



# OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



**Currying favour with the Rector - 50 years young!  
(wedding pictures next month)**

*Issue No 143 May 2008*



**Botanist at work: Joy Ford RIP**

**Mother's  
Union  
Fellowship  
Lunch**



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## **Service Times**

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

Thursdays:   11.15 am Informal Said Communion as announced.

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

## **Groups and Activities**

*(please contact the appropriate person listed 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 (sub-contracted!)***

*For reasons that we're sure are obvious(!), the Rector has "sub-contracted" his contribution this month. Tony Bramley has kindly agreed to be "Rector-substitute", and he writes:*

#### **The God of Grace**

Let me begin by giving you three definitions:

Justice is when you get what you deserve.

Mercy is when you DON'T get what you deserve.

Grace is when you get WHAT YOU DON'T DESERVE.

So.....Is your God a God of Justice, who gives you what you deserve?

Or is your God a God of Mercy, who does not give you what you deserve?

Or is your God a God of Grace?

A Christian friend of mine, Francis, had a mother who was a staunch Roman Catholic of the old school. According to her, your eternal fate was decided solely by what you did in this life. She was a good, honest, caring, upright woman who raised her children to know right from wrong, gave generously to charity, worked tirelessly for the church and for the poor. She believed in a God of Grace because that is what the priest taught her, and what the Bible said. And she believed unshakeably that she was going to Heaven, because at the end of the day, all her good deeds would outweigh the bad things she had done.

Francis tried several times to talk to her about Grace, but somehow she couldn't grasp what he was talking about. She constantly returned to

her creed that 'you reap what you sow'. Heaven was God's just reward for a whole life spent doing good in the service of others.

Then, one day, in the course of trying to explain the idea of Grace to her yet again, just as he was about to give up in frustration, Francis had a flash of inspiration.

'What about the thief on the cross?' he said.

'What do you mean?' she replied.

'The thief on the cross....he was a criminal, wasn't he?'

She agreed....of course he was!

'Well' went on Francis 'He certainly hadn't spent his life doing good and serving others! Just the opposite! He was a thief and a cheat! But Jesus said to him 'Today, you will be with me in paradise!' We know he didn't spend the rest of his life doing good because he was dying and he didn't have the opportunity! Yet Jesus told him that he would be with him in paradise that very same day!'

She sat down with a bump. Francis could see she was thinking hard about what he had said. Then she suddenly burst into tears, banged the kitchen table in anger and frustration and sobbed 'It's not fair! It's just NOT FAIR!'

At last, she'd understood what Grace was all about!

The penny had dropped.

It's not fair. It's not justice! It's GRACE!

God's Love and Forgiveness are not earned! They are a free gift. That's what 'Grace' – 'charis' – means; a gift. God offers us new life NOT because we are specially holy or good or devout or because we have done a mountain of things to curry His favour. Just the opposite. It is God's free gift to those who do not deserve it. We are offered Grace, completely unearned, totally free, solely because it is God's nature to be Gracious. Indeed, if we were to spend the rest of our lives in worship and in charitable works in the service of others, God would not love us at the end of that time any more than he loves us right now!

That's scandalous!

That's not fair!

That's not Justice!

That's GRACE!

Justice demands that no sin goes unpunished. But God so loved the world that He sent His Only Son, not to condemn the world, but so that all who believe in Him should not perish, but have Eternal Life! This is

the measure of God's Love for us – that while we were still sinners, God's enemies, Christ died for us.

Look at some of the parables of Jesus.

Celebration at the return of the Prodigal Son? Call that Justice? That's not fair!

Paying the 'Johnny-come-lately labourers in the vineyard the same wages as those who had borne the heat of the day? Call that Justice? That's not fair!

God IS the God of Justice, and of Mercy, and of Grace.

But whenever there is a choice, the generosity of Mercy over-rides Justice, and the generosity of Grace over-rides Mercy!

So, the next time you hear someone complaining that something is 'Just not FAIR!' try to slip in a word about Grace into the conversation.....but be warned!

Jesus talked about Grace! And look what happened to Him!

*Tony*

## ***(Kathleen) Joy Ford (1940-2008)***

*Based on a tribute given by Neville at her funeral in Burnham Market, Norfolk on March 6th*

We were gathered with one thing in common: our lives had been 'touched' by Joy. Not just touched - it was more organic than that, if you agree with Alfred Lord Tennyson, who felt that he was 'part of all whom he had met': Joy had become part of us. For John and sons, Bobby and David, it was a huge part, for neighbours and friends a smaller, though still precious part. There are also places that become part of us and we were discovering what made Joy ask to be buried there in the churchyard of St Margaret's, close to her parents. The round-towered Saxon church, nestled on a hill in the Norfolk countryside, formed the centrepiece of a stunning view from the bedroom that had been Joy's from the age of eleven. It was her father's house, he had helped to design it when they moved from the nearby farm where she was born. To hear Joy's Norfolk drawl confirmed that there are things about places which never leave us.

