matthew 5:3-12:

5 November

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (v9)

12 November

COMMUNION – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

19 November

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. (v10)

26 November

Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. (v11)

3 December

Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you. (v12)

Date for your Diary:

Sunday School Christmas Party – Saturday 9 December

Please speak to Judy Laing or Anne MacDonald for any more information.

Ladies' Bible Study

The November dates for the Ladies' Bible Study are:

Wednesday 8 November Wednesday 22 November

We meet every second Wednesday at 10am in the small hall. A crèche is provided. This week we will begin a new study guide on the "Prayers of the Old Testament".

All ladies are welcome.

Ladies' Book Study - Monday 29 November

We will be meeting at Linda's home at 7.30pm to study lessons 9 and 10 of the book "The Pursuit of Holiness" by Jerry Bridges.

We will be starting a new book at the beginning of the year, so it would be a good time to join the group. If you would like to come along or know more about what happens please speak to Wilma N.

It is a good opportunity to study God's word and to have fellowship together.

Bon Accord Lunch Club

Food and friendship for over 55s

Come and join us for

Soup and Sandwiches

12.30 to 2.00pm

Thursdays

16 and 30 November

Little Lambs Rota

3 November	Janet	Cath
10 November	Wilma	Catherine Anne
17 November	Jane	Anne
24 November	Jennifer	Julie
1 December	Shirley	Janice
8 December	Isobel	Julia
15 December	Jane	Wilma

Church Cleaning Rota

NOVEMBER		DECEMBER	
Sat 4 th	Team 9	Tues 5 th	Team 2
Sat 11 th	Team 10	Tues 12 th	Team 3
Tues 21 st	Team 11	Tues 19 th	Team 4
Sat 25 th	Team 12	Sat 30 th	Team 1
Gallery	Team G2		

Door Duty

Date	Door	Door	Door	Church Officer
05/11	Steven Inglis	Angus Maciver	Martha MacPherson	Dougie Longmuir
12/11	Norman Buchanan	Mike Bowman	Wilma Nicolson	Iain Meredith
19/11	Rob Grant	Kenny Maciver	Cath-Anne Smith	Ian Smith
26/11	Seoras Mackintosh	John Gillies	Margaret Ferguson	Gordon Ferguson
03/12	Murdo Macleod	Gordon Macleod	Mairi Macleod	Gordon Ferguson

Crèche Rota

- 5 November Derin Nzonlie Fosso, Isobel Morison, Lorraine Longmuir,
Jennifer MacLeod
- 12 Nov Linda Stephen, Phoebe Graham, Claire Macdonald,
Rachel Stewart
- 19 Nov Wilma Morrison, Fiona Meredith, Fiona Bowman,
Christine Couper
- 26 Nov Janice Stewart, Marion Campbell, Sophie Tan,
Sarah Barrett
- 3 December Julia Mackintosh, Val Buchanan, Carol Au,
Wilma Nicolson

Neighbourhood Fellowships

Group	Leaders	Day/Time	Location
City North	Rob Grant	Wed 7:30	Rotates
City West	Steven Inglis	Thurs 7:45	Rotates
Deeside	tbc	Wed 8:00	Rotates
Westhill - Kingswells	Donald Smith & Norman Laing	Wed 7:45	Donald & Anne Smith
Shire North	Seoras Mackintosh & Norman Buchanan	Thurs 7:30	Rotates
City Centre	David MacPherson	Wed	Rotates

Study guide: "These Truths Alone

Newsletter Deadline

The next newsletter will be out Sunday 3 December 2017. This will be a double issue covering December and January. The deadline for items will be Monday 27 November.

Items can be emailed to newsletter@bafreechurch.org.uk

Bon Accord Free Church of Scotland

Rosemount Viaduct, Aberdeen

www.bafreechurch.org.uk

Sunday Services - 11:00am & 6:00pm

Sunday School and Crèche - 11:00am

Wednesday Prayer Meeting & Bible Study - 7.30pm

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