



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Youth Group 9 till 9, Feb 2007

Magazine Issue 135, April 2007

The Rector presents gifts to Colin and Ann Baxter following Colin's retirement from St Mungo's Vestry after 10 years of dedicated and first-class service! (Ann is hiding behind the flowers!)



**Youth Group at play!
Recent outing to MegaBowl**



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Service Times

Sundays: 8.00 am Said Communion
 11.00 am Choral Communion
 Evensong as announced

Thursdays: 11.15 am Informal Said Communion as announced

On the first Sunday of the month the 11.00am Sunday Service is a Family Communion; on the other Sundays the young people go out to Young Church during the first hymn and return in time for Communion.

Services for Holy Week and Easter

Palm Sunday 11am Holy Communion at St James
Mon 2 April 7pm St Mungo's Penicuik (joint service)
Tue 3 April 7pm South Kirk (joint service)
Wed 4 April 7pm North Kirk (joint service)
Thur 5 April 7pm St James (joint service):
Holy Communion, followed by Vigil
Good Friday 10:45 am Stations of the Cross
2pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion
7:30 pm Good Friday Service West Linton

Holy Saturday 9:00 pm Service of the First Light
Easter Sunday: 6am Sunrise Service - meet in St Mungo's Churchyard
just before 6a.m. Sunrise on the top of the hill behind St
James at 6:36 followed by breakfast in the Church Hall
11:00 Holy Communion (no 8 am service)

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)

Rector's Letter



Any child will tell you that it's more satisfying to act out a story than to merely tell it. Children are perpetually dividing up roles – "I'll be the cowboy and you can be the Indian". "Told stories" are about things which happened to somebody else – remote characters who had this or that happen to them and behaved thus and so. Good for them

– we say – lucky people to have lived in that generation and to have had such things take place in their midst - if it happened that way! We don't know. We weren't there, were we?

The stories of Holy Week and Easter (beginning on Palm Sunday and carrying through until the Day of the Lord's Resurrection) consist as much of pictures of people moving as they do of anything memorable which was said. We left those chapters behind a while back, with their parables and controversies. The words exchanged between Pilate and Jesus are few. The words uttered from the cross are more like cries of pain than fully formed sentences.

Serious business requires few words. Jesus says from the cross 'It is finished' and how it 'finished' was a drama wherein men moved through darkened streets towards an appointment in the garden - the drama of bread broken and wine poured into a goblet – a struggle between disciples and temple guards – a beating administered in a courtyard – hostile screaming crowds – the slow procession to Calvary – the nailing of a human body to a cross – weeping women – a rumble in the skies – dismayed disciples hiding themselves discreetly away

You could see it acted out on television with the sound turned off and you'd know where in the story you were. As much as we, as a society, have fallen away from the civic representation of the Easter story – there are few Passion Plays in public squares - it's still engraved (at least for this generation) in our memory. As respects the children dividing up the roles they would take their part – a story can be experienced and not just heard – for them it's how their memory works best. And for us? The serious business of Holy Week has us as its object. It is actually not about those people back then, it is about us. We are the recipients of grace we do not deserve and have not earned.

We will in various ways take our part this Easter – carrying a palm out the upstairs door at St Mungo's and down around the walkway into the bottom doorway or processing up Broomhill Road to the hill behind the Rectory not as something we are doing for 'the children' but because that is *our role*. We are the crowds who are 'up for a saviour' one day and scattered in fear the next. That is substantially *who we are* in our weakness – that's the role we take on because way down deep we do vacillate just like that. The story exposes the darkness in us and it's a

darkness that we know. On Friday we become the mob crying out in very different words. And we knew we'd do that. We are the ones walking in semi darkness because of a rumour they have heard – because of a story told them by 'some women'.

We are the small band of disciples whose stories do not end on Friday. We come to learn, at first through rumour and unsubstantiated claim, that **what was taken from us has been restored** – that God's love for us has overshadowed our weakness, our ignorance and our anger – that there is a welcome for the prodigal, that there is forgiveness for Peter and that even the intransigence of Thomas has been met with the self revelation of the Risen Christ.

Where are you in the story – asked the Bible study leader – who best typifies you? Weak? Ignorant? Angry? Intransigent, with your heels firmly dug in? Pick up your palm and walk a while with us. Take your turn with the Cross. Roll yourself and your sleepy children out of bed at 5:30 in the morning and meet us in St Mungo's churchyard in Penicuik – there among the tombs – there among the dead - and walk up the hill in the pink light with us to that place where the sun begins to creep up over the horizon bearing with it unimagined hope. The story is as much about you as it is about them.

Father Rob Warren

'Penicuik for Africa(PfA)'

Contributed by Neville Suttle

Fellowship Lunch: Our lunch at the beginning of March was a great success. About 40 of us dined on three 'Gold Medal' soups- Minestrone (Gilean), Lentil & Vegetable (Ruth) and Red Pepper & Tomato (Jo) - we could make a fortune selling the recipes!. We agreed to divide the proceeds between Umtata (Clinic on a Dump) and Mombasa (Aids Support) unless the donor has earmarked their contribution for the Chitambo Ambulance Appeal. When Graham added up the donations we found we had raised £550 of which £200 was for the Ambulance Appeal. Thanks to all who helped to make the lunch such a social and financial success. By the time this reaches you

we will have presented Rev Charles Makonde with £1000 to take back to Mombasa and heard his story of our support for ecumenical work amongst AIDS sufferers.

