

OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



As it was.....!

Issue No 146 October 2008



Arthur and Betty White - 50 years married!



...and a “flashback”...

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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



Rector's Letter

How do you put your groceries on the conveyor in the shops? Do you load everything on in whichever order the items happen to be sitting in the trolley or do you put your vegetables together – your meat, dairy, cleaning supplies etc?

Or do you mind? Maybe you don't mind. You consider yourself a free spirit!

Or are you the sort of person who winces with pain when he sees things mixed up. What was that woman thinking? Who would put bleach next to eggs? Have you ever entertained the thought that if only the person ahead of you would turn his back for a moment you might reach forward and rearrange his shopping for him? This would really embarrass your children who are already starting to shake their heads sadly.

I'm not that bad. I fear I'm getting worse, though. We don't necessarily get wiser when we grow older – we do become more rigid in our habits and in our opinions. Some of us anyway – I'm told there are others who lose their inhibitions completely. Maybe that's still to come and my children will have yet further cause for scandal and embarrassment.

The need to order our lives: “a place for everything and everything in its place” my father would drone at me when I left his tools out. I now have a sufficient number of books in my library – I think they breed in there at night - that I'd be lost if I didn't have them grouped according to subject. Then there are dishes for ordinary use and dishes for posh dinner parties – bits of family china where it wouldn't do to risk chipping them by putting them in the same cupboard as the everyday stuff. We are

classifiers – good Aristotelians – we arrange things in categories and we put things in little envelopes because it's convenient that way, because it's safer that way – because it's easier to remember. Because it reduces risk.

I lived in a small town north of Montreal where the old folks had everybody pretty well pigeonholed. One large family – the Robinsons – were Anglicans (after a fashion). Another large family – the Alexanders – were members of the United Church. Between them they grudgingly passed back and forth the control of the local Legion and the school committee. You could drive down the High Street with an old Robinson or an old Alexander and they could tell you the family histories of most of the residents. “These ones drink. That one – she’s a bit wild. This one’s just like his grandfather – the whole family’s the same really”. As a new priest in such a community you’d be a fool to neglect such an abundant source of information.

But you couldn’t help thinking, as you drove along with the old fellow that your source of information – your road map – your Rosetta Stone – your Oracle - was not so much describing the town so that you could understand it as he was desperately trying to nail it in place so that he could continue to control it. What do you think?

Luke puts it this way: “Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

We are not all committed to change. Remember that. Tell someone you’ve been married to for years that you’re turning over a new leaf – see how much they believe you. Tell the bank manager that the person described in your credit rating doesn’t correspond to who you’ve decided to become or to who you really are. See if you get a loan. For that matter, tell yourself that you, who have endlessly failed at a particular task for the last decade, are going to change your life radically – see if you believe yourself. Why? Why these prejudices? Why this inclination to believe that we are who we are and will never change? Or as it is more usually put: that one is who he is and will never change.

There's something safe about the well ordered life. You don't lend money to somebody who's proven himself a bad credit risk. You don't lend your car to somebody who drinks to excess. You don't let your daughter date one of those Adamson boys. You don't lend your tools to a Robinson. And if an Alexander tells you he's got a cunning plan you can bet your boots it's just a power ploy to take over the School committee from the Anglicans.

Safety and efficiency. Take it as given that people will behave a certain way and you can organise your world in neat little packages. If you hope more than you should you'll only have yourself to blame when people disappoint you.

In response to the prejudice of the scribes and the Pharisees, Jesus tells them this parable: "Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it?" The parable was remembered, and gave rise to one of the earliest motifs in Christian art – a representation which you can find rendered in mosaic on the floor in the house of a wealthy Christian or scratched onto the wall of a house church by a bored slave with a nail – that of a shepherd with a lamb across his shoulders – Christ who seeks out the lost and brings them back to the centre of the sheep fold.

