



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Bishop's Visit Dec 2006

Magazine Issue 134, February 2007

Confirmation candidates December 3 2006, with Rector Rob and Bishop Brian



The Bishop postpones his lunch to “open” our newly-refurbished kitchen!

Photo: Jean Hindle

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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 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



In the Diocese where I was ordained, one of the more cantankerous archdeacons reserved the right to teach all new priests how to celebrate Communion. We'd already been priested - most of us had said our first Mass at some point already but he started from the opinion that we'd done it badly. And so we were trundled up-Island for a weekend of browbeating. Apart from a morning spent poring over the Canons of the Diocese of British Columbia, we had to learn the various **'manual acts'** - movements, gestures and hand positions - associated with the celebration of Holy Communion. One of these manual acts, of course, occurs at the **epiclesis** which appears, in our liturgy nowadays, as an element following the Eucharistic narrative (the story of what Jesus did and said when he took bread and wine at the last supper). The priest will place his hands over the elements with his thumbs interlocked and invoke the Holy Spirit over these gifts of bread and wine. I could have told the archdeacon that I knew all about that. I had already gotten quite a fright at that moment in the service at the Church of St John the Evangelist in Montreal during my training.

I was the subdeacon there for a while (looking like a scruffy young hippy who'd been mugged by angry sacristans and dressed up in a tunicle but that's another story) and it was my role to stand to one side of Father Slattery as he celebrated Mass, be prepared to remove the pall from atop the chalice at the appropriate moment, genuflect when he genuflected and to raise the edges of his chasuble during the Elevation. It was all new to me - the churches of my youth had been nothing like this and I wasn't yet convinced. That is, until we got to a point in the liturgy one Sunday morning where Father Slattery placed his hands with

interlocked thumbs over the open chalice - unlike the illustration (left) where there is a pall covering the chalice.



St John the Evangelist in Montreal was, at one time, sinking into the mud. Cracks had begun to appear in some of the masonry as a result of the shifting foundations and questions emerged as to whether the building would survive the slow sink into the ground. Then they built the Metro - Montreal's subway system - in 1967. The line ran right under St John the Evangelist and the structural work

managed to prop up the building to such a point that any further slippage was unlikely.

Father Slattery had just gotten to a particular point in the liturgy where he spread his hands over the elements on the altar when a train ran under the church. Things are more connected than we might think and the vibrations ran up from the train to the structure of the tunnel to the foundations of the church and to the altar and all that sat upon it. The clear mirror-like surface of the Communion wine rippled. I said to myself 'My God, it's true'.

Years later I am able to explain all this with recourse to the physics mentioned above. I do, however, still find myself filled with awe and expectation that God honours those particular moments in time when dumb things are presented to him with a reasonable hope that he will change and animate them.

And I will never forget at which particular point in the service that hope is expressed most clearly - almost defiantly - in words that expect an immediate answer.

Father Rob Warren

Vestry Business Reports

Full minutes of the meeting of 24th January 2007 will be displayed on the notice board following the next meeting of vestry. Our discussions at that meeting included:

- Matters arising from the meeting of 15 November 2006 including, the church ceilidh, potential summer visit to St James' by a theological student from the USA, Christmas events, rectory guttering repairs, Quota payments
- Matters arising from the AGM (26 November 2006) including the co-option of Geoff Mather as Fabric Team Leader and Alan Murray as Social Coordinator, co-option of a Youth Group member to attend vestry on an occasional basis, Evensong, creche
- Rector's report including progress of synodical discussions regarding joint charges, Lenten course, use of bells during the service
- Treasurer's report including analysis of the monthly statement of income and expenditure, church kitchen, estimated cost of roof repairs to the church hall, Christmas collections, OSCR report
- Follow-up discussion in response to the letter from Councillor David Fletcher published in the December 2006 edition of Outreach
- AOCB including starting a prayer rota scheme whereby church groups are prayed for as part of the intercessions (one or two groups per week), sound system, fund-raising concert by Herken on 28th April, Fellowship Lunch in aid of Penicuik for Africa on 4 March, thank-you letters
- DONM: Thursday 1 March and Thursday 19 April 2007 at 8.15pm.

Alison Cole

World Day of Prayer

“United under God’s Tent”

Friday 2 March 7.30pm at St James.



The World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee and the Christian women of Paraguay invite you to join in prayer and worship with people from all around the world. The service for 2007 was prepared by a group of Christian women from Paraguay, representing many different denominations. In the artwork produced by Maria Victoria Servin (left - see colour photo inside back cover), the

background colours represent the rich Paraguayan landscape. In the centre is the ñandutí, spider's web lace made exclusively by Paraguayan women, where different designs of nature are brought together to create unity in diversity. This is central to the worship for the 2007 theme. In addition there is another image which comes from the women of Santa Maria de Fe, who have organised a crafts cooperative. Art has become a way to remember hardships and abuse the community has suffered, to heal memories and restore the community. It is not hard to imagine that on the first Friday of March every year we form a global circle of prayer, where the dimensions extend without boundaries and limits. In 2007 we will encircle Paraguay and our own communities and countries. It is our hope that no one and no place will be left out. And we will pray that the hands in prayer will also be hands in partnership for the work of building of the Kingdom of God.

