



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Some of the choir joined the choir of St Peter's Peebles for Evensong!

Issue No 142 March 2008



A dwelling in Senegal from “Rob’s African visit” (see Feb “Outreach”)

Padre Rory MacLeod in Iraq

(see Mothers’ Union News)



Contents

Service Times.....	4
Groups and Activities.....	4
Rector's Letter.....	4
"Penicuik for Africa" (PfA).....	7
A note from the Vestry regarding income.....	8
Alternative Christmas Card.....	10
Silverburn Study Group.....	11
Volunteers wanted!.....	11
World Day of Prayer - reminder!.....	12
The Princes Street Easter Play Trust.....	12
Fund Raising.....	13
Care Van –appeal for clothes!.....	14
Baghdad - Encouraging News.....	14
From Thomas Joyner.....	15
Outreach subscriptions 2008.....	15
Outreach on the Web!.....	15
March 2008 Rota.....	16
April 2008 Rota.....	17
May 2008 Rota.....	18
Mothers' Union News.....	19
Mad Scientist page.....	22
Zaytoun - making a difference.....	23
Fitting Name!.....	25
Mission News.....	25
Choir News.....	26
Financial News.....	28
Your prayers are asked for.....	28
Events coming soon.....	29
Passiontide and Easter Services.....	29
Contacts at St James.....	30

Service Times

Sundays: 8.00 am Said Communion
11.00 am Choral Communion
Evensong as announced

Thursdays: 11.15 am Informal Said Communion as announced.

On the first Sunday of the month the 11.00am Sunday Service is a Family Communion; on the other Sundays the young people go out to Young Church during the first hymn and return in time for Communion.

Groups and Activities

(please contact the appropriate person listed 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 (Junior Choir on Sundays,
10.15am)



Rector's Letter

The one thing about pure colours is that you rarely see them in nature. The colour of the sea on a sunny day or the brilliant hue of a bird's breast - look closer and there's a fleck of this or that mixed in – the patch of bright yellow turns out to be more gold.

The blue is more greeny than it should be. The same applies to shapes – there are few Platonic solids out there in the forest – not very many perfect cubes or octahedrons although a few bits of pollen come close.

Where exactly do perfect forms, colours and measures exist? Will we see them when we die? Will heaven be filled with perfect forms, colours and musical notes? We know they exist within the minds of the people who've worked out the mathematics of what a perfect form would have to look like.

When I was a child my teachers told me about a room somewhere in Canada's capital city of Ottawa where the

government kept a lump of lead which weighed exactly one standard Imperial pound and that it was there so that it could be compared with what the grocer was pretending was a pound of whatever product he was selling. I remember wondering if a queue of shoppers could appear in front of the locked door in Ottawa holding bags of what they believed were deficient amounts of sliced chicken breast. Probably not. They wouldn't want the Standard Pound to get greasy but the idea was the same. There was out there somewhere – a perfect measure by which normal daily measures could be judged.

There's a little church just north of Montreal which has the Ten Commandments painted in large black letters on the east wall of the Nave – five a side on either side of the opening to the Sanctuary. Anybody committing adultery or coveting in that congregation finds themselves reminded weekly of what they're doing. They won't be able to say they didn't know. We could possibly identify a parent, grandparent or mentor whose opinion on matters had sufficient gravity that it has never quite left us – we still find ourselves in the full flower of our maturity being judged by that standard. Their voice still echoes in our head.

The yearly Lenten exercise! It could be a time when we parade out the sickly little budgerigar of our own life and place it next to an idealised statue of the American Eagle and wonder how we will ever make the one look like the other. We suspect we won't and so we choose some small portion of the task and work on it. We quit smoking. Or we despair ahead of time and think of something else. Or we find ourselves negatively affected by the deficiencies we perceive there. We get gloomy.

The Pharisees were quite positive about the ability of men and women to fulfil the Law's demands. There were exercises you could do – a program you could sign up to. They had earned the respect of many for this sort of 'practical' approach to the problem of how an ordinary Jew could live righteously in Rome or Corinth or Jerusalem. These same Pharisees had rather hoped that Jesus would be their ally. Any number of individuals approached Jesus with an admirable frankness asking more or less the same thing of him that they would have asked of the

Pharisees. What must I do to be saved and is what I'm doing more or less the right thing to do? Could you tell me the secret – can I sign up to the program?

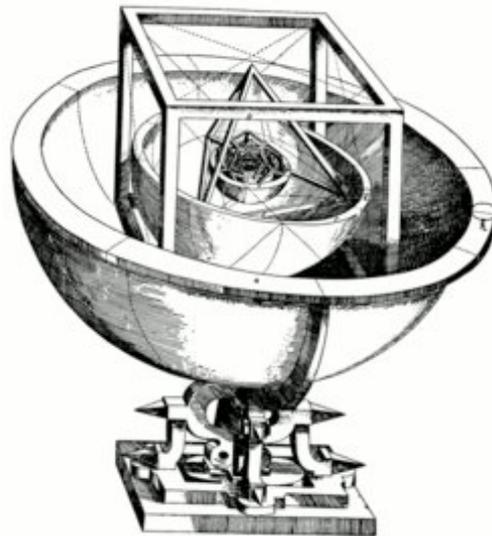
Jesus' response, rather than finding a way of making an end-run around the Law or easing the way to fulfilling it is to sharpen the offence: you've not avoided adultery if you have a lustful thought about the woman who runs the Tavern on the corner. You've not avoided murder if you've said in your heart 'What an eedjit our Rector is'. As a strategy for winning adherents among those genuinely interested in making a success of law-keeping it was hardly a success. One must conclude that there is a process of heightening anxiety rather than lessening it.

