



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



The Uniform of Saltpond Church, Ghana!

Issue No 152 July 2009

“Angelic” members of the choir!



A relaxed looking Mauricewood Housegroup

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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

Thursdays : 7.00pm Choir Practice

Rector's Letter

One of our parishioners at the church where I served as a curate in Victoria, British Columbia, went off to work in a children's home in India after he'd finished High School. It was the sort of gap-year activity designed to take a lad from a relatively affluent Victoria suburb and immerse him for a time in the life and culture of another part of the world. It would "open his eyes".

He was away for approximately six months. A few weeks after his return his mother came to see me at the Church with concerns about her son.

"He seems to be angry" she said, "and critical. Apparently we don't do anything right – we waste food, we use too much energy, we live in a big house with too many rooms. Even the dog ends up being a target for him. He says that the dog eats what a family in a poor slum could live off. He says that we live in isolation from the real world and that we know very little indeed".

It's a story that I've heard on a number of occasions. Somebody returns from a trip to a struggling corner of the world where people live on very little and make the most of what they have, and suddenly realises just how much we have here and how little we appreciate it. His eyes "are opened" not about the distant culture, but about the nature of his *very own* environment.

My family and I have just returned from a two-week trip to the Diocese of Cape Coast in Ghana in West Africa. We are very grateful for the opportunity to undertake this trip. There were eight of us travelling from the Diocese in order to cement the ties which already exist, *in embryo*, between the Episcopal congregations in Kelso and West Linton with their respective partner congregations in the town of Cape Coast and the village of Saltpond. We were also there representing our Diocese and so we spent the first few days on more or less "official" business – being dragged in a hot minibus through interminable traffic jams in Accra and explaining our "mission" to the Primate of West Africa and the Diocesan Bishop in Cape Coast, as well as to local chiefs and dignitaries.

The more memorable parts of the visit, however, were not our official meetings with the “great and the good”, but the encounters - planned and many unplanned - between ourselves and ordinary people in the pews and in the streets.

One young man was seen coaching an impromptu rugby team made up of a group of children from the fishing village at the end of the beach. He was fifteen or sixteen years old. To see the distance he was able to kick a rugby ball from one end of the beach to the other made you wonder what a Scottish Secondary School would have given to have him on their team. At one point I asked him why he wasn't in school. He responded that he'd done a year or two of secondary school but that the money had run out. Coaching a rugby team made up of some of the poorest children in Ghana from the fishing village at the end of the beach was what he did to fill the time in between matches playing for the Cape Coast amateur team.

He was hoping to set aside enough money to resume his studies at the earliest possible moment.

Little Sampson – aged about seven – is in school “from time to time”. His father is out on a fishing boat all day and his mother needs to cadge a lift early every morning to her work in an adjoining town. Sampson does not have a great deal of parental supervision and so school attendance has fallen by the wayside. He's seven years old. If his mother were around during the day to supervise Sampson's school attendance then things would be different. The requirement to put food on the table, however, has taken first priority.

We met children who were selling things at street corners so that a sibling could attend secondary school – rushing up to parked cars with enormous pots on their heads loaded up with drinking water, brassières or mobile phones. We met families who had found the money to pay the school fees for the first couple of months and were now working on the second part of the project, which was the acquisition of a school uniform. Everywhere you look in Accra or Cape Coast you will see somebody trying to make a few extra Cedis to pay for something which most of our children take for granted.

I was doing House Assemblies at Penicuik High this week – Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. We talked about opportunities – we talked

about waste – about energy and about seizing the day. On our side of the ocean we have all the gadgets a man could ever want – gadgets we throw away when a button ceases to work. Our parks and our gutters are filled with things that somewhere else would be collected and repaired and put to good use again. Our children wear their school ties at odd angles and are sometimes quite clear about their disrespect for the whole “uniform thing” – at a time when families in another part of the world are working at a desperate pace to provide exactly that for their own children. It doesn’t seem right. Time is rolling on – for our communities, for our congregations. Our youth doesn’t last forever, and even with the relatively ample amount of comfort and riches which surround us, we have a limited number of occasions to seize the opportunities which present themselves. We may have the gadgets. We don’t have a corner on “character”.

