



St. Andrew's & St. George's West Church
George Street, Edinburgh

CHRISTIAN AID 2015

MIRACLE AND MYSTERY



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Those of us who have the privilege of writing these reports do so as a way of recording the results and the facts along with a little social history, but mainly in order to thank those who helped us; those who gave to the cause; and those who came to the Sale spending generously. Furthermore it is always a particular pleasure for the Sale Convener to have this means of making known the story of the aid we receive from the commercial world, some Edinburgh institutions and the officials of the City Council who admirably fulfil their promise to give services to the community.

Here follows a list of those to whom we were indebted for their assistance:

The City of Edinburgh Council

Transport for Edinburgh Limited and Sir Brian Souter of Stagecoach Group for assistance with travel expenses

Standard Life, and Scottish Power

Bill Dixon of Bellevue Cash & Carry and Jim Carlyle of City Nurseries for the loan of trolleys

Jim Rafferty of Bernard Hunter Crane Hire, Gilmerton, for the container; Brian Lowrie who delivered it to Thistle Street Lane at dawn and collected it at the same early hour a month later; and Murray Cheyne who arranged it

Steven McLeod and Sylvia Rennie of the University of Edinburgh Library

Peter McDonald, our former church officer, and member of St Andrew's Ambulance Association, for providing first aid cover

Amy Brown and Alice Crawford of the Clydesdale Bank, Hanover Street

Kevin McCallion, of MacSigns, Newbridge

Prontaprint, of Howe Street, Edinburgh, for constant help

Anthony Woodd Gallery, The Fine Art Society and Bonham's for the loan of equipment for hanging pictures

Here we would like to mention other friends too, the firms who supply our requirements, all going "the extra mile" to help a charity:

DW Cases of Musselburgh where our boxes are made

Bill Percy of Coldingham, Berwickshire, our stationery supplier for twenty-five years

Lakeland, the George Street shop opposite the church

Graham Neish of Neish Design, in Hill Street in our parish, who has designed and produced this report, and also our leaflets

After the Sale books were distributed to Better World Books of Dunfermline, The Royal Edinburgh Hospital, the Church of Scotland's Cunningham House in the Cowgate, Portobello & Joppa Church for Christian Aid.

CHRISTIAN AID AT ST ANDREW'S AND ST GEORGE'S WEST GEORGE STREET EDINBURGH 9 - 15 MAY 2015

MIRACLE AND MYSTERY

*The title is a quotation from the address given by Kathy Galloway,
Head of Christian Aid Scotland, on 14th June 2015*

This year marks the 70th anniversary of Christian Aid. The churches founding it in the 1940s resolved, as the Chairman, Dr Rowan Williams, has said “to give the suffering, the hungry, the forgotten and the displaced the honour and significance they deserved.”

After the Second World War, the Revd Douglas Lister, a Church of Scotland minister originally from Bute, was posted as an Army chaplain to Luneburg in Northern Germany. Horrified by the sufferings of 80,000 refugees starving and close to death, he asked his own High Command for permission to appeal for help to people in Britain and other parts of Europe. There was a tremendous response and the charity known as Christian Aid was born. Now, apart from the steady offering of worship throughout the year, Christian Aid Week is the biggest act of Christian witness in Britain and Ireland, with 20,000 churches taking part. As followers in the footsteps of this brave Scottish minister of the Gospel we, in our very different but still desperately needy world, have to carry forward his campaign. Many came together to do this, in countless different ways, in George Street, Edinburgh, in May 2015. The contribution that they helped to raise for Christian Aid amounted to £105,000.

We have come a long way since the first table of books was sold for Christian Aid outside this church in 1974. Under the inspiring leadership of the Revd Dr Harry Holland, Chairman of the East End Council of Churches, Baptists, Catholics, Congregationalists, Episcopalians, Methodists and Presbyterians began, and have continued ever since, to work together for the cause. Soon members of other churches joined in too, as well as members of the wider community and people from far beyond. We have always relied much on contacts outwith our own church. The Stamps section originated at St Andrew's House, Records at Standard Life, Ephemera at the Christian Aid Office, and now we have, as our Pictures Convener, the former Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. Scottish and Special Books are convened by an American scholar and bibliophile, who comes from Washington DC for three weeks in May, giving up his annual leave to be our Book Sale adviser. Moreover we reached out to, and now depend upon, the support of the City of Edinburgh Council and that of various Edinburgh businesses and institutions, as well as innumerable friends, writers, artists, and musicians.

Sale succeeds Sale in a wonderful way, and, as soon as the 2014 one ended, books and other things began arriving at the church and the cellars round the corner in Dublin

Street. The Wednesday work parties at which these were sorted were as ever a weekly pleasure. People arrived with their contributions from all parts of the country. There was the Episcopalian minister who came from Glasgow to entrust to us his collection of Scottish poetry, which sold particularly well at the Sale. There were the friends from Carlisle who had walked from Waverley Station with a heavy burden of carefully selected books. There was the arrival of books mainly about Africa from a former member of the work party now living in Yorkshire. At dawn one cold and frosty February Wednesday, on his way to work, a Christian Aid supporter came from Kinross with a car load of books which had been donated by a lady there. She particularly wanted us to have her whole library which was very fine indeed. Nobly he carried all these down to the cellars himself where they covered the entire paved area. He left for work at Standard Life promising that he and his wife would join our team on their retirement. Our history is made up of incidents such as these.