But like I said: We are not all committed to change. The local councillor, the head teacher, the village worthy, members of the vestry, the priest or minister who has been in place for many years – we walk around with two very different pictures in our head. On the one hand we have a map of the world which we have drawn painstakingly. We know the children who act up, we know the troubled families, we are aware of neighbourhoods where there has been trouble. We know the people to avoid – those who've made the lives of our predecessors miserable – those who have been on the receiving end of much good effort and ministry but from whom the return has been feeble or non-existent. Those who said they would but then didn't. Those who have not kept a confidence. The information which makes up our little map comes to us from experience. We would be foolish to say that none of these things had, in fact, happened.

On the other hand, though, we have a Gospel which does not sit easily with the belief that people are nailed in place. Churches tend to be conservative in their appraisal of society. The Gospel is not. Churches tend to expect the same thing one Sunday after another and assume the presence of the same people one Sunday after another. The Gospels do not. Jesus seems perfectly prepared to disappoint worthy Robinsons and Alexanders and instead to bestow his blessing upon drunken Smiths and carnal Adamsons. Change and possibility are the currency of the Gospel account of Jesus' ministry.

Our role as 'knowing old Goats' who have got the goods on who's who in our towns and churches may be a negation of our role as partners in the Gospel – the Good News of God's Kingdom in the world. At the centre of this ministry is the personality of God – his very presence in the person of Jesus – extending the hand of welcome to those who have fallen off, wandered away, disappointed their pastors, made a spectacle of themselves, isolated and alienated their friends and family and burned their bridges. Jesus says that he would welcome such as these – that he will go out of his way to bring them in – to find where they're hiding. To lift them up across his shoulders and bring them home. To restore their place at table.

Jesus risks the invite. The tax collectors and the sinners risk showing up and passing under the knowing gaze of Pharisee and scribe – the final question is not asked of them, nor even of the Pharisees and scribes present at the time - but of us – of men and women who are in Church this morning in Penicuik or West Linton or who are listening on their radios. Will we be partners in the Gospel or is the insult to our sense of order and propriety simply too great?

Rob Warren

Penicuik for Africa (PfA)

The visit to Chitambo (Part 1)

The Chitambo Centenary delegation (6 Scots and one New Zealander) arrived in Zambia's capital, Lusaka, on Saturday 16th August to attend the Chitambo Hospital Centenary celebrations (23rd August) and present the Toyota Landcruiser ambulance. The group spent the weekend orientating in Lusaka and meet Mr Levi Cifwaila, Nurse-in-Charge at Chitambo Hospital. Levi is currently studying for his Masters in Public Health, at Lusaka University. An added bonus was an invitation

from Dr Chileshe to dinner. He is a retired economist with the United Nations and used to teach at Mabonde School, Chitambo. Some of our party went to the Ministry of Health offices and arranged to meet Dr. Chikwenye (Deputy Planning Officer) to discuss the transfer of ownership of the Chitambo ambulance from Kasanka National Park to MOH ownership.

We also discussed matters relating to the Scottish Government block grant funding for Zambia and our Consortium Group bid. Following our meeting we set off for Kasanka. En route, we first saw newspaper accounts of the deterioration of President Mwanawasa's health and then were informed by petrol pump attendants that 'our President has died.' We knew then that this would have serious implications for the Chitambo celebrations.

I telephoned Dr Mufune (District Director of Health), on the Kasanka satellite 'phone, to clarify the position regarding the centenary celebrations and to explain our fuel predicament (we did not have enough to reach Serenje and back). He confirmed that there would be a 7-day mourning period necessitating postponement of the celebrations and offered to meet us at Kasanka. Kim Farmer, who lives at Kasanka and had collected our ambulance for us, had an appointment with Chief Chitambo and arranged for some of us to meet the Chief. Chiefs wield a lot of power in Zambia; addressed as 'Your Royal Highness', they have authority over how villages are managed, how land is allocated and can also influence cultural behaviour through promoting e.g. health and educational messages etc. One has to know how to greet a Chief, kneeling and clapping three times and awaiting his response. If the Chief is satisfied with your performance he (or she... there are a number of Chieftainesses in Zambia) may invite you for deeper discussions.

