

# Leaflet

Greenbank Parish Church  
Braidburn Terrace, EH10 6ES  
No 567 November 2006



## Pulpit Diary

Nov 5

9.30am First Sunday Service led by the Kirk Session

10.30am Rev Dr John Stevenson

3.00pm A Time to Remember (Braid Room)  
A short service of readings and music to remember those who have died

Nov 12 Remembrance Sunday

10.30am Rev Dr John Stevenson  
(Springboard and Spectrum meet as usual)

Nov 19

10.30am Rev W Peter Graham  
First Meeting of the Inquirers' Class

Nov 26

10.30am Rev Dr John Stevenson  
(Members of the Guild will take part in this Service)

Dec 3 First Sunday in Advent  
Start of Christmas Offering for Christian Aid

9.30am First Sunday Service, led by World Mission Committee

10.30am Rev Dr John Stevenson  
Sacrament of Baptism

For information about church organisations, please contact the Church Office (Mon–Fri, 9.30am–12.30pm):

Mrs May Brown

e-mail: [greenbankchurch@btconnect.com](mailto:greenbankchurch@btconnect.com)

The pastoral team can be contacted through the Church Office:

Rev Dr John Stevenson, Locum Minister

Mrs Anne Oxbrow, Pastoral Assistant

To make contact with any of the organisations described in this Leaflet, please contact the Church Office.

Visit Greenbank on the Web:

<http://www.greenbankchurch.org>

# Leaflet

## Minister's Log

November is a month for looking back and looking forward. It begins with remembering the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, and ends with us preparing for Christmas, Advent Sunday being the 3rd December this year. (By the way, did you know that in 2002 Guy Fawkes appeared in a list of *100 Greatest Britons* sponsored



by the BBC and voted for by the public? This ranked him alongside John Lennon, Winston Churchill and David Beckham. Which says something either about the wisdom of the great British public or its opinion of MPs – or is it both?)

In our Church diary we have our Time to Remember at 3pm on Sunday 5th November, which we hope will offer help and support to those who have been bereaved. All who have lost loved ones are welcome to share in this time of reflection.

Our **Remembrance Sunday**, which follows on **12th November**, is also a time for reflection. Tragically as the years pass more and more people have cause to stop and remember the cost of war. While we all appreciate the threat of global terror, it is harder nowadays to understand what gain or benefit can come from present conflicts. For me, Remembrance Sunday has to be an occasion not just for remembering the fallen but with that also a time of thanksgiving for sacrifices made in the name of freedom. Sadly, the sacrifices made by the British armed forces in some parts of the world today do not appear to be as necessary. Now it would seem that the clash of cultures and the religious element which

may be involved mean that peace is less easily secured politically and that the use of force and sanctions is not always the answer.

George Rostrevor Hamilton (1888–1967), one of the lesser known World War I war poets, identified human sorrow as the common element which might bring the nations

closer together:

Temper, blood and speech divide  
The nations jangling side by side:  
Nor can one close-bordering land  
The other's laughter understand.  
Yet have all the sons of Earth  
One thing common from their birth;  
Stands alone through changing years  
The catholicity of tears:  
Whose eloquence at last may teach  
And reconcile them each to each.

The aim of “winning hearts and minds” should remind us that we are involved in an ideological struggle, and in this we as Christians must have a part to play. Knowing my interests it will not surprise you to know that I believe that the Church must be prepared to spend much more of its time and resources on the Christian education of our young people. Other religions certainly try to ensure that their faith is passed on, even to the extent of young people having to learn to read and pray in another language. Let us in our remembering not forget the significance of Advent and the role of Christianity in the struggle for hearts and minds.

**John Stevenson**

Please deliver material for the December/January Leaflet to the Editors' pigeon hole by 10.30am on Sunday 12th November, or to 17 Jordan Lane or by email to [alison@eca.ac.uk](mailto:alison@eca.ac.uk) or [j.murison@ed.ac.uk](mailto:j.murison@ed.ac.uk) by 6pm on Tuesday 14th November.

## Help the Homeless



### Foodbox

I am away (on 16th October) to the Royal for a new hip, but the box contents will be collected, and distributed to all the usual recipients, by the ever competent Fiona Greig. So please keep those food contributions coming! – and THANKS as always.

**Colin Stirling-Whyte**

### Socks

Once again I'm appealing for new or good quality used socks for the homeless attending the forthcoming winter night shelters.