Joy met John while they were undergraduates studying Botany at Hull University where John continued as a post-grad. They soon got married in circumstances that shaped both their lives and their love for each other. With John almost penniless, Joy became 'breadwinner', taking up a teaching post in a primary school in one of the country's poorest communities, the 'Fish Harbour' district in Hull, an experience that may have nurtured a lifelong concern for the under-privileged.



The church at Burnham Market

Joy gave immense moral support to John as he struggled to write up his research while coping with the loss of both his parents in the same year and he soon found out that Joy was a grafter, having an impact far beyond her small stature. When John obtained a teaching post in Edinburgh in the early 60's, she obediently followed but shifted the focus of her life to simply being a mum, although she occasionally obtained short-term contract work at the Institute for Terrestrial Ecology on Bush Estate. Joy grew orchids galore and regularly entered the local horticultural show. She enjoyed walks in the surrounding hills and woods, stretching John with her long stride: there was a special field in Perthshire which they regularly 'botanised'. On such expeditions, Joy was always aware of being in her Father's house, like H.W. Longfellow in his poem 'My Cathedral':

'Enter! The pavement, carpeted with leaves,  
Gives back a softened echo to thy tread!  
Listen! The choir is singing, all the birds  
In leafy galleries beneath the eaves,  
Are singing! listen, ere the sound be fled,  
And learn, there may be worship without words.'

My first contact with Joy was through Oxfam: we were canvassing 'incomers' on Cornbank, seeking monthly donations via a 'Pledged Gift Scheme and seeking collectors too. Joy volunteered to collect from her neighbours in what was the biggest round in town. Now fund-raising schemes come and go and Oxfam eventually lost interest in this one:

until their Area Organiser, here to audit the accounts, noticed a significant entry under 'Pledged Gifts'. 'Is that scheme still going?' she asked: Joy had been unstoppable, seemingly the country's last collector, raising £1000's for the Third World. Meanwhile, Oxfam had introduced the 'Charity Shop' to Britain and it also relied on volunteers. Needless to say, Joy volunteered to help in the first of Penicuik's many shops, typically outstaying us all in over 40 years of service. The bane of a leader's life was compiling a rota that kept the shop open all week. We would spend hours on the phone trying to find cover for someone who was 'indisposed' and Joy became known affectionately as 'Joy Possibly'. Others' customary response was an immediate 'Sorry' but Joy would always say 'Possibly' and lift our flagging spirits. The epithet was inadequate- it should have been 'Joy-Would-If-She-Could-And-Usually-Did'! When Tilly was suddenly disabled, 12 years ago, we needed a carer while we adjusted and wondered who could possibly help us - we phoned Joy and you can guess the outcome!

Joy was a deeply spiritual person although a shy, retiring disposition kept that from others. She was a 'regular' at St James, supporting house and Lenten study groups as well as services. She was a founder-member of the Broomhill Day Centre in its formative days, operating from the St James Church Hall. When the church began supporting Bethany Trust's Care Van, Joy was a considerable asset, gleaning suitable clothing from various sources, including Oxfam (all duly paid for!). Latterly, Joy avidly collected shoe boxes and master-minded the Town's Shoe Box Appeal for Romania from her home. There were no airs or graces about Joy and she could see through those that wore them, an impish sense of humour using gentle mockery to do what overt criticism does for many.

Her many qualities were severely tested during the last chapter of her life. In these days of wonder cures and encouraging %'s, a diagnosis of lymphoma no longer holds the fear that it once did but Joy was unlucky. Her disease spread aggressively to the central nervous system and chances of recovery were slim. If she felt embittered at all, she did not show it. She fought aggression with aggression, complying with a chemotherapy that nearly killed her. In preparing for each session of chemotherapy, she would carefully pack her essentials, including her prayer diary and Tearfund prayer sheets. Foremost in her mind were still the vulnerable children of this world, the victims of AIDS/HIV. Her

dogged determination to see a task through served her well: she had a fitting for a wig, bought new orchids and got a schedule for the next Spring Show. The bookmark in her prayer diary opened it at a page that had two prayers highlighted, one the collect for All Saints Day: her confidence was well placed.