We must have passed the test since Chief Chitambo not only invited us into his study to discuss our 'mission' but also accompanied us to the Livingstone Monument, which is in his chieftaincy. The Chief expressed such delight in the gift of the ambulance and also in the idea of an ongoing link with the re-opened Chitambo Hospital midwifery school. One gets the strong sense that bush telephone travels fast in these parts!

On return to Kasanka we found Dr Mufune at the camp gates with Mr Sinyangwe (District Commissioner), Mr Godfrey Cham (Planning and Development Manager) and Mr Matonka (Immigrations Officer). This was an historic meeting with our main Chitambo contacts but they had a solemn message to deliver: the official mourning period had been extended to 21 days and the Chitambo Centenary Celebrations were, therefore, postponed indefinitely. Our wonderful plan was in tatters but we were philosophical. We would be missing a party but were meeting all the important players, making the right connections for potential ongoing links and we would visit Chitambo.
(extracts from a fuller report from Jo Vallis)

An Africa Evening

Provisional plans are afoot to hold a special event in One World Week on Wednesday October 22nd in our church hall at 7.30pm when the focus will be on our achievements for Africa so far and our plans for the future. We have a CD to show of work at the Umtata Dump, which we sponsor, and some brilliant piccies from Chitambo, taken by Jo's son Paul to drool over (setting sun behind lonely tree etc, etc.!). Unmissable and you can't get the story from your iPod - be there!

Neville

Thanks!

A big 'thank you' to all who helped at the "Doors Open Day" on 13 September. Organists - yes they were really playing! also MU and other stalls, including the children's one with the origami which everyone tried, and all who helped with the cleaning and talking to our 17 or so visitors - great success all round.

On the front cover is one of the photos unearthed from the archives arranged by Margaret Coull. Next year we're possibly going to link up with 'Homecoming Scotland'

Nigel Johnston

Parish mags strike again

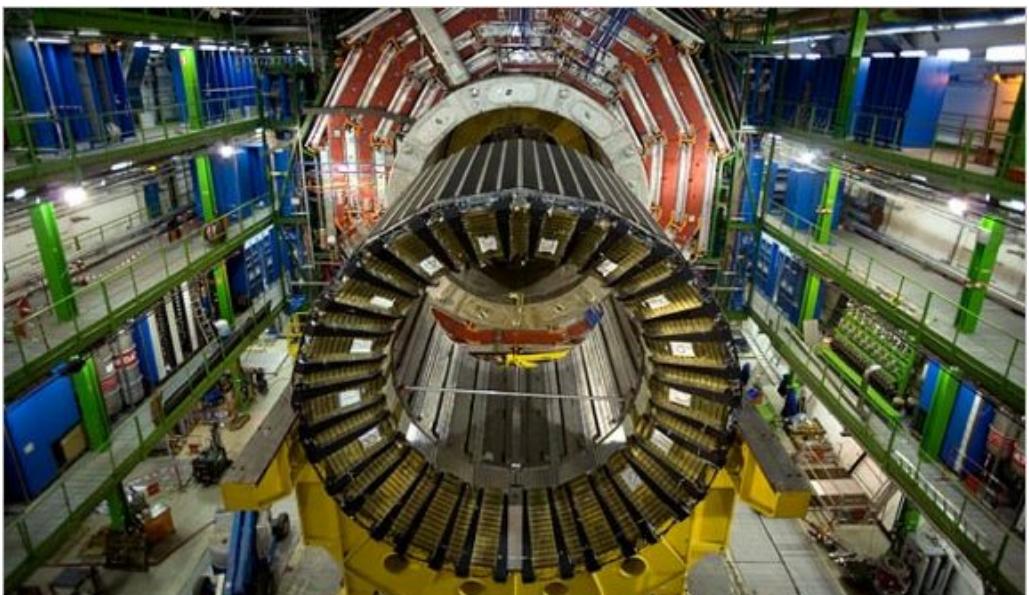
- ❖ Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM.
Please use the back door.