Sponsored slim: The 'weigh out' and prize giving are on Saturday 31st March in our Church Hall from 10am-12noon. Professor Alan McGown (Strathclyde University) will present prizes and certificates to all slimmers, regardless of weight lost. Professor McGowan is a civil engineer who has both built hospitals and raised money to buy ambulances for Malawi. He is 'chair' (?) of the Malawi Partnership, a Scottish Executive initiative in the International Development sphere. He fully appreciates the extent of our 30 slimmers commitment to the Chitambo Ambulance Appeal and will give a short talk entitled 'Making A Difference'. Please come along to support our slimmers as they put their weight 'on the line' and try to leave North Kirk with the title 'Pew Fillers of the Year'. Every slimmer qualifies for a prize and certificate, so we hope you will be able to come along and claim yours. Light refreshments will be available.

News from Chitambo: Jo recently received this 'testimonial' for 'our' hospital from her friend Kim of the Kasanka Trust. " One of our vehicles was involved in an accident the other day; thankfully the worst injury is a broken humerus, but six passengers all needed medical care and were taken to the nearest hospital at Serenje by Leigh (Sth African working on our education project). After several hours of nothing happening, Leigh being their nurse, drove them to Chitambo. They arrived at 21 hours and were treated immediately! Dr Mufune was really annoyed that Serenje hospital that they could not even stitch some of the wounds. Anyway they were all X-rayed and stitched late at night, seen by the Dr, made comfortable and given a bed for the night. Some of them are still admitted with minor wounds/injuries. They were all really impressed with the service they received at Chitambo. There are a few things they need but basically the buildings are in good condition, there are a lot of staff around who all seemed to be working, the hospital was clean and there were drugs available. The staff are cheerful and Dr Mufune and Levy (the matron) do a good job of management. If you are still keen on fundraising for them, Leigh did say that there was only one working wheel chair and that the stretchers are all really old. Similarly the blankets and beddings are old and in need of repair and they desperately need mosquito nets for the beds."

PfA go to OSP! Some of you may have been surprised to hear that we intended to spread our wings to stage another Africa Convention in Edinburgh on the morning of Saturday, May 19th in Old St Pauls Hall, Jeffrey St.: things move fast with PfA, thanks to Secretary Jo's enthusiasm! We are hoping to recruit some support from the OSP congregation and have Sir Tom Farmer, entrepreneur and philanthropist, lined up to open it. The organization will largely be in the hands of the dozen or more 'exhibitors' amongst whom will be PfA with a presentation about our Chitambo Ambulance Appeal. Please remember this bold venture in your prayers, tell your 'Auld Reekie' friends about it and come if you can.

Choir News

By the time you read this, the Passion Sunday service incorporating Stainer's "The Crucifixion" will have taken place – many thanks to our fine soloists Malcolm and Paul, to Graeme MacDonald for rehearsing and conducting the joint choirs, and to our friends from other churches who we have been delighted to welcome to sing at St James!

The arrangements for Easter involving the choir are similar to previous years, with the Service of New Light on Easter Eve at 9.00pm, and of course the 11.00am Easter Eucharist on Easter Day. Then we start preparations for "Music for a Summer Evening", which this year will be a little later than usual on Saturday 23 June at 7.00pm. No different from usual, though, is the fact that the programme is at present shrouded in mystery, but no doubt all will become clear (I'm an eternal optimist)

Finally, I can't resist the story of two good friends, both basses, who sang together in a church choir. One evening, one said to the other "I haven't seen you for a couple of weeks", to which the other replied "Yes, well, I've been deputising for the conductor while he was away!" But of course, all of our choristers watch the conductor all the time, don't we??

Happy Easter!
Mike Hay

Silverburn Study Group

A study of the Motives behind the 4 Gospels: Why they are the way they are.

The Group plans to be meeting on 6 Wednesday Evenings at 8 pm on **May 23, 30, June 6, 13, 20 and 27, at 21 Biggar Road, Silverburn (entry off Hopelands Road, through the garage and garden).**

Numbers have to be kept down to around 16 for reasons of space and full participation by members. Otherwise everyone is welcome. Please speak to Tony Bramley or me.

Philip Crosfield

Daffodil Sale and Cake Stall

Saturday 31st March from 10am-12noon

Outside Mackays shop in the Precinct

Daffodil pickers needed on Friday 30th March at 3pm. Please meet at Penicuik House. (If anyone needs a lift, please contact Kathleen Cox on 673567)

Donations of homebaking - all pre-wrapped - to Kathleen or Marion (678081) beforehand, or bring them along on the day. Your support will be greatly appreciated!

Marion McCluskey

Herken in Concert:

Fundraiser, 28th April, 7.30pm, St. James's Church

You all know Herken – we're Alan, Alison, Glynis, Paul, Ros and Sooz. On 28th April, we're offering up an evening of secular songs and tunes, drawing on our varied musical tastes. It will all be more-or-less "folkie", with an interval that includes a glass of wine and some nibbly things to nibble. All proceeds will go to St. James's church funds and we'll be aiming to give you an evening of music you know and music that you don't.

