



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



The Rector at the Sea of Galilee (or perhaps this month's caption competition!)

Issue No 153 September 2009

Which one's the Doctor?



**Jenny Mossop
and her fiancé
Matthew Wright.
Picture taken on
Iona!**

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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

The really notable moments we spent in Israel in the month of July all had some connection to water. We live here, let’s face it, in a wet country. The green colour of the hillsides in Scotland (and in Britain generally) is of an intensity unrivalled around the world. It draws your attention as your plane comes in to land on your very first visit to the UK.

“I can’t believe it’s so green”, says the lady from Baltimore in the seat behind you.

Not so in Israel. And while it may be a dryer place now than it was at various moments on the Bible Time Chart, water has always been a treasured commodity. Wars have been fought over it, and the fortunes of societies decided on the basis of the proximity of springs coursing deep within the porous limestone and gushing forth from the foot of a cliff, or welling up within a deep depression. Springs within the desert become the metaphor chosen for the surprising redemptive acts of God within human history. It contains in its image the idea of “surprise” – something that you happen upon, something which was hidden and then revealed.

The course of water here in Scotland follows the usual intuitive path. It falls as pretty constant rain in four seasons and then flows down on the surface into a lake or river that eventually issues forth into the sea. In Israel, one must add to the equation the fact that precipitation so often disappears into the rock after falling at great height, only to appear later and often in the very driest and most inhospitable of locations. The springs which flow from the cave which was once dedicated to Pan, the

god of the countryside, flows from the rock at a temperature of 14.5 degrees – icy cold when the outside temperature is nearly 45 degrees – cold as the heart of the mountain. The surprise is physical as you wade into it. It takes your breath away. There are fish in the river near the cave which exist nowhere else in the world other than this first very cold stretch of the stream.

The upper Jordan, flowing into the Sea of Galilee near Bethsaida, is rich in bird life and filled with fish. It supports impassable banks of papyrus and rushes. From a height, though, it becomes clear that this band of life is narrow – inconceivable without the life-giving constant flow of water.

Nachal David is a small stream which flows from a mountain cleft at a point between Qumran and Masada, in a landscape which would appear as lifeless as the surface of Mars were it not for the circling vultures overhead. Your car comes along a curve in the road and you happen upon a vertical slash of green running down each side of a waterfall - life where little life was expected to be. This stream enters into a series of pools as it flows down the mountainside. In these pools are frogs and crabs and small snails which have followed their own unique path of evolution across the ages.

The word ‘source’ has been denatured in our language. For us it means simply ‘beginning’, and the source of happiness, joy, pride, inspiration and meaning is somewhere out there. Things come to us in predictable ways and when they don’t – when the banks have failed or the economy has taken a tumble, when our health has taken a turn for the worse or our relationship with a dependable friend has soured - we are inclined to say – “well that’s it, then, isn’t it. I had it and now it’s gone – all I can see is the riverbed and manky seaweed.”

A source appears from within – from the depths – in a forgotten place – in an isolated and rarely visited place. You know already – that some people who have been beaten up by events and misfortunes are not ‘down for the count’. Some who have lived lives of relative ease are overturned with relatively small misfortunes. Sometimes it’s a matter of relative strength – the force and nature of the constitutions of different people. But sometimes we wonder if there aren’t people in the world who have discovered within themselves or within some depth of hidden discourse - some ‘source’ of strength which is beyond themselves but

strangely within themselves at the same time. They are nourished by quiet. They spend some times with their eyes closed. They read and listen and wander not to be entertained but, rather, to discover.

There are examples within our own community of St James' and St Mungo's of this – of people who have wandered in dry and desolate places but who can tell you that God has placed in their paths wonderful and surprising encounters – “Grace” if you like and “Abundance” in quantities that the threat of illness and loss and reversal cannot dry up. Grace which keeps on flowing – Grace which has a long and venerable history in the Household of Faith.

