

GRF continues its work to record and distribute programmes for radio stations in Britain and worldwide.

Our aim is to help listeners who are coming to faith, and those who are already on a journey to discover new dimensions of their faith.

All of GRF's programmes are made by a voluntary interdenominational team.

This Prayer Letter gives you a snapshot of what GRF is currently doing.

If you would like to get involved in the work of GRF as a prayer partner, church contact or potential member of the team, we would be pleased to hear from you.

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Scottish charity no.
SC000199

latest news



Margaret Tooth, Darren McKinnon, Holly McGuigan, Brian Muir, Anne Muir and Gill McKinnon are pictured at the award ceremony which was held at the RSA in London.

GRF received four nominations in this year's **Jerusalem Awards** - and in two categories reached the final three. The Jerusalem Awards is now in its 18th year, and promotes Christian involvement in broadcasting. Holly McGuigan was a finalist in the Under 25s category for her role as producer of GRF's *Lent Music Mix* series.



Congratulations are also due to Margaret Tooth who won an award for a Good Friday programme broadcast on **Central FM**, where she is part of the team who produces the Sunday programme. The programme opened with one of GRF's pieces which had been produced for Maundy Thursday.

new neighbour

GRF is delighted to welcome **Wycliffe Bible Translators** as our new neighbour, working out of 342 Argyle Street. Wycliffe's Scotland office is now located in the two rooms which are surplus to GRF's requirements.

advent programmes

Following the success of GRF's **Lent Music Mix** earlier this year (which was broadcast on numerous stations throughout Britain), the team is currently half way through producing **Advent Music Mix**. These are four short programmes, designed for each week of Advent, each one using a mix of words and music to explore traditional Advent themes and images.



new podcasts

GRF has been recording two regular 'podcasts' for targeted audiences on the internet. These are discussion programmes which are downloaded by people or listened to online. A podcast gets its name from both 'iPod' and 'broadcasting' - which is slightly misleading as it can be heard on any computer or mobile device and not just an iPod! Podcasts are now extremely popular with a wide range of people, including many younger people.



The Moral Mixdown has been running the longest and is also made available to a wider audience including some radio stations, via the Audiopot website. There, it has been downloaded by, amongst others, **County Sound Radio** in Guildford and **Ayr Christian Radio**. The issues for discussion tend to be topical and have included recent discussion about the St Paul's Occupy story and the death of Steve Jobs. More general topics are chewed over by the team as well, such as the mixing (or not) of faith and politics and the benefits (or not!) of growing older! The programmes pick up on ethical and spiritual insights and always try to present new and challenging slants on the subjects discussed. The presenters include Anne, Brian, Darren, Kennedy and Margaret. You can listen to The Moral Mixdown here: www.moralmixdown.org

#OMGRF!

The other podcast we have been recording is a new programme called **#OMGRF!** which has been in production since the autumn. This is presented and produced by younger members of the GRF team, and the podcast is based around the popular topics which are currently trending on Twitter. And Justin Bieber. These are then presented as a Top Ten. This format, as you might imagine, makes for a wide-ranging, entertaining and sparky discussion! The regular #OMGRF! team of Holly, George and Darren also highlight their own favourite 'Tweets of the Week' and recommend people and issues to follow on Twitter. Listen to #OMGRF! here: www.omgrf.org

other studio news

Letter from Scotland

Letter from Scotland is now in its 16th year of production. Now written and presented by Anne Muir it continues to present a monthly 'comment' piece for Downtown Radio in Belfast, reflecting on ethical and spiritual matters arising from the news or current affairs which is of relevance to listeners in both Scotland and Ireland. One of these programmes was shortlisted in the recent Jerusalem Awards (see page 1).

Remembrance 2011

The lasting value of GRF's programme production from previous years was demonstrated recently by the downloading of various items for Remembrance Sunday from Audiopot (www.audiopot.org). These included "Remember what you will" by Jim Ewing, and "From the Trenches" by Graham Sherry. Over the last few years both of these have been broadcast by many radio stations throughout Britain and Ireland.

And also for Remembrance Sunday, GRF treasurer, Eric Strachan, contributed to Central FM's Sunday Reflections, describing his experience of attending a full military funeral at Cambrai in France for his wife's great uncle, a Canadian soldier who was lost during the First World War but whose body was only recently discovered.



GRF's new PMD620 portable digital recorder (see above) is now being used for interviews and other programme insert material.

just visiting

We were delighted to say hello to **Colm Flanagan**, of Commission and Downtown Radio in Belfast, and **Jim Rose**, a long-term radio partner from the north of England who both visited the studios recently.

programme response

We thought that it would be useful in this Prayer Letter to include a selection of responses from our partner broadcasters. These are the people who are closest to their audience and who are aware of the effectiveness of the programmes that we produce.

