



# OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



**Harvest Colours!**

*Issue No 154 November 2009*



**Stephen and Charlotte McCaulay -  
welcome to St James!**



**Africa Fair: Pupils from PHS with their fund-raising CD**

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## **Service Times**

Sundays: 11.00am Choral Communion; Evensong as announced

Wednesdays: 12.15pm Midweek Eucharist

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

## **Groups and Activities**

*(please contact the appropriate person listed inside the back cover)*

Sundays: 7.30pm Youth Group for 10-16s

Tuesdays: 9.30am "J-Tots" Playgroup

10.00am Bible Study at 24 Mauricewood Park

7.30pm Mauricewood Housegroup at 6 Arras Grove

Wednesdays: 7.00am "Earlybirds" Prayergroup

8.00am "Earlybirds+" Prayergroup

Thursdays : 7.00pm Choir Practice

## **Rector's Letter**

I had occasion this week to use Powerpoint for the first time in my 51 years while doing a small presentation for the Mothers' Union at St James' on the trip which I made with Caireen and the children to Ghana in April. I have it on good authority that Powerpoint can be addictive and I fear that our poor congregation may find themselves subjected to multimedia at some time in the future.

This was also the first time in many months that I'd taken time to review all the pictures I took while we were in Africa - a review which brought back sights and smells and sounds of the place: the smell of poor and unhygienic drainage, the ever present beat of the waves upon the beach and traffic winding its way along narrow streets. What the pictures revealed, more than anything else, was a well-organised community making the most of fairly modest resources, and the feeling this provoked was the feeling I had immediately upon our return - a sense that we are quite often unaware of a) the shortness of our time, b) the precious nature of our communities and c) the ability we have to do well if we want to.

**Our lives here in the Northern and Western part of our globe are relatively long.** I suspect that we have “good genes” at St James and St Mungo’s. I remember arriving here in 2003 and noticing a fair number of people in our congregations who were quite well-advanced in years and beset with sundry ailments - some serious and some more chronic and irritating. I remember reflecting that there would be a number of funerals upcoming but - God be praised - plenty of folks appear to have been walking their dogs and eating whole grains and are still wonderfully and remarkably vertical after all these years. So when I say that ‘time is short’ I’m not making predictions about anybody’s ‘sell-by date’. I am saying, however, that opportunities pass us by all too frequently. It’s that time which is short. We have ideas and we let them go. Do we worry about the commitment this will require? Perhaps we imagine that we’ll be stepping on somebody else’s toes - that somebody else is ‘mandated’ for such activity and, after all, we haven’t been in the congregation that long.

Please remember that when a ‘moment’ comes our way there’s really only one person in the room - and that’s the person perceiving the moment. We see the moment coming, we ponder action - if no action proceeds from us then the moment dwindles and is gone.

**Communities are precious.** A town like Penicuik, or a village like West Linton, has at its heart a small collection of grouped persons. If you attend a town meeting, or the AGM of a local organisation, you’ll see familiar faces of your fellow parishioners and members of other local congregations who are doing what they’ve always done - animating their community, providing care for vulnerable people, steering projects from their conception to their execution. It’s part of the life of small places. We sometimes don’t do the mental arithmetic necessary to add up all the energy which is directed outwith our communities - to Africa, to vulnerable people in Scotland - if we did, I suspect we would be amazed. Such a mindset needs to be cultivated, however; it needs to be protected and promoted. It is not something we can or should take for granted.

**We need to combine the abilities we have and the grace which God gives us to recognise need and rise to the challenge.** These are virtues – a strange combination of what we are inclined to do and the grace which God presents us and ‘gifts’ us with. Most of the tremendous movements across two thousand years of Church history have begun with prayer and conversation - prayer to God and

conversation with fellow Christians. They are not put into effect by specialists or council employees. You don't require a Diploma or letters behind your name. Churches are renewed by small groups, children and old people are cared for by ordinary people who have been sensitive and prayerful, and have come up with a good idea and have made sure that they showed up on time to turn on the lights and get the coffee on. It's as simple as that - prayer, an idea, a first step and a little perseverance. As the man says: it's not rocket science!

It's my prayer that our energy will grow - that somebody not yet 'plugged in' to Mission or to community care will decide that this day is 'their day' and that nobody else can start the ball rolling but them. Let's make use of the talents and gifts God has give us - the vocation which we, each one of us, received at our Baptism.

*Father Rob Warren*

## ***Pen self-portrait of Rev. Stephen McCaulay***

Hello! I'm Stephen McCaulay, the new Chaplain for The Royal Highland Fusiliers (2 SCOTS) at Glencorse Barracks. My wife Charlotte, daughter Becky, and I arrived in Penicuik in August. God and, the Chaplain General willing, we will be here for the next three years.

Charlotte and I have been married for the last twenty years; we met when we both worked at St. James' Hospital in Leeds. Becky is eleven and goes to school in Harrogate. I haven't lived in Scotland for twenty-four years, and it's all new for Charlotte and Becky who are both Yorkshire girls, so we are all enjoying exploring the lovely part of Scotland that we are in when we have time off together.

Before the Army, I was a curate in a housing estate in Derby and then moved across the city to another estate as Parish Priest. Since being in the Army we have lived in Norfolk and Germany, but I have also spent time in Iraq, Canada, Cyprus, Kuwait, Dubai, Poland, Switzerland and other miscellaneous parts of Europe. You do get to see the world with the army!

Working in parish ministry and then Army Chaplaincy hasn't left much time for hobbies. I used to ride regularly and sail a bit but realise that I haven't done either of these for over ten years so I am on the lookout for new hobbies. All ideas welcome. In the meantime Charlotte,

reminding me that we haven't danced together since our wedding, has managed to get me along to the Ceilidh dancing class at the Town Hall of a Thursday evening. It's better than a five mile run for keeping fit!

