



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Magazine Issue 131, September 2006

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Service Times

- Sundays: 8.00 am Said Communion
11.00 am Choral Communion
Evensong as announced
- Tuesday: 7.00 pm Healing Service with Holy Communion
(First Tuesday of month)
- Thursdays: 11.15 am Informal Said Communion as announced

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

Rector's Letter



Vows are generally good things to make. If you tell me that you've been 'faithful to your vows' I am going to assume at the outset that you're telling me something good about yourself – that you've stood up for Queen and Country, that you haven't stepped outside the bounds of your marriage, that you've been a 'faithful pastor' as you once told your bishop you would be, that you've stayed on the wagon and have not drunk to excess. You say "I've kept to my vows" – well good for you! Vows are like a bridge extending into the unknown. We can look behind ourselves down the road from whence we've just come and take stock of what's happened to us and what we've done. The history of the last three weeks or the last three years is what it is – we can't change it. It's set in stone. But as we look ahead of us the road can go in a number of directions and some of them will see us very well and the people around us and some will prove injurious to our health, to our sense of justice, to the people around us. Some of them will just be plain old boring paths – leading us into more fields filled with the same nasty old oats and the same dull environs amounting to not much of anything.

We could, on the other hand, set a goal for ourselves. We could say – I don't want to be *here* I want to be *there*. There I am – in a world which is not yet in existence – a man who has come through the temptation to stray or the temptation to fall asleep and who has become a blessing to his grandchildren, to his congregation, a woman who has turned the usual pattern of consumption around so that she nourishes other people more than she is nourished by them. *There* I see an individual who undertook a project wherein he vowed to read and to pray until he began to see more clearly what the purpose of his life ought to be.

The road which links the sorry state you find yourself in today and the glorious future you contemplate is the vow itself. Words have power. They don't only describe the way things are they actually help you change the way things will work out. A vow is like a boat that takes you somewhere. It's like the long stick which the pole-vaulter uses to power himself over the bar and on to the other side. The young couple who stand at the chancel steps and who respond to the Vicar's questions about whether they will love each other, be faithful to each other and care for each other 'in sickness and in health' are not only telling us how they *feel* right now but what they will *do* in ten years time when they find themselves feeling differently. Our vow is a boat. The waves are achieving an interesting height, there are crocodiles in the water, our arms are aching from rowing such a long distance but we're going to stay put – we are going to honour the 'covenant between us made'. Years hence we may look back at this particular year in their life and say 'it was tough – it was a strange and risk-filled time in our life - but we stuck it out. We took our vows seriously and we rowed through the rough patch'. So you've kept to your vows? Good for you! Vows are a blessing! Anything we can do to help people keep to their vows is work well done.

Now let's flip this sucker on its side and look at some of the other vows which people take – vows which more resemble curses than promises. I know a man who grew up in a small town in a dysfunctional family where there was not much money who vowed, when he was small, that he would devote himself to making a lot of money and never wanting - all of it understandable and, from a certain *optique*, even quite laudable. Except that the man found, when he was on the verge of his forties, that he was missing the boat – not by a little but by rather a lot. He had

debtors and creditors but few friends. He was tied down to maintaining a certain lifestyle and keeping his head above water in a competitive environment. There was just so much of life which had passed him by. His vow to apply himself single-mindedly to filling the absence of his childhood seemed like the right thing to do at the time but it had steered him wrong. I've known any number of people who were let down by others – by parents and lovers, by husbands and wives – who took a vow to maintain their independence in such a way that they would never be hurt or let down again. And when they got to a certain age where they realized that their vow has left them not only independent but lonely and isolated as well. Such vows are like an ancient curse. They hover over us for decades and sap our ability to be spontaneous, to take risks with people, to make ourselves subject to anything beyond ourselves. You almost want to get the man with the black suit and the book to come along and ring a bell and say a blessing and break the spell.

