

Scotland
2018
26.06. – 03.07.

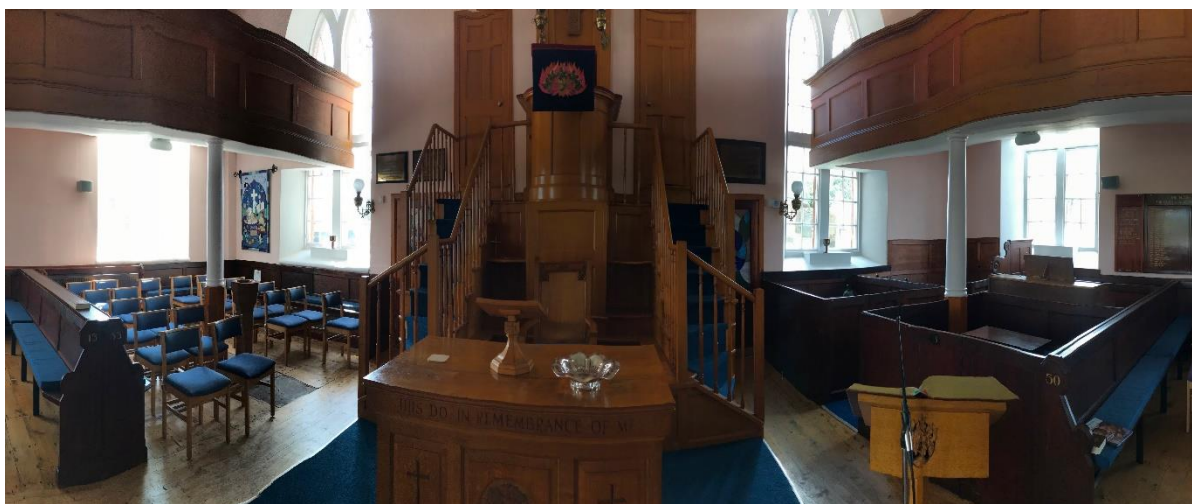
June 26th, Tuesday

I woke up very early, the earliest of my life, at 3 a.m. It was still dark outside, and I was so excited that I couldn't have slept too much anyway. I had never in my life travelled with an airplane without my family. At the airport, I met the other two members of my adventure: Mrs. Zsuzsa and Zoli, and I also met Zoli's family. We all checked in and I said goodbye to my mom.

The flight was great. We arrived at the Glasgow Airport at 8:20 (Scottish time), then we waited for a long time. Pam was already waiting for us at the airport. With Pam's car we travelled for two hours and arrived to Dunscore where we met her husband, Colin. They live in a beautiful house with a lovely garden. We had a delicious lunch and then went over to the church. There we learned a lot about the village, the church, and -- most importantly -- Jane Haining. It was very interesting to be in the village where Jane Haining grew up. It was so nice to see that people still remember her story and even the road she took to school. Later we looked around Dunscore, got home, had a wonderful dinner, and went to sleep at 10 o'clock. It was a long day.



June 27th Wednesday



On this day I woke up to the wonderful sound of my alarm at 8:30. I got up, got dressed and went downstairs to have a gorgeous breakfast. We ate Scottish flat bread with sunny-side up egg and bacon. After breakfast we went to Dumfries Academy, the school Jane Haining attended. We had a chat with two students and a teacher. After the school we went to a castle near Dumfries. On our way to the castle we stopped at a parking lot next to the river Nith to take some photos. When we arrived at the castle, we had lunch and also tried scones for the first time. They were delicious! Having looked around the castle we went to Robert Burns's old farm, which is now a Burns heritage centre. There we learned everything one needs to know about Robert Burns, the famous poet. We had a great time! After getting home we changed to more formal clothes and went to a BBQ with the church community. They made lovely food and everybody was extremely friendly and kind. I met a lot of new people there. After Pam drove us home from the grill party, Zoli and I took a small walk. When we got back to the cottage, I took a shower and went to bed at 10:34. The day was pretty amazing!



