



# OUTREACH

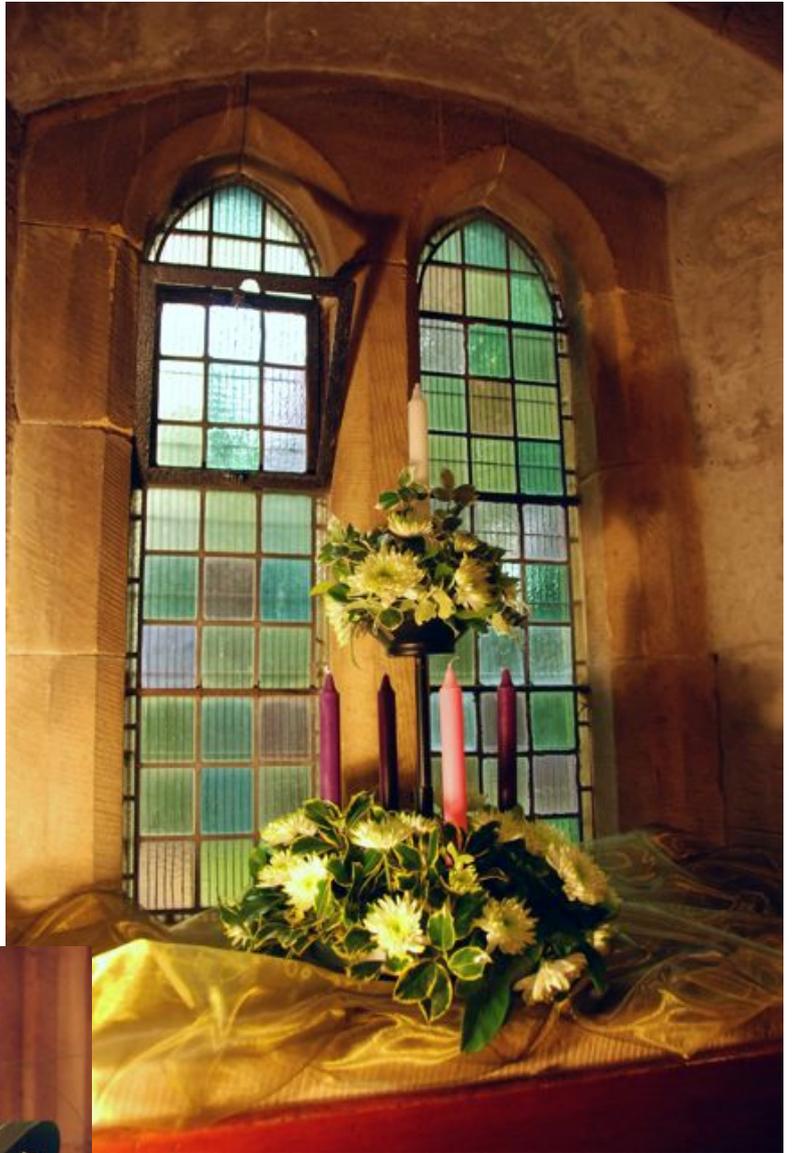
St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



**Remembrance ...**

*Issue No 164 November 2010  
Flower Festival and Memorial Edition*

## Advent



## Marriage

# Contents

From the Editor:.....	3
Service Times .....	4
Groups and Activities .....	4
From the Rector.....	4
Hello to all at St. James' and St. Mungo's .....	6
Flower Festival 2010.....	7
Congratulations! .....	9
Mission to Seafarers .....	9
Created/Tearcraft.....	9
Alternative Church Christmas Card .....	10
Penicuik for Africa Coffee Morning .....	10
Penicuik for Africa.....	10
Winter Blues Concert with Bryn Howarth .....	11
Who is this???	11
Churchwomen's Fellowship .....	11
Rotas .....	12
John Frederick Ames Farrant .....	13
December 2010 .....	25
Operation Christmas Child 2010 at St James .....	26
'Bethlehem under siege' .....	27
Choir News .....	28
Mothers' Union News .....	29
Omega group.....	30
Vestry Moments.....	31
Your prayers are asked for.....	32
Events coming soon .....	33
Contacts at St James.....	34

## ***From the Editor:***

*This month's issue of "Outreach" is rather larger than usual and is a slight departure from the normal format. We have chosen to devote much of the space to David McGavin's anthology of memories of John Farrant, who was such an integral part of the life of St James' congregation, and a report in words and pictures of the recent Flower Festival. We hope you enjoy the result.*

*The tributes to John are in the middle section of the magazine, so can be pulled out and kept if you wish.*

## **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

7.30pm Mauricewood Housegroup at 6 Arras Grove

Wednesdays: 7.00am "Earlybirds" Prayergroup

8.00am "Earlybirds+" Prayergroup

8.00pm Omega group at 44 St James Gardens

Thursdays: 7.00pm Choir Practice

## **From the Rector**

I spent one part of my misspent adolescence hitchhiking around the interior of British Columbia. I'd arrive in small towns which had, all of them, identical features: a gas station, a hotel with pub and restaurant, somebody named Al and, on the very edge of town, a Rodeo ground. I was never there on the right weekend and so the Rodeo grounds were always deserted - empty corrals made out of split rails, a weathered sign announcing the date when the Rodeo would be held or when it had taken place and a list of the events: the calf-roping, the bronco rides and the cattle wrestling. The key attraction, of course, was the riding of bulls. These bulls were bred to be mean – the proper jargon is 'ornery' and, to look at them, they don't even look much like ordinary cattle - nothing like the other placid ruminants munching grass in the fields. At rodeo time they're kept in special reinforced barns - not to be trusted but all the boys climb up onto the rails to get a better look at them.

So just to go over the rules. There are a hundred points given for the perfect ride – the rider needs to stay on the bull for eight seconds. If the ride is uneventful and boring the judge will award fewer points. The most points are given when the bull gives a particularly violent performance but where the rider manages to stay on nonetheless. If the bull and the rider get along too well, then fewer points are given: it's

simply not satisfactory. If the rider is thrown off the bull before four seconds have elapsed, then no points are given. And when the rider is thrown to the ground it is up to the rodeo clown to wave his hands and coax the bull back into his pen - the rodeo clown – the little fellow in the corner with his funny hat and red rubber nose and short trousers on over his red combination long underwear. He waves a towel and attracts the bull's attention away from the fallen rider. He has the most dangerous job in the rodeo. He manages to stave off disaster. He protects both the rider and the spectator and lures the bull back into the pen.



Since Caireen and I returned from our holidays in the summer there has been “no end of trouble in Dodge City”. In our congregations, and amongst family, friends, associates and “encountered strangers”, we have witnessed the struggle of a great many people trying to stay on the bull – if not for the full eight seconds then at least for the all-important four. Life's events come in bunches and we've seen a bunch of them. It does wear a bit. You find yourself saying “what next?”. Tragedy and upset is always a backdrop to the human condition.

