



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



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knows a fair bit about stars and how far back into the history of the universe we can peer through a sophisticated telescope. It's all interesting stuff – more suited to specialists, perhaps.

And what can we say about the Omega – the end? We might have a handle on the more immediate future. Get the sprogs through school, retire in relative peace. Where will Rob be at seventy? A well loved senior clergyman in the Diocese of Edinburgh? Will I be healthy or will my wayward youth have caught up with me? Will I be wiser than I am now? What will happen to our world in the next fifty years? Will we build colonies on Mars? Will great ecological disasters occur? Will we continue to evolve? Will Gordon Brown ever be Prime Minister? The past is more accessible than the future but they're both pretty obscure. Neither of them is right here and now – neither can be touched or experienced – they're worth thinking about but they don't reach out and slap us the way the present day does. In fact, maybe we dwell on the past or worry about the future because the present is a bit of a mystery to us as well. Something we're having difficulty navigating.

The present. Between the Alpha and the Omega on the paschal candle you'll find a year marked – 2005, soon to be replaced with a candle marked 2006. For all the eternity on either side of us which we can talk about in general terms we are plunged, thrown and tossed into a particular year – our year. Given all the possible outcomes of our lives – the things we dreamed about, the things we could have done, the things that could have come our way – we find ourselves today working in a particular job to which we are partially suited, married to somebody who is only half a hero and who hogs the covers, with children who scrape through their exams when we harp at them enough and citizens in a country with not a few spots and blemishes. These are the assured facts – the hard data – of our existence. Have you ever wondered why it is when we say the Nicene Creed together that we mention the fact that Christ was crucified 'under Pontius Pilate'. Pilate was no hero of the faith and he gets rather a lot of air time. It was important, it seems, to those who framed the Creed that the events of the Passion did not occur 'once upon a time' in the world of stories or the Nursery Magic Fairy but at a particular time. Christ's birth occurred in the time of Caesar Augustus. Isaiah had his vision in the year when King Uzziah died. Why mention this unless it was important to state that God makes his entry into lives like ours and worlds like our own

and that in these lives and this world – and none other - is where our meetings with God will occur. The years which remain to us, the people we live with, the congregation we are members of and the jobs we hold are the raw materials of lives which will either spark with his presence or be lived aimlessly. In the ‘little earthen vessel’ which is your life here and now you will either fan that spark into flame or you will keep Christ at bay. Eternity goes on and on – the future contains limitless possibilities. The span of our earthly life, however, is of limited duration and within that time and space we have the opportunity to make a few decisions. Decisions! What will we do with the time we have? What would we regret never having done? Given the poverty and inequality even in our own society, let alone the global community what is the imperative we feel towards our neighbours? Not knowing your British history would be a shame. Not participating in the struggles of your age or taking an active part in the healing of one small part of your community here in Scotland would be worse. You see, you weren’t there at Trafalgar or at the end of the last Ice Age.

But you are here now. You have been given a few people to love. A few needy strangers will cross your paths. You will feel a word welling up within you that demands some response. The beauty of God’s world will make its presence known. You will be given an occasion to rejoice. There will be defeats as well and agony. You will be given the opportunity to learn from your mistakes. You will be given the opportunity to forgive. You have a few years left. What will you make of them?

Robert Warren Rector, St James the Less



Intense concentration?

Our much-loved Rector obviously finds cutting his birthday cake a bit of a challenge!

Choir News

Many thanks to all who came to the “In Search of Peace” service last month. It was good to see so many there, especially from the North Kirk, whose evening service had been “redirected” to St James! We’ve had lots of good feedback, and we felt that the evening and the music were very successful – we would like to repeat the music before not very long. The small blip in the “Kyrie” was entirely the fault of yours truly at the piano, who was apparently on a different planet at that point! Very many thanks to our soloists, Jenni Fraser, Colin Thomson and our “home-grown” Rachel and Kathryn Topham and Alan Murray, all of whom contributed so beautifully to the evening’s success. Grateful thanks too to those who chose readings and those who read. £173 was raised for the Bishop’s Lent Appeal.

The choir also supported a performance of Alan Murray’s “The Man” (not necessarily armed – in fact almost certainly not – theological discussion imminent, I think!) at Christ Church Morningside, and Alan’s singers and players also took the same work to Liberton Northfield Kirk. We do get about!

Preparing “The Armed Man” has taken over the choir’s life for the last few weeks, but, by the time you read this, Easter will be imminent. Because of the way Easter and the holidays fall, rehearsal time will be limited, so I think you’ll find that most of the Easter music will have a familiar ring to it.

And of course, the next “Music for a Summer Evening” (I’ve lost count of the number!) is fast approaching, although the weather may make that hard to believe. This year it will be on **Saturday evening 10 June**; please put the date in your diaries now – we want it to be a sell-out this year!

Happy Easter when it comes!

Mike Hay

Church Women’s Fellowship (CWF)

We will meet on 24th April & 15th May

8.00 pm at 64 Deanburn, unless otherwise stated.

Mothers' Union News

The MU Scottish web address is www.muscotland.org.uk

The Annual Meeting will be held in Dublin from 23rd to 24th June 2006
Tickets should be ordered through Joyce Black, a.s.a.p.

Provincial :

May 11th - Lunch in Perth for all Scottish MU members, and any friends they like to invite - World Wide President, Trish Heywood will speak.

