



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



“When icicles hang by the wall....”

Issue No 156 February 2010



An organist's return from St Mungo's!



Cold - but isn't it beautiful! (*Psalm 8 vv3,4*)

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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

Padre's Letter

(Rob asked Stephen to contribute this month's letter - Ed)

*'A cold coming we had of it,
Just the worst time of the year
For a journey, and such a journey:
The ways deep and the weather sharp,
The very dead of winter.'*

The opening lines of T S Eliot's *The Journey of the Magi* might conjure up all sorts of memories of hard journeys that many of us have had to make over the past months during our epic snowy winter. Or for those poor souls who have had to endure yet another telling by me of my epic journeys of the past few weeks between Penicuik, Colchester and Cardiff, they might bring the full horror of my stories back!

As we head into Lent, the hope is that the memories of snow recede as the promise of Spring beckons. When I was a schoolboy we believed that Lent came from the Latin *lente* meaning "slowly", because time did seem to drag. The reality is that the word Lent comes from the old English (or even old Scottish) word to lengthen, because during Lent the days get longer as Spring takes hold.

Whatever the weather brings us this Lent we will all still be on a journey. In the past few months we have journeyed with Jesus from Bethlehem to the Temple in Jerusalem, to the River Jordan, and to Nazareth as we have followed the Baby in the Manger become a man and start his ministry. Now we go way back in time and follow the people of Israel as they travel on their winding quest to become God's people. Unlike my travel stories, this is stirring stuff, and Sunday by Sunday we will be able to move a little further on with their journey and ours.

As well as Sunday worship there are lots of other things to help us on our journey through Lent. The old idea of giving something up has merit, as long as it helps others. Giving up chocolate and saving the money for a really big Easter Egg doesn't really fit the bill! Maybe it's better to do something positive; join a Lent Group, read the Bible more, pray more, come to a mid-week Service, do something to help others. The truth is that it doesn't really matter what we do as long as we do something.

Being on a journey is more than just getting to your destination. Travelling, as they say, broadens the mind; travelling does change us. The Magi found the baby Jesus at the end of their journey, and at the end of Lent we will meet with our Saviour on the Cross before the joy of Easter Day washes away our sorrow. Lent, Holy Week and Easter: a roller-coaster of a journey, a journey that will change us for the better. Enjoy! And if I start telling you about yet another long Army related journey.... well I hope you'll smile and let me carry on. Offer it up for Lent. *Padre Stephen McCaulay*

Penicuik for Africa (PfA)

IHLFS Grant Application By the time you read this, we will have heard whether or not our bid for government funding for a feasibility study on re-opening a much-needed Midwifery School in Chitambo, Zambia has been successful. You will recall that a 'mothballed' school, unused for over 15 years, lies attached to Chitambo Hospital. Such rural hospitals desperately need more midwives to dispatch to their field clinics, where they can save the lives of mothers and newborn babies, and also supply necessary nutritional supplements and drugs for ongoing health protection. We push on with our fund-raising in the hope that a foundation will be laid with 'external' help!

'Pampered Chef' Cookery Show The event in Howgate Village Hall last month raised £190 for the School Appeal, despite the bad weather and poor turn-out, taking the fund past the £2500 mark. We will renew our collaboration with 'Pampered Chef' for a similar 'do' in Napier University and may try one in St James when the weather is warmer.

Sponsored Slim We now turn our minds to this next event and hope to incorporate a '**Chitambo Fit Club' Competition**, modelled on the ITV hit programme Celebrity Fit Club. We are inviting teams of four from prominent Penicuik 'institutions', including pubs, supermarkets and churches to see who can achieve the greatest combined weight loss in six weeks **between February and the end of March**: a prize of £40 is there to be taken. I need three (preferably heavier!) people to join me on the St James team. Teams will be ceremonially 'weighed in' and 'out' on 'home-ground' at a convenient time. Individual slimmers are also invited to take part, weighing in at North Kirk Hall on Saturday, February 13 at 11am and 'out' 6 weeks later on home ground or at St James Church Hall on Saturday, March 27. Appropriately

branded 'T-shirts' will be awarded to individuals who lose the most weight. Get your sponsorship forms now!

