

The Intern

It could be a title for a film! Cliff Kitson has had a month of his placement with us and has already involved himself fully in the life and ministry of TCF. His weekly schedule includes: Sunday services (and occasional Worship Band duties), Monday Young Adults; Tuesday Jigsaw (Scone SU Group); Wednesday Home Group C; Thursday and Friday for duties including some visitation and administrative work for the Evangelism and Social Action group such as practical arrangements for Alpha, Jo Butterfield 'Wheels of Gold' Event, Quench Cafe Evangelism event. He has also had some time with Street Pastors and Still Waters. In addition, he does reading for his Guided Research project for Tilsley and additional College reading. It is a joy however to take time out each week together and read and study 'Renovation of the Heart' by Dallas Willard and these times in the study at Guildtown have been so enjoyable. Please pray for Cliff as he serves God and TCF and as he grows with God during his time with us. Remember him during the week 14-18 November as he has a week of tuition at Tilsley on Isaiah and the NT use of the OT. Please remember us too as we share the same home and witness to each other of the grace of God in our lives - or our need of it!

Street Pastors

I had one of the most challenging duties yet in my time at TCF as an observer of the Street Pastors on Thursday 20 October. The length of time is less significant than the time slots but Perth is very different at 02:00! I was with 4 others for my stint and they were lovely caring, and kind Christians. The welcome on the streets was uniformly warm and I saw that this form of passive, and sometimes very intensely active witness through care and concern, was being used by God to reach out to many who are distracted by what they suppose to be real life. Pray for this very necessary witness and those who regularly go out such as Allan McCulloch.

Community Use of TCF

We have been approached by a Gaelic-medium Playgroup to host them within TCF. We have been cautious about moving into a long term let and I have been doing a lot of research with other local churches and also churches such as ours in the Partnership network about the dangers and blessings of such commitments. Conditions Let have been drafted and these are currently with the Playgroup leaders for comment and includes the clause: *'There will be no activities within the Church buildings that compromise the Christian integrity of the Church or conflict with the Constitution, beliefs, practices and doctrine of the Church (a copy of the statement of beliefs of TCF is provided).'* Please pray for the deacons and elders as we come to a final decision that we may be an effective witness through supporting appropriate community initiatives.

God's Word

It has been thrilling to participate with others in the series on Matthew 5-7 and 'God's Charter for the Kingdom'. We need to pray much about how we embody these beatitudes in our daily lives. We will be 'playing at Christianity' unless our behaviour is determined by the word of God and the standards of the Kingdom are high. Similarly, as we conclude our series in Ruth on Sunday 30 October, our conviction that God is a faithful and loving Sovereign. My personal ambition is to serve you in such a way that the TCF family is seen as a 'people of the book': who hold the word of God dear, applying it in daily life and enjoying the vitality it brings in our relationship with God and our Lord Jesus.

Hungary

Last year and this year Dave Martin had an exercise to visit with Attila and Margaret who serve God in the Reformed Church in Bódvassilas. I agreed to accompany him to visit there from 1-8 November. There are two further purposes in visiting - to help them to connect with a Bible Centre in Dömos where I have previously taught at a Bible School (Ernö and Katrin Nagy) and also to connect with the Evangelical Church in Bódvassilas and the Kovacs family. The idea is to explore how these churches may be able to support each other or even consider joint activities such as a Bible School for the church in addition to the annual summer Team visit. We would very much appreciate prayers for our time there - safety on the roads and sensitivity to God's leading.

Personal

I am very thankful that the weight loss has continued - though slowly now. Three stones and counting. However, I have been diagnosed with sleep apnoea and will be attending hospital on 31 October and 9 November for a device to help with that. Maybe that will help my irregular sleep patterns - sorry for the occasional emails at 'silly o'clock'! I would also appreciate prayer for Andrew, Susanna and Benjamin as they move on 1 November within the village of Kaldbak to their very first home that they have purchased together. It is significant in that homes in Faroe tend to be 'forever homes'. I am missing them very much and this is the longest stint I have had without visiting them. Also, as we come close to completion of my first year at TCF I have been so thankful for my adoption into this lovely church family - folks are becoming increasingly comfortable at calling with me or for me and I am encouraging you to make sure you do this so that I can serve God and you by visiting, praying or chatting. Nothing is too small - or too large!



Thanking God...

for the Boaz and Ruth-like ...

brothers and sisters in TCF!