- ❖ The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
- ❖ Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Mad Scientist Corner

I was warned several months ago that my turn would come round to be identified as the mad scientist (not really a new experience), but I'd never decided what to write about. I originally had in mind something with a title such as 'Being an astronomer and a Christian: conflict or conciliation? Another possibility was a follow up to Neville's Outreach article concerning Richard Dawkins' book 'The God Delusion', which mentioned something called the 'God particle'. A prompt from your science-aware editorial team that an enormous new facility called the LHC (Large Hadron Collider – explained later below) has been making

t h e n e w s
helped me to
decide. One of
the key reasons
for building the
L H C is to
search for the
Higgs boson,
the scientists'
term for the
e l e m e n t a r y
particle coined
the God particle
by the media.



So what is so important about the Higgs boson that leads to its media-hyped nickname and enables physicists to persuade sceptical politicians to fund the LHC to the tune of billions of Euros? At its simplest, because detecting such a particle, with the properties predicted mathematically by theoreticians, would provide the evidence for the existence of the Higgs field. None the wiser? Well, despite having immensely detailed mathematical models giving insight into the physics of light and matter, we cannot demonstrate that we know why

particles have mass. In July 1964 Peter Higgs, a scientist at the University of Edinburgh, postulated the existence of a ‘field’ existing through all space that affected different particles moving through it by different amounts. Particles strongly affected by the field would appear to us to have high mass. Particles affected little would skim through it as if skating on a field of ice, thereby exhibiting very low masses. One of the predictions made if this theory is correct is the existence of a very massive, as yet unseen particle – yes, the Higgs boson. For those interested and with internet connections, another way of thinking of the Higgs field is described beautifully at

http://www.atlas.ch/etours_physics/etours_physics10.html

The LHC is a giant ‘particle accelerator’ in which charged particles are made to travel at a speed only one millionth of a percent lower than the speed of light. They go round in a 27km long circular tunnel spanning the border between Switzerland and France, but about 100 metres underground. Two separate particle ‘beams’ travel independently in opposite directions, but can be made to collide with each other at certain points in the circuit, hopefully with spectacular results. The charged particles used will be protons, which along with electrons and (usually) neutrons comprise the atoms from which you, I and all your favourite belongings are made. The first collisions between these two beams were scheduled to take place around the time of this Outreach publication, but a technical problem has delayed the event by several weeks. For more see <http://lhc.web.cern.ch/lhc/>

To run the accelerator and all its experiments uses 120 Megawatts of power (enough to keep alight a million very bright light bulbs of the old, energy inefficient variety). At peak performance nearly a billion collisions per second will take place, creating an uncountable number of debris particles from the wrecked protons. Physicists (and their students!) will have to trawl through the records of these myriad events looking for signs of ultra-rare collision outcomes that may happen only once in a few hours or days. If the current most popular physics model is correct, the lucky winner-takes-all scientist may spot the signature of a Higgs boson created during a collision. But there are no guarantees. Even the LHC may not give the protons enough energy to create a Higgs boson - theory is still a bit hazy on how massive (or energetic) it may be. Alternatively the theory may just be wrong.

Why would I want to write about this for Outreach? Mostly, because I'm highly annoyed at the God particle nickname! It carries an implication, deliberately fostered by some people, that once this particle is discovered we've got the key to all physics. God is apparently pushed further back into the small remaining cracks in our understanding of everything. Rubbish (in my humble opinion....). If you think this article is getting rather long for Outreach, you wouldn't want to start on one that even begins to list what is not known or understood.