May 16th* - NB Change of date - not 23rd - An Evening with Provincial President, Charmian Paterson - Pot Luck supper at Christ Church Centre - please indicate to Joyce Black if you wish to attend either or both the above.

Diocesan Events:

April 10th, May 8th - Intercessions (*2nd Monday each month*) 12.30 in the Cathedral followed by lunch in St George's West Church

Extract from MU Diocesan Newsletter No. 3

- part of the letter from the MU Diocesan President, Susan Crosfield :
Here we are well into the final year of this Triennial during which very important elections will be taking place up and down the country, hence the theme of this year "Answering God's Call". The most important elections will be those of a new World Wide President, and for us of a new Scottish Provincial President. There will also be changes in our own diocese and we are all asked to keep these elections and appointments in our prayers.

Susan Crosfield

April 5th, Wed. 10 am - Diocesan Council : 10 am at the Christ Church Centre - Bring Packed Lunch to share.

BRANCH NEWS & MEETINGS - 2006

NB - The branch meeting on April 5th has been cancelled
see Diocesan Council above -

26 April - 2.30 pm - Family History - *Speaker: Margaret Coull*

24 May - Summer Outing - destination to be decided.

Prospective new members, men included, will be most welcome to join us.

Visit the Mothers' Union WEB Page:- www.themothersunion.org
and also to the Diocesan Web Page where you can find news & publications etc.: www.dioceseofedinburgh.org

Sponsors needed!

AMREF, the African Medical and Research Foundation, is Africa's Largest indigenous health charity, 97% staffed by African health professionals from 15 countries. AMREF has six main areas of work - in HIV/AIDS, malaria, water and sanitation, family health, training and emergency response. On June 6th I am hoping to run the Edinburgh Marathon to raise funds for this charity. I would be very grateful if anyone would be willing to sponsor me. Thank you in anticipation!

Ruth Green

The World Day of Prayer Friday March 3rd.

The Service, prepared by Christian Women in South Africa, was hosted by St Mungo's Church, Penicuik and was attended by 70 - 75 people. The service was led by the joint Presidents of St Mungo's guild and the 'Voices' were read by members of all the other churches in Penicuik. For the address the Leaders used the interesting information provided in the Resource booklet and the expanded version of the "Sign of the Times". A tape of South African music was played before, during and after the service. The offertory raised £151.

Frances McLean, Joyce Jones and Jean Hindle led a shortened form of the service with hymns at the Broomhill Day Centre the day before. It was well received and a retiring collection raised £14.13 which, added to £151 above, resulted in a total of £165.13 paid into the World Day of Prayer funds.

Jean Hindle

Alternative Christmas Card for 'World Vision' – thank you!

We raised £195 through our Church Christmas Card for the work of the charity 'World Vision'! Thank you very much to everyone. That is a marvellous result.

You may be interested to know that Mike and I have been sponsoring children through 'World Vision' for 25 years. Our little girl Netty in Zimbabwe sends us lovely letters and drawings, and the sponsorship money also helps her family and community.

'World Vision' is active in many needy parts of the world and also campaigns internationally on issues such as economic justice, peace and conflict, child rights and HIV/AIDS.

So thank you again for your wonderful support.

Ros Hay

Vestry Business Reports

Minutes from these meetings are displayed on the notice board following the next meeting of vestry.

Vestry business from the meeting of Thursday 9th February 2006.

1. Matters arising from meeting of 12th January 2006 including; blue liturgy books, invitation to church group leaders to attend vestry, planning meeting, Lenten study books, discussion following email from a vestry member, request from the Penicuik for Africa Group, the congregational list
2. Rector's report including; staffing issues, various services
3. Treasurer's report including; analysis of the monthly statements income and expenditure, the new bank account
4. Fabric report including; church lighting, application to the Diocesan Building Committee, radiators, kitchen improvements, wood-wormed pew, Quinquennial Review, church carpet, outside light
5. A.O.C.B. including; disbandment of Penicuik Churches' Youth Project, Rector's car, feedback from the Early Bird group regarding the new space at the front of church, the internal notice board, the vacuum cleaner, Christmas tree lights
6. D.O.N.M. Thursday 16th March and Thursday 27th April 2006. Both meetings at 8.15pm in the rectory.

Vestry business from the meeting of Thursday 16th March 2006.

Matters arising from the meeting of 9th February 2006 including: blue liturgy books, invitation to church group leaders to attend vestry, forward planning of services, Lent course, activities in the community, Church in Society Committee letter, congregational list, Diocesan Building Committee letter, storage of Fair Trade produce (Penicuik for Africa Group)

1. Treasurer's report including: analysis of the monthly statements of income and expenditure, fund-raising ideas
2. Fabric report including: cost of chips for the path, front of church, carpet, kitchen, Quinquennial review, outside light, new church lighting, wood-wormed pew, white board
3. Rector's report including: car and licence, visiting Priest
4. A.O.C.B. including: Diocesan schedule, Confirmation class
5. D.O.N.M. Thursday 27th April and Thursday 1st June 2006. Both meetings at 8.15pm in the rectory.

Alison Cole.

The Story of a Mothers' Union Centenary Tea Towel - 1888 - 1988

A few years ago, on their first trip to visit their daughter, Brenda, in Canada, Rose & Don MacKenzie took several MU souvenir gifts including the centenary tea towels. Rose visited the Cathedral in Ottawa and found that they no longer had an MU branch there. However they visited another church where Brenda was taking part in Ballroom Dancing and the minister there said that he would arrange to pass on the items to the nearest branch in the area.

