

GOOSEgander

The newsletter of the Wild Goose Resource Group
Summer/ Autumn 2011 no.31 (extracted version)

(Extracted version) In this issue: **DR. BELL'S surgery**: more liturgical remedies from the Dotor; **SPILL The Beans**: JO LOVE on some collaborative creativity; plus the usual **GOOSEoose**, **CATALOGUE gander** and **GANDER at the calendar**.

Additional material contained in the full version: **THE LOVE & Limits Of Liturgy** an article by JOHN BELL on communal devotion.

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

Iona Community, 4th Floor, Savoy House, 140 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow G2 3DH, Scotland.

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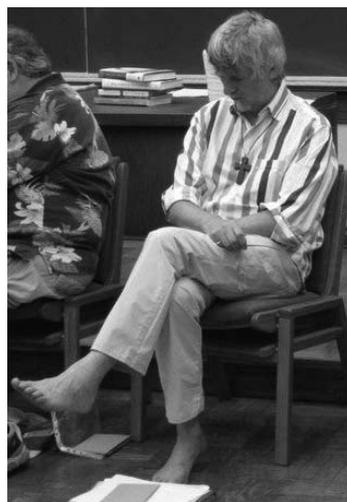
Here in the Wild Goose official residence (shared with the Iona Calamity), we are delighted to welcome a new member of staff, with whom we'll be collaborating...

CHRIS LONG has started work as our Youth Resource Worker, joining **LAURA** in the Youth Dept, and bringing an enchanting Northern Irish brogue to the office and to Holy City planning meetings, where we'll enjoy the benefit of his experience in youth ministry and programme planning.

As well as contributing to 'Spill the Beans' (see page 12), **JO** has been busy at Cranhill Church and Primary School, where in a departure from normal duties she organised a short-term nurture project with a wee group of boys, and managed not to look down so as to inspire confidence in trying out a drop slide and climbing wall. Less sweat was broken in raising money for Comic Relief by beating the goalie. She and **GRAHAM** led singing at the Faslane Easter Witness for Peace event, ably abetted by **PHIL WHITE** and **JANE BENTLEY** of Holy City (pictured here). This is not, in fact and contrary to popular opinion, a photo of them leading the singing of the assembled multitude. Rather they are gasping in worried anticipation, as a former Church of Scotland Moderator, Alan McDonald trips over a stray CND megaphone. He somersaults through the air, but is, impressively and happily, caught by Cardinal Keith O'Brien before he hits the ground and injures himself. It was later learned that the Cardinal had been a gifted goalkeeper in his youth. Clearly he has lost none of his ability.



Similar scenarios are played out weekly in the office where we all risk similar dangers, as we trip over (must check Health & Safety guidelines) the latest amazing piece of artwork **JO** produces for a 'Messy Church' event, or Girls' Brigade service. Admin staff have been heard to suggest a job-swap, even for a day! After the success of the Baljaffray Primary School 'Why Easter?' project, she has been asked back for Harvest.



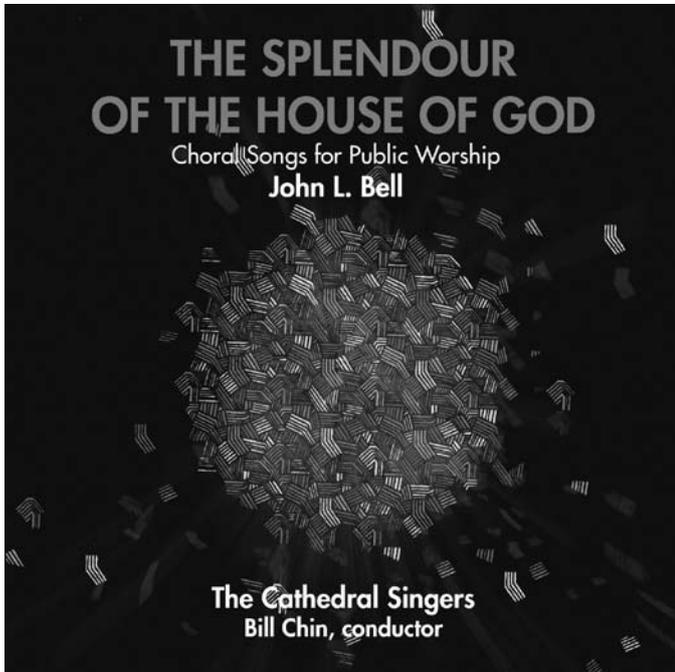
Since the last issue, **JOHN** has been speaking and singing at conferences, seminars and workshop days in, amongst other places, Newcastle and Nashville, Tennessee; the Wirral and Wilmette, Illinois; Holland and Holland, Michigan.