Father Rob Warren

Penicuik for Africa (PfA)

Street Fair Stall - despite the clash with the BBQ, some of you managed to support our stall at the street fair, which provided a good opportunity to advertise our forthcoming Africa Fair and Chitambo Midwifery School project. Thanks for your help!

Penicuik Arts Festival - This had an African theme and included a showing in the Town Hall of the classic film 'u-Carmen e Khayalitsha' on August 23rd: a spectacle of music, singing and dance from the Cape township. You may just have time to catch the display of 'Children's Images of Africa' in The Drum, Penicuik Library until Aug 30th but we hope to 'nab' them for our Fair. At the Craigiefield Hotel, there will be an evening performance by 5-man African band 'Makossa' (reggae, rock and more) on Friday September 4th, followed by an afternoon 'Celebration of Africa' on September 5th at which the African Ladies choir, 'Zawadi', will top the bill. We will have a side-stall to publicise PfA activities at the latter event and any support will be most welcome.

3rd Africa Fair - This is not far away now (Saturday September 26th). We should have 15 Africa-friendly organisations represented in the Town Hall for the morning event (11.00am -1.00pm). If you are free on the day and not involved in any of the stalls, please let me know and we will find you a job among the following: guiding stall-holders to their places in the upper Town Hall (10.00am); serving on the PfA stall; selling raffle tickets; helping children with handicrafts; face painting;

serving coffee & lunches (we will have some pavement tables, weather permitting), washing dishes, helping to clear the hall (from 1.30pm). I will try to arrange briefing meetings for helpers on the previous Sunday (20th) after morning service and at Youth Group in the evening. Alternatively, you may wish to come along simply to be enthused by the many and varied efforts of others to improve the quality of life in Africa while soaking up an atmosphere, alive with its colours, music and crafts. There will be fun for the younger ones in the form of African storytelling, face painting and a collage competition.

Chitambo Midwifery School Project - we need to grasp a few nettles on this one and I suggest that we do this at an AGM. Last year only three people turned up for our AGM and if that happens again we must seriously question the sustainability of PfA. Can I therefore suggest 7.30pm on the first Wednesday in November (the 4th) in St James Church Hall as a provisional time and place: please let me know if this a bad choice for you and suggest alternatives. Past business can be wrapped up in 30 minutes, leaving time to plan our fund-raising, the quest for funding partners and to consider whether we need to become a charity to enhance our credibility.

Neville (01968 673819)

Vestry Moments

This is a summary of matters discussed at the Vestry meeting of 18 August 2009

- Chancel steps handrail: site visit made and measurements taken
- Parish List: only approx 25% have re-registered so far
- Visit of Shadwell Opera group
- Diary events: please check current Outreach and noticeboard
- AGM to be Sunday 6 December 2009; Group reports to be in by 15 November
- Fabric: repair to St Margaret window; Quinquennial Review; access to Tower
- Treasurer: 5-year Budget plan discussed briefly – to be revisited at next meeting; thanks to Fundraising Committee for their dedicated work; donation received for 5 new Hall chairs

- Rector: Advent Study course on sacred geography; Retreat for Lent 2010; possibility of future congregational visit to Holy Land; new chaplain for Glencorse Barracks will be attending St James
- Congregational photos
- Martin and Adrian to organise Christmas tree decorating; tree party with mulled wine etc on Friday 18 December

Next meetings: Wednesday 30 September 2009 and Tuesday 27 October 2009

Georgina Phillips, Minutes Secretary

Security

On several occasions, the outer door has been left unlocked when the Church was not in use. It would be helpful if all key-holders please ensure they check the door on leaving. Thank you.

The Vestry

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

Well done, Steven!

Steven McCluskey is pictured (*also inside front cover*) at his Dr Who Exhibition at the Artspace in Craigmillar, which ran for 10 days from the end of March into April. It was the best attended exhibition held to date in the Artspace and special Dr Who episodes were shown during its run.

Children particularly enjoyed it because of the interactive T.A.R.D.I.S. console and positive comments were received from visitors, young and old. Fans would like to see a similar exhibition in future, but there are no plans as yet. Many thanks to all those who attended. Your support was much appreciated.