Rose heard nothing more until a surprise card arrived, dated March 8th 2005, from a Mrs Jane Tyler, who had received one of the tea towels. It had been stored in pristine condition at the bottom of a kitchen drawer under a pile of other towels, unused until she discovered it on March 7th 2005. She was surprised to find a note from Rose saying 'Greetings from St James the Less MU' with the address, Penicuik, Midlothian, Scotland. Rose received the card addressed to her as above. Jane wondered if that address was sufficient!

Jane wrote that MU was a rich and rewarding part of her life many years ago and that she had been Enrolling Member of the branch in Ottawa Cathedral as well as the Diocesan Librarian, which involved travelling to many other branches. After 45 years in the same house, Jane and her husband, John, moved into a small condominium overlooking the Ottawa River. Since then John has gone into long-term care and Jane wrote "It was a delight to receive your message yesterday and to call to mind the wonderful culture from which it came."

Bruce News

Dear Friends

The news has just been released that I have been appointed to be incumbent of Minstead, Lyndhurst and Emery Down in the New Forest. It's been rather a tortuous process, but at last our future is settled. It's a fascinating trio of parishes, right at the heart of the forest and about 11 miles away from Bransgore. I felt very attracted to the people when first I did locums there last summer, so it's good to be going to join them properly now, albeit surprising to have ended up an exile in the deep south having tried so hard to get back north! My deep sadness at not now being able to get back to Cumbria is tempered by the excitement of this new role, and of the people we go to serve.

Don't dare think it's me who's opted for the cushy, warm south, but I must say, the weather is nice here, and the sea is 20 minutes away! The three parishes will be quite a challenge, with small populations and small congregations (totaling about 4000 and 60 respectively) but they seem to have a heart for growth and moving forward, and taking risks, so we'll see. The buildings are fabulous and very different, but lacking facilities, so that's part of the challenge, but it's lovely to have a saxon font, norman arch, and three-decker pulpit (Minstead); a Leighton frieze and a proper spire (Lyndhurst); and Butterfield windows (Emery Down). As you'll see if you look at the website, we have all the angels, all the saints and Christ too, so it has to be good!

There are lots of decisions over schools to be made. We'll move towards the end of March, for an institution probably on 23rd April, so if you can come, let me know: it'd be lovely to see you. The new address will be: 5 Forest Gardens, Lyndhurst, SO43 7AF. Tel: 02380 28 21 54.
www.newforestparishes.com

P.S. we couldn't face doing Christmas cards this year, so belated greetings to you from us all!

James

Penicuik Churches Youth Project - March 2006

It has been decided that PYCP should be disbanded as from 31st January 2006. The project has operated in a formal way since 1994

employing 5 workers at different times and undertaking much valuable work in the community.

The past three years have seen PYCP linked with the International Christian College in Glasgow to offer a work experience placement for a student (Michaela Forbes) while she studied at ICC. This arrangement ended with her graduation in June and her return to USA. There has been no suggestion of a further student being available from this source at this time.

Our funds are not at a level, nor likely to be, to consider employing a worker. The Management Committee are acutely aware of the difficulty experienced in recruiting a replacement Treasurer in recent times. The current Chairperson and Secretary will be leaving Penicuik within the next year.

The volunteer base has declined dramatically over the past two years and a number of initiatives have closed despite frequent appeals for suitable volunteers. In view of all the foregoing and in the light of imminent legislation regarding charities it seems that the time is correct to close PYCP in its current form.

There will be a proportionate division of the remaining assets among the three partner churches. Some funding for the "Puppet Ministry" begun within the project and now extending across the Presbytery of the Church of Scotland will be passed to Lothian Presbytery.

It is sincerely hoped that in the future there may be a time and place for a new PYCP which can draw on the experiences of the past 12 years. At present it seems appropriate to wind up and allow any future plans to develop separately, perhaps involving new client groups and new congregational involvement.

The support of the trustees and the congregations has been much appreciated over the past 12 years and the work of PYCP in reaching out to literally thousands of young people in dozens of ways has been a great witness in Penicuik.

Each congregation can decide how to manage the allocation of the assets. It is hoped that the money could be used for work with children

and young people. We are sure that the benefits of the work of PYCP will not be lost to the town and thank you for all the support in the work.

Moira Johnston for PCYP Management Committee

Each New Day – Arising Light.

Retreat in Daily Life

Three of us from St James and St Mungos took part last Eastertide in a retreat in daily life which is organised each year by the Edinburgh City Churches. The retreat is geared to those who would find it hard to go away on a retreat, but who are able to commit to a bit extra for a short period, in this case 6 weeks. This makes it accessible to anyone who has the urge to go a bit deeper in their relationship with God and awareness of God's presence and activity in their life. Those who perhaps feel the need of a refresher course, or a 10,000 mile service and oil change! The retreat is designed to be woven into daily life. It is an opportunity each day, to step back into a space of prayer and/or reflection.

I felt in need of a good overhaul last year, when I hadn't managed much in the way of a spiritual spring clean during Lent and when a friend told me about a retreat in daily life that was running from Easter to Pentecost, I thought this was something I would be able to do. A commitment to pray daily, a weekly meeting with a guide and a gathering of all the participants to begin and end the retreat was the requirement.