There is a "Sock" box alongside the Fresh Start box in the Ladies cloakroom. Thank you.

**Pauline Walker**

### Fresh Start collection

Many thanks to those who have been donating to Fresh Start. Starter packs for those who have been homeless and are about to move into their own accommodation are made up by volunteers in the premises of Edinburgh Furniture Initiative on Newhaven Road. These starter packs are a very valuable help to people on a limited budget. They also show that we care about them.

Items can be donated on **Sunday 26th November**. Donations of *sheets* (but not *duvet covers* or *pillow cases*) are particularly needed, along with *tumblers*. If you have any questions about donations to Fresh Start, please do see me in the Main Hall on that date, or contact me, and I will be happy to help.

**Alison Ambler**

## Time to Remember

An hour of readings, music and reflection will take place on **Sunday 5th November at 3pm** in the Braid Room, designed to help in remembering loved ones who have died, either recently or perhaps many years ago.

You don't need to be a member of the church to share in this, and if you know of anyone whom you think might find it helpful, please let them know about it.

All are welcome.

## Board Notes

Since the last report the Board has met in both June and September.

Anyone visiting the church premises during the summer will have noted the significant plastering work that was carried out in the Main Hall to repair cracks and replace damaged plaster; the ceiling in particular has had the appearance of an unusual work of art. The Hall will be repainted during the October break.

Presbytery has confirmed that the Manse is fit for purpose, although it is intended to carry out some refurbishment and redecoration in consultation with the new minister.



### QII Christmas Family Ceilidh

**Saturday 16th  
December 2006**

**Morningside Parish  
Church**

**(Upper Hall)**

**7pm - 10.30pm**

**Fundraiser — please  
put in diaries now!**

**More details in  
December Leaflet or  
ask any QIIer!**



### Scottish Love in Action

### Bridge Night

**On Tuesday 14th Nov**

**At 6.30pm**

**In Craigiellaw Golf Club,  
Aberlady, East Lothian**

**£60 per table — to include  
two-course supper with  
wine.**

*Please give us your support*

**Katy Maguire**

The Board has approved in principle the installation of acoustic panels in the Main Hall and will consider the matter further at its December meeting. It has also agreed that platform units of height 500mm should be purchased to replace the current ones that are used during special services involving Spectrum participation. The new ones have safety rails and steps and can be easily and safely erected, dismantled and stacked.

Following consultation with the Fire Safety Officer, two fire drills were held during morning service; a number of comments were received about their effectiveness and these are being taken forward.

Subject to variations within specific categories the overall financial position of the congregation was within the budget for the year.

**Kathleen Patrick  
Clerk to the Board**

## Home Group

Home group meetings in November are at 7.45pm on **Wednesday 8th** and **22nd November** at 4 Greenbank Crescent. We will be reading and discussing a book called *The Purpose Driven Life* by Rick Warren.

Please come along and join us. For more information contact

**Helen & Phil Barnes**

## Contemporary Issues

*Contemporary Issues* is a series of evening meetings arranged by the Adult Education Committee. The fourth meeting will be held on **6th November** in the Braid Room, when Clare Blackburn (from the Institute for Stem Cell Research) and Amy Hardy (from the Scottish Documentary Institute) will introduce a short film entitled *Conversations: ethics, science, stem cells*. After showing the film, Clare Blackburn and Amy Hardy will lead a discussion on the ethical and moral issues raised by stem cell research.

For further information please contact Joan Ritchie, Convener, Adult Education Committee.

**Visit Greenbank on the Web:**

**[www.greenbankchurch.org](http://www.greenbankchurch.org)**

## Bookstall

There will be a **Bookstall** in the main hall after the 10.30am service on **Sunday 12th November**, when we will have a selection of books on a variety of religious topics available for you to browse through and purchase if you wish. We will have books for children, Prayer Guides, and copies of the *Book of the Month*, "Mr Golightly's Holiday", reviewed below.

On this Bookstall, and the next one on **3rd December**, you will also find a selection of books suitable for Christmas gifts.

If you would like to see any particular titles on the Bookstall, please contact us.

