

Report from Adrian

On the 20th August Adrian set off from Bath for his twelfth visit to Korce in Albania. He was joined in London by daughter Carla who has accompanied Adrian seven times and her boyfriend, youth worker Paul, for whom this would be an initiation into youth culture, Albanian style!

The 12 day trip encompassed many of the projects to which Adrian has brought his musical and therapy gifts previously, based around the extraordinary work and 'reach' of The Kennedy Foundation: these include;

- A safe house for young girls at risk of abuse or trafficking
- The street children day care centre for feeding, clothing, learning and spiritual 'nurture'
- The 'Asil' ('Asylum') which Adrian refers to as 'The House on the Hill' - an institution for those with learning difficulties, mental health or physical disabilities, who either have no family, or have been rejected by families unwilling, or unable to cope with the challenges and needs often surrounding these vulnerable members of our community.
- Villa Kennedy - unique to Albania - a beautiful, purpose built, permanently staffed home for the elderly and infirm. Those who are facing the last years, months, weeks of their lives with no one to take care of them, or attend to their needs - until here - and now.

And then, just 20 minutes drive from Korce, you'll find the wonderful, thriving church plant in the nearby village of Vloschisht.

Carla and Paul ran a series of short musical and sports sessions for these children and young people. And in spite of language difficulties, their 'Albanian / English Bible studies were inspiring and much loved.

Just 30 minutes away, Adrian had managed to create a very basic, intimate, but reasonably effective 'recording space' within his hotel room, enabling him to record 'Nardi', a key leader of music, and singer songwriter from the Korce church. This was all about inviting Nardi to write, speak, and sing to his own culture, whatever their beliefs, or circumstances. Adrian undertook to assist him in the making of a first CD recording his own songs.

One of the aims of Adrian's visits is to model techniques and activities that can be used, year round, in these projects. And this year, for the second time, he was able to bring back to England one of those who work for the Kennedy Foundation - this time Alda Nuri; who specialises in teaching autistic children between 4 and 15 years old. Alda was able to shadow classes at Three Ways School in Bath, participate in a variety of sessions with Adrian, and learn from 'experts in the field' with the aim of taking all of this learning, and these experiences, back to her work in Albania.

Very few Albanians can afford to come to Western Europe, and many obstacles have been placed in their way ... but we were able to bring Alda to us ... for an utterly unforgettable visit. And she, like us, is profoundly grateful for her time in Bath, and those from the wonderfully caring and supportive community of St Michael's, who made her visit possible through their generosity.

Adrian

Adrian writes: "Carla has been such an important part of my visits over the years ... she brings so very much of herself to everything and everyone; her empathy, her interest in people, her love and sense of humour, her music ... her extraordinarily beautiful voice (no bias here!)

And, for me personally, to have my own daughter not only willing to travel with her Dad, but also, seemingly, enjoying the experience ... what more could a Dad ask for?!

Carla's boyfriend, Paul Rook, joined us for this visit to Korce. It was his first time in Albania. He is trained in youth work, and works in London with vulnerable young people. He made an enormous contribution to our 'team'.

Here is a summary of Carla's report:

"The focus for me during the trip to Korce this year was really primarily about relationships, and developing more of my own sense of the kinds of projects I would like to potentially get more involved in longer term. Dad was going to be spending the majority of the trip focusing on an album recording with Nardi and working with Alda and the autistic young people, so this was a good opportunity for me to 'branch away' a little from the usual routine of previous years and think about the places and people I really wanted to invest my own time into. I also really wanted to find out more about the kind of work the Kenedi foundation are doing in the area of helping vulnerable young girls, teenagers and women (as this is where I feel most drawn to and passionate about). It was an extremely positive time, and as always there were many moments, meetings and experiences that I'd love to share, but have picked out just a couple that stood out to me over the time there.

As always, the trip was full of a mix of good times, great times, hard times, uncomfortable moments, special moments, spiritual moments and many memories that I will never forget. And as always, I remain so grateful to the Coverdale trust who enable us to go out there year on year and who provide me with the opportunity to continue building and maintaining some really important and special relationships - thank you.

Carla



To read full reports by Carla and Paul, log on to the Coverdale Trust website
www.thecoverdaletrust.org
for an extended version of the Newsletter.

