

GOOSEgander

The newsletter of the Wild Goose Resource Group

Summer/ Autumn 2012 no.33 - EXTRACTED VERSION/ 12 pages



In this issue: **CHURCH, Community & Culture:** an essay by JOHN BELL on these three areas - NOT INCLUDED IN THIS EXTRACTED VERSION; **A MANIFESTO on music for liturgy:** ...or what the WGRG believe about song - NOT INCLUDED IN THIS EXTRACTED VERSION; **DEPARTURE TIME for Holy City:** GRAHAM MAULE gives us a rough guide to the 2012-13 journey; **LITURGYgander:** a liturgy for the blessing of a house; plus **NEWS from Nepal, DR.BELL'S Surgery, GOOSEoose, CATALOGUE gander** and **GANDER at the calendar.**

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 Stella Cranwell 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: 'Wild Goose Resource Group'

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HOLY CITY

Web: www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk;

Facebook: 'Holy City Glasgow'

Twitter: 'HolyCityGlasgow'

LIVING THE QUESTIONS (Scotland)

Facebook: 'Living The Questions (Scotland)'

Since the last edition, the Wild Goose Collective has been flexing its vocal chords, busy recording tracks for a CD to go with the publication of a new songbook, *The Truth That Sets Us Free*. This was first made available at Greenbelt in August and is now in all good shops! It includes the songs 'Hamba Nathi' (aka. 'Come with me for the journey is long'), 'So much wrong', and what has affectionately become known as the 'Greenbelt' Alleluia.

This year so far, in addition to working in the UK, Ireland, the US and Canada, JOHN travelled to South America where he led sessions in Buenos Aires for Anglican Priests. Because they are increasingly Spanish-speaking Argentines, John's English had to be translated, as indeed has often unofficially been the case in the USA...

John also visited local projects in Paraguay, including a village from where for several years now young people have travelled to volunteer on Iona.

The queen was busy early in the summer, so didn't make it to the official 'unveiling' of a mosaic at Baljaffray Primary School, which the kids had produced under JO's guidance. We think adhesive fumes must have gone to Jo's head – she took photos of a section of the mosaic when the cement was wet, returned to the office, and checked the pictures to see if it was dry yet...



The aroma of popcorn wafted around the top floor of Savoy House one recent Friday afternoon, as staff members viewed a recording of Songs of Praise from 1987.

We marvelled at the footage (literally!) of John's flowing locks as he conducted singers in Iona Abbey. Perms and big specs featured prominently, and that was just during Graham's solo.

Foundations were shown of the Macleod Centre - completed in 1988 - and next year's 25th anniversary will tie in with those of the founding of the Community and the arrival of Columba on Iona. The WGRG team will be leading a week on Iona next July, at the time of the Macleod Centre celebrations, and a number of WGRG songs will feature in forthcoming BBC Songs of Praise - recorded in Dunblane - to be broadcast in November and January.

Beyond the Resource Group, the Community's office team has been swelled by Ben Raw, formerly a volunteer on Iona and Kirsty Campbell. Ben has joined the Community's Youth Team, and Kirsty takes on the Admin Assistant role - we're looking forward to working with both of them.

CATALOGUE

Our new catalogue is now ready – you can request a hard copy or download it from our website – as well as placing orders for any of our liturgies, books, CDs and badges. And do consider registering as a customer, as that way you can get updates on new titles, and special offers, some of which will only be available to previously signed-up Shop customers – just visit www.wgrg.co.uk, sign up and log in.

