

# GOOSEgander



The newsletter of the Wild Goose Resource Group  
Autumn/ Winter 2010 no.30

In this issue: **PROTEST as vocation:** part two of an article by JOHN BELL on Christian critical attitudes and resistance; **DR. BELL'S surgery:** in his column the Doctor deals with more lethal liturgical conundrums; **WHYEASTER?... a primary question:** JO LOVE on a visual art project with primary schoolchildren in Glasgow; **ACTING up @ Holy City:** GRAHAM MAULE on the current programme of WGRG's monthly Glasgow shenanigans; plus the usual **GOOSEoose**, **CATALOGUE gander** and **GANDER at the calendar**.

# GOOSEditorial

**GOOSEgander** is the twice yearly newsletter of the WGRG, a semi-autonomous project of the Iona Community.

It consists of three resource workers, John Bell, Jo Love and Graham Maule. Gail Ullrich is the group's administrator and Karen Turner is the sales administrator.

The WGRG exists to enable and equip congregations and clergy in the shaping and creation of new forms of relevant, participative worship.

The WGRG has to find a majority of its own funding. As a result, it exists on a provisional basis, only taking on events for the coming twelve months at a time. The WGRG welcomes donations and other forms of financial support (Gift Aid) towards its work. If you are interested in supporting the work in this way, please contact the Group at the address below.

## WILD GOOSE RESOURCE GROUP

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FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?# /group.php?gid=57677125210>

TWITTER: <http://twitter.com/WildGooseRG>

## HOLY CITY

WEB: [www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk](http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk);

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/groups.php?ref=sb#/group.php?gid=5675774949>

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## LIVING THE QUESTIONS

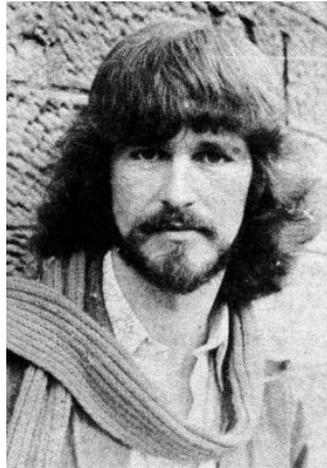
(Scotland)

WEB: <http://sites.google.com/site/livingthequestionsscotland>;

FACEBOOK: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=38286772721>

GOOSEgander has reached 30, and so with this issue, we celebrate 15 human years of its published life. Those who have lovingly stored all previous editions will be able to leaf back through and see how the WGRG has ripened.

JOHN in issue 1... and recently (clearly in a tired and emotional condition)...



We believe GRAHAM's illustrations and interpretations have progressed from issue 8... so much so that he might just have completed his PhD by the end of the year.



And on a similar note, congratulations to JANE BENTLEY, a community musician (whom many have encountered in drumming workshops) and Holy City planner, who has beaten GRAHAM to it and gained a PhD degree, with a particular focus on making music accessible to those with little or no musical experience. She hopes that all that research will feed into her ongoing practical work: [www.art-beat.info](http://www.art-beat.info). And by the way, we recommend anyone who wants an inspiring drumming workshop to book her up!

And we wish JO well as she begins her post as chaplain of Greater Glasgow Girls' Brigade. Admittedly, she originally accepted this position in a revealingly excited state, when GAIL committed a malapropism and passed on the original phone message as being from the Greater Glasgow Fire Brigade. Dreams of heroic endeavour up ladders and ringing bells quickly evaporated. So with a different and more intentional excitement JO took up her post (though we are still hiding matchboxes and lighters from her.) Find out more about JO's other exploits on page 10.

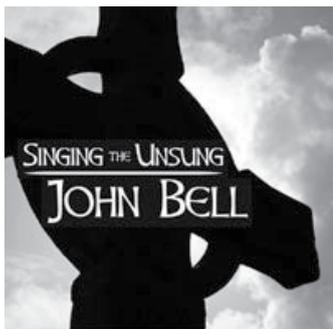


In May, JOHN was surprised by participants at a singing workshop in Sudbury, Ontario, who turned up wearing red foot attire in his honour. (you'll have to take our word in black & white!). The colour soon moved to their faces due to the vigour of their contribution.