## ***Hymns old and new - a personal view***

*Contributed by Alan Murray (photo opposite!)*

Mike Hay raised an interesting question in his choir report, in Outreach 142 – essentially “why write new tunes to old hymns, when good tunes exist already?”. The context was our use of Janet Palmer’s tune Penicuik for “The Church’s One Foundation” (instead of the tried-and-trusted Aurelia) as hymn-of-the-month. Congregational views were rather mixed. This raises a more fundamental question that interests me particularly ... “Why write new Christian music at all”?



Cards on the table ... my view is that there are some truly awful modern Christian songs and hymns. I’ve written some in that category that you have never heard, and probably one or two that you wish that you’d never heard! However, some of the hymns in Ancient-and-Modern are dreary, outdated, turgid and very boring. In contrast, the best A-and-Ms are sublime. I would cite “Dear Lord and Father”, “Be Thou my Vision”, and “Harvest Home” as three very different examples of “A-and-M’s Greatest Hits”. So - if there are songs that good, why write new ones?

1. Musical tastes evolve and particular styles of music (e.g. the old-style organ/piano-based hymn) do not suit all tastes.
2. New theological ideas and Christian concerns emerge, that are not “covered” by the existing canon. In particular, songs that explore Christian belief and express questions regarding the nature of faith and belief are not part of the hymn-book tradition.
3. New instruments have become available, particularly the guitar, that are more “portable” than are organs and pianos. This is good – but I would add a caveat ... some traditional hymns sound just fine with a well-played guitar, but many simply sound plain silly.
4. Songwriters are unstoppable!

As a result of 1-4, we have all been subjected, at some stage, to the inept strummer, generally male, often bearded, singing “content-free” songs with little to say about anything at all. In contrast, however, the best of Graham Kendrick’s songs are very splendid indeed. He has, like everyone else, written some pot-boilers and some that would have been better not written at all, but at his best, I think he approaches Wesley at his most stirring.

In every case, a tune and a set of words are subject to the same “filter” as any other piece of music. Many of the songs of Lennon and McCartney will be sung by our descendants, while I suspect that Westlife’s output has a rather shorter shelf life. This is what has happened to folk songs over the centuries and, no doubt, to hymns as well. The inevitable consequence of that is that songwriters must write more than is needed, as much of what is written will fade and die. That’s our excuse for writing a load of forgettable nonsense in order that the process of natural selection can select out the odd winner.

This all leads me to trot out my own view of the world of Christian hymn/song and the role of music in worship ... again. Music must serve worship, not replace it or become, of itself, “important”. Music serves to illuminate and to punctuate worship and to reach into the human emotional/spiritual system in a way that only music can do. It doesn’t work for everyone, and many are brought closer to an understanding of God by spoken words and by silence and contemplation. For most, however, music can give expression to joy, praise, sadness, wonder and many other such reactions to whatever are our personal experiences and visions of God. It can stir up, calm down, reassure and challenge. As I also have said many times before, while we cannot be complacent, I think that we have a healthy variety of musical styles in St. James’s, which all coexist and tolerate one another happily. Long may that continue.

# ***Treasurer's Report for the half year ending March 2008***

As we have just passed the half way point in the current financial year I thought it might be useful to give you an update on the financial situation, as presented to Vestry at their April meeting.

## **Income**

- Income from actual collections is £561 up on the previous year, although this is offset by the £2004 drop in Gift Aid received (NB last year's account was inflated by Gift Aid unclaimed in previous year, together with that on donations for kitchen refurbishment).
- Collections are however still nearly £2000 below budget, although the situation is improving (it was over £3200 last month). NB only 4 of the 21 direct givers have increased their giving. Many thanks to all who have increased their giving in line with my letter. If you have not done so please regard it as a matter of some urgency.
- Other income is slightly down on the previous year, but will be in the black when interest on Bank of Scotland Account is added this month.

## **Expenditure**

- Outgoings on Rector/rectory are within budget, but are £842 over the previous year.
- Heating and lighting costs are only marginally up on last year, but are still £134 over budget. That said, forthcoming change of gas supplier will ensure some price stability for next three years. The possibility of changing electricity supplier will be investigated later in the year.
- Other expenditure £39 more than last year, but only £12 over budget.

## **Prognosis for remainder of year**

- It is anticipated that income from collections will rise during the second half of the year as more members respond to the letter circulated last month, although further encouragement may be necessary.
- Our revised quota assessment is £646 above the budgeted figure. This is partly offset by the very small increase in Council Tax. Nevertheless we will still need to find an additional £371.

Otherwise I expect expenditure to be well within budget unless the quinquennial work is undertaken in the current financial year.