Here he is contemplating how best to respond to a message from a Toronto Church: 'ANNOUNCEMENT FOR SUNDAY BULLETIN: Hearing Devices Technical Assistance. We are trying to identify two or three people who might be willing to help folk adjust their particular hearing device when they are having problems during worship. Please speak to John Bell if you are interested. He will provide some training.'

We're not sure whether it's John himself (or his feet) humming which appears to be causing a little discomfort to his neighbour who appears to be at the point of considering fleeing the photographic frame...

STOP PRESS:

The following is neither misprint nor error: **GRAHAM** has completed his PhD. At the beginning of April, and after an exhibition of the last ten years of his work in an old ambulance depot (so that's where he's been!), he passed his thesis defence. OK, it's not quite over – minor corrections have to be made by early summer... then he can start all over again, and thus retain student status and renew his 'young person's' train pass.



NEW TITLES

THE SPLENDOUR OF THE HOUSE OF GOD by **John L. Bell** is the latest collection of songs from the WGRG stable. It's a GIA title of choral arrangements, in both **Octavo Pack (£11.99)** and **CD (£10.99)** versions. The recording is by **The Cathedral Singers** of Chicago, who have previously produced several superb collections of WGRG material, such as **THE LAST JOURNEY** and **TAKE THIS MOMENT**. The Singers are magnificently conducted by **Bill Chin**.

The collection celebrates the worship of God's people and all the texts allude, in one way or another, to what is involved in public worship. This includes everything from the physical buildings through the range of emotions represented and evoked by liturgy & song to the continuing service to God of believers as they engage with the life of the world.

There are 15 songs of worship arranged for choirs and congregations, covering stages of life and ceremonies of the church, including four previously unpublished settings of Psalms and three songs from Central America. All have been composed or arranged by John L. Bell or colleagues.

As always, none of these songs or versions is brand new, though this is the first time they've been published. They've all been tested with different groups and in different contexts over the last few years.

The contents are as follows (grouped into thematic sections):

The House of God

1. The splendour of the House of God
2. O Christ, the Master Carpenter

Psalms for all

3. All people living on the earth (Psalm 100)
4. I was glad (Psalm 122)
5. I love the Lord (Psalm 116)
6. In complete desperation (Psalm 77)

Stages of Life

7. Conceiver of both heaven and earth
8. This is my will
9. We cannot measure how you heal
10. Lux Aeterna

Word and Sacrament

11. In Christ we live
12. Wisdom's table
13. O taste and see

God's World

14. The Lord of the earth
15. O come, let us sing

SPECIAL OFFERS

(These special offers run until 10th August 2011)

THE SPLENDOUR OF THE HOUSE OF GOD, Octavo pack, normally £11.99, **SPECIAL OFFER £11.00**; CD, normally £10.99, **SPECIAL OFFER £10.00**.

AROUND A THIN PLACE: An Iona Pilgrimage Guide (book), by Jane Bentley (our lovely Holy City colleague) & Neil Paynter (editors), normally £10.99, **SPECIAL OFFER, £10.50**.

TELL ME THE STORIES OF JESUS: A companion to the remembered gospel (book), by Janet Lees, normally £10.99, **SPECIAL OFFER £10.50**.

More info at: www.wgrg.co.uk.

CATALOGUE

We produce a **digital catalogue** each year. To obtain this, or to find the full extent of our catalogue of musical & liturgical material, Living The Questions DVDs, badges and downloads, you can visit the Online Shop and register as a customer at: www.wgrg.co.uk.

BELLA BELLA!

Late last year, a young friend of our purpose called Andrew wrote to Stuart Murdoch, the lead singer and songwriter for the superb Glasgow indie pop band Belle & Sebastian. Andrew had attended a B&S gig and got Stuart to sign a copy of the latter's book, 'The Celestial Cafe'. Andrew wrote his thanks to the B&S website/ blog and asked him if he was familiar with John Bell, 'the Scottish hymn writer and minister'?