SPECIAL OFFERS

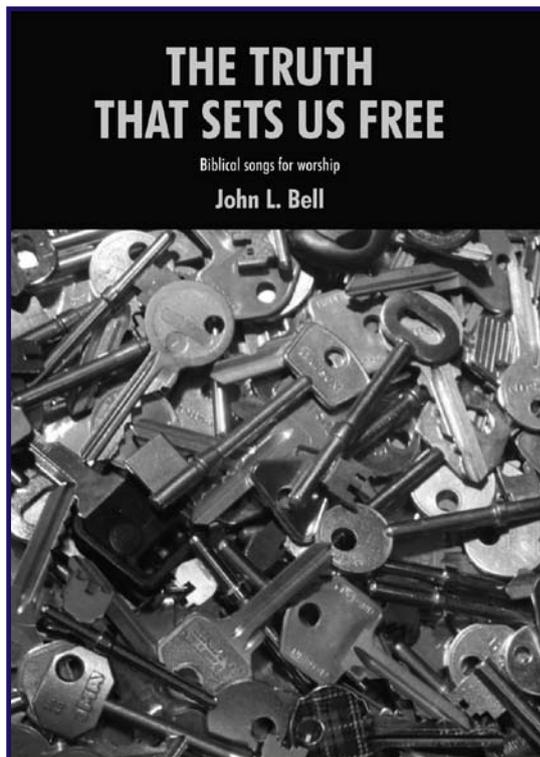
THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE by John L. Bell. Book, normally £14.99, special offer £13.00.

THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE by the Wild Goose Collective. CD, normally £15.30, special offer £12.00.

LIVING LETTERS OF THE WORD by Neil Paynter. Book, normally £11.99, special offer £11.00

NEW TITLES

We've all been waiting and wondering too long, but here's news of the latest Wild Goose title and some others of equally compelling interest – all providing our usual diversity and depth:



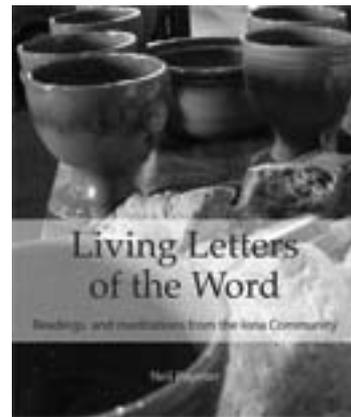
THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE by John L. Bell; CD recorded by the Wild Goose Collective. The phrase of which this title consists comes from the words of Jesus; and it's a new collection of 21 (longer) songs, the first such from the Wild Goose Resource Group for almost a decade. As with previous albums, these are not songs written for the 'Market', but songs that have done the rounds, been road-tested at home and abroad; and they've proved their worth.

Coming from places as far apart as Singapore, Mozambique and Glasgow, the only common thread is in the title. They are songs intended, as the title suggests, to liberate us from limited horizons.

What we sing shapes what we believe – the songs we sing reflect the theology of our times, and theology is always in process because God is always on the move.

Offering a cross section of material for use in public worship, most songs have biblical roots and references; some express exultant praise, others yearning

or anger. Some are suited to one season or liturgical act, others are suitable for most Sundays. The 21 songs are also available on CD, recorded by the Wild Goose Collective. **Book: £14.99; CD: £15.30** are the normal prices.. but see our Special Offers!



LIVING LETTERS OF THE WORD by Neil Paynter is the third in the series following *This Is the Day* and *Gathered and Scattered*. Daily readings for four months from a wide range of contributors within the Iona Community. These prayers, poems, songs, which

draw on the concerns of the Community, can be used for group or individual reflection and are intended to inspire positive action and change in our lives. **Book: £11.99...** but again see Special Offer!

READY OR NOT by Ruth Harvey deals with children, spirituality and journeying together. How does being with children offer us a glimpse of God? On our adult faith journey, do we remember the wisdom of our own childhood thoughts? And in what ways are we, as adults, open to the wisdom that children in our midst share? *Ready or Not* can be used for personal reflection, group studies and in worship and it offers resources and inspiration for finding God and spirituality in the midst of the busyness, messiness, pressure, nurturing, despair and joy of life. **Book: £9.99**

LIVING THE QUESTIONS - LOWER PRICES!!!