Adrian has now been travelling to Korce every summer for 12 years. Eleven years ago he met the then 17 year old Alda Prifti (now, recently married, Nuri). Adrian remembers the impression she made on him passionate, thoughtful, fiery, engaging and with a wonderful sense of humour!

It was no surprise to him that ten years later she had been identified as someone with deep and instinctive gifts around engaging with children on the Autistic Spectrum. She is now employed by the Kennedy Foundation as a teacher for 12 of these children, between the ages of 4 and 15.

Adrian has worked with Alda on previous visits, offering support, encouragement, and training in ways of working with these special people, drawing on his Music Therapy experience, and the principles and practice behind this.

Adrian says: "To our delight, we were able to invite Alda, and succeeded in getting a visa for her, to travel back to the UK with us for a three week visit, to be based in our home in Bath. This visit was arranged primarily to enable her to spend a couple of weeks at Three Ways Academy. "

This is Adrian's main place of music therapy practice, and here Alda would be able to observe, participate in, and learn from, the extensive work amongst children with a large variety of special needs, but especially those on the Autistic spectrum.

Here Alda reflects on her time with us:

Greetings from Albania, I am Alda and I live in Korce, Albania. I have been part of the Evangelical church there for 11 years. I have known Adrian for years. He visits every year my church, but the three last years we have become really good friends. I work with autistic kids and Adrian has assisted in my classes by giving me new ideas especially through musical therapy. He has been supervising my work and I have found his advice and recommendations really useful. In September he provided me a trip to England, in Bath so I could be trained in Three Ways School. This served me as a new and interesting experience. I learned many new ways and methods of treating kids from the teachers there that I am going to practice in my classes with my pupils. I feel blessed to have Adrian as a friend. He is really trying to do something new attractive and different every year in my church, for my city, and above all for the disabled kids. Thank you for everything, for your prayers and help.

With love,

Alda

Recent & Forthcoming Events for Adrian

25th – 31st October

Adrian travelled to Kenosha, Wisconsin USA for a major, fully orchestral and choral, performance of *The Cry* and related events.

18th – 22nd December

Adrian will be in The Netherlands for a series of concerts 'Light of The World...In the Beginning' featuring a new version of The Virgin, and additional songs.

These performances will involve choir, band and full cast, with Adrian taking his original role, Joseph!

23th March – 2nd April 2016

Adrian will be back in The Netherlands, and then on to Norway, for performances of 'The Passion'.

For further details of these events log on to Adrian's website (www.adrian-snell.com) or join his Facebook group (Adrian Snell Music).

Adrian's work in Albania is supported by the Coverdale Trust

Introducing Steven Faux - musician and composer



Steve recording at Abbey Road Studios

As a musician, composer and ordained minister, Steven uses music to draw out the underlying emotions found in images, film footage and texts.

Not long after his ordination, Steven was attracted to the Psalms as a source of hope to people of all faiths. Focusing on the journey undertaken by the Psalmist, from seasons of joy, through danger and abandonment, to restoration, Steven identified a story shape which resembled both a film trajectory and the up-and-down nature of real life. The Psalms Project, which came out of this, enhances the words of the Psalms, using the musical language of feature films and embraces their fluctuating, unpredictable, and even contradictory emotions, in order to better understand what these inspiring and challenging passages of Scripture reveal about God, and our own experiences.

Steven's work increasingly involves encouraging younger Christians to develop their gifts and to communicate their faith through collaborative projects in music and other media.

www.stevenfaux.com

Paul Hobbs News

WHAT A FULL AND SPECIAL YEAR it has been. Reading my notes after the seven shows I did in the autumn and spring, I realised again how busy I had been and how much God had used the artwork to impact all those who came to see the exhibitions.

The venues included four churches, Hexham Abbey, Liverpool Cathedral and Abingdon School. Altogether the shows were open for eight weeks with me engaging with visitors, and running discussions with school classes or other groups, speaking at Sunday services, dinners or youth groups.

Perhaps I can do no better than list a number of quotes from those who came to the shows.

'Thought-provoking in spades, but conversion into visual (form) outstanding.'

'Amazing, inspiring and challenging in equal measure.'

'God has spoken so much to me through your work.'