**John and Joan Ritchie**

## World Mission

Many of us can remember the suffocating smog that covered London in December 1952. This smog killed around four thousand people with its noxious mix from domestic and industrial pollution. Fortunately legislation was introduced here, to ensure that this never happens again. A recent article in a *Teartimes* magazine reminds us of the global consequences of greenhouse gases released in the 1950s and suggests that for Christians, taking action on climate change is part of our mandate to pursue justice for people who live in the poorest parts of the world where devastating hurricanes, droughts and floods vent their fury. The annual United Nations Climate Change conference will be held this month (November) in Nairobi where those present will be calling for international support to help poor communities adapt to the changing climate. Anyone interested is asked to write to the Environment Secretary David Miliband, who will be attending the conference, to ask him to negotiate for tougher international targets on

emissions and for greater support to help poor countries adapt to the changing climate.

The next One World Stall is on **Sunday 19th November**. It is good news that many local supermarkets are now selling Fairtrade products. However our stall may have something you are unable to purchase at the supermarket. Come and look on Sunday 19th. You may still leave any unwanted spectacles at the stall.

**Margaret Barrowman**



## Mr Golightly's Holiday by Salley Vickers

*Harper Perennial, 2003, £7.99*

Many years ago Mr Golightly wrote a work which became an international best-seller. It had a major influence on the lives of vast numbers of people around the world. However, the world has moved on and his reputation and that of his masterpiece is declining. Many people do not find it relevant to modern society.

Therefore, in Sally Vickers' novel, Mr Golightly decides to refresh his best-seller and bring it up to date; there is even talk of turning it into soap opera. To do this in peace and quiet, he takes his laptop and sets off on a working holiday in a quiet village in Devon. However, as he gets to know his neighbours, Mr Golightly is forced to re-examine his attitude to life and to the terrible catastrophe of his only son's death.

Mr Golightly's Holiday is a book that can be read on many levels. At its simplest, it is the story of a holidaying man who gets involved with village life and its range of local characters. At the highest level, it is about life's biggest questions – good and evil, life and death, love and friendship, nature and humanity. Somewhere in between, the reader becomes the sleuth, working out who is who, as the true identity of Mr Golightly, his international bestseller, his business rival and his neighbours are revealed.

Mr Golightly's Holiday is a light-hearted novel that delights and intrigues. With a richness of language, beautiful descriptive passages, thought-provoking narrative, philosophical thought-provoking questions and believable characters, Mr Golightly's Holiday is an excellent book to pack for your next trip!

**Robert Young**



## THE SCOTTISH POPPY APPEAL

*Earl Haig Fund Scotland –  
Poppy Appeal 2006*

The Remembrance Day service this year will be held on **Sunday 12th November**. Poppies will be available outside the church before both morning services on 5th November and the Remembrance Day service on the 12th November.

£534.01 was collected last year and this was added to the Scottish appeal total of £1,494,897, a 2.2% increase on the outstanding 2004 figure.

On behalf of the President and Directors of The Earl Haig Fund Scotland, I would like to thank you for your continued support.

**John Adair**

### Guild Fundraising Event

**Tuesday 28th  
November at  
7.30pm, in  
Greenbank  
Church**

Tickets £8  
(includes wine  
and savouries)



**Traditional Jazz Concert by  
Kenny Milne's Band**

**Kenny Milne – and all that Jazz**

In aid of this year's Guild Project  
**Scottish Love in Action**

## The Guild

After an auspicious start to our new Session, appreciating how flowers and foliage of various hues can be transformed into artistic arrangements depicting all the seasons, at our second meeting (still to be held at the time of writing) we shall be learning more about the long term effects of the Chernobyl accident.

Support for us is now required at the **Charity Card Sale** at Greenbank Parish Church on **Saturday 4th November** from **10am–3pm**. Frances Wight will be especially pleased to receive contributions on Home-baking and Preserves for the Guild Stall on that morning.

Our first meeting in November is on **Tuesday 7th at 7.30pm** with the exotic title *Picking Olives in the Holy Land*. Ruth Johnston is the leader for that meeting, when the speaker will be the Rev Alistair McGregor, a former QC, who though now retired, was Minister at North Leith Parish Church, and at one time was an Assistant Minister to the Very Rev Dr William Johnston at Colinton Parish Church.

An afternoon meeting follows on **Tuesday 14th November at 2.15pm** when we join the Neighbouring Guilds at Morning-side Parish Church for an enjoyable afternoon of *Storytelling* by Millie Gray.

