



# OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



**I do! Ally McCrae and Sooz Murray 31 October**

*Issue No 155 December/January 2010*



**The Church as seen by Isla (see “Isla’s Church”)**



**Boys Brigade Band, Saltpond, Ghana**

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## **Service Times**

Sundays: 11.00am Choral Communion; Evensong as announced

Wednesdays: 12.15pm Midweek Eucharist

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

8.00am "Earlybirds+" Prayergroup

Thursdays : 7.00pm Choir Practice

## **Rector's Letter**

Advent begins this Sunday with all its anticipation and waiting.

We all want to know what's coming our way.

To this end we keep our ear to the ground, we read the papers, we listen to office gossip. What's on its way may be good. It may be bad. The future is filled with the possibility of promise or judgement. Or a bit of both. It's that official looking envelope which comes through the post that we're half scared to open.

We're all for promise. But what about judgment? The last time we were caught short and had our performance or motivations criticized it hurt like hell. We'd pop into a side room before we entered into one of those conversations willingly – to find out that someone had a bone to pick with us, or that they needed to tell us something which required that we sat down first or had a witness present – that we'd been hurtful or destructive or that we just didn't get what the point of our job was or our marriage vows or our priorities.

"A word in your ear please?"

"Uh, no, maybe later...."

There is a place, though, where promises and judgement intersect. The promise of anything new threatens what's old and obsolete and quite comfortable. We get used to certain ways of life even if they're way below par and we stagnate - as my grandfather used to say: "It may be an ugly dog but it's my dog". And when the boss has said his worst and we've been apprised of our faults, what then? Well, sir, everybody knows where he stands and there are pieces to be picked up and the possibility of breathing in air which has finally been cleared.

Promise and threat sometimes begin to look like each other.

That's not really the choice we have. It's a choice between judgment and promise on one hand or staying exactly the same - with our secrets untold and our promise unfulfilled.

In the worst case scenario the future is filled with the same damned thing repeating itself endlessly.

And surely in a season of anticipation, anything would be better than that.

*Father Rob Warren*

## ***Penicuik for Africa (PfA)***

Our AGM at the beginning of November was well attended (18 present and nearly as many apologies) with St. James-ites providing only half of those present (but all the apologies!). The treasurer reported that we had £650 in our general (Children of Africa) account and £1465 in our Chitambo Midwifery School Appeal Fund. Sales of Traidcraft goods were down slightly at £1100 but the discount (10%) swells funds and sales help African producers, so please buy from us where you can and watch out for new lines and stocking fillers in your Christmas preparations! Two important decisions were made.

*Charitable status* The first was to seek charitable status in our own right rather than rely on the status of our two main supporting churches, St. James & North Kirk, while recognising our continued need for their support. Charitable status enhances our fund-raising capacity, particularly needed in the light of the second decision, to press ahead with a major project, the re-opening of Chitambo Midwifery School in Zambia at a cost of £200,000-300,000! If successful it will save lives while boosting the fragile Chitambo economy.

*Fund-raising for Chitambo* We have set ourselves a target of raising £26,000 in a year but will obviously need other organisations to help us find the rest. We are currently bidding for a grant of £14,000 to do a feasibility study of what is required to re-open the Midwifery School. Meantime we are scaling up our fund-raising, beginning with a **Christmas Card Appeal**, similar to the one which got our Ambulance Appeal off to such a good start. Martin Naylor's 'The Touch Agency' has generously gifted 1000 cards and we are asking £1 each for them. They carry a beautiful picture of a Chitambian mother with well-swaddled, newborn child, under 'garlands' of rolled mosquito nets: the picture was taken by Paul Vallis on the trip to present the ambulance. Cards can be obtained on Sundays from the Traidcraft stall, which will soon be selling pots of Hyacinths and Christmas Table Decorations as of yore. In mid-January (probably the afternoon of Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>), we will be holding a '**Pampered Chef**' **Cookery Show** in Howgate Village Hall and in the Spring, another **Sponsored Slim** will be hitting the headlines and waistlines: further details of the latter will appear in the February Outreach.