Please come and support this event – we will do our best to provide something for everyone and we hope to give church funds a welcome boost.

The ticket price will be £6.00, which includes refreshments at “half time” – tickets from Marion McCluskey, Geoff Mather or Alan Murray. 01968 678610 for details.

Alan Murray

Jean Vanier

Here are two enthusiastic contributions reporting on Jean Vanier's visit to Edinburgh last month:

Peter Woodifield from St Mungo's writes

Attending the retreat led by Jean Vanier in Edinburgh at the beginning of March was something I will always remember. The founder of the worldwide L'Arche communities as well as Faith and Light is an imposing personality in every way. You would never guess from his general demeanour, his choice of clothes, the sharpness of his mind or his openness to new ideas that he is 78.

Highly intelligent, well-read and everything you might expect from a son of a former Governor-General of Canada, what makes Jean Vanier different is that unlike most of us he has, in the modern jargon, walked the walk. He has devoted all of his life, not just some of it, to working with the handicapped and disabled, perhaps the most vulnerable of all in a society that increasingly prizes perfection.

His message was very simple. Each individual is very precious - and of equal preciousness in God's eyes. John's Gospel tells us that God loves us so much that he sent Jesus to die for us. For many the struggle is to transfer that `head' knowledge into a real understanding in our heart that that is personally true. One of the most moving - and challenging - moments for me was to see the way he reacted whenever a disabled person came up to give him a hug. The look in Jean's eyes of joy, delight and complete acceptance was something to behold and made me wonder how I would react in the same situation.

The way to live life is for our love to be in others and for their love to be in us, he said. Many of us, I suspect, are more selective than that. What we are called to do, he says, is to try to look at everyone with God's eyes and treat each and every one of them as precious.

A fund of stories, Jean Vanier said many things of importance and value and I am longing to listen again to his talks and see what I missed first time round. I just want to share a couple of things he said. He referred to one young disabled person who before he died lamented that people would not accept him as he was and everyone wanted to change him. Many would understand that sentiment - acceptance of who we are, rather than what people would like us to be, is a deep craving. Another was a young handicapped child who saw the truth so much more clearly than probably the majority of Christians. He told his parents not to worry about his situation - "God loves me just as I am." His compassion too for prisoners in Saughton jail who had no concept of their own preciousness as individuals, rather a pervading sense of hopelessness, was inspiring. And I couldn't help but smile inwardly when in the meeting at the Usher Hall Jean described prostitutes as "wonderful" people - not a message the good folk of Edinburgh are accustomed to hearing - and it was clear he meant it. In God's eyes of course they are at least as precious as us, something we would do well to remember.

Finally, if you get a chance to hear Jean Vanier speak, grab it with both hands. You won't regret it.

...and Val Mcgavin writes equally enthusiastically:

Retreat in the City March 2007

"Christ the Wellspring of Love"

David and I recently attended the above as our Lenten retreat.

The main speaker was Jean Vanier, founder of L'Arche communities.

Jean founded L'Arche, in France, in 1964 when he invited three men with learning disabilities from a long stay hospital to share their lives with him.

L'Arche is now an international family of 124 communities in 30 countries in which people with learning difficulties and their assistants live and work together.

Jean is a very learned, Christian man who has traveled widely and has a lot to tell us about his experiences and about Jesus in his life.

The retreat consisted of worship and singing, lead by a wonderful musician called John Coleman, who was flown in especially from

Hobart, Tasmania, where he lives with a L'Arche community there, some afternoon workshops and Jeans wonderful talks.

Jean talked to us for an hour each session and had us thinking about ourselves, our fears, our prejudices and our differences and why we are afraid of difference. He noted that we are all different but we are all precious in the eyes of Jesus and that we should celebrate our differences. He challenged us to listen to people with disabilities, because they have something to say and we can learn from these people. He was inspirational to listen to. We then met together in small groups to share and talk about what we had heard, meeting with the same group each day helped us to get to know one another better.

I learned a lot from meeting some of the relatives and carers of the disabled folks who were there, people who were an inspiration to me in their strength of faith and character and for showing us just what they had to put up with in their daily lives caring for their disabled family. I was inspired also by the number of young committed people who opt to spend time with the people in the L'Arche houses. We can all learn a lot from them.

The weekend finished with a very moving service of celebration and foot washing, during which we were invited to reflect on the time of retreat and express our thoughts in a sentence, prayer or picture.

I'll finish with a verse from one of John's songs which seems to sum it all up for me.

Come to the circle

My sisters my brothers

Come to the circle for we are all friends

We gather together for we are one body

We give thanks for the circle and thanks for our friends.

Mad Scientist Page

Contributed by Graham Smith

Geology v Genesis

Geology, from the Greek *ge* earth and *logos* a discourse, is the science relating to the history and development of the earth's crust and interior and as such not surprisingly offers a somewhat different story than that contained in the opening Chapter of Genesis. Because of this the early geologists must have been regarded as extremely heretical by their 18th and 19th century contemporaries, not least James Hutton, who is

generally accepted to be the father of modern geology and when considering geological time, recorded that “we could see no vestige of a beginning and no prospect of an end.” Despite being brought up in a Christian household, being confirmed, being a server and a member of the choir at the cathedral in Aberdeen, by the time I was an undergraduate I was very much an agnostic. It was not so much a question of not believing (although scientific training did not encourage acceptance without proof), but more a realisation that my hedonistic life style was at odds with Christian teaching. That said, I vividly remember the profound, albeit momentary, silence during a first-year practical when the lecturer, in the course of illustrating the age of the Earth by imaging it as lasting for one year, included “at 14 seconds to midnight on 31 December the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ”.

