



# OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



**“Well done, thou good and faithful  
servant”**

*Issue No 148 December 2008/January 2009*



**Fiona and Richard... happy wedding memories; with pageboy Cameron and flower girl Annabelle**



**A hive of industry at the St Mungo's coffee morning!**

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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.

## Groups and Activities

*(please contact the appropriate person listed inside 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



# ***Rector's Letter***

## ***Frances McLean***

The words which the Bishop recited as he led Frances McLean's coffin out of the church were those of old Simeon who had been told by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. As Luke tells the story, Simeon has now arrived at the end of his life and the child Jesus is brought to him. What he says is this:

Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.

Simeon was promised one thing only and has now received it. Words like his speak of '**sufficiency**' and, in my way of thinking, sufficiency has a lot going for it. You might not leap for joy to see the word 'sufficient' scrawled across the top of an exam paper or on a written appraisal of our work **but I think sufficiency is badly under-rated.**

We balk nowadays at eulogies – with their long lists of achievements – being read at funerals in the church. They've gone out of style, haven't they - eulogies? You get the feeling that when such lists of achievements are being read out that we are swimming upstream and are battling against what everybody in the church already knows, which is this: **that rich or poor, famous or unknown, languid or troubled – we all go this same way!**

The same sentences from the Burial Office – which Tony Bramley read on the night before the funeral as Frances' coffin was carried into the chancel - are going to be read at our funerals one day. Our coffins, made of solid cherry wood with real brass handles, or made of veneer or canvas-covered chip-board are going to be covered with the same funeral pall in the church and will give the same visual effect as any other coffin. Frances was buried at Rosebank Cemetery on Pilrig Street near the 200 soldiers *en route* to the front lines in the First World War who died in the Gretna Train Disaster, in the same graveyard as her grandfather and great grandfather and in the company of saints and rascals from two centuries of Scottish history. Gravediggers in yellow

coats could be seen hiding behind trees puffing on their cigarettes until we'd gone. To them it was just one more burial.

We're all together in our deaths. It is a great leveller.

Notwithstanding the uniqueness of the woman and our feelings for her, and even though there are remarkable stories that can be told about her, what the bishop said in his prayer at the Commendation referred simply to her participation in the Grace which God has granted to us in Christ:

*Into your hands, O merciful Saviour, we commend your servant, Frances. Acknowledge, we humbly beseech you, a sheep of your own fold, a lamb of your own flock, a sinner of your own redeeming.....*

I believe that when Frances asked her nurse on Wednesday whether she would survive this illness and was told, as directly as any nurse could possibly tell her, that she would not survive it - she must have put her head back on the pillow and said to herself that she'd had enough.

There was sadness. I sensed it on the Tuesday afternoon when we spoke. There was solemnity. The bishop noted how Frances said 'goodbye' to him on Wednesday midday with a great sense of occasion and finality. She'd had enough. What do I mean? Not that she had no strength to fight it (we can't know what she was thinking about that) – but that had you asked Frances if she'd had occasion to love and be loved, to apply herself to the world around her, to fill her generation and to meet Christ in the midst of the world's people she'd have said 'yes'. It was sufficient. She'd had enough.

I hope this for you – first, sufficiency. Do remember that funeral sermons, such as they are, are intended for the living and not for the dead. The question today is not only '**who was Frances**', but '**who are we**'? Men and women, boys and girls who may well not be in a position to say that we have 'enough' - that we live today in sufficiency – that we would be satisfied were our life to come to a close on this day or any other day this week. This poses for us a challenge. It could provoke in us something of an 'ache' and were we to walk away from the hospital bed, the church or the graveside resolved that we would follow the lead of that nagging feeling rather than fleeing from it, then the loss of our friend and the experience of gathering around her coffin (or more

accurately, the experience of gathering with her around the Lord's Table) could be a tremendous blessing for us and a new beginning.