At the start of Guild Week, the Guild is serving the coffee

after the morning Service on **Sunday 19th November**.

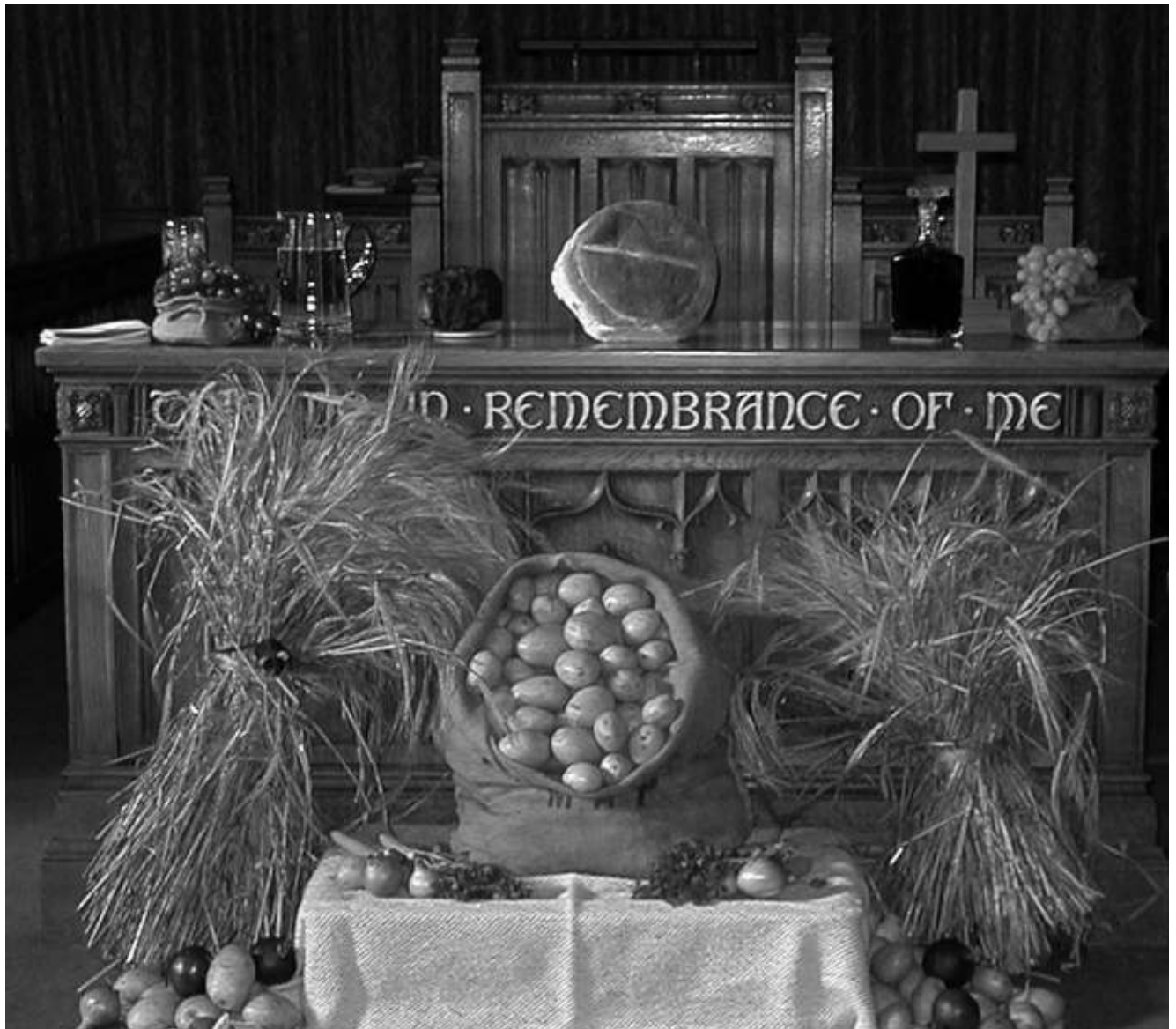
The meeting on **Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm**, led by Grace Fowler, has the title *I'll have you in Stitches*. Evelyn Couper, an interesting and entertaining speaker, will demonstrate various crafts.

As well as at our own meetings, everyone is also very welcome at Presbyterial Council Meetings in St George's West Church, the next of which will be on **Thursday 23rd November at 7.30pm** when Elaine Campbell will talk on *Body Image*, which is the Guild's Discussion Topic for this season.