COVER IMAGE: One of the artworks made for the Edinburgh 2010 Mission Conference (celebrating 100 years of the ecumenical movement) by CAROL MARPLES of Soulmarks... Carol created a portable installation of palm trees with fabric leaves made from a multiplicity of ethnic designs, symbolic of the 'leaves for the healing of the nations' Sheer magnificence! [www.soulmarks.co.uk](http://www.soulmarks.co.uk) (Photo: JO LOVE).

## NEW TITLES

**SINGING THE UNSUNG: Liberating the Song of God's People**

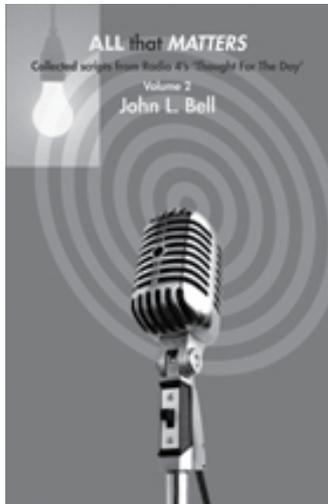


by **John L. Bell**... a new DVD resource designed especially for music leaders, worship design teams, and pastors seeking the revitalization of worship for the 21st century. It guides the participants' reflection on the theology of the Church's song and offers practical techniques on how we can sing and pray together with integrity.

With footage from workshops and worship in both the US & UK, the two DVD discs include nine 30-minute video segments and introduce 30 songs from around the globe for congregational or choral use. Along with the downloadable discussion guide the sessions may be utilized individually or as multi-day or multi-week sessions.

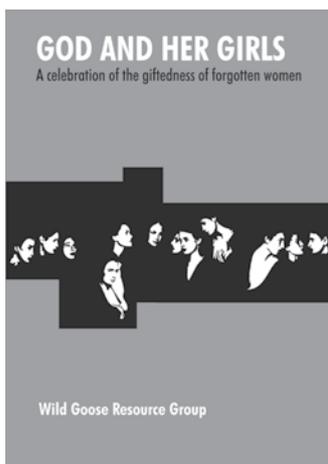
**Note:** this DVD is only currently available in NTSC format. Some, though not all, European stand-alone consumer DVD players may be able to read this. Please check your DVD's capability before purchase. However, it should play without a problem in computer DVD players. **DVD: £120.00.**

Also from our John is the recently released, **ALL THAT MATTERS: Collected Scripts From Radio 4's Thought For The Day**... This is the second volume of John L. Bell's 'Thoughts For



The Day', augmented by three extended essays, 'Indebting the future', 'The love of God and global warming' and 'The beast that is in us'. As ever John offers incisive religious perspectives on current social and international matters. Sometimes affirming, sometimes controversial but always contemporary, these short reflections represent the prickly interface between faith and politics from the perspective of a Christian believer. 160 pages. **Book: £10.99.**

**GOD AND HER GIRLS: A celebration of the giftedness of forgotten women ( WGRG Liturgy Booklet no.11)** is what it says. A full liturgy with a monologue (Rizpah's story) a remembrance of 12 biblical women and a symbolic action



of gratitude for women's gifts and contribution to the story of God's people. 48 pages. **Booklet: £4.50.**



**FUNNY KIND OF NIGHT (Christmas card).** We've reprinted one of our most popular Christmas cards, featuring our Innkeepers & Light Sleepers image and the text of the song, 'Funny Kind Of Night'. Perfect if you want to send a distinctive Nativity greeting in quirky WGRG style. Also comes without the text, as a blank card. Available in **packs of 5 @ £1.80/ pack of 10 @ £3.00/ pack of 20 @ £5.50/ pack of 50 @ £12.50.**

**GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY: Daily readings for Advent from around the world by Neil Paynter & Peter Millar (Editors)**... is a collection of reflections for Advent from members, associates and friends of the Iona Community around the world. In everyday language they reflect on the challenge and hope of Advent – a time in the Christian year both of waiting and of expectancy. Their thoughts relate directly to our present world situation in which hope and uncertainty are interconnected.

They also remind us that many are seeking the reality of

God's presence in the midst of human experience – or in more traditional language, 'the light of the Lord upon us'. The various reflections point us



to places and people in many parts of the world where that light shines, often – surprising as it may seem – brightly. Their insights enable us to walk more creatively and compassionately in our own local situations, and to discover that God's light sometimes shines where we least expect it. 124 pages. **Book: £9.99.**

## SPECIAL OFFERS

Visit the WGRG online shop for our special Winter offers:

**INNKEEPERS & LIGHT SLEEPERS**... Book: was £9.99, **special offer: £8.50.** CD: was £15.99, **special offer: £13.50.**

**CLOTH FOR THE CRADLE** - Book: was £12.99, **special offer: £11.50.**

(Note: Special offers run to 31/12/10)

Do register as a customer to get the first news of new titles, special offers and free downloads: [www.wgrg.co.uk](http://www.wgrg.co.uk).