*Neville (01968 673819)*

## ***Vestry Moments***

This is a summary of matters discussed at the Vestry meetings of 27 October and 23 November 2009:

- Congregational Weekend St Drostan's provisionally booked 27/28 August 2010
- wording for Frances McLean 's Memorial Plaque confirmed; plaque to cost approx £154
- once updated, Book of Remembrance to be displayed in chapel; needs a case
- Alison and Gill had attended conference re children in the Church
- Rector: to Canada at beginning of January 2010; planning to transfer from Taught to Research Master's course requiring less time at courses; Advent Study course at St James & St Mungo's; new Chairman of Mission to Seafarers in Scotland
- church AGM: budget for presentation to Congregation, and nominations
- Fabric: Quinquennial Review proceeding on course; chancel handrail

- Church membership list: roll numbers down – possibly still around but not filled in membership card; need to contact old members
- status of Penicuik for Africa
- 2010 visit of priest from Ghana

Next meetings: Wednesday 20 January 2010 and Wednesday 10 February 2010 at 7.30pm  
*Georgina Phillips, Minutes Secretary*

## ***Alternative Christmas Card for World Vision***

Our Church Christmas Card will soon be up on the notice board in the hallway and ready for you to write your Christmas message on, if you would like to do this.

This year, the money raised from all the cards country-wide will go to help World Vision's work in southern Sudan.

There has been a tentative peace and a new government for 3 years but a huge humanitarian problem continues. World Vision will be building schools, providing health care and encouraging communities to move from crisis to long-term development hoping that this will provide an alternative to war.

You can find out more about this year's appeal at:

<http://www.worldvision.org.uk/christmas>

*Thank you! Ros*

## ***Deck the church with boughs of holly...***

We shall be decorating the church for Christmas on **Wednesday 23 December 2009 from 10am**. As always, we shall be delighted to welcome new faces alongside our regular faithfuls. Contributions of seasonal foliage will be gratefully received. Looking forward to seeing you there.

*Marion Mather*

## ***Operation Christmas Child***

Many thanks to everyone who helped with this. Approximately 25 shoeboxes have now been sent by the St James congregation.

## ***Silverburn Study Group***

Reluctantly, Philip Crosfield has decided that he will run no more study courses. We who have attended over the years have benefitted greatly from his learning and wisdom, and enjoyed the fellowship nurtured by Sue's hospitality. Heartfelt thanks from us all.

## ***A reminiscence...***

*...from Revd Stephen Goldsmith, who, with his family, belonged to St James' congregation and was a former non-stipendiary member of the clergy team.*

On reading of Mike Hay's retirement after so many years it occurs to me that we can only have had two regular choirmasters in well over fifty years at St. James; this must surely be some kind of a record! There was a brief temporary period between Mrs. Mac and Mike when Dr. Monelle took over the keyboard, but otherwise there was just Mrs. Mac of sacred memory. I and both our sons, Simon and Tony were choristers under her guidance, and should they ever miss a Sunday, you could rely on seeing Mr. Mac trundling round the corner that afternoon with Mrs. Mac to find out where they had been. She was great on 'Tablet' too. But one of the things that I remember best and cherish was her sensitive playing, especially at funerals. And then Mike took over, and I recall his first concert version of Joseph and the Technicolour Dreamcoat with a young Fraser Charlton as Joseph and Angus Palmer rejoicing in his Elvis impersonation as Pharaoh. Since then I have watched with admiration, tinged with envy, as the choir has gone from strength to strength; now it rests under the capable baton of David, and I am sure will continue to flourish for the next fifty years as it well deserves.

## ***Jean and Frank Lindsay...***

I received a 'phone call from Frank Lindsay, who asked to be remembered by folk at St James. He and Jean will not be sending Christmas cards this year, but wish all their friends at St James a very Happy Christmas and greetings for 2010.



