

OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Magazine Issue 127, February-March, 2006

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Service Times

Sundays:	8.00 am	Said Communion
	11.00 am	Choral Communion
	6.30 pm	Choral Evensong (generally 1 st Sunday of the month except July and August)
Tuesday:	7.00 pm	Healing Service with Holy Communion (1 st Tuesday of month)
Thursdays:	11.15 am	Informal Said Communion

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.

Editorial

As we enter a new era of Outreach I am reminded of an advert, which some of you may remember, that featured a petrol pump with two heads on it, one facing left and the other right accompanying the slogan *That's Shell - that was*; reminded because the two heads could also be interpreted as looking both forwards and backwards, and what better way to introduce this, our first issue, by recording our sincere and grateful thanks to Jean and Ralph for editing and producing the magazine so enthusiastically and conscientiously for so many years. That their task will be taken over by no less than 4 people is a measure of their dedication. Although Jean will continue to help with distribution, we wish them a long and happy 'retirement' and time to read Outreach!

When Pat and I were in Tasmania last year on the trail of a narrow gauge railway (cue for a possible feature on unusual hobbies?) at one station we came across three somewhat unwelcoming signs UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT, NO TRAINS RUNNING and KEEP OUT TILL CHRISTMAS! Well Outreach may have a new editorial team, but I assure you it's very much up and running and we will really welcome your news, views and comments.

So who's who in the new Outreach Team? Georgina Phillips is our roving Commissioning Editor, design and word processing will be courtesy of Mike Hay with some assistance from Alan Murray, and Tricia Tucker is our proof reader. Dyane Goodchild, Jean Hindle and Kathleen Cox will continue to have responsibilities for reproduction and distribution. As General Editor I decide what goes in, so please address all complaints to me and not the others.

Something old, something new and something borrowed probably sums up our philosophy on format and content (something blue being out because we don't plan to have colour at the moment). For example, we have retained the A5 format, but plan to reduce the number of issues per year from 10 to 6. The number of pages will vary from issue to issue but all the usual St James pages will be there, although the order will differ from previously. Happy reading!

Graham Smith

Rector's Letter



The supplementary instruction to the catechism found in the 1962 version of the Canadian Book of Common Prayer contains the following instruction:

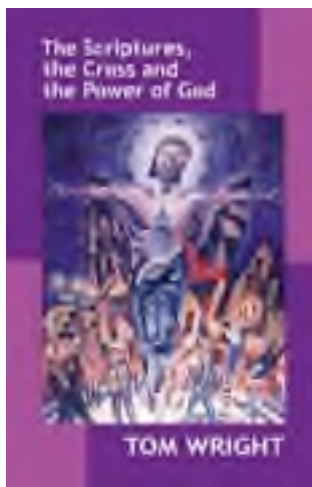
“Every Christian man or woman should from time to time frame for himself a RULE OF LIFE in accordance with the precepts of the Gospel and the faith and order of the Church; wherein he may consider the following:

- The regularity of his attendance at public worship and especially at the Holy Communion.
- The practice of private prayer, Bible-reading, and self-discipline.
- Bringing the teaching and example of Christ into his everyday life.
- The boldness of his spoken witness to his faith in Christ.
- His personal service to the Church and the community.
- The offering of money according to his means for the support of the work of the Church at home and overseas”

Now – framing a ‘rule of life’ sounds like a huge task – one of those things we’ll ‘get around to’ when we’ve finished reading War and Peace in Urdu. I don’t particularly relish the thought of being absolute or judgmental but I’ll take a risk here and say that it’s more “true” than “not true” that there are two types of folks in this world: those who wonder why they’re here and what it all means and those who don’t give it much thought. As men and women called to leadership in Christ’s Body we have an obligation to promote the sort of healthful reflection among God’s people which will leave them more aware of their own vocations and of the presence of God around them.

Still – this doesn’t make it any less a task – this ‘rule of life’ thing. The age old question is always ‘How do you eat an elephant’. The answer is, of course, “medium rare, served with spring greens and washed down with a hearty Hungarian red”. No it’s not! The generic answer is ‘one mouthful at a time’ which for our purposes now in 2006 and here in Penicuik is ‘two mouthfuls – one right after another’. I’m talking, of course, about Lent and Holy Week. That’s Lent “and” Holy Week and not “lentundolyweek” . It seems that Christmas has just ended. We’ve

only recently retaken possession of our tea towels after the Christmas pageant. It is, however, just around the corner. Lent and Holy Week: While the target of both seasons is the same - viz the human soul in its tendency to maintain its own lazy and unconscious trajectory - the flavour is completely different. A reasonable question to pose during Lent is 'What have I done?' or 'Where have I been heading'. Self examination is, by definition, inward looking and it is appropriate that the words which we speak to ourselves and to God are words about ourselves, even words of confession: "We have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep". During Holy Week we leave off our self examination and we pay attention to a story which does not issue from within us. We follow Christ through the Passion Narrative – walk in his footsteps, if you will – and become aware of what he has done for us.