Due to at last being able to achieve economies of scale, Living the Questions have just brought down the prices of their hugely popular DVD programmes. So we are pleased to be able to pass them on to you. For example, the flagship DVD LTQ2 - 21 sessions exploring the a wide range of biblical and faith concerns, is now only **£110.00!** Do take a look at our website for other prices: www.wgrg.co.uk

WANTED: MORE CRAZINESS

In May 2012 at a recent conference in the USA, the African American bishop of North Carolina who, in preaching about Mary Magdalene, was overheard to proclaim: 'We need some more crazy Christians, because the sane ones are killing us...'

WOW!...ZA

A highlight of the recent Edinburgh Festival Fringe for Graham was the re-staging, thirty years on, of *WOZA ALBERT*, a defining political satire from South Africa, that he and John had seen in London in the early 1980s.

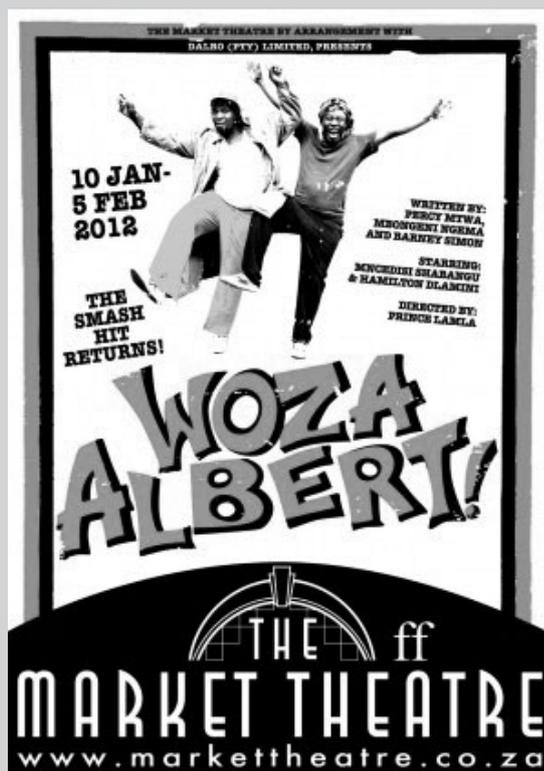
It proved to be a seminal theatrical experience, as it led to the writing of a 'Scots/ South African Nativity Play' called *Gabi Gabi* which was performed in Glasgow by The Magic Playpiece, the Iona Community's youth volunteers' theatre group which existed in the early 80s. The style of *Gabi Gabi* adopted a very similar improvisatory approach and narrative thrust to that of *Woza*.

The original *Woza Albert*, written by Percy Mtwa, Mbongeni Ngema and Barney Simon in 1981, presents a series of powerful and poignant scenes from contemporary South African life (during Apartheid) and it poses the question of what would happen if Jesus Christ (aka Morena) were to return to earth, and in particular to Apartheid South Africa.

Though the two actors were different from those Graham and John had seen in the 1981 production, the energy of the two characters is incredible as they conjure up, with few props and costumes a multitude of characters. Humour, anger, desperation and poignant faith follow an inevitable logic as the train of events build. At first Morena is feted by the government, only to then be interred (repeatedly). And poetically, the denouement takes place in a graveyard...

One of the youth volunteers who performed in *Gabi Gabi* was one Neil Cooper. Intriguingly, he writes on theatre and other cultural forms for the Glasgow Herald. And equally intriguingly, he wrote a review for the 2012 Fringe *Woza*, which can be found in full here: <http://coffeetablenotes.blogspot.co.uk/2012/08/woza-albert-south-african-pioneers.html>

At the time of going to print, it seems there are no



further UK performances of *Woza Albert* planned. But do keep alert in case the show should return sometime to a theatre near to you... a hearty Wild Goose recommendation of a deeply moving and affirming poetic work.

SINGING IN CHURCH IS DANGEROUS

And having mentioned South Africa, we might recall that a significant practice that was to prove critical in the overthrowing of the Apartheid regime was *song*... the song of the people on marches, in the streets, at funerals, was an enduring source of critique, which also expressed a radical hope and visions of a better world. The reality was that singing in these situations could get you thrown into jail...