Our dog, Tally, a working Cocker Spaniel, and our cat, Charlie, a grumpy Tabby, complete the family.

*[See picture (of Stephen and Charlotte, but not the animals!) on Page 2 - Ed]*

## **Welcome!**

Chalk and cheese, darkness and light, surely no two church experiences could be so different, yet both in the Anglican tradition, both in Victorian buildings. Like most of St James folk, we always try to attend a local church on holiday.

We were in the Highlands, and found the local Episcopal church, large and imposing in the town centre: a beautiful building, but so gloomy inside, save for the chancel. Cold; nobody welcomed us, except to press the service book into our hands - 1970 Grey book, last used in St James...? There appeared to be no sound reinforcement in this vast, almost empty building, and the priest had his back to the congregation most of the time. There were no sentences of welcome to congregation or visitors, or even to take Communion. Everything was censed frequently - vestments, Gospel, altar, congregation; by the time we approached the altar we could scarcely see it! Much genuflection. No exchange of the peace. The organist was half-speed, the singing dreary. No church magazine, nothing about the church to be seen.

However, there was coffee in the hall afterwards, in a new, bright building, notice board showing several weekly activities, and people, including the rector, talking to each other and us! I have been harshly critical in my description, I know, but we felt sad that the service was the image of the Episcopal church presented to visitors. However, we had to remind ourselves that we *were* visitors, outsiders, and that this was presumably the Sunday worship that pleased the (few) members of their congregation, so we should be prepared to go along with it – it was the lack of welcome that we found most telling.

Our second September trip was to Yorkshire, where we were overwhelmed by the welcome in the village C of E church. Light flooded every corner, smiling sidesman, “good morning” from people round us in the pews; “do you read music, here’s the service setting”; the minister came over, introduced himself and asked if we were on holiday. They had their own service book, incorporating the Liturgy, but with additional notes about local variations, taking Communion, collection, where the toilet was, etc. Lively service, with an organist whose pace could give Mike a run for his money! The children brought in what they’d done in Junior Church and were asked about it at the end. Coffee in the hall afterwards, lots of people chatting to us. We came away feeling anyone who had just moved to the area would fit in instantly.

Maybe some might find that rush of welcome too overpowering, and prefer to be left alone more. It’s, as ever, about achieving the right balance. Those initial impressions, those first few minutes upon entering a church, are vital in making people feel welcome in God’s house, part of our church family.

**So, how do visitors see us?**

## ***Penicuik for Africa (PfA)***

**3rd Africa Fair** The Town Hall was filled for nearly three hours on September 26th by eighteen organisations showcasing their work for Africa during a colourful, informative and entertaining morning. They came from as far afield as Dundee, Jedburgh and Hawick, and all did good business. PfA raised the profile of its next project (see below) with Jo Vallis’ excellent poster and £440 from its stall, raffle and sales of refreshments. If other stalls did half as well, over £1000 was raised for Africa.

We couldn’t have done it without St James support and a big thank you must go to Isabel and Jean for coping with the queue for coffee and cakes plus an impromptu Traidcraft Stall and Rob, persuasive as ever with the raffle tickets. The story is best told in pictures: Eddie Read and visiting priest from Nigeria (Sacred Heart) in earnest conversation with Jane Salmanson (L’Arche) are pictured on the back cover. Others confirmed that they got a great ‘kick’ out of meeting fellow enthusiasts for Africa and learning from them. Children were well to the fore: proceedings were formally opened by two Zambian brothers, Rabson

and David Chipakuchipaku, one reading a verse from Deuteronomy, the other an African proverb: later they helped me announce raffle winners (*right*). Pupils from Penicuik High School reported on their twinning with Thyolo Secondary School in Malawi and the imminent pupil exchange and were hoping to raise funds with a new CD (*see inside front cover*). Magdalene Sacranie read 'Tales from African Dreamtime' from a stall as colourful as the cover of her book while a beautiful giraffe took shape in a large collage, made from strips of discarded polythene bags and a little glue, under



the watchful eyes of Kathryn and Adam. Children dragged parents round a 'Safari trail' to identify African animal footprints scattered around the stalls - it was intentionally made difficult to increase 'dwell-time' but with a winning score of only 30% we may have gone too far! Adjudicator Agnes Holmes (pictured in front of Ian Kerry's (West Linton) Cape Coast Project

stall, left), President of the Africa Centre in Edinburgh, awarded the £50 prize for best exhibit jointly (and this was not a 'fix'!) to our Mothers Union portrayal of their work in Africa (*right*) and Margaret Coull's display of the Scottish Regiment's support for Children in Kenya (*see next page*). The farthest travelled exhibitors in particular enjoyed the light lunch, served up by Ruth with the help of Akbar's 'Mosque Kitchen' and consumed to background African music.





**Chitambo Midwifery School Project** We must now turn our attention to fund-raising for Chitambo once again. This will be the main item on the agenda at our meeting in our Church Hall at **7.30pm on Monday, November 2nd**. While officially our AGM, business should be completed in quick time (15 minutes, but we do need to find a

Secretary and executive!) and we can then pool fund-raising ideas although you won't hear the splash if only four people (including Ruth and myself) turn up as happened at last year's AGM in North Kirk Cafe! Among the possibilities already being aired are: another Christmas Card Appeal, a temporary shop 'squat', return of the sponsored slim and partnered grant applications to Comic Relief and DFID (come if only to find out what that stands for!). We will have all the latest news of requirements from our contacts in Chitambo and be in a position to set a target for the appeal.