While we reflect on how parts of the world struggle to gain some forward momentum in this life – let’s not waste the good things we have.
Father Rob Warren

Congratulations.....



.... to Ruth Green from St James' Penicuik who passed through the first part of her selection for Ordained Ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Church. There is still a further step to take later in the year with the Bishops' Advisory Panel but a major hurdle has been passed and we are all very happy for her.

(and so say all of us! Well done, Ruth - Ed)

Penicuik for Africa (PfA)

Chitambo Midwifery School Appeal There was stiff competition for our stall in the park (not least from Family Warren!) but its being there for somebody else that counts and everyone that I met when I arrived late – hot from the Algarve and soon to be hotter- said they enjoyed it. Whether that applied to Des, who took his ‘duty of care’ for the plants on sale so seriously that he ferried water by the bottle from the Loan Burn to revive flagging specimens, I’m not sure. Anyway, with after- sales and donations, the Appeal was boosted by £72, taking the total over the £600 mark. Special thanks to Val & Andy for setting up the stall in my

absence. As ever, the Zambian Ministry of Health are proving slow to confirm their support for our scheme but we live in hope!

3rd Africa Fair Replies to our invitations are slowly coming in but I forgot to put a 'deadline' on the first circular and that hasn't helped! There are several networks that transmit information between organisations with interests in Africa and two acceptances have come from groups that we didn't even invite: the Afro-Caribbean Network (Glasgow Branch!) and Dignity Alert & Research Forum. To these we can add several groups with fond memories of previous fairs, Engineer Aid, Vet Aid, Children of the Songea (Tanzania), Children's Fund (Malawi), Friends of Playing Soccer (Malawi), The Ribban Trust (Kenyan children), Penicuik High School (PHS) (Malawi) and our very own Mothers Union and Diocesan Cape Coast project (Ghana). Comfort Rwanda (South Church) will be represented and with PfA doing their bit for Chitambo (Zambia), we will be covering a considerable portion of Africa, even without the inevitable latecomers. Our Glasgow group are bringing four musicians, so it should be a great day. So remember the date, time and place:

Saturday, September 26, 11am-1.30pm, Penicuik Town Hall

We will be needing plenty of helpers, particularly to set things up and serve refreshments, so if you can help with any of the following, please let me know:

- collection of poster boards from Pentlands Science Park-Friday afternoon (25th)
- setting out tables and erecting boards in upper hall Friday evening, caretaker permitting
- reception committee to guide exhibitors to their slots (from 10am on the day)
- grappling with the intricacies of the new sound system, providing recorded African music
- making and serving coffee etc. in the lesser hall
- possibly serving lunch (Ruth and Akbar of Mosque Kitchen fame, permitting)
- clearing up in the last half hour

African Art and Cultural Event As part of the Penicuik Arts Festival, Sharone McKenzie (South Church) is organising an evening celebration of African Art, Music & Culture in the Craigiefield Hotel on Saturday, September 5th. Topping the bill are 'Sowadi', an African ladies choir from

Soweto (?). There will be storytelling and stalls selling African jewellery and curios. 'Burnt Out Records' (PHS) will be there to plug their new CD. Sharone would be pleased to see you there and you would undoubtedly be pleased by being there!

Neville (01968 673819)

Vestry Moments

This is a summary of matters discussed at the Vestry meetings of 30th April, 21st May and 16th June 2009.