There are a few parables in the New Testament about sorting things – sorting sheep from goats, good fish from bad fish and wheat from tares. Sort through your vows as well. Just because they represent determination on your part doesn't make them necessarily good.

Father Rob Warren

Vestry Business Report....

Vestry has not met since the last edition of "Outreach". The next Vestry meeting will be on Thursday 7 September at 8.15pm

Alison Cole.

Choir News

As we embark (or emBach) on a new choir year, I as usual look forward to the coming months with a mixture of excitement and trepidation.

The *excitement* comes from the satisfaction of working with a group of loyal, committed and cheerful (well, usually!) people of all ages to make music of a wide variety of styles which is generally of a high quality. The *trepidation* comes as ever from the constant challenge to maintain the quality, to find new things to sing (because a choir which isn't

challenged with new material will wither), and to fit in with all the many things happening in St James without causing too much stress to all involved.

Before the holidays, I gave out a questionnaire to the choir to get their views on how things were going (I may also do the same for the congregation). Feedback was generally very positive, although a number of helpful suggestions were made. I'm in the process of summarising the responses – more details later – but one clear theme was the need for better planning to synchronise choir events with other activities, in order to avoid too much happening in any one week, or indeed in any one service! This need becomes even greater now that the Junior Choir is making such regular high quality contributions to services. The planning stage is still in progress, but some dates are more or less fixed:

Sunday 4 December	Visit of Bishop – Family Service with some choir input as well.
Sunday 17 December 7.00pm	Nine Lessons and Carols
Friday 22 December pm	Christmas pageant with music by Alan Murray written specially for the occasion – “A Folk Nativity”

In addition the choir will continue to carry out its main function of supporting and leading worship at the main Sunday Service. It is a major challenge to ensure that this primary function is not lost in all the many events in which the choir is involved!

Mike Hay

A Chorister's Confession

Almighty and most merciful conductor

We have erred and strayed from thy beat like lost sheep

We have followed too much the intonations and tempi of our own hearts;

We have offended against thy dynamic markings;

We have left unsung those notes which we ought to have sung

And we have sung those notes which we ought not to have sung;

And there is no support in us.

But thou, O Conductor, have mercy upon us miserable singers.
Succour the chorally challenged,
Restore thou them that needed extra note bashing,
Spare thou them that are without pencil,
Pardon our mistakes and have faith that hereafter we will follow thy
direction and sing together in perfect harmony.
*(Origin unknown – contributed by Mona Bennet – obviously been at one
of our choir practices!)*

Alex Thorburn

On the 16th August, as most of you will be aware, the family and friends and congregation of St James the Less paid their respects, honoured the memory and celebrated the life of Alexander Brown Thorburn.

This brief footnote cannot possibly do justice to the kind of person Alex was, but his passing will be felt keenly by those whose lives he touched. Certainly it is worth mentioning that this unassuming man had in his own way profoundly influenced many lives, not least, through his love of music and his gift of being able to stimulate and pass on his enthusiasm to many pupils and fellow musicians.

However there was another aspect of Alex's life which, I would suggest, was more significant even than his love for music and that was in his capacity to care for and love those whose lives impinged on his own. This quality was most obviously displayed in his marriage to Agnes his wife and companion for over 50 years and with his daughters, but it did spill out from these relationships to others. He loved a good story, and shortly before his passing was the life and soul of a party where he enjoyed the company of people he had come to know. In this and in so many ways he displayed his capacity to engage with folk and demonstrated his humanity. By being himself Alex reflected the goodness of God in a world starved of real people capable of being loved and responding to love.

The last word though, should go to his beloved Agnes: she said quite simply of him "that he was a good man." We mourn with her and the family their loss and the impoverishment Alex's death means to them and to ourselves. Remember this quiet man with the gentle smile and

honour his memory by allowing the love that made him, living and lovable, to shape and influence our response to those we share our world with and become with him at the heart of the purposes of God.