The reason for asking was that Andrew had been at a Big Sing John led and during the interval he they'd had a conversation. They got onto the subject of Glasgow. Andrew said that he would be visiting for the first time to see the very same B&S playing. 'Ah yes, great group, great group,' said John, before asking Andrew what else he'd like to try and do while he was in Glasgow... 'Look in some good record shops', was the reply. Apparently, John then took a page out of his Moleskine notebook and drew a wee map of good record shops in the city.

So what was Stuart's answer to Andrew's question? 'I'm a fan of John Bell, of course. We sing him every Sunday!' We wonder if this mutual respect may have something to do with the fact both songwriting gentlemen hail from Ayrshire...? But Andrew's next question was intriguing too: 'Do you think you'd ever try your hand at hymn writing? I'd love an excuse to sing along to one of your songs on a Sunday morning!' Stuart's exciting reply was: 'I will try to write some devotional music at some point. I wrote an anthem once, which the choir sang, in 1994 I think!'...We canny wait for that 'some point'!

THE 90kg RICE CHALLENGE

"...Take the 90kg Rice Challenge for Harvest Festival and help Malawian farmers."... This is an invitation from John Riches & Liam McLaughlin of Just Trading Scotland, a wonderful fair trade company in Paisley. They have been importing rice from Malawi and have deep respect for the extraordinary labours of men and women who produce delicious rice under very difficult circumstances in order to support their families and communities.

Last year, they asked John Bell whether he could produce a Harvest Festival Liturgy which would celebrate the work of smallholder farmers in Africa and other parts of the world. So WGRG produced a booklet, *Harvesting the World*, which includes liturgical ideas for introducing congregations to the 90 kg rice challenge... which they have been encouraging churches to do. 90 kg of rice is what a farmer in Malawi has to sell to send one child to secondary school for a year. Churches (or other groups) can buy this bulk amount and recoup their purchase by selling on 1kg bags to individuals. It's an incredibly immediate and ingenious way to creatively contribute to the development of people in one of the world's poorest countries.

A 90kg Rice Challenge pack includes a copy of *Harvesting the World*. This can make an ideal focus for harvest celebrations.

To find out more, contact Just Trading Scotland on: 0141 887 2882 or look at their website: www.justtradingscotland.co.uk/pages/90KG-challenge. Individual copies of the Liturgy Booklet alone, can be found at: www.wgrg.co.uk

JESUS - THEN & NOW

... is the second of two handbook-style publications that take a fresh look at the life of Jesus. The first, *WALK THE JESUS WALK*, invited people to examine the impact Jesus had on his first followers and to consider how they might engage with him today.

JESUS - THEN & NOW invites people to dig deeper into the Jesus story in the belief that the Good News which he proclaimed and embodied can be a potent force for good in the contemporary world. Both titles are designed for small group discussion over several weeks, and contain helpful questions, notes and background information.

They are published by St Marks CRC Press in Sheffield. For more information: John Simmonds 01246 251599; jc@simmonds4041.fsnet.co.uk.

CORRECTIONS & CLARIFICATIONS

A number of inaccuracies printed in recent issues of *GOOSE-gander* have been brought to our attention. It is the policy of the WGRG to correct significant errors as soon as possible.

In the summer edition of 1999, an article on hospitality in the Church referred to the *buxus sempervirens* as being a tree native to the UK. It is in fact a large shrub.

Those who followed the recipe for Dutch Apple cake in GG 14 will have realised that the fourth ingredient listed should have read mixed spice instead of hydroxylammonium chloride.

We apologise to Dr Vincent Twomey and would like to clarify that he is a prominent theologian and not a chef, as stated in issue no. 17.

The photograph of the 30m x 60m ice rink in issue 22 should have been placed next to the article on the use of worship space and not that of the refurbished mainland office.

On the Calendar page of issue 24, it was stated that Broseley is in Shropshire. It is, but that was not the location of the Big Sing.

In the winter issue of 2005 editorial, the Archbishop of Canterbury should have been named as Rowan Williams, not Rowan Atkinson.

In the spring/summer issue of 2008, the calendar page included an announcement on Graham Maule's upcoming sculpture exhibition, made from first aid equipment. This was an editorial misunderstanding – it should have read made from plaster.

