



GRF AT THE AYE WRITE! BOOK FESTIVAL

PROGRAMMES UPDATE

TEAM NEWS



Welcome ...

... to our summer Prayer Letter. We've been enjoying developing our smallVOICE podcast, and its mix of ethical discussion, reviews and music continues to grow an audience online.

We remain grateful for your support for our work and for the support of a number of trusts. As a voluntary team, our costs are low, but we wouldn't be able to continue without this support.

Please pray for us as we continue our work to 'let the people hear'.

Every blessing,

the GRF Team

LISTEN ...

Stations which have taken our programmes recently include **Alive Radio** (Dumfries), **Amber Sound** (Amber Valley), **Ayr Christian Radio**, **Coastline Radio** (Spain), County Sound Radio (Guildford), **High Peak Radio** (Buxton), **Manx FM**, **Portsmouth Community Radio**, **Premier Christian Radio** (London), **Radio Lion** (Guildford), **Revival Radio** (Lanarkshire), and **UCB Ireland**.

Many of our back-catalogue programmes continue to be downloaded by radio stations, churches and schools from **Audiopot**, an online distributor of audio. You can sign up at www.audiopot.org.

Our smallVOICE podcast has also set up a Sound Cloud page featuring music and other audio excerpts.

AYE WRITE!



GRF's smallVOICE podcast hosted Rev Dave Tomlinson in a session at the **Aye Write!** book festival in Glasgow in May.

Dave's most recent book, 'The Bad Christian's Manifesto', had been reviewed by the smallVOICE team last year and, when we got in touch with him afterwards, he was keen to come to Glasgow for the book festival.

During his session, Dave Tomlinson read selections from his book, and fielded questions from smallVOICE presenter Darren McKinnon and from the Aye Write! audience.

Topics covered included why Dave took Ronnie Biggs' funeral to the Sunday Assembly 'atheist church' and to why being a vicar is one of the best jobs in the world.

It was a great evening with an interested and engaged audience. We also recorded the session in full and it is still available to listen on the smallVOICE website (www.smallvoice.org.uk) as a podcast extra.

A GRF Family Tree?

When the smallVOICE team selected 'The Iceberg' by Marion Coutts for the media review in the June 2015 edition of the podcast, a link was created with programmes from the 1980s which had been written by Marion's father John Coutts - the biblical drama series 'Prophets, Priests and Kings' which brought Old Testament times to life, and 'Perilous Journey', the story of St Paul's travels in the early years of the Christian Church.

In both of these series John and his wife Heather were valuable additions to the GRF pool of acting talent, and the programmes were broadcast around the world on several radio stations. Today, John is still writing plays, the latest of which was performed recently at the Smith Art Gallery and Museum in Stirling by the Riverside Players. He is also often to be heard on Radio Scotland's *Thought for the Day*.

Phil Coutts, Marion's brother was also a team member for some time and is a busy journalist. Marion is an artist, now based in London. Her book "The Iceberg" is the story of her family - husband Tom Lubbock and their young son - following the diagnosis of Tom's terminal brain cancer. With the voice of an artist it explores how they each deal with the progression of the illness and its implications.

For smallVOICE, reviewing award-winning books is a regular feature, and 'The Iceberg', which has featured on

numerous shortlists, was awarded the Wellcome book prize in April.



What did the team make of it? Go to smallvoice.org.uk and listen to find out!

A very English club

Did you know, your ability to speak English fluently is a gift you can give the rest of the world?

Christian mission group and broadcasters, **Reach Beyond**, has been developing English Conversation Clubs where English learners meet native speakers online using Skype. The first clubs set up were in Ecuador in Latin America, but now the idea is spreading and there are new clubs starting up across the Asia/Pacific region, in places such as India and Thailand.

In the next Prayer Letter we will feature more information about these clubs from our friends at Reach Beyond UK, but in the meantime, if you would like to find out more, visit: www.spotlightenglishclubs.com.

GRF continues to record material for **Spotlight**, broadcast by Reach Beyond. The 15-minute radio programme uses limited vocabulary English suitable for language learners worldwide.

TEAM NEWS

Allan Baxter



Allan Baxter in 2008

At the beginning of February this year we received the sad news that Allan Baxter, a former member of the GRF team, had died. He was 64.

Allan was one of the contingent of folk who came to GRF, via Kirkintilloch Baptist Church, in the 1970s. He was a major creative contributor to GRF for nearly eight years in the late 70s and early 80s, until he moved, with his family, to a new job in the south of England.

Current team member Anne Muir says, "He was writing for GRF when I joined, and I was lucky enough to write a couple of series with him. Writing with Allan was great fun - he had a strong sense of the absurd. I don't think I've ever laughed so much."

In his daytime career, Allan was a brilliant research scientist, working with Kenneth Calman at the Beatson Institute at Glasgow University. When he left Glasgow, he went to work for GlaxoSmithKline in London, where he ultimately served as Senior Vice President and Global Head of Medicines Development.


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About

GRF continues its work to record and distribute audio for radio stations and the internet 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 and podcasts are made by a voluntary interdenominational team.

Get involved

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