Fellowship lunch Advance notice is given of our annual fund-raising lunch which is scheduled for **Palm Sunday, March 28**. Pleas for help will be issued soon!

Easter Cards We have acquired some attractive Easter Cards from a bookshop that was closing down: these will soon be on sale on our stall at the very reasonable price of 50p. *Neville*

Ruth Green writes....

As part of my training for ordination I will be on placement for a couple of months. This will be at St Peter's, Lutton Place, spending time with the congregation there and shadowing the Rector, Fred Tomlinson. So I won't be at St James for Lent and Easter, and will miss you all!

Ruth (...and we'll miss you, Ruth! All of us wish you every blessing in your study and training - Ed)

Alternative Christmas Card for World Vision

Thank you for all the lovely messages and your very generous gifts for the Christmas Card. We have raised £205 for the work of World Vision in Sudan. Thank you again. *Ros*

Vestry Moments

This is a summary of matters discussed at the Vestry meeting of 20 January 2010:

- Welcomed new Vestry member Ishbel Proctor
- Treasurer (Graham Smith) and Secretary (Nigel Johnston) appointed unopposed; Minutes Secretary (Georgina Phillips) co-opted
- David McGavin will write an obituary for John Farrant to include memories from the congregation
- Funeral register updated and consideration being given to a display case for the Book of Remembrance
- Fabric: St Margaret window has been repaired; Quinquennial Review inspection proceeding as weather permits; Canon Law 35 requires submission of form and plans re Chancel handrail

- Lent Study course will be held (*see below for details*); Holy Week services – details to be confirmed
- Rector will be away on Retreat 8-10 February 2010
- Treasurer: envelopes and direct giving below budget, but fundraising going well; donation to Haiti Appeal

Next meetings: Wednesday 10 February and Wednesday 14 April at 7.30pm *Georgina Phillips, Minutes Secretary*

Lent Course

Advance notice that this will take place over three Wednesday nights at 7pm: 24 February, 3 March and 10 March 2010. Final details of the content of the course will be announced in church.

John and Marjory Farrant

It has been suggested that past and present members of the congregation might like to record their memories of John and Marjory Farrant's ministry at St James in a memorial booklet that could be published alongside Outreach. If you have any contribution that you would like included please contact me. As Georgina mentioned on Sunday any contribution can be handwritten and need not be typed or e-mailed.

David McGavin

Jubilee Scotland

In response to a request from a member of the Congregation, it was agreed to include Jubilee Scotland in the weekly prayer focus in the rotas. If you wish to find out about this campaign to end global debt slavery, see <http://www.jubileescotland.org.uk/>

Writers' alert..

There is still time to enter the Pentlands Writers Group short story competition, open to all writers. To celebrate our tenth anniversary, the theme is a story, not exceeding 1,500 words, inspired by the word 'ten'. Closing date is 28 February 2010; full details are to be found via the PWG website: <http://www.west-linton.org.uk/content/pentlands-writers-group> or ask me for further information. *Georgina Phillips*

Never despise the power of the little!

(From the Gideon News Winter 2009, submitted by Gillian Little)

Duncan Harvey, Lanarkshire North Branch of the Gideon Society met Pastor Trevor Ramsey while visiting church leaders in Northern Ireland, and heard how he found Scripture starting to answer his teenage questions:

"When I was just 15 we had a visit from The Gideons to my grammar school. They came into our class and presented us all with small New Testaments with the Psalms included. The next day our teacher made us all sit down and write to The Gideons to thank them for their kind gift. We all had to sound really grateful whether we were or not! Mine lay in a drawer at home unused until I was 17 and in my final year at school. Through a series of circumstances, I started to think about spiritual things for the first time in my life and my mind went to the New Testament in my drawer. I looked up the daily readings and for several months I was drawn back, time after time, to read the portion for each day. I would have to stop and get the book out and start to read even in the middle of a TV programme.