We end November with a very important event in aid of *Scottish Love in Action*, the project our Guild is supporting this year. On **Tuesday 28th November at 7.30pm** we have our Fundraising Event: *Kenny Milne- and all that Jazz*. Please, please join us on that evening and enjoy to the full a toe-tapping, hand clapping musical extravaganza with refreshments included – and all for £8 a ticket. Be cool – come and enjoy the fun!

We warmly welcome everyone, women and men alike, at any of our meetings.

**Enid Mowat**



*The Communion Table decorated for Harvest Thanksgiving, 8th October, 2006*

## Congregational Register

Omitted from the on-line version of the *Leaflet*

## Communion Linen

For the last 10 years I have had a regular team of ladies who have done the laundering of the pew cloths for Communion.

Understandably as the years have passed, some of these ladies wish to be relieved of these duties. For this reason, I shall be pleased to hear from anyone who would be willing to give 1-2 hours, no more than twice a year, for this service to the Church.

Further information can be had from me.

**Janet Walker**

### *Charity Christmas Card & Gift event*

*The annual Charity Christmas Card and Gift Event will take place on Saturday 4th November from 10am-3pm in the Church Halls. 18 charities are participating this year.*

*Refreshments, including soup and rolls at lunchtime, will be available. Do please come and support this worthwhile event.*

*Kathleen Patrick*

## Coffee Rota

- Nov** 5 D72 – Kenneth Aitken  
12 162A Guides  
19 The Guild  
26 The Country Dance Club
- Dec** 3 D65 – Roger Bland



## Carol Singing – Royal Edinburgh Hospital

John McMahon (Chaplain) has invited Greenbank Church to sing carols to staff and patients on the wards of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital on **6th and 13th December** from 6.45pm to 9.00pm.

I have arranged for a guitar to accompany us and now need around 10 volunteers each night to sing. For me it is a special part of the Christmas season.

A list will be put up in the vestibule of the church to sign, or please contact me directly if you want more details.

**Gillian Sweetman**

**email [gilliansweetman@hotmail.com](mailto:gilliansweetman@hotmail.com)**

## Duty Teams

- 5 Nov (First Sunday)** Ian Thom, Alison Berrill, Keith Clark, Ray Dely, Kay Ellis, Catherine Hardie, Anne Oxbrow, Greig Scott, Isobel Thom and Michael Turnbull.
- 12 Nov** Stuart Sanders, Sandy Cameron, Moira Davidson, Stuart Macmillan, John Murison, Sally Stephen, Fiona Greig and Alasdair Swan.
- 19 Nov** John Rutherford, David Allan, Richard Denison, Kenneth Htet-Khin, Colin Winchester, Caroline Kehoe, Anne Kinnear, John Mowat and Jean Roynon-Jones.
- 26 Nov** John Ritchie, Eric Brown, Stewart Coghill, Ralph Davidson, John Htet-Khin, Susan Inch, Gill Sweetman and Ian Thomson.
- 3 Dec (First Sunday)** Walter Crosby, Brian Barron, Donald King, Donald McLeod, Roderick Morrison, Kathryn Sangster, Mairi Stevenson and Jim Young.

## Church Flowers

	<i>Provided by</i>	<i>Delivered by</i>
<b>Nov</b>		
5th	Louise Coghill	Ruth Bay
12th	Helen Aitken	Elizabeth Ezzi
19th	Alison Lonie	Helen Smith
26th	Marjorie Fletcher	Cathie Maclennan
<b>Dec</b>		
3rd	Rutherford Family	Pauline Grant



## Crèche Rota

	<i>Supervisor</i>	<i>Helper</i>
<b>Nov</b>		
5th	Valerie Macniven	Christine Wallace
12th	Alison Ambler	Flora Pollock
19th	Cath Brown	Christine Wallace
26th	Dawn Waitt	Rachel Watt
<b>Dec</b>		
3rd	Ishbel Clark	Christine Wallace



## Paul's Purple Passages: On the Road to Damascus

Adam Elsheimer, the German painter of the late 16th and early 17th centuries, some of whose works were recently on show in Edinburgh, based much of his output on Biblical themes. Three of his highly detailed miniatures, each painted on a sheet of copper about the same size as this page, depict incidents involving Saul (later St Paul). Saul was a devout and zealous Jew who was determined to eradicate the followers of Jesus. In *The Stoning of Saint Stephen* Saul appears in the background as a splendid figure on horseback, obviously closely involved in the killing of the first Christian martyr. Shortly after that event, Saul set off for Jerusalem to travel to Damascus where he intended harassing the infant Church and its supporters. However, on the road to Damascus Saul was suddenly struck down by a light from heaven and heard a voice asking, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" Elsheimer's painting of *The Conversion of Saul* seeks to portray the overwhelming effect of this blinding vision.

