

SEPTEMBER 2008 VIEW

Dear Friends

Part of our holiday this summer was spent on the North-east coast of Skye. Once you leave the main town of Portree behind you travel for about 5 miles on single-track roads with passing places. With the Old Man of Storr as your companion for many miles civilisation is gradually left behind. You almost physically feel the power and the peace of both mountains and sea. We truly loved it and drank in the silence and the spaciousness.

Within a few days of leaving Skye, Brian and I were in Dublin on a nostalgic trip to see my first university, Trinity College. I had heard that Dublin had changed, that it had now become a cosmopolitan hub of activity, but nothing had quite prepared us for the sheer volume of humanity that surges through its streets day – and night. Our hotel was just off O’Connell Street and I can verify that people are still out partying at 4.30am!

Perhaps it was the contrast with Skye that made Dublin almost shocking by comparison. But I remember thinking to myself that God is equally present in both places. It is simply that we often find it easier to get in touch with God in the stillness and beauty of the natural world rather than in the hustle and bustle of city streets.

Activity has by no means stopped in the church over the summer months but September still sees a sudden moving up through the gears towards our full calendar of events. It can be easy sometimes to lose sight of God in our busyness. The truth, of course, is that we need to find a balance between prayer and action, between stillness and movement, between withdrawal and involvement. It was John Wesley who said: *I have so much to do today that I must spend several hours in prayer before I am able to do it.* How guilty most of us are of doing everything first and then we’ll pray if we have any time left over!

On 21st September we will celebrate the harvest festival by reflecting together on the thing that we probably take for granted most out of all God's gifts – clean water. We will hear about some of the projects that the charity Wateraid is doing to help people in developing countries to access clean water and there will be a chance for you to make a donation to Wateraid. After the service please come through to the large hall where we will share lunch together.

On 28th September it is Back to Church Sunday. This is an initiative that originated in the Church of England a couple of years ago and is spreading now to many other denominations. On this Sunday we are all encouraged to bring to church someone who has not been to church for some time, for whatever reason. You may have a member of your own family who usually stays at home on a Sunday or goes shopping. You may have a neighbour who is a member of the church but hasn't been to a service for a long time. Why not invite them to come along and bring them through after the service for tea and coffee. Please note there will not be communion on 28th September.

Whether our lives are busy or quiet, may we always find God in the midst of all that we do.

With best wishes from Sara

WORSHIP FOR SEPTEMBER 2008

7TH: Matthew 18: 15-20: Life in community
Romans 13: 8-14: Love one another

14th: Genesis 50: 15-21: Joseph forgives his brothers
Matthew 18: 21-35: The parable of the unforgiving servant

There will be tea, coffee and a Traidcraft stall after the service in the large hall.

21st: HARVEST CELEBRATION: The theme will be the Water of Life when we will reflect on the gift of fresh water and how we can share that gift with others through the charity Wateraid.

There will be lunch in the Large hall after the service. Please do join us.

28th: BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY: you are invited to bring along to the service a friend or family member who hasn't been to church for some time.

Communion will not be celebrated during this service.

Tea, coffee and a Traidcraft stall will be available in the large hall after the service.

SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

This is the new name that we are giving to the evening worship programme run jointly between St Serf's and Wardie. It starts on 12th October in St Serf's with the theme of Stewardship of the Earth and continues on 26th October in Wardie with a time of prayer fellowship. Watch out in the October View for a full programme of Sunday Supplement.