



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Music and flowers for a Summer Evening!

Magazine Issue 138, September 2007

What's the collective noun for choirmasters?



...or perhaps more recognisable below.....!



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Service Times

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

Thursdays: 11.15 am Informal Said Communion as announced.

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

Groups and Activities

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

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

Rector’s Letter



Fear has become an industry in our country. Somebody is paid to compose bold headlines which describe the latest thing lurking in the shadows waiting to do us in. He doesn’t get paid unless the rest of us end up with a sinking feeling in our stomachs. The list is endless. We seem always to be on our guard.

“Who is he – that fellow on the corner? I’ve not seen him before. What is he doing around here?”

You’d be forgiven for harbouring such suspicions in a dodgy neighbourhood or at an airport perimeter.

You come by that instinct honestly. It's a reasonable survival skill. Like the sense of pain that causes you to pull your hand away from a hot cooker.

When it becomes more than an instinct, however, and begins to become a way of life it no longer functions to enhance our existence – it begins positively to drain our ability to live open and creative lives in community with others.

I learned that working as an on-call chaplain in a big city children's hospital. After a few heavy weeks spent too frequently in Accident and Emergency I needed to remind myself that this wasn't the real world – that nearly all the children in the city of Montreal were playing in schoolyards and going through their normal stops in the supermarket. They were almost all in rude good health. I was living in a world of boiled down experiences. I was seeing true things taking place – but there was more to life than that.

Life does bite us from time to time.

We discover that we can be subject to accidents or even the objects of somebody's hatred. Somebody advises us to keep our eyes open and our wits about us. Fair enough. Prudence is never wasted. So keep your eyes open in the Tube.

But keep it within limits. If we gave in to it we would retreat within our homes, our clans, our races and the work of building communities would be left to others. Another generation of men and women would face the task of climbing out of their enclosures and building communities of trust and friendship.

Father Rob Warren

Cumbræ retreats – book now!

There will be two gatherings this Autumn at the College of the Holy Spirit in Millport on the Isle of Cumbræ.

For Saint Mungo's Church - the weekend of October 19-21

For St James the Less - the weekend of November 23-25

Ideally we would have mixed groups of families and individuals, totalling about 20 people. It may well be that certain groupings end up being more convenient than others for people from the other congregation and that we end up mixing-and matching. We'll see what transpires.

There are rooms for single people, shared rooms and a couple of rooms with four beds. There is probably a little wiggle room to reconfigure things the way we want. Meals would be taken together in the refectory and are served at table.

The College of the Holy Spirit (with the Cathedral of the Isles on the property - the smallest Cathedral in the Anglican Communion) is owned by the Diocese of Argyll and the Isles. It is 'our' retreat centre therefore and we're doing our bit by making use of it. The Sunday service would take place in the wee cathedral (capacity 45) which is also attended by folk from the village of Millport. The facility is not free but it's not extortionate either. As I remember it's pretty well standard B&B prices. The Isle of Cumbrae is a charming little place off the west coast accessible via a funky little ferry from Largs.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the foyer of St James in the next week for you to signal your interest. It is my hope that this becomes a yearly ritual so if you are unable to make this year's retreat you'll be able to jump aboard next year.

"Penicuik for Africa (PfA)"

Chitambo Ambulance Project

No sooner said than done! In the last 'Outreach' we reported that our appeal had raised 70% of the target (£26,000) needed to convert and customise an ambulance for use in Chitambo. In this edition we are pleased to report that the target has been reached, thanks largely to another substantial, anonymous donation, this time of £5000. We suddenly find ourselves in the unusual position of having acquired full-funding for a project before seriously considering its feasibility! We are in good company. Neither the missions of Jesus and Paul nor the Acts of the Apostles were preceded by a careful risk/benefit analyses or cost

appraisal at the outset (not counting the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness). Had they been, the church would have sunk without trace. We can be far too cautious, hampering the work of the Holy Spirit by lack of confidence in our own capabilities which are no less than His. How many of our best achievements have stemmed from an impulsive act.

Project Strategy

Nevertheless, the time has come to put method into our madness and three of our project team (Jo Vallis, Alan Naylor and myself) met recently to formulate a 'delivery strategy', the highlight of which should be the driving of the ambulance to Chitambo Hospital in August 2007 as part of its birthday celebrations, exactly 100 years after its foundation stone was laid in memory of local hero, David Livingstone. The details surrounding the secure purchase and customisation of the vehicle, training of local drivers and continuous, multi-functional operation of the ambulance will be laid before you at the AGM. It will form part of our One World Week (+) celebrations at the end of October/ beginning of November, which will also include the Tear Fund Sale on Saturday , November 3rd.