It was a very rewarding time for me and that is really why I wanted to write a bit in Outreach, so that I could pass it on to anyone who might like to try. The details are on a leaflet on the church noticeboard or if you'd like to find out more do chat to, or ring, Faye (679777) or Val (675614).

Easter to Pentecost 18th April – 31st May 2006

Val writes-

" I took part in a " Retreat in Daily Life " last year and I found it very helpful. The format helped me to focus more on my prayer time and I was shown some different ways of praying.

The retreatants met as a group and shared a small dedication service, each of us was introduced to a spiritual companion. When I met with my spiritual companion for the first time she suggested some readings from the Bible that I might like to look at, she asked me to make notes in a journal and then to share my thoughts with her over what came out of the readings for me.

From there she would give me another set of readings for the next week. I found the discipline of this routine helpful, for instance, it helped me set aside this extra time knowing that I had to report back to her the following week. I found that I looked forward to this extra time with God, and to meeting my spiritual companion and sharing my thoughts.

I would recommend this course to anyone that might be looking for help in spending a little extra time each week closer to God, or with their prayer life, it is really rewarding."

Book Review

Scott of the Antarctic by David Crane. Harper Collins. 637 pp £25. Currently available for £16.50 from www.Amazon.co.uk

Robert Falcon Scott and four companions perished on their return from the South Pole almost exactly 94 years ago, yet judging by the number of books that continue to appear there remains a considerable fascination with the 'heroic' age of Antarctic exploration. Some of these books are merely re-issues of earlier journey accounts and journals whereas others are lavishly illustrated 'coffee table' tomes. In recent years it has become fashionable to 'knock' Scott's achievements by comparing him unfavourably with Amundsen and Shackleton, which in turn has stimulated further books attempting to rehabilitate his reputation. Refreshingly David's book is none of these: instead it sets out to present a balanced 'warts and all' view of the man and in this it succeeds admirably. It is obviously the product of very detailed research, making use of the extensive archive of letters, journals reports and papers. If I have any criticism of the book it is the length and immediate relevance of a few of the quoted extracts.

The book covers his early life, his career in the navy (where he was a highly regarded torpedo expert) and his courtship of and marriage to Kathleen, but naturally concentrates on his two Antarctic expeditions. A portrait emerges of an extremely popular, competent and compassionate leader, a gifted writer and a dedicated technophile, whose two polar forays produced significantly more scientific advancements than any others of the time. True he was plagued by self-doubt and unlike Shackleton did not seek or relish the limelight; he was also subject to fits of depression and occasional bouts of temper. Some of his decisions were questionable: allowing some of the officers wives to accompany the ship as far as New Zealand, which seems to have generated some friction amongst the men. More crucially his choice of polar transport, relying on ponies and motor sledges rather than dogs, although based on previous experience and technological aspirations, was a major factor in the demise of the polar party. Nevertheless, when considered in the context of the age Scott emerges as a charismatic and heroic figure. As to the real reasons why he and his companions perished.....well you'll just have to read the book to find out.

This is a welcome addition to my bookshelves and I thoroughly recommend it to you. David Crane is an established biographer and as Honor Clerk's partner is no stranger to St James.

Graham Smith

Financial Matters

January and February collections:

	Jan	Feb
Cash	309	245
Gift Aid Cash	86	69
Envelopes	894	736
Direct Giving	<u>1189</u>	<u>1189</u>
Total	2478	2239

February Special collections and charitable giving:

Mother's Union Oversees Work	180
<i>World Vision</i>	237

April 2006 Rota

	2-Apr-2006	9-Apr-2006	16-Apr-2006	23-Apr-2006	30-Apr-2006
	Passion Sunday	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	Low Sunday	Easter 3
8.00am Sidesman	Graham Smith	Graham Smith		Agnes Thorburn	
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	David	Jennifer	Mike
6.30pm Organist	David				
St Mungo's Organist 10am	David	David	Jean	Jean	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Angela Sibley/ Des Frantom	Fords	MacLennans
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Hindles	Barretts	Sibleys	
1st Reading	Young Church	Mgt Coull	Georgina Phillips	John Ford	Robert Clerk
-	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i>	<i>Acts 4:32-35</i>	<i>Acts 3:12-19</i>
2nd Reading	Young Church	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark	Jo Bullough
-	<i>Hebrews 5:5-10</i>	<i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>	<i>I Cor. 15:1-11</i>	<i>I John 1:1-2:2</i>	<i>I John 3:1-7</i>
Gospel	<i>John 12:20-33</i>	<i>Mark 14:1-15:47</i>	<i>John 20:1-18</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>	<i>Luke 24:36b-48</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Jean Hindle	Val McGavin	Geoff Mather	
Server	Val/Stephen	Val/Steven	Angela/ Charlotte	Val/Fiona	
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/Sue Crosfield	Frantoms	Mona Bennett/ Mgt MacLennan	Kathleen Cox/Sue Crosfield	Hays/Smiths
Flowers	Rose Mckenzie/Mgt MacLennan	> > > > >	EASTER	> > > > >	> > > >
Cleaning	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva
Care Van			√		
Pentland House		√			