Marion Mather, proud mother!

..and further congratulations to Steven for achieving his Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award in June. He did the Expedition, Driving Skills, Ice Skating and Fundraising (for a wheelchair for a disabled young person). (*Excellent achievements! - Ed*)

Thanks!

I would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, flowers and kind messages of goodwill which I received following my operation and following rehabilitation. They were very much appreciated.

Jennifer Edge

....and

Care Van

Thanks to all who have given clothing to take out on the Van over the past few months, especially donations of new items, eg socks and underwear.

Barney Hunter

...and

To all my friends in Penicuik:

When I collapsed in Morningside at the end of July, denting the pavement and severely injuring my dignity, I ended up in cardiology feeling very sorry for myself. Before long I was flooded with cards and

visits, not to mention prayer support, all of which were very much appreciated. Considering the fact that it has been nine years since I lived in Penicuik, I was genuinely touched by the level of affection shown to me, and it was an enormous support to me, particularly the prayers. I know that the prayers made my stay in hospital less stressful, and I am certain it made it shorter. It only goes to show: you can never have too much in the way of prayers. I want everybody to know how truly grateful I am, and also that my prayers include you, too, as yours included me.
Many blessings, Hanna (Monelle).

...and more Congratulations!

To Jenny Mossop and her fiancé Matthew Wright who are to be married on 31st October 2009 in St Mary and St Michael's Church, Great Urswick, Nr Ulverston. *(see picture inside front cover)*
They have moved to Castle Douglas and their new address will be -
The Smiddy, Gelston, Castle Douglas, DG7 1SH
Jenny sends everyone her love! *(and every good wish and blessing to them both from all of us at St James - 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*

Bannockburn RDA Centre

It might seem strange amidst so much human tragedy to be asking your prayers for animals. However, many people are aware of the work done by Riding for the Disabled and some of you know that our daughter, Helen, works at the Bannockburn RDA Centre. Recently, the Centre was hit by a severe outbreak of Equine Grass Sickness, which resulted in the deaths of four working horses within a few days and temporary closure. This meant loss of facilities for around 150 who attend each week.

Fortunately, the Centre has reopened, with revised class schedules. They need to restock, and instigate new feeding regimes with additional supplements and probiotics at key times of the year. Generously, one pony has been donated and another is on continuing loan. The young people who are served by the Centre are greatly shocked at what happened, as are all staff and volunteers. The RDA meets the needs of those who are physically disabled, but also those who are “troubled in mind and spirit”, as youngsters are often referred by social services.

Please keep the Centre, its staff and users in your thoughts as they strive to get back on their feet to continue their invaluable work.

Thank you,

Georgina and Richard Phillips

A book to read

I have just read *The Translator*, a tribesman's memoir of Darfur by Daoud Hari. Publisher Penguin at £8.99 ISBN 978-0-141-03700-4

It is told simply, no hype to sell copies. But do you know why there is fighting? Who is fighting who? Why friendly tribes suddenly attack each other? This story of one man includes this in his story. When you get to the end and read the Appendix on the Darfur history, you realise how much you have learned unknowingly. The book is highly recommended by Terry Waite. Read, learn and pray.

Angela

"You are the One!"

I have for some years been a "pen friend" of some prisoners in Zambia. These men are not prisoners of conscience, but convicted and (police torture discounted) guilty criminals serving a prison sentence. They are humans and live in a country where there is much poverty and few jobs. Most of these men have come to Christian faith and far be it from me to condemn. One of these prisoners told me that our contact had made him feel he was a human being, and one can see that in the degrading and de-personalising life of a Zambian prison, possibly on death row, just a little encouragement and TLC from outside can have great results.

Out of the blue, a couple of weeks ago, I received within a week no less than four letters from Zambian prisoners unknown to me. All of them were miserable and lonely, but all with the hope that their request for a pen friend might be met. One of the letters took the strong line "YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE who could comprehend my request and finally intervene into my predicament ". I don't want to turn these chaps away, but, unfortunately, I have definitely reached the limit and there is no way I can cope with another prisoner!