'Penicuik for Africa(PfA)'

Contributed by Neville Suttle

If the second year of PfA is teaching us anything it is to 'Think Big'. At our AGM in November, we set ourselves the modest target of matching what had been an apparently successful first year. After all, some £2500 had been raised and sent to three different places in Africa, Chitambo (Zambia), Mombasa (Kenya) and Umtata (E.Cape), and we were dependent on what seemed to be - in human terms - a very slender group of supporters: 'mustn't overstretch ourselves'. As Alan Naylor of North Kirk left the meeting, he dropped the idea that we ought to send Chitambo Hospital an ambulance to mark their centenary in 2008. We delivered cash and medical equipment direct to the hospital last year and noted that they desperately needed a new ambulance, their existing vehicle being completely defunct. 'Whooooaaah', said the chairman, 'this would mean a 10-fold increase in our fund-raising and take us into a different league- let's think carefully about it'

Chitambo Ambulance Appeal

The Naylor's produced some 'donate-an-ambulance-for-Christmas' cards at £10 each ('far too much' thought the Chairman) and we sold a surprising number in a short space of time outside our congregation ('musn't keep asking them for money'). While I was away for Christmas, an executive decision was made to set up a separate account for the

ambulance appeal. Enquiries in Zambia revealed that an adapted Toyota Landcruiser was proving successful in a neighbouring province and that the *basic* cost would be £18000 ('gulp!'). It seems unbelievable but ***we already have a staggering £13000 in our appeal fund!*** How come? Well sales of the cards and retiring collections allowed North Kirk to put the first £2500 into the bank. One of the cards came to the attention of a well-wisher in Peebles who has pledged £10,000. Secretary, Jo Vallis and I also sold a few cards among family and friends. Without breaking sweat, the target is clearly within reach! Where do we go from here?

Sponsored slim

You are invited to participate in a sponsored slim for the Chitambo Ambulance Appeal and begin a Six Week Spring Slim by weighing in North Kirk Hall on Saturday, 17th February at 10.30am. The 'weigh out' is in St James Church Hall on Saturday, March 31st. A parallel slim is being run for Edinburgh folk, centred on the 'Golden' shop, 105 High St. and weighing in at 5.30 pm on Valentine's Day- tell your friends! Within the local event, we hope to persuade teams of five from each congregation to see who can achieve the highest combined weight loss, based on ITV's Celebrity Fit Club. Two sets of mini-skirted, be-tinselled cheer leaders at the 'weigh in' at North Kirk would set things off nicely but multi-tasking (i.e. team membership & cheer-leader) is strictly forbidden. We plan to deliver our ambulance in time for the hospital's 100th birthday, in August 2008. When we do, it will represent one of the most effective pieces of inter-church collaboration seen in Penicuik.

Fellowship lunch

Proceeds from our fellowship lunch on Sunday, March 4th could go to the Chitambo Ambulance Appeal, to Umtata or Mombasa - you decide. We will be looking for soup-makers and donations on the notice-board in the near future so please sign up! Participants in the slim will no doubt be there in force, steeling each other to go without the customary full Scottish Sunday Lunch. We could have a 'half-way' progress check on weight loss and consider fielding substitutes!

Choir News



Many thanks to so many people for their hard work to provide the Christmas musical services and events: singers, organists, instrumentalists, conductors, mince pie makers, mulled wine and tea providers, etc, etc.

I thought it would be

worth putting on record all the things relating to Christmas that the choir have been involved in this time – it's a formidable list, and then I'll probably miss one or two. In chronological order (I think!): *Singing in the Precinct, singing at Drummond Grange, Nine lessons and Carols, "The Boy", carols at Midnight Mass, and "Christus Natus Est", plus umpteen rehearsals and the normal Advent services.* It represents an enormous amount of time and energy, and it never fails to amaze me how committed people are, at a time when the pressures to do other things and get other things done are immense. Thanks again, folks!

But of course, the Church Year rolls on; Lent and Passion approach, but before that we have a Candlemas Evensong on Sunday 4 February. Following discussion at the AGM, the intention is to have a small number of sung festal Evensongs in the course of the year with slightly more elaborate music. For this service, we hope to include a beautiful extended setting of the Magnificat by Herbert Sumsion, as well as Bruckner's well-known anthem "Locus Iste". There will also be lots of candles! There appears to be a considerable desire from the congregation for Evensong to continue – please help to demonstrate this desire by supporting the services!

On Passion Sunday, 25 March, we hope to combine again with other Penicuik choirs in a devotional service based on Stainer's "Crucifixion". This work, which we last performed some 10 years ago, I think was for

many years thought of as too Victorian, but has more recently been recognised as the masterpiece which I believe it to be. The service will probably be in St James, unless choir numbers make it more sensible to find another venue. Please come if you can – I'm sure you will find it helpful and memorable.