Colin Chaplin

‘Penicuik for Africa’

By the time you read this, our summer venture - a stall at the Street Fayre- will just have happened, but thanks for helping to all those that did while Tilly & I once again managed to be ‘out-of-town’!

Africa Convention

Plans for the convention in the ***Town Hall on Saturday, September 30th (10am-2pm)*** are well advanced and we expect about ten local organisations or individuals to be ‘telling the story’ of how they are helping Africa out of poverty. Our Mother’s Union and Philip & Sue Crosfield will be among those from St. James’s competing for a £100 prize for the African cause of their choice.

With North Kirk describing their work for Ugandan Aids orphans and the two High Schools displaying their care wares, this promises to be a great community event. There will be a display of African dancing during the morning and light refreshments will be available in the Lesser Hall, courtesy of the Penicuik CommunityDevelopment Trust. Admission is ***FREE*** but do bring some spare cash with you-***the likes of this has not been seen in Penicuik before and may never be seen again!!***

Our next ‘good cause’

At our inaugural meeting last autumn, we said we would try to identify places in Africa where we could immediately and directly ‘inject’ cash and raise the local standard of living. We have had discussions with Rev Charles Madonke, head of the United Methodist Church in Mombasa, Kenya, and long-standing friend of Ruth Green. With other churches in Mombasa and pump-priming funding (£1300) from an Edinburgh church, they set up a service providing HIV/AIDS tests for adults, counselling for victims and food for orphans of the disease. Within a few years, the incidence of disease in the community fell from 14 to 11% - a small % maybe but a massive improvement in life expectancy and earning power for some. They would like to set up a second centre and if we could raise as much this year as we did for Chitambo, we could prime an additional pump!

Traidcraft stall

The statistics tell the story: over £2000-worth of goods ordered, 75% sold and £155 discount into the PfA kitty. Thanks to those who added to the variety on offer with donations of marmalade, lupins, gooseberries etc.

Next public meeting

The Mombasa project will be just one item up for discussion on **Tuesday, November 7th in St. James's Church Hall at 7.45pm** when we will review the first year's achievements and plan to outdo them in the next: please note the date in your diary, come if you can or send an apology to let us know that you share our concerns for Africa.

Neville

*****Please watch your speed – prayer is not enough! *****

(Repeated from the last edition because of its importance!)

Concern has again been expressed about the speed of vehicles coming up (and down) Broomhill Road, and it appears that members of the congregation are not faultless in this regard. Many of the driveways are not gated, and a child could easily run out onto the road without being aware of potential danger. In the past we have suggested a 20mph limit, but this is probably too fast and a **maximum of 10-15mph is advisable**. Please give this your attention if it applies to you. We're sure the Lord will be prepared to wait!

Financial matters

Collections	June	July
Cash	264	157
Gift aided Cash	212	23
Envelopes	658	599
Direct giving	<u>1310</u>	<u>1405</u>
Total	2444	2184

Special Collection	July
Seafarer's Mission	243

Of lights and carpets

There is no doubt that the recently installed new lighting has greatly improved the inside of our church and we are most grateful for this generous gift from the Clerk family in memory of Sir John. The lighting particularly complements and enhances the new carpet, which was laid earlier in the year. Unfortunately, in this instance we do not have a generous benefactor so the cost (£3178) will have to be met by fund raising. Vestry has approved a scheme by which we invite individuals and families in the congregation to sponsor a square metre which, since there are 85 in total works out at c. £38, or even better £30 if Gift Aid is included. The good news is that we have already paid for 28 square metres through fund raising. Donations of other amounts are also very welcome.

So please give generously and if you are a UK tax payer please use the gift aid envelopes, remembering to fill in your details and mark as 'carpet appeal'.

You can monitor progress i.e. watch the magic carpet grow on the splendid poster in the hall which the Topham family has kindly prepared.

Fund raising events

Saturday 9 September, 10 am: Sponsored walk from St James along the old railway track towards Rosslynlee Station. If you haven't already got your sponsorship form see Marion McCluskey NOW! We also need stewards and help with refreshments. Marion has all the details.