May 2006 Rota

	7-May-2006	14-May-2006	21-May-2006	28-May-2006
	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6	Ascension Sunday
8.00am Sidesman			Graham Smith	
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Jennifer	Mike
6.30pm Organist	David			
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark/Nigel Johnston	Isobel Stenhouse/Andy Longmore	McGarvas
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Clerks
1st Reading	Young Church	Robert Clerk	Brigitte Fuge	Mike Hay
-	<i>Acts 4:5-12</i>	<i>Acts 8:26-40</i>	<i>Acts 10:44-48</i>	<i>Acts 1:1-11</i>
2nd Reading	Young Church	J Mortimer	Ian Fuge	Jean Hindle
-	<i>1 John 3:16-24</i>	<i>1 John 4:7-21</i>	<i>1 John 5:1-6</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>
Gospel	<i>John 10:11-18</i>	<i>John 15:1-8</i>	<i>John 15:9-17</i>	<i>Luke 24:44-53</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Angela Sibley	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield
Server	AS/Emma	Val/Alice	AS/Charlotte	Val/Fiona
Coffee	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco/Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse/J Wright	Elizabeth Clark/Robert Clerk
Flowers	Nikki and Kathy	>>>>>>	>>>>>>	>>>>>>
Cleaning	Helen Topple/Ruth Frantom	Helen Topple/Ruth Frantom	C&M Leavy	C&M Leavy
Welcomers	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/Robert Clerk
Care Van			√	
Pentland House		√		

June 2006 Rota

	4-Jun-2006	11-Jun-2006	18-Jun-2006	25-Jun-2006
	Pentecost	Trinity Sunday	Trinity 1	Trinity 2
8.00am Sidesman			Graham Smith	
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Jennifer	Mike
6.30pm Organist	Mike			
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	Mike	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Fords	Margaret Coull/Des Frantom	Alan Sibley/Elizabeth Clark
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Leavys	Fords	Hindles
1st Reading	Young Church	John Ford	Ian MacLennan	Marion McCluskey
-	<i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8</i>	<i>I Sam 15:34-16:13 or Ezekiel 17:22-24</i>	<i>I Sam 17:(1a, 4-11,19-23),32-49 or Job 38:1-11</i>
2nd Reading	Young Church	Val McGavin	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield
-	<i>Romans 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21</i>	<i>Romans 8:12-17</i>	<i>II Cor 5:6-10; 14-17 or II Cor 5:6-17</i>	<i>II Corinthians 6:1-13</i>
Gospel	<i>John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15</i>	<i>John 3:1-17</i>	<i>Mark 4:26-34</i>	<i>Mark 4:35-41</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray
Server	AS/Stephen	Val/Emma	AS/Alice	AS/Charlotte
Coffee	Gillian Little/Marion McCluskey	Mrs Neish & Family	Mona Bennett/Mgt MacLennan	Frantoms
Flowers	Margaret Coull	Rose McKenzie	Eliz.Lady Clerk*	Angela Sibley
Cleaning	Jennifer Edge/Moira Rendall	Jennifer Edge/Moira Rendall	Mona Bennett/Angela Sibley	Mona Bennett/Angela Sibley
Welcomers	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/Robert Clerk
Care Van			√	
Pentland House				√

What do the Early Birds catch?

Well, at times during the second half of the winter, until one of them flew South to New Zealand, it was the Sounds of Silence. Early Bird, for those who have not spotted the 'adverts' in previous editions of Outreach, is the Wednesday morning (but not 3am*) praise and prayer meeting held in the chapel at St James. The small group decided that for about three weeks it would suspend or at least shorten the praise time, reduce the number of requests that we imagine go winging upwards and try to do some listening to God. This meant considerable time spent in silence, at least of the mouth although the mind (or mine anyway) was often not as co-operative as might be hoped. However, some thoughts did come to us and we have been encouraged to share these.

Many will already know of the recent winding up of the Penicuik Churches Youth Project. This project worked both alongside young people within local churches and with those in the wider community. This outreach has now been reduced significantly if not lost: is there an opportunity here for fresh ideas and new actions? Where next for Penicuik youth?

Another less recently reduced activity is that which used to be led by PACT (Penicuik Action of Churches Together). With the possible exception of the Fraternal, there do not seem to be any vehicles for promoting Ecumenical activity in the town. Should there be? This is not a new idea, but should we have something for newcomers to the town, perhaps in the form of a welcome pack?

These all seem to be calls for extra 'work', but besides this was a recognition that many at St James are already giving much of themselves in loving service to each other and the community. Would it help, in terms of finding extra hands, identifying needs for prayer support (hands together quietly), or even just remembering to say thanks (hands together loudly) to give these existing offerings a little more publicity? How about a white board in the hall advertising 'This week at St James'?

Whether or not these questions and ideas ring any bells for you, this Lenten period could be an opportunity to listen for answers, share ideas or even make a commitment to make a difference in one of these areas.

* The Early Bird group meets in the chapel from 7 to 8am on Wednesday mornings, to praise God with the help of CD music, prayers of thanksgiving and request and often with a bible reading. An important focus of the prayer times is for St James' and Penicuik's churches activities. All are welcome - there's plenty of room at present!

(Sounds of Silence and Wednesday Morning 3am crept in courtesy Simon and Garfunkel).

Andy Longmore

David McGavin

Faye Clerk

Thanks!

I would like to thank everyone who has been praying for me since my diagnosis. I was not accepted for the research study and at present I'm just being monitored. I find your support and prayers helpful.

Love Joy

More Thanks!

FRANCES CHRISTINA KILGOUR –Née Castle-1910-2006

I thank all the St. James Family for their support to me on the death of my mother in February. Thank you for your prayers, flowers and cards and for the presence of so many at the funeral. This gave me great comfort and peace at a time of stress and sorrow.