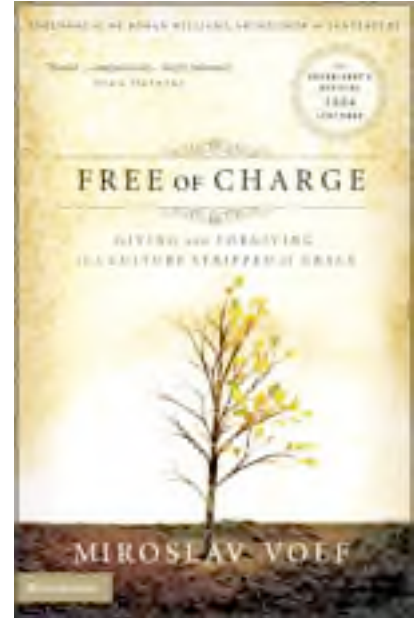


Some are a little bemused at all this slavish 'season keeping': Why do we need to.....just because it's.....can't we rather.....' We are not dealing with lifestyle choices here, we are dealing with the reality of human sin, failing and waywardness in the face of God's promises and we are observing one of the Church's historic remedies to that problem – a period of corporate reflection on our own personal waywardness and our culpability in the woes of others around the world. It is hoped that this reflection will leave us equipped to pull out a piece of A4 and start jotting out a better plan for life – a rule of life, even. We'll leave the question of greater consumer choice to the large chain stores and their ecclesiastical equivalents. As the song goes: "We are pilgrims on a journey" and the journey is something we take together.

To this end I have something to propose: A **Lenten program** which allows a wider level of participation on the part of our Church members.

We are going to host a single evening at St James Church in the context of Evensong on the first Sunday of Lent which is the 5th of March at 6:30 p.m. We'll call it '**Lent for Beginners**' and we will attempt to explain what a 'Lenten Observance' for Christians ought to resemble.

We're going to put up a sign-up sheet in the next couple of weeks at both St James' and St Mungo's for a couple of books to purchase and read. The first book is the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lenten Book for 2006 which is called 'Free of Charge' and is by Miroslav Volf and will cost each reader £8. The second book is one to be read during Holy Week and is divided into seven sections to be read on each day between Palm Sunday and the Eve of Easter. It is called 'The Scriptures, the Cross and the Power of God' by Tom Wright the Bishop of Durham and can be purchased on the same sign-up sheet for £5. Both books are also available on Amazon, at Wesley Owen or the Cornerstone Bookstore below St John's, Princes Street. On Wednesday the 5th of April at 7:00 pm we'll gather together for soup and cheese in the hall and afterwards we'll discuss the first of these books. It will give us an opportunity to agree, disagree, ask questions or make comments.



On the three Wednesday evenings preceding 5 April (15th, 22nd and 29th March) we will have been holding a short **Lenten course** entitled 'Keeping a Light Touch'. These sessions will also begin with soup and cheese at 7:00 and the discussion will begin at 7:30. The theme is not unrelated to the Volf book. It is my hope that I'll have some invited speakers helping out with this course (one has agreed already). The theme is based on the idea that our lifestyle attachments – our need for money and security – sometimes hold us back from exercising the liberty of choice and the graceful response to the world around which is proper to a 'child of God' and an 'inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven'. More on this as it develops.

I'm looking forward to the journey towards Easter. I'm looking forward to spending that time with you.

Robert Warren
Rector, St James the Less

Choir News

One of the advantages (there must be at least one?) of now being part of the editorial team of Outreach is that I can in theory leave my contribution to the last moment, since I only have to send it to myself. The disadvantage of course is that there is no-one to “encourage me” if I forget (I look back with some nostalgia to the quietly insistent phone calls I used to get from Ralph when I had not produced the goods...)

Anyway, Christmas has been and gone, and as always I must thank all choir, organists, mince pie providers and people who simply turned up, for all your support. It was good to get such appreciative comments after the “Nine lessons” – I think we had probably the largest choir ever on that evening, and it was great again to see a number of former singers joining us.