The biblical record is filled, though, with a certain amount of comedy which – try as I might – I cannot define in any other way than it being the subtle hint of something which upsets the downward slide in a graceful and almost “cheeky” manner. The drowning man is swallowed by a fish and deposited on the shore; the Book of the Law is found in the ruins of the temple and, initially, mistaken for rubbish. A very old man and his very old wife have a child in spite of their great age. A baby is born in a small and unimportant town and his birth is heralded by an angel. The tax collector becomes a disciple. The Saviour goes to eat at Zaccheus' house. The oppressor of the church is knocked off his horse, converted and becomes the Apostle to the Gentiles. It all comes in from the side, this grace and possibility, with its red nose and impossible garb waving its towel in the midst of kicking hooves and slashing horns.

The believer will look for subtle things which herald the beginning of life when it looks like all is lost. There's something "comedic" about the Gospel. These visions, stories, promises and legends appear, at first glance, to bear little relation to the big bulls at the centre of the ring - whatever is happening in our marriages, our health problems or those of people we love, our businesses or our conflicts with family. The subtle beginnings come in from the side. Strange and off-beat though they may be, they form the beginning of the only thing which will keep us safe. The believer can not only learn to notice these strange beginnings. He will even come to expect them. The rough and tumble cowboy is saved by the clown.

*Father Rob Warren*

## ***Hello to all at St. James' and St. Mungo's***

We are all settling in here in Afghanistan. The weather is cooling down now, gets up to 35°C in the afternoon but goes down to 10°C at night. Everyone here is settling in to their new jobs and to their new homes for the next six months. I am still at Camp Bastion doing some extra training that we all do as we arrive in theatre. (I was the last to get here, so I'll be the last back home!).

In a few days I'll be going to Lashkagar which is where the bulk of 2 SCOTS will be for this tour. Everyone thinks of desert and mountains when they think about Afghanistan but the Helmand River which flows through the town of Lashkagar is three times wider than the Thames as it goes through London. I'm looking forward to seeing it and I'll make sure I send a picture of it back.

If anyone wants to get in touch with me you can write to:  
560562 Rev Stephen McCaulay, HQ COY, 2 SCOTS BG-CF LKG, OP  
HERRICK 13, BFPO 715 or email me on  
[mccaulay@armymail.mod.uk](mailto:mccaulay@armymail.mod.uk)

Till next month, keep us all in your prayers as you are in mine.

*Stephen*

*[God bless you all and keep you safe - Ed]*

## ***Flower Festival 2010***

Organising a Flower Festival as a major fundraising event is a huge and daunting task, so preparations began in earnest in March. Thanks to the generosity of Church members and some outside sponsors, the initial outlay costs were covered before the start of the Festival.

Marion, Kathleen and Geoff, our Fundraising Team, put the plan in motion with the help of a large number of

the congregation. Several stalls were planned and different tasks were delegated, with the responsible person finding their own helpers etc – a method which worked well and could usefully be replicated for other events.



Penicuik Flower Club members were invited to arrange the large set pieces, with our own flower team contributing smaller displays. The theme was *The Church Year in Music*, with flowers depicting the seasons of the church year, accompanied by a verse from an appropriate hymn. The flowers looked magnificent and many positive comments were received about them and the accompanying music provided



by our organists, which set the scene and enhanced the experience. In recognition of all their hard work, the Flower Club received 10% of the overall profit, which they truly deserved.

Many lovely photos were taken, and a calendar is being produced from them as a memento of this special event. A DVD is also planned.

The Flower Festival was a very successful event in terms of fundraising, fellowship and outreach, raising £2500, which goes towards the work on the Church fabric required by the Quinquennial Review.



It's impossible to list all who contributed so selflessly to this success, but sincere and grateful thanks are extended to each and every one – thank you all so much.



Finally, let's not forget that we can do nothing without God's help. We should rejoice in, and build on, all the good things that came from working together and opening our lovely church to the wider community of Penicuik and beyond. *[Just don't ask Marion when the next one is ...! - Ed]*

*Sponsors - Flowers by Lindsey; RA Cox, Garage Equipment; Findlay Irvine; Penicuik Home Improvements; Tesco and Church members*

## ***Congratulations!***

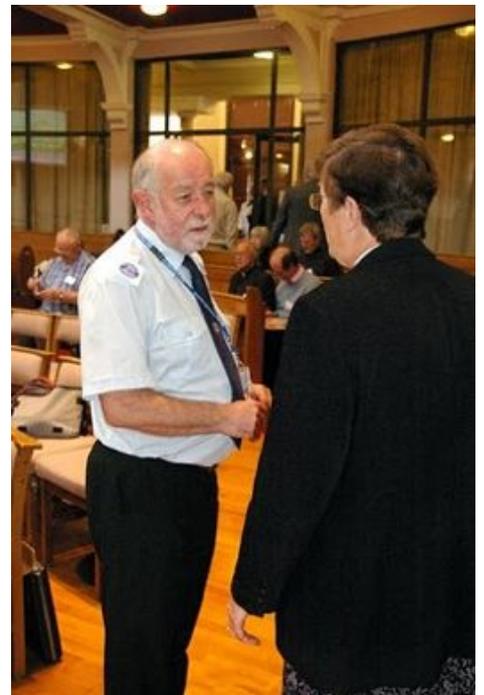
... to Lily Neish who was 90 on Sunday 31st October 2010.

Lily came to Penicuik in 1940 as a young bride with her husband Andrew when he was posted to Glencorse Barracks. They had 4 children: Jackie, Andy, Tricia and Wyndham. She also has 11 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren, and another great-grandson on the way.

We hope you had a great day of celebrations with your family and friends! *[See photo on back cover]*

## ***Mission to Seafarers***

The Development Director of the Mission to Seafarers Scotland, Jim McCrae, came to speak to us on Sunday 24 October at a Fellowship Potluck Lunch at St James. We've had Sea Sundays in previous years but this was the first occasion where we were treated to the full presentation of the Mission's work in Scottish ports and around the world. We managed to raise more than £350 at our fellowship lunch which, when added to the £125 pounds already collected at a previous retiring collection, made the better part of £500 pounds which is a truly laudable effort in support of what is really the only remaining organised industrial chaplaincy in the Scottish Episcopal Church.



Well done Jim! Well done St James.

*Footnote: Alan Murray was sufficiently struck by the presentation that he went home and wrote a song which seems now to have achieved its final form and which we look forward to hearing in Church.*

## ***Created/Tearcraft***

The new Created catalogues are still available at the back of the church. It looks good! I will be taking orders for your Christmas gifts as usual but please remember that there will be no Tearcraft stall this year.

*Val McGavin*

## ***Alternative Church Christmas Card***

Once again, I will be putting up the large Christmas Card on the board in the entrance hall, hoping to have it up for Sunday 13th December.

Many thanks for your support over the last few years, with money raised going to World Vision projects.

I hope to update you on last year's project for reconciliation work in Uganda and to tell you about the project for the coming year.

Thank you.

*Ros Hay*

## ***Penicuik for Africa Coffee Morning***

The coffee morning will be held on **Saturday 13 November 2010 in St James Church Hall from 10.00am till 12.00.**

There will be a home bake stall, plants and flowers and various other stalls for your perusal. You are all warmly invited to come along and bring your friends and enjoy a lovely cup of Fair Trade coffee and some delicious home baking!

We are turning our attention to this very worthy cause this year; please help us in the next push to raise the £3,000 needed for furnishings at the Chitambo Midwifery School.