Particular thanks to Frances Mc Lean for visiting my mother in her last years to give Communion in her own home. Grateful thanks to Rob for his address at the funeral service and comfort and support to myself and family over the past two years or so.

Thanks to David McGavin for playing the lovely organ music on 15th February. My mother loved music and always remarked on how pleased she was to live so near the church and to hear the bell rung on

Sundays. Although not always able to attend services she enjoyed the sound of the organ music from her garden seat in summer. She appreciated the many visits from Ros and Angela so much.

Frances lived here for her last 18 years after a very varied life full of moves. She experienced difficult years in Aberdeen after the death of her mother when she was eleven and later in London during WW11. But she always had a strong faith to see her through and often spoke of her happiness and sense of security to be here beside St. James church with her family and new friends in Penicuik in her declining years.

Moira Johnston

Pooling fund

Gratitude to all who gave to the Pooling Fund. This year the draft sent was 262 US dollars, equivalent to £150. The money is greatly appreciated by Diocesan Bishop Sebastiao Armando, Diocese of Anglicano De Pelotas, Argentina.

God Bless

Love from Maureen and Colin Chaplin

Glen '06 – What is it?

If you will be in secondary education up to and including July 2006 or are under 18 and have left secondary education then read on!

Glen '06, otherwise known as The Scottish Episcopal Church Youth Weeks is an action-packed holiday with a difference when young people from all over Scotland gather together for six days of sports, swimming, arts and crafts workshops, fun events, worship and conversation.

When? 30 July-5 August and 6-12 August (you can only go on one week)

Where? Glenalmond College, Perthshire

Further details on church noticeboard.

The Perfect Church?

If you should find the perfect church
Without fault or smear,
For goodness sake don't join that church
You'd spoil the atmosphere.

If you should find the perfect church
Where all anxieties cease,
Then pass it by, lest joining it
You spoil the masterpiece.

If you should find the perfect church
Then don't you ever dare
To tread upon such holy ground
You'd be a misfit there.

But since no perfect church exists,
Made of perfect men,
Let's cease on looking for that church,
And love the church we're in.

Of course, it's not the perfect church,
That's simple to discern.
But you and I and all of us
Could cause the tide to turn.

What fools we are to flee the past
In that unfruitful search
To find, at last, where problems loom
God proudly builds his church.

(From a greetings card: Contributed by Faye Clerk)

“The Armed Man” – conflict and hope

We thought it would be worth including some of the contrasting newspaper cuttings that were read at the service last month:

Conflict: *The horrors of the conflict brought a new term – ethnic cleansing – as whole populations were forced from their homes - or simply massacred!*

Rwanda was a true genocide. Kosovo was ethnic cleansing light," says Emilio Perez, a Spanish pathologist who exhumed bodies after both conflicts. In his sector of western Kosovo, The United Nations told him to expect as many as 2,000 victims. His team found 187 corpses, none of which showed evidence to confirm local accounts of mutilations

Nowhere left to hide as crisis in Sudan spills over Chad border – refugees are trapped – trapped between two nations exploiting each others conflicts.

Fears were last night growing for the British hostage Norman Kember after an American kidnapped with him was found dead. The body of Tim Fox aged 54 was discovered on Friday more that 100 days after he and three other activists were snatched.

Hope: *This has been a year for campaigners to remember. The unprecedented level of global campaigning on poverty in 2005 has been fantastic. A year that saw Nelson Mandela address over 20,000 people in Trafalgar Square, 25,000 people take part in the Trade Justice vigil and a phenomenal 250,000 people take to the streets of Edinburgh and demand world leaders made poverty history*

The smell of change is in the air. As you travel the countryside, negotiating the pot-holes, and attracting Victory signs from small children everywhere, the ruins of houses are alive with the sounds of digging and hammering. Rather than wait for aid which may or may not arrive in time for winter, those who can afford it have begun the reconstruction effort themselves.

Participating youth are presented with an alternate vision for the future and given the opportunity to test it, face-to-face, with children of other ethnic groups. They also discuss the consequences of violence and acquire problem-solving tools through games. World Vision facilitates the interaction among the kids.

It's easy to crab from afar - but being here it's hard not to be caught up in the excitement of the Commonwealth Games – It's more intimate and

less commercial than the Olympic games - broader than a world championship and more fun. – This is a collection of 71 nations come together in the name of sport but represents so much more than personal bests and world records. There is no animosity between the competing nations – no violence on the streets - no abuse of the referee or of the judges – Just a big Smile!!

Ghanaian Anglicans Visit

The Rt. Revd Daniel Allotey, the Bishop of the Diocese of Cape Coast, visited the Cathedral and preached on Sunday March 19. This is part of a visit being made by a group of six clergy and lay people from Ghana. They will be spending two weeks in Edinburgh and the Borders. Several church visits are planned, including Livingston Ecumenical Parish, a joint service in Galashiels to include Melrose and Selkirk, St. David's Pilton, St. Peter's Peebles, St. Peter's Luton Place and St. John's Edinburgh as well as the University and the Cathedral.

Cape Coast is a busy market town west of the capital Accra, on the coast once called the Gold Coast, now Ghana's Central Region. The diocese extends inland as well as along the coast, into agricultural land and forest. The city of about 300,000 people is noted, as Edinburgh is, for the quality of the educational opportunities offered. Students come from all over West Africa to study at the University or the theological seminary of St. Nicholas. Church services tend to be longer than here; they are marked by a very lively rhythm to the music, including drums, with a mixture of African music and some favourite hymns.