Saturday 25th November: St James Ceilidh, South Kirk Hall, live music. More details in next Outreach.

Newlyweds!



Lisa Byrne and Jason Wann leaving St James in style, after their wedding on 19 August. A sunny afternoon, despite warnings of showers!

Bible Study Group

At the July meeting of the Bible Study Group, it was too warm to sit inside! Members enjoy the warm summer sunshine. “Summer suns are glowing” seems appropriate!





...and on not such a sunny day picnickers enjoy the generous hospitality of the Clerks at Penicuik House.

Tearcraft

This seems a long way off folks, but a date for your diary in the busy Autumn months.

We will hold our annual sale of TEARCRAFT goods on Saturday 11th November, including Coffee, Tea , home baking & sale of plants (courtesy of Neville and Tilly).

Neville will also provide a selection of Traidcraft goods, so you can stock up on food items as well as Christmas presents. I will have copies of the Tearcraft catalogue soon, look out for them in church, there is a wonderful selection again this year.

Please support us and bring your friends.

Saturday 11th November

10am till 12.00

Val McGavin and the Mauricewood House Group

The Episcopal Visit – December 3rd

On Sunday 3 December – the 1st Sunday of Advent - Brian Smith the Bishop of Edinburgh will pay a visit to St Mungo's and St James' Church. Bishop Brian will be preaching at St Mungo's at the 10:00 a.m. service and will then proceed to St James' to celebrate and preach. I hope you'll all note this in your diaries. We will be staying in the hall after the service to have a bite to eat with Brian and Liisa and hope you'll be able to join us then.



Confirmation Classes



So far we have two adults and three young people interested in preparing for confirmation in advance of our Bishop's visit in December. We will be beginning confirmation classes for young people in the next couple of weeks (probably a weekday after school) and an additional series of sessions on a weekday evening for any adults who are interested. The young people in question would be at least twelve years old (as of December 3rd) and interested in knowing some of the 'basics' of Christian worship and practise – the place of Scripture in daily life – and the role of the Christian adult in a modern society. Please let me know if you or your children might be interested in this. Adults who might want to attend an evening course – either to be confirmed (if they are not) or to reaffirm their commitment to the Christian life – should get in touch with the Rector soon so we can organize a schedule of meetings.

October 2006 Rota

-	1-Oct-2006	8-Oct-2006	15-Oct-2006	22-Oct-2006	29-Oct-2006
-	Trinity 16	Trinity 17	Trinity 18	Trinity 19	Trinity 20
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Margaret Coull/Nigel Johnstone	Fords	McGarvas	MacLennans
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Dicksons	Leavys	Fords	<i>Matins</i>
1st Reading	<i>Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 or Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29</i>	<i>Job 1:1; 2:1-10 or Genesis 2:18-24</i>	<i>Job 23:1-9, 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	Val McGavin	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Margaret Coull
2nd Reading	<i>James 5:13-20</i>	<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 Crosfield	Gillian Little	Joyce Black	Faye Clerk
Gospel	<i>Mark 9:38-50</i>	<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	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark	Val McGavin	-----
Server	Angela/Alice	Angela/Steven	Val/Charlotte	Angela/Emma	-----
Coffee	Margaret Vesco/Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse /Jean Wright	Gillian Little/Marion McCluskey	Frantoms	MacLennans
Flowers	Kathryn Topham*	>>>>>>>>>>	Margaret Coull		
Cleaning	Angela Sibley/Mona Bennett	Angela Sibley/Mona Bennett	Clerks	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos/Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva	Mae Mann/Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/Andy	Nigel Johnston/Robert Clerk	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva
Care Van			√		
Pentland House					√