Now - you know and I know that 'sufficiency' is not a word that adequately exhausts the subject of Frances McLean. It doesn't end there of course – but it's something that has to be said. This is no contest for differing prizes. We receive the same crown and the same word of welcome – *“Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.....”*

To say what must be completely obvious, though, to anybody reading this is that the image we have in my minds when thinking of Frances is certainly not a checklist with one ticked and sufficient box but something more akin to a **cornucopia** – a horn of plenty – filled with fruit – a cup - running over. It has much to do with a sense of humour, with a very loud and boisterous laugh and with a series of active associations around the world maintained by a woman in her eighties. It has to do with the stories we heard of Frances on her last trip to South Africa with Angela being surrounded by the children she helped bring into the world, by the nurses and students she encouraged (V. *Frances do you remember me? R. Yes I do, you were a lot slimmer then!*) – people who remembered her and looked at her as one who nurtured life and enjoyed the fullness of her relationships.

And so we extend our hopes for ourselves beyond bare sufficiency. What we hope for each other – for those of us who are mature and those of us who are still quite young is this – abundance – not in what we gather to ourselves but what we scatter abroad into the lives and beings of others.

In the remarkable lives of ordinary saints like Frances McLean we get a sense of what can be done with our particular portion of life.

*Father Rob Warren*

## ***Frances – an appreciation***

Soon after I came to St James I realised that the congregation at large were quite unaware that in Frances Maclean they had a rather special in their midst. When Frances came back to Scotland after her years in South Africa, she was required to undergo a Refresher Course to bring her up to date with current medical practice and standards in the Health

Service at that time. She did this while living in the Borders and when she retired she was allocated a Scottish Special Housing Association house in Penicuik. Once she came to live in the town she came and quietly slid into a pew in St James and became a member of the congregation.

She was such a quiet and unassertive lady that few people would know that as soon as she completed her Nursing and Midwifery training in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (she had been a member of St Martin's Church Tynecastle), she volunteered to serve in a hospital in Umtata, an area in south Africa called Kaffraria, which the Scottish Episcopal Church supported as one of its two large Missionary Projects Overseas. At the hospital to which she was sent she discovered nothing more than an empty wooden shed, about the size of a small house garage with no running water! When it was time for her to go back to Scotland she left behind a large 100-bed hospital with all the equipment of a modern surgical hospital.

Some people in St James were surprised when I sponsored her for ordination. She had already completed a Non-Stipendiary Ministry Training course and Bishop Richard ordained her Deacon and Priest.

The wonderfully happy picture of her holding the bouquet of flowers given to mark the 20th anniversary of her dedication to the priesthood is an eloquent testimony of the gratitude of the people of St James and St Mungo's for her quiet and unassuming ministry in both parishes. How lucky we were to have her and how much we shall miss her!

*John Farrant*

## ***Frances – another tribute***

Frances was a true disciple; she gave her life to God at an early age and followed where he led her all her life. He led her into nursing and then to nurse at a mission hospital in South Africa. She gave a good part of her life to nursing, midwifery and then on to Matronly tasks. I didn't know her then but I believe that her Christian faith and joy would shine out to all her patients and the staff would know her as a fair but sometimes feisty colleague.

She knew sadness in her life; her father died before she was born, her mother while she was overseas and her only brother during the Second World War.

Then at her retirement God called her back to Britain where she continued with nursing for a while and then on to jobs connected with mission overseas. She never lost her longing for South Africa and went back when she could to see old friends and places.

Once she was settled in Penicuik God called her again. No quiet retirement for Frances! This time she was called to the Ministry where she has served him eagerly and willingly for over 20 years.

Her ministry, especially to the elderly will be very sadly missed. She was so fit and active, or appeared to be so, till the end, that we forgot she was 86 years old herself, she had her share of illnesses and operations and bounced back to the old Frances each time. This time sadly she did not bounce back, God called her again, this time to be with Him. I have absolutely no doubt that when Frances arrived at the Pearly Gates that God was there to meet her saying, "Well done thou good and faithful servant." She is now with Him and His saints and angels.

*Val McGavin*

*Thomas Joyner writes:* "Thank you for this news and it is indeed sorrowful. I really enjoyed my time with Frances and found her to be a remarkable and spirit filled individual. She is missed on this side of the Atlantic as well.