- Provision of Chancel steps handrail discussed
- Revision of Parish List in hand; forms to be distributed soon
- Doors Open Day; decided not to participate this year
- SEC Youth Weeks Camp sponsorship of young people
- Fabric: repair to St Margaret window; Quinquennial Review under consideration; chimney cowl fixed; new vacuum cleaner bought
- Garden of Remembrance: repairs have been done
- Discussion of Congregational Meeting agenda; subsequently draft minutes discussed
- Report on "Engage" meeting
- Forthcoming event dates to be posted monthly on notice board
- Vestry will check church diary at each meeting to ensure any necessary arrangements put in place and appropriate people notified

Next meetings: Tuesday 18th August 2009 and Wednesday 30th September 2009

Georgina Phillips, Minutes Secretary

Special Congregational Meeting

This was held on 7 June 2009 in response to a request at our last AGM

Summary of points raised:

- 38 members of the congregation attended
- meeting opened with prayer and Bible reading
- diary for church events is accessed via St James website; suggested printouts on notice board for those not having access to computer
- there is a well-planned programme of fund-raising events, but we need to improve social events and maybe invite specific groups in the community

- volunteers still in short supply
- chancel lighting is low on priority list as special fund-raising would be necessary
- photo board in Hall shows Vestry members etc, but still strong feeling for need to itemise specific duties as part of good organisational planning
- low attendance: congregation is becoming older and there is a drop in Young Church numbers; action group to consider how to increase child attendance
- Welcomers needed for rota; important as first point of contact for visitors
- Church handbook proposed
- Book of Remembrance needs to be on display
- Provision of chancel steps handrail: approval under Canon 35 sought from congregation; proposed Mike Hay, seconded Marion Mather, carried unanimously; there will be informal consultation with congregation and the handrail will, in part, be funded by Frances' bequest to St James
- There being no OCB, the meeting closed with prayer

Frances McLean

This is part of a letter from Bishop Bethlehem Nopece of Port Elizabeth, S. Africa

Frances, in a special way, has made her mark in the mission field of the Province of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. As you may recall I first met her at St Barnabas Hospital, Ntlaza in the diocese of Mthata (then St John's). The people were very fond of her: even her strict way of doing things in an orderly fashion was received with joy. She was nicknamed "Nomamazala" (meaning Mother-in-Law attitude of doing things). It was not only the cleanliness of the wards and the welfare of the patients with neat beds, well made by the training nurses, but also the supervision of the sisters in charge that were her priorities.

Within the church she was one of the committed regulars as if prompted by the Spirit of God within her, that everything we do may not succeed without the Lord's much needed help. I am told she would even go out herself, leaving the hospital to others, to visit the clinics that were supervised and under the care of the hospital at St. Barnabas. Even

though she died at a mature age, her loss will still be felt in the diocese of Mthata.

We are also pleased that she was able to accept ordination when she came back home, having done so much on the mission field. Surely, the people of Penicuik will also miss her in their community

I trust and hope that as we together have commended this dear sister to the Lord, we shall be comforted..

Received in reply to a letter to Bishop Bethlehem telling him about Frances' death and her service in church.

Angel Sibley



St James Car Treasure Hunt & Barbecue

Saturday, 22nd August 2009, meeting in the car park at 10.30am. The Hunt will cover a distance of approximately 40 miles, with the first car setting out at 11am and finishing back at church within about 2 hours. Afterwards, there will be a barbecue and tea/coffee/juice provided; feel free to bring extra food to cook. Minimum of 2 per team in a car, “greener” to fill the car;(check your insurance!) Don't forget to bring pencil/pen for each member of your team.

Tickets: £6 per person to include barbecue; available from *Adrian Marchant, 01968 677477*

Care Van

A team from St James are going out on July 19th and the clothing stocks are very low at present. The main items needed are coats, fleeces, socks, underwear and footwear.

We have quite a good stock of blankets at the present due to a generous donation by the local Brownies. Thank you, Ruth Frantom, for making this contact.