More impulses

At the beginning of June we set up an impromptu Plant Stall in the precinct and survived cold, wind & rain long enough to raise £100 for our 'Children of Africa' bank account. After-sales of hanging baskets raised another £100 and children in Africa benefited sooner than we could ever have anticipated. Another impulse had taken Bea Bremner's daughter-in law, Maggie, to Madagascar to work for three months in an orphanage as a volunteer. In a letter home, Maggie described the primitive conditions under which their twelve children were cared for, saying how many simple things she would like to have given them before she left at the end of June. The sum of £60 was quickly re-directed to the Bremner family and a week before she left, Maggie was able to purchase 18 blankets from the local market and leave them as a parting gift.

Contributed by Neville Suttle

Report of Vestry business

The vestry has not met since the last edition of "Outreach". Minutes of previous meetings will be displayed on the notice board following the next meeting of vestry.

Alison Cole

Choir News

As predicted in the last issue, Music for a Summer Evening was a resounding success; many thanks to David for his excellent leadership of the event, and to all who contributed and supported. The only defaulter was the weather – as far as I can remember, this is the first time since the event started 15 years ago that I had to go up to the church in the morning to put the heating on. "Summer suns are glowing" no doubt, but not much in Scotland this summer!

On the assumption that summer is now coming to an end, plans for the choir's year are currently being developed, along with plans for a wedding in the Hay family, which is exercising the choirmaster's mind just a little at present! As David explained, this year marks the 80th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal School of Church Music (then the School of English Church Music") by Sir Sydney Nicholson. We hope to continue the celebration of this by a number of events, including a Songs of Praise, involving, we hope, congregations from other churches, and a Festal Choral Evensong in early November. Details later. We are also planning a bigish event for the Christmas season – again all will be revealed shortly. As well as this, we would like to invite the congregation to an "open choir practice", so that you can see what the choir really gets up to on Thursday nights! We were a bit concerned that it might shatter your illusions, but probably you don't have any to shatter!

Rachel Topham continues her musical studies in London, starting in mid-September, so for much of the year we will be losing her support as soprano, pianist, accompanist and organist (the latter particularly at West Linton, where her support has been invaluable). We're sorry to



lose you, Rachel "for a season", but you go with our grateful thanks, and very best wishes for what I'm sure will be a great musical future!

Finally, be thankful for word processors, which at least give the opportunity to correct mistakes if they're noticed. I'm told that in the days when service sheets were typed, one hapless choirmaster produced three services headed "Evensnog", "Matings" and "Snug Eucharist". Must have been quite a Sunday!

Mike Hay

For those who missed it (by request!):

Fortuna chori magistri not jucunda est*:

When the Rector's not engaged upon his preaching,
When prayers and intimations go past time
And for all the stops the organist is reaching
He feels he's really very past his prime.

When the hymn tunes are too high for all the people
And the tenors once more nearly come undone
Then they'd like to hang Mike right atop the steeple

***A choirmaster's lot is not a happy one.**

Chorus: Oh-----, when the time has come for music to be sung
A choirmaster's lot is not a happy one.

There are lots and lots and lots of different hymnbooks
A source of rich and great variety
But alas they are not all such very thin books
So we sadly cannot carry even three.
To issue more than two of these editions
Is clearly fast approaching mortal sin
And when faced with congregational derision
The choirmaster cries "Alas I cannot win!" (Chorus).

Then before and aft there come the voluntaries
So aptly named because of course they're free
The organist so very much aware is
He really ought to try a different key
And then there's pleas for silent meditation
Which emphasise his own redundancy
And now to his enormous consternation

He fears a great reduction in his fee. (Chorus)

Now a major effort are St James's weddings
With choir and anthems, hymns and voluntries
With great care the bride and bridesmaids should be treading
And don't process too quickly, if you please!
The music chosen by the bride and bridegroom
Can cause the organist great misery
From Wagner, Mendelssohn to Handel's Largo
The choice has great pre-dict-a-bil-i-ty. (Chorus)

And of course we have the weekly Thursday practice
Or conversations interspersed with song
So the poor choirmaster's very final act is
To ask himself "What am I doing wrong?
The prospect of a dozen strong sopranos
Each singing in their own appointed key
Can often cause in very sturdy Fellows
An awful fit of trembling at the knee! (Chorus)

There are many more concerns that we could mention
Like preachers changing hymns in nick of time
And the long established clergyman's convention
To talk above the organ's merry chime.
And yet the compensations are enormous
The playing and conducting are great fun
Ah take one consideration with another
The choirmasters lot is
Mike/David: Not too bad really!