Unfortunately, Jean has been diagnosed with clinical depression and is finding life very difficult at present. They would appreciate our prayers for them and their family. [Ed]

## ***Revd Canon John Farrant RIP***

Many readers will have already heard that our former Rector, John Farrant, died peacefully on 22 November 2009 in the St John & St Elizabeth's Hospice in London. It seems very fitting that his passing must have been during or close to the time when many of us were singing to God's praise in the 'Songs of Praise' service in his former church of St James. Our sympathy and prayers go to his family at this sad time; a full appreciation will be published in the February Edition of 'Outreach'. RIP"

*[If you wish to send condolences to the family, John's daughter Debbie can be contacted at Debbie Coupland, The Chimes, 1a Ranworth Avenue, Bragbury End, Stevenage, SG2 8SL; email [debbiecoupland@ntlworld.com](mailto:debbiecoupland@ntlworld.com) ]*

## ***Isla's Church***

Going to church last week made a big impression on Isla, aged 4 ½ . As her Mum was driving her past the public library in Leith this Sunday, Isla commented on going there the previous Monday with Daddy to get new books. Mum said that as it was Sunday the library was closed. Isla then noticed the barber's shop on the opposite side of the road and Mum said that was closed also. "Well", said Isla, "The Church isn't closed on Sunday because my Gran goes there to sing every Sunday! At Gran's Church the "Prime Minister" was funny and I smiled at him."

Isla drew this picture (*see inside front cover*) of her and Gran going to church and as she coloured in the picture of the church, she said, "It is going to look so good that everyone will want to go!"

Out of the mouths, etc.

*Isla's Gran aka Elizabeth Clark*

## ***Tearcraft/Created***

This is the 9th year that we have held a Coffee Morning and Sale in aid of Tearcraft and despite so called times of “credit crunch” you have pulled out all the stops and given generously again.

With the proceeds from coffees, teas and delicious home-baking plus a generous plant stall we are able to send off a cheque for £225.00 to Tearfund! This is just above the amount we sent last year.

With the sale of goods and copious orders that you gave me we have given the charity about £700 pounds worth of business, which is great. Well done St James and thank you for your generosity! We are helping Tearcraft to provide jobs and fair salaries for craft workers from some of the poorest countries.

So, thank you to all who donated, baked, served teas, or did any job that was asked of them. It was well worth it.

We may do something different next year, watch this space!

*Val McGavin and Mauricewood House group*

## ***Praising God Together!***

Thanks to everyone who took part in the service of hymns and readings at St James’ on Sunday 22 November in celebration of St Cecilia’s Day. The congregation and choir raised the roof singing a total of fourteen of our best-loved hymns and worship songs, accompanied with vigour and enthusiasm by the organ and band. A good variety of hymns were chosen, including “Guide me O thou great Jehovah”, “Be still for the presence of the Lord”, “How great thou art”, “Sing of the Lord’s goodness” and “Shine Jesus shine”. The hymns were interspersed with readings taken from Diana Hendry’s book “Twelve Lilts: Psalms and Responses” published by Mariscat Press (isbn 978-0946588343) .

Several people expressed an interest in finding out more about this book. To quote from the cover, “Twelve Lilts is Diana Hendry’s translations of some of the vigorous Scots versions of the Psalms by P. Hatley Waddell, published in 1871, which she discovered by chance in an Edinburgh bookshop, coupled with her personal responses to the Psalms.” It was a most moving and enjoyable evening – after such a good sing, the cups of tea and coffee in the hall afterwards were most welcome! *Alison Cole*

# December 2009

	6 Dec 2009	13 Dec	20 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec	27 Dec
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas 1 Day
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	tba	tba	Mike
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	Mike	David	Jean	tba	tba	David
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Margaret Coull Isabel Stenhouse	tba	Nigel Johnston Margaret Coull	Alan Sibley Des Frantom	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Young Church	Dicksons	Leavys	tba	Children	Barretts
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9</i>	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i>	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>	<i>1 Sam 2:18-20, 26</i>
	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Ian MacLennan	Children	Joyce Black
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9</i>	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i>	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>	<i>1 Sam 2:18-20, 26</i>
	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Elizabeth Clark	Robert Clerk	Georgina Phillips
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Luke 3:1-6</i>	<i>Luke 3:7-18</i>	<i>Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)</i>	<i>John 1:1-14</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>	<i>Luke 2:41-52</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Ruth Green	Geoff Mather	David McGavin	tba	tba	Sue Crosfield
<b>Pray for</b>	CWF	Early Birds Prayer Groups	Fabric Team	Families	Families	J-Tots
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Steven	Val	Martin/Alice	Val	Angela/Glynis	Val/Ruth
<b>Coffee</b>	Gillian Little Marion Mather	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black	-----	-----	Isabel Stenhouse Jean Wright
<b>Flowers</b>	-----ADVENT-----				Nan McGavin	
<b>Cleaning</b>	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse			Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse
<b>Welcomers</b>	Elizabeth Clark	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin 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 2010