The existence of perfect forms, laws and measures serves two purposes. It shows us what a kilogram should weigh but it judges all earthly kilograms. If you think you've got a perfect kilogram of halibut from the fishmonger just get yourself a more accurate scale and you'll find you haven't. If you think you've avoided murder, just look to your rages or your ability to gossip and you'll find you haven't. The Law functions to remind us that we are failures and that we haven't been able do what its precepts command. Among those of us who are not prepared to give up it provokes us to ask for help, salvation, deliverance, support and love in spite of who we have proven to be at the end of a long process of weighing and measuring. So we stand there in the midst of life, or at the end of our lives, saying simply – "Lord, I have not measured up".

The life of faith of Christian people is lived in the light of God for whom the revealing of Law was not the high point of the story. The high point of the story came in joining himself to our humanity and suffering for us – in our stead. Jesus is clear in saying that he comes to save the lost and that the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" are those who know they are lost. The quickest way to find yourself heading away from Jesus on your donkey is to begin to list the ways in which you have done what the Law requires. You don't have the right scale – that's all. Dig a little deeper and you'll find something else in your character.

It falls to Saint Paul to flesh it out further. He does so by reminding his readers of what Abraham accomplished. What Abraham accomplished, in the days before there was a Law was 'belief'. According to Paul, Abraham's "faith was reckoned to him as righteousness". And didn't we know, he says, that this was exactly what Jesus was telling us?

This is what we will be able to say on the day we stand in front of his throne: Our study of Tetrahedrons has simply shown us that our pyramid is lop-sided. We played middle C on the piano and realised we were singing out of key. We came to realise just how angry a person we had become in middle-age and that when we turn around quickly we realise that our adult children are constantly rolling their eyes. We regret the myriad ways we have poisoned our lives and the lives of others by these shortcomings. But what we have come to know as well is that God knew this already and that it was to bring ordinary and sinful people like ourselves back into community with him that he sent his son.



And so we ask for help – in doing what we cannot do ourselves.
Father Rob Warren

"Penicuik for Africa" (PfA)

Fairtrade fortnight - Feb 24th to March 9th

The fair-trade movement has been and still is a global success story. Worldwide sales passed the £1billion mark in 2004 and continue to grow exponentially as consumers increasingly turn their thoughts to the question 'Who benefits most from the things we buy?'. The answer was and still is 'Predominantly, wealthy multi-national companies who add value to primary products from impoverished farmers'. The turnover of fair trade goods still represents only a tiny fraction of the global economy but things are moving in the right direction and we can each help to swell the tide by buying Fairtrade goods wherever possible.

Sales on our PfA stall looked as though they would follow the global trend when we ordered c. £2500- worth of goods in our first year, but orders halved last year and continue to decline. Our regular customers are soon going to be complaining about our goods being 'out-of-date! **Why not make a point of buying at least one item, possibly a product you haven't tried before, during the next fortnight?** Our range is always changing- next month there will be Caramel 'Fairbreak' wafer biscuits and Organic Spaghetti to tempt you! Some of you may be getting Fairtrade goods from the supermarket but their prices are not always better than ours and the margin going to producers will be smaller. A small discount from our sales, 10%, goes to PfA. If you have stopped buying from the PfA stall for a particular reason, please tell Ruth or myself and we might be able to improve our service. We would both welcome offers of help behind the counter on Sundays- so don't be shy- sell and buy!

Fellowship Lunch- Palm Sunday-March 16th -12.30 (ish!)

Is there a better way to bring Lent to a close than to share a simple lunch with friends while at the same time raising funds to help our new friends in Chitambo? The latest details of our Ambulance project will be announced, including an invitation to make a fund-raising presentation at the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, hopefully in the presence of one of the great missionary's descendants. There are plans to film our delegation from Penicuik as it makes its way to Chitambo in August for a formal presentation on the occasion of the hospital's 100th anniversary and we may be joined by representatives from Holyrood, as long as they have something to bring with them!

The soup-makers hopefully will have noted the change of date from March 2nd and the soups will be hot!

Neville

A note from the Vestry regarding income

The vestry has noted that at the end of the first third of our financial year we are below budget in terms of funds coming in from all sources - most particularly from envelopes and direct giving. The shortfall is presently a little over £3000.

We've seen this before. We were in about the same situation at the end of the first third of the year at this time 12 months ago. We managed to

break even at the end of the year but certainly not without mentioning it well ahead of time in order to allow our members to catch up if they've fallen a bit behind, or for newer members to begin giving on a regular monthly basis if they've been doing it only occasionally or for established members to increase their giving if they find themselves able to do so.

Please remember that the congregation does not hold any reserve funds and that we are entirely funded by our membership who make the provision of ministry and evangelism possible in Penicuik through their dedicated support. We thank you ahead of time for your attention to these needs.