An apparently innocent question led JO LOVE into a compelling and challenging wee writing project in the West of Scotland... she should have known better...

"Any ideas for Sunday?" It's the Fifth of Easter for the 47th time, what new thing can you do but sprout a few more grey hairs?!

Roddy Hamilton's answer to averting the advance of silver locks began with the most gentle and innocent of enquiries just as Holy City had ended and I was caught between blowing out candles and humphing a crate of mugs back to the vestry: "Jo, might you be interested in a wee writing project? I'm thinking of getting a group of good folks together, to do some creative stuff that churches could use." I conceded that I might. "Great. I'll get back to you."

So on a January afternoon last year, a brainstorming session par excellence was had in the cosy sittingroom of Roddy's manse. The nine of us roped in were persuaded we were up to the lofty vision Roddy had of a pilot project. We would produce and publish seven weeks' worth of lectionary-based worship and learning resources for all ages, for the post-Easter to Pentecost season. Oh yes we would. And the two main strengths and purposes of bothering to do so, would be the local, Scottish flavour of the material, and its focus on story as the lifeblood of faith.

On that first day, we also came up with a dozen possible titles for this grand-collection-to-be, but the eventual 'Spill the Beans' wasn't one of them! It dawned on us that just as we talk of 'spilling the beans' on our news, views, secrets, stories, changing perspectives and deepening meanings, what more apt name to capture the ethos of what we were trying to do.

An astonishing amount of doodling followed... pencils on paper while heads being scratched, as well as posting, picking apart and polishing on our online space! Like our chosen name suggests, the multi-coloured bowl of beans on offer in the end, were not intended for full consumption, but could be pick-and-mixed according to different needs in different places.

As a writing team we played to our individual strengths, contributing Bible background notes, games ideas, craft ideas, age-specific activities, prayers, meditations, symbolic actions, music suggestions, and a hopefully creative, maybe provocative, retelling of the scripture story, the latter being some of my own contributions.

So our first Pilot Booklet was made available as planned for Easter 2 to Pentecost 2010. Peter Johnston did a stunning job of formatting the booklet and it was (and still is!) downloadable for free, for anyone interested. Those congregations who tried out the material were invited to give us feedback, which many helpfully did. Encouragingly, there seemed a good case to carry on with a second Pilot Project, and so with dangerous enthusiasm we set ourselves the challenge for Lent 2011. This time we had a November overnight in Skelmorlie and countless last minute extensions to deadlines in the new year! But Pilot Booklet 2, even sleeker, shinier and tastier

than its predecessor, was launched through Roddy's blog in time for perusal before Lent was upon us. We now await a second round of feedback and then it will be decision time whether we go for, ta-da, a whole year of beans spilling.

We were generously aided by an anonymous donation given in the spirit of 'something to get us started', which it has! But as Roddy put it, finance can't achieve much without what really makes things work - good faith and generosity of friendship and dreams.

For more information about Spill the Beans, including links to see the Pilot Booklets, please contact Roddy Hamilton at rghamilton@nitworld.com

Voted out! Seven brothers left behind as youngest honoured

Eliab: (overjoyed) It wasnae me! Yeeeeeeeeeeeeee!

Abinadab: (extremely annoyed) It should have been me.

Eliab: What are you talking about?
It should never have been you!
It should have been me, actually.

Abinadab: But you didn't want it to be you!
And it wasnae you.
So it should have been me!

Eliab: Why did you want it to be you?
It's a lucky escape, bro,
that wee eejit can have it,
I'm glad it's him, and no' me!
And no' you either!

Abinadab: But I wanted it!
He'll be a right pain in the neck now.
He'll think he's better than us.
If you didnae get it, I'm the next in line,
but no, all seven of us get passed right over
for that wee nyaff.

Eliab: Away an' complain to Sam then.
He's your man. It's all his doing.
But I don't see why you're so bothered.
Aye, thank God it wasnae me!!

Abinadab: How come you didn't want it anyway?
How come you think it's a lucky escape?
That was your big chance for glory,
and you're glad to miss out?
How come?

Eliab: Aw, work it out, will you, doh!
The King is still alive and well,
though rumoured to be going a bit nuts,

and good old prophet Sam
anoints someone else to be the next king.
Well, you bet I'm glad it's no' me
with the sign on my head saying "King's rival."
Just wait till word gets out -
I don't think our wee bro will last a minute.
He'll be hunted, for crying out loud!