Mike Hay

Care Van Soup (Baxter's Soup Inc.)

Anne Baxter, supported by Colin and, occasionally, one or two friends, has been producing soup for the Care Van for a total of twelve years. Even being a mere male, I was aware that this was quite a big job. When Anne telephoned me, asking me to sit down first, I guessed that she had decided that it was time to retire. As the conversation

continued with details of how much soup we were going to require (yes, I knew it was four flasks), those four flasks expanded to four...teen pints! I appreciated why I was seated!

The scale of her contribution is, as follows:

Twelve years X 12 months X 14 pints = 2000 pints or 252 gallons of client fuel.

The total amount will be in excess of this figure as, in earlier years, five flasks were used.

Throughout the years the St James', St Mungo's and St Andrew's team members have been grateful to Anne for this continuous flow of sustenance for the clients and, of course, the clients themselves have continually given their approval to Baxter's soup by returning for second helpings.

Thank you Anne and Colin, from your colleagues on the Care Van team, and also from all the church members for helping in Christian outreach to homeless men and women.

A garden centre gift token to mark Anne's retirement is on its way to her.

Bernard Hunter – Team Coordinator.

Farewell to Thomas!

We say a sad farewell to Thomas Joyner who returned to the States last month, after a two-month (mainly rainy!) internship at St James. We'll miss you, Thomas – you go with our very best wishes for your future ministry. Haste ye back!



Mission News

Contributed by Frances McLean

Update on Mozambique

As we grumble about our cold, wet summer and global warming, spare some thought and prayers for the countries where global warming is

producing much more violent and destructive conditions. Take Mozambique, a country, which suffered 16 years of civil war followed by severe drought and then that disastrous flooding. The people were only just recovering, rebuilding their homes, churches and schools. and now, once again, disasters have struck. Flooding, drought and cyclones have all hit Mozambique this year, claiming dozens of lives, destroying crops, causing widespread hunger and leaving thousands of families homeless. More than half of the country's 19.4 million, are living on, or less than 50p a day.

The two Anglican dioceses, Lebombo and Niassa have responded, along with U..S.P.G , by providing temporary homes, food, blankets, mosquito nets, soap and water containers.. Bishop Dinis Sengolani of Lebombo, said “ If the Lord had not been on our side we would have been in more devastating trouble.”

There is good news. All denominations of the churches are growing, including the Anglican Church. New church leaders are being trained and a two year discipleship course is proving extremely popular in Niassa Diocese.

Other Anglican schemes include a ‘Swords into Ploughshares’ programme that provides communities with agricultural equipment in exchange for explosives and weaponry left over from the civil war that raged in the country for 16 years until 1992, claiming 8 million lives. The weapons and bombs still remain cached in villages.

So remember to pray for the people of Mozambique as they recover from the natural disasters.

For the Anglican Church and the two bishops – Bp. Dinis and Bp. Mark van Koevering.

Remember the children and the work carried out by the churches, and schools, and for the health care programmes aimed at children..

For the women and for their pastoral work among the sick and poor, and especially for the work of the Mother's Union.

May God. Our Creator, be known and worshipped by all,

May Jesus be recognised in all we do and say.

May God's Holy Spirit be seen in our churches and in us, and

May we reflect God's compassion, God's light and God's joy in Mozambique. (*USPG Prayer Diary*)

TEARCRAFT Sale and Coffee Morning

We propose to hold our annual Tearcraft Coffee Morning on **Saturday 3rd November.**

As well as Tearcraft goods there will be a home bake stall, plants, courtesy of Neville, and Traidcraft goods, so you can stock up on your food items as well as Christmas presents and cards.

Last year our orders to Tearcraft were over £1000.00. Let's see if we can better that, this year and ensure that we keep the craft workers in employment!

Catalogues will appear in church soon as will Advent calendars and candles, which will be on sale before Saturday 3rd!

Please come and bring your friends

Val McGavin and the Mauricewood House Group.

Thanks!.....

We would like to thank everyone who helped us in any way during John's recent problems; thank you for your prayers, good wishes, lifts to hospital etc. - the love and kindness shown to us is a great support to us both.