November 2006 Rota

	5-Nov-2006	12-Nov-2006	19-Nov-2006	26-Nov-2006
	Trinity 21	Remembrance	Trinity 23	1st before Advent
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	<i>(Remembrance Service)</i>	David	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	Andy Longmore/ Nigel Johnstone	Isobel Stenhouse/ Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/ Margaret Coull
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Barretts	Hindles	Sibleys
1st Reading	<i>Ruth 1:1-18 or Deuteronomy 6:1-9</i>	<i>Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17 or I Kings 17:8-16</i>	<i>I Samuel 1:4-20 or Daniel 12:1-3</i>	<i>II Samuel 23:1-7 or Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14</i>
	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Jo Bullough	Sir Robert Clerk
2nd Reading	<i>Hebrews 9:11-14</i>	<i>Hebrews 9:24-28</i>	<i>Heb. 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25</i>	<i>Revelation 1:4b-8</i>
	Young Church	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark	John Ford
Gospel	<i>Mark 12:28-34</i>	<i>Mark 12:38-44</i>	<i>Mark 13:1-8</i>	<i>John 18:33-37</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Angela Sibley	Jean Hindle	Ralph Hindle
Server	Angela/Alice	Val/Steven	Angela/Charlotte	Val/Emma
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Mrs Neish & Family	Hays/Smiths	McGarvas
Flowers	Margaret Coull	Jean Wright	Catherine Pow*	>>>>>>>>>>
Cleaning	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Margaret Vescoe/ Marian Hunter	Margaret Vescoe/ Marian Hunter
Welcomers	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Dickson/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	Moira Rendall/Jim McGarva
Care Van			√	
Pentland House		<<St James not involved>>		

Saint Ninian in stained glass!

St. Ninian is a shadowy figure in history. He is acknowledged as Scotland's first saint with the date 397AD celebrated as the beginning of his mission to his people.

There is very little that we know about him. No written references to St Ninian from the period he was alive have been found. We can only refer to works written many years after his death. Historians now read these texts carefully trying to separate the truth from tradition and embroidery from fact.

According to the (untrustworthy!) life of Ninian by St. Aelred, St Ninian was the son of a converted chieftain of the Cumbrian Britons, studied at Rome, was ordained, was consecrated a bishop and returned to evangelise his native Britain.

He had his own church built by masons from St. Martin's Monastery in Tours, which became known as The Great Monastery and was the centre of his missionary activities. From it Ninian and his monks evangelised neighbouring Britons and the Picts of Valentia.

Ninian was known for his miracles, among them curing a chieftain of blindness, which cure led to many conversions. His feast day is September 16.



St James News Page

Even in these days of relative longevity it's not often that Outreach has the opportunity to offer congratulations on the occasion of a Golden Wedding Anniversary, so it is with particular pleasure that we can reveal that Susan and Philip Crosfield were married on 22 August 1956 at Saddlescombe in Sussex in the church where Susan's Father was rector. Sue and Philip have asked us to pass on their grateful thanks for all who sent cards and gifts.



Don't they look well on it!

Congratulations...

To Lorna Colman (Georgina's Mum) and Jean Hindle who were 95 and 75 years young, respectively on 21 August. Georgina writes "Mum was delighted with her 95th birthday card on Sunday; she took a lot of time to read the names and try to remember the people. If anyone is ever in Biggar and feels like dropping in to say hello, Greenhills Care Home is on Broughton Road next to the Puppet Theatre ."

And to the following who graduated this summer:

Carol Meaden (Jean and Ralph's daughter), BSc 1st Class Honours in Diagnostic Radiography from Queen Margaret University College.

Carol was employed by Forth Valley NHS at Falkirk for 2 weeks before taking up a permanent position in Stirling where she is now living.



Ben Miller who gained a II(1) in English Language and Film and TV studies from Glasgow University.

Jo Green (Ruth and Mike's daughter). Jo completed her medical degree at Aberdeen University and will spend the next two years as a junior doctor in hospitals in the Aberdeen area.

Congratulations too to all our young people who have achieved success in SQA exams – well done!

St. James the Less 1983 – help please!