And it was not only books which came. None of us will forget the amazing benefaction of modern art that was brought from Berwickshire giving promise of an exceptionally good Art Sale. There came a friend from Biggar with exquisite things for Ephemera and Collectables: beautiful linen and Bruges lace, and lovely cards of pressed flowers, grasses and leaves, hand-made by a Polish Professor of Radiation Research who had coped with physical adversity in her late teens by developing a special way of drying and mounting these. From the Isle of Arran there was an album of 1930s Italian postcards collected in her girlhood by a Scottish teacher who, in later life, established, together with her husband, a Canon of the Cathedral of the Isles, a Scottish Episcopal chapel in the front room of their house in Sandbraes.

In April we mourned the passing of the Revd Victor Crawford, a Sale stalwart and favourite, who loved to preside over the Humour section, talking all the while to his many friends inside and outside the church. In May there was the death of Jim Smith, a sage, and faithful founder of the Wednesday work-party tradition, and originator of the idea of a shipping container to house the paperbacks.

On 27 June there came the news of the death of Elise McLauchlan at nearly 100 years of age. Elise was one of the quartet of first women elders ordained at St Andrew's & St George's Church in 1972. After careers, first in nursing then in the law, she gave years of service to the church. Her influence and wise guidance were invaluable in our endeavours for Christian Aid, a charity to which she was dedicated. She had a passion for education and a reverence for learning. The Book Sale embodies these ideals. Her favourite section was Languages. In 1989 she initiated our twenty-year association with the Scottish Prison Service. This she did, not from reasons of expediency as some supposed, but from Christian principles. It was her belief that this was a way whereby we could bring prisoners into contact with the Church. This was ground-breaking. The successors of the first HMP Edinburgh team are still in the forefront of our effort today. We will remember with admiration and gratitude all that she did for Christian Aid.

We are fortunate to have many good friends in the City of Edinburgh. It is important for everyone to know that we are dependent on the whole-hearted cooperation of the City of Edinburgh Council. Then there was, once again, the shipping container placed in Thistle Street Lane South-East by the mighty Liberton firm of Bernard Hunter. We say “mighty” because the delivery of this and the reclaiming of it one month later in that very narrow old Lane is a considerable feat involving massive hydraulic equipment, all to be done at first light so as not to disrupt traffic. This is how we were able to deal with 18,000 paperbacks. The Paperback team worked fast during the fortnight preceding the Sale, sorting these into categories, packing them into 360 of our standard boxes which were then transferred by trolley to the container awaiting them in the Lane. Thanks to the generosity of Bernard Hunter Ltd nearly £8000 was raised for Christian Aid this year from paperbacks. The huge quantity of paperbacks, once despised as “penny dreadfuls,” bore witness to the revolution in publishing and book-buying and these were as eagerly sought-after as ever. Not everyone goes behind the church to the Lane, but no one can possibly have failed to notice the splendid banners on the pillars at the front of the church, donated, made and installed by Kevin McCallion of MacSigns, Newbridge: “more than just a sign company” indeed, much more. Standard Life staff again graciously made available to us their Car Park so that Children’s Books could flourish there near Toys on opening day, raising a total of nearly £2000 for Christian Aid while delighting parents and children, without fear of rainfall. And, where would we have been without the things kindly lent to us? We had equipment from the University Library which enabled us to display over 3000 Science, Social Sciences and Law books in the Gallery. There were the two trusty trolleys, one from City Nurseries, the other from Bellevue Cash & Carry, which have transported immense loads of books for us for more years than anyone can remember. And we were profoundly grateful for the gracious gift of thousands of their distinctive blue bags from our good neighbours Lakeland.

In the background this year was the terrible news of the Nepal earthquake, and our awareness of continuing suffering in, for instance, Syria, parts of Africa, Gaza, Iraq and Vanuatu. Jennifer Clark of Christian Aid Scotland had been in Malawi helping those made homeless by floods. She told us of the plight of refugees whose homes, crops and livestock had been destroyed, and of the deaths of thousands of children from water-borne diseases.

When the sorters arrived before 9am on Monday 27 April all was in readiness for them by some miracle of organisation and because of the feat performed by Ronnie Turnbull and his men. Some members of Ronnies’s team have given a number of years of loyal service and were thus able to give a strong lead. All of them were unfailingly helpful, intelligent, diligent and creative. Their unique contribution is beyond praise.

From then on, throughout the fortnight of intense activity and exciting discoveries, the epicentre was the vestibule. The team there worked flat-out from 9am until 9pm, some full-time each day, scrutinising every book handed in, with excellent judgement and

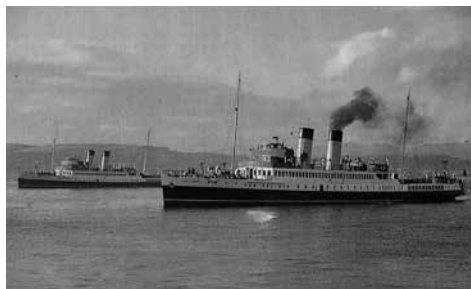
amazing efficiency, controlling the flow of books admitted to the church, directing each volume knowledgeably to one of 100 categories, guided by Heinz Brinkmann's stylish signs. Their reward was the finding of treasures and items of great interest among the books, pictures and other things given. Rare or special books were sent straight to that section. Given to this team also was the pleasure of meeting people from all over the land. Many were the compliments we received afterwards from people appreciative of the way in which members of the vestibule team and Ronnie's, went so swiftly to the aid of drivers anxious about stopping in George Street to deliver their awkward, heavy loads. They were fearful that wardens would threaten with parking tickets. They should be reassured. There is no such danger. The wardens know what we are doing, approve, and never obstruct us.