We have a healthy team of volunteers; what we do lack is another driver, for cover, as we currently only have two. *Bernard Hunter.*

“Living Water”

Carlops Church has recently been refurbished, and is now very light and airy. If you ever have the opportunity to look inside, take time to admire the specially commissioned new window. The information below has kindly been supplied by a member of Carlops congregation:

A decorative window in Carlops Parish Church by Emma Butler-Cole Aiken

The artist: Emma Butler-Cole Aiken grew up in Carlops and was formerly a member of Carlops Church. She has undertaken many commissions in stained glass and has designed decorative windows for several churches.

The design... is inspired by Biblical references and a Pentland landscape.

- *“He that believeth in me ... out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water” John 7:38*
- *“For with you is the fountain of life” Psalms 36:9*
- *“Come, whoever is thirsty; accept the water of life as a gift” Revelation 22:17*

The design is partially abstracted, but can be mapped on to the hills above Carlops. Study the hilly horizon at the top of the window, then look west over the roof of The Old Manse (Emma’s childhood home) to the Pentland Hills.

Emma says ... “It was a privilege to be asked to make a stained glass window for Carlops Church. I grew up there and enjoyed exploring the local landscape. As a student, I was encouraged to design stained glass for a real building. I chose Carlops Church, little knowing what would occur years later! Melting snow on the Pentlands gives way to a rush of ‘living water’, spilling out of the borders of the window towards the centre of the church. Breakthrough. Refreshment. Revival.

The window is composed of hand-made glass, with etching, staining and glass painting.”

(There is a colour picture of the window inside the back cover - Ed)

Gardens Open West Linton

On Sunday 2nd August 2009, five gardens in West Linton will be open to the public. Open 2-5pm. Teas available. Cost £5.

ROTAS

July 2009

	05-July-2009	12-July-2009	19-July-2009	26-July-2009
	Pentecost 5	Pentecost 6	Pentecost 7	Pentecost 8
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	David	David
St Mungo's Organists	?	Jean	Jean	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Tom Moffat/ Mgt Coull	Nigel Johnston/ Andy Longmore	Isobelle Stenhouse/ Alan Sibley
Bread and wine	Children	Sibleys	Hindles	Johnstons
1st reading	<i>2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 or Ezekiel 2:1-5</i>	<i>2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19 or Amos 7:7-15</i>	<i>2 Samuel 7:1-14a or Jer 23:1-6</i>	<i>2 Samuel 11:1-15 or 2 Kings 4:42-44</i>
	Joyce Black	Alan Murray	Georgina Phillips	Jo' Bullough
2nd reading	<i>2 Corinthians 12:2-10</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:3-14</i>	<i>Ephesians 2:11-22</i>	<i>Ephesians 3:14-21</i>
	Margaret Coull	Fay Clerk	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark
Gospel	<i>Mark 6:1-13</i>	<i>Mark 6:14-29</i>	<i>Mark 6:30-34, 53-56</i>	<i>John 6:1-21</i>
Prayers	Ruth Green	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Angela Sibley
Pray for	J Tots	Mauricewood House Group	Clergy Team	Vestry
Server	Angela	Val/Steven	Angela/Sara	Val/Alice
Coffee	Kathleen Cox Sue Crosfield	Hays Smiths	McGarvas	Joyce Black
Flowers	Ruth Frantom	Ruth Frantom	Ruth Frantom	Ruth Frantom
Cleaning	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Andy Longmore
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