Now to think about Easter itself, and "Music for a Summer Evening" ...never a dull moment!

Mike Hay

Lent =Growth!

On 4 March at 6.30pm Philip is leading a Symposium of 4 short accounts of growth experiences. This will be followed followed by Compline. Please do come and support this!

Lenten events and opportunities here and round about - from the Rector

Lent will be upon us before we know it and is an important time in the life of a any Christian – *whether they know it or not*. We tend to trivialize Lenten observances as a matter of 'giving up chocolate' or 'organizing the glove compartment of the car'. In fact, the readings most often associated with Lent are those where the vain and self sufficient human being is spoken to about the weakness that he tries to hide and where the humble and broken (or merely realistic) are offered hope. Where do you fit in that description? There's more than one way to skin a cat. There's more than one way to observe a Holy Lent

We can learn alone. Many of us will require something which we can do on our own time either because we are busy on Wednesday evenings or because that's where we learn best. *So read a good book for Lent!*

The Archbishop of Canterbury's Official Lent book for 2007.

"Power & Passion"

Samuel Wells vividly paints the stories surrounding Jesus' cross and resurrection. We see the weakness of Pontius Pilate and Barabbas, and the compromised character of Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. We discover the



subtle power of Pilate's wife. And in Peter and Mary Magdalene we find the true power of resurrection, bringing forgiveness and ending the stranglehold of death, thus transforming all human passion. Through close readings of the gospel texts, Wells demonstrates the significance of these characters for faith and life today.

In this book, structured with one chapter for each week of Lent, Wells guides us from the deathly power that put Jesus on the cross to the new power brought by Jesus' resurrection. The book offers opportunities at the end of each chapter for prayer and discussion.

This book can be purchased at Wesley Owen or Cornerstone Bookstore in Edinburgh. It can also be ordered at www.amazon.co.uk
The cost is generally about £9.00



Come and hear a speaker.

Jean Vanier is coming to Edinburgh!

"Spirituality and the Civilisation of Love" - a single evening at Usher Hall. Jean Vanier will be speaking at the Usher Hall on Thursday March 1st from 7:00 pm until 9:30 pm (doors open at 6 pm). For further information on the evening and on how tickets can be booked please check out the following website:

http://vanieredinburgh2007.freewebspace.com/index_1.html

Tickets can be booked via the Usher Hall Box Office at 0131 228 1155

As well, Jean Vanier will be conducting a three day 'Retreat in the City' from Friday the 2nd of March until Sunday the 4th. This is a non-residential retreat with meals laid on and additional optional events each evening. More information can be had at the following website

<http://vanieredinburgh2007.freewebspace.com/about.html>

There you will find a link for a booking form. If you do not have internet access and would like help booking for this retreat please contact the Rector and we will arrange something.

"Jean Vanier, considered by many as one of the spiritual giants of our time, is also one of today's leading spiritual thinkers and writers – author of "The Broken Body", "Becoming Human" and "Befriending the Stranger" among many others. He is marked out by a personal holiness and the flowering of his commitment to people with disabilities in the

movements of L'Arche and Faith & Light, unique models of inclusive communities, underpinned by a profound spirituality and theology."

Come and hear the homeboy! Have some soup!

I'd like to add 'those who don't usually do Lent' to the group of people who normally attend our Wednesday night courses. We'd be glad to have you and you'd fit in just fine.

We will be gathering for a five week Lent course on Wednesday evenings beginning on the 28th of February. The title of the series this year is '**Decisions, Decisions**' and we will be discussing the ways in which we make our choices in good times and in bad. More about this on our website as we get closer to the date. As usual – a bible (any translation) and paper and pen would be helpful.

So there you have it. Three ways of keeping Lent. There's something of the herd animal in every Episcopalian - but they do like to make their own decisions. Give these opportunities some consideration this year.

Mission News

Contributed by Frances McLean

ZIMBABWE must continue in our prayers. The crisis has continued to deepen, making life for the ordinary citizen unbearable. The dramatic increase in the cost of basic commodities, the exodus of skilled labour, the closure of vital industries, an increase in crime and a strengthening of the parallel market. (I am not quite sure what this means, perhaps Graham could explain!). Corruption, particularly in high places, is bringing the economy to its knees, while inflation rate is 1,000 per cent. But it is not all bad news. Apart from the political landscape, for the first time in their history, the churches in Zimbabwe are working as one body to confront the countless problems bedevilling their country. They are speaking with one voice.

PRAY for all involved in HIV/AIDS work within the five Dioceses, for the health projects run by the Church. It is extremely difficult to obtain AIDS –combating anti-retroviral drugs.

GIVE THANKS FOR lay and ordination training in the country and for Bishop Gaul Theological College. For those recently ordained and for those in training

For the newly elected Bishop Elson Jakazi in Manicaland.