While John's external wound - all 12" of it - is currently healing remarkably well, he has been warned that the working of his internal system will take much longer to recover - and much patience is needed - by both of us!

Joy and John Ford

(Best wishes for continued recovery – Ed)

We would like to express our grateful thanks to all who sent cards and expressed good wishes on the occasion of our engagement. Wedding date to be announced. Watch this space!

Marion and Geoff

New Arrival - congratulations!

Esther Grace Kallow arrived on 23rd July 2007 to the delight of Helen, Jonathan and Joseph. Richard and Georgina are enchanted with their second grandchild.

(Now you know why Mary had a cheesy grin in the church Nativity!)

Georgina

Mad Scientist's Corner

What is happening to God's Creation? *(contributed by Tony Bramley)*

I was recently at a conference of 'Christians in Science' with 300-400 scientists, all of whom were Christians, from all over the globe, who had gathered to discuss the connections between science and religion. For three days we worshipped, sang, prayed, studied, shared and discussed together.

Speaker after speaker talked of the crisis that is apparent in the natural world.

The first lecturer to speak was Prof Sir David Houghton, one of the founders and for over 20 years the director of the International Panel on Climate Change. He told us that there was now overwhelming scientific evidence that the dramatic rise in temperature that we have experienced in our lifetimes (he suggested that we stopped calling it 'Global warming' because 'warming' sounds quite pleasant and comfortable, and instead begin to call it 'Global Overheating!') – is the result of human activity, and that the changes caused by rising levels of greenhouse gases will bring flooding, hunger and deprivation on a truly massive scale, largely to those billions who are already the poorest of the poor. He told us that these changes are accelerating, and will inevitably get much worse before they get better (if they ever do!).

He was followed by another speaker, Professor Sir Ghillean Prance, for many years director of Kew Gardens and an eminent botanist, who told us about the enormous loss of biodiversity in plant and animal life that is occurring, largely as a result of loss of their habitat, often a consequence of human activity. He told us that, since the end of WWII, species are becoming extinct at 1000 times the background extinction rate that the earth has experienced over the past 100,000 years! Many species are being lost before they can even be catalogued, let alone

studied, with potential losses to humankind of the unique medical and economic benefits that these species may have. Once species are lost, they are gone forever. He – and many others - spoke of the wonder and diversity of God's Creation, and of our duty to protect and care for it.

Other speakers talked of profound ethical changes that are taking place in our society, often without any public consultation; of what being a human being '*made in the image of God*' would mean if modern genetics and pharmacology (as their '*Brave New World*' hype implies) will soon be able to abolish 'suffering' and 'pain' with a 'simple pill' to treat 'diseases' like depression, anxiety, low libido, etc; and we were told how science is being abused by big business to line the pockets of the rich rather than feed the poor.

But it wasn't all '*doom-and-gloom*' at the '*Christians in Science*' conference. There were also some fascinating talks about the lost wisdom of ancient civilisations. These people were able to farm successfully and productively in areas of the world in which we (with our so-called advanced farming methods, our new plant strains and our wonder fertilisers) can grow nothing, raising the hope that perhaps we can re-discover their low-cost, eco-friendly, but highly effective farming methods, so that we can bring back into production land that is presently unusable.

Others spoke of new developments in agriculture and engineering that were directly benefiting the poor; of the development of new bio-fuels; of appropriate technologies that are helping to feed the hungry and alleviate suffering. One scientist told us how he was developing grasses that would reduce flatulence in cattle and cut down the methane gas that they produce that contributes to Global Overheating!

It was a very interesting and challenging three days! If anyone would like to know more, please don't hesitate to speak to me. And if people are interested in getting together to discuss, personally and corporately, how we can respond to these challenges and begin to act, I should be delighted to hear from you!