Shoe Boxes break new ground in Liberia

The following letter was forwarded by Kathryn Topham

“A team from the UK returned this week from Liberia after witnessing extraordinary scenes as shoe boxes were given out for the first time in Lofa County - an area in the north that was the scene of heavy fighting, rape and brutality during Liberia's long-running civil war.

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

In the city of Voinjama, hundreds of school children queued in long lines in the heat from 7.30am (the start of the school day) until our team arrived at 10.30am. The excitement and anticipation shone from their faces. After one boy opened his box, he rushed up and shouted, 'Thank you, thank you, thank you'. Similar shouts were heard across the school as children held tightly to

things they never dreamed of having for themselves. Many mothers were there to share the joy of the moment and take the boxes safely home.

Power of the personal touch

When our team saw a group looking puzzled at cards and photos of children in their boxes, they explained these were



children in the UK who had packed these special gifts for them. They couldn't believe that people would care to think of them and show practical love with these Christmas gifts. Having suffered the effects of war, poverty and disease, these children were given a powerful sense of self worth. For them, it meant the world that people they'd never met and living thousands of miles away had remembered them.

Download the OCC Thank you Powerpoint Presentation

To help you involve as many people as possible in the 2008 OCC Campaign, we have produced an OCC Thank You PowerPoint presentation. It's short, easy to understand and ideal for showing in a school assembly, church service or group meeting. Go to <http://www.samaritanspurse.uk.com/occ/thank-you.asp> to view the OCC PowerPoint Presentation and use it whenever opportunities arise. Thank you.

Go a step further in 2008!

Many children who receive shoe boxes have no easy access to safe water. This makes them vulnerable to life-threatening diseases and often prevents them receiving an education as they spend their days searching for water.

On Saturday 10th May (or a date to suit you) we're asking you to organise and go on a four-mile "Turn on the Tap" Challenge walk (the average distance that women and children in Africa and Asia have to walk to collect water). This is a tremendous community fundraising opportunity that could help us lift the burden on many women and children who have to walk for miles every day to collect their water. Click here to order your free "Turn on the Tap" Challenge resource pack.

Thank you for your fantastic support and willingness to go the extra mile to promote OCC and "Turn on the Tap" in 2008.

With warmest thanks.

Simon Barrington, Executive Director: Samaritan's Purse International

Alternative Christmas Card

I thought you would be interested to know that this year all funds raised through the Alternative Christmas Card will go directly to helping children and their families in Caripuyo, Bolivia.

Caripuyo is a tough place to grow up (*see back cover*). High in the Andes mountains, conditions are harsh - most of the land is uncultivable and a mix of cruel winter frosts and summer droughts make farming

extremely difficult. This means that many children in the region are malnourished, surviving on a diet of potatoes.

In order to help improve children's intake of nutritious food, World Vision is working with local people to establish community-owned greenhouse projects. Families are trained to construct and manage greenhouses, and are given seeds which allow them to grow fruit and vegetables sustainably. This can make a huge difference and with money raised from this year's Christmas Card World Vision is hoping to build 250 greenhouses across the Caripuyo region.

Thank you to everyone for your great generosity in helping with this project.

Ros Hay

Silverburn Study Group

Paul's Letters to the Corinthian Church

The group plans to meet for six weeks starting on Wednesday 2 April at 8 pm.

These letters are full of themes which are as relevant today as they were then. Threats of schism. one-upmanship, pride in success, false rhetoric when scoring points is more important than reasoned argument; these are a few examples .

I look forward to seeing our existing members and we could squeeze in a few more. Please let Tony Bramley or me know so that we can have a bit of an idea of how many to expect.

Philip Crosfield

Volunteers wanted!

Do you have a few hours a week you could give to Broomhill Day Centre ? After last month's item by Tilly, you will guess that some of the volunteers are not as young (physically) as they were, but still young in their approach to life.

We are open 10.30 - 2.30pm - the time our members are present and any hours you can give would be much appreciated. You may just have a few hours in the morning, but that is valuable.

It is FUN!!! Playing dominoes, cards or Scrabble is not "cut-throat", they are played for pleasure,(if you win, well it is just your day). Some members enjoy just chatting, and that can provide enough laughter for the rest of the day.

You can even have lunch; cost is less than a bowl of soup and coffee anywhere else.

Please think about it and if you want to find out more contact Diane or Liz 678109, or speak to Rose MacKenzie, Jean Hindle or Angela Sibley.

World Day of Prayer - reminder!

God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding

....is the theme chosen for our 2008 service. After much prayer and planning, the women of the World Day of Prayer committee of Guyana in South America have prepared a service that invites us to acknowledge the wisdom of God to be found in the marvels of His creation - rejoicing in the natural beauty of their country, known as the Land of Many Waters.

A warm welcome awaits you at the local service at the North Kirk at 7.30pm on Friday 7 March. Contact Jean Hindle for more information.

The Princes Street Easter Play Trust

(reprinted from the February edition)

For the last three years, the real meaning of Easter has been celebrated in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens by a community performance organised by the Princes Street Easter Play charity. Four and a half thousand people watched it in 2007 and this year, many more are expected.