The inhospitable climate and savage scenery of the Antarctic Peninsula did nothing to break the agnostic cycle. Unlike the members of the British Graham Land Expedition who first explored this area in the 1930s, we would never have thought of saying evensong in our tent when out sledging. (the BGLE’s geologist was also their chaplain – when I met him many years later he was Dean of Windsor!). Also in response to a telegram asking the climate of opinion regarding a visit to the bases by the Senior Chaplain at Port Stanley Cathedral we replied “distinctly cool”. Rather a shame as the guy was obviously looking for an excuse to see a bit of the Antarctic! [Incidentally the diocese which includes the Falkland Isles and various bits of the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic is the largest Anglican diocese in the world.] Yet with hindsight I recognise that God had not forsaken us as borne out by two terrifying incidents which happened on the somewhat ironically named Safety Col. The first involved me sliding down an icy slope towards a yawning crevasse, unable to stop myself and thinking I didn’t want to die lie this. Yet something did stop me before the big crevasse. The second took place when a section of the ice front collapsed and the resultant pressure wave rapidly spread towards our campsite. Miraculously the break up of sea ice stopped within yards of our tent!

Geology has many facets and in my post-Antarctic career with the British Geological Survey I was fortunate enough to be involved with two which were not only intellectually challenging but also of some direct use to mankind. Moreover, I was doubly blessed in that most of the required fieldwork was carried out in the Scottish Highlands. The

first of these, which I always regarded as the 'sharp end' of geology concerned mineral resources, particularly the search for new deposits and the planning for their development. Initially focussing on metalliferous minerals such as copper, lead, zinc, molybdenite, iron, manganese, chromium and gold, the search was later extended to cover construction materials such as building stone and sand and gravel. The second aspect of geology covered was updating maps and their descriptive memoirs, which in the extremely complex rocks of the Highlands could be quite challenging. Geological maps have many uses: in addition to outlining potential and previously worked mineral resources they can indicate likely foundation conditions for buildings and possible geo-hazards such as unstable ground and areas which might be seismically active. Undoubted highlights of my time with BGS were the discovery of the multimillion tonne Aberfeldy barite deposits (barite=barium sulphate is primarily required to produce a heavy and inert drilling mud for use in oil and gas exploration), and on the mapping side the intellectual satisfaction of producing a new map and geological interpretation of the Ballater district. Finally I recall that after one schools open day at the BGS office in Edinburgh new graffiti appeared on a toilet wall asking "hands up all those who find geology boring". From time to time we bored to investigate subsurface and paradoxically these were amongst the most exciting times, as you never knew what the drill core would reveal.

Geological science is an important element in encouraging good husbandry of the earth's natural resources, particularly those such as metals, oil, gas and coal which are fundamental to human living. It does not deny the existence of God, but offers a reliable modern explanation of creation which would not have been understood by those for who the Genesis story was written. Just for the record it was being present at my son's birth and not geology which restored my faith!

St James News Page

Carole Darke writes from Somerset (see Parish Register!)

We are so thrilled with the birth of Juliette's mark 2 child!! This time she did it herself...had to push for 45 minutes...Andrew and I both held a leg and yelled at the top of our voices to encourage her! She had been despondent when told that this baby was also lying in a posterior

position giving her the same horrid back pain that she had had with Lucy Grace. However Samuel managed to turn himself and no C Section was needed as J had a good classic labour this time!!! He was born at 2.46a.m. on 21 Jan and weighed 8lbs 5oz. - 2 ozs more than Lucy. By the Saturday (6 days old) he weighed 8lb 11oz! Yes she is an excellent Mum and Samuel is more than contented...sleeping 5 1/2 hours last night!!!!

I had been in Madley for 6 days before the birth (which started on the due date and also Pete's 64th B'day) so J was well rested and things were organised...although we only had a few white newborn size clothes...the rest were pink!!! Altogether I had 16 days up there, during which time we had two days pheasant shoots, four visiting farmers on different missions, 20 loads of wheat dispatched, one barn roof blown off, a flock of swans eating the field of rape, one car smashed by a reversing tractor - while trying to feed cows in barn!, one wild black lab puppy pinching toys out of the Moses basket, one screaming toddler, a cat with an unsatiated appetite who came for walks with the dog, 4 hens to feed...only had 4 eggs in 16 days...they are past their sell by date, phones ringing, loads of washing, cooking cleaning and ironing, char lady going sick...visitors, mail arriving, VAT returns to be done!!!!

Yes quite busy, but I left her with at least 5 days food prepared and hopefully if Andrew gets home in time to bath Lucy, they will cope!

Greetings from the Welsh connection

A happy, peaceful and blessed Easter to all our friends in St James the Less . We shall miss the wonderful Easter music and think of you especially at this time. We look forward to seeing some of you on April 15th.