*Val McGavin*

## ***Penicuik for Africa***

**Good news!** We have learned that the Chitambo Nursing School Appeal is to receive £500, given by Mary in memory of her sister Margaret Ritchie. Margaret had nursed at Chitambo in her youth and made an emotional return to Chitambo with Jo Vallis in the summer of 2008 in the ill-fated attempt to hand over the ambulance, celebrations cut short by the sudden death of the president of Zambia. Margaret herself was unwell on that trip and diagnosed with terminal cancer upon her return to the UK. Mary's tribute is therefore most appropriate and gratefully received

**Cash From The Attic:** For all those puzzled by the appearance of this feature in connection with the forthcoming Coffee Morning on November 13th, here is my plan. We have four tables strung across the end of the hall with price brackets on the doors behind: £1-2, £2-5, £5-10 and over £10. To avoid cluttering the hall too far in advance, bring your donations to the hall on Friday evening and place them on what

you think is the appropriately priced table. Late donations on the day can probably be coped with. Heavier items can be collected - just give me a buzz 'cos I will! If you are prepared for a 'downgrade' of your item, should it be slow to sell, please tell whoever takes your item or append a 'post-it' to that effect.

**AGM.** Just a reminder that our AGM begins at 8pm on Tuesday, November 16. Graham will present the accounts, the Chairman will take notes unless we can find the Minute Secretary we so desperately need and we hope to have the process of achieving charitable status sufficiently advanced for those present and willing to sign up as trustees. All this should not take more than 20 minutes. The main item will be an illustrated talk by Jo Vallis, describing the spectacular progress being made towards re-opening the Chitambo Nursing School, progress that she witnessed first-hand during her visit in June of this year.

## ***Winter Blues Concert with Bryn Howarth***

The acclaimed slide guitarist and singer/songwriter in an entertaining and uplifting evening of Gospel Blues and country rock. Saturday 4 December at 7.30pm in the Craigiebiel Hotel. Tickets and further information from Joan Cape (01968 674276) or email [capefamily@talktalk.net](mailto:capefamily@talktalk.net).

Bryn will also lead a Carol Concert in St Mungo's Church on Sunday 5 December at 7.00pm.

## ***Who is this???***

Letter received recently from "Business Stream: a Scottish Water Company" addressed to

**Mr S T J T L Church**

C/o Dr C G Smith

*[sounds as if they're not taking enough water with it! - Ed]*

## ***Churchwomen's Fellowship***

The CWF will be meeting on 15 November at 64 Deanburn unless otherwise notified and on 13 December for a meal out - details later. In the New Year 2011 we will meet on Monday 24 January.

# Rotas

November 2010

	7 November	14 November	21 November	28 November
	<b>Pentecost 24</b>	<b>Remembrance</b>	<b>Sunday before Advent</b>	<b>Advent 1</b>
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	Jean	David	David	David
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	David	*****	Jean	Jean
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Young Church	Marchants	Margaret Coull Elizabeth Clark	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Young Church	Johnstons	Frantoms	Clerks
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Haggai 1:15b-2:9 or Job 19:23-27a</i>	<i>Isaiah 65:17-25 or Malachi 4:1-2a</i>	<i>Jeremiah 23:1-6</i>	<i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>
	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Joyce Black	Fay Clerk
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17</i>	<i>2 Thessalonians 3:6-13</i>	<i>Colossians 1:11-20</i>	<i>Romans 13:11-14</i>
	Young Church	Gillian Little	Margaret Coull	Georgina Phillips
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Luke 20:27-38</i>	<i>Luke 21:5-19</i>	<i>Luke 23:33-43</i>	<i>Matthew 24:36-44</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore
<b>Pray for</b>	MU	Mauricewood House Group	Vestry	Clergy Team
<b>Server</b>	Angela/Steven	Val	Martin/Alice	Angela
<b>Coffee</b>	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan	Kathleen Cox Sue Crosfield	Hays Smiths	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black
<b>Flowers</b>	***** Gill Amos *****			Advent
<b>Cleaning</b>	Marion Hunter Sue Crosfield	Marion Hunter Sue Crosfield	?????????????	C & M Leavy
<b>Welcomers</b>	Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	Elizabeth Clark Robert Clerk
<b>Care Van</b>			St James	
<b>Pentland House</b>	St James			

## ***John Frederick Ames Farrant*** ***Rector of St James the Less Penicuik*** ***and St Mungo's West Linton 1985 – 1996***

*We were all saddened to hear of the news of John's death on 22 November 2009. Although John and Marjory had moved from Penicuik some 10 years before, he still regularly returned to visit members of both congregations.*



*Vestry wanted to mark John's ministry with us and it has been my privilege to communicate with people who worked alongside John and remember his involvement in their lives with fondness and thanks. We all remember too, the love and support provided by Marjory and the family.*

*Vestry hopes that this supplement to Outreach will kindle rich memories for those who were members of St James and St Mungo's during John's time as our Rector.*

*In the contributions that follow there is consistent message of love and thanks for a lifetime of devoted service to God both here and abroad.*

### **Bishop Douglas Cameron PNG 1965-1974:**

'I first met John in the late 1960's when he felt the call to work in Papua New Guinea and needed to affirm it. We talked at length of the church and of the people in PNG; I had to be honest about the conditions, attitudes and situations faced by missionaries. His call to serve was strong and he was not deterred. He found, as I did, that working with the Papua New Guineans was a life changing experience and one that challenged our faith to its roots. He went out as a missionary to spread the gospel to a people, to take Christ to a land whose tribes were still being discovered, and he, like many, was humbled to find Christ already there. With Marjorie's loving support, he worked with the PNG people in all strands of that society with differing needs and expectations. As we all know he continued to love, pray and work for the church in Papua New Guinea until the end of his life.'

**Extract from Kaitaia Maori Church news re John Farrant  
Canon Dennis Urquhart, the Maori Chaplain:**

One-time rector of St. James The Less, Episcopal Church, Penicuik, Midlothian, Scotland, died in the St. John and St. Elizabeth Hospice, London U.K. on 22 November 2009.

In July 1988, he and his wife Marjory, hosted the Maori Mothers' Union, when it toured Scotland. They billeted Meremere Petricevich and the late Rev. Walter (Sonny) Petricevich, Rev. Dennis Urquhart and two Mothers' Union women from Papua, New Guinea.

At an informal farewell evening in Penicuik, our Maori ope was reeling the Gay Gordons and St. Bernard's Waltz, 1,2,3, stomp. When the Maori Mothers' Union had to sing an item, they were dilatory and Dennis Urquhart passed a comment to a Scottish man next to him. This man laughed and said there is a Scottish proverb which says, "Where two or three are gathered together, there are FOUR OPINIONS."

The late Rev. James Taute Harrison of Parapara, was billeted with Frank and Jean Lindsay, who lived next door to the rectory. One evening he dressed James, Sonny and Dennis in kilts and sporrans for photographic opportunities on the rectory lawn.

**Eric & June Virtue. Tiverton, Devon:**

I first met John over a cup of tea at Maureen and Colin Chaplin's house in early January 1985. That chance but significant meeting was the beginning, on my part, of a much appreciated friendship, the memory of which I treasure.