Plans for the next few months are gradually firming up; following January’s success with “Take this moment”, February’s Hymn of the Month will be “In Christ alone” by Keith Getty and Stuart Townsend - fine words with a great robust tune. The major choir work planned is Karl Jenkins’ “Mass for Peace” based on the very old mediaeval tune “L’Homme Armé”. You may know Jenkins’ very popular work “Adiemus”; the thought-provoking Mass for Peace has a similar approach with good melodies and exciting rhythms. This is planned for some time during Lent, probably the evening of 19 March. On the evening of 26 March, the choir will be contributing to Alan Murray’s “The Man” which is being taken to Christchurch, Morningside that evening. Another thought-provoking work which I’m sure many of you would like to hear again; please join us at that if you can.

Apart from these events, we shall of course continue to provide appropriate anthems at appropriate times, as well as beginning to plan for “Music for a Summer Evening”. Almost bucket and spade time already!

Finally, from all of us in the choir, best wishes for a very happy and blessed 2006!

Mike Hay

Baptisms on 4 December

Emily Faye Broughton

Kirsty Ruth Rodger

Jennifer Patricia Rodger

Congratulations and every blessing to Kirsty, Jennifer and Emily!



Mothers' Union News

In the Diocese of Edinburgh, 2006 is going to be the year of Fund Raising for the work of the Mothers' Union Overseas. With terrible droughts in parts of Africa, resulting in famine and sickness, with the continuing scourge of Aids, with the effects of other natural disasters and of ongoing conflicts, the calls on the Mothers' Union Relief Fund as well as on their normal Overseas Funds are enormous and the least we can do is put a big effort into raising as large a sum as we possibly can. Each branch has been asked to have at least one big, or two or three small, fund raising efforts during the year. We are also proposing a Cake and Candy Stall at the lunch after the Lady Day Service, for which all contributions will be very gratefully received.

Susan Crosfield

Branch News and Meetings 2006:

8 Feb: Noon Lunch - Will our faith have children? - *Alison Cole*

22 Feb: 2.30 pm - ? Bible Study from World Day of Prayer
3 Mar: 7.30 pm Friday at St Mungo's, Penicuik - World Day of Prayer
8 Mar: Noon Lunch - Speaker to be confirmed
Prospective new members, men included, will be most welcome to join us.

Diocesan Events:

13 Feb: Intercessions (*2nd Monday each month*) - 12.30 in the Cathedral followed by lunch in St George's West Church.

25 Mar, Saturday: 11 am Lady Day Service in the Cathedral - to be followed by a Bring and Share Lunch in the Walpole Hall, with all the usual stalls. The **Penicuik Branch** has undertaken to run the **Cake and Candy Stall**.

Provincial and other events:

Tues 21 - Thurs 23 March 2006: Retreat at Kinnoull - £80

(Balance of £60 to be paid to Joyce Black - a.s.a.p.)

11 May - Lunch in Perth for all Scottish MU members, and any friends they like to invite, at which our World Wide President, Trish Heywood will be one of the speakers.

23 May - An Evening with Provincial President, Charmian Paterson - Pot Luck supper.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Dublin from 23 to 24 June 2006

Tickets should be ordered through Joyce Black, a.s.a.p.

The MU Scottish web address is : www.muscotland.org.uk which links to other MU sites.

Church Women's Fellowship News

The Churchwomen's Fellowship generally meets on the 3rd Monday in the month. Feb 20th & March 20th meetings are at 64 Deanburn unless otherwise notified.

Absent Friends

The Darke Family send love and best wishes for a good 2006. Peter has recovered well from his quadruple coronary bypass last January. He is now strong enough to cope with log cutting, walking up the combe, bellringing, signalling (of the railway variety) and training for skiing! He and Carole celebrated their ruby wedding in September with a trip to Herm, the car-less island near Guernsey. January was evidently a busy month for the family as Juliette gave birth to Lucy Grace on the 12th. Juliette became a farmer's wife on 24th December when they took over the tenancy of the farm near Hereford previously held by Andrew's mother. Rachel's magazine business is doing well, successful titles including *Wedding Ideas* and *House and Home ideas*. Much to Carole and Peter's delight she is engaged to Mark with a wedding planned for September.

Jenny Mossop writes "I've had the opportunity to do more in my church in the way of preaching and leading worship and I'm now a member of the parochial church council. This involves attending monthly meetings that don't always fit with my shifts and as yet I'm at the stage where I'm getting to know the other members and how the church is operating before I start taking an active part. I'm also back at college doing a part-time course by the title of 'Called to Serve'. I'm still enjoying my garden and even more walking on the beach, the end of the pier is a wonderful place for meditation and enjoying creation, the views are different every time I go down there. I've started travelling a little further afield and exploring around Coniston and the area around the Duddon valley and Millom. Katherine and Martin are continuing to enjoy wedded bliss and playing in the band. Andrew and Chris went to Australia in October, Andrew for a holiday, visiting friends including Steve Longmore in Sydney and an old flatmate Karen in Melbourne. Chris got a work visa and is presently staying with Karen and working as a waiter in a restaurant. He still has to resit one exam in May to complete his degree and so should be back in Britain in time for that".