Abinadab: But prophets aren't in the business
of putting people's lives in danger.

Eliab: Aye right!
What was the first thing Pharaoh did
when Moses went asking for liberation?

Abinadab: Ok, ok, he doubled the workload of the slaves
for a bit,
but it was alright after that.

Eliab: (sarcastically)
Alright after that?
Sure! Everything was just dandy,
save for a few plagues,
a near drowning,
near death by thirst,
and near mutiny against the great prophet
for putting people's lives
in near constant danger!

Abinadab: (after a thoughtful pause)
Do you really think wee Davy will be
assassinated or something?

Eliab: How can we know?
What happens now, who can say?

Abinadab: So much for being the Lord's anointed.
No' much of a pleasure really.

Eliab: Nope.

Abinadab: But does it not put Sam on a doggy footing too,
if the King finds out what he's done?

Eliab: Mhmm.
Great perks and privileges, being a prophet.
Bet you wish that was you too?

Abinadab: Should you or Dad
not just have stopped all this happening then?

Eliab: Ah, and you'd like to do a better job
of being eldest son
or father as well?!

Abinadab: I'm just thinking what all this could do
to our family.
He's still our kid brother.

Eliab: And he's been anointed by a prophet
and chosen by God to be King.
You want to argue with that?

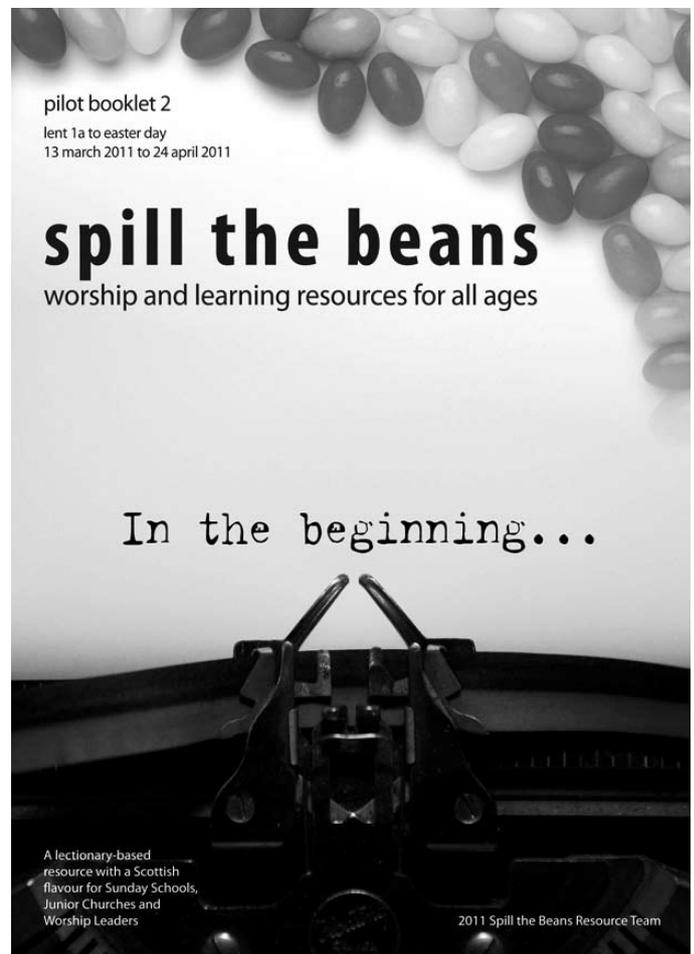
Abinadab: But I don't get it.

Eliab: Neither do I.
But what I do get is this –
you and I are still to be
what we've always been.
Shepherds, soldiers, sons and brothers.
That's quite enough to live up to.

Abinadab: Do you think wee Davy actually wishes
it wasnae him?

Eliab: Maybe we all live up to what's asked of us.
And he's no' that wee anymore.
It might make him less of an eejit.

Abinadab & Eliab: (together)
OOR DAVY FOR KING!
GAUN YERSEL, WEE YIN!



The Doctor, JOHN L. BELL, continues to offer insights gleaned from many years' experience on ways to improve liturgical and musical practices...