Until John settled into his new role as Rector of St James-the-Less I, as the previous incumbent's Warden, provisionally agreed to be his interim Rector's Warden. However such became my admiration and appreciation of John both as an individual and profound minister that by mutual consent I continued in that position until I retired to Devon some ten years later.

From the outset of his ministry, and after a long interregnum, John began the slow but necessary crafted rebuilding of the congregation's confidence and conviction. Leading from the front, often controversially and always word

perfect he gradually renewed the congregation's spirit, commitment and sense of wellbeing.

Throughout his imaginative ministry John was fanatically and ably supported and encouraged by his wife Marjory and the two were inseparable. Not long after their arrival they put their collective DIY skills to work and transformed the Rectory's appearance and appeal by redecorating and refurnishing throughout. Marjory worked alongside John in church, undertaking prayer and bible reading duties. Perhaps the most significant physical legacy John left St James, and one of which he was particularly proud and pleased with, was the re-ordering and re-siting of the Chancel Altar to enable the celebrant and congregation to face one another when celebrating Holy Communion. He masterminded the project from conception to completion and was actively involved with the fundraising. For John the significance and meaning of facing the congregation during a communion service was incalculable.

Just as the church family's wellbeing was particularly important to John and Marjory, the health and welfare of their own family was paramount. They were both immensely proud of their two daughters, who together with their own families were unending sources of great pride, joy and pleasure.

Sometimes during sermons, which always seemed word perfect and delivered without evidence of notes, we were transported to Papua New Guinea with tales of humble lifestyles, absolute commitment and yearning belief. Over many years I recall each week during Lent John's inspirational talks delivered from his seat in the centre of the chancel to those present sitting in the choir stalls. Not dissimilar, some may recall, from when Bishop Neil graced our Church and enchanted us with his Lent preaching. In both cases you inevitably ended the evenings with a powerful mix of emotions and feeling privileged to have been present at such powerful preaching.

Whilst I was a keen amateur gardener John, on the other hand, considered a window box to be quite sufficient for him but I was never too convinced on that front.

John felt strongly about visiting families in their own homes and I recall on at least one of his visits our poorly house-trained talking budgerigar was out of his cage on flying exercises. He found the shoulders of John's dark suits an irresistible place to rest and routinely left evidence of his visit much to our distress and John's amusement – I say that because of the fact that John was not put off as he continued to visit.

Both John and Marjory were seasoned travellers perhaps from twice serving in Papua New Guinea. Because of this wanderlust we were fortunate to

benefit from a duty exchange when John went to Australia and Father Norman came to Penicuik with his own particular charm and charisma which captivated so many of us. Norman and John forged a great and infectious friendship which we were all enriched by. Malta was another bolt-hole for John and Marjory. Whilst it was a perfect opportunity for John to recharge his batteries, it was also a tonic for Marjory's health, the improvement of which was often self evident on their return to the fold.

Church music was an essential and integral part of church life and service for both John and Marjory. They were always supportive and encouraging of the choir and fully appreciative of all the hard work and service so generously and freely given by so many talented and dedicated people. We still listen (courtesy of Ralph Hindle) to recordings of concerts and performances. One recording of the congregation's ten most popular hymns rendered to an overflowing church with John's dulcet tones introducing them in ascending order is a particular favourite and a lovely memory.

Shortly after arriving John officiated at his first wedding service at St James. It happened to be our eldest daughter's wedding and over the following three years he also ministered at our two other daughters' weddings where his carefully chosen words, phrases and blessings along with the beautiful flower arrangements, the choir's superb singing and the masterly organ playing brought huge joy and lasting pleasure to everyone involved. Thanks to all and especially John for happy and lovely memories.

Remembering such happy times when we enjoyed Marjory's and John's company reminds one of just how much both of them relished the opportunity of celebrating as a family. Their silver and golden wedding anniversaries were each joyfully celebrated in great style with their numerous friends. The fare was splendid and the repertoire excellent. The service and celebration of John's 50 years in the priesthood was another milestone event which was a pleasure, joy and privilege to witness and be part of.

Travel and adventure ever beckoning, the opportunity to serve our Lord in Madeira, once more saw John and Marjorie leave these shores for warmer climes. Sadly Marjory's poor health meant a full tour was not possible and they returned to the UK earlier than intended in order that Marjory could receive the best of medical treatment available. About this time John retired from Stipendiary Ministry. Having since been on holiday to Madeira and visited the Anglican Church there, I am aware they were both highly thought of and remembered fondly by the resident congregation. The location of the Church and rectory is quite idyllic and I can imagine how reluctant they must have been to leave prematurely.

When John retired it was of course only in a metaphorical sense as in fact upon taking up residence in the Barbican his capacity, drive and commitment to share God's word simply remained in overdrive and he continued, to within a few weeks of his death, supporting the stipendiary priests at St Mary-Le-Strand and St Barnabus Pimlico Churches, taking services and leading worship often several times a week. In those two churches he was known, loved and respected as Father John.

It was at the full to overflowing church of St Barnabus that, as with Marjory, we bade our final earthly farewells to our dear friend, mentor and Priest John Farrant. We in this world may mourn and regret the passing of a cherished friend and confidant but I am confident Marjory and the spirit world will have rejoiced at John's arrival.

### **Sister Margaret Paton – Unanderra N S W Australia:**

I first met John Farrant when he came to St James the Less Church from Papua New Guinea in 1984. We had been through a very difficult time as a Church but he and his wife Marjorie soon began to recharge the congregation

He came not without some cost to himself for he was actively involved with the church in Papua New Guinea which both he and Marjorie declared to be a most beautiful country. They were sorry to leave but they knew they were called to Penicuik.

His return to Scotland could have been a blessing in disguise because not long after they had settled in Marjorie became ill, with hepatitis and complications. So he not only had to cope with a new parish, he also had a sick wife. I never heard him complain. He was a most genial person. He was able to sum up a situation quickly and offer sound advice. He very much enjoyed a joke and had a merry laugh, that I can still remember.

When I moved to Australia, Marjorie and he came to visit me on two occasions. The first was when I was living at Kincumber on the Brisbane Waters. They stayed for a night or two in a little cottage that the Sisters had. When they arrived, John took a wrong turning that led to the compost heap. I rescued them and John said he thought it was just the place for an Anglican clergyman! So, he could enjoy a joke against himself.

They had a great love of Australia and tried to make plans for settling over here. But that wasn't easy. The second time they came to visit me I was living in Sydney. They were on their way to visit Norman Wagstaff in Queensland and

Sydney was on their way. It was Easter time. They came with me to the chapel at Mount Street, where Mary MacKillop is buried. They loved the chapel, as I do. They met some of the Sisters who warmly welcomed them.

I have many memories of the kindness of John Farrant. He was concerned that I should be happy in Australia and I think he came to visit me to see for himself that I was and that all was well with me. One special time of kindness was when Frances and I went to stay in their flat on Malta for a holiday. We had a great time. We explored the island thoroughly, helped by their directions for getting from A to B. The island is so small that we were hardly down the road before we were passed the place we were heading for!

His sermons always amazed me. They were fluent, always to the point and very worthwhile hearing and never a note. I asked him how he could do it. No notes and so clear. He replied that he thought about it beforehand and then the Holy Spirit took over. He made it sound as though it were a matter of trust.