At the heart of the enterprise was the Help Desk. From there our dauntless drivers went out daily to collect and deliver huge quantities of books and other things for the Sale, from those who could not come to George Street themselves. Chris Brown, once secretary in our church office, and, before that, at 121 George Street, headquarters of the Church of Scotland, answered innumerable telephone calls and managed the whole complex operation with her unique ability to convey a sense of well-being to enquirers and envoys alike. Her record of this reads like a litany. To Duddingston and Dalkeith, Morningside, Murrayfield and Mayfield, Corstorphine, Craigentinny and Cramond, Gifford and Granton, to Oxfangs and North Berwick they sped.

As always sorting was an enthralling if demanding activity. Jennifer Clark, Christian Aid's Media Communications Officer, gave us a good idea. She suggested that, for the 70th anniversary of Christian Aid, we might assemble books published in 1945. We tried, but this was the only pile of books in the church which did not mount up because so few books had been published that year. In a London air raid in December 1940, six million books had been burned and the centre of the British book world destroyed. But, in 1941, William Collins of London came forward with one of the most timely and bold publishing ventures ever planned. This was the *Britain in Pictures* series defiantly designed to display the glories of our national heritage. The best writers and artists of the day were commissioned to describe Britain, its people and their achievements. The illustrations are beautiful and the short texts of thirty pages are among the best essays in the English language. One hundred and twenty-six books were published, most of them between 1941 and 1945, and many of these titles could have been purchased at our Ephemera Stall in 2015, thanks to the discernment of the lady from Kinross. Three of the series written by Scots may be mentioned here: *The Story of Scotland* by F. Fraser Darling (1945); *The English Bible* by Sir Herbert Grierson, one-time Professor of English Literature at the University of Edinburgh; and George Blake's *British Ships and Shipbuilders*. Those unsold in May will be offered for sale at modest prices on the Ephemera Stall at our Sale in October. Bibliophiles who collect these famed monographs will find several which were published in 1945, that significant year for Christian Aid.

On 5 May there was the visit of our patron, Lord Smith of Kelvin, Knight of the Thistle, who had won international renown for his chairmanship of the Commonwealth Games. He delighted those privileged to be present with his address from the pulpit. He then spent time chatting to the volunteers and as a “Clydesider” he shared with us the great pleasure of what was to prove one of the most exciting items in the Sale. This was the magnificent collection of 700 photographic postcards of Clyde pleasure steamers given by the son of John C. Wood of Ayr who had collected these from boyhood. When Ian McCrorie, author of many books about the Clyde in its golden age, came from Greenock on the eve of the Sale with his gift of several signed first editions of his books about the Clyde, he too admired this unique collection. As he said in his illustrated history *Clyde Pleasure Steamers* (1986):

“The memory of a sail on a Clyde paddle or turbine steamer is sheer nostalgia for generations of lovers of the Clyde. From the great *Columba* to the lowly but much-loved *Lucy Ashton*, through Kings and Queens, Duchesses and Marchionesses, Roman deities, Arran glens, names from the novels of Sir Walter Scott, each ship had its own partisan following.”



Two famous Clyde steamers: Duchess of Hamilton (1932) left, and Duchess of Montrose (1930) off Gourock: 1962

For the writer of this report, brought up beside Campbeltown Loch, the name *Duchess of Hamilton* is magical.

Another topic of conversation in the hours before the Sale was the weather forecast. Despite fairly dire prognostications for the all-important opening day we decided to rely on the rain-covers so brilliantly designed and made for us years ago by Duncan Curr of Dublin Street Baptist Church. Rain did fall, especially early on in the day, but this was the right decision.

And now we can bring in the well-known Scots writer, Hazel McHaffie, to describe the opening day, for she has given us permission to quote from her blog:

“This week I boosted my spirits by attending the first hour of the first day of the renowned annual book sale in St Andrew’s and St George’s West Church in Edinburgh. I joined this queue three-deep that, by 10am when the doors opened, stretched all the way to the end of the pavement in George Street. The boxes of books are lined up in rows of tables inside the church on two levels, sorted into every conceivable subject area – a labour of love in itself. Standing up in the balcony I couldn’t help but marvel at the energy and commitment of the folk behind the scenes masterminding this extraordinary event year after year. Outside in the courtyard all around the building are thousands more books. A crush of keen bookworms jostle for space as they determinedly scan the spines for something

new and exciting, some even on their knees under tables seeking specific treasures. Yes, indeed, the book as we know it is very far from dead. Long live the book! As part of this huge effort they write to local authors inviting them to donate signed copies of their own works which are then sold in a special section. A lovely idea. Each time I visited the sale I found myself just standing staring at this amazing spectacle. For any author it has to be a brilliant affirmation of the appeal of the written word. Customers were dodging others in order not to miss a single gem in the rows.”

The signed first edition Hazel McHaffie brought this year was: *Over My Dead Body*, subtitled *Would You Give Away Your Daughter's Heart?* She is author of several acclaimed novels with challenging titles.

Writers from afar sent their books by post. Those who could, came in person with them. Both ways of giving were seen by us as signs of grace from the literary world and we were deeply grateful for them. The Sale to be held in church on 29, 30 and 31 October will be an opportunity to acquire first editions, with the autographs of some of the leading poets, commentators, historians, novelists, children's and cookery writers of today's Scotland.