With our love and every good wish.

Jean and Frank (Lindsay)

April 2007 Rota

	1-Apr-2007	8-Apr-2007	15-Apr-2007	22-Apr-2007	29-Apr-07
	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	Easter 2	Easter 3	Easter 4 (Matins)
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Mike	Jennifer	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	David	Mike	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Alan Sibley/Des Frantom	Fords	Mgt Coull/ Nigel Johnston
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Barretts	Hindles	Sibleys	-----
1st Reading	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 65:17-25</i>	<i>Acts 5:27-32</i>	<i>Acts 9:1-6, (7-20)</i>	<i>Acts 9:36-43</i>
	Young Church	Ian MacLennan	Val McGavin	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield
2nd Reading	<i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>	<i>I Corinthians 15:19-26 or Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>Revelation 1:4-8</i>	<i>Relevation 5:11-14</i>	<i>Revelation 7:9-17</i>
	Young Church	Robert Clerk	Gillian Amos	Marion McCluskey	Andy Longmore
Gospel	<i>Luke 22:14-23:56 or Luke 23:1-49</i>	<i>John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>	<i>John 21:1-19</i>	<i>John 21:1-19</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Ruth Green	Alan Murray	-----
Pray for:	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group	Fabric Team
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Alice	Angela/Sara	Val/Charlotte	-----
Coffee	Young Church	Mona Bennett/ Mgt MacLennan	Frantoms	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Hays/ G Smith
Flowers		Rose Mackenzie & Margaret MacLennan			
Cleaning	Clerks	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Andy Longmore
Care Van					
Pentland House			*		

(Where an alternative reading is given, the first reading is used unless clergy notify readers otherwise)

May 2007 Rota

	6-May-2007	13-May-2007	20-May-2007	27-May-2007
	Easter 5	Easter 6	Easter 7	Pentecost
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	MacLennans	Elizabeth Clark/ Andy Longmore	A Sibley/ Isobel Stenhouse
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Clerks
1st Reading	<i>Acts 11:1-18</i>	<i>Acts 16:9-15</i>	<i>Acts 16:16-34</i>	<i>Acts 2:1-21 or Genesis 11:1-9</i>
	Young Church	Gillian Little	Joyce Black	Faye Clerk
2nd Reading	<i>Revelation 21:1-6</i>	<i>Revelation 21:10, 22-22:5</i>	<i>Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21</i>	<i>Romans 8:14-17 or Acts 2:1-21</i>
	Young Church	Alan Murray	Margaret Coull	Robert Clerk
Gospel	<i>John 13:31-35</i>	<i>John 14:23-29 or John 5:1-9</i>	<i>John 17:20-26</i>	<i>John 14:8-17, (25-27)</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Mike Hay	Elizabeth Clark
Pray for	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group	Mothers Union
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Alice	Angela/Sara	Val/Charlotte
Coffee	Young Church	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse/ Jean Wright
Flowers	Kathryn Topham/Ros Hay			
Cleaning	Sibleys	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				*

June 2007 Rota

	3-Jun-2007	10-Jun-2007	17-Jun-2007	24-Jun-2007
	Trinity Sunday	Trinity 1	Trinity 2	Trinity 3
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Y.Church	McGarvas	Fords	Margaret Coull/ Des Frantom
Bread and Wine	Y.Church	Fords	Leavys	Barretts
1st Reading	<i>Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31</i>	<i>I Kings 17: 8-16, (17-24) or I Kings 17:17-24</i>	<i>I Kings 21:1-10, (11-14), 15-21a or II Samuel 11:26-12:10 13-15</i>	<i>I Kings 19:1-4, (5-7), 8-15a or Isaiah 65:1-9</i>
	Y.Church	Georgina phillips	Jo Bullough	John Ford
2nd Reading	<i>Romans 5:1-5</i>	<i>Galatians 1:11-24</i>	<i>Galatians 3:23-29</i>	<i>Galatians 3:23-29</i>
	Y.Church	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark	Brigitte Fuge
Gospel	<i>John 16:12-15</i>	<i>Luke 7:11-17</i>	<i>Luke 7:36-8:3</i>	<i>Luke 8:26-39</i>
Prayers	Y.Church	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Angela Sibley
Pray for:	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	Young Church	Youth Group
Server	Angela/ Sara	Val/ Alice	Angela/ ?	Angela/ Sara
Coffee	Y.Church	Gillian Little/ Marion McCluskey	Elizabeth Clark/ Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & Family
Flowers	Nikkie Dickson & Kathy Kennedy			
Cleaning	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom	Sibleys	C & M Leavys	C & M Leavys
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

Youth Group 9-9: 17 February

Alice Dickson writes:

Fourteen of the youth group enjoyed a night in the church hall, although some did not stay all night. Andy took us out side to look at the stars; it was extremely cold so we didn't stay out long. At about two o'clock we had nacho's (doritos and melted cheese), sleep was not an option, as we talked and played games. By early morning it was suggested we got some sleep, this was not so easy for some, as others who did manage to sleep also snored (I'm not saying who but they know who they were.) Thanks to Charlotte and Kathryn Topham who arrived to cook a wonderful breakfast. Also all the leaders who gave up a warm bed for the cold hall. I think all who stayed up most the night fell asleep when they got home. I know I did!