!

The Diocese of Edinburgh is using its annual Lent Appeal to raise money for educational programmes in the Diocese of Cape Coast. The money will assist the development of its overall educational programme within its parishes, equipping a diocesan centre and providing resources in the outlying areas.

!

The aim of this visit is to deepen ties of friendship and fellowship between the two Dioceses of Edinburgh and Cape Coast. This is part of the process of getting to know each other so as to increase our mutual understanding. The Bishop of Edinburgh, Rt. Rev. Brian Smith said, 'It is important that we recognise the international dimension of our church life and to bring it powerfully into the life of the Diocese of Edinburgh.'

Eh....?

*From the recent signup sheet for the Lent study books:
"Free of Charge" (price £8)!*

Were you trying to remember this.....?

At Matins bound, at Prime reviled,
Condemned to death at Tierce,
Nailed to the Cross at Sext.
At Nones His blessed Side they pierce.
They take Him down at Vespertide,
In grave at Compline lay,
Who thereby bids His Church observe
His sevenfold hour alway. *(Contributed by Ian Fuge)*

The Care Van Team



We thought you might like to see who goes out regularly with the Bethany Trust Care Van. St James and St Mungo's are responsible for the 3rd Sunday night of each month.

St James then....

Following positive reaction to the excerpt from the History of St James in the last edition, here is another snippet, from the mid 1920's:

The new Rector was to be the Rev. Cyril Mayhew, who had been a Chaplain in India, and had a great interest in mission work. He also found the size of the congregation could be disappointing, though at his first Christmas Midnight Service the number of communicants was a record. Mr. Mayhew sent each member of the Church an Almanac, with texts for each day, as a New Year card. and regularly exhorted them to read and consider these useful verses. In the Newsletter for December 1924 he laments 'I have ordered the Almanacs for next year. Although no one has ever acknowledged their receipt, I suppose they are appreciated as everyone puts them up.' St. James' saw a number of changes during the ministry of the Rev. Cyril Mayhew. At certain times of the year Evensong would be replaced by a series of Mission Services and each Lent, a course of Lantern Lectures, or Services, was held in the Hall. For the first few years these were poorly attended and made a financial loss, but they did eventually gain in popularity.

Finances, then as now, were a constant worry. In 1923 St. James' was one of the three Churches in the Diocese which failed to send its full quota for the Clergy Sustentation Fund. In view of this the Rector decided that the Easter Offerings, which had hitherto been treated as a personal gift to the Rector, should instead go towards the fund. He was to repeat this action several times over the years. Other expenses at this time included a new floor for the Church Hall, a new organ and various repairs. The annual sum needed to keep the church functioning was £500.

In 1924 the Vestry decided to install electric light in the Church. Donations were requested towards the estimated cost of £39.15.0. This shows great faith on their part, since at the time the Church needed £162.19.0 to pay existing bills, and had less than £20 towards them. Money for the Electric Light Fund was slow to come in, and a suggestion was made to hold an "Entertainment" to help. This was turned down on the ground that it 'would not be seemly', because 'a straight giving is the only reverent way to raise money' to pay for work to be done in the church itself. By January 1926 the Rev. Cyril Mayhew was still saying that the electric light would be installed 'soon', although only £20 had been collected toward it (as there were other items to pay for, including: the School, which had been extensively repaired, the

gutters, roof and windows all requiring attention). It was decided to send collectors to all families who had not yet contributed to the light fund. In August 1926 it was announced that the Cable Company had laid the cable to the church, and in October, two years after the original plan, the light was at last in use though the bill turned out to be rather larger than the estimate. The Rectory was fitted with electric light in late 1928, though this time most of the money required was given in advance.

St James now....

The current History only goes up to 1982, and Margaret Coull has kindly agreed to try to bring it more up to date, probably up to the arrival of our current Rector in 2003. If you have any material, memories or suggestions for inclusion, please contact Margaret.

Edinburgh Diocesan Synod

Saturday 11th March 2006

This year as in previous years, many reports were presented to, and accepted by , the members of Diocesan Synod. A full report will be available on the web later no doubt, but there was one particular item which requires action by ourselves as a congregation.

The motion was: This Synod recommends that Edinburgh should become a Fair Trade Diocese.

You will be pleased to hear that the motion was passed unanimously.

In order to attain Fair Trade status more than half the churches must

1/ Use Fairtrade Tea or Coffee for all meetings for which they are responsible.

2/Move forward on using other Fairtrade products (such as biscuits, sugar, fruit)

3/Promote Fairtrade during Fairtrade Fortnight - and through other activities when possible.

As you will see we are probably already there, in no small part thanks to the Fairtrade stall on Sundays.

Fairtrade items are now of quality and not cheap 'own brand' style commodities ,however, could I ask that we all try and do as much as we can afford in supporting the Fairtrade movement.

Further info can be found at <http://www.fairtrade.org.uk> *Brigitte Fuge*

'Penicuik for Africa'



The fellowship lunch for Chitambo raised over £600

Fellowship lunch for Chitambo

We approached the 'final' fund-raising event of our appeal for Chitambo hospital in a state of nervous tension. Our envoy to Chitambo, Dr. David Currie, had been forced to bring forward his departure for Zambia and was in Chitambo when we sat down to our meal. Furthermore, he had with him medical equipment that had cost us £400 and £600 from our funds for discretionary distribution. Although we had only £700 in our 'Children of Africa' account, David's sister Jo Vallis arranged a personal family loan (highly fashionable these days!), encouraged by the vote of confidence from members (less fashionable but highly desirable!!) that we would raise £1000.

