

# The Duke, Lord and the future

The continuing adventures of Gareth and Jane's waking hours

**Jane** continues to drive the length and breadth of Scotland serving The Duke of Edinburgh's Award ([www.theaward.org](http://www.theaward.org)). She successfully launched a peer education film and an evaluation report of the project she co-ordinates (New Start) in May 2005.

The attendance at the event and the uptake of The Award indicates the continuing success of the project, which encourages young people who are in prison or at risk of offending to achieve The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, giving them skills and a qualification which could make a significant difference to their futures.

Funding has been secured until 2008, and Jane hopes to see the project through until then, at least.

**Gareth** is still working in a ministry team serving two congregations: St Salvador's, Stenhouse and the Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield. However, this project was always only going to be limited to three years, and this ends in April 2006.

Society is changing, and fewer people are coming to church. It's time that the people within the church 'go out' to those outside the church. That's where Gareth feels called to, as scary and challenging a prospect as that feels. This quotation Gareth found encouraging, recently: "We need to stop starting with the church.

Rather, we should plant the seed of the gospel in all sorts of new and emerging cultures and contexts - and make disciples of what sprouts. The fruit will be all sorts of new expressions of authentic church - that is, Jesus communities of disciple-making disciples." - Bob Hopkins.

## Pray

Where our future lies is in God's hands - if it is your discipline, please pray for us for a job and direction for Gareth after April; for guidance on where we are to live; for encouragement and strength. If you know someone looking for a web designer...!

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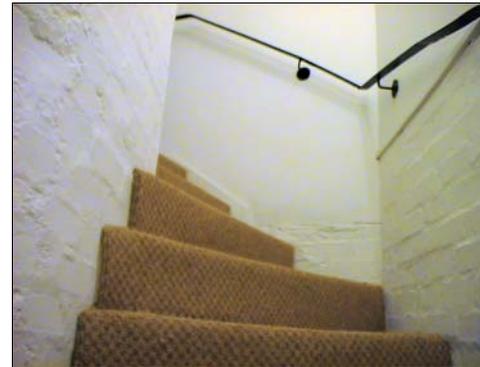
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# potting shed news

The infrequent and unreliable newsletter of Gareth and Jane Saunders - Christmas 2005

## Stairway to heavenly holiday

Our holiday home in Cellardyke opened for business in June



*Going up in the world of holiday home destinations. (See [www.eastneukholidaycottage.co.uk](http://www.eastneukholidaycottage.co.uk) for details.)*

In June 2005 our wee holiday house, *Kadesh*, in Cellardyke, by Anstruther in the East Neuk of Fife opened for business, following six months of hard work sprucing it up and furnishing it.

The year opened with Gareth's first visit to the house and a lot of work to be done: gutting, cleaning, painting, carpeting, furnishing and gardening. All of which was done remarkably quickly, looking back on it now, but at the time it seemed an indeterminably slow process at times. Help from Jane's family was gratefully appreciated, with paint in places being

literally thrown at the walls - we've never before seen a river of white emulsion flowing down a staircase! (Thanks Peter.)

Following the great painting extravaganza the house was carpeted in no fewer than ten hours, with each step of the spiral stone staircase having to be individually 'wrapped'. And then we headed to Ikea, purveyor of all things self-assembly.

Did we happen to mention that our visit to Ikea was on the one evening that most of the local roads were closed due to severe snow? We were about the only people there, which was just as well as we had a king-size bed, a bunk bed, a wardrobe, a dining room table, six chairs, three uprighters, and two bookcases to buy.

The following morning, having picked up what turned out to be a broken fridge from Currys, we set to work building our van-load of furniture in Cellardyke. With

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an electric screwdriver that Gareth had foolishly left uncharged in the house for a fortnight! The result was very slowly-built items of flat-pack furniture, blistered palms, and one or two Anglo-Saxon phrases. But the now-furnished house looked stunning, it was just a shame that we'd not thought to bring any bed clothes so it was back in the van for the sixty minutes journey back to Edinburgh.

Sometime during the renovations we had a telephone call from our neighbours, Ian and Yvonne, regarding access to the garden to allow them to fix a wall. Of course, we agreed like the nice neighbours we are, and Ian and Yvonne have become great friends.

Following a couple of 'tester-holidays' by the two of us, and a few members of Jane's family, the house was opened to the public for holiday lets in June. Just in time for the summer rush. Most of the bookings have been made through a European holiday letting company, *Interhome* ([www.interhome.co.uk](http://www.interhome.co.uk)), who have been excellent, and their clients left the house spotless.

Sadly, our one booking via the *Scottish Tourist Board* ([www.visitscotland.com](http://www.visitscotland.com)) resulted in the house being trashed in November, by a group of young people from Poland. We've nearly restored everything to normal, and bookings will resume again shortly.

If you're interested in using the house, please get in touch—we have discounted rates for family and friends.



*The kitchen / dining room (downstairs).*



*Sofa bed in the living room (upstairs).*



*The master bedroom (upstairs).*

# holidays

Cellardyke, Anstruther, Bristol and Fife

Last year we were able to recall tales of trips to San Francisco, Healdsburg, Seattle and Tenerife, Prague, Bath and Bristol. This year we have had the privilege of visiting Fife for both of our holidays.

Tucked in behind the ancient town of Anstruther in the East Neuk lies the equally ancient harbour town of Cellardyke. Does that place name sound at all familiar?

That's right, we've holidayed in our very own holiday cottage! And you can too ... oh, hang on, this was supposed to be a newsletter not a brochure!



*Parents, God-parents and vicar with Felix Coore.*

In May we drove down to Bristol to visit our good friends Jonathan and Emma Coore and their ever-expanding family to become godparents of their newest addition, Felix Jonathan Coore (above).

# family news



*Happy memories: Grandpa Neilson about to cut the cake at his 90th birthday party in July 2003.*

We weren't long into 2005 before Jane's grandpa, Hugh Neilson, was admitted into hospital in Hamilton and following a short illness sadly died in March. We miss him.

The following month Gareth's younger brother Eddie and his wife Rebecca announced that they were expecting a baby, on Boxing Day. Depending on where you live in the world, you may already know if it's a boy or a girl by the time you read this. Jane reckons on a girl; Gareth thinks a boy—who will be right?

Fast-forward to August and Jane's younger sister Susan married Martin Ritchie on a lovely day in Fife ... apart from all the wind and rain. While Jane and her older sister Pauline married ministers, Susan has bucked the trend by marrying someone studying theology at New College, Edinburgh. You say potato ...!