*Neville (01968 673819)*

## ***Vestry Moments***

This is a summary of matters discussed at the Vestry meeting of 30 September 2009

- Chancel Steps handrail: drawings of proposed installation are displayed on notice board for congregational comment
- St Margaret window: restorer has been appointed and this repair should be effected by Christmas
- Quinquennial Review: 3 quotes having been received, it was agreed to proceed with revision of Review and prioritise work needed
- Discussed budgets for next 5 years
- Dates for 2010 Congregational Weekend to St Drostan's Lodge, Angus discussed and to be put to congregation to assess response
- "Year of Homecoming" postcards to be sent to past attendees
- need to change Hall smoke alarm from battery to mains operation

- urge all members of St James to fill in cards individually to record current details to update Church Membership list

Next meetings: Tuesday 27 October 2009 and Monday 23 November 2009

*Georgina Phillips, Minutes Secretary*

## ***Earlybirds plus (one hour)!***

There is now a prayer group meeting at 8.00am in the chapel on Wednesday mornings, following the really earlybirds who meet at 7.00am!

We are there to pray for our church, our town, country and world events, ourselves, families and any other topics relevant at the time.

We want to let you know that we are there to pray so that you can ask us to pray for you, for any person you would like prayer for or any event that you would like prayer for. Alternatively you might like to come and join us for an hour or part of. Names can also be added to the Prayer Diary that is situated in the chapel.

Please let me know about any of the above.

*Val McGavin Tel 01968 675614 email [val.mcgavin@virgin.net](mailto:val.mcgavin@virgin.net)*

## ***Harvest***

Harvest Sunday service was a joyful experience. The singing of "Jesus loves me" by all ages in the congregation was a highlight, as David also mentions in his choir report. The youngest members of St James family sang with gusto throughout, to the delight of all. The banner prepared by the Young Church was placed in front of the altar; see front cover.

## ***From Thomas Joyner***

*Below is a copy of the letter received by Jean Hindle from Thomas:*

"Dear Jean,

Thank you for the news. I am so sorry to hear of Ralph's difficulties. He is in my prayers and the prayers of many here. You were both so kind to me and I have fond memories of our trip to St. Abbs and Eyemouth

for yummy fish and chips. And also for Gordon Benning who remains a special soul to me. Please pass along my best wishes and assure her she is in prayer also.

All is well here, I still look at the 'Outreach' every month to keep up with the goings on at St. James and St. Mungo's. In fact I pull out photos from time to time to remind myself of a wonderful summer: the many people I met, the friends made, the amazing places I visited. It's hard not to get nostalgic thinking of that summer and reliving wonderful memories and the many people who provided them.

There's not too much of interest going on here at the moment, other than the normal daily routine. This parish is going through its own difficult times and that can be sad in its own way. Such is the way of life and death and, hopefully, life again. For all of the sad news I get to look at my (still) new nephew. Here's a link to a picture of us from September (<http://micahxavier.shutterfly.com/366>). I'm in the last year of a two year agreement here and so it's time for me to begin to look where I might go next. It is a long and involved process (as I'm sure you may remember). I'll be very glad when it's over and I can settle down again into the fun part, getting to be with people and share in the wonders of life. Please keep me in your prayers during this transition.

So, blessings on you; thank you for keeping me up to date and staying in touch. Please give my best to all at St. James and St. Mungo's. For some reason Mike and Ros Hay and David and Val McGavin are in the forefront of my mind, give them a special hello from me. And always (dear to me in lots of ways) are Jo and Adam Bullough, please give them a hug from me and tell them that I miss them.

With love,  
Thomas"

*[And love and best wishes to you, Thomas from all of us at St James - you will be in our prayers - Ed]*

## ***Tearcraft/Created***

A new season, a new catalogue a new range of products and this year a new name!

**“Tearcraft” has become “Created”!**

All things change, so look out this year for the catalogues called CREATED at the back of the church. However, we will still be referring to the old name of Tearcraft for the time being.

We will hold our annual Coffee Morning and Sale this year on Saturday 14 November in the church hall. Please do put this date in your diaries and keep it free. It is usually a good morning of fellowship and fun, please come and bring your friends.

“Created’ is much more than just selling handcrafted gifts. It is a model of trade that enables those living in poverty to utilise their skills, to gain the dignity of valuable employment, for which they are paid fairly and treated with honesty and integrity!”

Hope to see you there!

*Val McGavin and Mauricewood House Group*

## ***World Vision Christmas Card***

*Here is information from the World Vision charity telling us how the money which we raised from our communal Christmas Card has been spent this year. I do hope that you feel this has been worthwhile and I will have another Alternative Christmas Card ready very soon. Thank you again for your very generous support of the Christmas Card.*

*Ros Hay.*

“We want to say a big 'thank you' on behalf of children and families in Uganda. By taking part in the Alternative Christmas Card last year you helped raise over £82,000 towards the peace and reconciliation project working with families forced to leave their homes due to violence.

The good news is it's already been put to work helping people like Akello. Like an estimated 1.7million people in Uganda, Akello was forced to flee her home twenty years ago because she feared for her family's life. Units of the Lord's Resistance Army were marauding in the area around her village threatening violence. Akello fled to Anaka Internally Displaced People's Camp where, as well as her own six children, she also began to care for four orphans. Her family was safe but without any means of livelihood, they depended for some time on handouts.

This began to change in the year when Akello helped to form a group called Opit Kic Women's Group; 'Opit Kic' means 'taking care of orphans' in the Acholi language. This was, and remains, the group's raison d'être.

As part of the peace and reconciliation programme, World Vision offered them training in animal management. Afterwards, the group received eight oxen and ploughs which began to make farming easier and harvests more plentiful.



'I have opened up my land using the ox plough that World Vision gave us, and I have planted groundnuts, millet and beans,' says Filder Okwongngom, 47, a mother of three who also looks after five orphans.

The ox plough is not only used by the members of Opit Kic they also hire it out to

other camp residents. The group has a joint bank account in which they deposit these earnings. 'When it is time for children to go back to school, we will withdraw this money and share it. It enables us to buy books, uniforms and pay fees,' Alder adds.