	03 - Jan - 2010	10 - Jan - 2010	17 - Jan - 2010	24 - Jan - 2010	31 - Jan - 2010
	<b>Christmas 2</b>	<b>Epiphany 1</b>	<b>Epiphany 2</b>	<b>Epiphany 3</b>	<b>Epiphany 4 Matins</b>
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	David	Jennifer	Mike	David
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	Mike	Jean	David	Jean	Mike
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Isobel Stenhouse Catherine Pow	McGarvas	Des Frantom Tom Moffat	Richard Phillips Margaret Coull	Marchants
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Johnstons	Sibleys	Clerks	Dicksons	-----
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Jeremiah 31:7-14 or Sirach 24:1-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:1-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 62:1-5</i>	<i>Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10</i>	<i>Jeremiah 1:4-10</i>
	Margaret Coull	Richard Phillips	Mike Hay	Ian Fuge	Gillian Amos
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i>	<i>Acts 8:14-17</i>	<i>I Corinthians 12:1-11</i>	<i>I Corinthians 12:12-31a</i>	<i>I Corinthians 13:1-13</i>
	Sue Owen	Georgina Phillips	Robert Clerk	Brigitte Fuge	Jean Hindle
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>John 1: (1-9), 10-18</i>	<i>Luke 3:15-17, 21-22</i>	<i>John 2:1-11</i>	<i>Luke 4:14-21</i>	<i>Luke 4:21-30</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Andy Longmore	Mike Hay	Georgina Phillips	Richard Phillips	-----
<b>Pray for</b>	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	Young Church	Youth Group	-----
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Martin	Valerie/Alice	Angela/Steven	Martin/Valerie	-----
<b>Coffee</b>	Gillian Little Marion Mather	Marchants	Mrs Neish & Family	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan	Kathleen Cox Sue Crosfield
<b>Flowers</b>	----- tba -----				
<b>Cleaning</b>	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	Marian Hunter Ruth Frantom	Marian Hunter Ruth Frantom	?????????????
<b>Welcomers</b>	Andy Longmore	-----	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk	McGarvas	-----
<b>Care Van</b>			*		
<b>Pentland House</b>			*		

# February 2010

	07 - Feb - 2010	14 - Feb - 2010	21 - Feb - 2010	28 - Feb - 2010
	<b>Epiphany 5</b>	<b>7<sup>th</sup> before Easter</b>	<b>Lent 1</b>	<b>Lent 2</b>
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	David
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	David	Jean	Mike	Jean
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Andy Longmore Nigel Johnston	Isobel Stenhouse Catherine Pow	McGarvas
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Young Church	Leavys	Sibleys	Barretts
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Isaiah 6:1-8, (9-13)</i>	<i>Exodus 34:29-35</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 26:1-11</i>	<i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</i>
	Young Church	Valerie McGavin	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>I Corinthians 15:1-11</i>	<i>II Corinthians 3:12-4:2</i>	<i>Romans 10:8b-13</i>	<i>Philippians 3:17-4:1</i>
	Young Church	Ian MacLennan	Marion Mather	Andy Longmore
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Luke 5:1-11</i>	<i>Luke 9:28-36, (37-43)</i>	<i>Luke 4:1-13</i>	<i>Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark	Valerie McGavin	Geoff Mather
<b>Pray for</b>	Bible Study Groups	Choir	CWF	Early Bird Prayer Groups
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Alice	Valerie/Steven	Martin/ Angela	Valerie/Alice
<b>Coffee</b>	Hays Smiths	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse Jean Wright
<b>Flowers</b>	----- tba -----			
<b>Cleaning</b>	C & M Leavy	C & M Leavy	?????????	Mona Bennett Sue Owen
<b>Welcomers</b>	Andy Longmore Nigel Johnston	Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark
<b>Care Van</b>			*	
<b>Pentland House</b>				*