Father, Inspire your church in Zimbabwe to seek unity, which is your gift and will.

Enable her to continue the ministry of reconciliation and reveal you to the people.

Forgive her sins, which tear her apart. Give her wisdom and courage to overcome her fears, and empower her to be an effective witness in Zimbabwe.

FROM NAMIBIA

While we complain and grumble about our recent gales and floods, here is a story from Namibia, that vast, desert area on the western coast of Southern Africa, where rain may only fall after six or seven years of drought:

COLLECTING WATER FROM THE RIVER.

“Come on Thandi, hurry up,” I shout. “I’m going to fetch water. Are you coming or not?” Thandi is my best friend, and we go to fetch fresh water every morning and afternoon. It’s so much more fun going together. Some of the villages have wells and there’s been a lot of talk about putting a well here but nothing’s happened yet. Because there has been no rain for such a long time, the river has been dried up and we have to dig into the sandy banks to reach water. It takes ages and the water is brown and gritty.

It’s almost four miles to the river and it takes over an hour to get there. As Thandi and I walk along, we meet up with some of our friends. They are singing and chatting, but there is terrible news too. One of the girls from the next village was attacked last week by a crocodile when she was collecting water. We thought all crocodiles round here had been caught, but obviously not.

The walk back takes even longer, we carry the water in buckets on our head and it is very heavy. We try to walk carefully so we do not spill it – every drop counts. I’m going to ask my brothers if they can collect water later on. They take the oxen and collect water in barrels. It’s much quicker and with crocs around it’ll be safer too. The boys reckon us girls aren’t strong enough to use the oxen but I’d like to see my brothers carrying water on their heads like we do. (USPG Transmission, 06)



Marriage Encounter Weekends

Contributed by Jean & Ralph Hindle who were invited by their son, Paul & his wife Pat, to participate in a weekend at Carberry Tower in April 2004.

Edited extract from Autumn 2006 Encounter Magazine:

Are you.. .

- Committed to your partner?
- Open minded enough to believe your relationship can

grow

- Excited by the possibility of rediscovering the romance and intimacy of your relationship?

Then why not accept the gift of a Marriage Encounter weekend where you can . . .

- Enjoy time together free from external pressures.
- Develop a new way of communicating deeply with your partner.
- Discover the best plan for your marriage, and how your love can touch others.

Marriage Encounter weekends provide a safe environment in which couples learn how to enrich their relationships. A Marriage Encounter Weekend is an opportunity for married couples to enjoy quality time away from the distractions of jobs, children and interruptions. The aim is to create a warm atmosphere in which you can explore and share your feelings, hopes, joys, fears and disappointments while learning to improve communication and deepen your relationships. The focus of the weekend is on your own relationship and you do not have to share any personal details with others. A Marriage Encounter weekend is ideally for couples with good marriages who are open to the possibility of something more. The weekends are based on a Christian view of marriage, but would prove helpful for couples of any faith or none. Indeed, all are welcome.

However please note that Marriage Encounter is not an alternative for couples who are in need of counselling. The programme is a full one with little free time. A team of married couples, including a clergy couple, will present a series of talks, each focusing on a different aspect of married life. These talks will be challenging, as the team couples share honestly about their own experiences of marriage. At the end of each talk you will be given time to reflect individually on what you have

heard, before meeting privately with your partner to share your response. The aim is to provide a positive and thought provoking experience which will help your relationship grow, through helping you to communicate more effectively.

Apart from the registration fee of £20 per couple, the weekend is free! It is offered to you as a gift - the whole cost including accommodation and food is covered; there are no hidden extras. On the weekend the costs are explained, and you will be given the opportunity to make a donation to the future of Marriage Encounter. No couple should ever miss a weekend because they cannot afford it. Other couples have gladly given you your weekend. Why not accept their gift?

Forthcoming dates include: 27 Apr 07 - Carberry Tower, Musselburgh
There are other weekends taking place in England & Wales, but these are the nearest venues.

The first Marriage Encounter weekend was held over 30 years ago. Since then over 2.5 million couples have attended similar weekends in over 80 countries. As well as Marriage Encounter weekends, there are weekends for engaged couples. Clergy in the diocese may like to encourage couples to participate. It is excellent preparation for marriage. A magazine is published. There are also follow-up meetings for those who wish to maintain their contacts.

What couples said after their weekend: "We fell in love all over again. Since our weekend our lives have taken on new meaning." "After 7 years of marriage we were thought of as a successful couple in every way. We knew differently, but didn't even admit it to each other. Our facade was pretty effective that weekend defies description. It's nearly 10 years ago, but we can still remember driving away with a sense of joy and wonder at what had happened." "Marriage Encounter gave Shirley and I the opportunity to occasion the deepest, most intimate exchange of feelings we had known in 20 years it proved to be one of the highlights of my life. I just wish that everyone who trusts my opinion would now accept this advice: attend a Marriage Encounter weekend at the earliest opportunity."