Outreach Subscriptions

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

Vestry Business Report

Vestry business from the meeting of Thursday 12 January 2006:

- Minutes of this meeting will be displayed on the notice board following the next meeting of vestry.
- Matters arising from the meeting of 10th November 2005 including church lighting and front pew removal, liturgy books, Epiphany party, "Outreach" magazine, co-option of fabric convener and social convener to vestry, appointment of vestry treasurer and secretary, budget for 2006
- Rector's report including Holy Communion for housebound parishioners, planning meeting to develop programme of Christian education at St James' for the coming year, notification of maintenance work required at the rectory
- Treasurer's report including analysis of the monthly statements of income and expenditure, closure of Clydesdale Bank in Penicuik, Christmas collections, letter from Daly International
- Fabric issues including kitchen improvements, radiator removal, removal of broken pew
- A.O.C.B. including plans for Lent/Holy Week study, email from a vestry member, report from the Penicuik for Africa group
- D.O.N.M. Thursday 9th February, Thursday 16th March, Thursday 27 April 2006. All meetings at 8.15pm in the rectory.

Alison Cole

Reflections on the Christmas pageant

"Exciting"

"Fun for all who took part in it"

"Showed the meaning of Christmas"

"For those of us who don't usually take part in the nativity, it gave a great sense of involvement"

"The performance was very atmospheric and original"

"It looked very professional"

Rachel, Charlotte and Sarah Topham

February 2006 Rota

-	5-Feb-2006	12-Feb-2006	19-Feb-2006	26-Feb-2006	5-Mar-2006
-	Epiphany 5	Epiphany 6	8th before Easter	7th before Easter	Lent 1
8.00am Sidesman		A Thorburn		Graham Smith	
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	David	Jean
6.30pm Organist	David				David
St Mungo's Organist 10am	David	Jean	David	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Andy Longmore/ Nigel Johnston	Isobel Stenhouse/ Angela Sibley	Des Frantom/ John Ford	Young Church
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Sibleys	Johnstons	Dicksons	Young Church
1st Reading	Young Church	Jean Hindle	Val McGavin	Gill Amos	Young Church
	<i>Isaiah 40: 21-31</i>	<i>2 Kings 5: 1-14</i>	<i>Isaiah 43:18-25</i>	<i>II Kings 2:1-12</i>	<i>Genesis 9:8-17</i>
2nd Reading	Young Church	Ralph Hindle	Ian MacLennan	Geoff Mather	Young Church
	<i>1 Corinth 9: 16-23</i>	<i>1 Corinth 9: 24-27</i>	<i>II Cor. 1:18-22</i>	<i>II Corinthians 4:3-6</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:18-22</i>
Gospel	<i>Mark 1 :29-39</i>	<i>Mark 1: 40-45</i>	<i>Mark 2:1-12</i>	<i>Mark 9:2-9</i>	<i>Mark 1:9-15</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore	Young Church
Server	Val/ Charlotte	Angela/Fiona	Val/Emma	Angela/ Steven	Val/Alice
Coffee	Mona Bennett/ Mgt MacLennan	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Hays/Smiths	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black	I Stenhouse/ J Wright
Flowers	Marion McCluskey	> > > > > >	> > > > > >	> > > > > >	> > > >
Cleaning	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom	C&M Leavy	Mona Bennett/ Angela Sibley	Mona Bennett/ Angela Sibley
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk
Care Van			√		
Pentland House			√		

March 2006 Rota

	5-Mar-2006	12-Mar-2006	19-Mar-2006	26-Mar-2006	2-Apr-2006
	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3	Mothering Sunday	Passion Sunday
8.00am Sidesman	-	G. Smith	A Thorburn		Graham Smith
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike	Jean
6.30pm Organist	David				Mike
St Mungo's Organist 10am	David	Jean	Mike	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	MacLennans	Elizabeth Clark/ Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore/Isobel Stenhouse	Young Church
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Clerks	Fords	Leavys	Young Church
1st Reading	Young Church	Marion McCluskey	Andy Longmore	Allan Murray	Young Church
	<i>Genesis 9:8-17</i>	<i>Gen. 17:1-7, 15-16</i>	<i>Exodus 20:1-17</i>	<i>Numbers 21:4-9</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>
2nd Reading	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Joyce Black	Young Church
	<i>1 Peter 3:18-22</i>	<i>Romans 4:13-25</i>	<i>II Cor. 1:18-25</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:1-10</i>	<i>Hebrews 5:5-10</i>
Gospel	<i>Mark 1:9-15</i>	<i>Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9</i>	<i>John 2:13-22</i>	<i>John 3:14-21</i>	<i>John 12:20-33</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Alan Murray	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark	Young Church
Server	Val/Alice	Angela/ Charlotte	Val/Fiona	Angela/Emma	Val/Stephen
Coffee	Isobel Stenhouse/ Jean Wright	Gillian Little/ Marion McCluskey	Elizabeth Clark/Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish and Family	Kathleen Cox/Sue Crosfield
Flowers	< < < < < <	< < < < < <	LENT	> > > > > >	> > > > >
Cleaning	Mona Bennett/Angela Sibley	Clerks	Clerks	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk
Care Van			√		
Pentland House			√		