# GOOSE oose

JO LOVE



## Mural Mania!

In April, Cranhill Primary School was awarded funds for playground improvement initiatives. The Headteacher invited WGRG's JO LOVE to co-ordinate the painting of a huge environmentally-themed mural on the end wall of the school building. Consultation with pupils elicited ideas for six scenes - beyond the skies; in the jungle; up the mountains; under the ocean; on the wing; park and pond. Throughout the summer term, Jo and student Katie Tuff prepared the picture outlines, masked the design piece by piece, and then took a deep breath and put spray cans into the hands of 5-12 year-olds! Go on, be impressed!

## Solas 2010... and 2011!

The last issue featured an introduction to Solas, the new Scottish festival celebrating, exploring and developing connections between art, faith and justice, this June. Well, it happened, gloriously and surprisingly under some splendid Scottish sunshine. Morning and late night worship was led by members of the Holy City team and WGRG had a wee stall in the traders' area, excitingly for us, selling a record number of badges!

Solas 2011 takes place on 24th - 26th June at Wiston Lodge, Lanarkshire. For more information & updates, see: [www.solasfestival.co.uk](http://www.solasfestival.co.uk)

## Kathy Galloway honoured!



Former leader of the Iona Community, Rev. Kathy Galloway received an Honorary Degree from the University of Glasgow this summer in recognition of 40 years of academic and professional contribution of civic and international distinction to the work of social justice, inter-religious learning, media and the creative arts and to the ecumenical movement.

Kathy is now Head of Christian Aid in Scotland. A prolific theologian, writing on feminist theology, liberation theology and ecumenical theology, she is

also an acclaimed poet, liturgist and hymn-writer, Kathy continues to campaign tirelessly for the eradication of poverty, the liberation of women, global environmental justice and for an end to domestic violence, child abuse and sexual discrimination. She was the only Scot among 1,000 women world wide collectively nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.

## Edinburgh 2010

Earlier in the year, an international missionary conference was held in Edinburgh to celebrate the centenary of a similar event which many regard as marking the beginning of the contemporary ecumenical movement.

Among many differences was a much more global representation of participants. The 1910 conference had less than 5% of its delegates from the developing world. 2010 had people from all continents and included Orthodox, Roman Catholic and Pentecostal participants.

This more holistic ecumenical mix was reflected in the worship. Of the 40 songs and chants sung over the four day event, very few came from the previous 'imperial' nations. Of particular charm was the experience of watching Dr Swee Hong Lim, a Singaporean Methodist, teach a liturgical response from Romania, and hearing Mairi Munro, a former member of the Wild Goose Resource Group, exhibit her considerable skills as an animatrice in French.

# WHY EASTER?

## ... a primary question

*"If Jesus was such a good, godly, loving man, why did some people want to kill him?" JO LOVE asked a group of schoolchildren this question. She recounts here the outcome...*

This is a puzzle that is often never quite addressed or explored in our primary schools. At Baljaffray Primary, introducing the idea of our "Why Easter?" project at a February Assembly, we went straight to that very conundrum.

Jesus is typically presented as 'someone who did lots of amazing, good things, helped people, and told stories about how God loves everyone'. We set the scene for what we were about to discover about that not being the whole picture...

Baljaffray is a big school by today's norms. Twelve classes, over 300 pupils, plus a nursery of 24. Every pupil just threw themselves into what became an incredible six weeks together. Each class was teamed up with a volunteer helper from the church, to assist with the art work. But the first stage was a storytelling week, where I spent time with each class delving into a gospel story that threw light on how Jesus earned the reputation for not just teaching but troublemaking; not just loving but lawbreaking!

Many classes enacted events in impromptu role plays, entering in to the scenario with imagination and real empathy. A little girl in P2, while being a leper, earnestly told us she might have to steal food in the middle of the night if she was going to survive, and then, that the

best thing about being healed was she could go home for a good dinner! And a thoughtful P6 pupil, on considering Jesus overturning the tables in the Temple, wondered aloud, "Could he not just have gone up and asked them nicely?..."!