September 2007 Rota

	2-Sep-2007	9-Sep-2007	16-Sep-2007	23-Sep-2007	30-Sep-2007
	Trinity 13	Trinity 14	Trinity 15	Trinity 16	Trinity 17
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Angela Sibley/ Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/ Margaret Coull	Maclennans	Andy Longmore/
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Barretts	Sibleys	Hindles	-----
1st Reading	Jeremiah 2:4-13 <i>or</i> Sirach 10:12-18	Jeremiah 18:1-11 <i>or</i> Deuteronomy 30:15-20	Jeremiah 4:11-12, 22-28 <i>or</i> Exodus 32:7-14	Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 <i>or</i> Amos 8:4-7	Jeremiah 32:1-3a, 6-15 <i>or</i> Amos 6:1a, 4-7
	Young Church	Jo Bullough	Brigitte Fuge	Jean Hindle	Mike Hay
2nd Reading	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16	Philemon 1-21	I Timothy 1:12-17	I Timothy 2:1-7	I Timothy 6:6-19
	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark	Ian Fuge	Val McGavin	Ian Maclennan
Gospel	Luke 14:1, 7-14	Luke 14:25-33	Luke 15:1-10	Luke 16:1-13	-----
Prayers	Young Church	Val McGavin	Val McGavin	Geoff Mather	-----
Pray for	Mothers Union	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	Young Church	-----
Server	Val Charlotte	Val/ Sara	Val/ Steven	Angela/Alice	-----
Coffee	Frantoms	Mona Bennett/ Margaret	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Hays/ G Smith	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black
Flowers	Ros Hay				
Cleaning	Marion Hunter/ Margaret Vesco	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom	Helen Topple/ Ruth Frantom	C & M Leavys	C & M Leavys
Welcomers	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas
Care Van			*		
Pentland House					*

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

October 2007 Rota

	7-Oct-07	14-Oct-07	21-Oct-07	28-Oct-07
	Trinity 18	Trinity 19	Trinity 20	Trinity 21
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Alan Sibley/Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/Joy Ford
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Clerks
1st Reading	<i>Lamentations 1:1-6 or Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4</i>	<i>Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 or 2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c</i>	<i>Jeremiah 31:27-34 or Genesis 32:22-31</i>	<i>Joel 2:23-32 or Sirach: 35 12-17 or Jeremiah 14:7-10, 19-22</i>
	Young Church	Geoff Mather	Jean Hindle	Marion McCluskey
2nd Reading	<i>II Timothy 1:1-14</i>	<i>II Timothy 2:8-15</i>	<i>II Timothy 3:14-4:5</i>	<i>II Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18</i>
	Young Church	Gill Amos	Val McGavin	Ian MacLennan
Gospel	<i>Luke 17:5-10</i>	<i>Luke 17:11-19</i>	<i>Luke 18:1-8</i>	<i>Luke 18:9-14</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore
Pray for	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group
Server	AS/Emma	Val/Steven	AS/Alice	Val/Charlotte
Coffee	Isobel Stenhouse/Jean Wright	Gillian Little/Marion McCluskey	Elizabeth Clark/Robert Claerk	Mrs Neish & family
Flowers	Kathryn Topham			
Cleaning	Sibleys	Sibleys	Moira Rendall/Jennifer Edge	Moira Rendall/Jennifer Edge
Welcomers	Mae Mann/Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/Robert Clerk	McGarvas
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

November 2007 Rota

	4-Nov-07	11-Nov-07	18-Nov-07	25-Nov-07
	Trinity 22	Remembrance	6th before Christmas	Sunday before Advent
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	***	Mike	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	MacLennans	Margaret Coull/ Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore/ Isobel Stenhouse
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Fords	Leavys	Barretts
1st Reading	<i>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 or Isaiah 1:10-18</i>	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 or Job 19:23-27a	<i>Isaiah 65:17-25 or Malachi 4:1-2a</i>	Jeremiah 23:1-6
	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Joyce Black
2nd Reading	<i>II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12</i>	<i>II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17</i>	<i>II Thessalonians 3:6-13</i>	Colossians 1:11-20
	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Margaret Coull
Gospel	<i>Luke 19:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 20:27-38</i>	<i>Luke 21:5-19</i>	<i>Luke 23:33-43</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark	Ruth Green
Pray for	Fabric Team	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group
Server	AS/Sara	Val/Emma	AS/Steven	Val/ Alice
Coffee	Frantoms	Mona Bennett/ Margaret MacLennan	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Hays/ Graham Smith
Flowers	Gill Amos & Marion McCluskey			
Cleaning	Clerks	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas
Care Van			*	
Pentland House		*		

Letter to the Editor

As a very close friend of Elinor and Geoff Tavner, (Elinor was Theresa's Godmother) I must put right the details which Jean and Frank kindly contributed to Outreach Issue 136. The photo of "the lane" must have been taken by Elinor's brother as her son John was not born in 1939. Elinor's father was John Dick, a former Provost of Penicuik, after whom Dick Terrace was named and in whose honour the railings round St Mungo's church were erected. He was a grocer with a shop in Roslin and also one in the High Street during the war. It later became Liptons. He was also licensee of the Carnethy Inn for many years and the whole family was very well known in the area.