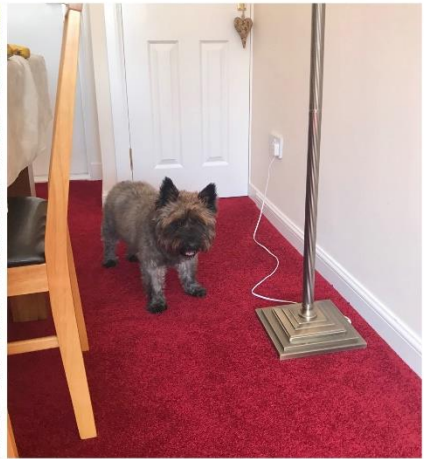
June 28th, Thursday

On this day we went to the beach. We had a great time, and the sea was beautiful. A lot of Scottish people were swimming, but it was a bit too cold for us. We found an ice-cream truck near the beach, so we tried out a few flavours. After the beach we had an afternoon tea in New Abbey, and later we went to a mall and bought a few gifts. Then we visited Jane Haining's family tombstone. When we got home, we had a wonderful dinner, took a shower and went to bed.



June 29th, Friday

We woke up as usual and had our breakfast. Then we packed up and went to Dumfries, where we had some time to look around and visit a few shops. After that we went to the train station, said our goodbyes and got on the train that took us to Glasgow. At the Glasgow station we met two ladies: Brenda and Lexa, who took us to Morag's house. We had a cup of tea, then we visited the Pollok house, which is a museum in Glasgow. After this we went back to Morag's and had a lovely dinner. Then they took us to Mike and Mary's house where we stayed, and they also introduced us to their cute dog, Archie. Mike is a pastor or --as they call it in Scotland -- a minister. We had a drink, then Mike took Zoli and me to a mall where he bought us some cool gifts, which was very generous of him. We went back to the house, took a shower and then went to bed.



June 30th, Saturday

Today Morag and Brenda came to pick us up and introduced us to Noémi, who came with us to the island. Before we got on the ferry which took us to the island we had lunch at the seaside. Getting off the ferry we hopped on a bus that took us to the other side of the island where the beach and the shops were. We spent some time there and had fish and chips for dinner. I finally know what the original fish and chips taste like. After that we went back to Mike and Mary's house where we spent the rest of the day.



July 1st, Sunday

After breakfast Morag and Brenda took us to the Queens Park Church, where we took part in the morning service and also met some lovely people. We gave the wreaths we had bought from Hungary in honour of Jane Haining to the minister and the church. This church is special because Jane Haining went there whilst living in Glasgow. We had lunch at the church, then took the bus to Central Glasgow with Brenda and we went to a museum. We also visited a few shops to buy some gifts. The Cathedral of Glasgow was breathtaking. In the evening we had a lovely dinner at the church, then returned to the house to spend the night there.

July 2nd, Monday

After we woke up and had breakfast, Brenda, Morag and a student, Caroline, who is the same age as us, picked us up to take us to a place named Dobbies Garden Center. There we had some toasted sandwiches and tea for lunch, then visited Sterling Castle, a beautiful place with awesome scenery. We found an inspirational rock hidden there, which we had to rehide, take a picture of, find a group on facebook named Positive Rocks Scotland, and post the picture there. After the castle we went back to Mike's where a few people from the church were waiting for us, luckily in the company of some hamburgers and hot dogs. This was the second barbecue of our trip. After the party we said our final goodbye to everybody and then went to bed.



July 3rd, Tuesday

We woke up and went downstairs for a drink. When the taxi arrived to pick us up, we said goodbye to Mike, Mary and their dog, Archie. The taxi took us to the airport, and we flew back to Hungary.

I want to thank everybody who helped to make this trip happen, especially Tímea Görög who organised the whole trip for us, and also my teacher Réka Andorkó, who gave me the opportunity to apply for this competition.

I spent an amazing week in Scotland. Getting to know the Scottish culture was a wonderful experience. I was surprised to learn that their accent was so different from the rest! I was

fortunate enough to see some street performers wearing kilts. It was interesting to learn about Jane Haining's life, visiting the places she went to. It was nice to see that it's not just a tale that people in the UK drink a lot of tea, but it's actually true! I'm glad that I was able to meet a lot of wonderful people, and I'm especially happy to have met my two travel companions, Mrs. Zsuzsa and Zoli. I am sure these adventures will always stay with us, and I hope that we will meet again.