The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ follows in the traditions of medieval passion plays and involves sixty adult and child volunteers, representing all Christian denominations. This year, these brave souls will meet up in February and March to practise in St John's Church in Edinburgh's West End on Wednesdays, at 7pm. Initial drama workshops are built around the theme and text, involving improvisations to build the characters, and text work. Director Suzanne Lofthus from the **Cutting Edge Theatre Group** welcomes all-comers, and gives every volunteer something to do – there's even a role for homing pigeons! Duncan Rennie is the only professional actor; he has played Jesus for two years and enjoys the sheer enthusiasm that everyone

shows. He tells me that lots more people join the rehearsals during Lent, when the project gathers momentum, culminating in an unforgettably moving performance.

The free performance will take place on **Easter Saturday, 22nd March**, at 2.30pm in the Gardens, regardless of weather! All are welcome, and the organisers aim to assist disabled and elderly comers, where possible.

The Cross will remain in Princes Street Gardens for five days after the play. Early on Easter Sunday morning it will be decorated with flowers to symbolise the New Life and hope that is available to all in Christ.

The performance is supported by a wide variety of churches and community arts organisations across Edinburgh, and sponsors are listed on its website. Lots more support is needed, and all those interested are invited to access the Easter Play website <http://www.easterplay.org>.

The Director, Suzanne Lofthus, is looking for actors, support crew, sound technicians, and marshals. If you would like to take part, please send her an email at cuttingedge21@btopenworld.com. I am involved with PR and fundraising and if you can help me, please email Sarah Tolley at this address sarah.mysteryplay@hotmail.com.

Fund Raising

Great food, great company and great fun, the Curry Evening was a resounding success both socially and financially – we raised a staggering £619! Thanks to the Fund Raising Team and all who supported the event, especially to Ruth Green who liaised with the Edinburgh Mosque chefs and decorated the hall so tastefully.

Our next church fund raising event:

Pampered Chef Party

Friday 11th April

7.30pm in the Church Hall

This is being hosted by the 1st Glencorse Brownies, who have kindly offered raise funds for St James. They would love as many of you as possible to come along and are sure you'll love Pampered Chef. In case you don't already know, the company sell cookware designed to make the preparation and cooking of fresh food easy and quick. Gill Amos is organising this party and has a number of catalogues available for anyone who won't be able to

come along on the evening. She would appreciate a call or a text on 01968 673395 or a message on gill.amos@talktalk.net to give her some idea of numbers for nibbles.

So get it in your diary now!!

Care Van –appeal for clothes!

Almost all our clothes were given out once again. We really need jeans (30-32 waist), T-shirts, sweaters, jackets, socks, gloves, scarves, etc for next month.

Many thanks

Tony Bramley

Baghdad - Encouraging News

Faith Under Fire!

The Mothers' union in Baghdad is growing and extending its work in providing food, health care and education for families in this war torn capital.

The church is in one the most dangerous streets and although the four-strong laity leaders have been killed, the church is full and overflowing. Canon Andrew White, the vicar says the MU is doing amazing work and although they have no reserves, money is given just before it is needed. The MU members bring hope to the community and is increasing in numbers - including many young, unmarried women.

They head up the relief work of distributing food several times a month to hundreds of people regardless of faith, run a kitchen which provides a huge amount of food for those who come to church and for the school. They work in the community, especially the children's home and the home for children with congenital abnormalities.

As Baghdad has very limited medical and dental facilities the MU are making plans to establish a medical and dental clinics at the church. They have found people willing to donate drugs and equipment and already have a doctor and dentist.

This is amazing work, please pray for their safety and for the projects which are so urgently needed.

(from Home and Family, MU magazine - contributed by Angela Sibley)

From Thomas Joyner

Please keep Thomas in your prayers!

“I am glad to hear from you and thanks for sending on the greetings as well as the newsletter. I think of Scotland often and really enjoyed my time there.

Please keep up the prayers. I have just finished a test that all Episcopal seminarians must take called the General Ordination Exam. You have 7 testing areas over 4 days (with roughly 3 hours to work on each question). Needless to say it's rather exhausting but done and over with.

As it currently stands my ordination date is May 20. I will continue to keep you updated and let you know more as time gets closer.”

Thomas

Outreach subscriptions 2008

Last year Outreach subscriptions raised £478, so many thanks to those who contributed. That said our costs (paper, printer cartridges, photocopying etc) were £619 giving a shortfall to be met from church funds. We have decided, once again to maintain the subscription level at £5 in the hope that more of our readers will contribute this year. Please use the enclosed envelope indicating if you require more than one copy.

Outreach on the Web!

The current edition of the magazine, and previous editions, can be viewed on the church website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk/> . Just click on the appropriate link near the top of the page.

March 2008 Rota

	2-Mar-2008	9-Mar-2008	16-Mar-2008	23-Mar-2008	30-Mar-2008
	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	Easter 2
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Andy Longmore/ Nigel Johnston	Isobel Stenhouse/ Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/ Margaret Coull	McGarvas
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	Johnstons	Matins
1st Reading	<i>1 Samuel 16:1-13</i>	<i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6</i>	<i>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</i>
	Young Church	Brigitte Fuge	Ian Fuge	Robert Clerk	Ian MacLennan
2nd Reading	<i>Ephesians 5:8-14</i>	<i>Romans 8:6-11</i>	<i>Phillipians 2:5-11</i>	<i>Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43</i>	1 Peter 1:3-9
	Young Church	Gill Amos	Mike Hay	Val McGavin	Marion McCluskey
Gospel	<i>John 9:1-41</i>	<i>John 11:1-45</i>	<i>Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54</i>	<i>John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Geoff Mather	-----
Pray for	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group	-----
Server	Val/Sara	Angela/Emma	Val/Steven	Angela/Emma	-----
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Mona Bennett/ Margaret MacLennan	Hays/ Graham Smith	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black
Flowers	Lent			Easter Day	Marion McCluskey
Cleaning	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Marion Hunter/ Angela Sibley
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ 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)