I have been asked to do some research to update the “History of St James” booklet, beginning with the above year. Below are some of the events which took place that year. The information was found by going through old copies of “Outreach” so you will understand if anything has been missed out. *This is your opportunity to help.* Read them through and if you have anything to add contact myself either at Church or telephone 675223.

- Bishop's Visitation
- Colin Chaplin's responsibility for West Linton
- Broomhill Day Centre launched Thursday 20th January in Church Hall
- Stewardship Campaign

- Presentation by Margaret Paton of copies of “ More Hymns for Today” in thanks for kindnesses to her and her mother
- Death of “Mrs. Mac.” Lily MacFarlane organist for 43 years
- Death of Molly Steven wife of Rev. J. Gordon Steven , former Rector
- Lothian Award to Tilly Suttle for involvement in 8 fields of community service including Broomhill Day Centre and Church work
- 350th anniversary of Edinburgh Diocese
- Rector’s Sabbatical

Obviously there were weddings, baptisms and funerals which can be included. I hope to be doing a year in each “Outreach” but this is going to be rather difficult as there are only copies of the December issue for 1984 in the Vestry. So please search everywhere to see if you might have some others in some forgotten corner! Your help will be greatly appreciated. *Thank you.*

Margaret Coull

Silverburn Study Group

The Silverburn Study Group will be meeting for 6 weeks in October/November to study the topic of the **Resurrection**. We meet at 8pm in the Crosfield’s house, 21 Biggar Road and finish each evening at 9.30pm. We are a small group so that everyone has a chance to contribute, but we would offer a warm welcome to a few more. Please let Tony or Lorna Bramley know if you would like to join us: they would also arrange a lift if you would like that. Members enter by our back garden, through the garage – so please bring a torch and a Bible. Dates: October 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15 and 22,

Philip Crosfield

Church Women's Fellowship (CWF)

Meets at 64 Deanburn, unless otherwise stated.

Meetings at 8.00pm on 18 Sept and 16 Oct - more details later



Members of the CWF enjoying their supper outing in June at the Stables Bar!

Mothers Union News

The MU Scottish web address is : www.muscotland.org.uk.

Proposed programme for the St James Branch for Autumn 2006:

6 Sept 10.30 am - Lunch Outing to Kailzie Gardens

20 Sept Noon Opening Communion in Church,
followed by lunch and programme planning

26 Sept Diocesan MU Council at Christ Church, Morningside

11 Oct Noon Lunch - *topic to be arranged*

25 Oct 2.30 pm *topic to be arranged*

21 Nov Diocesan Quiet Day *details later*

29 Nov Wave of Prayer - time to be arranged at 64 Deanburn

“Messiah”

Most of us are familiar with the words and music of Handel’s “Messiah”, but there are evidently some people who have never seen or heard it. One such person was old Angus McDonald from a little village in Scotland not far from Edinburgh. He decided one year that it was time he went to see this Messiah; he tried to persuade a friend to go with him to the Usher Hall to hear the Edinburgh Choral Union perform, but his friend refused.

“No”, he said “that kin’ o’ music’s no’ in ma line. I like a guid comic song or a lively reel but I dinna think much o’ thon classical stuff as they ca’ it. It’ll be moistly religious folkie, or gentry done up in boiled shirts and wimmin wi’ hardly a frock tae their backs. No”, he said “you gang on yer ain and you can tell me a’ about it aifter.” So Angus went by himself and the next day they met the following conversation took place:

“Weel. Come on, hoo did ye get on at the Messiah? Tell me a’ abboot it, but wait a while till ah’ve filled my pipe then ah can tak it in a wee bit better.”

“Aye, well” said Angus “It was grand. Ah widny have missed it for a’ the tea in China. When I got there the Hall was packed. It was that fu’ o’ folk I had a job tae git a seat. It was nae wonder – a’ these singers took up half the Hall. Anyhow, I managed tae squeeze in.”