## ***Burns Supper!***

Yes, this is only December! However, we know there are often lots of events around Burns Night, and that you wouldn't want to miss the St James Burns Supper organised by the Youth Group. Make a note now: **Saturday 23 January 2010**. Details later from Adam Bullough.

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

*MU Scottish web address is: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk)  
or via St James web page link.*

### **Proposed Programme:**

Dec 2nd and 9th - St James/ St Leonard's Advent Carol Service - *dates to be confirmed.*

Dec 7 - Intercessions in the Cathedral followed by communion and lunch

### **2010**

Jan 13th - MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion Theme of the year

Jan 27th - MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion - ? Neville pp Jersey t.b.c.

## ***Church Women's Fellowship***

7 Dec - CWF Meal ?at Countryside tba

### **2010**

18 Jan - CWF Supper in church hall

Through the Delhi Brotherhood, CWF will be supporting a new 7 year old girl's education, since Poonah is now going to a government funded school.

## ***Church membership list***

So far, there has been a low response to the request to update St James membership records. Our list has not been revised systematically for many years, and is more than a mere list of names – it is an essential tool for keeping in touch with our members and will be used to send out this year's Christmas Services card, so make sure you

are not left out! We would appreciate an individual record for each member of St James, even if this is completed by another member of the family.

Please be reassured that this list will not be made available to anyone else; it will be stored on the computer and used by St James church to make contact about church activities. It will not be issued to the congregation.

Cards are available in the pews or at the back of the church. Please put completed cards into the box on the table. Do take some to give to anyone you know who might still wish to be a member of St James, even if they have not been able to attend for a while.

*Richard Phillips*

## **Choir News**

Advent and Christmas are traditionally busy times for Choirs and it seems that during November we clearly have had plenty of activities to get us into training. During November we had three Sunday evening services and been recorded and filmed (with hundreds of others) by the BBC for their Songs of Praise. The programme is due for transmission on 27th December.

We had an enjoyable visit to the RSCM workshop at St Peter's Peebles on 15th November. It's possible that we might look to host a similar type of event at St James that could include all of our musical talent.

Thank you to Alison for her thoughtful organisation of a great evening of Hymns and readings for St Cecilia tide. She (St Cecilia that is) met a grisly end but I feel that the depiction of her in the window on the North side of Church has been a source of encouragement to many in St James.

Our service of nine lesson and carols will be on Sunday 20th December at 7.00pm and I hope you will be able to attend that and the other services during Advent and Christmas. All the dates are shown in this Christmas edition of Outreach.

Having just heard of the sad news of John Farrant's death we remember with love and fondness his contribution to our lives at St James and St Mungo's.

Have a happy blessed Christmas

*David*

## ***Date for your diaries***

Looking ahead to next year's social events, we hope to have a Shrove Tuesday Party on 16 February 2010. Watch this space for further details.

## ***Thanks...***

Emma Dickson would like to thank everyone who sponsored her for the 5k race for life. I raised £280 with your support. I finished in just over 30 minutes; considering the damp, wet day there was a large turn out by young and old. Thank you! *Emma*

....and Ralph would like to say a big 'Thank You' to all who prayed for his recovery, sent cards and good wishes and especially to Neville for giving Ralph communion in hospital.

## ***An interesting book***

The author follows in the footsteps of John Moschos, a 6th C monk, on his journeys across the entire Eastern Byzantine world in 578AD as recorded in "The Spiritual Meadow" which is Moschos' account of that journey from Judea throughout the Middle East to Alexandria.