Could it be that YOU ARE THE ONE? Would you consider taking up your pen to write a friendly line to one of these men? This would only be to one prisoner. Women can do the job as well as men, if not better! We have surely in this IT age not lost the ability to write a simple letter. Lorna Bramley and David Bachop have both taken a prisoner on recently in addition to any other correspondents. There is obviously a need, which one person can't meet and I have decided to make a public request in this way to St Mungo's and St James and do hope and pray that there will be a response! I can show you the letters and you can choose whom to write to.

Phone me at 01968 660520. Colin A. Baxter, Red Tiles, Deanfoot Road, West Linton.

Choir News

We have to start this Choir News with recording our grateful thanks to Mike and Ros for "getting on for 30 years" of enthusiastic leadership of music at St James. I well remember their arrival. Just as it seemed that

Lily Macfarlane was contemplating retiral after almost 50 years as organist and choirmistress a "young organist" arrived on our doorstep - the rest as they say is history. I'm sure that you will remember that St James has only had three choirmasters since 1913!

Whilst I am sure that the handover to Mike was God-sent, I'll take time to come to terms with this handover. I do look forward to the challenge of continuing the contribution of music to our worship at St James and will rely on the wealth of talent that exists already. At the moment I see my role as co-ordinating that musical talent and exploring ways to use it to enhance our worship.

Over the next months we have a busy programme of music with the resumption of weekly choir practice after the summer break, "Start-up Sunday" and then forward to Harvest Festival on 4th October..

The main dates for your diary are as follows:

27th August - Choir practice resumes

30th August - "Start up Sunday"

31st October - Wedding of Alastair McCrae and Suzanne Murray

1st November - All Saints' Day Evensong at 6.30pm

15th November - Royal School of Church Music Workshop and Evensong at St Peter's Peebles

22nd November - Ecumenical Songs of Praise at 6.30pm.

David

St James AGM

This will be on Sunday 6 December 2009 after the 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.

The Leprosy Mission

There will be a fund raising Soup and Sweet Lunch at the North Kirk on Saturday 17 October from 10am-2pm. This year's project is to support a hospital in Zimbabwe where leprosy sufferers need specialist footwear and adaptations. There will also be stalls and TLM items for sale, e.g. Christmas cards.

Marion Hunter

ROTAS

September 2009

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

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

October 2009

	04 - Oct - 2009	11 - Oct- 2009	18 - Oct - 2009	25- Oct- 2009
	Pentecost 14	Pentecost 15	Pentecost 16	Pentecost 17
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	David	Jennifer
St Mungo's Organists	David	Jean	Mike	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	Margaret Coull Richard Phillips	McGarvas	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore
Bread and wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Clerks
1st reading	<i>Job 1:1; 2:1-10 or Genesis 2:18-24</i>	<i>Job 2 3:1-9, 16-17 or Amos 5:6-7, 10-15</i>	<i>Job 38:1-7, (34-41) or Isaiah 53:4-12</i>	<i>Job 42:1-6, 10-17 or Jeremiah 31:7-9</i>
	Young Church	Ruth Green	Richard Phillips	Gill Amos
2nd reading	<i>Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12</i>	<i>Hebrews 4:12-16</i>	<i>Hebrews 5:1-10</i>	<i>Hebrews 7:23-28</i>
	Young Church	Sue Owen	Elizabeth. Clark	Ian Fuge
Gospel	<i>Mark 10:2-16</i>	<i>Mark 10:17-31</i>	<i>Mark 10:35-45</i>	<i>Mark 10:46-52</i>
Prayers	Elizabeth Clark	Val McGavin	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield
Pray for	CWF	Early Birds Prayer Group	Fabric Team	J-Tots
Server	Angela/--	Val/Martin	Ruth/Alice	Val/Steven
Coffee	Jean Wright ????	Gillian Little Marion Mather	Frantoms	Elizabeth Clark Robert Clerk
Flowers	Kathryn Topham	Kathryn Topham	Kathryn Topham	Kathryn Topham
Cleaning	Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay Sue Crosfield	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom
Welcomers	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore	Carol Hodgkin Robert Clerk
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				*