World Day of Prayer 2 March

The following talk was given by Elaine Marshall of Badingsgill, West Linton at the St Mungo's World Day of Prayer service:

"I am here to speak to you about Paraguay, but feel that I am doing so slightly on false pretences - I don't know a lot about Paraguay, but was brought up in Argentina, which is next door to Paraguay, so any knowledge I might have has been gained from "looking over the fence", so to speak. So if there is a person from Paraguay in this congregation, could you please say so now?

Paraguay is a land-locked country in the heart of South America. Sandwiched between three big neighbours, Bolivia, Argentina and Brazil, it has been blessed with many assets, but has a tragic and troubled history. The climate is sub-tropical, the earth is rich. On the East are the fertile plains of the Chaco, on the West the land is hilly and wooded. Right through the centre of the country flows the huge Parana River, which is Paraguay's gateway to the sea. All the area on both sides of the Parana River forms part of the Pantanal, which is one of the worlds largest and richest environmental reserves. The country is about the same size as France, with a population of 5.8 million. The backbone of that population are the women, they have had to become that way.

The indigenous people of Paraguay are the Guaraní Indians, who were nomadic tribes which populated the area before the Spanish Conquistadores got there. Their language, Guaraní, is lilting and musical, and very expressive. (My information says that it is an onomatopoeic language, now isn't that a big word?) It is still spoken alongside the official language Spanish, and indeed I believe it is one of the only indigenous languages in the world which has been adopted by the incoming population. With the Spanish conquistadores came the Jesuits, who had a huge influence on the developing country. Paraguay is a catholic country, with the consequent strong family, and extended family, structures. After independence from Spain in 1811, a constitution and democracy were set up, and Paraguay embarked upon a typical latin American succession of despots and dictators to lead their country. One particularly inept character decided, in 1865, to lead the country into an ill-advised war against his two larger neighbours, Argentina and Brazil. The war went on for 15 years, and instead of retreating or giving up, he recruited more and more men, ever younger and older, into the army, until Paraguay was almost completely destroyed, had lost 80% of the male population, and women outnumbered men 7 to 1. In the years following that war, the Paraguayan women rebuilt their country, their homes and their families. It was the beginning of a peculiarly Paraguayan mindset, where the women are strong, hardworking and resilient. They hold their families together, help each other, work hard, go abroad to look for work and send their earnings home. At the same time they are submissive around men, earn 30% less than men, and only gained the right to vote in 1961. They have upheld national traditions and skills, such as music played on the Paraguayan harp, and the embroidery, known as Nanduti, or spider's web embroidery, renowned throughout South America.

Between 1932 and 1935 Paraguay underwent another big and costly war, this time against their other neighbour, Bolivia. And then, in 1954, they acquired, through a coup, the longest-serving dictator South America has seen: General Alfredo Stroessner. Stroessner never had a good reputation. Throughout his tenure people were kidnapped, assassinated and tortured. The rural population became impoverished, and many migrated to the towns, setting up shanty towns. Rights and freedoms were repressed, the environment was destroyed with massive deforestation, and corruption became endemic. In 1989 Stroessners

government was finally overthrown, but dishonesty and corruption in government and even the private sector is rife, and so the Paraguayan people face a long and difficult task if they are to improve their lot.

At present Paraguay has a totally agrarian economy, but the ownership of land is poorly distributed, with land ownership being in the hands of very few. There is no industry, and it is hard to compete with Argentina and Brazil, both fast growing industrialised nations. In partnership with Argentina and Brazil, Paraguay has two large hydro-electric plants on its borders, and is able to export electricity. However, it has no gas or oil and needs to import these.

The social problems to be tackled are huge, and there is a lot which needs to be done to improve education, health care, employment and housing. Unemployment is high, with more than 40% of the active population without a stable job. And many of those with jobs have earnings which are below the legal minimum wage and have no Social Security contributions. Many children between the ages of 5 to 17 work, and others beg. Illiteracy rates are high at 7.1%, and only 3 out of 10 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are able to study. Health care is scarce, especially in the more remote areas, infant mortality is high as is maternal mortality during childbirth. However, the population is young and full of enthusiasm, families are strong and caring. Because the government has done so little, Paraguayans are used to helping one another and finding ways of supporting themselves and others, but poverty and unemployment, lack of education and health services cause frustration and anger, particularly amongst the young, and levels of violence and crime are high. In spite of being a country rich in natural beauty and interest, with the spectacular Iguazu Falls in the East, and the swamp-like Pantanal area which is teeming with wildlife, tourists prefer to view these from the Brazilian and Argentine sides of the borders.

There are signs of hope: the current government is a democracy, and one of its stated aims is the fight against corruption. They face an uphill struggle, but at least it is a start. The Church is actively involved in many volunteer projects, and the solidarity amongst Paraguayans means that cooperatives and communal organisations are springing up in the poorer parts of society. The women of Paraguay are the backbone of their society, and if current global thinking recognises the

importance of women, then these women's voices will begin to be heard, and changes might come about. We must pray that the enthusiasm and zest for life of the young people of Paraguay be channelled into productive activities, and that the women of Paraguay are able to at last begin to reap the benefits of their hard work."