The following sequence of discoveries is the simplest I can think of to illustrate that far from being near to finding a theory of everything, the more we discover the more wonderful it all seems and the more questions we can think of to ask. At the start of my career as an astronomer, scientists thought that the Universe was comprised entirely of the stuff of which we are made, plus light in all its forms from gamma rays to radio waves. Then came evidence for dark matter (stuff we couldn't see but could detect by its gravitational pull). There seemed to be several times more of this stuff than our stuff. In the last ten years even that has been put in its place by the discovery of so-called dark energy. Using Einstein's theory that showed there is an equivalence between mass and energy, there is three times more dark energy 'stuff' than normal matter and dark matter combined. Our stuff, all the planets, stars and galaxies we see, is relegated to being only about 4% of what we now suspect exists. We don't really know what is dark matter stuff (although the LHC may help to discover more about it) and we have no idea about the nature of dark energy stuff.

If I now start mentioning concepts such as super-symmetry, hidden 'rolled up' dimensions, string theory, multiple parallel Universes....., each progressing further along the track from as yet unproven theory to unprovable conjecture, it would seem time to move on to the next article. Before you do you might like to ponder, not on how much we do and don't know, but on why any of this is comprehensible to us at all. That it is comprehensible does not prove the existence of a Creator but to me it seems fully consistent with one who has a relationship to humanity. Finding the reality of that relationship and discovering its nature is love involves a path of discovery and revelation that is open to everyone, not just the scientist. Thank God for that.

Tearcraft

Our annual Tearcraft Sale and Coffee Morning will be held this year on 8th November.

As well as Tearcraft goods there will be the usual stalls of baking and plants, if Neville can find a "stand in" as he will be in New Zealand!

Please come along and bring your friends and enjoy the fellowship as we meet together and raise funds for a very worthy cause.

Donations of baking will be most welcome.

I am assured that we won't clash with St Mungo's W.L. Coffee Morning as it is on 1st November so you can attend both this year!

Val McGavin and the Mauricewood House Group

Vestry News - Fair Trade

We are now officially a Fair Trade church, having signed up to the Fairtrade Foundation. This means that we will use only Fairtrade tea and coffee at all the functions that the church itself organises, and that we will work towards using other Fairtrade products such as sugar, biscuits and fruit. We are also to promote Fairtrade Fortnight, though Neville is already doing an excellent job with our Sunday morning stall. The Diocese will also be happy, as 31 out of 56 of the churches now have FT status, well over the 50% required to be a FT Diocese.

Ruth Green

Outreach on the Web!

The current edition of the magazine, and previous editions, can be viewed on the church website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk/>. Just click on the appropriate link near the top of the page.

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper will be held in the Church Hall on Saturday 11 October at 7.30pm. Stovies (*hmm, the spellcheck didn't like that!*), will be the staple fare - if you're not a fan of stovies, please offer to contribute something else! Please come and bring a friend!

October 2008 Rota

	5-Oct-2008	12-Oct-2008	19-Oct-2008	26-Oct-2008
	Trinity 20	Trinity 21	Trinity 22	Trinity 23
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Nigel Johnston/ Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Isobel Stenhouse/ Des Frantom
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	Hindles
1st Reading	<i>Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 or Isaiah 5:1-7</i>	<i>Exodus 32:1-14 or Isaiah 25:1-9</i>	<i>Exodus 33:12-23 or Isaiah 45:1-7</i>	<i>Deuteronomy 34:1-12 or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18</i>
	Young Church	Joyce Black	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green
2nd Reading	<i>Phillipians 3:4b-14</i>	<i>Phillipians 4:1-9</i>	<i>I Thessalonians 1:1-10</i>	<i>I Thessalonians 2:1-8</i>
	Young Church	Margaret Coull	Georgina Phillips	Jo Bullough
Gospel	<i>Matthew 21:33-46</i>	<i>Matthew 22:1-14</i>	<i>Matthew 22:15-22</i>	<i>Matthew 22:34-46</i>
Prayers	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore	Georgina Phillips
Pray for	Mothers Union	Pastoral Care Group	Vestry	Young Church
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Sara	Angela/Alice	Val/Steven
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Mona Bennett/ ??	Hays/ G Smith	McGarvas
Flowers	Kathryn Topham			
Cleaning	Marion Hunter/ Ruth Frantom	Marion Hunter/ Ruth Frantom	Sibleys	Sibleys
Welcomers	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	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)