April 2008 Rota

	6-Apr-08	13-Apr-08	20-Apr-08	27-Apr-08
	Easter 3	Easter 4	Easter 5	Easter 6
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	Maclennans	Nigel Johnston/ Andy Longmore	Isobel Stenhouse/ Alan Sibley
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Sibleys	Dicksons	Johnstons
1st Reading	<i>Acts 2:14a, 36-41</i>	<i>Acts 2:42-47</i>	<i>Acts 7:55-60</i>	<i>Acts 17:22-31</i>
	Young Church	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little
2nd Reading	<i>1 Peter 1:17-23</i>	<i>1 Peter 2:19-25</i>	<i>1 Peter 2:2-10</i>	<i>1 Peter 3:13-22</i>
	Young Church	Gill Amos	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray
Gospel	<i>Luke 24:13-35</i>	<i>John 10:1-10</i>	<i>John 14:1-14</i>	<i>John 14:15-21</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore
Pray for	Fabric Team	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group
Server	Angela/Sara	Val Emma	Angela?Alice	Angela/Stephen
Coffee	Isobel Stenhouse & Joyce Black	Gillian Little/ Marion McCluskey	Elizabeth Clark/ Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & Family
Flowers	Nikki Dickson/ Kathy Kennedy			
Cleaning	Marion Hunter/ Angela Sibley	C & M Leavy	Jennifer Edge/ Moira Rendall	Jennifer Edge/ Moira Rendall
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				*

May 2008 Rota

	4-May-08	11-May-08	18-May-08	25-May-08
	Ascension 1	Pentecost	Trinity	Trinity 1
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Des Frantom/ Elizabeth Clark	Margaret Coull/ Nigel Johnston
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Clerks	Leavys	Barretts
1st Reading	<i>Acts 1:6-14</i>	<i>Acts 2:1-21 or Numbers 11:24-30</i>	<i>Genesis 1:1-2:4a</i>	<i>Isaiah 49:8-16a</i>
	Young Church	Joyce Black	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green
2nd Reading	<i>1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 13:11-13</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 4:1-5</i>
	Young Church	Margaret Coull	Georgina Phillips	Jo Bullough
Gospel	<i>John 17:1-11</i>	<i>John 20:19-23 or John 7:37-39</i>	<i>Matthew 28:16-20</i>	<i>Matthew 6:24-34</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Alan Murray	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark
Pray for	Fabric Team	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group
Server	Angela/ Charlotte	Val/ Emma	Val/ Stephen	Ros/ Alice
Coffee	Frantoms	Mona Bennett/ Margaret Maclennan	Hays/ Graham Smith	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield
Flowers	Joan Douglas			
Cleaning	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Clerks	Gillian Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ 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. Theme for this year is: "Time for Relationship 2008".

Provincial Activities:

Retreat at Kinnoull – 4-6 March – to be conducted by MU Central Chaplain, Bishop Richard Inwood.

Regional Road Shows – in place of Annual Meeting

For Scotland at Albert Hall, Stirling – 25th June. Tickets £6 – need to be ordered well in advance through Joyce Black. **Non-members welcome.**

Diocesan Activities:

Intercessions 12.30 St Mary's Cath.: 10 Mar and 14 Apr.

29 Mar Sat – Lady Day Service in St Mary's Cathedral B&B, cake & candy, Literature stalls – Teas (St James). 9th Apr Wed – Diocesan Council Meeting – 11.00am Christchurch, Morningside.

26 Apr Thurs. – Visit of MU from Connor Diocese.

Branch: On 13 February we used the 2nd of the 3 Bible Studies (Martha & Mary) produced for the World Day of Prayer. The readings provoked considerable discussion.

Fri 7 Mar 7.30pm: World Day of Prayer – North Kirk

12 Mar – Colin Burt speaking about the Prem Baby Charity and its work.

26 Mar T.B.A.

25 Apr 2.30 pm – T.B.A.

Margaret Coull writes:

"You will remember that the Mothers Union sent parcels to the 1 SCOTS in Iraq at Christmas and I think some others did so as well. This was greatly appreciated by the troops who were overwhelmed by the generosity of people at home. Unfortunately I don't have photographs of them at the moment but this is one of Padre Rory MacLeod who was responsible for the distribution of the parcels (see *Page 2*).

Rory is in the Church tent which he has called St. Columba's. He is standing beside the beautiful Celtic Cross made by two engineers from REME who put the Battalion badge in the centre. They also made the small lectern on the Communion table. The Church was full on Christmas Eve for their candlelit service. Rory had already taken Carol

Services in Baghdad and Shaibah where a small group are working with Iraqis, some of the services were in the open under the moon and stars. The Church tent also doubles as a social centre where the troops can drop in for a cuppa and chat. read books and newspapers, play chess and table tennis and ,of course, to have quiet time for prayer or be alone with their thoughts. It is a haven of some kind of normality for them in a difficult situation. It is good to know that in some small way our parcels brought a little bit of home comfort at Christmas.”