April 2006 Rota

-	2-Apr-2006	9-Apr-2006	16-Apr-2006	23-Apr-2006	30-Apr-2006
-	Passion Sunday	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	Low Sunday	Easter 3 (Matins)
8.00am Sidesman	Graham Smith	Graham Smith		Agnes Thorburn	
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	David	Jennifer	Mike (Matins)
6.30pm Organist	Mike				
St Mungo's Organist 10am	Mike	David	Jean	Jean	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Angela Sibley/ Des Frantom	Fords	MacLennans
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Hindles	Barretts	Sibleys	
1st Reading	Young Church	Mgt Coull	Georgina Phillips	John Ford	Robert Clerk
-	<i>Jeremiah 31:31-34</i>	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Isaiah 25:6-9</i>	<i>Acts 4:32-35</i>	<i>Acts 3:12-19</i>
2nd Reading	Young Church	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark	Jo Bullough
-	<i>Hebrews 5:5-10</i>	<i>Philippians 2:5-11</i>	<i>I Cor. 15:1-11</i>	<i>I John 1:1-2:2</i>	<i>I John 3:1-7</i>
Gospel	<i>John 12:20-33</i>	<i>Mark 14:1-15:47</i>	<i>John 20:1-18</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>	<i>Luke 24:36b-48</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Jean Hindle	Val McGavin	Geoff Mather	
Server	Val/Stephen	Val/Steven	Angela/ Charlotte	Val/Fiona	
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/Sue Crosfield	Frantoms	Moira Bennett/ Mgt MacLennan	Kathleen Cox/Sue Crosfield	Hays/Smiths
Flowers	Rose Mckenzie/Mgt MacLennan	> > > > > >	> > > > > >	> > > > > >	> > > >
Cleaning	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva
Care Van			√		
Pentland House			√		

World Day of Prayer

Friday, 3 March 7.30pm at St Mungo's, Penicuik

The service for the theme for 2006, 'Signs of the Times', was prepared by a group of Christian women from South Africa, representing many different denominations.



In the artwork produced by a S. African artist, Estelle Roos, the image of a leaf is the central focus in the design. The leaf/leaves are our hope (healing of the nation) - the elements indicating the coming of the new season. The shape of the leaves also reflects the Trinity symbol, illustrating that the Trinity is central in our hope. In the design, this large symbol dominates over the smaller icons. The leaves of the Tree of Life are contrasted against the icons, symbols of distinctive features of the end times which Jesus emphasised would occur.

Handcuffs ~ symbols of imprisonment; AIDS ribbons; symbols of famines and pestilence; traditional African weapons ~ signs of wars; king chess pieces (one fallen over) ~ symbols of kingdoms rising against each other. The small leaves scattered between the icons indicate the children of God living in this broken world, challenged to reflect signs of hope and peace.

The border around the whole design has a clear African character. The small 3-legged pots are symbols of fellowship in South African communities.

A warm welcome awaits you and your friends at St Mungo's, Penicuik.

For further information, contact: Jean Hindle Tel 674591

News

Congratulations to Paul Murray on gaining his Doctor of Philosophy from Edinburgh University. Paul is now 50% a researcher in electro-chemistry and 50% a chemical "evangelist", taking science, primarily chemistry, out to schools and other organisations. So far, he has visited the Highlands and Stockton-on-Tees. His next venture is to Campbeltown, where presumably he'll be able to check out the persistent rumours about the chemical constitution of the Loch.

Also to Lorna McLintock (nee Kemp) for her award of Doctor of Medicine from Glasgow University. Lorna is completing her training as registrar in haematology at a number of hospitals and the Blood Transfusion unit in the Glasgow area.