All is well here; there is no big news to report other than I am ordained to the priesthood on 16 December at the Cathedral in Birmingham (Alabama, that is). Your prayers are requested and I will send along some photos after the blessed event.

Please give my love and greetings to all those at St. James and St. Mungo's (especially to Gordon Benning). Blessings to you and Ralph.  
with love,

*Thomas* [Thomas was ordained on 20 May and moved to Montgomery Alabama (the state capital) to begin as Curate at the Church of the Holy Comforter - His address is : 5749 Hitching Post Court, Montgomery AL, 36116 USA. Please support him with your prayers as he enters the priesthood - Ed]

## ***Pastoral Care***

Frances' death and all the tributes to her have reminded me that perhaps we don't always tell our elderly friends and relatives how much we love and value them. If this hits a chord with you too and someone comes to mind, give them a visit or a phone call, speak to them in



church and ask about their health and then listen to what they have to say, tell them they are valued and loved. Frances once said to me that because she was active and visited the elderly herself, very few people came to see her.

We all have a ministry to each other as Christians on the road together and of course if you feel like joining with those of us who visit as part of the Pastoral Care team, you will be most welcome. We have a HUGE gap to fill! *Valerie McGavin*

## ***Penicuik for Africa (PfA) - wither or whither?***

We failed to reach a quorum at our recent AGM in North Kirk Cafe, only three people turning up, including the chairman! I had to report on our joint bid for Development Funding from the Scottish Executive and that our tireless Secretary, Jo Vallis, had tendered her resignation. Its time to ask some serious questions about our future. One possibility is that we should simply let PfA 'wither on the vine'. Frances, for one would have been horrified if that were allowed to happen, probably sharing my view that it is a sign of life in the vine. We will miss her enthusiasm: her last contribution was at our 'briefing meeting', just a week before she died where she enlivened the account of our support for the Itipini Dump Project with personal reminiscences. In May, she drove into the middle of the Public Park to see if we needed help with our stall, despite feeling decidedly unwell.

The alternative is to regroup. While the vision was to engage the wider community in a collaborative effort involving two churches, the reality has been for the community to look on bemusedly while two churches largely went their separate ways for Africa. My suggestion is that we foster that 'separate development'. The St James effort could go ahead as a church group ('Team Africa'?) raising money for projects in Africa on an ad hoc basis, putting money in a 'Fund for Africa' as part of the church accounts. That way we would need no 'office bearers' and I'm prepared to provide leadership 'as and when...'. North Kirk would continue with their projects, we keep one another informed of what we are up to, 'cross fertilising' and 'cross-supporting' where we can.

There would have to be a formal winding up of PfA and this could be done at an 'extraordinary meeting' after a Sunday Service to ensure quorum. At that time, we could confirm the suggestion from the 'gang of

three' that the dispersal of last year's funds raised for Africa (£1345?) should go largely to Itipini in memory of Frances McLean.

*Neville*

## **Mission News**

Most of you will know that Frances was very diligent in contributing to almost every edition of "Outreach", giving lots of interesting and informative information about Mission work throughout the world. If anyone would like to take on this task, articles and pictures will be more than welcome. *Please give it consideration - Ed.*

## **Choir News**

The structure of the church year is one of my lasting memories from my childhood (some time ago!), but I well remember the mystery of the changed pulpit-fall colours as they moved from the red of "Christ the King" through the purple of Advent to the gold or white of the Christmas season and so on. Musically, I think the church year too always has associated memories - for me it's the wonderfully triumphant music of "Christ the King", through the mystery, solemnity and yearning of Bach's Chorale Prelude "Nun komm' der Heiden Heiland" (Come now, Saviour of the Gentiles) to the joy of Bach's wonderful Prelude on "In dulci jubilo", which always ends our service of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Having this framework to organise our expression of our faith over the year whether in colour, music, readings or in any way is, I believe, a great treasure - we should make the most of it. However, this brings its own challenges for church musicians, and "keeping up" can be quite hard work! By the time you read this, having contributed to the Remembrance season, we will have sung at the carol service for the first Sunday of Advent, we will also be singing at Drummond Grange and in the Precinct, and are now working hard on the music for the Lessons and Carols which this year is on **Sunday 21 December at 7.00pm**. As well as many of the old favourites, we have three new carols for you: Benjamin Britten's beautiful setting of "The hymn to the Virgin", a jolly "Gallery style" setting of "While shepherds watched their flocks", and "A Carol of Hope" by Andrew Millington, organist of Exeter Cathedral, who has kindly given us permission to copy and perform it.