November 2008 Rota

	2-Nov-2008	9-Nov-2008	16-Nov-2008	23-Nov-2008	30-Nov-2008
	Trinity 19	Trinity 20	Trinity 21	Trinity 22	Advent 1
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	***	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark/ Margaret Coull	Nigel Johnston/ Andy Longmore	McGarvas	Angela Sibley/ Des Frantom
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Sibleys	Dicksons	Johnstons	Clerks
1st Reading	<i>Joshua 3:7-17</i>	<i>Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-25 or Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16 & Amos 5:18-24</i>	<i>Judges 4:1-7 or Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18</i>	<i>Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24</i>	<i>Isaiah 64:1-9</i>
	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark	Ian Fuge	Jean Hindle	Geoff Mather
2nd Reading	<i>I Thessalonians 2:9-13</i>	<i>I Thessalonians 4:13-18</i>	<i>I Thessalonians 5:1-11</i>	<i>Ephesians 1:15-23</i>	<i>I Corinthians 1:3-9</i>
	Young Church	Brigitte Fuge	Mike Hay	Val McGavin	Gill Amos
Gospel	<i>Matthew 23:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 25:1-13</i>	<i>Matthew 25:14-30</i>	<i>Matthew 25:31-46</i>	Mark 13:24-37
Prayers	Young Church	Elizabeth Clark	Val McGavin	Ruth Green	Jean Hindle
Pray for	Youth Group	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group
Server	Angela/Sara	Val/Steven	Angela/Alice	Val/ Sara	Angela/Alice
Coffee	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse/ Jean Wright	Gillian Little/ Marion Mather	Elizabeth Clark/ Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & family
Flowers	Gill Amos				Advent
Cleaning	C & M Leavy	C & M Leavy	Jennifer Edge/ Moira Rendall	Jennifer Edge/ Moira Rendall	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Frantom
Welcomers	Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*		
Pentland House				*	

December 2008 Rota

	7-Dec-08	14-Dec-08	21-Dec-08	24-Dec-08	25-Dec-08	28-Dec-08
	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas 1
11.00 am organist	Jean	Jennifer	David	11.30pm: David	Mike	Mike
St Mungo's Organists	David	Jean	Mike	tba tba	tba	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	E Clark M Coull	N.Johnston A.Longmore	?McGarvas	? MacLennan	I.Stenhouse D.Frantom
Bread and wine	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	?Clerks	Children	Hindles
1st Reading	<i>Isaiah 40:1-11</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11</i>	<i>II Samuel 7:1-11, 16</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 61:10-62:3</i>
	Young Church	MarionMather	AndyLongmore	tba	tba	Alan Murray
2nd Reading	<i>II Peter 3:8-15a</i>	<i>I Thess. 5:16-24</i>	<i>Romans 16:25-27</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Galatians 4:4-7</i>
	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	tba	tba	Joyce Black
Gospel	<i>Mark 1:1-8</i>	<i>John 1:6-8, 19-28</i>	<i>Luke 1:26-38</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>Luke 2:22-40</i>
Prayers	Angela Sibley	Geoff Mather	Mike Hay	tba	tba	Andy Longmore
Pray for	Youth Group	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Womens Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group	Fabric Team
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Sara	Angela/Alice	Val	Angela	Val/Steven
Coffee	Frantoms	M.Bennett	Kathleen Cox Sue Crosfield	-----	-----	Hays Graham Smith
Flowers	Advent					A McGavin
	Mona Bennett Ruth Green	Clerks	Clerks			Gill Amos Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	Elizabeth Clark	C Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk			McGarvas
Care Van			*			
Pentland House						

Stewardship Envelopes:

I have received next year's envelopes, which come into use at the beginning of October. If you have stopped using these envelopes, please let me know, so that I can delete your name from the labels list before I print them. If you do not contribute to church funds on a regular basis, you may wish to consider this method of giving. It makes the Treasurer's work much easier to know that there is a regular income coming in.