Financial Matters

December collections:		December Special Collections & Charitable giving	
Envelopes	695		
Cash	407	Ark Trust	209
Gift Aid Cash	409	Aberlour Trust	135
Direct Giving	<u>1109</u>	Farm Africa	<u>135</u>
Total	2620	Total	479

Christmas Hampers

Many thanks to all who participated. Lorna Bramley received the following letter of thanks:

“Dear Lorna

Once again the Hamper appeal has been very successful. Requests for 61 hampers were received plus two un-requested emergency boxes were made up, these have now become an integral part of the Hamper appeal. The emergency boxes go to The Integration Team and Women’s Aid and are very welcome additions to the emergency stores kept by these two Agencies.

While I was putting the emergency boxes into Jackson Street School it was like Piccadilly Circus and an Aladdin’s Cave all rolled into one with people bringing in more and more boxes. One of the Integration Team told me that the families receiving the hampers cannot believe that strangers could be so generous and kind to them, which yet again, assures me that the effort and generosity of the family of churches in Penicuik at this time of the year is very worthwhile.

I would like to pass on my very sincere thanks to the church representatives and all who took part in the 2005 Christmas Hamper appeal. I have not yet heard from the Agencies, but I have no doubt that over the next week or two the letters and phone calls of thanks will be appearing. *Gladys Johnson Christmas Hamper Appeal Coordinator*”

“It all began with a picture ...”¹: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Seeing this film was, for me, rather like seeing Peter Jackson’s films of Tolkien’s “Lord of the Rings” for the first time. Narnia and Middle-Earth have been a huge part of this sad happy old hippy’s imagination for the past 40 years and these films could have been a huge disaster and the source of great personal sadness. What if Frodo had been Disneyfied? What if Mr. Tumnus had an American accent and looked like Shrek? Fear not, gentle reader. If you love the Narnia books, you will love this film. It is a slavishly-accurate telling of the wardrobe tale, with sensitive use of computer graphics that move way beyond the endearingly crude BBC series in representing fauns, unicorns and mythical beasts.



Mr. Tumnus the faun – from Pauline Baynes’ drawing in the book (left) and from the film (right)

For those who don’t know, this story takes 4 bored WWII evacuees through a magical wardrobe door to the land of Narnia, where it is winter, but never Christmas (thanks to the nasty spell cast by the evil white witch, Jadis). One of the children, Edmund, is seduced by the promise of endless Turkish Delight and enters the witch’s service, to his considerable discomfort. The other three help the great lion, Aslan, to rescue Edmund, defeat the white witch and restore the normal seasonal round to Narnia ... and they all live happily ever after. There is also, writ large, a strong Christian allegory that has caused much debate and controversy over the years. In the story, Aslan, the creator of Narnia,

¹ C.S. Lewis, interviewed for Radio Times (Junior Radio Times), Vol CXLVIII, 15th July, 1960

agrees to be killed in place of the treacherous Edmund, as the Deep Magic decrees that a willing victim may substitute for a traitor. However, the witch does not know that the Even Deeper Magic means that, once dead, Aslan will come alive again. He does, and gives the witch and her horrid hordes a good bashing. What do you think?

Lewis is quite clear about the allegory¹ - *All my seven Narnia books ... began with pictures in my head ... "The Lion" began with a picture of a faun carrying parcels in a snowy wood ... then suddenly Aslan came bounding into it ... Once he was there He² pulled the whole story together and soon He pulled the other six Narnian stories in after Him.*

As a result of this allegory – however implicit or explicit – many critics have been predisposed against the film and have given it poor or even hostile reviews. In my view of things, this is yet another symptom of an insidious and unpleasant combination of anti-Christian prejudice and rampant political correctness. Harrumph. My advice is ...

**If you don't like fantasy, or don't like Christianity, for
heaven's sake, don't go to Narnia.
You won't like it.**

However ... if you do like fantasy and you are prepared to have a version of the Christian message offered up to you, this is life-enhancing cinema. The context is, if anything, set even better than in the book, which is rather short of descriptive writing. The opening scenes of wartime Britain and the separation of evacuation are very moving. The characters are 100% accurate. Peter is priggish, Lucy is cute, the beavers are droll and Aslan is inspiring. Tilda Swinton's white witch is very scary and also appropriately and chillingly beautiful. The landscape of Narnia is impeccable and the computer-graphic animation is entirely believable.

So – in summary – take it from a lifelong Narnia “anorak”. This is a meticulously accurate representation of a much-loved children's classic with a powerful Christian metaphor embedded in it by one of the great Christian writers of the 20th century.

I loved it and I can't wait for the extended-edition, collector's-version “nerd's” version to appear on DVD.