Through working with these groups, World Vision is helping to promote another vital goal: reconciliation among the people of Anaka. Northern Uganda is still living with the painful legacy of the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency. Because of the culture of violence that took over the formerly respectful, dignified and peaceful people, tribal, inter-clan and interfamily feuds and bitterness arose among the population. As the people began resettling, wrangles became commonplace because people no longer knew the boundaries of their land after so many years. World Vision staff have seen how working together on building a shared livelihood has transformed the attitudes of the community as they prepare to return back home from the camp:

'You cannot work together in a group if you are not united, and you cannot hire out your assets if you have not reconciled with the rest of the members in the community whom you may have disagreements with,' says Peacebuilding Facilitator Susan Awino."

## ***"Praise God Together" for St Cecilia's Day***

Please join us at St James' at **6.30pm on Sunday 22nd November**, for a service of songs and readings to celebrate St Cecilia's tide. St Cecilia is traditionally regarded as the patron saint of music.

If you have a particular hymn request or suggestion please give details to Alison Cole either by phone, 01986 672400, by email, [alisonmariecole@btinternet.com](mailto:alisonmariecole@btinternet.com) or by completing one of the slips of paper at the back of the church.

You are welcome to join us in the hall afterwards for tea, coffee and light refreshments.

## ***St James AGM***

This will be on Sunday 6 December 2009 after the 11am service. To ensure that reports are available to the Congregation in due time, please would all Group representatives send (preferably by email) these to **Richard Phillips** no later than Sunday 15 November 2009.

With Jo Bullough coming to the end of her term of office there will be one vacancy for an Ordinary Member of Vestry next year. Lay Representative and Alternative Lay Representative also require annual election. Both Angela Sibley and Richard Phillips are eligible for re-election.

Please let me have all nominations, with a seconder, by Sunday 29th November 2009.

*Nigel Johnston, Vestry Secretary*

# ROTAS November 2009

	01 – Nov- 2009	08 -Nov- 2009	15 - Nov - 2009	22- Nov- 2009	29-Nov-2009
	<b>Pentecost 14</b>	<b>Pentecost 15</b>	<b>Pentecost 16</b>	<b>Pentecost 17</b>	<b>Advent</b>
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	David	Mike	Jennifer	Mike
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	David	**** <i>Remembrance</i>	Jean	David	Jean
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Isobel Stenhouse Adrian Marchant	Katherine Pow Margaret Coull	Richard Phillips Tom Moffat	Elizabeth Clark Des Frantom
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	Sibleys	Johnstons
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Wisdom of Solomon 3:1-9 or Isaiah 25:6-9</i>	<i>Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 or 1 Kings 17:8-16</i>	<i>1 Samuel 1:4-20 or Daniel 12:1-3</i>	<i>2 Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14</i>	<i>Jeremiah 33:14-16</i>
	Young Church	Brigitte Fuge	Jean Hindle	Ian MacLennan	Marion Mather
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>Revelation 21:1-6a</i>	<i>Hebrews 9:24-28</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:11-14, 19-25</i>	<i>Revelation 1:4b-8</i>	<i>1 Thess. 3:9-13</i>
	Young Church	Geoff Mather	Val McGavin	Mike Hay	Sue Crosfield
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>John 11:32-44</i>	<i>Mark 12:38-44</i>	<i>Mark 13:1-8</i>	<i>John 18:33-37</i>	<i>Luke 21:25-36</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Mike Hay	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark
<b>Pray for</b>	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group	Clergy Team	Vestry	MU
<b>Server</b>	Ruth /Val	Martin/Alice	Angela/David	Val/Steven	Angela/Ruth
<b>Coffee</b>	Mrs Neish & Family	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan	Sue Crosfield Kathleen Cox	Adrian and Karen Marchant	Hays & Smiths
<b>Flowers</b>	Gill Amos	Gill Amos	Gill Amos	Gill Amos	Advent
<b>Cleaning</b>	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom	-----	C & M Leavy and Sue Owen	C & M Leavy and Sue Owen	-----
<b>Welcomers</b>	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk	McGarvas
<b>Care Van</b>			*		
<b>Pentland House</b>					

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

# December 2009

	6 Dec 2009	13 Dec	20 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec	27 Dec
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas 1
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	tba	tba	Mike
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	Mike	David	Jean	tba	tba	David
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Margaret Coull Isabel Stenhouse	tba	Nigel Johnston Margaret Coull	Alan Sibley Des Frantom	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Young Church	Dicksons	Leavys	tba	Children	Barretts
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9</i>	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i>	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>	<i>1 Sam 2:18-20, 26</i>
	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Ian MacLennan	Children	Joyce Black
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>Malachi 3:1-4 or Baruch 5:1-9</i>	<i>Zephaniah 3:14-20</i>	<i>Micah 5:2-5a</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 52:7-10</i>	<i>1 Sam 2:18-20, 26</i>
	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Elizabeth Clark	Robert Clerk	Georgina Phillips
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Luke 3:1-6</i>	<i>Luke 3:7-18</i>	<i>Luke 1:39-45, (46-55)</i>	<i>John 1:1-14</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-20</i>	<i>Luke 2:41-52</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Ruth Green	Geoff Mather	David McGavin	tba	tba	Sue Crosfield
<b>Pray for</b>	CWF	Early Birds Prayer Groups	Fabric Team	Families	Families	J-Tots
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Steven	Val	Martin/Alice	Val	Angela/Glynis	Val/Ruth
<b>Coffee</b>	Gillian Little Marion Mather	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black	-----	-----	Isabel Stenhouse Jean Wright
<b>Flowers</b>	-----ADVENT-----				Nan McGavin	
<b>Cleaning</b>	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse			Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse
<b>Welcomers</b>	Elizabeth Clark	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Robert Clerk	McGarvas
<b>Care Van</b>			*			
<b>Pentland House</b>	*					

## ***Area Council October 2009***

The October meeting was held at St Michael and All Saints, Tollcross. Representatives had opportunity to see the finished result of redecoration, new lighting, and some other improvements at this church. Although the meeting covered several subjects, much of it was devoted to local matters.