It's great news that the other Penicuik churches have agreed to join with us for that service and will be supplying some of the readers - it is likely

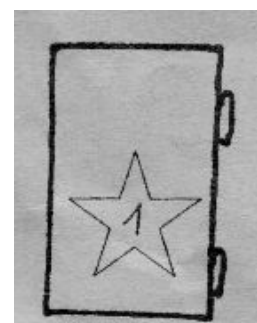
to be busy; do come and support the service, but be prepared to “cuddle-up” where necessary!

Also, on the previous **Friday (19th) at 7.30pm**, there is an all-age Christmas Carol event in the Town Hall, particularly aimed at those who might be reluctant to come to a service in a church building. Please come and support this too if you can.

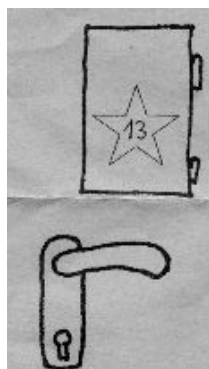
*Mike Hay*

## ***An Alternative Advent Calendar***

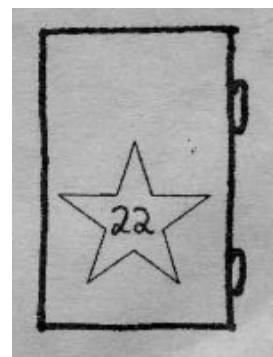
At this Advent time, as we open the little doors on our Advent Calendars to expose another chocolate or pretty picture, could we please plant the germ of an idea – an idea that could perhaps be mulled over during the coming year and maybe even nourished and brought to fruition for Advent 2009?



On a recent visit to St Nickolaus Kirche in Bensberg (in the Bergisches Land a few miles east of Cologne) we saw a notice regarding their way of celebrating Advent.! It asked for two more volunteers needed for 6th and 19th of December as all the other dates were accounted for! They have a “Living Advent Calendar”.! Every evening at 18.00 a different member of the church opens a door, in their house or flat or even a garden, to the young of the congregation, and all get together for a time to sing Advent songs, eat Christmas Biscuits, and tell/read an Advent Story so that it all becomes an active but thoughtful journey towards Christmas.! This sounds a lovely idea - all



those different doors being opened with the climax of the big double doors of the church being flung open for Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.



OK – St. James doesn't have big double doors, but it certainly does have a door to fling open for Midnight Eucharist and most of us do have front doors that could be opened on the other nights.! Could we at St. James, we wonder, do anything like this for our youngsters?

*Brigitte & Ian*

# ROTAS

## December 2008

	7-Dec-08	14-Dec-08	21-Dec-08	24-Dec-08	25-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas 1
<b>St James Organist</b>	Jean	Jennifer	David	David	Mike	Mike
<b>St Mungo's Organist</b>	David	Jean	Mike	tba	Jean	David
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark Margaret Coull	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Alan Sibley Nigel Johnstone	Isobel Stenhouse Des Frantom
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	Clerks	Children	Hindles
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</i>	<i>II Samuel 7:1-11, 16</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i>
	Young Church	Marion Mather	Ian Fuge	Robert Clerk	Glynis Murray	Alan Murray
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<i>II Peter 3:8-15a</i>	<i>I Thess. 5:16-24</i>	<i>Romans 16:25-27</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Galatians 4:4-7</i>
	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Ian MacLennan	Alan Murray	Joyce Black
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>	<i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i>	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>Luke 2:22-40</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Angela Sibley	Geoff Mather	Mike Hay	Ruth Green	Angela Sibley	Andy Longmore
<b>Pray for</b>	Youth Group	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group	Fabric Team
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Steven	Val/Sarah	Angela/Alice	Val	Angela	Val/Steven
<b>Coffee</b>	Frantoms	Mona Bennett	Kathleen Cox Sue Crosfield	-----	-----	Hays Graham Smith
<b>Flowers</b>	Advent					Nan McGavin
<b>Cleaning</b>	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Clerks	Clerks			Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse
<b>Welcomers</b>	Elizabeth Clark	C Hodgkin/ A Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk			McGarvas
<b>Care Van</b>			*			
<b>Pentland House</b>						