Bookings to: Ray & Val Humby 39 Mayfield Ave Orpington Kent 01689 820466. *Website: <http://www.marriageencounter.freeserve.co.uk>*

February 2007 Rota

	4-Feb-2007	11-Feb-2007	18-Feb-2007	25-Feb-2007
	Epiphany 5	Epiphany 6	7th before Easter	Lent 1
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Y.Church	Andy Longmore/ Isobel Stenhouse	Alan Sibley/ Des Frantom	Fords
Bread and Wine	Y.Church	Sibleys	Johnstons	Fords
1st Reading	<i>Isaiah 6: 1-8 (9-13)</i>	<i>Jeremiah 17: 5-10</i>	<i>Exodus 34:29-35</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 26: 1-11</i>
	Y.Church	Joyce Black	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green
2nd Reading	<i>I Corinthians 15: 1-11</i>	<i>I Corinthians 15: 12-20</i>	<i>II Corinthians 3: 12-4: 2</i>	<i>Romans 10: 8b-13</i>
	Y.Church	Mgt Coull	Georgina Philips	Jo' Bullough
Gospel	<i>Luke 5: 1-11</i>	<i>Luke 6:17-26</i>	<i>Luke 9: 28-36 (37-43)</i>	<i>Luke 4: 1-13</i>
Prayers	Y.Church	Elizabeth Clark	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle
Server	Angela/ Sarah	Val/ Alice	Angela/ Steven	Val/ Emma
Coffee	Y.Church	Hays & Smiths	Mgt Vesco/ Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse /Jean Wright
Flowers	Marion McCluskey	Marion McCluskey	Marion McCluskey	Lent
Cleaning	Mgt Vesco/ Marion Hunter	Mgt Vesco/ Marion Hunter	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom
Welcomers	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	Moir Rendall/ Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

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

March 2007 Rota

	4-Mar-2007	11-Mar-2007	18-Mar-2007	25-Mar-2007
	Lent 2	Lent 3	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Lent 5
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	David	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Mgt Coull/ Elisabeth Clark	MacLennans	Andy Longmore/ Isabel Stenhouse
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Clerks	Fords	Leavys
1st Reading	<i>Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18</i>	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>	<i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i>
	Young Church	Geogina Phillips	John Ford	Ian Fuge
2nd Reading	<i>Phlippians 3:17 - 4:1</i>	<i>I Corinthians 10:1-13</i>	<i>II Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	<i>Phlippians 3:17-4:1</i>
	Young Church	Elisabeth Clark	Brigitte Fuge	Mike Hay
Gospel	<i>Luke 13:31-35 or Luke 9:28-36</i>	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	<i>John 12:1-8</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Angela Sibley	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Alice	Angela/Sara	Val/Charlotte
Coffee	Young Church	Gillian Little/ Marion McCluskey	Elizabeth Clark/ Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & Family
Flowers	Lent			
Cleaning	Mgt Leavy/ Ruth Green	Mgt Leavy/ Ruth Green	Mona Bennett/ Angela Sibley	Mona Bennett/ Angela Sibley
Welcomers	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk		Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House		*		

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>Revelation 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	-----
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 Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore
Care Van			*		
Pentland House			*		

St James News Page

News from the Darkes

Extracts from the Christmas Newsletter from Carole & Peter Darke which will be of interest to those who knew them when they lived across the road from Margaret Paton:

It contained news that Rachel had married Mark last September.

Peter is doing well after his heart surgery, keeps taking the pills and continues to do some consultancy work. At the beginning of 2006 they enjoyed a skiing holiday with Juliette, Andrew and Lucy Grace. Juliette is due to have a second baby in January. They enjoyed holidays to France, the Loire Valley (wine tasting & buying) and in November to Cape Town. Carole has had a cataract op. on her right eye and can read without glasses.

There is a possibility of being able to see Margaret next May.

Greetings

To: Our St James Friends

From: Wild, wet and windy West Wales*

Thank you all for the Christmas cards, messages and many letters. It is interesting to hear all your news and we enjoy keeping in touch. We hope to see you some time in April on our way up to Brora, meanwhile we wish you a happy and peaceful 2007.

Jean and Frank (Lindsay)

**It ain't much better here mate! (ed)*

Blame it on the Apple?

A cautionary tale: contributed by Tony Bramley

God planted a garden in Eden.

The trees there bore fruit that was good.

And He said to the first man (called Adam),

he could eat fruit from all in the wood.

'But there's one tree that you must beware of' said God.

'If you eat of its fruit, you will die!'

'It's that tree in the midst of the garden.'

'You can eat from the others – they're fine!'

But the woman (called Eve) went and found it.

And its fruit looked so rosy and red!
And a snake in the grass whispered to her,
'Did God say 'If you eat, you'll be dead?' (Surely not?)
And the serpent spoke soft to the woman –
convinced her God's warning was lies -
Said if she ate the fruit He'd forbidden,
she'd become just like God was - all wise.
When she saw it looked good and was tasty,
she gave some to Adam to eat.
In an instant, their eyes were wide open.
And they knew they were naked - **indeed!**
When God walked in the garden that evening,
he called to them, *'Why do you hide?'*
When they told him the truth of what happened,
then the Lord frowned, *'Well - now, you'll both die!*
For I told you 'Don't eat!' for a reason.
All the other trees grew in good soil.
But the fruit that you ate is quite different!
It grew on a chemical spoil!