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

August 2009

	02-Aug- 2009	09-Aug-2009	16-Aug-2009	23-Aug-2009	30-Aug-2009
	Pentecost 9	Pentecost 10	Pentecost 11	Pentecost 12	Pentecost 13
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organists	David	Jean	Mike	David	Jean
Sidesmen	Isobel Stenhouse Alan Sibley	McGarvas	Des Frantom Elizabeth Clark	Tom Moffat Margaret Coull	Andy Longmore Isobel Stenhouse
Bread and wine	Young Church	Dicksons	Clerks	Leavys	Johnstons
1st reading	2 Sam 11:26-12:13a or Exodus 16:2-4,9-15	2 Sam 18:5-9, 15, 31-33 or 1 Kings 19:4-8	1 Kings 2:10-12; 3:3-14 or Proverbs 9:1-6	1 Kings 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43 or Josh 24:1-2a, 14-18	Song of Sol 2:8-13 or Deut 4:1-2, 6-9
	Adrian Marchant	Ian Fuge	Geoff Mather	Geoff Mather	Gillian Little
2nd reading	Ephesians 4:1-16	Ephesians 4:25-5:2	Ephesians 5:15-20	Ephesians 6: 10-20	James 1:17-27
	Sue Crosfield	Brigitte Fuge	Jean Hindle	Marion Mather	Val McGavin
Gospel	John 6:24-35	John 6:35, 41-51	John 6:51-58	John 6:56-69	Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
Prayers	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore	Georgina Phillips
Pray for	MU	Young Church Leaders	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	St James Congregation
Server	Angela/Ruth	Val	Angela/Stephen	Val/Alice	Angela/Ruth
Coffee	Isobel Stenhouse Jean Wright	Gillian Little Marion Mather	Mrs Neish & family	Frantoms	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan
Flowers	Marion Mather	Marion Mather	Marion Mather	Marion Mather	Marion Mather
Cleaning	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	Mona Bennett Ruth Green
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk
Care Van			*		
Pentland House	*				

September 2009

	06-Sep -2009	13-Sep-2009	20-Sep-2009	27-Sep-2009
	Pentecost 14	Pentecost 15	Pentecost 16	Pentecost 17
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organists	Mike	David	Jean	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Des Frantom Alan Sibley	Elizabeth Clark Tom Moffat
Bread and wine	Young Church	Barretts	Hindles	Sibleys
1st reading	<i>Provbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 or Isaiah 35:4-7a</i>	<i>Provbs 1:20-33 or Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Provbs 31:10-31 or Wisdom 1:16-2:1, 12-22</i>	<i>Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29</i>
	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Margaret Coull
2nd reading	<i>James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17</i>	<i>James 3:1-12</i>	<i>James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a</i>	<i>James 5:13-20</i>
	Young Church	Joyce Black	Gillian Little	Fay Clerk
Gospel	<i>Mark 7:24-37</i>	<i>Mark 8:27-38</i>	<i>Mark 9:30-37</i>	<i>Mark 9:38-50</i>
Prayers	Alan Murray	Elizabeth Clark	Ruth Green	Georgina Phillips
Pray for	Young Church	Youth Group	Bible Study Group	Choir
Server	Val/Sarah	Angela/Ruth	Val/Stephen	Angela/Alice
Coffee	Kathleen Cox Sue Crosfield	McGarvas	Hays Smiths	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black
Flowers	Ros Hay	Ros Hay	Ros Hay	Ros Hay
Cleaning	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Clerks	Clerks	Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk
Care Van			*	
Pentland House		*		

The Silverburn Study Group

We plan to have four meetings on Wednesdays October 28, November 4, 11, and 18. We meet at 8pm and finish at 9.30. Our subject will be "Why Bother with the Old Testament?"

Please bring a bible.

15 is the most we can manage. I hope most of our present members will be able to come. Please let Tony Bramley (675240) know if you would like to join us. *Philip*

Choir News

Most of you are probably aware that I have decided to retire as choirmaster of St James, and that from the end of June the choir direction will be in David's very capable hands. After leading the choir for getting on for 30 years (I think the first time I conducted a concert was during the 1980 Flower Festival), I do feel that it is time for a new perspective on what the choir does; a change of leader is one of the best ways to achieve that. I will of course continue as an active choir member as well as on the organ rota, and I'll still be happy to conduct and fill in for David any time when required.

It's been a great privilege and a wonderful experience to work with so much talent and so much loyalty. This was exemplified so well at the latest "Music for a Summer Evening", when the choir and soloists' talents augmented by sheer hard work and commitment were very much in evidence, and I know that many who were new to the event were amazed at the quality and breadth of the programme. Providing music of a high quality doesn't come without its cost, however, and I'm greatly indebted to all involved over the years for their "stickability" when the going got tough!