As it was in President Botha's South Africa, so today in President Putin's Russia, it seems. Three members of the proto-feminist punk/agitprop collective, Pussy Riot, have been sentenced in August to two years in prison for performing an anti-Putin song in a Moscow church.

In early September, Poland's legendary dissident leader, Lech Walesa, wrote to President Putin asking him to pardon the Pussy Riot three.

More info: <http://www.myspace.com/pussyriot>
<http://freepussyriot.org/>

DEPARTURE TIME ⁵ for Holy City

HOLY CITY 2012-13
PROMISING LANDS:
ROUGH GUIDES TO
CONTEMPORARY FAITH...
...IN A SMALL NATION
AND A WEE WORLD.

On the occasion of its eleventh season, Holy City - WGRG's monthly, ecumenical workshop & liturgy event in Glasgow's city centre - returns; and there's a double movement as GRAHAM MAULE reveals...

No.1: Theme: 'Promising Lands'

The first movement is in our theme: 'Promising Lands'... rough guides to contemporary faith in a small nation and a wee world. Through this we'll be paying attention to the important journeys that face us over the next few years - the journey towards Scotland's 2014 referendum on independence; the transitions our 'advanced' society must make to achieve a post-carbon stability; the personal pilgrimages, both spiritual and material, that we make as faith individuals and a community of faith.

The Promised Land was something that the original Hebrews ran away from; and 40 years later once they'd got there was it what had been expected? As a wise man once said, the Promised Land is not better than the past, merely different. Maybe that's why we chose to phrase the term differently too, as 'promising....' Either way, do come along to Holy City and join us on the excursions.

No.2: Time of the month: first Sunday

The second movement is that we will be moving from the last Sunday of the month to the first. A major change but will help us avoid too many clock changes and holidays!

We look forward to welcoming you at some point!

HOLY CITY 2012-13

Events: (all dates below are Sundays):

2012

7th October
4th November
2nd December

2013

6th January
3rd February
3rd March
7th April
5th May

@6.30-9.30pm, in
Renfield St Stephen's
Centre, 260 Bath Street,
Glasgow.

6 LITURGYgander

Some would reckon it's long overdue (as numero four appeared way back in 1999), but the 5th incarnation of A WEE WORSHIP BOOK may (rumour has it) be moving towards its realisation. No more detail can be revealed, gleaned or given at this stage, but in the process, a little liturgy which may or may not be included therein, has fallen into our possession. Ever jealously guarding our sources, yet devotedly wishing to share any treasures we have with the special folk who are Goosegander readers, here is...

A LITURGY FOR THE BLESSING OF A HOUSE

While two leaders are indicated here, this whole liturgy may be shared among many.

It is envisaged that it will begin outside the main door and, once inside the house, will continue in various rooms as indicated. The only suggested accessory is a bowl of water from which the relevant leader may be able to make the sign of the cross on the door. But additional symbolic action is possible throughout, including the lighting of a candle in every room. The Peruvian Gloria or another chant may be sung as people move from one place to another.

For the final blessing of the inhabitants, those standing near them may put a hand on their shoulders. Depending on local custom, a cup of tea or a glass of whisky might be shared thereafter.

At the door

- A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
ALL: THE MAKER OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.
A: Our hope is in Jesus, God's Son
ALL: WHO STANDS AT THE DOOR
AND KNOCKS.
A: Our trust is in God's Holy Spirit
ALL: THE PRESENCE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH.
- B: As at the first Passover,
Moses took the blood of a lamb
and sprinkled the doorposts of the house
to keep the inhabitants safe from all harm
so I take this water,
symbol of baptism and cleansing
and make the sign of the cross
on this place of entry.

(The sign of the cross is made on the door with water)

- B: I claim this as a place
for God
and for God's children;
I banish any malign spirits from the past.
I forbid all that is evil to enter here;
and I commit this place
to show the hospitality of heaven
and all who stay here to live in peace,
in the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: AMEN.
- B: In every opening and closing,
in every coming and going,
in every welcome and farewell;
ALL: GOD'S HOLY NAME BE PRAISED.

