

CYC NEWSLETTER

March edition | 2023 | Read, Pray, Pass on

Points for Prayer

- give thanks that some of the CYC youngsters are hoping to attend SU camp this year
- Give thanks for Ben's continued faithful work with the young people and pray for blessing on his wife Fran and two lads, Josh and Jon Jon
- pray that our bid to get funding for a chairlift at the entrance will be successful as the present hoist has not worked for many years and we need to be more disabled friendly
- remember Eddie and Helen Hughes in Canada as they have been wonderful supporters over the years and also Wilf and Pat Urquhart especially as Wilf also has been a great supporter of Perth YMCA
- pray for older friends who are not so fit as formerly such as Keith Martin and Annette Patience

Congratulations!



We pass on our congratulations to our oldest member, William McEwan, on reaching the grand old age of 100 on 13th March. Willie has earned the respect and love of so many. He makes us think of Psalm 92: *The righteous shall flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green.*

Make My Life ~a Blessing

(Melody: Day by Day and with each passing moment.)

Lyrics: © Edward D. Hughes, Canada, 2016. Music: Oscar Ahnfelt, 1813-1882, Public Domain.

Like a tree
whose roots reach an oasis
Like a rose,
full open to the sun
Like a songbird
pouring out its praises
Like a child whose life has just begun,
Help me drink from streams of living water
Help me blossom in Your courts above
Help me praise You, help me rest contented
As a child rests in a mother's love.

Like a light
that shines bright in a dark place
Like a road sign pointing out the way.
Like a voice
that sings sweet words of Your grace
Like a cool breeze in the heat of day
Make my life a blessing to my world, Lord
Help me share Your love with everyone.
Help me demonstrate
the truth of Your Word,
Help me glorify Your blessed Son.

Jesus, Lord,
eternal Prince of glory
You became, for my sake, Lamb of God.
Ardent Lover of God's gospel story
You received the stroke of judgment's rod.
On the Cross You died to save my soul, Lord,
Through Your death I have life, rich and new
Through Your sacrifice,
You've made me whole, Lord,
Help me live my whole life now for You.

Blessings,
Ed.

What's Good about Good Friday?

Sometimes we just accept common ways of speaking without really thinking about them. Why, for example, do we call special days red letter days?

One term of which this is probably true is Good Friday. What is good about Good Friday? The term refers to the time when Jesus was crucified by the Romans. He had been betrayed by one of his disciples, Judas, and the religious establishment found him guilty of blasphemy in a rigged trial. He was mocked and spat upon. Crucifixion was reserved for slaves and the most base criminals and was designed to make death prolonged and agonising. There isn't much there to justify calling it Good Friday, is there?

But, as if often the case, there is a great gulf between appearance and reality. What appeared to be a disaster and the triumph of self-serving hypocrites was in reality the culmination of God's plan of salvation. Jesus himself said that he came to give his life a ransom for many. John the Baptist proclaimed him as the Lamb of God who would take away the sin of the world. By his death he paid the debt we owe to God because of our sin. The result is that the Christian can sing; "Jesus paid it all, All to him I owe." For anyone who has a burden of guilt and feels unloved by God, what good news this is! How the cross speaks of God's love to us! Truly, that Friday was a good Friday for needy sinners and so it was given the title Good Friday.

Humour from the past

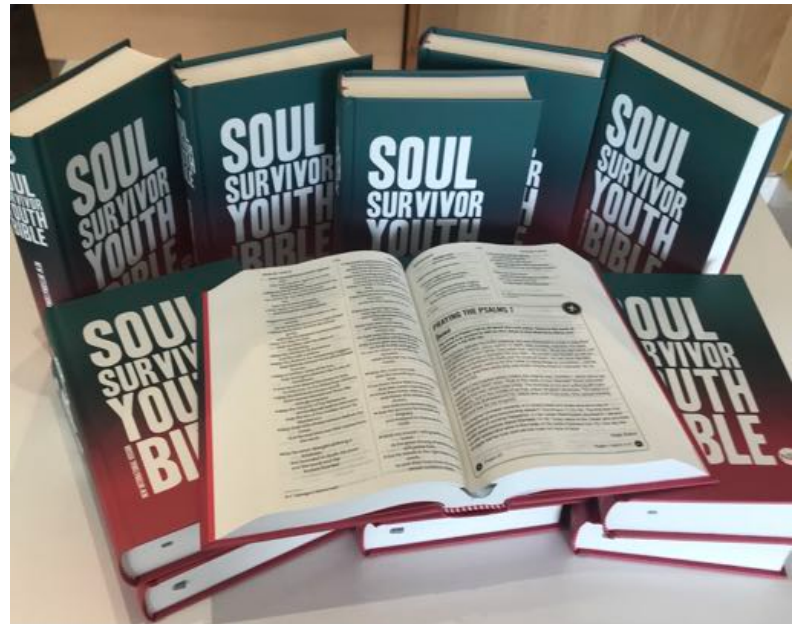
Here is a bit of wit from the 'good old days' supplied by Eddie Hughes in Canada. Who ever thought that Christians are gloomy and mirthless?