*Graham Smith Hon Treasurer*

## ***In the footsteps of St Patrick***

*Contributed by Mike Hay*

As some of you know, Ros and I were in Ireland after Easter, and had the opportunity to visit a number of places associated with St Patrick, in particular Armagh and Downpatrick. On the back cover you'll see a photo of St Patrick's grave, just outside Down Cathedral, and the church at Saul, which was the first ecclesiastical site of Patrick's mission to the Gael. The name Saul has nothing to do with the apostle's former name, but is derived from "sabhal", the Irish for "stable" or "shed". The legend has it that on arrival he preached to the Chieftain Dichu, who gave him the use of a shed to shelter in and presumably to preach from, hence the name.

It's a beautiful country, as many of you will be aware, with very friendly and hospitable people. Do go and see Ireland if you get the chance!

## ***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.

## ***Mission News***

*Contributed by Frances McLean*

For a number of years, our St. James' Women's Fellowship has supported a child at one of the Deenabandhu Schools run by the Delhi Brotherhood Society in Delhi, in two different premises. The Seemapuri premises aims to fill the educational needs of economically deprived families in this residential area. It offers primary level classes for up to five years. It is linked with the local, municipal school and Deenabandha High School for admission to higher classes.

The Shahidnaga School is a larger property and offers primary, middle and high school education. The total strength in 2007 was 525 children and the high school was able to obtain excellent results from the

examination board with a pass rate of 97%. Marvellous results, and a great start in life for the children. (DBS Annual Report).

I hope the Women's Fellowship might tell us in the next Outreach, about the child they are currently supporting, and their contact with the Brotherhood.

### **Zimbabwe Church speaks of hope.**

Anglican leaders seek ways to support their church and communities.

The discussion took place at a conference organised by USPG and Lambeth Palace, in Gweru, central Zimbabwe. In attendance were the Bishops of Central Zimbabwe, Masvingo and Matabeleland, and the Continuing Diocese of Harare, as well as young people and representatives of the Mother's Union.

The Conference concluded with the church leaders pledging to support impoverished communities and challenging existing styles of leadership.

One of the main outcomes of the conference was a feeling of hope that Zimbabwe's situation can change and that the Anglicans have an important role to play in bringing about that change. There was a feeling that, if the church can take the lead in conflict transformation and problem solving, there is hope that other national structures could follow that example.

In particular, conference delegates were encouraged that the Anglican Province of Central Africa was taking action to resolve problems in the diocese of Harare where Bishop Kunongo had been giving unquestioning support for Zimbabwe's President Mugabe

It was very encouraging for everyone. These Dioceses were meeting for the first time in a very long time.

There are plans for the Zimbabwe Dioceses to meet again in May.

*(This is part of a much longer report appearing in USPGs TRANSMISSION Spring Leaflet)*

I do hope, in view of the recent events in Zimbabwe, that this meeting will take place, and I will keep Outreach informed. It was the work of the churches in Southern Africa that brought about the end of Apartheid.

# May 2008 Rota

	4-May-08	11-May-08	18-May-08	25-May-08
	Ascension 1	Pentecost	Trinity	Trinity 1
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
<b>St Mungo's Organist</b>	David	Jean	David	Mike
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	McGarvas	Des Frantom/ Elizabeth Clark	Margaret Coull/ Nigel Johnston
<b>Bread and Wine</b>	Young Church	Clerks	Leavys	Barretts
<b>1st Reading</b>	<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
<b>2nd Reading</b>	<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
<b>Gospel</b>	<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>
<b>Prayers</b>	Young Church	Alan Murray	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark
<b>Pray for</b>	Fabric Team	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group
<b>Server</b>	Angela/ Charlotte	Val/ Emma	Val/ Stephen	Ros/ Alice
<b>Coffee</b>	Frantoms	Mona Bennett/ Margaret Maclennan	Hays/ Graham Smith	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield
<b>Flowers</b>	Joan Douglas			
<b>Cleaning</b>	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Clerks	Gillian Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse
<b>Welcomers</b>	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore
<b>Care Van</b>			*	
<b>Pentland House</b>				