DEAR GOD, PLEASE GIVE ME PATIENCE ... AND I NEED IT RIGHT NOW!!!

If I get bullied enough by the editor(!), I may write a bit more about the experiences of the past three decades of choirmastering, but for now I would just mention a few highlights. Nine Lessons and Carols, "Music for a Summer Evening", Fauré Requiem, Vivaldi's Gloria, Pergolesi Magnificat are some of the events and major works which spring to mind. But equally the

task and privilege of leading the music for the Sunday by Sunday worship, and some of the anthems offered in that context, have also been very memorable. We must always keep in mind that the primary function of any church choir is to lead worship, and I hope that over the years I've succeeded in keeping that priority to the fore.

There are so many people to thank, far too many to mention everyone by name, but I must particularly mention David, Jennifer and Jean, all of whom by their loyal support, co-operation and flexibility added to first

class musicianship have made my task so much easier. The loyalty and musicianship of the choir members has also been so gratifying, and we shouldn't forget the less obvious makers of cups of tea, mince pies and shortbread, the pourers and purchasers of wine and nibbles, and the washers-up! Ros has been an amazing support and source of good advice, as well as letting me know gently when something I had said or done could have been more tactfully managed! So to all these, and to all in the congregation who have been so appreciative and have provided a congregation and/or audience to share our music, many, many thanks!

I still remember the day when Lily MacFarlane ("Mrs Mac" to those who remember her), having realised that she was going to have to retire as choirmistress due to ill-health, passed on to me her "*Organist and Choirmaster*" (*sic*) Royal School of Church Music medallion (political correctness hadn't been invented then!). I've worn that medallion with pride ever since, and in passing the same medallion on to David at the MFSE concert earlier this month, I am absolutely confident that he will continue with enthusiasm and skill the tradition of ensuring that the worship of God at St James is supported and enhanced by music of the highest quality. I wish him every success! *Mike Hay*

Church membership list

Who are the members of our church? Formally, the 'members' of St James the Less Penicuik are those entitled to vote at general meetings by virtue of being on the congregational list (also known as the electoral roll). In practice, the membership list is more than this — it is used to keep in touch with our members, for such purposes as sending out service detail cards at Easter and Christmas, for example.

For years, churches asked communicants at Christmas and Easter to complete a card with name and address to update the membership list. However, many persons go away at these times, so this is not entirely satisfactory, and we haven't done it for several years. People move, change telephone numbers, and increasingly these days — email addresses. Children grow up and move out of the family home; and (until recently) newcomers didn't see any opportunity to give us their names. For all these reasons, our membership list is not entirely complete and accurate. We now need to make a specific effort to update it.

We are an active church — not only in worship and prayer, but with many facets of our church life and involvement in the community. Yet much of what is done, and needs to be done, is done by rather few persons. We would like to have more of us involved in our community life. So while we are updating the membership list, we would like to take the opportunity to discover your unknown talents, and invite you to be further involved.

We need to check all the names and addresses we have, so this includes persons we already know, as well as newcomers. And we would like to make contact again with those we haven't seen for a while, for whatever reason. So we would also like you to tell anyone you know that we are updating our records. There will soon be appearing in church cards to fill in to give us your details. Please return these to the Rector, or Sidesmen, or to Richard Phillips. Please also give cards to any neighbour you know, or anyone you know who used to come to church, but hasn't attended for a while and might still like to be a member of St James the Less church.

For the record, the membership list will be kept on computer — and only used by St James church to make contact with our members about church activities. We do not make it available to anyone else. Vestry does not intend to issue a church membership list to the congregation. Richard Phillips will be conducting the revision and maintaining the list.