At a Saturday Night meeting in 1958 in the YMCA which was then at the corner of Castle Street where Macdonalds now stands, a couple of retired missionaries ministered and part of their presentation involved singing a song that spoke to the theme of their message. Sadly, neither were gifted in singing - in piano terms, the accompanist played on the black notes and on the white notes while they 'sang in the cracks.'

They sang just before the break for tea, and the boys from the YM all surged out onto Castle Street and burst into a combined chorus of giggling.

One lady came out and said in a mildly reproofing tone, "I trust that laughter is sanctified." Billy Mitchell (always a wit) was able to bring his laughing sufficiently under control to respond, "I don't know if it's sanctified or not, but it's certainly justified." Hopefully we have enough theology to appreciate the joke.

Youth Bibles



These Bibles have been purchased with money donated for that purpose by an anonymous donor. We are very thankful to this donor and pray that these Bibles will bring light and saving joy to young people.

Backing Ben

Ben is at the centre of the hands-on work of the CYC and needs our support. He is doing a good work as the following information will make clear:

- numbers at the after-school club are regular, with a few newcomers
- Carolyn Ross comes in when available and does arts and crafts and cooking
- during the Easter holidays we plan to meet as a group at the local swimming pool
- the chess club has an attendance of 7 with potential for expansion
- attempts to establish a Friday night youth club need more response from volunteers

After school club summer camp opportunities

The end of January heralded allocation day for places at Free Church Youth Camps. It prompted a review of Christian holidays for young people and how the CYC could encourage and support the After School Club children, during such difficult economic times, to go to 'camp'.

The options for Primary 5 to Secondary 2 in Scotland were Free Church Youth Camps, Scripture Union and Teen Ranch (Inchture, Perthshire)

Of the 8-10 children who attend the afterschool club, 4 have chosen Scripture Union activities holiday at Alltnacriche near Aviemore.

On discussion with SU Scotland they were able to book with an Inverness CYC 'discount' code meeting 50% of the £380 cost.

2 of the boys had already been to Alltnacriche and enthusiastically 'sold' the adventure and outdoor activities to the After School Club.

Please pray for Oliver, David, Josh and Jon Jon as they go to Alltnacriche on 15 July. May they have lots of fun with the various activities including ropes course and 'zip line' as they learn more about Jesus.

Hopefully we can update you with photos in autumn edition of newsletter.

Carolyn Ross

AGM

The AGM took place on Monday 20th March in the CYC. It was good to welcome Eddie Hughes from Winnipeg and Wilf Urquhart from Bankfoot, who joined us by Zoom. If more who are unable to be physically present could join us by Zoom, that would be helpful. We were glad to have Frances Campbell with us.

The Treasurer, Gavin MacKenzie, presented the accounts and they were approved. In common with all organisations, heating and lighting costs have shot up and donations are down on the 2021 figure, but the general financial situation is reasonably strong. Gavin was thanked, along with the Independent Examiner, David Forbes. The figures below summarise the very bare bones of the accounts.

	2022	2021
Total receipts	24,131	31,382
Total payments	19,972	12,855
Total funds carried forward	94,218	90,059

The Treasurer emphasised that any major repairs to our ageing building could easily eat into our present funds.

A brief overview of activities was given by Sandy Finlay, President, who paid tribute to the work done by Ben Kerr, our Youth Worker.

Everyone enjoyed tea/coffee and biscuits.