Elinor inherited "Dellburn" when her parents died and lived there until she moved to Downham Market in Norfolk after Geoff retired to be close to his old school friend, who was a non-stipendiary priest, and also to live mid-way between her sons, Stewart in Somerset and John in Suffolk. Unfortunately their friend was made to retire at 70 and move from the town as he was a priest; they moved to Salisbury where he became a very useful member of a team in one of the churches there!! (Please note that if Neville is made to retire next year we are NOT moving!!).

Geoff was a sub-editor at the Scotsman so worked evenings and Elinor was a regular babysitter along with Vi Hamilton, while Karen and Theresa grew up. Sadly Elinor had a major stroke in 1997-98 and Karen took myself and granddaughter Rachel down to visit her; she got home for a few months, but because Geoff had terrible rheumatoid arthritis they both had to go into a home. When she died her body was returned to St James for Neville to conduct her funeral service and burial alongside her parents and brother at Kirkhill. Geoff died just a few weeks later and was cremated in Norfolk, his ashes were brought to Penicuik by their sons to be interred in the family grave.

Elinor wrote a booklet about St James the Less and contributed several articles to *Outreach*. She was responsible for the church being made a listed building, which meant we had to have the hall with the roof and

walls to match the church: more expensive but so much nicer, everyone must agree.

Lastly, the gates across the drive mentioned in *Outreach* were put up by Rev Gordon Steven to stop vehicles using the car park to turn. They were not there for very many years, and the Old Rectory was sold in the late fifties as being unsound due to damp etc., while the Croft Street Hall was refurbished in 1965 by Neville and a large band of men from the congregation, to be sold off to pay for building the new hall just over 30 years ago.

Tilly Suttle

Forthcoming Concert

- Put this in your diary:

Music for Four Hands

An evening of piano music from Graham McDonald and Rachel Topham: a selection of duets, solo pieces, and music for two pianos

This takes place on the evening of Friday 14 September in Penicuik Arts Centre, West St. Penicuik. Further details to follow: watch the Gallery Cafe/St. James notice board or <http://www.penicuikarts.org.uk/events.htm>

Mothers' Union News

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

National: Three members from Edinburgh Diocese, Margaret Gibbs, Hazel Davies and Joyce Black, attended the Annual Meeting of the Mothers' Union, which was held in June at a packed Liverpool Cathedral.

Diocese: Wed 10 Oct - Diocesan Council at Christ Church Centre, Morningside

The Spring edition of 'The Edge' contained news of Synod and included a picture of Sue Crosfield with Bishop Brian, who was wearing a MU Tunic given to him on his visit to Nigeria. Sue had spoken to Synod about the work of the MU.

Branch:

The proposed outing has been postponed until September - more details later.

Wed 26 Sept 12.00 noon - Opening Communion service in church conducted by Frances. It will include the commissioning of Margaret Coull as the new Branch Leader and will be followed by lunch in the church hall.

Wed 24 Oct 2.30 pm Topic to be announced.

Jean Hindle writes: "I've just received the bulletin from Canon Dennis Urquhart, the Maori Chaplin, to whom I post a copy of 'Outreach'.

He writes that 'Eliza Larkins celebrated her 85th birthday and Naki Popata her 76th, on August 2nd with a champagne breakfast at Ahipara'. Eliza attended the Worldwide Council of MU at Swanwick in 1988 and was in the group of 18 Maoris hosted by St James afterwards.

Those of us who remember Eliza would like to wish her a belated very happy birthday. "



CWF News

Tue 24 Sept 7.45 pm Opening Communion Service in Church

Tue 15 Oct 8.00 pm Meeting at 64 Deanburn



The Meaning of Life

Contributed by Angela Sibley

Creation

On the first day, God created the dog and said: "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."



The dog said: "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?" So God agreed.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said: "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said: "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?" And God agreed.

On the third day, God created the cow and said: "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said: "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?" And God agreed again.

On the fourth day, God created man and said: "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But man said: "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?" "Okay," said God, "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you...

Congratulations!