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

# January 2008

	04-Jan-2009	11-Jan-2009	18-Jan-2009	25-Jan-2009
	<b>Christmas 2</b>	<b>Epiphany 1</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>Epiphany 3</b>
<b>St James Organist</b>	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike
<b>St Mungo's Organist</b>	Mike	Jean	Mike	Jean
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Elizabeth Clark/ Des Frantom	Margaret Coull/ Nigel Johnston	McGarvas	Andy Longmore/ Alan Sibley
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Children	Sibleys	Dicksons	Johnstons
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<i>Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12</i>	<i>Genesis 1:1-5</i>	<i>I Samuel 3:1-10 (11-20)</i>	<i>Jonah 3:1-5, 10</i>
	Margaret Coull	Georgina Phillips	Jo Bullough	Adrian Marchant
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i>	<i>Acts 19:1-7</i>	<i>I Corinthians 6:12-20</i>	<i>I Corinthians 7:29-31</i>
	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark	Brigitte Fuge
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>John 1:(1-9), 10-18</i>	<i>Mark 1:4-11</i>	<i>John 1:43-51</i>	<i>Mark 1:14-20</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Alan Murray	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark	Ruth Green
<b>Pray for</b>	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group	Mothers Union
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Sara	Val/Alice	Angela/Steven	Val/Sara
<b>Coffee</b>	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse/ Jean .Wright	Gillian Little/ Marion Mather
<b>Flowers</b>	Nikki Dickson			
<b>Cleaning</b>	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Marian Hunter/ Ruth Frantom
<b>Welcomers</b>	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas
<b>Care Van</b>			*	
<b>Pentland House</b>	*			



# February 2009

	01-Feb-2009	08-Feb-2009	15-Feb-2009	22-Feb-2009
	<b>Epiphany 4</b>	<b>Epiphany 5</b>	<b>Epiphany 6</b>	<b>Transfiguration Sunday</b>
<b>St James Organist</b>	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike
<b>St Mungo's Organist</b>	David	Jean	Mike	David
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young church	Isobel Stenhouse Elizabeth Clark	Margaret Coull Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston Des Frantom
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Children	Clerks	Leavys	Barretts
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Reading</b>	<i>Deuteronomy 18:15-20</i>	<i>Isaiah 40:21-31</i>	<i>II Kings 5:1-14</i>	<i>II Kings 2:1-12</i>
	Young Church	Adrian Marchant	Ian Fuge	Jean Hindle
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reading</b>	<i>I Corinthians 8:1-13</i>	<i>I Corinthians 9:16-23</i>	<i>I Corinthians 9:24-27</i>	<i>II Corinthians 4:3-6</i>
	Young Church	Mike Hay	Brigitte Fuge	Valerie McGavin
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Mark 1:21-28</i>	<i>Mark 1:29-39</i>	<i>Mark 1:40-45</i>	<i>Mark 9:2-9</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Andy Longmore	Valerie McGavin		
<b>Pray for</b>	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	Young Church	Youth Group
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Alice	Valerie/Steven	Angela/Sara	Valerie/Alice
<b>Coffee</b>	Elizabeth Clark Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & Family	Ruth and Des Frantom	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan
<b>Flowers</b>	Marion Mather			
<b>Cleaning</b>	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom	Alan & Angela Sibley	Alan & Angela Sibley	Chris & Margaret Leavy
<b>Welcomers</b>	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas
<b>Care Van</b>			*	
<b>Pentland House</b>			*	

## **Tearcraft**

This year we held our 8th annual Coffee Morning and Sale in aid of Tearcraft.

I am consistently being told that ours is one of the best sales in the area and we proved it once again when we sold £442 worth of goods on the day. This is augmented by catalogue orders for £700.