November 2009

	01 – Nov- 2009	08 -Nov- 2009	15 - Nov - 2009	22- Nov- 2009	29-Nov-2009
	Pentecost 14	Pentecost 15	Pentecost 16	Pentecost 17	Advent
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Mike	Jennifer	Mike
St Mungo's Organists	David	**** <i>Remembrance</i>	Jean	David	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Isobel Stenhouse Adrian Marchant	Katherine Pow Margaret Coull	Richard Phillips Tom Moffat	Elizabeth Clark Des Frantom
Bread and wine	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	Sibleys	Johnstons
1st reading	<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
2nd reading	<i>Revelation 21:1-6a</i>	<i>Hebrews 9:24-28</i>	<i>Hebrews 10:11-14, (15-18), 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
Gospel	<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>
Prayers	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Mike Hay	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark
Pray for	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group	Clergy Team	Vestry	MU
Server	Ruth /Val	Martin/Alice	Angela/David	Val/Steven	Angela/Ruth
Coffee	Mrs Neish & Family	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan	Sue Crosfield Kathleen Cox	Adrian and Karen Marchant	Hays & Smiths
Flowers	Gill Amos	Gill Amos	Gill Amos	Gill Amos	Advent
Cleaning	Marion Hunter Ruth Frantom	-----	C & M Leavy and Sue Owen	C & M Leavy and Sue Owen	-----
Welcomers	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston Robert Clerk	McGarvas
Care Van			*		
Pentland House					

Mothers' Union News

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

It is that time of year again when everything re-starts. Summer seems to have disappeared and, for many, holidays are a distant memory. As they say in Scotland, "it's back tae auld claes and porridge."

The new session begins on Wednesday 23rd September with Communion at 12.15pm followed by lunch.

Branch Programme

17 Sep (tbc) - Tea party in Edinburgh for Chrishanthie from Sri Lanka

26th Sep - Penicuik for Africa Fair - Mothers' Union Stall

21st Oct - The Rector will talk about his time in Ghana

Treats for Troops

I have had a letter from Padre David Anderson of 3 SCOTS (Black Watch) thanking us for the "wonderful" parcels which we sent. They are grateful for our support. They have had R&R and are now back policing what they hope will be a peaceful election. They come back to Scotland in November. It is nice to know that our gifts can make a difference.

Kenya

My apologies for the delay in saying "thank you" on behalf of 1 SCOTS for the contributions of clothing and toys which some of you donated to their collection for the children of Kenya. The Battalion are still there and will return at the beginning of September. The training is in preparation for Afghanistan.

As you see your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Diocesan Events

Intercessions, St Mary's Cathedral: 2nd Monday in the month, 12.30pm

7 Oct 10.00 for 10.15 - Diocesan Council at Christ Church, Morningside

Sept Diocesan Newsletter - Contributions to Jean Hindle asap.

Families First:

Once again it is time to start the process of renewing subscriptions for Families First. The new magazine is reaching its first birthday and the team has been encouraged by the positive feedback we have received about Families First and Families Worldwide, both from members and from those who have not been aware of Mothers' Union in the past. It is also encouraging to know that the magazine is able to contribute significantly to Mothers' Union funds from the revenue received through advertising sales. Every copy sold contributes around 50p.

The members' price has remained at £1.50 per issue and will continue to do so for 2010 and 2011, making the members' subscription £9 for

the year. This will be the same for those paying by cheque or direct debit. This means an increase of £3 for the year, but for this increase you will receive 6 copies instead of only 4 copies per year.

As of September of 2009, all Mothers' Union members who subscribe to Families First will receive their copy of the members' supplement and prayer diary with Families Worldwide, direct to their door three times a year as part of their subscription. All members who do not subscribe to Families First will still receive Families Worldwide from the local diocesan office.