That low-down deceiver misled you!' God said.
'There's plenty that he didn't tell.
The fruit may look good, but it's toxic!
It's a chemical soup straight from Hell!
It has thickeners, acidity agents;
food preservatives; sugars for bulk.
Foaming agents, salt, odour enhancers –
a whole heap of chemical junk!
It has gels to improve the fruit's texture;
moisture agents to hold in the wet.
And thickeners, and things to stop clumping:
other compounds to make the clumps set!
It has chemicals to prevent frothing;
curing agents, humectants and bleach.
Lots of synthetic dyestuffs and colours;
and flavourings (apple and peach)!
It has all kinds of flavour enhancers:
stabilisers and sweeteners galore!
Antioxidants, emulsifiers; glazing agents –
don't go yet! There's more!

For the chemicals packed in **that** tree's fruit
can harm the most good-tempered child!
Make them violent, sulky, aggressive;
make them quite disobedient and wild.
Tartrazine makes some kids hyperactive.
(Sunset Yellow and Patent Blue, too!).
Whilst aspartame and some other sweeteners
can affect unborn babes in the womb.
Glutamates may cause children brain damage.
And treat MSG with great care!
Pregnant women and babies, **don't touch it!**
(Everybody else – well, just beware!)
And caffeine is highly addictive.
Psychoactive - it shatters your nerves -
Linked to birth defects, heart disease, sleeplessness,
infertility, depression and worse.
And those colours that **DON'T** have E-numbers –
things like Brilliant Blue – they're a curse!
They can sensitize people to aspirin!
If you've asthma, they'll make it much worse!
Some E numbers are known to cause cancer,
whilst some rate a 'dangerous' grade.
Some are graded 'suspicious' or classed as 'unknown'.
Heaven knows just how many are 'safe'!
Some will bring about chronic dyspepsia.
Some raise blood pressure 'til it's sky-high.
Some cause eczema, raise your cholesterol.
Would you feed this foul junk to a child?'

Then Adam and Eve looked quite shattered and stunned.
'We're sorry; we hadn't a clue! '
Didn't know they affected behaviour!
Good Lord! From now on, we'll cut out **all** junk food!
No more fizzy drinks, crisps, sweets or chocolate.
Our kids never will eat them again!'
But somehow, somewhere, some way, someone forgot –
and gave some to their first-born son.....**Cain!**
He became quite aggressive and sulky.
Murdered Abel! The rest's history.

(It's perhaps just a thought....but suppose that the Fall was all down to ***bad food chemistry?!***)

Church Women's Fellowship (CWF)

CWF meets at 8 pm on Monday evenings, (19 Feb, 19 March and 16 April) usually at 64 Deanburn. New members welcome.



Members enjoy their supper together in mid-January

Joyce received the following letter of thanks recently from Father Solomon George, the treasurer of the Delhi Brotherhood Society:

“Warm greetings. Thank you very much indeed for your letter dated 21.11.06 enclosing two cheques of £20.00 each favouring Pooja

(P264) for her sponsorship and for the Christmas which will greatly excite her and make her happy. We are happy that you have liked our Annual Report sent to you earlier. Yes, Pooja has moved to High School. You will kindly notice one of her drawings in the calendar for 2007, already sent to you. You will be happy to note that we have started two new projects - a center to nurture and help the children affected by HIV/AIDS infected parents and the other, a center to help and educate deaf and dumb children of the poor parents.

Please continue to pray for us to work for His ministry.”

Mothers Union News

MU meet (usually 2nd & 4th Wed in month) at 12 noon for 12.30 start or at 2.30 pm. Venues as published in the Bulletins - either church Hall or 24 Mauricewood Park. We would welcome new members - Contact Joyce Black for details.

Wed 14 Feb MU Lunch followed by World Day of Prayer Bible Study

Wed 28 Feb Speaker Philip Crosfield
 Fri 2 Mar 7.30 pm at St James - World Day of Prayer
 Wed 7 Mar Lunch. Speaker: The Chaplain from the Barracks: John Macgregor, 2nd Battalion Royal Regiment of Scotland (formerly Royal Highland Fusiliers)
 20 to 22 Mar Provincial MU Retreat at Kinnoull - led by the Rt Rev Martin Shaw, Bishop of Argyll & The Isles.
 Sat 24 Mar Lady Day service in St Mary's Cathedral - to be seated by 10.45 for 11am - bring contributions of food to share for lunch, usual stalls, Cake and Candy for 'Overseas'
 25 April TBA

Rev Canon Michael Porteous, former Diocesan Chaplain of Edinburgh Diocese MU, has been appointed Honorary Canon of the Cathedral of the Isles, Cumbrae. It is a non-resident position so Michael & Kate will continue to live on The Isle of Skye.