We also have a donation of £210 to send. This was collected from sales of cakes, teas and coffees, the “guess the number of sweets” game and the pots of bulbs that Neville kindly donated before going off to New Zealand! The sweets were won by Angela Sibley, by the way, and there were 97 in the jar!

Thank you to all of you who donated, baked, helped on stalls, made tea or did any other job asked of you. I am truly grateful as it is always a team effort and couldn't be achieved by one person.

Once again, thank you for helping Tearcraft to provide jobs and fair salaries for craft workers from some of the poorest countries; every purchase we make has a lasting and positive effect.

See you again next year!

*Val McGavin and Mauricewood House group*

## **Operation Christmas Child 2008**

St Mungo's, West Linton and St. James-the-Less, Penicuik joined together for Operation Christmas Child 2008 [<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/>]

We should like to thank everyone who so generously supported us by donating both filled and empty boxes, gift items, money to buy gifts and sponsorship to cover shipping costs (which has gone up this year along with fuel costs). Thanks also to Lloyd's Pharmacy, Penicuik, for the donation of toothbrushes for 14 of the shoeboxes, IKEA for their kind donation of 24 children's decorated boxes and Eleanor's hairdressing, Penicuik for being the collection centre and putting rubber bands around many of our boxes.

In 2007 the shoe boxes went to Armenia, Swaziland, Mozambique, Romania, Kryrgystan, Hungary, Ukraine, Serbia, Montenegro, Liberia, Kosova, Bosnia, and our boxes went to Belarus. If anyone is interested in knitting toys or hats for next year we can supply special “Operation Christmas Child” knitting patterns.

The generosity of St James' and St Mungo's congregations enabled us to jointly contribute 78 shoe boxes to operation Christmas child - that's 78 children who will not only know they are cared for, but who will never forget the day they received their shoe box. Thank you for putting your faith into action. It was also a great opportunity to witness in the community; we received many messages of support.

*Kathryn and Caireen*

## ***The Leprosy Mission***

The Penicuik Committee has sent the target amount for this year of £2600 to the Leprosy Mission HQ. In the New Year, a new project/target will be suggested to the committee for 2009. All the churches in Penicuik, through their representatives on the committee, work together to support various funding events during the year. One example is the Pancake Morning, an event which is always very well attended.

There is a vacancy for a committee representative from St James if there is anyone who feels that they would like to assist in this ecumenical initiative.

*Marian Hunter ( 01968 673387 )*

## ***Mothers' Union News***

*MU Scottish web address is: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk) or via St James web page link. Theme for this year is: "Time for Relationship 2008".*

Mon 1 Dec Intercessions in St Mary's Cathedral

Tue 2 Dec 2.30pm Advent Carol Service at St Leonard's,  
Lasswade.

Wed 10 Dec Noon Lunch Meeting. Advent Carols in the Hall.  
Hamper to be arranged. Enrolment of Karen Topham

### **2009 Wednesday branch meetings:**

14 Jan Lunch \_ ? Mr Wells - Prison Chaplaincy.

28 Jan Lunch – T.B.A.

11 Feb Speaker - the Rector

25 Feb Ash Wednesday: speaker - Philip Crosfield

*[Fri 6 Mar World Day of Prayer (from Papua New Guinea) at Sacred Heart]*

11 Mar Time for Relationships.

Tues 17 - Thurs 19 March Provincial MU Retreat at Kinnoull Perth, to be conducted by Bishop Bob Gillies. Cost ?£85 Contact Joyce/Margaret Coull. Numbers needed asap.

*Margaret Coull*

## ***Churchwomen's Fellowship (CWF)***

Mon 8 Dec            7pm for 7.30pm: CWF Bar Supper - ? at "The Countryside".

## ***Earth crammed with Heaven***

Chorus:

*The earth is crammed with Heaven  
But we need the Spirit's vision to see.  
Then we will find God in all things  
And see Heaven is crammed in you and me.*

Tread the earth with mercy;  
With peace upon our feet.  
Carry his word of healing;  
A blessing on all we meet.

Gaze with eyes of kindness;  
Keep watch for ways to care.  
Hear the words unspoken.  
Take all to God in prayer.