Alan Murray

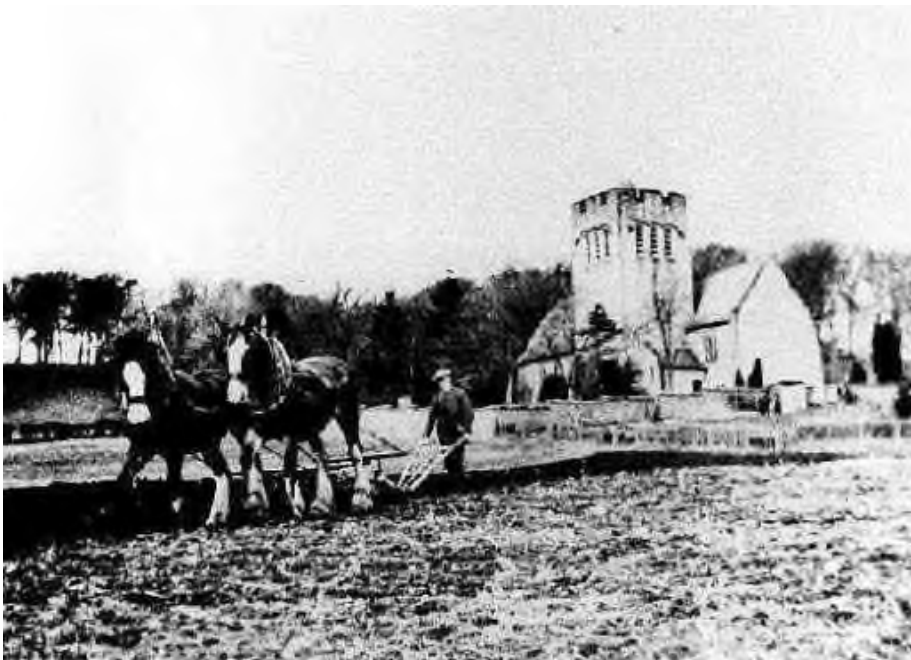
² “He” – Jack Lewis's capital “H”, not mine!

St James then....

Some years ago a history of St James was compiled, dealing with the period from its consecration to around 1982. We hope to revise this to bring it more up to date, but also thought it might be of interest to print excerpts from time to time in Outreach. Here is a section dealing with the period from 1937 to 1938:

The installation of the new organ was one of the last achievements of Mr. Davison's ministry in Penicuik. Later in his ministry he was Vicar of Seahouses, Northumberland, where the Rev. Angus Palmer met him while a curate in the nineteen-sixties. Mr. Davison died a few years ago.

Towards the end of 1937 a new Rector, the Rev. C. A. W. Harvey, arrived and quickly began to make alterations. It had been the practice for many years to hold a service of Holy Communion after Matins on the first Sunday of each month, but now these two services were to be combined; the service would begin with Matins as far as the Benedictus, and then go on into the Communion Service.



Those who had already taken Communion at the 8 a.m. service were permitted to leave during the hymn which followed the sermon, and it became normal practice for young families to leave at this time, since children did not take part in the

Communion Service as they can now. Shortly afterwards the time of the early service was moved from 8 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. in the hope of attracting larger congregations. For the same purpose a Young Communicants' Guild was started for 14 to 25 year-olds, and they were

encouraged to make a habit of attending early Communion as a body once a month.

The financing of the church newspaper had always been a problem, as not all those who received a copy remembered to send a subscription. There was now to be a direct charge of one penny per copy.

A few months after his arrival in Penicuik, Mr. Harvey was married in a full church, and it was just as full for the Christmas celebrations that first year. On Boxing Day there was a Service of Nine Lessons with Carols at which the choir, accompanied by violins and a trumpet as well as the organ, excelled itself. A special collection taken after the service raised half the cost of the extra music which had been needed for the occasion, but the choir was becoming an expensive item again.

Donations enabled the Choirboys to have an outing to the pantomime and to tea afterwards, but money was needed for music, and there were new boys who required cassocks and surplices. The latter problem was solved by Lent Boxes, which provided cassocks and ruffles for £6.3.6 and surplices at £10.6.0. Sheet music had, however, to be changed more often, and as the choir became more ambitious in its performances, a regular income was needed. In order not to be a financial burden on the Vestry, the choir ran whist drives and in March 1938 the adult members each began to contribute one penny per week towards the cost of music.

For twenty-five years the organist at St. James' had been George Franklin, but early in 1938 he fell ill, and a young lady from the congregation, Mrs. Lily Macfarlane, was asked to take his place for a month, until he was better. Unhappily his health did not improve and he had to resign from the post, but luckily Mrs. Mac was able to step into the breach, and her 'month' as organist extended to over forty years.

'Penicuik for Africa'

Since our first report two months ago, the WTO negotiations in Hong Kong have come and gone without any convincing evidence that the imbalances in trade with the Third World would be radically altered. This makes the intervening efforts of our 'Africa Group' that much more important and we can report progress on several fronts.