News of ~~two~~ three(!) recent engagements: congratulations to Marion and Geoff, and to Caroline and Tom. We wish both couples every happiness – wedding news later! *Stop Press: ..and to Rob and Caireen!*



Preparing for Diocesan Synod October 2007

Last year at the General Synod (the whole of the Scottish Episcopal Church) a motion was put by the Diocese of Edinburgh under Rule 10 of the Synod's Rules of Order (and has since been referred to as 'the Rule 10 motion'). A direct result of the motion is that the Standing Committee and the College of Bishops have requested that a series of questions be considered regarding the future of the Scottish Episcopal Church. We are further requested these be discussed before the October Diocesan Synod and that any responses be made before 31st October 2007 .

Some of the 'housekeeping' questions were addressed at the previous March Diocesan Synod, but those still remaining are most demanding. I will be very grateful for any feedback from the congregation so that your views can be included in discussions due to take place at Area Council level before the Diocesan Synod on 25th October.

1. What do you consider to be the three main priorities on which the Church should focus at the current time?

- 2. Is the balance between Episcopal leadership and synodical authority, as currently perceived within the Scottish Episcopal Church, about right?**
- 3. At what level, or levels, within the Church should policy be determined in relation to mission and ministry?**
- 4. How is appropriate and effective diocesan representation on provincial bodies best enabled to happen?**
- 5. Should the principle of subsidiarity apply to the organisation of the Church's administration?**
- 6. Are there specific services which you consider are not adequately catered for in current structures? If so, what are they and at what level within the Church should they be provided?**
- 7. If you consider that the provision of new services is needed, how might these best be provided and are you, in principle, prepared to pay for the extra cost which they might involve?**
- 8. Are there services currently carried out at provincial level which could more effectively be handled at diocesan or congregational level? If so, what are they and where should they be handled in future?**
- 9. Are there services currently provided at provincial or diocesan level which are no longer needed? If so what are they?
(Question 10 to 16 were those already considered)**
- 17. Within our ecclesiological understanding, are the present seven dioceses the right groupings for the organisation of mission?**
- 18. Are there alternative models for the deployment and funding of Bishops and, if so, what are they?**
- 19. Is there a case for a review of diocesan boundaries?**

I had hoped to get a discussion going at vestry and then in the congregation but summer absences intervened and meetings were cancelled. I am therefore hoping that some of the congregation will have thoughts on, even one or so of, the questions posed by the Standing Committee. These thoughts and ideas could then form part of discussions at Area Council before these questions are considered at Diocesan Synod.

All contributions welcome, either verbally or by e-mail (brigittebfuge@yahoo.co.uk) Thank you!

Brigitte Fuge (Lay Representative)

Impressions of Moscow (or 'from Russia with Shove')

At the request of your Editor, we have put together a few memories and reflections of our recent trip to Russia, an 11-day river cruise from Moscow to St Petersburg. Moscow is supposed to be the world's most expensive capital to visit but we hardly noticed it because we stayed on our small cruise boat on the Moscva river to the north of the city centre, commuting by bus for our sightseeing. The boat had been commissioned by the politburo in 1983 for the entertainment of celebrities. The communist regime did not do grandeur and the interior design was sombre and austere but this somehow heightened the splendours which we and are 88 fellow passengers were to see in Moscow and at our stops along the river Volga en route for St Petersburg. Every night there would be plenty to talk about over dinner and new acquaintances to be made with people from all over the UK.

Our first day took us on a hectic 8-hour tour of Moscow, stopping first outside the beautiful Novedivichy Convent where Tsars were inclined to send their wives when they tired of them or the wait for an heir! From the 'Sparrowhills' viewpoint we enjoyed a panoramic view of Moscow, and its seven towers, descending from its meagre heights to Red Square. We approached it via St. Basil's Cathedral, familiar from countless evening TV News Bulletins but infinitely more colourful and impressive on a sunny afternoon. It was one of the few churches outside the Kremlin to survive Stalin's purge, thanks largely to a leading Russian architect who threatened to slit his own throat on its steps if Stalin laid a finger on it!

Red Square ('Red' derives from a Russian word meaning 'beautiful') was also much more colourful than we had expected, absence of a military parade giving it a quite different perspective. The cobbles underfoot were not wheelchair friendly but when we entered Moscow's Kremlin (every Russian city or town of substance has its Kremlin or fortress) the wonders of its 'protectorate' made the traverse worthwhile. We simply did not expect to find five cathedrals inside the Kremlin, plus a church and a belltower, a stones-throw away from the State Palace

and centre of communist government. One challenge was to see how many golden domes you could see at once – we managed seven!