I was searching for answers to life's most pressing questions. I was talking to lots of people and seemingly getting more and more confused. But the New Testament spoke with clarity and certainty to my young, seeking mind. On Sundays, I used to go for long walks to do a lot of thinking away from distractions. I would often stand across the road from a local church and watch the people going in and out and wonder what it was that drew them there. I was especially fascinated by the numbers of young people about the same age as myself. What was it they saw in Christianity? Eventually, I sought out my cousin, whom I had heard through the family grapevine had recently become "good living", and he invited me to that church with him. There I heard the message of the gospel clearly for the first time and I attended several weeks in a row, getting a greater understanding of this life-changing message.

Then, in my daily readings I came to John 14:6 and the words seemed to stand up on the page and hit me between the eyes: Jesus answered, 'I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through me.' I knew I had been looking for those three things - a Way to live, Truth in a confused world and especially Life - real life. And here in front of me were the claims of Jesus Christ that He was all

three! Shortly afterwards, following an evening service in church, I bowed my head in the back seat of a little mini car at the side of the road and repented of my sin and came to Christ. The Lord eventually gave me Sheela as a wonderful wife, took us to Bible College and into Christian ministry. We had three children of our own and adopted another son in 2003. In late 2007 after a struggle with cancer, the Lord saw fit to take Sheela to glory where she beholds with her own eyes the Lamb in Immanuel's land.

I thank God for the faithful witness of the Gideons. Never despise the power of the little!"

Shakespeare had cold winters too....

When icicles hang by the wall
And Dick the shepherd blows his nail,
And Tom bears logs into the hall,
And milk comes frozen home in pail;
When blood is nipt, and ways be foul,
Then nightly sings the staring owl
Tu-whoo! Tu-whit! tu-whoo! A merry note!
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot.

When all around the wind doth blow,
And coughing drowns the parson's saw,
And birds sit brooding in the snow,
And Marian's nose looks red and raw;
When roasted crabs hiss in the bowl—
Then nightly sings the staring owl
Tu-whoo! Tu-whit! tu-whoo! A merry note!
While greasy Joan doth keel the pot. (*Love's Labours Lost, Act V. Sc. II*)

World Day of Prayer Service 2010

On Friday, March 5, Christian women of Cameroon, who wrote the service, invite men, women and young people from around the world to share with them in the World Day of Prayer Service. This will begin as the sun rises in the Tonga Islands and will continue around the world over the next thirty-six hours, until the sun sets over Alaska. People from the Christian communities in over 180 countries have the opportunity to worship and pray on the common theme "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God".

In Scotland, services are held in locations as diverse as churches, universities and schools, Sunday Schools, Youth groups, hospitals and eventide homes, hostels for the homeless, prisons and shopping centres.

Cameroon is on the west coast of south Africa, just north of the equator. It is divided into many geographical regions with the coastal plain in the south. Cameroon is rich in natural resources, is described as "Africa in miniature" and offers a striking variety of landscapes. There is an astonishing cultural wealth, with more than 240 ethnic groups each with its own specific culture. It is well known for its styles of music and is therefore well placed to take up the theme: "Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God".

The women of Cameroon encourage us to come with great enthusiasm; to bring choirs and people to play instruments; to make music in praise and adoration of God. They remind us that with every breath we take we renew the gift of life and for this we praise God. On March 5, 2010 we will join with people all over the earth and with all creation. Together we will fulfil the call of Psalm 150: "Let everything that has breath praise God." *The Penicuik service will be at the South Church at 7.30pm on Friday 5 March.*

Penicuik Churches Shopping Service

A reminder that 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.