Church Women’s Fellowship News

The CWF meeting scheduled for March 17th has been cancelled. The next meeting will be on Monday 14th April.

Introducing Caireen & Co

Conscious that ‘the’ wedding day was fast approaching the *Outreach* team decided that it would be nice to learn a little bit more about the woman who had so obviously captured Rob’s heart. True she and the gang are weel kent faces around West Linton and are no strangers to members of our Youth Group, but are not so well known to others at St James. So, armed with my trusty notebook I arrived on the Rectory doorstep last Saturday to be greeted by a very excited Patch and somewhat more subdued Cleo. Caireen and Stewart were up to their eyes in paint in the cloakroom cum doggy room, but Caireen needed no second invitation to stop and answer a few questions, leaving Stewart to continue decorating under Rob’s watchful eye.

Over a welcome cup of coffee Caireen told me that she was born and brought up in Edinburgh, but lived in Penicuik (without discovering the joys of St James) between 1996 and 2000 before moving to West Linton. Her initial training was in Business Studies and her early working life was devoted to marketing and developing IT companies. However, in February 2004 she started nursing training, which involved both ward placements and studying for a degree at Napier University. Caireen is now a qualified mental health nurse working for Child, Family and Adolescent Mental Health Services in Edinburgh. She also undertakes shifts at Castle Craig, the alcohol & addiction unit near West Linton. Being a working single mum (remember those hours

spent on a freezing touchline!) does not allow much time for hobbies and other interests, but Caireen still manages to find time for reading, and walking with Patch.

Caireen also told me something about her involvement with Kingdom Kids, which is St Mungo's equivalent of our Young Church. Their weekly programme is largely based on the bible readings being used in the church upstairs. Outreach is also an important element of their activities; through a weekly 50p 'piggy bank' collection they have been able to sponsor wells, medical supplies, a bicycle for health workers and even an Oxfam community toilet! Chickens and goats have also been funded through Samaritan's Purse (the same organisation which arranges the shoe boxes). They also hope to contribute to Orphans from AIDS project which entails a more personal involvement in that the children are able to write to those they are supporting. Caireen intends to continue her input to Kingdom Kids after her wedding, but is also looking forward to using her talents at St James.

At this juncture Stewart appeared so I was able to glean firsthand something about what makes him tick. He is 11 and in his final year at West Linton Primary School, where he'll stay until the summer. The secondary school that will have the pleasure of his company after then is still under discussion. He enjoys art, and I understand that one wall of his bedroom in the rectory is already adorned with a large Pirates of the Caribbean motif. Further decoration of the Rectory is planned, although I gathered that the sitting room (and particularly the Oxford Blue wall) is sacrosanct! Stewart is also keen on cycling with his Dad, tennis, rugby (although Sunday practice clashes with church), swimming, piano, reading and fishing – so possibly a soul mate for Geoff!

Last but by no means least there is Patch, described (by the Rector) as the Rector's second favourite dog; he came to them as a completely untrained rescue dog. Cleo seems to like him which is the important thing!

We wish Caireen, Stewart and Patch every happiness in their new home.

Graham Smith

Mad Scientist page

Contributed by Neville Suttle

Missing links

At the very end of the last millennium, the scientific world was rocked by yet another fossil hoax and the internationally renowned National Geographic Magazine (NGM) got dinosaur egg all over its face. For a century or more, evolutionists had been searching for fossil remains of a missing link - something that was half reptile and half bird - the sort of 'hybrid' that must have existed if Darwin's theory was true - birds evolved from reptiles when reptiles somehow learnt to fly. Out of the blue came just such a creature, sold at great price by a burgeoning, Chinese fossil-faking industry to an American museum who persuaded the NGM - that 'bible' of popular science - to give the story front page spread. 'Archaeoraptor' had been born again!

The rigorous examination of such scientific finds, which usually precedes the publicity, duly showed the fossil to indeed be half reptile and half bird - but from two entirely different skeletons, glued together in the middle! The two halves didn't even join smoothly, one spine being marginally thicker than the other. So the near-infallible, illustrious NGM was forced to recant. Creationists had a field day and scientists from Baptist Universities in USA were soon tut-tutting about the shaky basis of evolutionary theory and this latest bit of 'bad science'.

However, some 'good' scientists began meticulously examining the 'fake' and came up with the most staggering findings. Each half of the fossil actually possessed features that were part reptile and part bird: each half provided independent evidence for the existence of reptiles - not just one but two - that were indeed 'missing links', capable of flight. In their haste to falsify the scientific record, the fakers had the truth in their hands - one for each - but failed to recognise it!

Those of us scientists who look upon the bible as 'non-realists', suspecting the hand of man to have altered the record here and there, albeit for some very good reasons at the time, take inspiration from this fossil hoax that shocked the world. There are biblical scholars who believe that the join between the Old and New Testaments (OT & NT) leaves a little to be desired, 'historicised prophecy' rather than super-glue creating a deceptively smooth link.

Where there were 'missing links' in the historical record of Jesus' life (as in the lack of a nativity narrative in Mark's gospel, for example) bits of the OT were construed retrospectively as prophecy. Thus, the precise manner of Jesus' birth, the 'missing scriptural link' appears in Matthew and Luke but the details differ and some are historically implausible.