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

# June 2008 Rota

	1-Jun-2008	8-Jun-2008	15-Jun-2008	22-Jun-2008	29-Jun-2008
	Trinity 2	Trinity 3	Trinity 4	Trinity 5	Trinity 6
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike	David
<b>St Mungo's Organist</b>	David	Jean	Mike	David	Mike
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Isobel Stenhouse/ Andy Longmore	Mcgarvas	Des Frantom/ Margaret Coull	Isobel Stenhouse/ Alan Sibley
<b>Bread and Wine</b>	Young Church	Sibleys	Hindles	Johnstons	Matins
<b>1st Reading</b>	<i>Genesis 6:9-22; 7:24; 8:14-19 or Deuteronomy 11:18-21, 26-28</i>	<i>Genesis 12:1-9 or Hosea 5:15-6:6</i>	<i>Genesis 18:1-15 (21:1-7) or Exodus 19:2-8a</i>	<i>Genesis 21:8-21 or Jeremiah 20:7-13</i>	<i>Genesis 22:1-14 or Jeremiah 28:5-9</i>
	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark	Brigitte Fuge	Mike Hay	Val McGavin
<b>2nd Reading</b>	<i>Romans 1:16-17; 3:22b-28 (29-31)</i>	<i>Romans 4:13-25</i>	<i>Romans 5:1-8</i>	<i>Romans 6:1b-11</i>	<i>Romans 6:12-23</i>
	Young Church	Robert Clerk	Ian Fuge	Jean Hindle	Gill Amos
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Matthew 7:21-29</i>	<i>Matthew 9:9-13, 18-26</i>	<i>Matthew 9:35-10:8 (9-23)</i>	<i>Matthew 10:24-39</i>	-----
<b>Prayers</b>	Ruth Green	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Angela Sibley	-----
<b>Pray for</b>	Mothers Union	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	Young Church	Youth Group
<b>Server</b>	Val/ Charlotte	Val/ Sara	Val/ Alice	Angela/ Steven	-----
<b>Coffee</b>	McGarvas	Hays/ G Smith	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse/ Jean Wright	Gillian Little/ Marion Mather
<b>Flowers</b>	Marian Hunter				
<b>Cleaning</b>	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Moira Rendall/ Ruth Frantom	Moira Rendall/ Ruth Frantom
<b>Welcomers</b>	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk
<b>Care Van</b>			*		
<b>Pentland House</b>		*			

# July 2008 Rota

	6-Jul-2008	13-Jul-2008	20-Jul-2008	27-Jul-2008
	Trinity 7	Trinity 8	Trinity 9	Trinity 10
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	Jennifer	David	David
<b>St Mungo's Organist</b>	David	Jean	Jean	Jean
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Nigel Johnston/ Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Des Frantom/ Elizabeth Clark	Margaret Coull/ Nigel Johnston
<b>Bread and Wine</b>	Young Church	Dicksons	Clerks	Leavys
<b>1st Reading</b>	<i>Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67 or Zechariah 9:9-12</i>	<i>Genesis 25:19-34 or Isaiah 55:10-13</i>	<i>Genesis 28:10-19a or Isaiah 44:6-8</i>	<i>Genesis 29:15-28 or I Kings 3:5-12</i>
	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Joyce Black
<b>2nd Reading</b>	<i>Romans 7:15-25a</i>	<i>Romans 8:1-11</i>	<i>Romans 8:12-25</i>	<i>Romans 8:26-39</i>
	Marion Mather	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Margaret Coull
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30</i>	<i>Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23</i>	<i>Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43</i>	<i>Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore
<b>Pray for</b>	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group
<b>Server</b>	Angela/ Alice	Val/ Sara	Angela/ Charlotte	Val/ Steven
<b>Coffee</b>	Elizabeth Clark/ Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & family	Frantoms	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield
<b>Flowers</b>	Ruth Frantom			
<b>Cleaning</b>	Sibleys	Sibleys	C & M Leavy	Moira Rendall/ Jennifer Edge
<b>Welcomers</b>	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk
<b>Care Van</b>			*	
<b>Pentland House</b>			*	

# ***Mad Scientist Page***

## **When is a sin not a sin?**

*Contributed by Neville Suttle*

When Pope Benedict recently produced a new set of seven 'mortal sins' for the 21st Century to supplement the seven unarguably 'deadly' sins of bygone years, there was one that was going to make 'Mad Scientists' a whole lot madder! Genetic modification was bracketed with such things as drug abuse, paedophilia, abortion and environmental pollution, as a 'mortal sin' and I didn't know whether to laugh or cry. His general aim made good sense - to focus on the social ills and irresponsibilities that scar so many lives today and threaten the future of the planet. There are actions that are every bit as damaging to self and others as gluttony, greed, envy, lust, pride sloth, and wrath. With two exceptions, the new 'mortal sins' were all inherently harmful, loveless, soul-destroying. Genetic modification is, however, a different kettle of fish, with life-enhancing as well as life-threatening potential like so many other scientific 'advances'.