June General Meeting

Have you ever wondered why the same names appear on the Rotas week by week and month by month, year by year? These are the people who volunteer to give their time/talents to serve the congregation in various ways.

At the June Meeting, it was stated that the same people continue in jobs for decades which hinders the growth of congregational involvement. If/when these people retire, who will replace them?

Angela Sibley

Leprosy Mission Pancake Morning

The Pancake Morning on 6th of June was very successful and, as usual, well supported by members of St James. The sum raised this year was another record; at £1265 it well exceeded previous totals. We

would like to thank all those who attended especially Joyce, Moira, Angela and Susan for assistance in serving the pancakes, tea, coffee. The sum raised is to support a leper hospital in Zambia to provide personal aids and adaptations for patients. Our next fund raising event will be a soup and dessert lunch, Saturday, October 10th. Look out for details in Outreach. *Marian Hunter & Jennifer Edge.*

Mothers' Union News

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

Visit of Worldwide President: Lissa Smith, the Bishop's wife, welcomed us to her home where 18 members met to welcome our Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempself, accompanied by her husband and our Provincial President, Sheila Redwood, also accompanied by her husband. After mid-day prayers taken by Sheila, we all met and mingled together before serving ourselves with a delicious two course lunch over which there was plenty of chat.

The Bishop was able to catch up with us towards the end of the lunch. He had been otherwise engaged earlier as the Episcopal Representative to the Church of Scotland Assembly, We then all gathered together for Rosemary to give a short talk, mainly about her travels to Africa and the Caribbean and the effect her visit to the children of Africa, infected with AIDS, had on her. Mothers' Union have had representatives in New York at UNESCO since 2001 and the main theme this year was AIDS. She was glad to see Marion Chatterley with us who was also in New York. She also spoke about Kenya, where they have a scheme of 'texting' (they all seem to have mobile phones) a certain number of Prayers, a scheme Sheila thought was well worth looking into. Rosemary was particularly delighted to see prospective members from our new Branch at St Ninian's, who will have their enrolling service in September.

Rosemary has had a very full week visiting 5 Dioceses here in Scotland and they faced a long journey home. We all had a nice few hours together with our Worldwide President and hope she manages to visit us again. We thank Lissa for her hospitality in opening her home to us and also to Sue Crosfield, our Edinburgh Diocesan President, for organising it all, especially the food which we all enjoyed.

Joyce Black, Edinburgh Diocese MU Secretary

Soutra Open Days

We recently attended a talk by Dr Brian Moffat on the investigations into Soutra mediaeval hospital. The hospital was run by the Augustinian order of monks. The preserved waste from their medical practice offers a fascinating insight into the efficacy of mediaeval medicine and the social history of that time. This summer's Open Days are August 26th, 27th, and 28th, starting promptly at 2pm. Find it signposted off the A68, south of Dalkeith and Fala. If you wish to read about the site, there are numerous articles online: http://www.jamespringle.co.uk/html/soutra_aisle.html gives an historical overview.

Mad Scientist 'What is truth ?'

Have you wondered why all your 'Mad Scientists' have been so quiet for so long? Perhaps they have been too busy searching for 'scientific truths'. For research scientists, the search for truth can be an all-consuming passion and they have that much in common with seekers for spiritual truth. However, the wise scientist knows that what appears to be true one year may appear untrue the next. Scientists try to discover the truth about the way the universe works by constructing hypotheses and then examining how well the results of their experiments or their observations of the world around them fit their hypothetical models. Sometimes they change their minds, as in the case of the Edinburgh astronomers who recently published a hypothesis that 'black holes' were places where stars were born, replacing their previous suggestion that they were places where whole galaxies disappeared into oblivion. That's what can happen when you ask really big scientific questions!