All branch lists are to be returned to the Diocesan office by 1 November 2009 and not direct to us at Mary Sumner House. Thank you for your continued support. Please contact Jean Hindle if you have any queries.

The Silverburn Study Group

We plan to have four meetings on Wednesdays October 28, November 4, 11, and 18. We meet at 8pm and finish at 9.30pm. 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*

Plants for Flower Arrangers

You might have noticed, despite the rain, some new foliage plants along the back wall of the church grounds and Hall. As these mature, they will be used to supplement foliage provided for the church flowers. These have been planted in memory of Lorna Colman, Georgina's mother, who dearly loved her own garden. Thanks to Des Frantom who kindly selected plants and visited the garden centre on our behalf. We hope you enjoy them.

The Phillips family.

To think about

One day, a man went to visit a church, He got there early, parked his car and got out. Another car pulled up near the driver, got out, and said, "I always park there! You took my place!" The visitor went inside for

Sunday School, found an empty seat and sat down. A young lady from the church approached him and stated, "That's my seat! You took my place!" The visitor was somewhat distressed by this rude welcome, but said nothing.

After Sunday School, the visitor went into the sanctuary and sat down. Another member walked up to him and said, "That's where I always sit! You took my place!" The visitor was even more troubled by this treatment, but still He said nothing. Later as the congregation was praying for Christ to dwell among them, the visitor stood up, and his appearance began to change. Horrible scars became visible on his hands and on his sandalled feet. Someone from the congregation noticed him and called out, "What happened to you?" The visitor replied, as his hat became a crown of thorns, and a tear fell from his eye, "I took your place."

Gordon Lodge

Papermaking in Penicuik

The Penicuik Historical Society has been awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to manage a project to mark the 300th anniversary of the start of papermaking in Penicuik and on the North Esk River. The project is being developed in conjunction with other local organisations, and is organising an exhibition in Penicuik Town Hall from 6 – 10 October this year, and an associated events programme.

The industry became vital to the development of the area both economically and socially. It is forty years since Eskmills closed and thirty-three years since Valleyfield and Pomathorn Mills closed. At one time there were approximately 1200 – 1300 people employed in the industry, in the Penicuik area and for nearly 300 years, Penicuik was known as 'The Papermaking Town'. The era of papermaking ended with the closure of Dalmore, the last mill on the Esk, which ceased production in 2004.

One of the main activities is recording and preserving the living memories of paperworkers who worked in the Penicuik mills. If you used to work in one of the mills and would be willing to be interviewed about your working life, we would be delighted to hear from you.

If you would be interested in finding out more about any aspect of this project please contact Helen Williams, Project Manager, via email at hwilliams@500yearsofprinting.org or through the Penicuik Historical Society at Penicuik Town Hall.

Good question!

St. Paul wrote to the Romans, the Corinthians (twice), the Ephesians, the Colossians, the Thessalonians (twice), Timothy (twice), Titus, Philemon and the Hebrews. Why did none of them ever seem to write back?

Ian Fuge (Answers on a postcard please! - seriously, can anyone shed any light on this? - Ed)

Mad Scientists' Corner

I saw the following article in a recent edition of the prestigious scientific journal, the Journal of Cell Science. It was written by Martin Schwartz, Department of Microbiology, University of Virginia, and was entitled 'The importance of stupidity in scientific research'. However, I saw in his article a number of parallels between what he said about science, and between faith and belief. Here is a somewhat condensed version of what he had to say.

I recently saw an old friend of mine for the first time in many years. We had been PhD students at the same time, both studying science, but in different areas. She later dropped out of graduate school, went to Harvard Law School, and is now a senior lawyer for a major environmental organisation. The conversation turned to why she had dropped out of graduate school. To my utter astonishment, she said it was 'because it made her feel stupid'. After a couple of years of feeling stupid, she was ready to do something else.