What happened to Saul was to affect the whole direction and meaning of his life. It was a decisive and formative moment for him. In his various letters to the Christian communities springing up all around the Eastern Mediterranean he did not repeat the account of his conversion. However, in a number of passages, especially when defending himself against opponents who challenged his credentials, he clearly alluded to that occasion and shared with his readers his understanding of the significance of his experience.

Paul wrote of his conversion being like a new creation. Again and again in his writings Paul was at pains to remind his readers that his preaching and teaching were not about himself but about Jesus and that they had their origins in what God had made known to him. It was as if the light had dawned on Paul just as it had dawned at the beginning of time. *For it is the God who said "let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.* The Bible begins with a scene of primeval chaos: had not Saul who became Paul known that chaos? The ancient myth describes darkness covering the earth: had not Paul been in the dark without Christ? But over the turbulence, in the heart of the chaos, the Spirit of God was present: was not Paul able to look back and see the presence and influence of God's Spirit throughout his life? Then there came the divine utterance, *Let there be light*, and there was light: and so for Paul his conversion experience was the decisive event, the ending of chaos and disorder and darkness and the beginning of meaning and order and light.

Paul wrote of his conversion as being the time when he saw Christ. From the earliest days there have always been critics ready to detract from Paul's experience by explaining it as the product of an overheated and unbalanced imagination, as a strange hallucination, as the result of illness or of sunstroke. When referring to his conversion experience,

Paul was adamant that he had seen Jesus. He was aware that the other apostles had seen Jesus alive after his death. This was an essential qualification for an apostle and Paul claimed that he too had seen the risen Jesus. He was at pains to stress that, after appearing to his original followers, Jesus had appeared to him. *God was pleased to reveal his Son to me.* It was as if God had drawn back a corner of the curtain that hides the unseen but real world and disclosed to Paul his own dear Son.

If the story of Paul's conversion recorded in the Book of Acts – and it is repeated no less than three times – is about the external phenomena accompanying the event (a bright light, a voice from heaven, Paul's blindness), then Paul himself was more interested in sharing his internal experience. His spiritual eyes had been opened so that he saw Christ as he really was. No longer was Jesus the discredited impostor whose career had been brought to an abrupt end by his ignominious execution: rather, he was seen in a new light as the one in whom the future had arrived in the present, as the true agent of God's new age, as a new way of seeing God.

Paul wrote of his conversion as the time when God laid hold of him. He was aware of his own shortcomings and imperfections and so could write to his friends: *I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me.* Paul thought that when God stopped him on the Damascus Road, Jesus had arrested him, just as he had been on his way to arrest the followers of Jesus. If Paul had been determined to prevent these early Christians from sharing with others their knowledge of Jesus, that same Jesus had taken Paul in hand so that he might know him and serve him. On reflection Paul saw in all this the hand and plan of God, who had chosen him before he was born. Although often perverted, this insight remains valid for all God's people: God chooses us before we choose him; God does not choose us because we deserve to be chosen; God does not choose us to be his favourites but to be his servants.

For believers today, just as for Paul twenty centuries ago, it is God who takes the initiative. While Paul's experience may have been highly unusual, indeed, unique, countless Christians will identify with his remarks about God's relentless pursuit of him. At a moment when he had least reason to expect it, Paul was staggered by the idea that no matter who you are or what you have done or failed to do, God wants you on his side. We do not need to hear a Voice or be blinded by a heavenly light on the road to Damascus to discover this. Because this relationship is a gift from God, there is no way to earn it or deserve it or bring it about: it can only be ours if we reach out and take it. We have to become the people God intends us to be, free from any burden of guilt for the past, travelling light without excess baggage of prejudice and, like Paul, pressing on without fear or anxiety to the goal to which God beckons us.