There was news from the diocese of Cape Coast, with which St Mungo's, West Linton has links. There was also a report and some discussion on the General Synod.

There has been a somewhat less than charitable debate between 'conservatives' and 'liberals', currently focusing on homosexuality, the authority of the Bible, and tradition. Some parts of the Anglican communion have been contemplating leaving the communion, and there have been some expensive legal cases to decide the ownership of property which secessionists and would-be secessionists have unsuccessfully sought to take with them. Synod also reported on the state of funds, explaining why Quota has to rise by 3% in future years. The state of the pension fund requires congregations to increase contributions by £2,000 for the next several years.

More exciting, however, were reports on St John's West End. Thousands of festival visitors pass its door day and night during the Edinburgh festival season. Some even come inside, as the church has been a venue for some events. This has prompted the church over several years to seek to do more to reach out to this throng. This effort developed into the Festival of Spirituality and Peace. This, however, starkly exposed the inadequate facilities of the church building, which has under it a bookshop and a café. So an extension of the church hall, re-ordering of some existing accommodation, and other improvements to facilities are now in contemplation. This reporter is not much given to describing such matters as 'exciting', but even he felt excited by this development! Some outline drawings now exist, but detailed plans are still in the future. St John's church is a listed building, so doing anything is a sensitive matter involving Historic Scotland and the local town planners. Building work is not expected to start imminently ... .

Meanwhile, the Festival of Spirituality and Peace has been growing over several years, helped by some outside funding to further its aims. Indeed, it has grown to the point where St John's has given it an

independent existence and employed another member of staff to replace the time lost in organising the festival. There are links with other local churches, Moslems, and secular peace advocates, and also some other organisations. The many events and exhibitions are dedicated to supporting those with a practical vision for peace, and to spreading this vision widely. Lastly, the forthcoming diocesan synod was briefly discussed. Mention was made of the clergy performance review, which some ministers have already started, and found helpful.

*Richard Phillips, Alternate Lay Representative*

## ***Burns Supper!***

Yes, this is only November! However, we know there are often lots of events around Burns Night, and that you wouldn't want to miss the St James Burns Supper organised by the Youth Group. Make a note now: **Saturday 23 January 2010**. Details later from Adam Bullough.

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

*MU Scottish web address is: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk)  
or via St James web page link.*

We have now begun our programme for 2009/2010 with a very interesting talk by Rob about his and the family's time in Ghana, informative and eye opening. Recommended watching and listening.

Although we have been on holiday, we have still been busy promoting the work of the Mothers' Union and keeping in contact with our link Dioceses of Columbo and Kurunegala in Sri Lanka. In September some of us attended a tea party to meet and hear Chrishanthie Nayagam, the MU Diocesan President of the link Dioceses. The work they do is on a far larger scale than here. Of course, they are now helping to deal with thousands of displaced persons after the ending of the Civil War. With limited resources they are managing to bring some small relief to sufferers in a remote hospital of 100 beds with 500 patients.

They have been asked to provide bottled water every day for one of the camps which they realise will be difficult with their limited resources. A collection at the tea party raised £135; it's a start, but more is needed and St. James' MU hope to have a fellowship lunch in February to raise further funds.

Promotion of MU work in Africa was highlighted at the Penicuik for Africa fair where the stall generated a lot of interest. Many questions were asked and I hope answered well. If you are interested in learning more, look for the Mothers' Union on the internet. Many thanks to Angela who got photographs etc. from Mary Sumner House and set the stall up. Also thank you to Joyce Black and Catherine Pow. The MU shared the prize for best stall, receiving £25 which was sent to the MU Overseas Fund.

The embarrassment for myself came when the prize was shared with the 1 SCOTS stall which I had set up to show what the Battalion did in Kenya and where the clothes and toy donations went. Their share will be going to the local branch of SSAFA, the families association.

*Margaret Coull*

**Triennial Elections:** There will be new diocesan MU office bearers as from 1st Jan 2010. From St James MU, Angela Sibley will be Diocesan President and Catherine Pow will be Diocesan Secretary. Sue Crosfield and Joyce Black are retiring. Ian MacLennan retires as Diocesan Treasurer.

**2010 Branch Subscriptions:** £14.50 per member is due asap. This is made up of: Central Sub £7.50 *an increase of 50p*, Diocesan sub £5.25, Branch £1.75 = £14.50

### **Proposed Programme:**

Nov 9 - 12.30pm Intercessions in the Cathedral followed by communion and lunch

Nov 11 - MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion - Craft Day ?Alison Prentice

Fri Nov 27 - MU Wave of Prayer 2pm to 3 pm at 64 Deanburn. **NB not Wed 25**

Dec 2nd and 9th - St James/ St Leonard's Advent Carol Service - *dates to be confirmed.*

Dec 7 - Intercessions in the Cathedral followed by communion and lunch

### **2010**

Jan 13th - MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion Theme of the year

Jan 27th - MU Lunch after 12.15 Communion - ? Neville pp Jersey t.b.c.

## ***Church membership list***

So far, there has been a low response to the request to update St James membership records. Our list has not been revised systematically for many years, and is more than a mere list of names – it is an essential tool for keeping in touch with our members and will be used to send out this year's Christmas Services card, so make sure you are not left out! We would appreciate an individual record for each member of St James, even if this is completed by another member of the family.

Please be reassured that this list will not be made available to anyone else; it will be stored on the computer and used by St James church to make contact about church activities. It will not be issued to the congregation.

Cards are available in the pews or at the back of the church. Please put completed cards into the box on the table. Do take some to give to anyone you know who might still wish to be a member of St James, even if they have not been able to attend for a while.