It is possible to mention only a few of the autographed first editions generously given this year by Scots writers. We are therefore noting here only those given by members of the Book Sale team or of our congregation. These are: Jill Turnbull's superb monograph: *The Scottish Glass Industry 1610-1750*; Judy Urquhart's fine book: *Eigg*, number 174 out of a limited edition of 200; and Eileen Mackintosh's *From Gallipoli With Love 1915*, Letters and Diaries of Captain Charles Mackintosh of the 4th Royal Scots. Walter T. Dunlop, formerly the Church's Middle East Secretary and now our Fabric Convener, has given us a signed copy of his major historical study *The Story of St Andrew's Scots Memorial, Jerusalem*, entitled *Faith Rewarded*. Andrew Duff, once a St Andrew's & St George's Sunday school boy and now a journalist whose specialist subject is India, has presented his 2014 book: *Sikkim: Requiem for a Himalayan Kingdom*, which is a depiction of the tiny Buddhist enclave which survived the British Empire only to be annexed by India in 1975. And Kate Mackay, co-author of *John Buchan and The Thirty-Nine Steps: An Exploration* (NMS 2014) gave us a first edition of her book as well as advice throughout on Scottish books, poetry in particular.

But the Sale was mostly one of books of the past and there were some that were closely associated with the history of St Andrew's Church. One of these was *175 Accies*, a collection of biographical sketches published to celebrate the founding of The Edinburgh Academy. The subject of one of these was William James Stuart 1873-1959, Surgeon, only son of Revd Dr John Stuart, Minister of St Andrew's Parish Church 1857-88, whose wife was the daughter of one of his elders, Dr James Duncan M.D. The St John window in our church is dedicated to Revd Dr Stuart by his widow and son.

W.J. Stuart was one of the most gifted Scotsmen of his time. An elder of St Andrew's from 1910, he was surgeon-in-ordinary at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and elected President of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1938. Here is an excerpt from this book:

“Pussy Stuart, as he was always called, never owned a motor car, but during the whole of his professional life rode a bicycle. The tall, erect figure pedalling his high Sunbeam with great dignity was a familiar and cherished sight in the Edinburgh streets. One day, crossing from Queensferry Street to Lothian Road (as one could do in those days) he was embarrassed to find the point duty policeman, whose wife he had successfully operated on, stopping the traffic in all directions and standing rigidly at the salute while he pedalled furiously past.

A story is told of his single-minded devotion to duty. One black winter's night in 1913 a Kelso doctor sought his help for a patient who had sustained a severe gunshot wound. Stuart set off in a hired car about 9pm but by Carfraemill the roads were impassable. He took the only course he considered open to him – he walked through the snow and pitch black night, carrying his surgical bag, and arrived to give his help four hours later. Completing the story, he would say that he was fortunate in being able to catch the milk train back to Edinburgh in time for his operating list at 9.30 next morning”.

We think it possible that our Ephemera stall is unique, that there is nothing like it to be found at any book sale or in any book shop in the world. To achieve their astonishing total the team worked for months beforehand. The result was a wondrous display of items fortunately preserved for posterity by people who realised their possible potential historic worth and kept them safe. Thus we saw images evocative of Scotland in the past, of exotic travel abroad in olden days, of the history of theatre, music, sport, railways and cookery. There was too a plethora of maps and guide books, vintage photographs and, notably, a beautifully-arranged collection of Art cards presented by someone who had collected these over many years. The team was delighted by the donation of the Clyde-steamer cards and were grateful for another valuable gift, this time with an Edinburgh connection. It was two signed photographs of Amy Johnson, the aviator from Hull who had won fame in 1929 as the first woman pilot to fly solo from England to Australia. The photographs were accompanied by a letter she had carried on her record-breaking flight from London to Tokyo in July 1931 in order to post it to Edinburgh with a Japanese postmark. Other notable items were: a 1906 Bamford catalogue of farm machinery designed for export to the empire; WWI Daily Express cartoons lampooning the Kaiser; some memorabilia preserved by a WWII prisoner-of-war.

From an explorer of the entire Sale we had a list of what she had found: at Ephemera she had acquired a pre-1922 map of railways in Scotland for an enthusiast and author; from Crafts a book on colour in quilting; from Antiques and Collectables, for a friend's cottage kitchen, an embroidered linen tablecloth; a history of flight from Aviation; from

Postcards pictures of early planes; a leather-bound large-print New Testament from Religious Books; a book on Japan from Travel; and several books for her grandson, including John Masefield's *The Box of Delights* from Children's Books in the courtyard.

As usual we took the huge risk of putting out thousands of books in hourly danger of cloudburst and gale. There was a biting wind throughout Christian Aid Week. Those selling outside suffered dreadfully, though the mittens so kindly knitted for them helped. Our eye was caught by a glossy tartan-covered paperback in Scottish Books called *Scotland's Weather: An Anthology* (NMS 1995) compiled by Andrew Martin, now of the National Library of Scotland. We had to buy this, of course, and it opened at the page with Norman MacCaig's poem: *Cold Wind in May*:

"There's nothing more to say to this North Wind.
The buds peer from the entrances of their burrows
And come no further out, and the tortured thrush
Swings in delirium in its cage of branches."