I had thought of her as one of the brightest people I knew, and her subsequent career supported that view. What she said bothered me, and I kept thinking about it. Sometime the next day, it hit me. Science makes me feel stupid too! It's just that I'd become used to it. So used to it that I actively seek out new opportunities to be stupid! Let me explain. For most scientists, one of the reasons we like science is that we were good at it at school and college. But there was also a fascination with

understanding the physical world and a need to discover new things, too. In school, doing well at science meant taking courses and getting the right answers in tests. If you know the answers, you do well, and feel smart.

A PhD is a different thing. You have to frame questions that will lead to significant discoveries, design and interpret experiments so that the conclusions are convincing, foresee difficulties and see ways around them, or (failing that) solve them when they occurred. For a while, whenever I ran into a problem, I pestered the professors in my department who were experts in the areas I was researching. I remember the day when Henry Taube (who won the Nobel Prize two years later) told me he didn't know how to solve the problem I was having in my work. I figured Taube knew 1000 times more than I did. If he didn't have the answer, nobody did.

That's when it hit me. Nobody did!

That was why it was a research problem. And since it was my research problem, it was up to me to solve it. Once I faced the fact, I solved the problem in a couple of days. The crucial lesson was that the scope of things I didn't know wasn't merely vast – it was infinite! Instead of being discouraging, I found this realisation liberating. If our ignorance is infinite, our only course of action is to muddle through as best we can. What makes research difficult is being immersed in the unknown. We can't be sure whether we're even asking the right questions or doing the right experiment until we get the result of what we're doing. If we don't feel stupid, we're not really trying!

Now there are different kinds of stupidity. There's 'relative stupidity', where the other students in the class actually read the material, think about it, and fly through the exam. There's also the 'stupidity' where bright people are working in an area that doesn't match their talents and expertise.

But science involves confronting our 'absolute stupidity'. That kind of stupidity is inherent in our efforts to push our way into the unknown. Examiners of a research thesis will push and push until the student starts getting the answers wrong, or gives up and says 'I don't know'. The point of these exams is not to see if the student gets all the answers right. The point is to identify the student's weaknesses... in part, to ensure that the student's knowledge fails at a sufficiently high level for them to be awarded a research degree.

Focussing on important questions of science puts us in the awkward position of being ignorant. No doubt this can be difficult for students who are accustomed to getting the answers right. But the more

comfortable we become with being stupid, the deeper we will wade into the unknown, and the more likely we are to make big discoveries.

Now, I'd like you to go back and read the last two paragraphs of this article again, but this time, substitute the word 'science' with the words 'faith' or 'belief'!

Tony

Penicuik & District Branch of the U3A

U3A stands for the University of the Third Age. It is a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment and provides educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. It consists of local U3As all over the UK run entirely by volunteers. Local U3As are learning cooperatives which draw upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide interest groups in accordance with the wishes of the membership. The work of local U3As is underpinned by The Third Age Trust which provides educational and administrative support.

A branch of the U3A has been set up in Penicuik. There are 60 members who enjoy monthly meetings, with a guest speaker. To date the talks have included 'Soutra and Medieval Medicine', 'The role of the Scottish Ombudsman' and 'The link between Scotland and the Caribbean'.

In addition to the monthly meetings there are interest groups. These include; French, Spanish, Creative Writing, History, Computing, Music and a Lunch Club. In the autumn there are plans to add Drama, Bird Watching and a Patchwork Group. Further groups may be added depending on members' interests.

The U3A approach to learning is – learning for pleasure. There is no accreditation or validation and there are no assessments or qualifications to be gained. If you are retired or semi-retired and wish to join or know more about the Penicuik and District U3A please contact Membership Secretary Charlotte Kemp on 01968 675725 or by email charkemp@talktalk.net. Alternatively you can come along to the next open meeting on Thursday 24 September 2009 in Penicuik Town Hall at 2.00pm when Professor Alan Murray will talk about 'Why should an Old

Professor Care'. The open meetings are free to members but there is a charge of £2 for visitors.