*Richard Phillips*

## ***Choir News***

Autumn already - and still feeling much like an apprentice! We were fortunate to experience a very impressive choral evensong sung by our visitors from Cambridge; their commitment and enthusiasm was incredible. The highlight for me in the past few weeks was the enthusiastic singing at Harvest, where it seemed the whole church sang "Yes! Jesus loves me" We must surely aim for that same level of commitment and enthusiasm in all our worship.

The next few weeks look like being an exciting time for choir and musicians that starts with the wedding of Suzanne Murray and Alastair McCrae on **31st October** at 1.00pm. The Bride (a choir member of many years) will be married in St James to the sound of an anthem specially written for the day by Alan. We send our best wishes to Ali & Sooz.

Other events are planned throughout November. - Evensong at St James on **1st November** at 6.30pm for All Saints' Day. Thereafter on

Sunday **15th November** some choir members will attend a RSCM led Evensong Workshop at St Peter's Peebles with Evensong at 6.00pm. There is more information on the notice board of a full weekend of events at St Peter's that celebrate the centenary of their Harrison & Harrison organ. Fans of Evensong might like to note both dates. On Sunday **22nd November** you are invited to an evening "Songs of Praise" type service for St Cecilia's day. Look out for Alison's note in this edition of Outreach!

That just leaves space to mention the other "Songs of Praise" to be recorded in St Mary's Cathedral on **24th and 25th November**. The programme will be broadcast on the last Sunday of the year - 27th December on BBC One - we all know what the Vicar of Dibley (or was it Ronnie Barker) made of "Songs of Praise".

... and finally there is an "Advent Concert" given by Penicuik Silver Band with some input from St James on Friday **27th November**; see posters for details.

*David*

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

9 Nov - CWF at 64 Deanburn

7 Dec - CWF Meal ?at Countryside tba

**2010**

18 Jan - CWF Supper in church hall

Through the Delhi Brotherhood, CWF will be supporting a new 7 year old girl's education, since Poonah is now going to a government funded school.

## ***Congratulations***

To Margaret McLennan who was 80 years young in October. Great to see you looking so well, Margaret!.....

...and to Ruth Green, who is now officially an ordinand in training for the ministry. God be with her and her family in her journey.

## **Thanks!**

Gillian and Bill Little would like to thank those who contributed or came to "Have Tea in the Garden" on 20 September. £50 was raised for church funds.

We hope to open our garden again next year.

## **Penicuik Silver Band Concert**

You've already noted the date: **Friday 27 November 2009 7.30pm at St James**. This event will be not only a feast of music but also a fundraiser for us: the ticket sales will be shared with the Band, but we shall also be selling refreshments in the interval. There will be a raffle, home baking and a sales table. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated to make this event a success: donations of raffle prizes, baking, or items for the stall, and help on the evening. Please tell your friends about it and buy your tickets promptly.

**Tickets:** £6 (£4 concession) available from **Marion Mather** (01968 678081) or **Kathleen Cox** (01968 673567); contact either of them to offer help or donations. Tickets also available from Tom Easton 07816 565070. Look forward to seeing you at what promises to be an exciting evening.

## **Penicuik Churches Shopping Service**

The shopping service has now been in operation for over a year and is serving a small number of clients in Penicuik who are unable to go for their own shopping. We also have a small band of willing helpers who carry out the shopping, without whom the service could not operate.

If you know of anyone who has difficulty with shopping and you are unable to help, please contact Jim Cowper, tel 673538.

If you would like to help us with this service please also contact Jim Cowper, who is happy to give more details of how you can help.

## **The Silverburn Study Group**

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

Please bring a bible.

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

## ***Cranky Old Man***

When an old man died in the geriatric ward of a nursing home in country NSW, it was believed that he had nothing left of any value.

Later, when the nurses were going through his meagre possessions, They found this poem. Its quality and content so impressed the staff that copies were made and distributed to every nurse in the hospital. One nurse took her copy to Melbourne. The old man's sole bequest to posterity has since appeared in the Christmas editions of magazines around the country and appearing in mags for Mental Health. A slide presentation has also been made based on his simple, but eloquent, poem.

And this old man, with nothing left to give to the world, is now the author of this 'anonymous' poem winging across the Internet.

*What do you see nurses? . . . . .What do you see?  
What are you thinking . . . . . when you're looking at me?  
A cranky old man, . . . . .not very wise,  
Uncertain of habit . . . . . with faraway eyes?*

*Who dribbles his food . . . . . and makes no reply.  
When you say in a loud voice . . . . . 'I do wish you'd try!'  
Who seems not to notice . . . . .the things that you do.  
And forever is losing . . . . . A sock or shoe?*

*Who, resisting or not . . . . . lets you do as you will,  
With bathing and feeding . . . . .The long day to fill?  
Is that what you're thinking? . . . . . Is that what you see?  
Then open your eyes, nurse . . . . . you're not looking at me.*

*I'll tell you who I am . . . . . As I sit here so still,  
As I do at your bidding, . . . . . as I eat at your will.  
I'm a small child of Ten . . . . . with a father and mother,*

*Brothers and sisters .. . . . . who love one another*

*A young boy of Sixteen . . . . . with wings on his feet  
Dreaming that soon now . . . . . a lover he'll meet.  
A groom soon at Twenty . . . . . my heart gives a leap.  
Remembering, the vows .. . . . that I promised to keep.*

*At Twenty-Five, now . . . . . I have young of my own.  
Who need me to guide . . . . . And a secure happy home.  
A man of Thirty . . . . . My young now grown fast,  
Bound to each other . . . . . With ties that should last.*

*At Forty, my young sons .. . . . have grown and are gone,  
But my woman is beside me . . . . . to see I don't mourn.  
At Fifty, once more, . . . . . Babies play 'round my knee,  
Again, we know children . . . . . My loved one and me.*