Two things worried me - the broad generalisation that all genetic modification was sinful and the implied separation of God from science. From the dawn of civilisation, genotypes (sets of genes that run molecular factories in our body cells; whose products distinguish species and individuals from one another) have been a-changing. From the dawn of civilisation, man has manipulated genes in his crops and livestock: had this not happened human life would have perished long ago. It is a strange Omniscience and Omnipotence that appears to allow man increasing control over his very genes yet would bar the exercise of such powers as a sort of forbidden fruit. Scientific advances can be looked on as an Advent Calendar: new windows are opened nearly every day as we are led towards the very heart of creation.

One example, near to home, of the suffering caused by being born with a faulty gene should be sufficient to make the case for genetic modification. The Tavner family, who once lived next door to the church, were devastated when their first grandchild failed to develop normally. Eventually, he was diagnosed with Baten's disease, caused by a faulty gene that starved the brain of an essential molecule. To watch the parents trying to feed and care for that child was excruciating and the agony of the family lasted for many years with no cure or treatment in sight. Scientists hope that one day gene therapy – the replacement of

missing genes- will alleviate such suffering: are those that pursue that goal now to be regarded as mortal sinners?

The thing that probably sticks in the papal craw is the idea that a life which is sanctified from the moment of conception can be inherently flawed but remedied, improved upon, by an act of man. While there may be certain techniques in the genetic modifiers' manual that might be branded as unethical, genetic modification - whose potential for good arguably outweighs potential for evil - should not be classified as a 'mortal sin'.

## ***Mothers' Union News***

MU Scottish web address is: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk) or via St James web page link. Theme for this year is: "Time for Relationship 2008".

This year's World Day of Prayer was held in Penicuik North Kirk, one of the town's Church of Scotland Churches. The evening was cold and rather showery but 65 stalwarts, of whom there were 12 men and 53 ladies, braved the weather and were warmly welcomed. The youngest member of the congregation was one of the Boys' Brigade Junior Officers who manned the sound desk. The emblem from Guyana was projected on the walls on either side of the pulpit and a beautiful floral arrangement of bright colours graced the sanctuary. The service was well received and participation well entered into by those who attended."

The offertory raised £170.13. Pics attached show the readers from the other churches who participated. Margaret Coull and Joyce Black were the readers from St James. A further £17.40 was raised at the service held in the morning at the Broomhill Day Centre. It was attended by 16 members, who enjoyed the hymns, worship and souvenir book marks. Frances McLean, Marjory Bissett and Jean Hindle led the service. As usual, with the funds raised we will be supporting Scottish Bible Society and Feed the Minds, who have projects in Guyana. In addition we will be giving to a Christian organisation assisting people affected by AIDS in Guyana.

The Fellowship lunch for Mothers' Union work and Links raised over £300. This will be split equally between the two organisations. Thank you to all who helped to make this such a success.



Meeting 27 Feb: The picture shows Isla MacLeod in her Indian dress. She gave a very interesting talk about her time working at the Vadala mission in India - a life changing experience. Isla hopes to make another visit at her own

expense in the near future. The charity with which Isla went to Vadala has since had to close due to the ill-health of one of the organisers but she and her friends have chosen to go back. They are determined to make a difference to the lives of the children and to this end they are raising money by having a sponsored 'HEAD-SHAVE'. They are donating their hair to the Teenage Cancer Trust. The money will be used to help the children. These children have in some way been affected by leprosy, not as sufferers but because members of their families have been and so are looked after by the Mission. One of the things Isla did was to use a donation of £20 to buy a set of new clothes



for each of eighteen children. This shows how far a little goes. The title of her talk was 'A little goes a long way'. Isla left some leaflets giving a fuller account of her stay. If anyone is interested please ask Margaret Coull. Mothers' Union members are sponsoring her individually.'

Margaret has had a request from Padre Rory

MacLeod to pass on his personal thanks to those who sent parcels to

1SCOTS in Iraq. He says that where there was an address letters of thanks were written. It is clear that they made a difference.

**Provincial Activities:** The Retreat at Kinnoull – 4-6 March – was conducted by MU Central Chaplain, Bishop Richard Inwood. Report to come.

**Regional Road Shows** – in place of Annual Meeting

For Scotland at Albert Hall, Stirling – Wed. 25th June. - 1.30pm - 4.30pm Tickets £6 – need to be ordered well in advance through Joyce Black. Non-members welcome.