For confidentiality, I do not know how much you are contributing, I only know the names and numbers. The Treasurer does not know the names of contributors - he only knows the numbers and contents of the envelopes.

Alternatively, you may wish to consider Direct Giving. In which case, contact Graham Smith for details.

Jean Hindle, Stewardship Secretary

World Day of Prayer Calendars £2:

These cover March 2009 to February 2010 - ie the World Day of Prayer year. Please let me know if you would like to order a calendar.

Jean Hindle

St Mary's Church, Wreay

This is a repeat trip to the church we tried to visit earlier, but found closed. However, it was worth the wait.

The original church in this small village near Carlisle was in a sad state when, in 1835, Sarah Losh began work on the memorial to her recently deceased sister.

The church is in the shape of a simple Roman basilica: a rectangular building with an apse. It is the wealth of symbolic, naturalistic carving which is the highlight of the decoration. Everything is a celebration of life triumphing over death: angels and dragons, chrysalis and butterfly. The arrow motif, symbol of death, is said to be in memory of a family friend who was killed in the Afghan War of 1842. The same friend is supposed to have sent her a pine cone before he died, and pine cones, the classic symbol of eternal life, predominate.

The font was mostly carved by Sarah, and is adorned with butterflies and pomegranate, with stone lilies “floating” in the silvered glass water! Chunks of tree trunk are naïvely carved to make the eagle lectern, pelican reading desk, pulpit and candlestick. An elegant frieze of angels and palm trees adorns the chancel arch, and fossil ferns are stencilled on the clerestory windows in the apse.

Sarah’s cousin William brought back from a ruined ecclesiastical palace in France the fragments of glass used for the nave windows.

Sarah and her sister had “done” the Grand Tour to Italy in 1817, and Sarah was well-educated. Apart from this background, there is no evidence of any pattern books or other architectural plans to assist her designs. She was helped by many of the local villagers, but the inspiration is entirely her own.

The only reservation we had about this building was the “restoration”; the white walls looked over-clean and slightly inappropriate somehow. I do not know if the repairs were for functional or aesthetic reasons, so that is perhaps an unfair comment on my part!

If you’re nearby, do visit St Mary’s Church, Wreay. For further details see: <http://www.visitcumbria.com/car/chc2.htm> -(this will show pictures, unlike the church’s own site!)

Richard and Georgina

Alternative Christmas Card

Many of us use the World Vision “Alternative Christmas Card” to contribute to the work of that organisation. I received the following letter from Jonathan Francis of World Vision UK, giving details of how the money raised is being used:

“Thank you for making a huge difference to the children and families living in Caripuyo, Bolivia. Through supporting World Vision’s Alternative Christmas Card you have helped to build greenhouses that grow much needed fruit and vegetables. We had a great response to the appeal this year as schools, churches and workplaces raised money to build

around 200 family greenhouses in an area where growing food is particularly difficult because of hard winter frosts and summer droughts.

Before the project began children were ill due to the lack of varied food and the scarcity of vegetables. The greenhouses will provide a constant supply of good food for children, giving them the vitamins that they need to become strong and healthy.

'Everything's changed,' says Mr Viviano, father of Jhony (10), Efrian (8) and Beymar (4). Mr Viviano and his family live in a village in the district of Caripuyo. Like most families in the region they farm to provide food and income. But the difficult conditions make it hard for them to produce sufficient supplies. To help supplement the farming, Benedicta, Mr Viviano's wife, shepherds goats and llamas. Mr Viviano also tries to find work as a bricklayer whenever he can.