*Dark days are upon me . . . . . My wife is now dead.  
I look at the future ... . . . . I shudder with dread.  
For my young are all rearing . . . . . young of their own.  
And I think of the years . . . . . And the love that I've known.*

*I'm now an old man . . . . . and nature is cruel.  
It's jest to make old age . . . . . look like a fool.  
The body, it crumbles . . . . . grace and vigour, depart.  
There is now a stone .. . . . where I once had a heart.*

*But inside this old carcass . . . . . A young man still dwells,  
And now and again . . . . . my battered heart swells  
I remember the joys . . . . . I remember the pain.  
And I'm loving and living . . . . . life over again.*

*I think of the years .. all too few . . . . . gone too fast.  
And accept the stark fact . . . . . that nothing can last.  
So open your eyes, people . . . . . open and see.  
Not a cranky old man . Look closer . . . . . see . . . . . ME!!*

Remember this poem when you next meet an older person who you might brush aside without looking at the young soul within . . . . . we will all, one day, be there, too!

*Contributed by Jean Hindle*

## ***The Mad Scientist Page***

*Scientific scrutiny* Scientists are judged by their publication record and regularly submit their latest findings for review by peers who decide whether or not they advance knowledge. I recently scrutinised a paper that involved modelling (mathematical rather than catwalk) and felt very stupid (see “*Mad Scientist*” in *last Outreach*). Computer ‘models’ were being used to predict whether or not a particular diet would cause seizures in cows because it provided too little magnesium, a mineral which we all need. Now I’m supposed to know a thing or two about magnesium but the series of mathematical equations that predicted the fate of magnesium as it passed from gut through bloodstream to nerve endings left me floundering. However, the more that is understood about the ‘laws of nature’, the more the numerate can ‘reduce’ them to simple equations that accurately predict real life events.

*Scientific prophecy* Today, we are bombarded with outputs from more ambitious computer models that try to predict future change (in our climate, for example) from past data such as weather and oceanographic records. Such models tell us that by 2050, our planet and its seas will be warmer, polar ice caps will be smaller, sea levels will have risen and several plant and animal species will have disappeared. Governments have responded to such dire predictions, fearing the political cost of ignoring any that came to pass: ‘by 2050 we will be entirely dependent on renewable energy sources’ they may boast. Nobody knows to what extent either model predictions or political aspirations will be realised because so many unknown factors are involved. However, we know that by 2050 our lives will have changed markedly in all but one respect - our religious observance.

*Religious scrutiny* By and large the ‘body ecclesiastic’ does not ‘do’ scrutiny. Our faith and our church are shaped by and fit the published record, the Bible. To scrutinise would be to look for errors widely held to be minimal and trivial. However, individuals are expected to ‘do’ scrutiny on a grand scale, ‘acknowledging and bewailing their manifold sins and wickedness’. Thus, we have become good at spotting past personal mistakes but less able to add to the body of spiritual knowledge or ‘build the kingdom’. In the New Testament change appears to be mandatory: Jesus says ‘behold I am making all things new’ and ‘I come that ye may have life, and have it more abundantly’. Thus our spiritual

world could and should be evolving, each day an improvement on the last, drawn closer to the 'Jesus' model, both source and final purpose.

*Religious prophecy* All religions once 'did' prophecy in a big way. Some biblical prophecy seemed incredibly accurate although close scrutiny suggests that the 'prophet' was made to look 'wise after the event' as in the nativity stories we are about to recall. To recognise this is to be shaped less by the past and to shape and be shaped more by the present. Prophecy is something we may prefer to do without. We can blissfully ignore the prediction that on current trends ('attendance' fell 11% in SEC last year) there will be few 'piscies' around to celebrate Christmas, 2050. However, I have a feeling that next month's Mad Scientist will paint a much brighter picture.

*Neville*

## ***Penicuik Paper-making Tercentenary Exhibition***

At the opening Reception, Sir Robert Clerk's speech highlighted the link between the industry and his family. The first mill on the Esk was established by the 'Queen's Printer', Agnes Campbell, who leased land at Valleyfield in 1709 from Sir John Clerk of Penicuik, with the right to build a paper mill and to extract water from St Mungo's Well.

A tremendous amount of work went into making this an exceptionally well-staged exhibition, detailing the fascinating history of an industry that involved so many Penicuik families. Photos, artefacts and audio/visual reminiscences complemented each other; it was further brought alive by listening to and watching the visitors as memories were rekindled and shared.



If you missed visiting the Town Hall, a travelling exhibition on paper-making in the area will be displayed in libraries throughout Midlothian until February 2010; it will be in Penicuik from 25th Jan - 20th Feb.

Our own Margaret Coull, (also St James Archivist), played a major rôle with Penicuik Historical Society in preparing this exhibition; she is pictured beside one of the information boards.

## ***Your prayers are asked for.....***

Please pray for all those known and unknown to you who through sickness, need, bereavement or any other trouble are in need of God's comfort and support. Pray for healing and support for John Farrant who is in the Royal London Hospital, Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph Hindle, Irene Hair, Jim McGarva, John Ford, Caroline Murdoch, Gordon Benning, Ruth Haig, Eric Marchant, Alan Murray and Bob Horne (Georgina's cousin). Also for Kathryn Topham's aunt and uncle, Geoff Clark and Paddy de Lacy in Hull, who are going through a difficult time.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters. Pray for the release of all who are enslaved, for those held captive unfairly or illegally and for the work of Amnesty International. Pray for those suffering under corrupt and uncaring political regimes, remembering especially the people of Zimbabwe. Pray for people of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks. Pray for those who have been victims of terrorism.