I used to go with him to the Joint Roman Catholic and Episcopalian Committee for Church unity. I found it hard to understand the Catholic approach. We discussed the meetings, which was helpful for me. It was just a taste of what was to come. I never dreamt that within ten years I would become a Catholic myself. The ways of God are very strange ...

Then he and Marjorie moved to London. He told me how much Marjorie wanted to live there and that she had said one day, "As long as I have a loo I can live in London"! I never went to their flat but I am sure it was a very comfortable place for them to end their days. John was able to continue taking Eucharists in several London churches. He wanted to go on being of service and doing what he loved doing best.

John Farrant was a family man. He deeply loved his wife and daughters and his grandchildren. Not long before he died he phoned me in Australia. He said he just wanted to chat. I think he had phoned me once before but it was an exceptional thing for him to do. I thought his call was to tell me he was coming to Australia. He did mention it but he had no firm plans. I have since thought that it was a farewell call and that he had a sense that his days were numbered.

It has been a privilege for me to know John Farrant and his family, who will miss him dearly. He was a very human man of God.

## **Val McGavin, Penicuik:**

John Farrant was a special man. He was a quiet, thoughtful, prayerful and very spiritual man. Sometimes conversation could be difficult with John. When asked a question he always took his time to consider carefully before he gave his answer. He was a thinker! His pastoral care for our congregation was exemplary. Some special moments for me were in his sermons during Holy week services where he would draw up a chair in the Chancel, sit down, put his hands under his chasuble, close his eyes and speak, transporting me into whatever time and place in the Passion story that he chose to speak about, (always without the aid of notes) giving me lots of food for thought.

John had a great sense of fun too. When I was social convenor I organised a "Telly Addicts" theme party. We were all asked to come dressed as a character from our favourite TV programme. John appeared in a black raincoat and hat, carrying a walking stick and sporting a limp. This was his impersonation of "Herr Flick of the Gestapo" from the popular TV comedy "Allo Allo". I was dressed as "Michelle of the Resistance" but John stole the show with his hilarious act.

## **Norman & Gwen Wagstaff, Bargara Queensland Australia:**

Our relationship began when I placed an advertisement in Church *Times* at the end of September 1990, the ad. was an offer to exchange parishes for a period of six months. I only gave my postal address and my telephone number was not included. However, I was unaware of John and Marjory's very wide network of contacts and their determination to contact me. To my total surprise my telephone did ring and these strange accents spoke on the end of the line. Thus our friendship began.

Such was their enthusiasm I received very large parcels of news print about Scotland, the Episcopal Church and of course Penicuik and West Linton, much of it, needless to say, about the folk at Saint James and Saint Mungo's. Our telephone companies made large profits in that time by our frequent calls. Thus my appetite to go was thoroughly whetted and so I arrived in Bonnie Scotland.

When we met in the flesh on Waverley Station there was an instant feeling of friends who had not seen each other for a long time. I felt at home with them and soon settled in.

John and I soon found we had lots in common and often fell into deep conversation about many subjects. They varied from theology, the Scriptures, liturgy, history, archaeology, politics, the theatre, music and our own stories. I was always stimulated by his deep insights into all the other subjects into which we delved. It was of course not always serious talk - there was lots of laughter when he took me to his favourite Ice Cream Parlour or Coffee Shop.

I returned to the UK in 1993/4 when John and Marjory enjoyed summer and Christmas/New Year in my Parish of Millmerran, Queensland and I enjoyed the romance of winter Christmas/Hogmanay in wonderful Penicuik. I went back in August '95; February '97; Gwenn and I '99 and 2000. In 2004 we went over again. John and Marjory came to visit us in our last parish at Murgon in 2001, it was a time of great enjoyment for us all! When we took our last trip over in 2004 they came and stayed in our unit here in Bargara for the month of May. They fell in love with our Carlyle Gardens Retirement Village and were in contact by Email with our manager about coming to live here, right up until Marjory's sudden death. We think of her especially when our cutlery draws become untidy! In Murgon, the poor darling had a hard time sorting the cutlery into neat compartments as we had combined our many bits and pieces when we married. Not very much could be matched no matter how hard she tried.

Right up to the time of his untimely death we had been in frequent contact with John by letter and telephone. Both Gwenn and I miss our two friends very deeply, but we have been blessed by their friendship and love and have such rich and happy memories of them and their part in our lives. Yes, they were special people and it's a joy to know we will see them again one day.

### **Jean & Ralph Hindle, Penicuik:**

We have many memories of John's time with us at St James. He came to us after serving in Papua New Guinea.

Shortly after he arrived, we took over editing 'Outreach'. He was very supportive of our efforts on our 'All singing, all dancing computer, with its bells and whistles' (*John's description*).

He was never late with his Rector's Letter. In 1993, during his time in Queensland on a 6 months exchange with Norman Wagstaff, his Rector's Letter was always the first contribution to arrive for each edition.

John was meticulous about sick and hospital visiting - a great comfort to those on the receiving end.

In 1988, after the Annual MU Residential Worldwide Conference in Swanwick the Penicuik MU and congregation were asked to host a group of 18 Maoris, 2 of whom had represented the Maori MU at Swanwick. John and Marjorie hosted the Maori Chaplain, Dennis Urquhart and the 2 MU representatives from Papua New Guinea. A great time was had by all. John subsequently visited New Zealand and when he returned he told us 'You don't know how much you did for the Maories by hosting them in your own homes, because at home they were looked down upon by the white population'.

Ralph and I attended the Cursillo #18 Weekend - 21st to 24th Oct 1993. We received letters of encouragement from John who was in Australia at the time. Norman Wagstaff was on team at the weekend. Both Norman and John were Cursillistas.

After his retirement, John and Marjorie spent time serving in Malta and then in Funchal, Madeira, before returning to live in London. They returned to St James to celebrate many of their 'Special Anniversaries'. On one of these occasions, he requested 'There is a Redeemer', because he didn't get a chance to sing it at the church he attended in London. Though not particularly fond of modern hymns, we think he grew to like them and the Family services at St James. On one occasion during his time at St James, the opening hymn was 'This is the Day' and when he announced it, he said with such gusto, 'And let's move it', that I nearly fell off the piano stool in surprise!!

Before he retired from St James he admitted that he had been commissioned to turn us back into proper 'Piskies', which explained his reticence to participate in some more modern practices, but at heart, I think it went against his own inclinations. He very much supported Women in Ministry and after consulting the congregations of St James' and St Mungo's went on to sponsor Jane Millard and Frances McLean in the first group of women to be ordained to the Priesthood. He felt that Frances had done so much missionary and nursing work in South Africa that she was very deserving of becoming a priest. He subsequently returned to St James to participate in the funeral service for Frances.

John is remembered with great affection.

**Revd. Dr. Michael Fass, deacon & team priest, St James the Less,  
Penicuik  
with St Mungo's, West Linton (1995-1997):**

My first meeting with John was not at all auspicious!

I was resentful that a condition of my ordination was that I should leave St John's, Princes Street where I had worshipped for 12 years and serve my curacy elsewhere. John resented the fact that I had been dumped on him by Bishop Richard and he anticipated that I would be a burden to him.