The four youngest classes explored Jesus' welcoming of outsiders - a leper, the bleeding woman, Zacchaeus, the woman anointing him with perfume and tears. The four middle classes explored the Sabbath healings - the man born blind, the woman bent double, the man with a withered hand. The four upper classes explored challenges to other social issues - relating to Samaritans, paying taxes, economic exploitation in the temple, nonviolent resistance to the Roman occupation.

By the end of the week, staff were reporting a great buzz about the place, and we were set for the creation of some seriously big art!

I had the privilege of working most closely with P7. Their engagement with Jesus' teachings on standing against injustice showed a real depth of new understanding.

For our artwork, I dared suggest the now infamous sello-cast technique... never before tried with children, yikes. They certainly surpassed themselves as models of patience, enthusiasm and body-wrapping skills! With almost every class member acting as mould for at least one body part, we assembled four lifesize figures for two scenes - 'turning your left cheek' and 'handing over your shirt when sued for your coat'. The only task left to me was the safe un-casting, wielding a craft knife with slow and delicate precision, which proved rather more difficult one day, when a group of boys interpreted my guidance "do at least four or five layers" to mean "we'd



better do ten than". It was like cutting through rock! Thankfully it was only a head piece and not a whole torso!

Meanwhile, further down the school, pupils were busy painting and collaging giant wall friezes and cardboard cutout figures, depicting moments of encounter between Jesus and those who regarded him as hero or villain.

Others were sewing puppets and a banner with slogans about neighbourliness in the children's own words – 'Help don't hate', 'Be good to others, become their brothers', 'Blisters become our sisters'!

Others were sculpting the table-turning Temple aftermath in paper mache, complete with doves flying from their broken cages... while an amazing interpretation of 'give to God what is God's' was materialising in a junk art depiction of our ideal world, the world as God might want it to be... featuring a chocolate waterfall. Well, we can dream indeed!

About halfway towards completion date and our planned exhibition day in the church, the Headteacher mentioned that she'd received a letter about the Church of Scotland Stevenson Prize, awarded annually to one primary and one secondary school for excellence in religious observance, with this year's focus on projects promoting the spiritual development of the whole school community.

"Do you think our 'Why Easter?' project fits the criteria?" Oh well, if the 'Headie' wants you to do something, better have a go, so Ian (school chaplain and minister) and I scrambled together a powerpoint presentation telling the story as best we could, and handed it over for submission.

The Exhibition and Open Day, just before Palm Sunday, was a great celebration and culmination of the project. The church, next door to the school, was a fresh, bright exhibition space, and all that was expressed there went a long way to answering that original puzzling question. Some of the older pupils, especially, had seen a bigger picture of the radical, courageous, boundary-breaking Jesus.

The artwork remained in place as a stunning backdrop for the Palm Sunday and school Easter services, but I had exited the scene for Iona by then, leaving all thoughts of Baljaffray aside for a while. So by the time of Ian's phonenumber weeks later, I had just about forgotten



JO LOVE

about our hastily thrown together powerpoint...

"Guess what, Jo! Remember that Stevenson Prize submission? Baljaffray has won it!"

A team of deserving pupils with Elaine the Depute Head were invited to receive the award at the Church of Scotland General Assembly in May, with Ian and myself not missing the chance to cheer them on. By special request, we were accompanied on the train by two of our sello-cast figures, who were deliberately abandoned in the lunchtime reception hall as Elaine refused to have another public transport experience attracting weird looks!

However, certain mischievous committee people on duty saw mileage in a rescue mission, and the said sello people have since appeared in the Moderator's throne, and now have permanent residence in the eco-church office.

Long live the resistance!

# GANDER at the calendar <sup>7</sup>

## BARRIE SMALL

We are sad to report the sudden death in July of Barrie Small, the Community's Finance Officer, who worked alongside us in Savoy House. Here is an extract from the tribute by Carolyn Smyth, Convener of Iona Community's Council:

"Barrie was known among the staff for his humour - he informed Gail that there was a time lock on the safe which meant she couldn't get in after 4pm! -, his generosity and his loyalty, as well as his commitment to ensuring the finances and accounts were in good order. Barrie was 'a lovely, big man' and will be sadly missed by his colleagues at the Iona Community."