Then, this being the bicentenary of the birth of Anthony Trollope, we were pleased to acquire the last volume of his Palliser series of novels. In Chapter 12 of *The Duke's Children* (1880) we came across this sentence:

"May of all the months of the year in England is the most insidious, the most dangerous and the most inclement. A greatcoat cannot be endured, and without a greatcoat who can endure a May wind and live?"

It is the same in Scotland in the 21st century. Those selling outside on the east, and the even colder west, side of the church were praised by all for their stoicism.

At the beginning and end of each of the six days the huge load of heavy tables and books had to be transported to and from the east and west courtyards. This task was valiantly and admirably performed by a strong team which included the Minister himself.

It was always a pleasure for both visitors to the sale and helpers to go to the Undercroft Café where the catering team was wonderfully welcoming. All were sustained by amazing soups and pancakes. Preserves, tablet, chocolate gingers, gateaux, fruit loaves and other delicacies at the well-supplied baking stall were great treats.

Once again, Dorothy Minck's quiz was a pleasurable diversion. Her title, *The Light Fantastic Toe* being a quotation from Milton's poem *L'Allegro*, was singularly appropriate for a literary event.

"Sport that wrinkled Care derides,
And Laughter holding both his sides.
Come, and trip it as ye go
On the light fantastic toe."

And so we did. Thank you, dear Dorothy.

This year we received many generous donations of money, some of them very considerable. That so many friends remember our cause in this meaningful way is remarkable. Many of these donations evoke old and valued relationships and memories from the four decades of our history. For all these donations we continue to be profoundly grateful.

After the Sale we were able to send books to the Royal Edinburgh Hospital which is something we do each year. The Development Officer, Katie Smith, wrote to thank us saying that the hospital library was entirely based on donations and that it was “great to receive such an extensive and varied selection” which “provided an excellent source of conversation helping to discover the interests and talents people have which are sometimes hidden.” She said they would spend “a happy summer categorising, alphabetising, tidying, displaying, reading, discussing these – and daydreaming.”

In 42 years of Book Sales perhaps the greatest single change has been the coming of the Internet which has revolutionised the way we work in the cellars throughout the year and in the church in May. The computers in church were in constant use and it was wonderful to have immediate access to all sorts of information. We always worry, however, about the effect of this splendid invention on the Sale. Would there be a queue on opening-day? Would we succeed in selling books on subjects such as cookery, crafts or gardening, or the classics of literature now cheaply available in Kindle form? In the event the queue on opening day was longer than ever and the sections mentioned above sold well throughout the Sale, while Literature achieved a total £1000 higher than last year's. In April *The Scotsman* had published a Second Leader with the headline “More Bookshops Please,” deploring the fact that while you could easily buy a polyester kilt in the Royal Mile, in Edinburgh, Unesco City of Literature, you could not buy a secondhand copy of *The Heart of Midlothian*. We took the opportunity to assure *Scotsman* readers that in Christian Aid Week they would find a choice of editions of all of Sir Walter Scott's novels, secondhand, in George Street, Edinburgh.

We were presented with two recently-published booklets dealing elegantly with the question of the Internet and books. One was *The Unknown Unknown: Bookshops and the Delight of Not Getting What you Wanted* by Mark Forsyth and the other was Julian Barnes' *A Life with Books*, sold in aid of Freedom from Torture and already an out-of-print collector's item. To quote a few points from the former essay, we see that “if you know you want something the Internet can get it for you,” but that “it's not enough to get what you already know you wanted. The best things are the things you never knew you wanted until you got them. The Internet can procure for you the things or books that were already on your mind. But that is all. The unknown unknown must be found elsewhere, waiting like an undiscovered continent, just at the back of the bookshop or book sale.” Julian Barnes is convinced that “for the serious task of imaginative discovery and self-discovery there remains one perfect symbol: the printed book.” Our Book Sale statistician reckons that we sold about 568 books every hour of the Sale. Does this make a case for the printed book in this modern age?

On Thursday 14 May Hazel McHaffie's blog read thus: "The sale finishes tomorrow so that's it over for me – but spare a thought for the army of book-lovers who will toil away on Saturday to remove everything left behind and prepare the church for morning worship. There's dedication and commitment for you."

Hazel McHaffie has insight but she may not have been aware that there was a deadline and a special purpose this year. The restoration of the church had to be complete less than 24 hours after the closing of the Sale because the Radio 4 Sunday Morning Service was to be recorded from the church at 2pm the next day. At 8.10am on 17 May the Service was broadcast. It began with an introit composed by Noel de Jongh who had spent the previous three weeks aloft in the organ gallery curating, together with a band of fellow musicians, the great piles of music given for the sale.

Among the books we have saved for the sale of books by Scottish writers we are to hold at the end of October, we noted Naomi Mitchison's *The Blood of the Martyrs*. The persecution of the early Christians in Nero's Rome was the theme of this 1939 novel, but the subtext was the rise of fascism. The foreword, written in Carradale where the author had a home, caught our attention. She said she wanted to thank those from her world-wide circle of friends, as well as those who lived locally in Kintyre, who had helped in her campaigns for justice: "those who will help to build the Kingdom now which we all want in our hearts, and whose temporary manifestations in friendship and companionship and collaboration give purpose and delight in our lives."

Is this the secret of what the Revd Dr Kathy Galloway described as the "Miracle and Mystery" of what happened at our church in May?