Moral Mixdown - the death of bin Laden:

"Topical and perceptive. Teases out the issues from a Christian perspective but remained engaging." "Interesting. Good discussion team, especially after hearing the Moral Maze on this topic. Very listenable!"

Jamie & Me:

"A great collage. This brilliant piece of work was broadcast on Sunday Retreat...."

Who Counts?:

"Excellent piece - well scripted and produced. Just the right length to drop in, but long enough to make all the necessary points, and leave the listener with a sting in the tail ... Thanks - it was just what I needed!!"

Ann Wallace interview for Poverty & Homelessness Week:

"Thank you for this lovely piece presented by a woman who has herself suffered homelessness and has been led by God to help others in that position: it was very moving."

Lent 1-5 :

"Great features. Thank you for these sensitive Lent features which have been broadcast on Hospital Radio Lion Guildford and have also been logged for broadcast in future years."

Lent 2:

"Another moving piece. Again, I loved the combination of words and music. Very appropriate for our audience."

financial update

general update

In common with many charities, GRF continues to face challenging times in terms of financial income. We have experienced a general downturn in individual donations and we are very grateful for all those who continue to support GRF financially as well as through prayer. We are also grateful for the continued support from The Jerusalem Trust and Trans World Radio, and for the support of a number of churches and smaller trust funds.

2010/11 financial year

Our accounts for the 2010/11 financial year are now available. The summary information can be seen on the website of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (GRF's OSCR Number is SC000199).

If you would like a copy of the full accounts please write to Hilary Fraser at the studio address (see front page) or send us an email the.team@grf.org.uk.

giving

Enclosed with this prayer letter, for your convenience, are a Response Form (yellow), a Standing Order Form (blue) and a reply envelope (please attach a stamp). Thank you for whatever you are able to give.

If you would like to make a regular donation to GRF please do consider setting up a Standing Order. All GRF team members are volunteers so all donations go directly to the funding of making radio programmes.

team news

We express our deepest sympathy and love to **Kennedy Fraser** and **Iain Lindsay** both of whose fathers died recently.

There is also happy news to report - **Holly McGuigan** and **George Walsh** have become engaged. We have also learned that former team member **Euan Macfarlane** has become engaged to **Bridget Tallon**. Congratulations to them all.

We were sorry to say goodbye to **Fraser Carr-Gomm** who has moved to Liverpool to start his studies at the Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts. We wish Fraser well.

We welcome **Mike Graham** and **George Walsh** to the team. Mike is initially working as a production assistant and contributing to programme ideas. George is contributing as a writer and presenter and is particularly involved in the new #OMGRF! programme strand.

Craig Watt will be working night shifts in his new job for some time but will join us when available.

Congratulations to **Alan Sinclair**, a former GRF treasurer and his wife, Anne, who recently celebrated their golden wedding.

Current GRF team members:

Andrew Barr (chairman)
Jim Ewing (writer & presenter)
Hilary Fraser (office administrator)
Kennedy Fraser (sound engineer)
Mike Graham (production assistant)
Paul Harris (sound engineer)
Raine Herbert (writer & production assistant)
Aimee Higgins (trainee sound engineer)
Euan Lawson (sound engineer)
Iain Lindsay (audio archivist)
Holly McGuigan (writer & presenter)
Darren McKinnon (writer, presenter & actor)
Gillian McKinnon (producer & editor)
Anne Muir (writer, presenter, actor & producer)
Brian Muir (producer & editor)
Graham Sherry (writer, presenter & actor)
Eric Strachan (treasurer)
Margaret Tooth (writer, presenter & producer)
George Walsh (writer & presenter)
Craig Watt (trainee sound engineer)

All team members are volunteers.

The GRF team changes and evolves but averages about 20 members in size at any one time. We all balance studies, work and family with a commitment to Christian broadcasting.

Please contact us at the address on the front page of this Prayer Letter if you are interested in joining the team!

prayer points

Give thanks:

- That GRF has been able to meet all financial commitments so far this year;
- That the discipline of producing two weekly podcasts has survived holiday, work commitments and flooding, and resulted in honest, thought-provoking discussion;
- That we have a new tenant for our surplus accommodation.

Pray for:

- The members of the Operating Committee who act as GRF's trustees as they help chart the future;
- Team members experiencing change in family, work or church commitments;
- Listeners around the world as they hear GRF's programmes and podcasts.



Almighty God, fragile human ...
the impossible reality of your incarnation
is so far beyond our grasp that we get lost
in the 'hows' and the 'whys' of it.
We only know that somehow time
pivots on this moment.
The Word became flesh
and dwelt among us,
but a busy world barely noticed.
Still our minds to focus on the mystery
of the incarnation.