On entering the house

- ALL: OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN,
HALLOWED BE YOUR NAME;
YOUR KINGDOM COME
YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH
AS IT IS IN HEAVEN.
GIVE US TODAY OUR DAILY BREAD,
AND FORGIVE US OUR SINS
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE
WHO SIN AGAINST US..
DO NOT LEAD US INTO TEMPTATION
BUT DELIVER US FROM EVIL,
FOR THE KINGDOM, THE POWER
AND THE GLORY ARE YOURS
NOW AND FOREVER.
AMEN.

In the kitchen

- A: In the kitchen Jesus saw
how salt lost its savour
and yeast swelled the dough.
From the kitchen Jesus enjoyed food
in the company of Martha, Mary, Lazarus,

Simon, Matthew, Zaccheus,
Joanna, Susanna and with many
who were deemed unworthy to be served.

And because Jesus enjoyed eating and drinking,
we pray that this may be true for all God's children

B: So, God bless this kitchen
and give those who live here joy in it.
May the cupboards never be empty
and waste never be excessive.
May it be for all
a place of nourishment and recreation,
a place in which to appreciate food
and to prepare it lovingly for others.
AMEN.

In the bathroom

A: The eye cannot say to the hand,
'I don't need you!'
Nor can the head say to the feet,
'I don't need you!'
On the contrary,
all parts of the body are needed.
Those parts which seem to be of little importance
we treat with great care;
while those parts which are not very attractive
are treated with special modesty.
God has put the body together:
in it there is no division.

B: So, God bless the bathroom(s) of this house
and the health of all who live here.
May sickness never linger in them,
may they delight in their bodies as in their minds;
may they never fear the mirror
and never avoid that which makes for health.
AMEN.

In the Main Bedroom

A: Jesus and the disciples got into a boat
to cross to the other side of the lake.

Suddenly a strong wind blew up,
and the waves began to spill over into the boat.
so that it was about to fill with water.

And all this time,
Jesus was at the back of the boat, sleeping.

B: God bless this place of rest
keep its door closed to what might cause worry
and open to what will bring joy.

Give to those who sleep here good times of rest,
dreams that bring no terror
and new energy every morning.
AMEN.

In the Guest Bedroom

A: In the homes of Matthew and Zaccheus
in the homes of Simon and Jairus
in the homes of Martha and Mary,
Joanna and Susanna,
Jesus was pleased to be guest,
glad to enjoy hospitality.

B: So, God bless this place where guests will stay.
May they come to this house to give
as well as receive.
May there be as numerous as can be gladly welcomed,
and may they find in this house
rest, nourishment and affirmation.

In the Sitting Room

A: I saw a stranger yesterday.
I put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place,
and he blessed me, my house
and all my dear ones.
And when he was gone,
I heard the lark sing,
'Often, often, often goes the Christ
in the stranger's guise.'

B: God bless this place where people will gather
whether it be full of laughter
or quiet with wonder, thought or tenderness.
Whether people read here, think here,
entertain or relax here,
let the warmth of your company, O Christ,
be always present.

May there always be stories to tell,
always embraces to be shared
always love to be celebrated.
AMEN.

Song: GOD BLESS THIS HOUSE (*Tune: St Columba*), Words copyright © WGRG, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH.

1. God bless this house, let it become
a home by night and day,
a place of welcome and of warmth
where peace and justice stay.
2. God bless this house, and keep it safe
from sickness, harm and fear;
instead bring laughter, love of life
and all that you count dear.
3. God bless this house, and may it be
enhanced by hopeful prayer,
by song and story, quiet space,
good news and generous care.
4. God bless this house and make it yours,
a staging post for heaven
where host and guest are richly blessed
through love received and given.