Mary Davidson
with Cathie Donaldson

Jeanne Bell CBE, FRSE, Emeritus Professor of Neuropathology at the Western General Hospital, convened our medical books again this year and did so much else besides, giving help wherever it was needed, looking after people. She and her husband, Denis Rutovitz, have headed Edinburgh Direct Aid ever since it started at St Andrew's & St George's in September 1992, when Jeanne was one of our elders. At present it is active in Lebanon on the Syrian Border, in Bosnia, Kenya and Pakistan. We asked Jeanne to present the cheque for £105,000 on our behalf on Sunday 14 June to Revd Dr Kathy Galloway of Christian Aid Scotland, and to speak to the congregation. Her address made a fine conclusion so we are printing it here in full.

"I have in my hand a cheque for £105,000 which I am about to hand over on your behalf to Kathy Galloway, the Director of Christian Aid Scotland. Since its foundation 70 years ago, Christian Aid has sought to alleviate the distress of the world's needy and to advocate greater justice for them, and for 40 years this church community has provided its support for that cause through the annual book sale in Christian Aid week.

If you weren't among the people who took part in the sale last month, it's hard to imagine this tranquil and beautiful space utterly transformed by a vast tide of books that spills out on to George Street, and it happens every year. After two weeks of sorting and pricing, supported by a number of people with real expertise, the moments before the Sale opened at 10am on 9th May are unexpectedly quiet as we wait for the doors to open. There is the chance to hold in my hands a tiny, 500 year old volume before it is taken by someone who knows its true worth.

Then the public flood in, jostling and pushing (I even heard from a reliable source of some un-Christian elbowing, such is the popularity of this Sale!). They are intent on seeking particular books or postcards, records or antiques, pictures or children's games of their choice. Many are the interesting encounters that ensue, with ardent collectors, book specialists, students, travellers and holiday makers, casual browsers and oftentimes people who are lonely and vulnerable. All of life is there and we hope that moments of friendly interaction will remain with them as they leave. After all, we are the public face of Christian Aid in this place.

And it is the people who make the Sale such a life-enhancing event. There are the dedicated volunteers sorting and selling or minding coats and valuables: the young men hefting impossibly heavy boxes: the cheerful helpers serving hundreds of meals in the Undercroft. But for most of us this is merely a three week commitment. For the organisers, there is massive responsibility and meticulous planning throughout the year. As a result, the Sale unfolds (mostly) in calm and serene progression with relatively few aware of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

While this cheque for the vital work of Christian Aid represents so much from this church community, we are mindful of our privileged state in a relatively safe and prosperous country. We have our own needy of course but an increasing number of countries elsewhere seem to be plunged in total chaos and desperate need. When we look at the world it is easy to despair: Nepal, Syria, Iraq, Gaza, many parts of Africa. And increasingly those who go to their assistance are themselves endangered, whether they are individual volunteers or large NGOs.

But to counteract despair it is vital to DO something and through Christian Aid we have that opportunity, to translate enjoyable hard work into meaningful help. It is our heartfelt wish that every fraction of this donation goes to making life better for people, families and communities wherever there is need, continuing the great tradition of Christian Aid in the world. It is my privilege to hand it over."

SCOTTISH & SPECIALS

2015 was a good year for Scottish and Specials. In spite of the uncontrollably cold, wet weather, our memories are of generous donations and willing customers. Books donated ranged in date from the 16th century to the recently published, in origin from Scottish local to Australasia, Japan, India and all over the globe, and in format from fine books in beautiful bindings to calotypes, collections of postcards, a satirical WWI propaganda “Berlin Tapestry”(in the style of the Bayeux Tapestry), and an unknown young lady’s musical MS book of her ‘Party Pieces’. Illustrations included ‘emblems’, woodcuts, lithographs, engravings, handpaintings and colour printing of all types. Diversity is our hallmark.

We were very pleased with a donation of books from the late Donald Gorrie. This included several marvellous books, but two of special note. The first was a huge Georgian study of the *Monumental Effigies of Great Britain* by C A Stothard, printed in 1817. The hundreds of beautiful hand coloured plates were enjoyed by many helpers at the sale, who were interested to learn that it was long used by historians as a guide to dress styles in different periods.

Authors tell good stories in books; sometimes the book itself is the good story. A second gift from this collection, Spelman’s *Life of King Alfred the Great* [Oxford 1687], had a note with it, signed by the Master and the Librarian of an Oxford college, that it was given “to the Red Cross Sale, 1942.” We cannot imagine the heartbreak that compelled those dons to sacrifice books from the library during dark days when their students had become soldiers. The book was eventually donated to our Christian Aid book sale, and we understand that it was bought by an alumnus and donated back to the college from which it was removed in time of war. It has served double duty in raising funds for charity and is now back home. That which was sacrificed in time of great need has now been restored.

As always, Scottish local history books, such as Ebenezer Henderson’s *Annals of Dunfermline and Vicinity*, and the set of early calotypes of Fife, were welcome donations and sold well, as did modern works on Edinburgh and Scotland, and the first and special editions of classics of Scottish literature. We handled fine calf-bound early volumes of Voltaire’s works, beautiful books about the French Chateaux, and shabby but rare books about cookery, travel and the birds of India.

The Children’s Specials included a rare copy of *The Adventures of Ji*, and there were copies of the classics with fine illustrations by Tenniel, Arthur Rackham, Margaret Tarrant, E H Shepard, Jessie King, Dulac and other great artists. Victorian instruction for the young included Trusler’s *Progress of Man and Society*, illustrated by the Bewick brothers, a collection of solemn, moral SPCK tracts, and the mischievous Figaro *History of England* (an early version of *1066 and All That*, with illustrations reminiscent of the TV Blackadder series). The variety seems infinite: something for everyone – and the private book-lovers found many long-sought items and rewards of serendipity, impossible to report.