Rotas

February 2010

	07 - Feb- 2010	14 - Feb - 2010	21 - Feb - 2010	28- Feb - 2010
	Epiphany 6	7th before Easter	Lent 1	Lent 2
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	David
St Mungo's Organists	David	Jean	Mike	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Andy Longmore Nigel Johnston	Isobel Stenhouse Catherine Pow	McGarvas
Bread and wine	Young Church	Leavys	Sibleys	Barretts
1st reading	<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
2nd reading	<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
Gospel	<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</i> <i>or</i> <i>Luke 9:28-36</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark	Valerie McGavin	Geoff Mather
Pray for	Bible Study Groups	Choir	CWF	Early Bird Prayer Groups
Server	Angela/Alice	Valerie/Steven	Martin/ Angela	Valerie/Alice
Coffee	Hays Smiths	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse Jean Wright
Flowers	-----Marian Hunter----- LENT-----			
Cleaning	C & M Leavy	C & M Leavy	??????????	Mona Bennett Sue Owen
Welcomers	Andy Longmore Nigel Johnston	Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				*

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

March 2010

	07 – March - 2010	14 - March - 2010	21 - March - 2010	28 - March - 2010
	Lent 3	Mothering Sunday	Passion Sunday	Palm Sunday
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Jennifer	Mike
St Mungo's Organists	Mike	Jean	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Des Frantom Elizabeth Clark	Richard Phillips Tom Moffat	Margaret Coull Catherine Pow
Bread and wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Leavys
1st reading	<i>Isaiah 55:1-9</i>	<i>Joshua 5:9-12</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:16-21</i>	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>
	Young Church	Gillian Little	Fay Clerk	Margaret Coull
2nd reading	<i>1 Corinthians 10:1-13</i>	<i>2 Corinthians 5:16-21</i>	<i>Philippians 3:4b-14</i>	<i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>
	Young Church	Joyce Black	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark
Gospel	<i>Luke 13:1-9</i>	<i>Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32</i>	<i>John 12:1-8</i>	<i>Luke 22:14-23:56 <u>or</u> Luke 23:1-49</i>
Prayers	David McGavin	Susan Crosfield	Andy Longmore	Mike Hay
Pray for	Fabric Team	J-Tots	Jubilee Scotland	Mauricewood House Group
Server	Angela/Stephen	Val/Alice	Martin/Angela	Val/Stephen
Coffee	Gillian Little Marion Mather	Mrs Neish & Family	Elizabeth Clark Robert Clerk	Frantoms
Flowers	----- LENT -----			
Cleaning	Clerks	Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield
Welcomers	Andy Longmore Nigel Johnston	McGarvas	Nigel Johnston	Robert Clerk Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

April 2010

	04 - Apr - 2010	11 - Apr - 2010	18 - Apr - 2010	25- Apr - 2010
	Easter Day	Low Sunday	Easter 3	Easter 4
11.00am Organist	David	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organists	Jean	David	David	Jean
Sidesmen	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	Marchants	Isobel Stenhouse Des Frantom	McGarvas
Bread and wine	Clerks	Barretts	Hindles	Sibleys
1st reading	<i>Acts 10:34-43</i> <i>or</i> <i>Isaiah 65:17-25</i>	<i>Acts 5:27-32</i>	<i>Acts 9:1-6,</i> <i>(7-20)</i>	<i>Acts 9:36-43</i>
	Robert Clerk	Richard Phillips	Jean Hindle	Gill Amos
2nd reading	<i>1 Corinthians 15:19-26</i> <i>or</i> <i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>Revelation 1:4-8</i>	<i>Revelation 5:11-14</i>	<i>Revelation 7:9-17</i>
	Brigitte Fuge	Ian Fuge	Val McGavin	Marion Mather
Gospel	<i>John 20:1-18</i> <i>or</i> <i>Luke 24:1-12</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>	<i>John 21:1-19</i>	<i>John 10:22-30</i>
Prayers	Georgina Phillips	Alan Murray	Elizabeth Clark	David McGavin
Pray for	Clergy Team	Vestry	MU	Young Church Leaders
Server	Val/Martin	Angela/--	Val/Alice	Angela/Stephen
Coffee	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan	Katherine Cox Sue Crosfield	Hays Smiths	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black
Flowers	----- Georgina Phillips -----			
Cleaning	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	-----	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom
Welcomers	McGarvas	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	Elizabeth Clark	Robert Clerk Andy Longmore
Care Van			*	
Pentland House		*		

Mothers' Union News

MU Scottish web address is: www.muscotland.org.uk
or via St James web page link.