A Blessing on the Inhabitants

A: The blessing of God be yours:
ALL: GOD ABOVE YOU TO AFFIRM YOU,
GOD BENEATH YOU TO UPHOLD YOU,
GOD BEHIND YOU TO SUSTAIN YOU,
GOD BEFORE YOU TO CAJOLE YOU,
GOD AROUND YOU TO PROTECT YOU
GOD WITHIN YOU TO INSPIRE YOU
GOD IN ALL THINGS TO DIRECT YOU
GOD TO CHERISH AND REQUIRE YOU.
AMEN.

CHITRA KARKI is a dear friend of ours, who studied here in Glasgow several years ago, before returning back home to Nepal to embark on a remarkable ministry. Here, as in earlier Gooseganders, we share some news of what he and his folk are up to.

THE TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE

21 NEW SONGS - JOHN L. BELL
& THE WILD GOOSE COLLECTIVE
SONGBOOK & CD www.wgrg.co.uk



Kathmandu at Easter

Greetings from Nepal!

Every one looked forward to our dawn Easter morning service this year, to which, most appropriately perhaps, a majority of those there before 5 am being women.

After an hour at the church, we went with banners and placards to the city. As has been our habit in recent years, we processed through the streets of Kathmandu chanting *Halleluiah* to mark the resurrection of Jesus. We have been freer to do this since the big political changes that happened in 2007.

We walked for two hours arriving at one of the main squares, concluding after holding a service of prayer. We prayed openly for the government and for the new constitution which will take effect at the end of May this year.

It was a really moving service. Many other brothers and sisters heard about Jesus' love and our ultimate hope in him.

The Grace Home Orphanage

We thank so many in Scotland and the UK for tireless prayer for the Grace children and material support in terms of their food and education. The academic school year starts here again and we will be taking new admissions for another class.

All the children from the house passed their exams. Our own children, Mahima, Sumina and Pravab also upgraded to another level. We are busy buying new books, uniforms and stationery for every one. Some good news has been that three of the female pupils, Devak Khadka, Tara Basnet and Ramita Tamang also finished their schooling. They are waiting for their results and hope to go college if they pass the exam. Please pray for them and their future ahead.

We may also adopt a few more children this year as there is still a desperate need for places. Every year people come with vulnerable little ones and ask us to take them in, but the problem is that we struggle to have sufficient resources. It is hard to say no, when we can't keep them all.



CHITRA KARKI

The political situation

We have enjoyed freedom since the big political changes happened in 2007. But things are still tough. The government has been changing every three months or so. We are not blessed with stable government. There hasn't been much progress and as a result the country is becoming poorer. Prices have risen by 200% over a very short time. There are many jobless people, many having to go to India and the Gulf to earn bread for their families.

We're all yearning for a better Nepal and a better future, but there is still no settled constitution yet. However, our churches are praying for a stable politics and ask you to do the same. Each stage of development in the country hinges on the state of the political situation. We also remain concerned about whether Nepali Christian society will be recognised in the new constitution. What will happen here is still not clear.

My brothers and sisters, we thank you for your constant prayer and love for our Lord's ministry which we are involved with in Nepal. We would be crippled without your prayer and support. It is always encouraging to be able to tell you our news; our Lord Jesus is working mightily in Nepal. As a result; many people are responding to the Gospel message and coming to Him.

Lastly, My Church and big family joins with me to send you greeting and love.

Your brother in Christ,

Chitra Karki and the New Life Church family,
GPO Box 12859,
Kathmandu,
Nepal.
newlifechurch3@hotmail.com

10 DR. BELL'S surgery

More clinical, liturgical remedies from Dr. JOHN L. BELL (sic) in his regular column...

Remnising Vimonotics

Dear Dr Bell,

I am interested in revising mnemonics. When I was sent to piano lessons aged five, I was told that in the treble clef the lines EGBDF could be remembered in the phrase, 'Every Good Boy Deserves Favour.' I'm not sure if I have the spaces correct, but I think FACE was instilled with the statement, 'Foul Air Comes Easily.'

Don't you think it's time that we had something more up-to-date for the world we live in? I suggest: Ecological Gobbledegook Begets Disingenuous Fallacies and Favoured Atheists Create Exasperation. What do you think?