We asked and received- our cups ranneth over with more than delicious soups! There was £617 in the 'begging bowl' on the day and with advanced or delayed donations, a staggering £646 was raised- confidence (and Jo + Richard!) repaid. It was the most successful fellowship lunch on record and we are most grateful to all who helped and donated foods, including Tesco, who chipped in with some vouchers for food & drink. Unusually, we had several guests at our table: they included a former nurse from Chitambo, Janet Knox, now resident in Bonnyrigg; Dr. Miranda Brouwer, author of 'Inside Zambia' and friend of Jo; and Jo herself. They came together for a photocall that

recorded our minor miracle- the handing over a cheque for £1000 that turned out to be too little rather than too much. Oh we of little faith!

Mosquito nets for Chitambo?

We now have a surplus of over £300 raised and with 'profit' from the sale of Traidcraft goods likely to reach £100 (10% of £1000) by the time you read this, we may soon have a further £500 to send. On a recent trip to Denmark, I came across a Danish firm, Vestergaard-Frandsen, who specialise in aids to disease-prevention in less-developed countries. They manufacture the insecticide-treated mosquito nets mentioned in the last 'Outreach' and have a fine record on sponsoring aid projects. It may be possible to send some of these lightweight nets to Chitambo with our spare cash- watch this space!

'What's been on for Africa'

Congratulations to Beeslack Community School for a far-ranging programme of events in 2005 to raise the profile of poverty and disease in Africa. They marked 'World Aids Day' with a collection across the school and display in the foyer to raise awareness. Their 'Global Issues Group' made presentations to all year assemblies and organised a free 'Fair Trade' food tasting, with the help of local supermarkets. A 'Christmas Post' service raised money to sponsor a primary pupil in Kanantaba, Gambia. Buskers at their Christmas Concert raised £100 for 'Sightsavers International's' work among young people in Africa and £100 for a Maternity Hospital at Lilongwe, Malawi. Not to be outdone, the teachers raised £460 for the same hospital by selling "MUM'S Recipes' (for Malawi's Underprivileged Mothers) to their friends.

Next meeting

Please make a note in your diaries that the next meeting of the Africa Group will be at **8.00pm in North Kirk on Tuesday, April 25th**

On the agenda: a report on our 'mission to Chitambo' *

- formal approval and signing of the 'Deed of Trust' to become a charity
- update on mosquito nets
- a possible contribution to 'Penicuik on Parade'
- supporting a Traidcraft branch in West Linton

*Stop press news- text message received on 20/3/06-'All very successful, David

Neville

Your prayers are asked for...

Please pray for all those known and unknown to you who are through sickness, need, bereavement or any other trouble are in need of God's comfort, remembering in particular:

The Phillips Family, the Johnston Family, Arthur White, Joy Ford, Haley, Mae Mann and Sarah (aged 7 with Crohn's disease).

Thank God for the safe release of Norman Kember and his colleagues, and pray for the release of others being held captive.

For Making Poverty History and Fair Trade Debt Relief and the organisations working towards these ends.

For the people of **Mozambique**, one of the world's poorest countries, short of resources, where an estimated 3,000 die every day due to malaria. A country ravaged by floods and then drought and left with a legacy of land mines and amputees. Please pray for the active work of the churches involved in evangelism as well as the clinics and hospitals.

For the church in Ghana, and in particular the educational programmes in the Diocese of Cape Coast.

For the work of the churches and the people in **Ethiopia** - there are many areas of severe poverty, due to drought, and the country is supporting hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and other refugees.

Groups and Activities

(please contact the appropriate person listed on the back cover)

Sundays:	7.30pm	Youth Group for 10-16s
Tuesdays:	9.30am	“J-Tots” Playgroup
	10.00am	Bible Study at 24 Mauricewood Park
	7.30pm	Mauricewood Housegroup at 6 Arras Grove
Wednesdays	7.00am	“Earlybirds” Prayergroup
Thursdays:	7.00pm	Choir Practice (Junior Choir at 6.45pm)

Events coming soon...

5 April	7.30pm	Discussion of “Free of Charge” (soup at 7.00pm)
10 – 12 April	7.30pm	Holy Week Services
Thurs 13 April	8.00pm	Maundy Thursday Eucharist & Vigil
Good Friday 14 Apr	10.00am	Stations of the Cross
	2.00pm	Celebration of the Lord's Passion
	7.00pm	Ecumenical Good Friday Service at <i>St Mungo's West Linton</i>
Sat 15 April	10.00am	Decoration of the church for Easter
	9.00pm	Service of New Light
Sun 16 April	5.30am	Easter Dawn Service - <i>meet in St Mungo's (Penicuik) churchyard</i>
	11.00am	Easter Eucharist
Fri 21 April	7.30pm	Pub Quiz at St Mungo's Penicuik - teams of (about) 6 welcome!

***The next publication of “Outreach” will be on Sunday 7 May
Information about events, and contributions should be with the
Editor, Graham Smith 673012 (graham@caplaw.demon.co.uk) by
Wednesday 26 April at the latest.***

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