Back to Bass-ics

Dear Dr. Bell,

The church in which I minister has had a praise band for four years. They are good and sensitive musicians and have never been more than four in number, usually two guitars, a flute and a percussionist. Last month they invited a new member who played a bass guitar to join them. While I thought this added to the quality of the sound, I was alarmed to hear by email and phone call from eight or nine teenage girls in the congregation who said that since the bass guitar has been playing they have been prone to erotic thoughts during the worship service. I am aware that high frequency sounds can shatter glass. Can low bass sounds have this very alarming effect on the women of a certain age? Any help will be appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

*Revd Ima Jessie,
St Sylvester's C of E, Camphill-on-the-Ouse, England.*

Dear Revd Jessie,

As it happens I was in your vicinity two weekends ago and I attended morning eucharist at which you preached a very interesting sermon on Chaste Believers. I noticed that your praise band members were all in the forty to fifty age group except for a very handsome six foot Afro-Caribbean youth. He looked somewhere between seventeen and twenty, had long dreadlocks and wore a white T shirt, pale pink shorts and Nike trainers. Would this be the new bassist by any chance?

Yours etc.

J.L. Bell

Myoochool unnerstaunin'

Dear Dr. Bell,

My wife and I enjoyed your recent lecture, delivered at our local seminary, but couldn't help wondering what you were saying. Is there any way you could make some alterations to your accent, or at the very least, your intonation? Although your clothes and gestures are interesting, we'd love to understand the words. We have the same trouble with Sean Connery.

Yours respectfully,

*Revd D.B.G. Lawson III, Jnr,
Little Rock, Arkansas, USA.*

Deer Dee Bee Gee,

Eye simp a thighs comp leet lay. Eye nev err un derr stude Shawn eyether bee coz hee kumz frawm Edd in burrah, knorr doo eye no whot eye seigh mostelay. Eye wayre in tresting klothze too comp en sayt.

Yours in mystic and perpetual linguistic solidarity,

Jay El Bel

Holy popcorn

Dear Dr. Bell,

This is a bit awkward, but a member of our congregation claims the songs she has been writing were dictated by the Holy Spirit, and insists that we sing them at services. To be honest, they're not very good. How should we deal with this?

(Name and address supplied)

Dear anonymous friend,

I frequently have to deal with this problem. Sometimes the remedy is to say that as all things belong to God, and as the song has come straight from the Spirit that any copyright fees or royalties have to be paid to the DCU (Department of Charismatic Utterances) in room 666 of the headquarters of the World Council of

GANDER

at the calendar

Churches in Geneva. That usually silences those who are out to make a fast buck out of gullible Christians.

A second line of defence (or attack) is to say that since St. Paul encouraged the church to test spiritual inspirations, you are going to call a congregational meeting to adjudicate over the matter. The writer might then take fright, fearing that some of the congregation will recognise the text from a Helen Steiner Rice get well card from the 1970's.

A third possibility is the popcorn test. Say to the individual concerned that she should get three mobile phones to set their ring tone to the tune of her precious hymn and to sit on a table facing inwards to a piece of popcorn. On a nearby table place a similar piece of popcorn in the middle of three mobile phones whose ring tone is The Old Hundredth. Have six people stand around, three with their own mobiles set to call the phones with her tune, another three with mobiles set to call the phones playing the Old Hundredth. At a given signal get everyone to make the call. The first popcorn to burst will indicate the authentically inspired song. I've never tried this myself, but I seem to remember Elijah doing something similar with dead animals on a bonfire.

Please let me know if any of these suggestions prove helpful.

Yours in the paraclete,

J.L. Bell

Do you have any questions for the Doctor? Can he offer help and inappropriate diagnosis for your liturgical symptoms?

Write to the Doctor:

c/o GOOSEgander at the contact address on page 2.



Wild Goose Resource Group

A selection of open WGRG events for Spring/ Summer 2011.