## Wild Goose Resource Group

*A selection of open WGRG events for Autumn 2010/ Spring 2011.*

*Local contacts in brackets, otherwise details from the WGRG office, 0141 332 6343; wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.iona.org.uk/wgrg\_home.php; www.wgrg.co.uk; www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk*

## November 2010

22nd: PRESTON, St. Walburge's Church. 'Songs and Stories for a Winter Evening', tickets £5, in support of L'Arche Preston (Judith Chaloner, 01772 719847, jude@manasse.demon.co.uk)

24th: LIVERPOOL, Hope University. 14th Annual Archbishop Blanch Lecture, 'The Love and Limits of Liturgy' (Tim Stratford, 0151 547 2155, tim.stratford@btinternet.com)

28th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street. HOLY CITY, WGRG's monthly workshop & worship event. This year's theme, 'Acting Up'... from faith to lifestyle in challenging times, takes the stories of the early churches in Acts to be inspired and to reflect on being faithful today. Tonight's theme is 'The Pirates Of Finance', looking at economic issues then... and today (0141 332 6343; wgrg@iona.org.uk; www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk)

30th: GLASGOW, St Aidan's Scottish Episcopal Church, Clarkston. 7.15pm 'A St. Andrews night celebration of the Church in Scotland' (Clarkston Churches Together - Jeanne Roddick, jeanne.roddick@ntlworld.com)

## December 2010

3rd-4th: DERBY, St. Alban's RC Church. 'Tidings of Comfort and Concern' - Fri eve: Big Sing, Sat am: 'Ten Things They Never Told Me About Jesus', Sat pm: 'Celebrating the Season' (Rev Lindsey Hughes, c.l.hughes@fsmail.net)

5th: KILMACOLM, Old Kirk. 'The Ever Evolving Song of Praise', evening of celebration with old & new psalms, hymns and spiritual songs (David Ellis, 01505 873139, david.ellis21@virgin.net)

19th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street. HOLY CITY. See 28th November above. Tonight's theme is 'The Kings, the Gods, the Stalls' on the moving nature of Christmas.

## January 2011

22nd: LONDON, St. Mark's Catholic School, Hounslow. 'Sacred Song in a Secular World' Diocese of Westminster music day for parish musicians, singers, cantors & music leaders, to help enable congregational song (Jenny Kettleton, 020 8346 4033, kettleton.family@tesco.net)

30th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street. HOLY CITY. See 28th November above. Tonight's theme is 'Peter Panorama' on the youthful and innovative nature of the early churches.

## February 2011

1st: CARDIFF. 'Odd Songs and Gifted Strangers' an evening exploring the inclusive nature of the Gospel (LGCM South Wales - Simon Oram, 07719

644581, simonoram@aol.com)

5th-6th: HOWTH, Dublin, St. Mary's Church & Parish Centre Church of Ireland Parish of Howth. Sat: workshops - Why Do God's People Sing?/Improving Congregational Song; Sun: morning service (Kevin Brew, 00 353 1 8323019, howth@dublin.anglican.org)

13th: MOTHERWELL, South Church. Worship Experience event (Georgie Baxendale, 01698 239245)

14th-17th: WINDERMERE, Windermere Centre. 'Singing Allowed' a time to look at the importance of music, and particularly song, in the life of faith and its role in public worship - for worship leaders & musicians (015394 44902, windermere.centre@gmail.com)

17th: WARRINGTON. Big Sing, evening (Anne Preston, anne.preston@ntlworld.com)

19th-20th: STOURPORT-on-SEVERN, St Michael & All Angels Church. Saturday: music workshops - Why Do God's People Sing?/ Ancient Celtic Gifts for Modern Times; Sunday: worship (Rev Eva McIntyre, 01299 822041, evacymru@btinternet.com)

20th: BUCKLEY, North Wales. 8pm: Ecumenical Big Sing (Shirley Whyte, Cornerstone Group, john.whyte5@btinternet.com)

26th: CHESTER LE STREET, Methodist Church. Biblefresh Festival, talk 11am 'Rediscovering the Bible as the People's Book' (Sarah Charlton, 07798 693060, RevSCharlton@aol.com)

26th: CHESTER LE STREET Methodist Church. 2pm: 'Why Do God's People Sing?' with songs from The Iona Community

## GG & LITURGY BOOKLET SUBSCRIPTIONS

You can now get GOOSEGANDER in 3 ways!