Church Women's Fellowship

16 Apr - 8.00 pm CWF at 64 Deanburn
May - date to be arranged.

Mothers' Union News

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

Provincial & Central Activities 2007

AGM - June 21st - Liverpool - David Urquhart Package £179
includes 4 nights DB&B - Optional Insurance £12
Contact Joyce Black to see if seats are still available.

Diocesan Activities

- April 11th – 11am Diocesan Council
- Christ Church Centre, Morningside
- Pooling Fund 75p – Tea/coffee/soup 75p

Branch Activities

Penicuik MU Branch recently enjoyed a talk (and songs) from the Chaplain at Glencorse Barracks, John Macgregor, 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland (formerly Royal Highland Fuseliers). He is known as the singing Padre. He explained how, despite his age, his Christian journey had led him to his present position, his army training at Sandhurst - and his ability to pass on his faith through song to those whose faith is tentative or non-existent. He particularly asked us to pray for the troops and the families of those serving overseas / or about to go overseas.

25 April 2.30 pm – To be arranged.
9 May Outing – To be arranged.

Work of the RDA (Riding for the Disabled)

The link below is to the latest issue of Stirling Council's newsletter. Featured is the success story of one of the volunteers at Helen Kallow's stables and the horse pictured is Tico, belonging to Helen and Jonathan.

http://www.stirling.gov.uk/index/council_homepage/stirlingfocus.htm

Many of you generously supported the Fellowship Lunch we held for the Riding for the Disabled and we thought you might like to see another example of the good work they do.

Georgina and Richard

Faith in Older People

Submitted by Alison Cole (Alternate Lay Rep)

On 4th October 2006 I attended a meeting of Edinburgh South Area Council. Invited to speak at this meeting was Mary Moffett, who is Project Worker for the Faith in Older People group based at the Diocesan Centre in Edinburgh.

Mary gave us some background to the group. Although it has its origins in the Scottish Episcopal Church's Diocese of Edinburgh, it works ecumenically with other faith groups and with people who have no religious affiliation. Its work is not confined to Edinburgh but anywhere in the east of Scotland from the border with England to the Firth of Forth. The management committee is made up of people who, like Mary, have a wealth of experience in the voluntary and statutory areas concerned with ageing.

Mary reminded us that the population of Scotland is ageing- around one third of our people are retired or soon to be retired. In a sense, this is a growth area for the church and we need to be ready to meet the challenges this presents. There is a distinction between the needs of so called third-agers – those who have retired from employment and are still active within society and fourth-agers - those who are now frail in mind or body and who rely on others for support. In rightly concerning ourselves with making church accessible to our young people, we should take care that the needs of our elderly members are not overlooked. These are often the very members who most want to come.

We should affirm and celebrate the gifts and lives of our older people while being sensitive to the new challenges that come with ageing.

Mary circulated a questionnaire which asked us to think about how our own church is suited to the needs of older people. This included asking about practical issues concerning suitability of the building, such as,

- Do you have disabled access to your church and halls?
- Do you offer large print orders of service?
- Do any of the pews have extra cushions?
- Is your building “fit for purpose?”

We were asked about record-keeping. For example,

- Are you lucky enough to have a pastoral care team?
- Who will you appoint as the person to deal with protection of vulnerable adults? (Similar to Child Protection)
- Do your visitors know of previous members who are now in care homes/nursing homes or hospitals or hospices?

We were challenged to think about the services on offer at our church including questions such as,

- Do you offer any traditional orders of service? (old familiar words- particularly popular for those with poor eyesight or memory)
- Do you have any short weekday services?
- Can those who want to get to the services?
- Do you need help with outreach to the elderly within your area?

We were asked about our area, for example,

- What is the age profile of the area that your church is in and what is the style of housing?

We were asked to consider how we celebrate and remember, for example,

- Do you have any regular way of celebrating the achievements or anniversaries of your older members?
- Do you have any policy for bereavement befriending?

It was interesting that I didn't know the answer to all the questions we considered. Mary challenged us with the thought, “Do you know who does know the answer to this? How would your church manage if that knowledgeable person left your congregation?”

Mary acknowledged that engaging in pastoral activities of this kind can be challenging and sensitive work. Support for those doing the visiting should be available. The FIOF group collects and shares resources, ideas and suggestions that have proved to have been useful in real situations. She stressed that it was vital that those involved in ministering to frail elderly people must have a heart for it. Not everyone is suited to working with young children and the same is true for the elderly. She spoke movingly of some of her personal outreach experiences and shared some practical advice and ideas.

In all, it was a most thought-provoking and challenging meeting. Mary is an inspiring speaker clearly dedicated to her work. If anyone wishes to see the full questionnaire or read the FIOF leaflet, please speak to me. I finish with a quotation from the leaflet,

"I have this new dream. It is a dream of a people marginalised by illness and discriminated by powerlessness being moved to centre stage to remind us that vulnerability is of the very essence of the Gospel and that time and time again God speaks to us through those who have no voice or whose words come to us as metaphors."

Out of the mouth of babes...

One particular four-year-old prayed,
"And forgive us our trash baskets
as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets."

~~~~~  
A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they  
were on the way to church service,  
"And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"  
One bright little girl replied,  
"Because people are sleeping."