Fundamentalists question the spirituality of 'non-realists' who seemingly play games with the biblical record. 'Non-realists' question the 'blind' faith of fundamentalists and the division threatens to split the Anglican Communion : unquestioning certainty versus uncertain questioning. Perhaps the case of the 'fake archaeoraptor' points the way to a missing link for today's church? The OT and NT, like the NGM's fossil, are evidence of something infinitely more wonderful than either of the parts and beyond the comprehension of fundamentalists and non-realists alike. How much of the new millennium will pass before the dinosaur that is the church will learn to fly?!

Zaytoun - making a difference

Contributed by Lorna Bramley

The following is part of a talk given by Alison Jones (wife of our Primus, Idris) following their return from a recent pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

Moved by the plight of the Palestinians, she writes: 'I am not an expert on the history of the Middle East but some facts are important:

- Palestinian suffering dates back to 1948 when the state of Israel was created and 750,000 Palestinians were driven or fled from their homes, and despite UN assertions of their right to return, Israel has never allowed it. The number of refugees now stands at over 4 million.
- 2007 marks the 40 year anniversary of the Six Day War, in which the Israeli army took military control of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, including East Jerusalem. Since then, Israel has fully controlled all economic resources in Palestine, confiscating the Palestinian land and water resources to build settlements, military outposts and bypass roads; uprooting trees, destroying agricultural

infrastructure including water wells, irrigation networks, agricultural roads, and destroying entire agricultural communities. The erection of the 'Wall of Separation' has compounded this. This has led to a dramatic fall in the status and contribution of the Palestinian agriculture in the GDP from 45% during the 1970s to 7% in 2006.

- Currently one third of Palestinians live in poverty and a quarter of them live in deep poverty.
- Palestine is the origin of the olive tree, with some of the oldest olive groves in the world – some dating back 1500-2000 years. The Mediterranean climate, rich, fertile soil and the use of traditional, organic farming methods makes Palestinian olive oil a world-class product, which supports 50% of the Palestinian population. Olive trees are grown on over 80% of the cultivated land in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, but farmers bringing in this harvest face severe difficulties arising from the military occupation, and over half of the harvest remains unsold.

When I returned from the pilgrimage I was determined to do something practical to help – but what?’

A friend guided her to Zaytoun, and by simply looking at their website, Alison had found her answer to prayer. You can read it for yourselves at <http://www.zaytoun.org>, but briefly

- Zaytoun is a non-profit-making, ethical business, based in Oxfordshire which supports marginalised farming communities in Palestine in a number of ways, one of which is to distribute the Palestinian olive oil.
- Their mission statement is ‘resisting the occupation by insisting on life’.
- The oil is used in many English Dioceses for Sacramental purposes – in Baptism, Confirmation and Anointing.
- Every year, Zaytoun coordinates a team of volunteers to go out and help the Palestinian farmers bring their valuable harvest home.
- Zaytoun also finds a market place for Palestinian produce in the UK and that is the main thrust of my talk.

Alison's vision is that by using our personal contacts and congregations (Fair Trade stalls, etc) to distribute and sell the Zaytoun olive oil, we could all benefit from this world-class, fair-traded product, knowing that by doing so we will directly support sustainable development in Palestine.

As part of the chain, Lorna Bramley has undertaken to be the 'distributor' of the Zaytoun olive oil for this area, and has purchased and taken delivery of 24 bottles. As we are buying in bulk, there is no delivery charge involved, so we can sell the oil at the purchase price of £4.20 for 500ml or £5.85 for 750ml.

If you would like to buy some oil, please ring Lorna at 01968 675 240.

Fitting Name!

Contributed by Ian Fuge

Did anyone notice on the BBC news recently how appropriately named was the person reporting from the Antarctic on Greenpeace's efforts to stop the Japanese whalers? He was Jonah Fisher.

Mission News

Contributed by Frances McLean

Did you watch the programme about the child, born in a remote village in India, with four arms and four legs? How the child was looked upon as a reincarnation of one of their gods and was allowed to live although the child would have a very bleak future. However, the story reached far away Bangladesh where a surgeon was prepared to go great lengths to help the child and the parents to a happier life.

This is all about serving overseas as a volunteer for periods of six to twelve months, and begins with the story of a physiotherapy volunteer who went to Tanzania, and worked with Andy Hart, a CMS Mission Partner for a few months, where an outreach physio service was being started, targeting village children with disability. Ten percent of the people in Tanzania are severely disabled, but in the villages, you hardly ever see a person with disability. This is because they are hidden away. The parents may think they are the only ones with a disabled child, may think they are cursed, may think that if people know they have a disabled child, it will affect the

marriage prospects of their other children. They may be told by the rest of the family that their child is worthless and a burden. They children are also hidden because the parents don't know what to do or where to turn for help.

Every Wednesday they have a session with a disabled child in the village and it is amazing how the parent or grandparent comes alive as they realise they can do something to help the child. One boy of eleven called Musa who has cerebral palsy, is looked after by his grandmother, and has never spoken and never walked. After the first visit, the grandmother made Musa a pair of crutches.

USPG have two programmes, **Experience Exchange Programme**, which may run for six and twelve months. No special skills required. To teach in schools, work on agricultural, building and health projects. Assist with administration, support children and youth work, Placements in Africa, Asia, Oceania, the Caribbean, South America and Europe. Self funded; grants can be provided.