Starting from the Monastery of Iviron on Mount Athos, Greece, where the oldest surviving manuscript is housed, Dalrymple travels through Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Egypt, talking to ordinary Christians, Jews and Muslims as well as monks and clerical leaders, visiting many intriguing sites along the way.

**"From the Holy Mountain - A Journey in the Shadow of Byzantium"**, his acclaimed study of the demise of Christianity in its Middle Eastern homeland, was awarded the Scottish Arts Council Autumn Book Award for 1997; it was also shortlisted for the 1998 Thomas Cook Award, the



John Llewellyn Rhys Prize and the Duff Cooper Prize. William Dalrymple is a Scot and Cambridge graduate, he spent his final year studying Hiberno-Saxon art and realised that early medieval art of Britain was, almost certainly, developed from that of the monasteries in the east Mediterranean.

I think you would enjoy it.

*Nigel Johnston*

(pub. Flamingo 1997 (pbk) isbn 9780006547747; available at <http://www.williamdalrymple.uk.com/Pages/Books.html> )

## ***Penicuik & District Branch of the U3A***

The Autumn programme of Open Meetings was launched in September, when Professor Alan Murray presented a nostalgic and informative insight into a much loved children's character in his talk entitled 'Why Should an Old Professor Care About a Chap Called Rupert Bear?' Alan pointed out that Rupert may be read at three levels: the pictures, the famous rhyming couplets and the fuller text. The history of the various artists was fascinating, as were the insights into publishing history.

In November, Dr Paul Murray from Chemical Connections was the speaker at a meeting that promised to go with a bang or two. A double helping of Murray magic!

The U3A approach to learning is – learning for pleasure. There is no accreditation or validation and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained. If you are retired or semi retired and wish to join or know more about the Penicuik and District U3A please contact Membership Secretary Charlotte Kemp on 01968 675725 or by email [charkemp@talktalk.net](mailto:charkemp@talktalk.net). The open meetings are free to members but there is a charge of £2:00 for visitors. Look out for our poster on the church noticeboard.

Charlotte Kemp

*[The professor spoke of his favourite bear,*

*Then Paul's subject was "handle with care";*

*For U3A members, a treat most rare –*

*Those folk from St James reach out everywhere! - with apologies...Ed!]*

## ***Penicuik Churches Shopping Service***

The shopping service has now been in operation for over a year and is serving a small number of clients in Penicuik who are unable to go for

their own shopping. We also have a small band of willing helpers who carry out the shopping, without whom the service could not operate. If you know of anyone who has difficulty with shopping and you are unable to help, please contact Jim Cowper, tel 673538.

If you would like to help us with this service please also contact Jim Cowper, who is happy to give more details of how you can help.

## ***The Mad Scientist Page***

*(contributor Chrystal Ball aka NS)*

**What a week in the life of St. James could be like in Advent 2050.**

*Monday* After an early house eucharist, the 'Care Team' leave to visit the housebound, supplementing the local authority care services which have long since run short of cash. The Internationally Agreed 4-day week for developed countries, designed to preserve scarce global resources and reduce greenhouse gas emissions, has fortuitously left the congregation with more spare time.

*Tuesday* A 'Car Boot Shop' in the Precinct opens, as it does daily, to allow congregations and community groups to recycle their unwanted goods and subsidise the community care given by the churches.

*Wednesday - morning* 'Home Teams' assemble in 'Idyls for the Elderly', run by Area Council or Presbytery, where those no longer able to live independently and who cannot access one of the increasingly rare places in statutory residential homes receive care from professionally supervised volunteers.

- *evening* It's not all grind. Top of Vestry agenda is planning for the 25<sup>th</sup> fun-for-all 'Caboodle' in the church grounds. Previous events were a great success, bringing together parents and children from churches, nursery groups, Rainbows and Brownies for a variety of activities, none more popular than 'Drown The Rat' (participants purchase water (10 euro per litre), climb the stepladder and pour the lot down a drainpipe over the rector, suitably clad in Souwester, cape & wellies) and to mark jubilee year, the Bishop will be invited to 'drown'. At least the water is warm, heated by the battery of solar panels on the south-facing roof of the church and supplying surrounding houses with cheap hot water (none to spare on Caboodle Day though!)