If you want the whole bhuna (ie. complete contents), you can subscribe (see ORDINARY/ ORDINARY + LITURGY/ SUPPORTING below) and you'll receive 2 issues of the full hard-copy issue, twice a year, by post.

If you become a registered WGRG ONLINE SHOP customer, you can download an extracted version of GG. This contains the contents of the hard-copy version, minus the main feature articles. See: [www.wgrg.co.uk](http://www.wgrg.co.uk).

Or you can read the extracted version in text form online at our WGRG pages of the Iona Community site. See: [www.iona.org.uk/wgrg\\_home.php](http://www.iona.org.uk/wgrg_home.php).

So to subscribe to the hard-copy version of GG, choose from below:

Yes, I'd like to subscribe to GOOSEgander/ new 2010-11 rates.

- **ORDINARY, £4.50**, 2 issues of GG (hard copy), UK postage paid.\*
- **ORDINARY + LITURGY, £8.50**, 2 issues of GG (hard copy), plus a copy of that year's WGRG liturgy booklet (worth around £4.50), UK postage paid.\*
- **SUPPORTING, £40**, 2 issues of GG (hard copy), plus a copy of that year's WGRG liturgy booklet (worth around £4.50), and 10% off all purchases of WGRG books/CDs, (UK) postage paid.\*

\*These rates apply in the UK only. Overseas postage is additional. Overseas subscribers should contact WGRG office for the appropriate subscription rates. See contact details below.

I enclose a cheque for the above amount, payable to the Wild Goose Resource Group. (If also ordering WGRG mail order goods, please send TWO separate cheques. Thanks.)

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Tick for further information:

- WGRG mail order catalogue (please enclose stamps to the value of 50p)
- Ways to financially support the WGRG
- The Iona Community
- Holy City, Glasgow 2010-11
- A copy of GOOSEgander sent to a friend (please append their address)

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[www.wgrg.co.uk](http://www.wgrg.co.uk);

[www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk](http://www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk)

# GANDER at the calendar (continued)

(Monica Goldfinch, 0191 285 6223, [monica.goldfinch@btinternet.com](mailto:monica.goldfinch@btinternet.com))

27th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street. HOLY CITY. See 28th November above. Tonight's theme is 'Citizen's Theatre' focusing on public action of the early churches (as opposed to the privatized tendencies of many contemporary ones...).

27th: HESWALL, Wirral, URC Church. Afternoon: 'At Odds with the Culture of Consumerism' workshop; evening: worship (Dave Horton, 0151 677 1129, [david.horton@tesco.net](mailto:david.horton@tesco.net))

28th: CHESHIRE, St. John's Church Centre, Harford. Evening: Singing for Lent & Easter with the Global Church (CME in Chester Diocese - Jane Hood, 01244 681973 ext 257, [jane.hood@chester.anglican.org](mailto:jane.hood@chester.anglican.org))

6th: TROON, St. Meddan's Church. Evening: talk, as part of 'What's on your mind?' series (Jeanette Forsyth, 01292 314285, [allanjeanette@wight-cablenorth.net](mailto:allanjeanette@wight-cablenorth.net))

27th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street. HOLY CITY. See 28th November above. Tonight's theme is 'High Church: The Liturgical Musical' on the curious Christian practices of worship.

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John Bell will be working in North America from 10th March to 18th April 2011.

For details of North American open engagements, please visit [www.wgrg.co.uk](http://www.wgrg.co.uk) (and click 'Events' on the left hand column) ...or the Iona Community New World Foundation: [www.iona-nwf.org/SheduleJohnBell.htm](http://www.iona-nwf.org/SheduleJohnBell.htm).

## March 2011

2nd: BATH, Manvers Street Baptist Church. 7pm: 'Poverty Over', a celebration of the work of Christian Aid and its supporters (Christian Aid, 01454 415 923, [bookings.west@christian-aid.org](mailto:bookings.west@christian-aid.org))

3rd: BATH, Manvers Street Baptist Church. 9.15am - 4.15pm: 'Poverty Over', for church leaders - a day of resourcing, support, celebration and challenge in our work together as churches to help end global poverty (Christian Aid, 01454 415 923, [bookings.west@christian-aid.org](mailto:bookings.west@christian-aid.org))

5th: DURHAM. Diocesan Music Day (Anne Harrison, [amh@btinternet.com](mailto:amh@btinternet.com))