Branch:

- Feb 10 MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion - Speaker Philip Crosfield
- Feb 21 Fellowship Lunch in aid of MU work in Sri Lanka among displaced persons camps
- Feb 24 MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion, followed by World Day of Prayer Bible Study
- Mar 5 7.30pm World Day of Prayer at the South Church
- Mar 10 MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion ? Stephen McCaulay
- Mar 16-18 Provincial MU Retreat at Kinnoull £85
- Mar 27 Lady Day Service in St Mary's Cathedral

Diocese:

The new Diocesan President is Angela Sibley, and the new Diocesan Secretary is Catherine Pow. Sue Crosfield has taken over MU Enterprises (Publications etc.) from Catherine Pow. *[Congratulations to Angela and Catherine - Ed]*

Province:

Sat 13 Feb 11.00am St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

Come and join us for 'A New Beginning' Eucharist service when Hilary Moran will be commissioned as Mothers' Union Provincial President in Scotland by the Primus, The Most Rev David Chillingworth.

General Meeting: Thu 24 Jun 10.30am - 4pm in the Guild Hall, Preston. Tickets: £7.50 plus an additional postage and handling fee per order. There will be approximately 1800 tickets on sale. Order through Catherine Pow.

Seasonal Medley Quiz answers

1. 1835 2. David McGavin 3. Jingle Bells 4. Mike Oldfield 5. First
6. Norway 7. Longfellow 8. Cornet, horn and euphonium 9. St
Stephen's Day (Feast of Stephen 10. Charlie Chaplin 11. "Can we fix
it?" by Bob the Builder 12. 364 13. Soprano 14. Bass 15. Annie
Lennox 16. Rudolph 17. 1957 18. Galway Bay 19. Red 20. 1896

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the fund-raising event by buying a quiz sheet. Congratulations to a Mr M Hay, of Penicuik, who wins the prize for 100% correct answers!

Georgina

Church Women's Fellowship

The supper planned for Jan 18 was postponed.
We hope to hold it on Feb 8 at the home of Jean Wright.



CWF members at their meal in December

Sad news

There is sad news from Doris Bilton, whose husband Alan died on 11th January 2010. Alan was the Inspector of Mines and Quarries for the whole of Scotland from 1972 - 1986. There was a private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving in the Village Church. Alan had suffered with Alzheimers and arthritis for a number of years. Many people will remember Doris and Alan from their Edinburgh days before they moved south to a flat attached to their daughter's house.



Alan was very supportive of the Mothers' Union and of Doris' work in the church and community. Doris was awarded the MBE in 1998. She worked with Leith Old People's welfare and the Eric Liddell Centre in Morningside. Doris served as one of the six Central Vice-Presidents of MU at

Mary Sumner House in the days before the post of Provincial President

of MU in Scotland was created and was also a Past Diocesan President of MU in Edinburgh, active as a MU speaker, on Synod and much involved in the election of Bishop Brian.

Please keep Doris in your prayers. *Jean Hindle*

Choir News

Well, at least preparing the choir news for February reminds me that this month there are birthday celebrations for Mother-in-law, sister-in-law and wife. Happy birthday to all three! xxx

Thank you to the entire choir, musicians and congregation that attended all the services through Advent and Christmas. We hope that there was music on offer, both on television (*did you enjoy seeing Jennifer, Mike and Ian and the entire contingent of altos on BBC 1 Songs of Praise?*) and “live” at St James, that helped you to focus on the services. We also thank our Christmas visitors from Penicuik North and South Churches, St Mungo’s Parish, those home from university, or home on holiday from the USA, who helped augment the choir through their singing, conducting and playing with us. It was a great joy to have so many singing together. As ever, folks seemed to turn out to sing despite nursing colds and sore throats, the only show stopper being about 2

feet of snow that completely blocked Georgina and Richard.



We held an enjoyable Christmas and New Year party in the Hall on 9 January where nearly everyone (still with the exception of Georgina and Richard[nice to be missed - Ed]) managed to bring enough food to feed two choirs. For our entertainment Mike and

Caption Competition - search for the lost chord?