Extract from MU web page:

A chance to meet our Chief Executive Reg Bailey and our Worldwide President Rosemary Kempself who will be launching a film, from around the world, and a Resource pack. There will be worship, and interviews with people working locally. It is a great opportunity to bring friends and family to meet members from all over Scotland and elsewhere and enjoy the fellowship that only Mothers' Union can give. There will be several sales tables and some special souvenirs for the day. . . . .

The programme begins 1.30pm but you can come earlier into Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal church, next door to the Albert Halls from 10am. They are having a flower festival and you will be able to relax in the hall, have your packed lunch, tea and coffee provided, if you wish. There is a cafe in the Halls if you prefer. At 12 midday there will be midday prayers. There will be childcare available in the hall for the afternoon if you book in advance. \*Car Parks\* The Albert Halls has a small 40 car park in front of it with disabled spaces. A large car park is Wellgreen\_, Wellgreen Rd, within a 5 minute walk of the Albert Halls. It is also convenient for the shops. Coaches can drop off along Albert Place.

Directions: The bus and train stations are within an easy walk of the Albert Halls. The Albert Halls are at corner of Corn Exchange Road and Albert Place. Disabled Access: Please advise at the time of the booking if you require a wheelchair space. Facilities include level access, adapted toilets and a lift. There is also an induction loop in the main auditorium. For more information contact the Albert Halls direct at 01786 473544

**Diocesan Activities:**

Intercessions 12.30 St Mary's Cathedral: 12 May & 9 June.

On Sat 26th Edinburgh MU welcomed members of Connor Diocese MU – report later.

**New Arrival:** Congratulations to Great Grandmother. Rose MacKenzie. Isla MacKenzie Daniels, born to Lindsey Daniels on 14 March weighed in at 7 lbs 12 ozs.

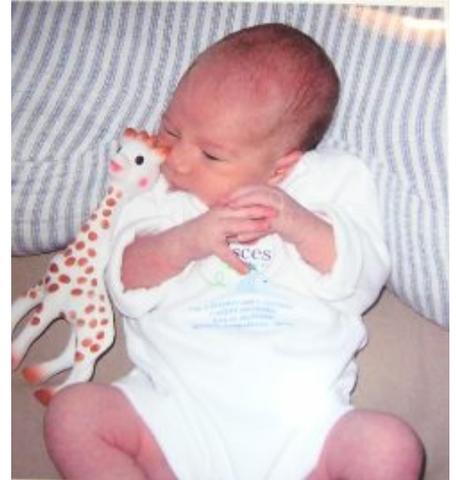
**Branch:** 6 May, Tues 11 am Visit to Synagogue – lunch afterwards

## ***Church Women's Fellowship***

Forthcoming Dates:

12 May - video at 64 Deanburn

23 June - Supper Outing (last meeting before summer break)



## ***Some Recipes to try!***

*(from World Day of Prayer Resource Book)*

### **Pineapple Fudge**

*Ingredients*

*1 cup pineapple      1 cup sugar      1 tbsp butter or margarine*

*Preparation*

1. Shred the pineapple. Measure and add 1 cup of sugar to each cup of pineapple pulp.
2. Bring slowly to a boil, stirring constantly to dissolve the sugar.
3. Continue boiling until the mixture forms a soft ball when a little bit of it is dropped into cold water. Remove from the heat.
4. Add butter and beat until the mixture feels heavy.
5. Pour into a greased pan and cut into squares when cooled.

### **Peanut Biscuits**

*Ingredients*

*8 oz peanuts    2 level tsp baking powder    8 oz sugar      8 oz plain flour*

*8 oz margarine      1/2 tsp vanilla essence*

*Preparation*

1. Grind or pound the peanuts, leaving a few whole for decoration.
2. Mix all the ingredients thoroughly until they bind together.
3. Place on a lightly floured board, flatten and press out with a rolling pin.
4. Shape into small rounds with a cutter.

5. Place a small nut on each and bake in oven at 180°C until lightly brown.

## **Sugar Cake**

*Recipe compliments of "A Taste of Guyana " - Dr. Odeen Ishmael.*

### *Ingredients*

*1 dry coconut 1/4 pint water (water in coconut may be used)  
1 lb dark sugar            Ground ginger or dried orange peel for flavouring  
1 tsp vanilla*

### *Preparation*

1. Grate coconut. Boil sugar and water together, until syrup spins a thread.
2. Add grated coconut, orange peel (or ginger) to syrup and cook until mixture thickens. Stir constantly.
3. Moisten a pastry board with water. Drop the mixture from a spoon on to it and form into cakes.
4. When the cakes are dry on the one side, turn them on other side to dry.