For those who staff the Bethany Trust Care Van as they minister to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh, and for the homeless themselves. For the work of Penicuik for Africa, giving thanks for the success of the recent Africa Fair in Penicuik and praying for the upcoming AGM of PfA.

*(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...**

### **November**

Sun 1 Nov	6.30pm	All Saints Evensong
Mon 2 Nov	7.30pm	Penicuik for Africa AGM ( <i>please note change of date</i> )
4 Nov -18 Nov	Wed evenings 8.00pm	Silverburn Study Group
Sat 14 Nov	10.00-12.00	Tearcraft/Created Sale
Sun 15 Nov		Deadline for Church reports for AGM
	2.30 - 7.00pm	RSCM Workshop & Evensong at St Peter's Peebles
Sun 22 Nov	6.30pm	"Praise God together"
Mon 23 Nov	7.30pm	Vestry
Fri 27 Nov		Silver Band Concert in St James (fundraiser)

### **December**

Wed 2 Dec		Start of 3-week Advent study series St James
Sun 6 Dec		(after morning service) St James AGM
Fri 18 Dec	7.00pm	Tree decorating party
Sun 20 Dec	7.00pm	9 Lessons and Carols

### **January 2010**

Sat 23 Jan		Burns Supper organised by the Youth Group
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**"Outreach" can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The December 2009 edition will be published on Sunday 6 December. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Georgina Phillips 661039, Merlewood, The Loan, West Linton, EH46 7HE, [phillg13@toucansurf.com](mailto:phillg13@toucansurf.com), by Wednesday 25 November at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, [mike@hayfamily.co.uk](mailto:mike@hayfamily.co.uk).**

# Contacts at St James

All numbers 01968.. unless otherwise shown.

		Phone	Email
<b><u>Rector</u></b>	Revd Robert Warren	672862	rector_penicuik@yahoo.co.uk
	<i>23 Broomhill Road, Penicuik EH26 9EE</i>		
<b><u>Clergy Team</u></b>	Revd Dr Tony Bramley	675240	tbramley@staffmail.ed.ac.uk
<b><i>*Please note change:</i></b>	Canon Philip Crosfield	676607	<b>sue.crosfield@btinternet.com</b>
	Revd Dr Neville Suttle	673819	suttle_hints@hotmail.com
	Revd Stephen McCaulay	672976	562mccau@armymail.mod.uk
<b><u>Vestry: Secretary</u></b>	Nigel Johnston	674321	drnjohn17@aol.com
	<i>17 Broomhill Road EH26 9EE</i>		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Graham Smith	673012	caplaw@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Minutes Secretary</b>	Georgina Phillips	661039	phillg13@toucansurf.com
<b>Rector's Warden</b>	David McGavin	675614	david.mcgavin@virgin.net
<b>People's Warden</b>	Robert Clerk	679777	rclerk@penhouse.demon.co.uk
<b>Lay Representative</b>	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@talktalk.net
<b>Alt Lay Rep</b>	Richard Phillips	661039	rphillips52@toucansurf.com
<b>Elected Members:</b>	Nikki Dickson		alannicky@tiscali.co.uk
	Gill Amos	673395	gill.amos@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk
	Adrian Marchant	677477	marchantade@yahoo.com
	Geoff Mather	678081	geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk
	Jo Bullough	675549	josephinebullough@hotmail.com
<b>Co-opted Member:</b>	Andy Longmore	677823	andy.longmore@btinternet.com
<b>Fabric Team Leader</b>	Geoff Mather	678081	geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk
<b>Social Coordinator</b>	Alan Murray	678610	alan.murray@ee.ed.ac.uk
<b>Child Protection</b>	Nigel Johnston	674321	drnjohn17@aol.com
<b>Choirmaster</b>	David McGavin	675614	david.mcgavin@virgin.net
<b>CWF</b>	Joyce Jones	674187	
<b>Flowers</b>	Marion Mather	678081	marion.mccluskey@tiscali.co.uk
<b>House Group</b>	David & Val McGavin	675614	david.mcgavin@virgin.net
	Jean & Ralph Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
<b>Hall bookings</b>	Val McGavin	675614	val.mcgavin@virgin.net
<b>J-Tots</b>	Alison Cole	672400	alisonmariecole@btinternet.com
<b>Mothers' Union</b>	Margaret Coull	675223	margcoul@hotmail.co.uk
<b>Organists</b>	Mike Hay	675761	mike@hayfamily.co.uk
	Jennifer Edge	673234	jenniferedge@talktalk.net
	Jean Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
<b>Pastoral Visits</b>	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@talktalk.net
<b>Books/magazines</b>	Moira Johnston	674321	moirajohnston@aol.com
<b>Prayer/Alpha Courses</b>	Faye Clerk	679777	rclerk@penhouse.demon.co.uk
<b>Rotas</b>	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@talktalk.net
<b>Sacristan</b>	Ros Hay	675761	ros@hayfamily.co.uk
<b>Stewardship</b>	Jean Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
<b>Envelopes</b>			
<b>Young Church</b>	Alison Cole	672400	alisonmariecole@btinternet.com
	Gill Amos	673395	gill.amos@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk
<b>Youth Group</b>	Adam Bullough	675549	adambullough@o2.co.uk

**Upcoming Opportunities to Grow and Serve at St. Peter's**

**Parish Retreat- Serving His Mission: Telling Our Story – September 26 – 9:00 am - 3:00 pm**

**Blessing of the Pets & Animals – October 3 – 9:00 am**



**Autumn Pig Roast – October 3 – 6:00 pm**

**No Price Sale - October 10 - 8:00 am - 2:00 pm**

**We do hope the pig was suitably blessed!**



**Caption suggestion - thanks to the Coles!**



**Africa Fair: Eddie and a visiting priest from Nigeria (Sacred Heart) meet Jane (L'Arche)**



**Birthday girls!  
Congratulations to Margaret  
McLennan and Rose  
MacKenzie!**