His opening words to me at our first meeting in the Rectory in Penicuik were: "Well, now you're here, I'll make a proper Episcopalian out of you!"

And so he did. I worked with John as my trainer for two years before leaving to become the priest-in-charge of Rossllyn Chapel and I look back on this time together as the best possible start for my vocation in ministry.

I remember one of his early pieces of advice. It was John's first reprimand. He said that whilst I could get away with anecdotal stuff about my experiences in, for example, Poland, as an occasional preacher, this approach would not work when I would be preaching every Sunday. I would need to learn to preach from the Gospel set for the day. It was the right advice at the right time, gently given, and I have followed it ever since.

We quickly became comfortable in each other's company and I like to think that I was of some use to John in what were not always easy times for him. Sometimes it felt as if it was he and I *contra mundi* but this was also one of John's most attractive qualities. He was generally anti-authority (except, of course, his own!).

As we got to know each other better, I heard more of his personal story and we found we shared some common experiences. He was an Aberdonian by birth, as I am sure others will tell, but what was less well known was that John had been brought up in London where his father had been sent down to manage the London end of an Aberdeen shipping line. He was amused to learn that I had spent my early working life on the London Docks and that I knew the Line's wharves well, passing them every day to work in the Upper Pool opposite the Tower of London.

One of his most moving stories - and I believe a critical formative experience for John - was his forced evacuation as a child from London at the start of the Blitz (many of us will have been hearing once more about this event on this its 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary year) and his removal with his sister to the West Country. He told me of his father giving him firm instructions that on no account was he to let himself become separated from his sister for whom he

would now be responsible. However, when they arrived at their remote destination, his sister was taken away by one family and he had to live with another.

I believe that the occasion truly broke his heart but also that it gave him a new one! John was not just anti-authoritarian, he was also always for the underdog and the deprived and this gave his ministry its meaning and a real edge to everything he did. He was a man of deep passion as was clear in his preaching when we all witnessed his near explosive force in the pulpit that was a reminder of the power of the Resurrection in which John so firmly believed.

Again, as others will testify, the story of his and Marjorie's calling in Clydebank to become missionaries in the Far East spoke of his passion, love for others and the imperative for both of them of living out the Gospel in their lives.

I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to John. For his gracious acceptance of me as a partner in his ministry; for all that he taught me of what the Gospel means for those who perform its ministry and for his gift of friendship in which we took delight and from which I benefited so much.

God bless you John.

### **Ann McGavin – Penicuik:**

Neville and Colin gave me and my family great support when Duncan died so suddenly on Christmas day 1984. Then a fortnight later John and Marjory came to Penicuik. John visited me then and that was the first of many chats, cups of tea, a prayer and a blessing for Duncan.

To me that wasn't just the Rector but a true friend!

### **The Revd Canon Jane Millard, Nine Mile Burn:**

The cat was dragging a headless rabbit over the lawn just as the dog announced a visitor, and not just any old visitor, but the New Visiting Rector.

In that moment I learnt several things about our new Rector. He was genuinely interested in all his parishioners and the traumas and joys of their lives. He wasn't over enthusiastic about headless rabbits or pets in general.

He was generous and non judgemental in Christian love. But I still didn't quite know how to tell him that he had sat in the cat's favourite chair, and his immaculate clericals were covered in a mat of grey fur. I hadn't yet met Marjory.

John asked me on that first visit when I intended to get ordained, which I thought was a very strange question – nothing was further from my mind. From this I learned that he was light years ahead of the Church in his theology about women's vocation, and was enormously courageous in campaigning for it. I learnt that he was a man of integrity and passionate about the life and witness of the Church he loved and served with loyalty.

In John I encountered a true Priest, who tried to live the Gospel mandates with discipline and devotion. He was an outstanding preacher, usually preaching without notes, although well prepared in research and contemplation. He was charismatic and joyfully infectious in teaching and showing the Christian life, although a gentle Anglo - Catholic in his worship and devotion.

John had a delightful weakness – he loved his family to bits! Marjory supported John, giving him advice and confidence (as only a good teacher can!) and kept him impeccably turned out (cat's hairs were never mentioned). I shall never forget how his face would burst into that infectious smile whenever he spoke of his children and grandchildren. How proud he and Marjory were of them all. I remember John having to pull the car over to have a good weep after Ian was killed, and I thought then what a close and loving family they were, in good times and bad.

Like many others, I learned from John a stronger and more disciplined devotional life, finally succumbing to the call to ordination. John became my Spiritual Director and true friend.

It was the Commemoration of the Beheading of John the Baptist (August 29<sup>th</sup>) and I asked John what he was going to preach about. He eyed me with that direct look and said "might be about headless rabbits" and he roared with laughter, remembering the first time that we met. At one point in the sermon our eyes met, and I heard him say "following Christ is costly, but it has only one purpose, which is to emulate the Baptist's cry – that he must decrease, and Christ increase. " That was John's vocation, and his precious gift to me.

Thank you, John.

***Echoed by the very many people whose lives  
have been touched by John - (Ed)***

# December 2010

	5 Dec	12 Dec	19 Dec	24 Dec	25 Dec	26 Dec
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas 1
<b>11.00am Organist</b>	David	Jean	Mike	David	David	David
<b>St Mungo's Organists</b>	Jean	David	David	???	Jean	???
<b>Sidesmen</b>	Isobel Stenhouse Catherine Pow	McGarvas	Frantoms	tba	tba	Tom Moffat Richard Phillips
<b>Bread and wine</b>	Leavys	Young Church	Barretts	tba	Children	Sibleys
<b>1<sup>st</sup> reading</b>	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	<i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>			<i>Isaiah 63:7-9</i>
	Elizabeth Clark	Young Church	Sue Owen			Adrian Marchant
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> reading</b>	<i>Romans 15:4-13</i>	<i>James 5:7-10</i>	<i>Romans 1:1-7</i>			<i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i>
	Richard Phillips	Young Church	Brigitte Fuge			Ian Fuge
<b>Gospel</b>	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>			<i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>
<b>Prayers</b>	Elizabeth Clark	Young Church	Alan Murray			David McGavin
<b>Pray for</b>	Young Church	MU	Pastoral Care Group	Families	Families	Bible Study Group
<b>Server</b>	Angela	Val/ Stephen	Martin/ Alice	Val	Angela	Martin/Alice
<b>Coffee</b>	Marion Mather Gillian Little	Isobel Stenhouse Jean Wright	Marchants	-----	-----	Mrs Neish and Family
<b>Flowers</b>	----- Advent -----					
<b>Cleaning</b>	C & M Leavy	???????????	Sue Owen Gillian Little			Sue Owen Gillian Little
<b>Welcomers</b>	Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore	McGarvas	tba	Nigel Johnston Elizabeth Clark	Robert Clerk
<b>Care Van</b>			St James			
<b>Pentland House</b>			St James			

# **Operation Christmas Child 2010 at St James**

This year, Samaritan's Purse, as part Operation Christmas Child, is aiming to send over 15,000 gift-filled shoeboxes to the children of Haiti who were victims of the earthquake. We need to organise ourselves differently this year. I urge you to start filling your shoeboxes with gifts, and getting ready to take them to the designated drop-off point between November 1st and November 18th. Please can you take your boxes directly to the drop-off point this year. Our drop off point is: Eleanor Hairstylist, 19 High Street, PENICUIK, EH26 8HS. Open: Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri 9am - 4pm and Sat 9am - 2pm. Closed: Wed and Sun. A poster will be on the church noticeboard to remind you of the details of what to put in them and where to take them.