Sales of Traidcraft 'African' Goods We have sold over £500-worth of goods so far, with roughly 40% sold after church services. Please let us know what products you like (or dislike!) and what others you would like

to see on the stall. You will find a new line in biscuits (stem ginger) and a cheaper ground coffee on sale when you next visit the stall: like the old, the new items all originate in Africa and your support will help to see new contracts signed with their farmers. Supplies of muesli (for Mike) and those delicious cashews (for Rob & Geoff) have been replenished. We have set up stall in the Community Development Trust's 'Open House' in the Town Hall on three Saturday mornings so far and hope to be there on the last Saturday of each month throughout 2006. It's a good place to go for coffee and home-made baking and to feel part our own community.

Chitambo Hospital Appeal We have raised over £500 so far, most coming from outwith St. James. Publicity in the 'Advertiser' and 'Town Crier' has brought in nearly half of that total through donations. North Kirk held a retiring collection after one of their Christmas Services and raised £205. Tilly's baking & table decorations raised nearly £100. With a final push, we hope to raise £1000 for this impoverished hospital, raising spirits in this their centenary year.



Traidcraft allow a 10% discount on all the 'foods' that we sell and this will go to Chitambo initially, via our 'Children of Africa' account.

Fellowship Lunch on March 5th This will mark the end of our Chitambo appeal, though not necessarily our connection with the community that the hospital serves. Press publicity brought us into contact with a former nurse at Chitambo, Janet Knox; she lives in Bonnyrigg, is a member of Howgate Church, and

hopes to come to our Lunch. We will also be joined by a Dutch nurse, Miranda Brouwer, who has recent experience of working in a hospital near Chitambo. We have advertised the event in the local press, adding a touch of uncertainty to the catering, but we do not expect an

embarrassingly large response! We will also have a retiring collection for Chitambo after the service that day so that those not attending the lunch can support the cause (can't be outloved by North Kirk!). The time for our emissary (David Currie consultant neurosurgeon, brother of local co-founder, Jo Vallis, and son of former Chitambo medical missionary) to go to Chitambo will then be imminent and we hope to arrange a photocall at which a large cheque is ceremoniously handed over.

Penicuik High School support Malawi One of our objectives is to highlight what others are doing for Africa in Penicuik and we are pleased to report that pupils and staff have raised over £2000 for the 'Open Arms' project to support children orphaned by AIDS in their Christmas Appeal. There is also a rumour that they might twin with a school in Malawi. We are hoping to twin with an African community and Malawi and Chitambo are possibilities.

Malaria breakthrough We will also be passing on 'good news' stories and they don't come any better than this. Jon Snow was making a programme for Channel 4 News on the eve of the G8 summit. He visited ramshackle St. Paul's Church on the banks of the Nile in Namasagali, Uganda and asked them what they wanted most: 'bibles, prayer books and mosquito nets' was the reply. They must have heard about the remarkable events in the little village of Usa, in neighbouring Tanzania, where UNICEF supplied anti-malarial nets to all 157 villagers at a cost of £8/household. Malaria was quickly eliminated and things are likely to stay that way thanks to the long-lasting insecticide incorporated into the Saudi-made resin during net extrusion. The resin was supplied at market price by the infamous Exxon Mobil, who ploughed all profits back into the purchase of more nets as part of a 'Global Fund' programme to 'Roll Back Malaria'. Furthermore a factory had been set up to make the nets locally and it was turning out 3 million per year with plans to expand to 20m; Africa helping itself with the aid of multi-nationals? Sshurely shome mishtake!

If you aren't yet a member, please sign up to be part of this exciting, ecumenical, community-centred project.

Neville

The next publication of "Outreach" will be on Sunday 2 April. Information about events, and contributions should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012 (graham@caplaw.demon.co.uk) by Wed 22 March at the latest.

Your prayers are asked for...

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

Arthur White, Joy Ford, Haley, Tricia Barrett, Mae Mann, Sarah (aged 7 with Crohn's disease) and Andrew Lawson-Johnston.

Norman Kember and any others being held captive.

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 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.

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)

Events coming soon...

3 March	7.30 pm	World Day of Prayer at St Mungo's, Penicuik
5 March		Fellowship Lunch in aid of Chitambo
		6:30 p.m. 'Lent for Beginners'
15, 22, 29 March	7.30pm	Lent study (soup at 7.00pm)
19 March	6.30pm	Lent meditation with Karl Jenkins' "Mass for Peace"
26 March	7.30pm	"The Man" at Christ Church Morningside
5 April	7.30pm	Discussion of "Free of Charge" (soup at 7.00pm)