“First off, there wiz this chappie larkin’ about on the organ. He wisna playing anything in particular, jist runnin’ his fingers up an’ doon as if he wiz practising like. Then a lot o’ chaps came in carrying fiddles and one o’ them brought in the Messiah – at least that’s whit I thought it wiz, for it wiz covered in a big green bag. Anyhow they took the bag off it then a chap rubbed its belly wi’ some sort o’ stick thing and ye should it heard it groan. It was somethi’ like the moaning o’ a dying coo. Well I thought if that’s the Messiah ah’m goin’ hame. I was jist aboot tae go when this wee mannie came in a’ dolled up in a wee weskit, wi’ a flower in his buttonhole. Everything went quiet. He had a wee white stick in his hand like a blind man, an’ when he waved it a’ the singers stared at him I think they were wondering what was wrong wi’ him.”

“Then they a’ started to sing, an’ they hudny been goin’ lang afore they were a’ quarellin’ like alley cats. I think he should have walloped yin or twa o’ them with that stick for first one side said they were the king of Glory, then the ither side said they were, an’ they went at it hammer an’ tongs. Well it a’fizzled oot in the end, so I niver got to ken which side won. Then there was a bit of bother about some sheep that wiz lost. I dinna ken whae they belonged tae. One lot of singers must have been awfy fond o’ mutton for they kept on singin’ *All we like sheep*. Well, ah couldny help saying tae the fellow next to me, that mutton’s a’right in moderation but ah like a bit o’beef masel. Well – he looked daggers at me and said *Shhh!* – so ah shushed.”

“After that a chap stood up and started to sing a’ by hissel. I think they must have been his sheep for he said, *every mountain and hill should be brought low*. I though they’d be sure to find them if they did that, as well as findin’ work for the unemployed. Then up jumped anither man and did he look mad. Ah thought it was maybe because they’d taken his sheep to make up for them they’d lost. He said they’d imagined a vain thing - he was in a right state ah can tell you. A load o’ wimmin stood up after that an’ they a’ looked a bit long in the tooth if you see what I mean. Some o’ them must have been sivinty if they were a day. They sang *Unto us a child is born* and the men sang back *Wonderful*. Ah thought *Wonderful*, it’s a bloomin’ miracle! Aifter that they sobered down a bittie and sang about a lassie ca’d Joyce Greatly. I’d niver heard o’ her, but the men had for they looked awfy pleased about it.”

“Then some chap got up an’ said he wiz the King o’ Kings, and this started anither ramie for another chap said he was and they a’ started arguin’ about it. I wiz getting a wee bit fed up wi’ this when suddenly everybody stood up to see what was happening and they all shouted *Halleluiah, it’s goin’ to rain for ever*. Well that did it. Ah made straight fir the door. I’d had my money’s worth and ah was thinkin’ that if it was goin’ to rain for ever and ever I’d better get hame afore the floods came.”

“Aye, it wiz a guid do, you should ha’ come and oh, I hope they find the puir wee sheep.”

This was sent to Agnes Thorburn by her cousin, May (Mauran) Lovell who was baptized and married in St James and now lives in Hatfield.

Lindisfarne Trip

For a number of reasons, the trip planned to Lindisfarne on 19 August has had to be postponed. For those of you who have never been, it is well worth a visit, and for those of you who have I'm sure you'll agree that it's well worth a return visit! We hope that another date can be fixed in the not too distant future (tides permitting!) Watch this space!

Ruth and Georgina



Birthday Thanks

My heartfelt thanks to everybody for the cards and gifts that I received on the occasion of my 75th birthday. Pat and Paul took us all out for a celebration dinner on Sunday 20th Aug (a day early) after we had moved Carol and her belongings to her new accommodation in Stirling.