Charlotte Kemp

From the Rock Trust

The letter below also gave information about a meeting in mid August of those interested, which sadly was received too late for the previous edition of "Outreach", but I'm sure the Trust will still welcome contact! - Ed.

"Dear Supporter,

In October, the Rock Trust's new NightStop project will begin to provide overnight accommodation to young people who are in need of breathing space from their current home. This service is unique to Edinburgh, and is a branch of the Depaul Nightstop Uk service which has provided over 5800 nights of accommodation through 300 host households in the past year. This has all been done through local Nightstop initiatives such as the one we now proudly introduce.

The Rock Trust's *Nightstop* is a new way of thinking when addressing youth homelessness in Edinburgh, and it attempts to prevent those who are vulnerable from entering the chaotic world of homelessness services where suitable. By allowing young people who (for example) have fallen out with their family, neighbours or had an argument in their care home, to stay with a host household for between 1 and 3 nights, we prevent them from being exposed to temporary bed and breakfast or adult hostel accommodation. All referrals come from agencies that have known the young person for a long period of time and are heavily monitored and risk assessed. All volunteers undergo a minimum of 10 hours training and are regularly supervised, and have 24 hour contact with staff when hosting.

We are now in the process of recruiting volunteer host households for this new project. we look forward to sharing our hopes with you."

Many Thanks, Youth Development Team – 0131 5574059
scott.christie@rocktrust.org

Your prayers are asked for.....

Please pray for all those known and unknown to you who through sickness, need, bereavement or any other trouble are in need of God's comfort and support, remembering in particular the Fuge family and those who have recently lost loved ones. Pray for healing and support for Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Irene Hair, Jim McGarva, John Ford, Caroline Murdoch, Gordon Benning, Ruth Haig, Eric Marchant.

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

For those who staff the Bethany Trust Care Van as they minister to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh, and for the homeless themselves. For the work of Penicuik in Africa, remembering especially those working to combat the ravages of AIDS in Mombasa and other African countries.

(The Prayer Request book is either to be found in the chapel or on the altar, waiting to be used. Please do make use of it by adding your concerns and prayers. The requests are prayed for on other days as well as on Sundays. Also let the clergy know the progress of the person held in prayer. The list is updated every two to three months. Thank you!)

Events coming soon...

August/September

Sun 30 Aug **Start-up Sunday**, followed by Congregational Picnic at Penicuik House

Sat 12 Sep Midlothian Doors Open (leaflets in church)

Sat 26 Sept Africa Fair: Town Hall

Wed 30 Sept 7.30pm Vestry

October

Sat 3 Oct 7.30pm Pot Luck Supper

Sun 4 Oct Harvest Festival

Sat 17 Oct Soup and Dessert Lunch in aid of Leprosy Mission

Tue 27 Oct 7.30pm Vestry

28 Oct-18 Nov Wed evenings 8.00pm Silverburn Study Group

November Social event- details tba

Sun 1 Nov 6.30pm All Saints Evensong

Wed 4 Nov(tbc) 7.30pm Penicuik for Africa AGM

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 Ecumenical Songs of Praise 6.30pm

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 Tree decorating party 7.00pm

Sun 20 Dec 9 Lessons and Carols 7.00pm

“Outreach” can also be viewed on the St James website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The November 2009 edition will be published on Sunday 1 November. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Georgina Phillips 661039, Merlewood, The Loan, West Linton, EH46 7HE, phillg13@toucansurf.com, by Wed 21 October at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.

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At her christening - Melissa Higgins with proud Mum and Dad!



**Baby Neve Rachael Armitage, born Friday 31 July 2009, 8lb 5oz.
First grandchild for Karen & Adrian Marchant!**



Lucy Ishbel Proctor born 19th June 2009, Richard and Fiona's 2nd baby who is little sister to Cameron, third grandchild to Ishbel and great grandchild to Elspeth.



Photo by Kirstie McGavin.

Nan McGavin with her first great grandchild Ewan Douglas McGettigan, born on 15th July 2009. He is the son of Claire and Willie and grandson of Doug and Christine McGavin.