Trish Heywood, who has served for 6 years as Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union, has been awarded the OBE in the Queen's new Year Honours List. Congratulations to Trish on a well deserved award!

Trish with Sue and Philip

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

Mad Scientist: 'The God Delusion'

Richard Dawkins Bantam Press £20 *Contributed by Neville Suttle*

In opening this new 'Mad Scientist' section, Tony stressed that science and religion were not inevitable adversaries, a view endorsed by the SEC*.

Richard Dawkins, an eminent Oxford biologist and specialist in animal behaviour, would have none of this. His book mounts a full frontal assault on religion in an attempt to rally troops around the atheist flag. He is not alone amongst scientists in thinking that all things concerning the material universe are knowable to and provable by man. His hope for the future, revealed in a recent 'Guardian' interview, was that nuclear physicists at CERN would 'discover the answer to everything'! He was referring to the search for an elusive particle (ironically called the 'God particle' by some scientists) needed to explain the creation of matter. I'm told by our expert astronomer, Andy, that while the said particle is likely to be found fairly soon, the expectation that it will explain the entire physical universe requires a monumental leap of faith!

'God' is viewed as a 'scientific hypothesis' and the key test for Dawkins is whether Darwin's 'Theory of Natural Selection' or 'Creationism' ('Intelligent Design') best explains the natural order. This ignores the position adopted by many Christians that Natural Selection is **the** most intelligent of designs! In places the arguments against 'God' seem staggeringly naïve: one goes like this - *since the process of evolution has systematically produced organisms of increasing complexity, the process must have begun with the simplest of creatures - it could not be started by a creature ('God') more complex than anything yet produced.* There cannot be an author. Pondering the apparent novelty of life on planet earth, Dawkins picks upon the six physical constants which allow life to be sustained. To him, there's no 'mystery' - life is possible so life is here - one doesn't have to postulate a 'Divine Knob Twiddler' who set the dials in just the right places. Life may well exist on a few of the billions of planets in the 'multiverse' (ours is not the only universe) where the constants are also compatible with life, although earthbound 'knob twiddlers' (astrophysicists) have yet to find it. However, discovery of life elsewhere will still not answer the question 'How?'.

For an Oxford don, Prof. Dawkins is surprisingly streetwise- he knows how to 'fight dirty'. All the obvious 'soft targets' get thumped: Televangelists are for exploiting a gullible public; homophobes like Pat Robertson for their intolerance; Lot for allowing his daughter to be 'gang-raped' ---. He scrapes the bottom of atheists' postbags to quote at length from 'hate-mail' received from 'Christians': it's lurid, abusive, foul stuff- but what does it prove? Fox-hunters and animal experimenters receive similar stuff, the product of sick-minds, but 'bin' it rather than write books about it.

Scientists should never select data, citing only those facts that support their case. Creationists are rightly taken to task for 'cherry-picking' the statements of Albert Einstein to make it appear that he was a believer but at least they picked good fruit. In trying to show that religion is a thoroughly bad idea, Dawkins systematically picks bad fruit off the tree of religion (in fact he sees no good fruit!). 'Think of a world without religion --- no 'Troubles' (N. Ireland)---a peaceful M. East---no crusades---'. OK - but shouldn't that allow us to think of a world without science (- no nerve gas- no Hiroshima - no global warming---) and conclude that science is a bad idea too?!

Dawkins takes pre-emptive strikes at would-be critics- *don't tar my God-view with that outdated 'old man in the sky' picture of God* he warns. Yet time and again his quotes convey just such an image - who's view is this? God as 'ground of our being', found by the 'journey inward' would appear to be news to him. Nevertheless, Professor Dawkins has some salutary things to say when applying his vast knowledge of animal behaviour, psychology and inheritance to the evolution of religions. 'God' has been well-and-truly tarred with the human brush and all religions are, to some degree and sometimes exclusively, human constructs. It ill behoves religions, denominations or sects to pick fights with one another, claiming the spiritual high ground, and providing spectator sport for atheists. As Christians we continue to seek the truths and insights held within our scriptural and traditional heritage whilst being informed and enlightened by the exciting discoveries of this scientific age.

* *'Towards a theology of Science' Grosvenor Essay No. 1 The Doctrine Committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church*

Young "Consumer Awareness"!

Contributed by Mike Hay

While putting my four-year-old daughter to bed one evening, I read her the story of the Prodigal Son. We discussed how the young son had taken his inheritance and left home, living it up until he had nothing left. Finally, when he couldn't even eat as well as pigs, he went home to his father, who welcomed him. When we finished the story, I asked my daughter what she had learned. After thinking a moment, she quipped, "Never leave home without your credit card!" —*Jolene Horn, Atascadero, CA. Today's Christian Woman, "Heart to Heart.*

Out of the mouth of babes...