Rejoice in God's Creation;  
Delight in all His ways.  
Join with the hosts of Heaven,  
To sing His unending praise.  
*Lorna Bramley*

Tony adds "Lorna did the same course as Markie Woodfield and this is what inspired the poem. I think Alan Murray has written a tune to accompany it". *A future hymn of the month perhaps? [Ed]*

# ***THE BELLS, THE BELLS!***

**Holiday Quiz** See if any of these questions ring a bell with you!

*Take a few minutes to try our holiday quiz.*

1. "I heard the bells on Christmas Day their old familiar carols play"; opening lines by which poet?
2. Which English writer was "Summoned by Bells"?
3. "You owe me ---- -----, said the bells of St Martin's"
4. The study of bell ringing is called what?
5. Which BBC correspondent became an independent MP, famous for his white suit?
6. What popular Christmas song was originally written for Thanksgiving?
7. Name the bell traditionally rung at Lloyd's of London after a disaster at sea.
8. Who wrote the novel "The Bell"?
9. What kind of animal was a 'bellwether'?
10. Which musician recorded "Tubular Bells"?
11. Name the writers who assumed the names "Acton, Currer and Ellis Bell".
12. "The Bells of St Mary's" is a musical film starring which two favourite film stars?
13. Quasimodo is a deaf bell ringer in what famous novel by which French author?
14. "Ring out, wild bells" is the start of a poem by which poet?
15. What stands 11 miles off the county of Angus on the east coast of Scotland?
16. "They went and told the sexton, and the sexton toll'd the bell"; lines from which poem and give the author.
17. Alexander Graham Bell is credited with inventing what everyday object?
18. From the end of BST in October, who provides the voice of the Speaking Clock? (It's only for 3 months!)
19. "No Mean City", the theme tune to which long-running detective drama is sung by whom?
20. Which stroke of Big Ben signifies the New Year, 1<sup>st</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>?

*If you're feeling competitive, return answers on a separate sheet with your name to Georgina by 5th January; a seasonal small prize for the winner!*



## ***Silverburn Study Group***

### **Paul's Letters to the Corinthian Church**

The group plans to meet for six weeks starting on Wednesday April 2nd at 8 pm.

These letters are full of themes which are as relevant today as they were then. Threats of schism, one-upmanship, pride in success, false rhetoric when scoring points is more important than reasoned argument; these are a few examples .

I look forward to seeing our existing members, and we could squeeze in a few more. Please let Tony Bramley or me know so that we can have a bit of an idea of how many to expect.

*Philip Crosfield*

## ***Thanks!***

Ishbel Proctor writes: We all had a lovely day at Richard and Fiona's wedding on 30 August and would like to thank everyone involved for helping to make it so special.

## ***World Day of Prayer Calendars £2***

These cover March 2009 to February 2010 - ie the World Day of Prayer year. Please let me know if you would like to order a calendar.

*Jean Hindle*

## ***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 and support, remembering in particular:

Those who have recently lost loved ones, particularly at this Christmas season when the loss can be particularly painful, including Frances' family, the Fraser family in their tragic loss, John Ford, and Rose and her family.

Pray for healing and support for June Virtue, Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman and Margaret Paton. Give thanks for the continued healing of Margaret McLennan.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel and for the people of Gaza. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters, remembering in particular those affected by extreme weather and 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 people of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, remembering especially the MU in St George's Church Baghdad and in Harare. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks. Pray for those who have been victims of terrorism, remembering especially the tragic events in Mumbai.

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, remembering especially Rev Charles Makonde and those working to combat the ravages of AIDS in Mombasa and other African countries.