Local contacts in brackets, otherwise details from 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

August 2011

13th-19th: IONA, MacLeod Centre. 'Make It Flesh, Make It Real'. Jo Love and Graham Maule share some be's in their bonnets and do's in their doo'cots. For those who want to be physically creative, actively challenged and reflectively engaged with some of the issues and lifestyle choices facing the people of God today, head, heart and soul (01681 700404, abbey. bookings@iona.org.uk)

26th-29th: CHELTENHAM, Racecourse. Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival. John Bell seminars & WGRG/ Holy City worship (www.greenbelt.org.uk)

September 2011

16th-17th: CANTERBURY, Cathedral. Canterbury Diocesan event, theme - 'Community and Discipleship'. Includes sessions with John Bell ((Nerys Pierce-Hughes, Gathering Co-ordinator, 07957 433071, npierce-hughes@diocant.org, www.canterburydiocese.org/thegathering/)

17th: HERNE, Kent, St. Martin's Church. 'Ancient

Celtic Gifts for Modern Times' seminar and singing workshop with John Bell (Elaine Richardson, 01227 379256, elaine.longview@virgin.net)

19th: LONDON, Kensington URC. John Bell leads a singing workshop, evening (James Mather, Local Council of Churches, 020 7361 1670, jsm.johnstonmather@btinternet.com)

24th-25th: HEXHAM, Abbey. Festival Weekend. John Bell will lead a workshop & Big Sing and preach at Festival Evensong (Joanna Anderson, 01434 602031, joanna@hexhamabbey.org.uk)

24th-30th: IONA, MacLeod Centre. 'Celebrating the Seasons'. Between Pentecost and Advent not much happens - this week allows for a reflection on how we celebrate the seasons both of the Christian Year and of our own lives. Jo Love and John Bell will enable a multi-dimensional experience (01681 700404, abbey. bookings@iona.org.uk)

October 2011

1st: SHEFFIELD, St. Mark's Church. 'In Spirit and Truth', exploring the relationship between belief, worship and discipleship. John Bell and Jo Love lead workshops (Anne, church office, 0114 266 3613, www.stmarkssheffield.co.uk)

8th: HULL, St. Michael and All Angels Church. Workshops on music for worship and prayer, led by John Bell (Madeleine Fisher, 01482 805263, mfisher@stmichaelsnorthhull.org.uk)

15th: CHELTENHAM, Parabola Arts Centre. Medicine

GG & LITURGY BOOKLET SUBSCRIPTIONS

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*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:

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- Ways to financially support the WGRG
- The Iona Community
- Holy City, Glasgow 2011-12
- A copy of GOOSEgander sent to a friend (please append their address)

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www.wgrg.co.uk;

www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk

GANDER at the calendar (continued)

9

Unboxed 2011 – 'Medicine and Values', exploring all values that inform medical care. John Bell is one of the speakers (Sam Guglani, 0845 422 4032, sam.guglani@glos.nhs.uk)

24th-28th: LEICESTER, Launde Abbey. 'Of Things Seldom Spoken' – led by John Bell, the great unmentionables will be the substance of seminars, worship and songs (01572 717254, laundeabbey@leicester.anglican.org)

29th: MANCHESTER, Chapel Street and Hope URC. Inner Manchester Mission Network day event with sessions led by John Bell (Sally Thomas, 0161 281 6545, sallymasseythomas@gmail.com)

30th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow. HOLY CITY... the first event of the 2011-12 session, 'Choice Cuts', which explores the choices facing faith and society (wgrg@iona.org.uk; 0141 332 6343)

November 2011

5th-6th: BISHOP'S CASTLE, Shropshire. Workshops 10am-4pm with John Bell (John and Hazel Cribb, 01588 620470, cadno@hotmail.com)

7th-11th: LYNTON, N Devon, Lee Abbey. John Bell leads 'Ancient Gifts for Modern Times' (01598 754200, www.leeabbey.org.uk/devon/programme)

12th: PRESTON, Tabor Carmelite Retreat House. A Musical Celebration of Faith with John Bell (01772 717122, tabor@carmelite.net)

21st-24th: WINDERMERE

CENTRE. Advent Retreat led by John Bell and Jo Love (015394 44902, windermere.urb.org.uk)

24th: KENDAL, St. Thomas' Church. Big Sing, led by Jo Love and John Bell (Christine Green, 01539 723185, cmgreen15@sky.com)

27th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's Centre, Bath Street, Glasgow. HOLY CITY... the second event of the 2011-12 session. See 30th October (wgrg@iona.org.uk; 0141 332 6343)

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John Bell will be working in North America from June 3rd to June 30th, and July 17th to August 1st 2011. For details of North American open engagements, please see NWF link www.iona-nwf.org/Schedule/JohnBell.htm