'There are more than a hundred sermons in these artworks.'

'Amazing and breath-taking. Never seen anything like it before.'

'In the morning we visited Tate Liverpool but we felt nothing. I am not a Christian but I am touched by the simplicity and beauty of your work. This is art for me – to get people thinking. Thank-you.'

'I wish we could stay longer. There was so much more I wanted to see.' (A 10 year old schoolboy).

'It is clear the exhibition had a considerable impact on visitors, and indeed on staff and volunteers too.' (Dean of Liverpool)

Amongst the visitors we welcomed were several down and outs and two blind people, and I was constantly reminded of Jesus' compassion for the poor, the lonely and lost. One young woman was pushing a disabled lady in a wheelchair carefully around each exhibit in the show, reading all the information to her. I was humbled to find the disabled lady was also blind, and yet wanted to hear about every artwork, and so together we went round the other half of the exhibits.

Many individual men came to the show in Gloucester, and chatted with me. Many appreciated the skill and craft involved in making the artworks, and the compassion and concern of the issues raised, and consequently were willing to explore the stories about Christ. Among them were an ex-atheist and a man who had just given up the Bahai faith.

Sometimes people were more combative than curious, like an older man who did not want to discuss Christ, but sought to score obscure points about God's behaviour in the Old Testament. We kept on trying to draw his attention back to Jesus.

With individuals and school or church groups, I introduced the different exhibits, explaining the references to Jesus. It was moving to explain about the Lord's death for us, and the cost he paid for our salvation. Several times I used the Ten Words (Commandments) exhibit to tell how God gave us good standards to live by, how we fail to live up to them and thus break our relationships with him and with each other, and yet how Jesus (the final Word) comes to restore that relationship by taking our due punishment upon himself. This is always really natural and easy when someone has just asked you 'What does this one mean?' because they have been clearly drawn in by the colours, news articles and the seemingly random words of the visual puzzle.

All the exhibits played a significant part for someone, including the smaller exhibit called 'Rag', about Isaiah's comment 'Your good deeds are like filthy rags'. For two men it was the most impacting thing in the show. Several young Christians said how challenged they were by pieces which explored Christ's call to care for the most vulnerable.

In the fortnight at Liverpool Cathedral more than 3,000 people came to the show from many different nationalities. One German visitor, working in the UK, spoke with me at length about his search for faith and how the artworks had helped him enormously, addressing in an open, poetic way many of the issues he was wrestling with. Many times in Liverpool I spoke with foreign families, one of whom translated



An installation based on The Beatitudes

my words about art and gospel to the others in their group.

There were especially significant conversations with many people, and times when I have been deeply moved as I spoke about the gospel. And there are many other moments which one can only patiently guide the viewer around the show and simply trust that the pictures will remain in people's minds for a long time, and pray that this is long enough for the spiritual penny to drop, just like with a parable. And all of this is wrapped up in the prayers that many have offered on my behalf. Thank you so much to those of you reading this who have been prayerfully supporting these shows.

The latter half of this year has been involved with researching new work on the persecuted church - a process hampered by a serious injury to my quad muscle which required an operation and several months of wearing a leg brace. God willing I will be back to normal by January and fully able to carry and lift for exhibitions.

Paul



Paul's work on display at Hexham Abbey

FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2016

Paul will be exhibiting and giving talks at:

- St Faith's School, Cambridge, from 1st to 6th February
- St Stephen's Church, Selly Park, Edgbaston from 7th to 13th March
- St Matthew's Church, Cheltenham from 18th to 24th April
- Cumberland Lodge, Windsor – an abstract show from 10th June to – 6th September