What we can report is some of the really special things that have been bought by libraries to make them available for research. For value, we think that Edinburgh University Library Archives made some tremendous purchases. There was an uncommon Japanese book about 17th century whaling in the village of Taiji, Kumano, with very beautiful and precise illustrations. It is currently the only copy of this book in a research library in Europe. It complements the archives of the 19th century Leith firm of Christian Salvesen Ltd. held by the University since 1981. Among the other smart purchases were some early poetry chapbooks from the Scottish Renaissance of the 1920s and 30s, and a few manuscript letters by the poet Norman MacCaig (1910-1996). These are exactly the sort of select acquisitions that scholars of the future will seek.

The National Library of Scotland, in keeping with its remit, bought uncommon examples of books and papers printed in Scotland. The modernists bought more than two dozen local imprints from a history of St. Michael's Kirk at Inveresk (1963) to a 1930s Accident Prospectus (no. 3): the half-guinea Accident and Disease Policy printed for the Scottish National Key Registry and Assurance Association. The rare books department bought three items printed in Scots before 1900, including a very rare 1790 edition of Matthew Henry's *A Method for Prayer*, printed in Falkirk by Patrick Mair. No British research library held a copy before now, and only four other copies are recorded all in the USA.

The surprise story of 2015 was manuscripts for the NLS. The bagatelles first: a 1968 letter to Eric Linklater from Willa Muir, the widow of the Orcadian poet Edwin Muir, with some biographical details. They also bought our transcription challenge, which is an 1839 cross-written letter by a Norfolk gentleman to a London acquaintance detailing an extensive summer hiking tour of Scotland that concluded with a visit to the culturally important and magnificent Eglinton Tournament.

Yet it was an old and well-used family Bible that stirred the interest of the NLS manuscript curator, and proved the great rescue story of 2015. One of our knowledgeable volunteers noticed a surname written on the front paste-down, and repeated in pages between the Old and New Testaments where family marriages, births and deaths were recorded from generation to generation. He patiently turned every leaf over the course of two days, concluding that it is the family Bible of the Riddells of Glenriddell, friends of the national poet Robert Burns. This NLS acquisition will join the Glenriddell family papers which have been in the NLS since 1926. It may even rest near the two famous volumes of his own poems which Burns compiled and inscribed in his own hand between 1791 and 1793 and presented as a gift to Robert Riddell of Glenriddell (1755-1794).

The British Library bought some 30 books and pamphlets printed in the United Kingdom that had not previously been collected. This included a lovely 1974 collection in Gaelic of Iain Crichton Smith's poems. We are always pleased when the sale has materials for the national collections, as well as sharing the delight of the private collectors in their finds and purchases.

Ried Zulager (Washington DC) and Marion Ralls (Edinburgh)

ANTIQUES AND COLLECTABLES

From Doulton to Doilies, Boer War memorabilia, a WWI inkwell made from a hand grenade case, glorious silver and crystal, wonderful linens and Japanese kimonos... all this and much more was given this year from sources near and far. There was too, a collection of artisan craft pottery, some from the Sixties, and yes, retro is back. On our specials list this year we had four classic Royal Doulton figurines: 'Old Balloon Seller', 'Victorian Lady', 'Priscilla', and 'Romany Sue'. Other items on the list were three

Victorian parasols, a silver dressing-table set in the original box, and a button-backed drawing-room chair.



We would like to thank both those who donated lovely things, and those who bought from us. We had a marvellous team this year and I am grateful to every member of it.

Joan Dryburgh

PICTURES

A very generous gift from two life-long collectors enabled the Pictures section to transform the Undercroft Café this May into a vibrant art gallery, presenting a distinguished group of paintings by recent and contemporary Scottish artists.

Ian Howard's *Sardonyx*, John Maclean's *Pathway* and Alexander Fraser's *Stonehaven Station* were hung beside works by Tim Pomeroy, Caroline McNairn, Rob MacLaurin and many others. They formed a coherent group and their quality showed that they had been chosen with discrimination. Not surprisingly they sold well, helping the section towards a record total.

John Bellany is one of the undisputed heroes of post-war Scottish art and it was tremendous to be able to offer, and then sell, *Yangshou, China 2004*. This very beautiful and fascinating watercolour was given to the sale by the artist's widow and muse Helen Bellany. Two other important Scottish artists, both with close connections to the Christian Aid Sale, died this year: Jack Knox in April, John Busby in June. In past years Jack Knox responded unfailingly to our appeal to artists. So too did John Busby. This year he gave us two of his beautifully observed works; a study of salmon leaping and a sketch for his *Birds of Clackmannanshire*. Indeed, every year we have good reason to thank the many artists who respond to our appeal for work. This year they included Alexander Bell, Evi Carmichael, Jane Chisholm, Douglas Davies, Barbara Dingwall, Moira Ferrier,



George Gilbert, Jack Gillon, Carola Gordon, Aileen Grant, Diana Hope, Les Kay, Ed Kluz, Susie Leiper, Alison Linklater, Lynn McGregor, Lucinda Mackay, Lesley May Miller, David Neilson, Ann Oram, Anda Paterson, Robert Powell and Yvonne Watson.