Contributed by Pat Smith

A little boy was overheard praying:

"Lord, if you can't make me a better boy, don't worry about it.
I'm having a real good time like I am."

~~~~~  
After the christening of his baby brother in church,  
Jason sobbed all the way home in the back seat of the car.  
His father asked him three times what was wrong.

Finally, the boy replied,  
"That preacher said he wanted us brought up in a Christian home,  
and I wanted to stay with you guys."

~~~~~  
A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3.
The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake.
Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say,
'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'
Kevin turned to his younger brother and said,
"Ryan, you be Jesus!"

Financial Matters

Giving

Giving is an integral and important part of Christian life, our way of acknowledging God's gifts to us and a means by which we can further his work on earth. At St James we have four principal ways of regular giving – cash in the plate, weekly envelopes, white gift aid envelopes and direct giving via standing order from individual's bank accounts. Of these, direct giving is by far the easiest for both giver (hence sometimes referred to as painless extraction) and treasurer, inasmuch as it provides a guaranteed level of income so is of particular help in financial planning. Despite this it is recognised that some people are discouraged from going down this route because they feel awkward or embarrassed about passing the plate without contributing. As a result, we now provide gift 'tokens' (I'm sure there must be a proper ecclesiastical term for these) which can be collected from the back of the church and placed in the plate.

We hope that this will encourage more people to contribute via direct giving and I should be happy to provide you with the necessary form to set up a standing order. Alternately if you are placing cash in the plate and are a UK tax payer please use the white envelope remembering to add your details (otherwise we can't reclaim the tax).

Collections

	November	December
Cash	212	376
Gift Aid Cash	77	160
Envelopes	749	831
Direct Giving	<u>1295</u>	<u>1295</u>
Total	2333	2662

Special Collections

Erskine (Caring for ex-Service men and women) 160

Bethany Trust 203

Graham Smith

Stop Press: The "World Vision" Christmas Card raised £218, + £30 raised by "Hay's Apples"! Many thanks! Ros

Births

2006 seems to have been a particularly productive year for our young families (can we also attribute this to global warming?) with three babies arriving in December and a further one in January as follows:

Finlay James Anderson, 20 January, 9lb 7oz. Findlay's parents Richard and Katie were married at St James in 2005; he is both David and Linda Macdonald's and Donald and Margaret Anderson's first grandchild.

Robert William Marwick, 24 December, 7lb 10oz. A second son for David and Theresa and grandson for Neville and Tilley.

Isla Charlotte Maclean McClintock, 6 December, 7lb 8oz. A first for parents Lorna and Mark and for grandparents Charlotte and Charles.

Cameron, Graham Proctor, 21 December, 6lb 5oz. Cameron is Richard and Fiona's first child and is of course Ishbel's grandson and Elspeth's great-grandson!

Congratulations to all the new arrivals and their extended families.

(See photos inside back cover)

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:

Arthur White, Joy Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Mae Mann and Sarah (aged 8 with Crohn's disease). Margaret Paton, a former member of St James, now in Australia, who is recovering from a stroke.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel. For those still suffering as a result of natural disasters such as the earthquake in Indonesia, and as a result of previous, almost forgotten, disasters such as the tsunami. Pray for the release of all being held captive, and for the work of Amnesty International.

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

For 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 church in Ghana, and in particular the educational programmes in the Diocese of Cape Coast. For the work of the churches and the people in Ethiopia - there are many areas of severe poverty, due to drought, and the country is supporting hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and other refugees.

Events coming soon...

- Sat 17 Feb 7.30pm Pot Luck Supper and Social Evening in the Church Hall
- Wed 21 Feb 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Eucharist
- Wed 28 Feb (for 5 weeks) 7.30pm Lenten Study "Decisions, Decisions" (7.00pm Soup).
- Thu 1 Mar 7.00pm "Spirituality and the Civilisation of Love' Jean Vanier will be speaking at the Usher Hall
- Fri 2 Mar 7.30pm World Day of Prayer. St James' is hosting this service entitled "United under God's tent" using liturgy prepared by women in Paraguay.
- Sun 4 March 12.30pm "Penicuik for Africa" Fellowship Lunch
6.30pm LENT =GROWTH: A Symposium of 4 short accounts of growth experiences followed by Compline
- Sat 24 Mar 11.00am MU Lady Day service in St Mary's Cathedral
- Sun 25 Mar 7.00pm Passion Sunday Service to include "The Crucifixion" by John Stainer (*venue to be confirmed*)
- Sat 28 April 7.30pm Herken Fund-raising Concert

Outreach Subscriptions

Outreach subscriptions, still only £5, are now due. Please use the enclosed envelope indicating if you require more than one copy.

The next publication of "Outreach" will be on Sunday 1 April. Information about events, and contributions should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012 (caplaw@hotmail.co.uk) by Wednesday 21 March 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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New Arrivals!

Isla McClintock



Cameron Proctor



Finlay Anderson



Robert Marwick



World Day of Prayer: Art from Paraguay!