Ros produced a classic version of Flanders and Swan’s *The Gas man*

cometh on the lines of *Twas on a Monday morning the Rector ... etc....* and Alison led a hilarious “action” version of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

Looking ahead: March 2010 marks the 80th Anniversary of the choir's affiliation to the Royal School of Church Music, so it would seem a great opportunity this year to try to invite together folks that at sometime have been involved with choir and music at St James. Does this include you or do you know of someone who might be included?

This year we are quickly into the season of Lent with an Ash Wednesday service on 17 February and the First Sunday of Lent on 21 February. Our service of readings and music to mark the beginning of Passiontide will be held on the evening of Sunday 21 March. More information will be provided in the March edition of Outreach.

As was mentioned in our AGM report there is always an open invitation and welcome to anyone, including children, who would like to come and sing with us; there are no auditions. Finally, do let us know if you have any favourite music or hymn that could be included in any of our worship. *David*

The Diocese of Edinburgh presents:

Edinburgh 1910—2110

Two Conferences on 200 Years of Mission and Theology

Saturday 6 February & Saturday 27 February

10am - 4pm Holy Trinity Church, Church Street, Haddington

Saturday 6 February - Looking Back:

100 Years of Mission and Theology since 1910

The Rt Rev Brian Smith 'Introducing a Century of Theological Change'

Professor Larry Hurtado 'A Century of Biblical Studies'

Rev Dr Jolyon Mitchell 'A Century of Engagement with Film'

Saturday 27 February - Looking Ahead:

100 Further Years of Mission and Theology

The Rt Rev Brian Smith 'The Perspective of Diversity'

Captain Paul Little 'Fresh Expressions of Church'

Rev Dr Duncan McLaren 'The Challenge of Secularism'

Rev Canon Anne Dyer 'The Spirituality of the Future'

For more information and to register, phone 0131 538 7033. It would be good to have some St James representation at these events!

Mad Scientist

Fact v Fixation Studio debates about topical scientific issues can be maddening when rival protagonists rest their arguments on different facts. Programme producers, following the example set by the church fathers, believe in the old adage “Never let facts spoil a good argument!”. An “environmental campaigner” recently presented the following case for ‘Meat-Free Mondays’ :

- grazing livestock pollute the environment by “burping” methane into the air
- X billion cattle emitting Y litres of gas/ day = more pollution than is emitted by cars in USA
- eat less beef and you halt global warming
- scarce grain supplies are spared , grain prices fall and the poor can afford more bread

Unsurprisingly, the National Farmers Union (NFU) spokesman disagreed:

- in the UK, cattle feed mostly on grass
- most of the country is only suitable for growing grass
- grass grows by ‘fixing’ far more atmospheric carbon than the grazing animal emits

Time for an eco-counterthrust: “but cattle don’t just eat grass; as much as 60% of their diet is cereal or soybeans, some grown in deforested countries like Brazil”. The man from the NFU begins his refutation but is interrupted by the immortal words “I’m sorry, that’s all we’ve got time for!”. Thanks for nothing, Auntie Beeb!!

Fixation facts All life depends on the process of photosynthesis whereby green plants ‘capture’ the ‘greenhouse’ gas carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere , allowing the carbon (C) to be processed into nutrients. Every hectare (2.5 acres) of grassland is a ‘green machine’ capturing about 50kg of carbon/day, 10 tons during a growing season. In the south, where maize can be grown, though not to maturity, the whole unripened crop can be conserved as silage (i.e compost) and used as winter feed, capturing a whopping 30 tons of carbon/hectare. Beef cattle can and do grow quickly to maturity when fed grass and silage alone, allowing most of the carbon fixed by the pasture to leave on four legs. On a dairy farm, most of that fixed carbon leaves as milk not methane. Since a cereal crop fixes much less carbon, maybe 7 tons/hectare, growing cereals instead of grass or green crop would raise greenhouse gas levels.