~~~~~  
A father was at the beach with his children
when the four-year-old son ran up to him,
grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore
where a seagull lay dead in the sand.
"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.
"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said,
"Did God throw him back down?"

Contributed by Pat Smith

Natural Language Obituaries

Contributed by the Rector

I find obituaries, in the main, to be terribly written. They are generally composed by a junior member of the newspaper staff according to a set formula. I have been suggesting to families, for some time now, that they try to write their own obituaries for departed family members. I tell them to use the cadences and rhythms which come most naturally to them. A few examples come to mind:

My husband's no longer alive.
He insisted that he could still drive.
In lieu of carnations
our church needs donations.
His funeral's on Tuesday at five.

Dear Mummy has gone off to heaven.
She died yesterday at eleven.
The funeral's not private
so try to arrive at
the funeral parlour at seven.

Did anyone know Alvin Fetter
the inveterate drunkard and debtor?
His family's bereft
but a few things are left.
If he owed you please send us a letter.

We're all feeling sorry for Ed,
especially now that he's dead.
We sure find it odd
and wonder why God
didn't go and take Grandma instead.

Financial Matters

Our new kitchen appeal

Most of our readers will now have had to opportunity to soak in the ambience of the refurbished hall kitchen; a number will also have had the pleasure of using the vastly improved facilities. I think it is a generally accepted truism that in this world there is no such things as a free lunch, not even in a church kitchen! I know some of you believe that the cost of refurbishment was met by fund raising and donations last year. Unfortunately this is not so; money raised under these headings was used solely to purchase the new church carpet. Bills for the kitchen so far have been met by a 'loan' from the Fabric Fund and, since this is essentially a contingency fund designed to meet essential maintenance and repairs, and particularly for those items identified in the last Quinquennial Review, the money now needs to be repaid. So what's the damage? The total cost of the refurbishment was £10,457, but £5,505 and £1,652 have been contributed by WREN and the Fabric Fund respectively leaving £3,300 to be met by this appeal. Please give generously and watch the kettle in the hall being filled! Thanks again to the Topham family for the creative poster.

Outreach Subscriptions

We think that Outreach is extraordinary good value for £5 a year, but we would wouldn't we! Annual subscriptions are now overdue, if you have already paid many thanks, if not please do soon as we are expected to meet our costs. If you have lost the envelope I am sure that Jean can find another for you.

Collections

	January	February
Cash	204	251
Gift Aid Cash	63	32
Envelopes	966	611
Direct Giving	<u>1310</u>	<u>1310</u>
Total	2543	2204

Special Collections

World Vision	265
Aberlour Trust	152
<i>Graham Smith</i>	

Petitions....

With reference to Philip's talk on Freedom and the ensuing discussion on what the individual could do to challenge injustice, readers might be interested in the online Downing Street petition site reached by the following link:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk>

There is a wide variety of petitions, some very interesting reading contained therein.

I was led to this by a work colleague whose husband suffers from Lyme's Disease and who urged me to sign the petition appealing for more funding for research into this still comparatively unknown debilitating illness. Please add your name if you wish to support this campaign:

<http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/Lyme-Disease>

Thank you!

Georgina

Thanks!

Many thanks to the many who remembered my **th birthday last month. I was overwhelmed with cards, gifts and good wishes. Very much appreciated!

Mike

Your prayers are asked for...

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

Betty and Arthur White, Joy Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Mae Mann, Sarah (aged 8 with Crohn's disease), Haley, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman, Eleanor Jack, Margaret Paton, Margaret Vesco and Bea Bremner.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters including the recent earthquake in Indonesia. For those suffering from famine and drought. Pray for the release of all who are enslaved, for

those held captive unfairly or illegally and for the work of Amnesty International. Pray for those suffering under corrupt and uncaring political regimes, remembering especially the people of Zimbabwe.

Pray for the peoples of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war remembering especially Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks.

For those who staff the Bethany Trust Care Van as they minister to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh, and for the homeless themselves. For the work of Penicuik in Africa.

Events coming soon...

Sat 31 Mar 10am – 12noon Daffodil and Cake Stall (Precinct)
Sat 28 April 7.30pm Herken Fund-raising Concert
Sat 23 June 7.00pm Music for a Summer Evening 15

Parish Register

Funeral 9 February: Charles Gray, aged 79 years

Birth 21 January: Samuel Johnson (see "St James News Page")

The next publication of "Outreach" will be on Sunday 6 May. Information about events, and contributions should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012 (caplaw@hotmail.co.uk) by Wednesday 25 April at the latest. If sending by Email, please copy to Mike Hay at mike@hayfamily.co.uk .

The current edition of the magazine, and previous editions, can now be viewed on the Web. Go to <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk/> and click on the appropriate link at the top of the page.

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<u>Ministry Team Leaders & Other Officers</u>			
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CWF	Joyce Jones	674187	
Flowers	Marion McCluskey	678081	marion.mccluskey@tiscali.co.uk
Hall bookings	Val McGavin	675614	val.mcgavin@virgin.net
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Youth Group	Paul Murray 0131 477 2188		p.r.murray@ed.ac.uk

Mothers' Union members at their recent Retreat at Kinnoull



**The church of St Trophine, Arles, France.
St James the Less, part of a series of
saints around the doorway**