The help of Tom Wilson, formerly of The Open Eye Gallery, in valuing the works for sale, was much appreciated. So too was the achievement by Colleen Donaldson and all the other members of the experienced team of volunteers who sorted, hung and sold the pictures.

There was a wonderful response to our appeal for works of art, and, in October, when we will be occupying the spacious interior of the church, we will have the opportunity to display much more. Details of the Sale which takes place from Thursday 29 to Saturday 31 October, will be published soon.

James Holloway

RECORDS

Another Spring, another season, another reason to be at Christian Aid. From the minute we stepped into the church we were enveloped in an atmosphere of fellowship; everyone with a single purpose. After catch-up and welcoming a new helper, we quickly got to work. Soon, the team were literally knee-deep in CDs. We had 16 boxes of sheer delight. Then the vinyl started to arrive and the pews began to look like a record store. The diversity of composers and groups was staggering. No wonder our buyers experienced the 'wow' factor. Forget online buying: come to us and see the quality.

Lorraine Chapman

STAMPS AND POSTCARDS

This year, Stamps and Postcards operated in a new and rather cramped location, in a corner of the church. As we received a larger than usual quantity of the older monochrome cards this year, we inaugurated a 'bulk sale' policy of reduced rates for buyers of ten or a hundred postcards, which applied to the cheaper 'holiday' cards also. Several people bought thirty or forty cards, and three individuals were seen to spend hours selecting a hundred of the pricier 'sepia' cards.

On the stamp side, we offered a number of interesting and varied collections at modest prices, such as a collection in original album of 1953 Coronation issues, and albums of Commonwealth, Australia 1927-71 and Monaco.

After the sale closed, some material was sold at auction. This included a small but heavy child's shoebox which contained all the coins and banknotes handed in, the star items being a few Indian silver coins and one Tibetan coin.

Thanks to all who donated material and to those who helped sort and sell.

Evelyn Marshall

TOYS, GAMES AND PUZZLES

David Attenborough Speaks about the Toizengaems Tribe

In the remotest corner of the Ca archipelago live a unique people. The Toizengaems. They have retained an extraordinary way of life, even by the standards of the surrounding society.

For 3 weeks every year they emerge from their secret dens and migrate to the Ca ancestral homeland.

We travelled north by chartered plane, then bus and finally, with special clearance to enter the tribal areas, progressed on foot. We were privileged to enter this rarely visited place.



We first spied the tribe as they were putting on their full tribal regalia of elaborately tied 'aprons' and multiple layered undergarments. For 2 weeks they had been ritually preparing thousands of cult figurines, models and images, ready for this special day. By a mysterious process, every year brings forth previously unimagined items. This year, shogi, transformers and exquisite miniature furniture.

At 10.00am a bell sounded and the full ritual commenced. Slow at first but building to a frenzied crescendo, the Toizengaems performed the mysterious rites which turned the figurines, models and images into precious metal. A process so sacred that they hid the metal in their aprons until it was handed to the high priests.

The headman, resplendent in a headdress which to our eyes resembled a baseball cap, moved amongst the tribe with quiet words of wisdom. His spiritual companion took the form of a dog which mysteriously appeared and disappeared. Careful observation showed that some members of the tribe exhibited specialised ritualistic behaviour. Amongst many we were able to identify a crane man, a doll woman, a wise negotiator.

This undoubtedly happy tribe are said by some to be a remnant of a once mighty civilisation, by others to be the vanguard of a new society. We quietly returned the way we had come, leaving them to 5 more days of ritual. To our western eyes they looked like humanity at its best.

Nick Evans

CHRISTIAN AID 2015 - SUMMARY RESULTS

| | £ | | £ |
|------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| Books | 78,911 | Books: | |
| Antiques and Collectables | 4,448 | Art | 3,012 |
| Catering and Baking | 4,994 | Children's | 4,038 |
| Pictures | 12,413 | Cookery | 1,751 |
| Quiz | 379 | Crafts | 1,124 |
| Records/Audio/Video | 5,513 | Ephemera | 9,094 |
| Stamps and Postcards | 1,551 | Fiction | 3,292 |
| Toys and Games | 1,762 | Gardening | 508 |
| Donations | 21,486 | Languages/Reference | 1,664 |
| | | Law | 595 |
| Total Income | 131,457 | Literature/Classics | 5,370 |
| | | Music | 2,338 |
| Add Opening Balance 1/1/14 | 8,741 | Biography/History | 5,572 |
| | <u>140,198</u> | Science | 1,456 |
| | | Social Science | 1,691 |
| Less Expenditure | 24,994 | Other Non-Fiction | 2,218 |
| | <u></u> | Paperbacks | 7,535 |
| Net Income | 115,204 | Religion | 5,800 |
| | | Scottish & Special | 20,608 |
| To Christian Aid: | | Sports & Pastimes | 1,245 |
| In June | 105,000 | | |
| | | | |
| Closing Balance 28 July 2015 | <u>10,204</u> | Total for Books | <u>78,911</u> |

The above statement shows Income and Expenditure since 1 January 2015.
Full details will appear in the Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2015.

Don Rolls
Treasurer
28 July 2015

Photography by Chris Hoskins on behalf of Christian Aid
and by Jane Brown and Catherine Reid

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh is a Registered Scottish Charity Number SC008990
A member of the congregation has paid for the production of this report.

Produced by Neish Design Telephone: 07768 655 850 Email: graham@neishdesign.co.uk