www.arthobbs.com

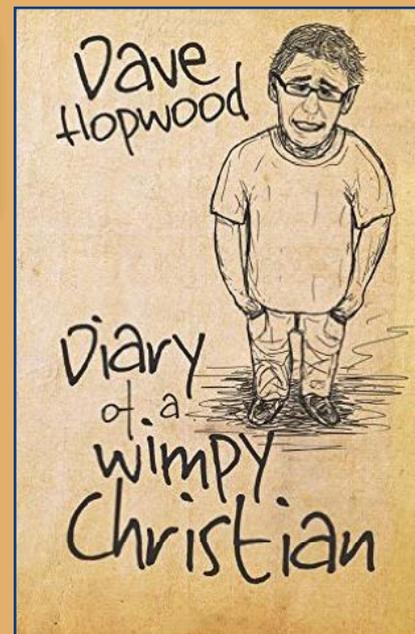
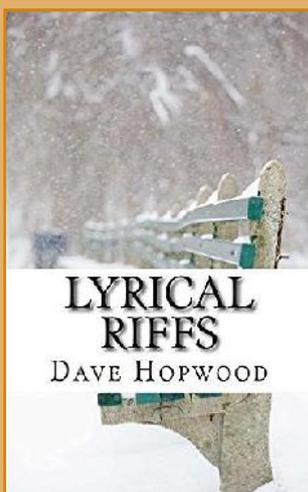
Dave Hopwood's News

Hello again!

A LITTLE MORE NEWS from the Hopwood stable. I have recently finished a collection of **Lyrical Riffs**, creative readings with recurring phrases drawn on various Bible verses. I have also completed *Diary of A Wimpy Christian*, my attempt to be humorous and honest about life, faith and bumbling. These two books show something of the variety of my work. Every week I post up a *Lyrical Riff* on a Wednesday on Facebook, Twitter and my website, www.davehopwood.com and some readers had requested that I compile them into a book. These pieces are short and easy to read, and folks have been using them in church services, so they are proving to be a useful creative resource as well as a thought for the day. The *Diary* on the other hand taps into my desire to communicate the Christian faith in humorous, contemporary and down-to-earth ways. Not dressing it up in spiritual language. This is the style I adopt when I go out speaking, drawing on life and culture and the Bible. In the past few months I have been out and about, speaking

at various events and services, including a ministers' conference in Salisbury, a church weekend in Letchworth, a school's event at Brunel Manor, Torbay, and a seminar on the Bible and culture at the New Wine summer conference. I do my best to adapt my style and content to suit each different group.

I'd be grateful for your prayers for continued bookings and inspiration for my



writing and communicating the Bible in creative ways. Also for my wife, Lynn and our girls Amy and Lucy. Especially for those times when I'm working away. Also, if you would like to receive a weekly update email you can now sign up for this on my website. You can also find details of my books and work there.

Thanks very much for your support, prayers and friendship.

Dave Hopwood

Chairman's Report

Dear Friends of Coverdale

Here at Coverdale we have been busy, not only supporting Adrian, Dave and Paul, but also looking at ways we can provide support and inspiration to other Christian artists.

We are very pleased to introduce Steven Faux to you and also let you know of a very exciting opportunity for Coverdale to support 'West End Has Faith', a group of young Christians working on the West End stage and beyond. Discussions are on-going, with the group joining our next Trustees meeting in January 2016 to explore ways in which Coverdale and its current artists network can help them develop and grow in the valuable work they do.

I am pleased to inform you also that we have a new Trustee, Robin Windsor, who has kindly agreed to join the team. Robin provides a great balance to our thinking and future development. (For a more detailed biography of Robin, please visit our

website). However, it is with great sadness that we say goodbye to Geoff Bishop who has provided the backbone to the Trust for many years in his capacity as Chairman and, latterly, Treasurer. Geoff, having moved to Yorkshire, is keen to embark on new, fresh, exciting challenges and we wish him and Karen all the very best as they put down their roots up north.

The opportunities to make a real difference to people's lives are endless and are only restricted by our ability to, not only fund, but provide valuable, practicable and emotional support. It is this support that our current experienced artists will bring to 'West End Has Faith'.

Finally, may I sincerely thank you all for your prayers and financial support and for the many letters of encouragement we receive.

John Pettifor
Chairman

Keep up-to-date

For further information on the artists supported by the Coverdale Trust visit our website: www.thecoverdaletrust.org which has a link to the individual websites of Adrian, Dave, Paul and Steve.

Gift Aid and Standing Orders

If you pay tax and would like to Gift Aid your donation, please let John Pettifor know. The Trust can claim an extra 25p for every £1 given.

Standing Orders are also a very helpful way of giving regularly so please ask for a form if you are interested.

Donations can be made direct to the Trust account using the following:
BIC: MIDLGB2102G
BAN: B63MIDL40091911731157