## **Guyanese Bakes**

*Ingredients (Makes about 9 3-inch bakes)*

*2 cups flour      2 tsp baking powder  
2 teaspoons lard or butter, chilled and cut into 1/4 inch bits  
2 teaspoons sugar dissolved in 1/4 cup of cold water  
1 tsp salt            Vegetable oil for frying*

### *Preparation*

1. Sift the flour, baking powder and salt together into a large bowl and add the lard (or butter).
2. Working quickly, use your fingertips to rub the flour and lard/butter together until it looks like coarse grains.
3. Pour in sugar and water mixture all at once, toss together and gather the dough into a ball. If the dough crumbles, add a little more cold water, a teaspoon at a time, until it holds together.
4. For each biscuit, pinch off about 2 tablespoons of dough and pat into a ball. On a lightly floured surface, roll each ball into a round about three inches in diameter and 1/4 inch thick.
5. Pour oil into a heavy 10 to 12 inch skillet to a depth of about 1/4 inch and heat it until hot but not smoking.

6. Fry the bakes, four or five at a time for about three minutes on each side, turning them with a slotted spoon and regulating the heat so they colour richly and evenly without burning.
7. As they brown, transfer them to paper towels or newspaper to drain. Serve the bakes warm with butter or cheese, or sprinkle with a little brown sugar.

## **Coconut Bread**

*Ingredients: (Makes 2 loaves) 1 egg      1 small grated coconut  
3/4 cup of milk 1/2 tablespoon of salt  
1 pound of flour      1/4 pound of margarine  
6 ounces of sugar      3 teaspoons baking powder  
3/4 cup of coconut water 1 teaspoon vanilla extract  
6 ounces of local dried fruit (or raisins)*

### **Preparation**

1. First sift together the dry ingredients add sugar, beaten egg with milk, melted shortening, and extract.
2. Next stir in the grated coconut and the dried fruits, (floured if used).
3. Now blend the ingredients together well. Knead slightly on a floured board.
4. Shape into loaves then put in a greased loaf pan of two thirds full.
5. Finally, dust with the fine sugar, bake right in a moderate preheated hot oven.

For more recipes try website: <http://guyanaoutpost.com/recipes/recipes.shtml>

## **Choir News**

Weddings, weddings, weddings.....! It would be difficult to write this month's contribution without reference to the "wedding season", but it's hard to know what to write that will be significant or new, given all the happy words and music that we've had over the last few weeks!

Suffice it to say that I'm sure I am speaking for the whole choir when I say that it's been a real pleasure and privilege to be able to contribute to the festivities, and that we wish all the couples every happiness. What has been particularly pleasing has been the time and thought in each case that has gone into the choice of wedding music by the bride and groom - we think it's an important part of the service, and clearly all those involved shared our view. My thanks to all the choir for turning out

so faithfully and enthusiastically, and to all those in the congregations who were kind enough to make encouraging remarks about the music.

However, we now need to move on with alacrity to preparing for Music for a Summer Evening, which this year is on **Saturday 14 June at 7.00pm**. Some indication of the programme to follow when we've worked out what it is! But please do put the date in your diaries now, keep it free and invite your friends - a full church is an important element in making it a really successful evening. Thanks!

*Mike Hay*

## ***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:

John Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, 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 in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, remembering especially the MU in St George's Church Baghdad and in Harare. 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!)*

## **Collections**

	Feb(£)	Mar(£)
Cash	162	431
Gift Aid Cash	17	16
Envelopes	722	1280
Direct Giving	<u>1343</u>	<u>1358</u>
Total	2244	3085

### Special Collections & Charitable Giving (£)

	Feb	Mar
World Vision	225	
Bethany Trust		227
Aberlour Trust		71

## **Events coming soon...**

Sat 14 June 7.00pm Music for a Summer Evening

Wed 25 June 1.30pm - 4.30pm MU Regional Roadshow, Stirling

***“Outreach” - special Wedding supplement! This will be published on Sunday 25 May. Wedding photos, and any brief text for inclusion, should be with the Editor by Wed 14 May at the latest. Please note that we are likely to be able only to include a very small selection of the photos submitted!***

***The usual July/August 2008 edition of “Outreach” will be published on Sunday 29 June. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, [caplaw@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:caplaw@hotmail.co.uk), by Wed 18 June at the latest. If sending by email, please copy to Mike Hay, [mike@hayfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@hayfamily.co.uk).***

# Contacts at St James

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**World Day of Prayer**  
- this year at the North Kirk



**A colour view of Burnham Market Church**  
- a beautiful part of the world



**St Patrick's grave in Downpatrick**  
(see *"In the footsteps of St Patrick"*)



**Saul, where St Patrick set up his first church**