My own scientific endeavours are much more mundane. For the last two years I have been busy updating a textbook on the 'Mineral Nutrition of Livestock' that I revised 10 years ago. A friend asked, cynically, 'What was wrong with the first effort?!' Tilly said I was 'Mad' not to have given up all that 'Animal Science Stuff' long ago, but I was driven not so much to record the truth, as to correct parts of the recent scientific record that I was sure were false. With dairy farmers finding it difficult to produce milk profitably, the last thing they want is unnecessary additions to their feed bills, yet they are bombarded with false claims that using expensive 'organic' mineral supplements can improve the health of their cows. The pressure comes from multinational manufacturers who stand to make a fortune from selling

such supplements. It has been fascinating to trace the scientific record and see how astutely companies sponsor experiments that are designed to yield 'good news' and - if their plans unravel - how the 'bad news' can be covered up in the scientific press.

In our search for spiritual truths we can fall into that trap of interpreting evidence only one way, whether we are research scientists or not, finding answers that make us comfortable and that we wish were true. Prayer is 'answered' and 'God is good' when events turn out better than we had dared hope, but when things go from bad to worse God remains 'good' and attentive to our needs. Our search can be simplified by relying on the biblical record as the last word on the matter, but did the authors not sometimes use words that confirmed past notions of 'The Truth'? At the other extreme, some regard 'God' as a hypothesis, albeit with Jesus as substantive proof. There are places in Matthew's Gospel where Jesus points to the scriptural record of the Old Testament and says in effect 'ignore all that!' The 'eye-for-an eye, tooth-for-a tooth' policy of Deuteronomy 16, echoed in Shariah law and Israeli foreign policy, is replaced by 'turn the other cheek' in Mt. 6. That's what happened when He began to ask the big spiritual questions. While adherents to the three major faiths each regard their own holy book as an embodiment of 'The Truth' about God, peaceful co-existence is unlikely. Our religions, like our economies, need some 'quantitative easing' on scriptural interpretation before there can be agreement on 'What is truth'. *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, remembering in particular the Fuge family and those who have recently lost loved ones. Pray for healing and support for Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, and Ralph.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters. Pray for the release of all who are enslaved, for those held captive unfairly or illegally and for the work of Amnesty International. Pray for those suffering under corrupt and uncaring political regimes, remembering especially the people of

Zimbabwe. Pray for people of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks. Pray for those who have been victims of terrorism.

For those who staff the Bethany Trust Care Van as they minister to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh, and for the homeless themselves. For the work of Penicuik in Africa, remembering especially those working to combat the ravages of AIDS in Mombasa and other African countries. *(The Prayer Request book is either to be found in the chapel or on the altar, waiting to be used. Please do make use of it by adding your concerns and prayers. The requests are prayed for on other days as well as on Sundays. Also let the clergy know the progress of the person held in prayer. The list is updated every two to three months. Thank you!)*

Events coming soon...

Sun 2 Aug	2 - 5pm Gardens Open at West Linton
Tue 18 Aug	7.30pm Vestry
Sat 22 Aug	10.30am Car Treasure Hunt and Barbecue
August 26, 27, 28	2.00pm Soutra Open Days
Sun 30 Aug	Start-up Sunday , followed by Congregational Picnic at Penicuik House
Sat 26 Sept	Africa Fair Town Hall
Wed 30 Sept	7.30pm Vestry
Sat 10 Oct	Soup and Dessert Lunch in aid of Leprosy Mission
28 Oct-18 Nov	Wed evenings 8.00pm Silverburn Study Group
Fri 27 Nov	Silver Band Concert (details tba)

“Outreach” can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> *The September 2009 edition will be published on Start-up Sunday 30 August. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Georgina Phillips 661039, Merlewood, The Loan, West Linton, EH46 7HE, phillg13@toucansurf.com, by Wed 19 August at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.*

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Visit of MU Worldwide President to Edinburgh
(from L to R: Sue Crosfield, Bishop Brian, Rosemary Kempzell and Sheila Redwood)



And with the Primus at Lenzie



Bowing out - a rather bemused choirmaster with supporters!



The new stained-glass window in Carlops Church (see p11)