Jean

Appointments

The Revd Dr Nicholas (Nick) Hallam is now non stipendiary Assistant Priest in the Benefice of Hawkshead with Low Wray, Sawrey, Rusland and Satterthwaite, and the Benefice of Ambleside with Brathay. Nick is a virologist and currently works at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. He is married to Joyce, who recently became Headteacher at Hawkshead and Esthwaite Primary School - which is why they moved (Nick is commuting). Nick and Joyce have two daughters - Simone (19) and Lisa (17). *(Many of you will remember Nick, who took several services during the interregnum)*

Forthcoming Concert featuring one of our own musicians!

Penicuik Community Arts Association present

'PIANO EXTRAVAGANZA'

Graham McDonald and Rachel Topham

Music For Two Pianos

Piano Duets and Piano Solos

7.30pm Friday 6 October

Tickets and further details from

PCAA, 4 West St., Penicuik

tel: 678804

<http://www.penicuikarts.org>

Please go if you can and support Rachel and Graham!

“Outreach” on the W...W....Web!

The current edition of the magazine, and previous editions, can now be viewed on the Web. Go to <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk/> and click on the appropriate link at the top of the page.

“Outreach” needs you!

The content of this magazine is now almost totally dependent on contributions from the congregation. If you have an article, a prayer, or almost anything that you'd like to contribute, please don't be shy! Letters to the Editor (which can be controversial – but of course charitable) are also welcome. If you're reading this as an “ex-pat” member of St James' congregation, we'd be particularly interested to hear from you!

Your prayers are asked for...

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

Agnes Thorburn and her family, Arthur White, Joy Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Mae Mann and Sarah (aged 7 with Crohn's disease). Margaret Paton, a former member of St James, now in Australia, who is recovering from a stroke..

Pray for peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel.

.For those still suffering as a result of natural disasters such as the earthquake in Indonesia, and as a result of previous, almost forgotten, disasters such as the tsunami.

Pray for the release of all being held captive, and for the work of Amnesty International.

For Making Poverty History and Fair Trade Debt Relief and the organisations working towards these ends.

For the people of Mozambique, one of the world's poorest countries, short of resources, where an estimated 3,000 die every day due to malaria. A country ravaged by floods and then drought and left with a legacy of land mines and amputees. Please pray for the active work of the churches involved in evangelism as well as the clinics and hospitals.

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 church in Ghana, and in particular the educational programmes in the Diocese of Cape Coast. For the work of the churches and the people in Ethiopia - there are many areas of severe poverty, due to drought, and the country is supporting hundreds of thousands of Sudanese and other refugees.

Groups and Activities

(please contact the appropriate person listed on the back cover)

Sundays: 7.30pm Youth Group for 10-16s
Tuesdays: 9.30am "J-Tots" Playgroup
10.00am Bible Study at 24 Mauricewood Park
7.30pm Mauricewood Housegroup at 6 Arras Grove
Wednesdays 7.00am "Earlybirds" Prayergroup
Thursdays: 7.00pm Choir Practice (Junior Choir at 6.45pm)

Events coming soon...

Sat 9 Sep 10 am Sponsored walk.
Wed 27 Sep MU Council, Christ Church Morningside 10am
Sat 30 Sep 10am – 2pm Africa Convention, Town Hall
Tue 7 Nov 7.45pm "Penicuik for Africa" public meeting, St James
Sat 11 Nov 10am - 12.00 Tearcraft Sale
Sat 25 November, St James Ceilidh, South Kirk Hall
Weds Oct 18, 25, Nov 1, 8, 15 and 22 8pm Silverburn Study Group
Sun 3 Dec Visit of Bishop Brian

Parish Register

Wedding: Lisa Byrne and Jason Wann, Saturday 19th August.
Funeral: Alex Thorburn, aged 77 years, 16th August.

The next publication of "Outreach" will be on Sunday 5 November. Information about events, and contributions should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012 (caplaw@hotmail.co.uk) by Wednesday 25 October at the latest. If sending by Email, please copy to Mike Hay at mike@hayfamily.co.uk.***

******Please note Graham's new email address.***

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