Mrs Muriel Lickspittle, Lower Fetteringham

Dear Mrs Lickspittle,

I have forwarded your suggestions to the British Guild of Musical Phenomenologists. Expect a polite reply.

Yours GTHF, etc.

A wind up?

Dear Dr. Bell,

My Trumpet en Chamade is not functioning properly. Any advice?

W. Oregon Morgon.

Dear Mr Morgon,

I have consulted two specialists before replying. One said that knitted socks had helped one such sufferer. The other mentioned a solution of two parts gripe water to one part Canadian Club. Personally, I have never had any bother with mine, perhaps because I keep to a strict vegetarian diet.

Yours fibricaciously, etc.

Underage text

Dear Dr Bell,

Why do the old people not like it when I text my friend Johnny in church. He's an atheist and I think that texting him the jokes in the sermon is a good way of spreading the Gospel. But all you hear is 'tut tut tut' from two old men whose hearing aids squeak and a lady whose false teeth come out when she sneezes. Any answers?

Billy (aged 14)

Dear Billy,

In a church near me people discovered that using a mobile phone even for texting purposes during worship interfered with the frequencies to which many hearing aids are tuned. In fact, there was a boy your age whose consistent texting caused a gentleman of 75 to have a heart attack. The boy is presently serving four years in a young offender's institution for grievous geriatric assault. I tell you this because I'm sure you wouldn't want to join him.

The lady with the loose-fitting dentures is a different case entirely. If you have a grandparent with an old or spare set of false teeth, borrow them and take them to church next Sunday along with some powdered pepper. Spread this liberally in the lady's hymnbook. When she sneezes, quickly pick up her dentures and swap them for the set in your pocket. She will undoubtedly suffer sufficient discomfort to go to a dentist and get a new pair made which, hopefully, will stay in her mouth.

Do you have any questions for the Doctor? Can he offer help and (in)appropriate 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 Autumn/Winter 2012 and into 2013. 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

September 2012

■ 14th-15th: THIRSK, N Yorks, Holy Rood House.

Fri eve annual Hildegard Lecture & Sat workshop, part of Hymns for Healing project.

(Jan Berry, 01845 522580, janberry@holyroodhouse.org.uk)

■ 17th: DUNDEE, West Church.

7pm, talk/discussion with John Bell, arranged by Progressive Christianity Network local group.

(Gordon Sharp, 01382 643002, gordon.sharp@pcnbritain.org.uk)

■ 20th: BIRMINGHAM, St Philip's Cathedral.

Afternoon workshop on Lament, part of day training event run by Praxismidlands.

(Janet Chapman, 0121 262 1840, canonliturgist@birminghamcathedral.com; www.praxismidlands.org.uk)

20th: BIRMINGHAM, St Chad's Cathedral.

Evening workshop on Shorter Songs and Psalms (run by RSCM group) with John Bell.

(Tickets £5 in advance through www.rscmjohbell.eventbrite.co.uk or from Nick Perrier, 0121 604 8218, mick@mperrier.freeserve.co.uk)

■ 22nd: BELFAST, Belmont Presbyterian Church.

'150 Years of Life and Witness' Workshops led by John Bell on the use and development of music in worship.

(Purvis Campbell, 028 9065

3365, campbell.pp@gmail.com)

■ 28th-30th: SWANWICK, Hayes Conference Centre.

'Sharing the Good News' - Diocese of Lichfield Lay Conference. Kathy Galloway is lead speaker; Graham Maule and Jo Love will run workshops on participative prayer and ways to use the Bible.

(pre-booking required: 01902 562126, anthony.rathbone@blueyonder.co.uk)

October 2012

■ 7th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street.

HOLY CITY. The 2012-13 session's theme is 'Promising Lands'... rough guides to contemporary faith in a small nation and a wee world. Tonight, the first event is 'Journey Planner', in which we'll prepare for the journey through these promising places.

Note: in 2012-13, Holy City will be on the first Sunday in the month, not the last one as in previous years.