*(The Prayer Request book is either to be found in the chapel or on the altar, waiting to be used. Please do make use of it by adding your concerns and prayers. The requests are prayed for on other days as well as on Sundays. Also let the clergy know the progress of the person held in prayer, The list is updated every two to three months. Thank you!)*

## ***Vestry Moments***

The last Vestry meeting was 13th November. This is a summary of matters discussed:

- Attendance and welcome
- Advent study course Wednesdays 3rd, 10th, 17th December, theme of Heaven, using Bible and songs of the Carter family
- Advent Quiet Day to be arranged
- Accounts for presentation to AGM
- Stained glass window repair in hand
- John Farrant will write about Frances for Outreach

- Collection for USPG from funeral approx £600
- Church AGM Sunday 7th Dec; Ruth Green has finished her term on Vestry; thanks were expressed for her invaluable contribution

Next meeting: **Tuesday** 16th December

*Georgina Phillips, Minutes Sec.*

## ***Collections (October)***

	£
Cash	186
Gift Aid Cash	40
Envelopes	906
Direct Giving	<u>1588</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>2720</b>

## ***Events coming soon...***

Sun 14 Dec	11.00am	Young Church Christmas presentation
Fri 19 Dec	7.30pm	Carols in the Town Hall
Sun 21 Dec	7.00pm	Service of Nine Lessons and Carols
Wed 24 Dec	6.30pm	Carols in the Precinct led by St James
	11.30pm	Christmas Eucharist
Christmas Day	11.00am	Family Eucharist for Christmas Day
Tuesday 6 Jan	6.00pm	Epiphany Dessert Party
Friday 6 Mar		World Day of Prayer (from Papua New Guinea) at Sacred Heart
Wednesdays	2 April onwards	Silverburn Study Group

**“Outreach” can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The February 2009 edition will be published on Sunday 1 February . Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, [caplaw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caplaw@hotmail.co.uk) , by Wed 21 January at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, [mike@hayfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@hayfamily.co.uk).**

***The Editors would like to wish all readers a very happy Christmas and a very successful 2009!***

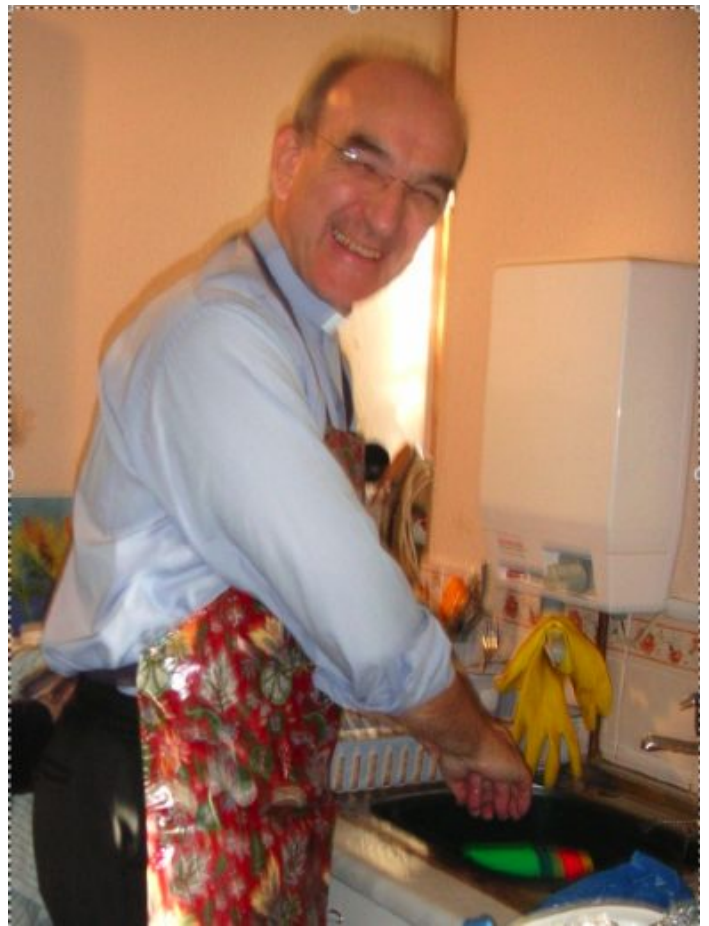
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## People at the Tearcraft sale!

Useful people,  
the clergy.... ->



Calculating the number of sweets mathematically  
... and getting it very wrong!





**Christmas images - *Must be the fourth Sunday of Advent?***

*Photos: Kathryn Topham*



**Coffee drinkers at St Mungo's!**