## **What to put in your box:**

Toys: Bear, soft toy, tennis ball, finger puppet, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, small musical instrument.

For boys; trucks and cars, for girls; dolls, clip on earrings, etc.

Educational Supplies: Felt pens, pens, pencils, pencil-sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture or puzzle book, chalk, pencil case, stickers, etc.

Hygiene Items: Toothbrush, toothpaste, hairbrush, comb, hair clips, bar of soap, flannel, etc.

Other Items: Sweets (sell-by date to be at least March of the following year), gloves, scarf, sunglasses, cap, hat, bangles, necklaces etc. All gifts should be new; please include items from each category.

No Thanks! Please do NOT include any of these items: No Food - especially chocolate. Only exception, non-chocolate sweets are allowed. No medicine or vitamins of any kind. No war related items, toy guns, soldiers or knives of any kind. No clothing other than listed above.

No fragile items e.g. Glass containers, mirrors. No liquids including blow bubbles, shampoo, bubble bath, toiletry sets or aerosols. No dangerous items, sharp objects, scissors or razors. No novels. Nothing of a political nature. No hand-knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark.



For further details look out for posters or check out the website;

<http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk/how-to-pack-your-shoebox>

or ask Kathryn or Caireen for advice. GET PACKING THOSE BOXES

*Thanks, Kathryn*

## ***'Bethlehem under siege'***



The irony of this report of Phil Lucas's talk appearing in the 'Flower Festival' edition of Outreach - a thorn among roses - is matched only by its occurrence in 'One World Week'. His was a story of one of two worlds, a Palestinian's eye view of conflict in a once Holy land. Phil warned us at the outset that there was no good news to come. He had been sent to Bethlehem in January this year for four months as part of a 24-strong international team in the World Council of Churches (WCC) Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI). Palestinian Christians had turned to the WCC in their search for peacemakers when they got no response from the UN, due to an oft-used US veto. EAPPI in Britain and Ireland is administered by Quakers but Phil was a lone Quaker in his team: their logo - a blend of dove, cross and barbed wire - could hardly be more appropriate, their task more difficult.

Phil told three stories of Palestinians 'under the cosh'. First up was Seham, a Muslim woman who lived with her son in Al Walaja, not far from Bethlehem. Her home was on Arab land and had been acquired in a deal based on trust and sealed by a handshake. Unfortunately she had no paperwork to prove ownership and the land was becoming surrounded by illegal, Israeli West Bank settlements - ethnic eyes were upon her. Three times her home had been bulldozed to the ground - three times the villagers had helped her to build it again. Second up was Hamed, who Phil found 'shot up' in an Arab hospital in Beit Jala. As he returned to his village one night, his car was stopped by the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) to check paperwork and mission. He was eventually allowed to continue, only to have his car raked by bullets further down the track. He was smuggled to an Arab hospital on the floor of a less-recognisable car. Phil showed a picture of the Arab surgeon who had saved X's life, in his 'greens' with arm thrust across his chest, not so much a gesture of defiance as to hide their 'made in Israel' trademark! Third up was Douad, one of two Lutheran Christian brothers who ran a small farm called the 'Tent of Nations', again not far from Bethlehem. Phil had to be dropped by his taxi 500 m from the farm and proceed on foot because boulders blocked the road. At a security post, he was asked for his papers and his purpose: 'to visit friends' he

replied - yes but 'why' - 'to visit friends'; and so it went on. He passed a stone at the farm entrance which proclaimed 'We have no enemies' in three languages: it was subsequently knocked over in an IDF visitation. Their location was the problem: looked down upon from Newe Daniel, another illegal settlement, the brothers wanted to build but were not allowed to build above ground - we were shown a picture of a sunken chapel.

Phil told us much, much more and he admitted that what he was being shown was what the Palestinians wanted him to see and the way they saw things. Palestinians live under military (IDF) law and it was hard to get an IDF point of view. Israelis lived under civilian rule. However, it was hard to escape the impression that ethnic cleansing was in full swing. The final irony was contained in pictures of the queues at Checkpoint 300 where Palestinians would queue for hours from 5am, some to labour in the illegal settlements, their only source of reasonable income. The suicide bombings in Jerusalem had thus been stopped but the cost in terms of Palestinian suffering was immeasurable. The only 'good news' is that dissident members of the IDF have formed a movement called 'Breaking The Silence', and all-year round there are people like Phil willing to go to Israel as EAs at their own expense and return to tell their tale. *Neville*

## ***Choir News***

This is the time of year where thoughts move to All Saints day, all Souls, Remembrance Sunday, - and I seem to gaze helplessly towards Advent and Christmas.

But back to the present: as was mentioned in last month's edition of Outreach there will be Evensong on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November at 6.30pm. Included as the main part of the service will be music by Philip Ledger: "Requiem - A thanksgiving for Life". During that service we will especially remember John and Marjory Farrant, and Frances Mclean. Over the past weeks at rehearsal the choir has been augmented by several friends from other churches in Penicuik so I hope that you will be able to attend and take part in the service. The music is wonderful and this may be the first time that the work has been performed in Scotland.

To the future: next month, we will welcome Bishop Brian to St James on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December and the following week will be our young church and friends' presentation for Christmas. The service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00pm - there is just time to let me know of any favourite Christmas carol that you might want us to consider for that Service.

We send our love to Jennifer and Anthony currently with their family in Spain and wish Mike and Ros "Bon Voyage" as they set off to visit Jeni and Dave in Australia!

*David*

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

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

We were lucky this month to have Alison Burnley tell us about the history of the Quakers. She did this through slides of the Quaker Tapestry at Kendal. She has offered to do a needlework workshop for us, teaching us the stitches of the Tapestry. If you are interested please contact me either at Church or telephone 675223.

### **Treats for Troops**

A reminder about the boxes at the back of the Church. I shall be sending the first lot of boxes away this week . These reminders of home are much appreciated by the troops.

If you have any shoe boxes they would be appreciated, thank you.

### **Provincial events:**

MU Retreat: Tuesday 5 to Thursday 7 April 2011 - £97

To be led by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Gregor Duncan.

### **Diocesan events:**

Monthly Intercessions: During the winter months (October to March) on the 2nd Monday of the month 12 noon at St Ninian's, 39 Comely Bank, EH4 1AF. St Ninian's church is situated between Waitrose and the Bank of Scotland opposite Flora Stevenson School. Metered street parking nearby or free (2hr limit) at Waitrose when purchase made. Buses: 24,29,42, stop outside; 19,37,47, at bottom of Orchard Brae; 38 Craigeith Road/Crewe Road South.