Some facts of cattle farming If UK cattle are fed grain, it is usually poor quality barley. Half of the carbon “fixed” by cereal crops ends up in straw that would be wasted were it not used by cattle (and sheep) farmers. They bed livestock on poor quality straw and that allows precious nutrients in animal excreta to be trapped and recycled as manure. The best straws can be upgraded and used as cattle feed. The skilful mix of arable and livestock production is thus a key to sustainable farming. Cows have to produce newborn calves regularly to be kept “in milk” but 50% are male and only useful for meat production. Unless “converts” denied themselves milk as well as meat, a successful “Meat-free Monday” campaign would condemn more male calves to an early death!

Conclusion If many in the Western world decided to give up meat, whether on Mondays, during Lent or forever, the consequences would be far-reaching and not what campaigners expected. Globally, human populations rely largely on bread-making wheat, maize and rice for their energy supplies; livestock are not generally competing with man for supplies of those cereals. A stronger case could be made for “pork-free Mondays” in the USA where huge quantities of maize are gobbled up by pigs, but that’s not what the lady suggested. *Neville*

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 an operation. Pray for Pat Early (sometime member of St James) and his family. Also for Kathryn Topham’s aunt and uncle, Paddy and Geoff, in Hull who are still going through a difficult time. Give thanks for the continuing recovery of Alan Murray and Jean Lindsay. Pray for the family of Charlotte McAulay’s brother, Chris, as they mourn his death.

Pray for the people and nation of Haiti; for those who died and those who mourn their loss; for the volunteers seeking to bring aid; for the leaders who must strive to rebuild their country after such devastation.

Pray for those continuing to suffer as a result of previous natural disasters.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation; for the work of Penicuik for Africa. 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 all who have suffered in any way during the recent severe cold weather. *(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...

February 2010

Wed 10 February 7.30pm Vestry

Tue 16 February 7.30pm Shrove Tuesday Party

Weds 24 Feb, 3,10 Mar 7.00pm Lent Course

March 2010

Fri 5 March 7.30pm World Day of Prayer at South Church

April 2010

Wed 14 April 7.30pm Vestry

August 2010

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

St James Calendar of Events

A reminder that we have a church online calendar which can be used to note forthcoming events. A paper copy is available on the notice board

at all times for those who do not have access to a computer, and it can be also viewed by going to the church website:

<http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> and clicking on the link "Church Calendar" at the top right of the page. If you wish to put an event onto the calendar, just click the link immediately below which will open an email for you to fill in the details. If you don't have access to the internet, just give a note to me.

By making sure that planned events, services, etc are all on the calendar, we can hopefully reduce the likelihood of "clashes", or weeks where everything happens at the same time! Please make use of this facility when appropriate.

Mike Hay

Holy Week Services

(draft details, still to be confirmed)

28 March Palm Sunday	Choral Communion 11am
	Possible ecumenical evening service in Penicuik
Mon 29 March	South Kirk 7.00pm
Tue 30 March	North Kirk 7.00pm
Wed 31 March	Sacred Heart 7.00pm
Maundy Thurs 1 April	St James 8.00pm Eucharist and Vigil
Good Friday 2 Apr	St James 10.45am Stations of the Cross
	St James 2pm
	St Mungo West Linton 7.30pm
Easter Eve 3 April	Ecumenical service in Penicuik
Easter Day 4 April	Sun-rise service at the top of the hill, approx 6.20am, followed by breakfast in the hall
	Choral Communion 11am

"Outreach" can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The March 2010 edition will be published on Sunday 7 March. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Georgina Phillips 661039, Merlewood, The Loan, West Linton, EH46 7HE, phillg13@toucansurf.com, by Wednesday 24 February at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.

Contacts at St James

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Pastoral Visits	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@talktalk.net
Books/magazines	Moira Johnston	674321	moirajohnston@aol.com
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Youth Group	Adam Bullough	675549	adambullough@o2.co.uk



Jonathan Millar and Charlotte married on Saturday 5 September 2009 in North Wales to the "sound of living water"



Very surprised ex-choirmaster with Royal School of Church Music medal and CD!



Another memory of Summer - recognise anyone here?

St Margaret's head restored to full health!