*Thursday* A small group work in the church grounds under the direction of a shared gardener, funded by all the churches. Today's tasks are to tend the 'sensory garden' a blessing for the partially sighted round about, and add a slide to the soft-fall play area. Others are busy on the church allotments: they compare methods with our guests from Chitambo, here as part of the biennial twinning exchange, who suggest that we buy a goat.

*Friday - morning* it's time for the weekend 'Shopathon' a bulk-buy expedition to the hypermarket on the outskirts of Edinburgh where the individual requirements noted by the Care and Home teams can be purchased and delivered, along with a prayer.

- *evening* it's just as well the walls are thick! 'The Crypt' has become the place to be on a Friday night, an imaginative conversion of the cavernous space under the floor of the church. Tickets can only be obtained at the brief Taize-style worship upstairs: sometimes there are no scripture readings, sometimes no prayers and sometimes no hymns, just images- tonight it's the regrowth of the polar ice caps. What began as a 15-minute meditation has tripled in length by popular request, a price well worth paying.

*Saturday - evening* it's St James turn to do the ACTS Carolcade. Gone are the days when it needed a police escort but community wardens are in the background to maintain order, if required. We traditionally end each session with a 'Caroloke' in one of the pubs and that night we will end up in 'The Crown'.

*Sunday* Neighbours on the adjoining St James estate trickle through their requested access gate in the church wall for the Mass Carol. Attendance has gradually grown as the church became a community resource rather than a club for the chosen few. Preparations are announced for the Christmas Shelter- when 'The Crypt' will provide a temporary home for some of Edinburgh's homeless. One of last year's sheltered will act as warden. As worshippers leave, they see our motto on the door- 'Permanent change is here to stay'- and a few whisper 'Amen'.

## ***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. Pray for Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, John Ford, Irene Hair, Jim McGarva, Ruth Haig, Eric Marchant, Bob Horne (Georgina's cousin), Ian McKay in hospital, Mairi (Ian Fuge's sister) awaiting the results of a scan. Also for Kathryn Topham's aunt and uncle, Paddy and Geoff, in Hull who are still going through a difficult time. Pray for Jean Lindsay, for the bereaved family of Gordon Benning, and for Alan Murray's recovery after surgery; for support for the whole family.

Pray for the soul of John Farrant and for his family and all who mourn for him. Pray also for the soul of Ian Marshall and for Ann and the family and all who mourn for him. *[These are dear friends of the Fuges; Ian died very suddenly]*

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters. 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. 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.

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 for Africa.

*(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!)*

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

### **December**

Wed 9,16 Dec	Advent study series St James
Sun 6 Dec	(after morning service) St James AGM
Fri 18 Dec	7.00pm Tree decorating party
Sun 20 Dec	7.00pm 9 Lessons and Carols
Thu 24 Dec	11.30pm Midnight Christmas Eucharist
Christmas Day	11.00am Family Eucharist

### **January 2010**

Wed 6 Jan	6.30pm Epiphany Dessert Party - all ages
Sat 23 Jan	Burns Supper organised by the Youth Group
Wed 20 Jan	7.30pm Vestry

### **February 2010**

Wed 10 Feb	7.30pm Vestry
Tue 16 Feb	Shrove Tuesday Party - provisional date

### **August 2010**

27/28 August 2010 Congregational Weekend at St Drostan's (tbc)

**“Outreach” can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The February 2010 edition will be published on Sunday 7 February. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Georgina Phillips 661039, Merlewood, The Loan, West Linton, EH46 7HE, [phillg13@toucansurf.com](mailto:phillg13@toucansurf.com), by Wednesday 27 January at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, [mike@hayfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@hayfamily.co.uk).**

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**Aaron Alexander Proctor born 30th October - son for Alistair and Lesley, Brother for Annabelle, Grandson for Ian and Ishbel and Great-grandson for Elspeth Tennent.**



**Much needed Memory of Summer: St James on Parade in August**



**One from the past - how many can you recognise?**



**The happy couple - Phil Hay and Fiona Dixon married in Northumberland on 7 November**