Please send requests for prayer to Julia Mason (0131 343 1165) [revdjuliamason@btinternet.com](mailto:revdjuliamason@btinternet.com) or Jennie Ritchie [jennieritchie@sky.com](mailto:jennieritchie@sky.com)

### **MU Branch**

Syllabus November - December 2010

10 Nov Father Emmanuel from Cape Coast

26 Nov Wave of Prayer at 64 Deanburn NB Friday 2-3pm

8 Dec Advent tea and Carols - details later

2011

12 Jan and 26 Jan - details later.

**Subscriptions** for 2011 will be £15 excluding the branch sub.

This made up of £8 to MSH and £7 to Diocese MU (includes £1 per member insurance)

*Margaret Coull*

## ***Omega group***

Omega is all about pushing back boundaries and openness to change as the church grapples with the challenges of a new Century. As with Darwinian theory on the survival of species and the emergence of new ones, it is churches and congregations that respond best to changed environments that are likely to prosper. Thus Omega itself is prepared to change its programme to meet the changed circumstance of adherents that grew tired of or were worried by studying "A" book (particularly another of Marcus Borg's!) rather than "THE" book. So, we intend to re-gather around a study of a Gospel only discovered in 1945, so hardly 'heretical' in the sense of those not accepted in the early centuries as 'canonical', the so-called 'Lost Gospel of Thomas'. It is a collection of about 100 so-called 'sayings of Jesus', one-to three liners without a narrative context. We will have fun spotting the ones with gospel equivalents, finding out why the evangelists choose particular narrative contexts for them and why some have no equivalent.

As leader, I will be guided by a book by Nicholas Perrin, who did a PhD on the subject, called 'Thomas, The Other Gospel'. A foreword by Tom Wright, Bishop of Durham, indicates that this is good stuff, not the product of another whacky or conspiracy theorist! We may digress over coffee from time to time to discuss possible developments in our life as a congregation, for example by testing reactions to the experimental liturgy used to mark the end of 'One World Week' last month.

## **Thomas, the 'lost' Apostle**

We have only one session under our belts in getting to grips with his 'lost gospel' but already we have grown in our admiration for Thomas. In terms of his influence on Christendom, Thomas is arguably second only to Peter of the original Apostles and his missionary journeys dwarfed those of Paul. However, unlike Paul, he was a poor letter writer and may even have been illiterate. Whereas several of the apostles stayed in Jerusalem after Jesus' death, Thomas set out on a personal mission in the manner suggested by Jesus (Mk 6 v7), frequently shaking the dust from his feet and moving to 'pastures (and deserts!) new'. Others have recorded him converting Christians at Millambar (North Syria), in Babylon (Iraq), in Parthia (NE Iran) and finally being martyred at Madras on the far side of India. Not bad going for someone branded a 'heretic' by Eusebius in the third century! Everywhere he went, he passed on details of conversations between Jesus and the disciples and his recollections of Jesus' teachings, forming a second oral tradition to the one that shaped the synoptic gospels. It fell to others to write them down, first in Greek and then in the closely related Coptic language. Just how his 'Sayings Gospel' reached Egypt is unclear, but in 1945 a copy was discovered in a cave outside the village Nag Hamadi on the Nile, south of Cairo, one of a cache of 13 leather-bound codices in a dusty-red, chest-high urn.

Intrigued? Come to the next meeting of the Omega house group on Wednesday, November 3rd at 7.30pm as we explore what Thomas' Sayings said then and what they have to say today.

*Neville*

## ***Vestry Moments***

This is a summary of matters discussed at the vestry meeting of Wednesday 6 October 2010

- Memorial plaques for Frances McLean & John Farrant to be installed in church & dedicated at Evensong 7 November 2010
- Book of Remembrance & Funeral Register updating in hand
- Church AGM moved to 28 November 2010; 3 vacancies arising on Vestry, & new Minutes Secretary required
- Congregational Christmas card
- Fabric: update of progress of Quinquennial Review & handrail
- Report on finances of *Outreach*
- Arrangements for Father Emmanuel during visit in November

- Revised constitution to be presented for 1<sup>st</sup> reading at church AGM
- Success of Flower Festival, Vestry expressed vote of thanks to Marion Mather & Kathleen Cox

Next meetings: Thursday 25 November 2010 8.15pm

Wednesday 12 January 2011 7.30pm

*Georgina Phillips, Minutes Secretary*

## ***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 Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, John Ford, Irene Hair and Eric Marchant. Also for Kathryn Topham's aunt and uncle, Paddy and Geoff, in Hull who are still going through a difficult time. Pray for Julia Clerk in New Zealand, fighting cancer, and all her family. Continue to pray for the ongoing recovery of Jim McGarva, Alan Murray and Mairi. Pray for the family of Karen Marchant's mother Ruth Haig as they mourn their loss, and for Viv Bremner, mourning Douglas, and all who have lost family and friends. Please continue to pray for Lauren and her baby Charlotte, for Jean and Ralph and their family and for baby Rory McGavin. Pray for all those suffering from depression.

Pray for all who are victims of natural disasters throughout the world; for the helpless and the helpers as they seek to rebuild their lives. Pray that aid reaches those for whom it is intended.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation; for the work of Penicuik for Africa. 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 the work of Jubilee Scotland.

Pray for the Government that they may seek not personal glory but the common good. 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.

*(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 2010**

Each Wednesday at 8.00pm : Omega Group (44 St James' Gardens)

Sun 7 Nov 6.30pm Evensong for All Saints

Sat 13 Nov Penicuik for Africa Coffee Morning 10am-12noon

Sun 14 Nov Remembrance

Thu 25 Nov 8.15pm Vestry

Sat 27 Nov 10.30am St Mungo's West Linton Coffee Morning

Sun 28 Nov 12.15pm St James AGM

### **December 2010**

Sat 4 Dec Bryn Haworth Concert 7.30pm in the Craigiefield Hotel.

Sun 5 Dec 11.00 am Bishop's visit

7.00pm Carol concert led by Bryn Haworth (St Mungo's, Penicuik)

Sun 19 Dec 7.00pm Nine lessons & Carols

### **January 2011**

Wed 12 Jan 7.30pm Vestry

**Outreach can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The December 2010 edition will be published on Sunday 5 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 24 November at the latest. [Sub-editor will be in Oz so please don't send to me only! - Mike]**

# Contacts at St James

All numbers 01968 ... unless otherwise shown.

		Phone	Email
<b>Rector</b>	Revd Robert Warren	672862	rector_penicuik@yahoo.co.uk
	<i>23 Broomhill Road, Penicuik EH26 9EE</i>		
<b>Clergy Team</b>	Revd Dr Tony Bramley	675240	tbramley44@sky.com *****
	Canon Philip Crosfield	676607	sue.crosfield@btinternet.com
	Revd Dr Neville Suttle	673819	suttle_hints@hotmail.com
	Revd Stephen McCaulay	672976	562mccau@armymail.mod.uk
<b>Vestry: Secretary</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
	Ishbel Proctor	677437	iproctor52@sky.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@amroth350.wanadoo.co.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.mather@btinternet.com
<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	faye.clerk@googlemail.com
<b>Rotas</b>	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@talktalk.net
<b>Sacristan</b>	Ros Hay	675761	ros@hayfamily.co.uk
<b>Stewardship</b>	Richard Phillips	661039	rphillips52@toucansurf.com
<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



**Christmas**



**Good Friday**



**Congratulations to Lily Neish who was 90 on Sunday 31 October**



**... and here are some Festival flowers for Lily!!**