The **Expanding Horizons Programme** is open to Clergy, Ordinands, and Church workers. Placements may be from one to six months, and the visit may be in one of over 50 countries. USPG offers small grants.

Age can be from 18 to 80 (that lets me off the hook!) for both programmes and it can be a life-changing experience and, of course, an experience of global mission first hand. So what about spending a few months of your retirement, or that gap year in such an exciting and stimulating way!

Choir News

What a wealth of Christian music there is! Recently Ros and I, and Brigitte and Ian Fuge went to a "Come and Sing" at St Cuthbert's in Edinburgh, in aid of Waverley Care. As well as a very challenging modern piece by the American composer Morton Lauridsen, we were privileged to sing Mozart's setting of the Requiem Mass in a choir of some 370 singers. Whilst the singing couldn't quite be described as faultless, nevertheless I, and I suspect many if not all of the singers and audience, was very moved by this great music.

That's just one example; there is also the plethora of hymn tunes that we sing regularly, and some less regularly. Recently we've featured as the "Hymn of the Month" Samuel Stone's fine hymn "The Church's one foundation". However (and this is where the story really starts!) we've been singing it not to Samuel Wesley's familiar tune "Aurelia", but to the tune "Penicuik", which was written (in the late 1970s I think) by the then Rector's wife, Janet Palmer. It's a beautiful tune, but has led to some interesting reactions - the main one being "why.....?". Why should we change well-established and highly familiar hymn tunes to tunes that are less familiar? I think this is a good question to ask; my views are as follows:

- It would be quite wrong to permanently discard a good and familiar tune (which is why we'll be singing the above hymn to "Aurelia" soon!)
- However, sometimes with a different tune, words which have been sung for many years, perhaps since childhood, can suddenly be seen in a new and helpful light.
- Many hymns with well-established tunes weren't always sung to that tune - one example is "Sine Nomine", Vaughan Williams great tune to "For all the saints". If you look at earlier tunes to which that hymn was sung, it would be difficult to claim that the change wasn't a great improvement.
- Finally, a new tune is seldom liked by congregations the first time they hear it - many tunes are popular because they're well-known, rather than because they are really great tunes (in my view "Aurelia" perhaps comes into that category - but you may disagree!)

Anyway, whatever your views, it was heartening to get a reaction - any reaction. So keep the comments coming - you might even like to write to the Outreach editor!

If you're reading this on the day of publication (2 March), **tonight** at 6.30pm is "**Of Earth and Altar**", exploring the relationship between some hymn tunes and their folk-song origins. There will also be appropriate readings to link the various pieces. Do come!

Talking as we were earlier of new and old music, the sequence of music and readings "The Way of the Cross" on **Sunday 16 March at 6.30pm** is a very effective blend of old and new. One gem is a setting of the "Crucifixus" from the Creed by the late 17th century Italian composer

Antonio Lotti. This will be sung by six solo voices and promises to be a beautiful but poignant piece. There will also be plenty more familiar music and hymns to sing - all to well-known tunes(!). Please join us for this, and also for all the other Easter events listed elsewhere in this edition. Have a good Passiontide and Easter!

Mike Hay

Financial News

January 2008 Collections (see “Note from Vestry” on Page 8)

	£
Cash	123
GA cash	12
Envelopes	876
Direct Giving	1303
Total	2314

Your prayers are asked for.....

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

Betty and Arthur White settling into their new home in Banchory, Joy and John Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Thomas Joyner, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman and Margaret Paton.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel and for the people of Gaza. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters, remembering in particular those affected by extreme weather and from famine and drought. 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 the peoples of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war remembering especially Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Kenya and Afghanistan. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks.

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 Rev Charles Makonde and 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...

(See below for Passiontide and Easter services)

Sun 2 Mar	6.30pm	“Of earth and altar”, St James
4 - 6 Mar		MU Provincial Retreat
Fri 7 Mar	7.30pm	World Day of Prayer, North Kirk.
Sun 16 Mar	12.30pm	PfA Fellowship Lunch
Sat 22 Mar	2.30pm	Easter Play (Princes St Gardens)
Wed 2 Apr	8.00pm	Silverburn Study Group (Weds until 7 May)
Fri 11 Apr	7.30pm	Pampered Chef Party

Passiontide and Easter Services

Palm Sunday	16 March	6.30pm	“The Way of the Cross”
Maundy Thursday	20 March	8.00pm	Eucharist and Vigil
Good Friday	21 March:		
		10.30am	Stations of the Cross (Children’s service)
		2.00pm	Vigil
		7.30pm	Ecumenical service: <i>St Mungo’s, W.Linton</i>
Holy Saturday		8.00pm	“First Fire of Easter”
Easter Day		11.00am	Festal Eucharist

The May 2008 edition of “Outreach” will be published on Sunday 4 May. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, caplaw@hotmail.co.uk, by Wed 23 April at the latest. If sending by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.

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Anyone for Curry?

Eager anticipation of superb food prepared by the Edinburgh Mosque



**Community owned
greenhouse
project in
Caripuyo, Bolivia**
(see “*Alternative
Christmas Card*”)



**“Caripuyo is a
tough place to
grow up...”**