Contact WGRG for more details and: www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk; Facebook: 'Holy City Glasgow'; Twitter: 'HolyCityGlasgow'.

■ 27th: REIGATE, Gatton Park, Royal Alexandra & Albert School.

Gatton Encounters: 10am - 4pm John Bell will lecture on 'Things They Never Told Us About Jesus' & lead a workshop on The Spirituality of the Psalms.

(John Smith, 01737 643755, revjohn.e.smith@btinternet.com)

■ 29th Oct – 2nd Nov: LAUNDE ABBEY, Leicester.

'Tackling Tough Texts', a retreat with John Bell. Rather than seeing the Bible's apparent contradictions as disincentives to faith, John will explore these as means by which our understanding of God might be deepened.

(01572 717254, www.launde.org.uk)

November 2012

■ 4th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street.

HOLY CITY. Tonight, the second event in our 'Promising Lands' session is 'Departure'. See 7th October for more details.

■ 3rd-4th: LICHFIELD, The Cathedral.

John Bell will take Saturday sessions on 'The Engaged Spirituality of Jesus' and 'Improving Congregational Song', and preach at Sunday am worship.

(Tickets from Diana Hill, demhill@orangehome.co.uk)

■ 5th: WIDNES, Cheshire, St. Basil & All Saints RC & CofE.

7pm 'Something New for God' – an evening of songs and stories with John Bell.

(Angela Kaye, Hough Green Millenium Projects Group: Gift of Life for Zambia, 0151 424 8668, AngelaKaye1963@talktalk.net)

■ 24th: NEWCASTLE, Parish of the Sacred Heart, North Gosforth.

'Stumbling Blocks and Stepping Stones' – practical ways for local churches to progress & 'The Song of God's People'. 10.30am-4.30pm. An op-

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Web: www.iona.org.uk/wgrg_home.php;

www.wgrg.co.uk;

www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk

GANDER at the calendar (continued)

portunity to share singing & reflection with John Bell.

(Lesley Wright, 0191 236 3855, lesleywright43@talktalk.net)

■**26th: LONDON, St Martin-in-the-Fields.**

7pm John Bell speaks on 'The Story and the Song', part of the Autumn Education Programme series, 'His Story, Our Story: Jesus and the Story Teller's Art'.

(www.smiif.org, or send a stamped addressed envelope to 'Faith Education Programme' at 6, St Martin's Place, WC2N 4JJ)

■**27th: WIRKSWORTH, Derbyshire, United Reformed Church.**

John Bell delivers a Montgomery Trust Lecture on 'The Hidden Humour in Holy Scripture', 7.30pm.

(Camilla Veitch, 01629 826913)

■**28th: AMERSHAM, St. Michael & All Angels.**

8pm Amersham Millenium Lecture - John Bell speaks on 'Ten Things They Never Told Us About Jesus'.

(01494 726680, office@stmichaelsamersham.org.uk)

■**30th: GLASGOW, venue to be confirmed.**

Holy City's 'Urban Retreat 2012', led by Pdraig O'Tuama, on the subject of the Book of Job.

Contact WGRG for more details and: www.holycity-glasgow.co.uk; Facebook: 'Holy City Glasgow'; Twitter: 'HolyCityGlasgow'.

December 2012

■**2nd: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street.**

HOLY CITY. Tonight, the third event in our 'Promising Lands' session is 'Passing Places'. See 7th October for more details.

January 2013

■**6th: GLASGOW, Renfield St Stephen's, Bath Street.**

HOLY CITY. Tonight, the fourth event in our 'Promising Lands' session is 'Directional Change'. See 7th October for more details.

■**19th- 20th: CONSETT, Co. Durham.**

Minsteracres Retreat Centre. 'Faith on the Margins' - John Bell will lead this retreat with reflection, conversation, song and silence.

(01434 673248; www.minsteracres.org)

John L. Bell will be working in North America 27th September – 22nd October 2012. For details of North American open engagements, please see NWF link <http://www.iona-nwf.org/Schedule-JohnBell.htm>

