

FREELAND MOVED AND CHALLENGED BY SPECIAL GUESTS.



On Sunday 22nd January 2012 we were joined by a team from The Haven, Kilmacolm and Teen Challenge at the morning service. The Haven Kilmacolm is a Christian organisation affiliated to Teen Challenge and has chosen to work with people variously labelled as vulnerable, disadvantaged, excluded and marginalised, in order to give them the opportunity to have a very different future.



Manager, Mary Lees, explained that The Haven and Teen Challenge were two separate charities that work in a complementary way. Through its bus ministry Teen Challenge goes to areas where addicts tend to gather and engages with them. They make regular referrals to The Haven where individuals are assessed and, when accepted into

the Programme, are supported through a comprehensive range of care interventions with the aim of achieving faith-, social- and community-inclusion. **This extremely worthwhile and effective work does not receive any government funding and relies totally on charitable donations and the tireless work of volunteers.** During the service the Boys Brigade presented a cheque raised by their sponsored walk.

A very moving testimony was given by David, a former heroin addict, who described himself as a 'monster' when he was referred by Teen Challenge to the Haven some 3 years ago. Homeless and weighing no more than 7½ stones, he was hopeless and was accustomed **to feeling and being told** by agency workers and others that he was 'worthless' and that he would 'never amount to anything'.



In contrast, the staff at The Haven told him that God loved him and had a plan for his life.

Through their prayerful support and their structured programme David was transformed and has discovered his new identity in Christ. He is now completely drug-free and is soon to undertake evangelistic work with the Times Square Church in New York .

Next, a group of David's fellows from the Haven treated us to a rousing hymn of praise which they sang unaccompanied, expressing some of their zeal for 'taking up the armour of the Lord'. The presentation concluded with a slideshow of 'before' and 'after' photographs of some of the men whose lives had been transformed at Haven.

The Minister expressed the gratitude of all present for the presentations and testimonies in word and song that had made such compelling listening.

In his sermon on James 1:19-27 he reinforced the message that being 'good listeners' was not enough and that Christians are required to act in response to needs they hear about. Furthermore we need to be 'marathon runners' rather than mere 'sprinters' when we make our response. We must continue in our actions and maintain our support for those who need it.

After the service our guests joined us in the Pirie for tea & coffee where members had an opportunity to talk to the men about their experiences at the Haven.

For more information on the work of The Haven and Teen Challenge **or to make a much needed donation** please pick up a leaflet in the Pirie or visit the websites:

www.thehavenkilmacolm.com

tcstrathclyde.squarespace.com/