We soon got our first chance to see inside a Russian Orthodox Church and it was spell-binding. We use the word advisedly because the wall-to-wall, floor + ceiling and even pillar iconography were meant to overwhelm and subdue as well as inform the faithful. The 'unfaithful' soon tired of the repeated mythology disgorged by the guides, as they steered their party through the throng, and the attentive circle gradually shrunk but we stayed with them to the bitter end!

The Cathedral of Christ The Saviour was not spared by Stalin. Situated on the river bank next to a gargantuan statue of Peter The Great, holding a galleon aloft, it was blown to smithereens in 1933 and due to be replaced with the Palace of Soviets, topped with a massive statue of Lenin to make it higher than the Empire State Building. Construction halted during the 2nd World War and, after the war, enthusiasm and foundations both began to sink. The palace was never built and the Cathedral was reconstructed between 1995-7, using the same plans as those used when it was first built in the 19th Century to celebrate victory over Napoleon.

That evening, there was a chance to visit Moscow (and the Metro) by night but Tilly was exhausted by the day's excursions and stayed on board. With the one-time state superstore, GUM, silhouetted by white lights and running the length of Red Square, the 'Disneyland' effect created by St.Basil's and the Kremlin's Towers was spectacular.

We 'did' the Metro together next day - after all it doesn't really matter if its daylight when your 85 metres underground- and marvelled at the varied splendour of the stations, although the rolling stock was less impressive, showing its age. Above ground, we wandered into the Church of Our Saviour on Piski ('sand') up a side street and found a service in progress. It was an entirely different experience from the day before. The low ceilings added richness to the incantations of the priest and acolytes while mellowing the effect of the iconography. There are neither pews nor pulpits and the faithful come and go while the priest busies himself with the liturgy, often out of sight in a sanctuary more like a 'holy-of-holies'. We left when we felt ready, moved and uplifted.

We will tell you something about the cruise to St Petersburg another time, if the editor is still interested!

Tilly & Neville

Financial Matters

Loose ends

With the possible exception of Ned Sherrin on Radio 4 I doubt if many people like loose ends; certainly church treasurers have a particular dislike for unfinished business when trying to balance the books at the financial year end. Fortunately this is not a recurring problem at St James; indeed the only likely contender this year would seem to be the Kitchen Appeal which is still £520 short of its target. So if you haven't yet contributed and intend to do so could you please make your donation, using the designated 'Kitchen Appeal' white envelopes, which can be found at the back of the church, before the end of September.

Collections (£)

	June	July
Cash	152	179
Gift aid Cash	11	19
Envelopes	759	859
Direct Giving	<u>1298</u>	<u>1298</u>
Total	2220	2355

Graham Smith

Congratulations

...to Dr Steven Longmore who has just been awarded his PhD at the University of New South Wales. Amazing what all the time spent singing in the choir can do!

...and to Ralph and Jean's grand-daughter Sharon, who graduated a 2:1 in Zoology from Edinburgh University at the McEwan Hall on 25 June. Sharon is taking a 1 year course at Glasgow University to gain her Masters before going on to do a PhD.

... and to all others who have received good exam results – well done!

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:

Betty and Arthur White, John and Joy Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Mae Mann, Sarah (aged 8 with Crohn's disease), Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman, Eleanor Jack and Margaret Paton. Please pray for Mike Hay's uncle, James Hay and his family following the death of Marguerite, and for the family and friends of Hayley in their grief. Also for the family of Madeline McCann praying that she might speedily be reunited with them.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel and for the people of Gaza. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters and from famine and drought. Pray for the release of all who are enslaved, for those held captive unfairly or illegally and for the work of Amnesty International. Pray for those suffering under corrupt and uncaring political regimes, remembering especially the people of Zimbabwe.

Pray for the peoples of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war remembering especially Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks.

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

Events coming soon...

Fri 14 Sep	Concert : Rachel Topham and Graham McDonald
Wed 10 Oct	MU Diocesan Council
Sat 3 Nov	TearCraft Sale
Fri 23 – Sun 25 Nov	St James Weekend at Cumbrae

"Outreach" on the 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.

More pictures of a happy time, courtesy of Jean!



The next edition of "Outreach" will be published on Sunday 4 November. Information about events, and contributions should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, caplaw@hotmail.co.uk, by Wednesday 24 October at the latest. If sending by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk

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A proud grandparent...



....and proud grandparents....



He gets everywhere! 15th Century painting
in Walpurgiskirche, Alsfeld, Hesse, Germany (*thanks to Ian Fuge*)



...and what's the collective noun for clergy?