"World Vision supported us with construction equipment that we couldn't get hold of and materials for our greenhouses and provided us with vegetable seeds. But we participated in the construction of the greenhouses and provided everything we could towards the building," says Mr Viviano. "As the father of the family, I am very contented with the production of vegetables. We eat them every day and they've improved everyone's diet."

Thanks to your support the family now has good food to eat, and they can manage their own greenhouse thanks to the training World Vision has provided them about planting crops, managing irrigation and using pest control. Funding from the Alternative Christmas Card will help literally hundreds of families just like the Vivianos in Bolivia. We hope that you will consider using the Alternative Christmas Card again this Christmas, when we will be raising funds for another life-changing project among the world's poorest people.



Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Your support is so valuable to us and really makes a lasting difference.”

It's good to know that our contributions are being well used. I'll be organising the Card again this Christmas; please feel free to make use of this if you wish. Thanks!

Ros Hay

Mothers' Union News

MU Scottish web address is: www.muscotland.org.uk or via St James web page link. Theme for this year is: “Time for Relationship 2008”.

The Mothers' Union met for the first time this session on Wednesday 24th September. We began our year with a Communion Service in Church followed by lunch and business. I think we have managed to draw up an interesting and varied programme. The topics will be published as usual in 'Outreach' but watch the notice-board; a full list will be put up. We welcomed a new member, Kathryn Topham.

We meet twice a month, the first meeting usually lunch at 12.30pm followed by prayers and the speaker, the second at 2.30pm with tea and speaker. There are also Diocesan and Provincial meetings. From November to March meetings are all lunchtime because of weather and shorter days. All are welcome and if you are interested please contact myself, Angela, Jean, Joyce Black or any other MU member.

Our programme for October/ November

- 8 October - 12.30pm - Padre Rory MacLeod, 1 SCOTS-speaking about his work both here and when they were in Iraq.
- 22 October - 2.30pm - Captain Wattie Hunter, 2 Scots- Welfare Officer at Glencorse.
- 5 November - Diocesan Council at Christ Church-Sue Crosfield will be speaking about her visit to Uganda.
- 12 November - 12.30pm - Jenny Ritchie- Women of the Bible.
- 26 November - 2.00pm - Wave of Prayer (at 64, Deanburn)

Margaret Coull

Congratulations...

.... to **Charlene** (Angela's daughter in law) on completing her law qualification and being admitted to the Canadian Bar. She is seen here after the ceremony with husband Junks (nee Andrew).



“Char at the Bar” (*I couldn’t resist that one – Ed*)

...and to **Neville**, who will be 70 years young on 12 October. He has been taking services at St James since 1966, when he became a lay reader, so by a quick calculation he must have been 28! Have a well-deserved very happy birthday, Neville!

.....and to **Rose**, who will be 80 years even younger on 10 October! Very best wishes to our birthday boy and girl!

West Linton Music Society

Please support the events below hosted at St Mungo’s West Linton

This year they feature “some exciting young artistes on the verge of their professional career who will become familiar names in the classical music world in years to come”

- ◆ Sat 8 Nov Kate Durran (piano) and Stephen Stirling (french horn) in a program entitled “The Romantic French Horn”
- ◆ Sat 17 Jan Sean Shibe (guitar)
- ◆ Fri 6 Feb The Barbirolli Quartet
- ◆ Sat 21 Mar Ivan Ilic (piano).

Admission is a very reasonable £9.00!

Please contact Ian Kerry (682239) for further details

Congratulations to Steve and Immi!



Steve's bride is Imogen Trovell, from Peasenhall, Suffolk. The wedding took place in St Michael's Church, Peasenhall. The bride fulfilled her long-time wish to walk the 3 minute journey from her parents' home to the ceremony - but still managed to be the traditional several minutes late! Immi is a music teacher, and she and Steve met when they were both under-graduate students in Durham.

Choir News

These “Outreaches” seem to come round rather quickly, don’t they? Not a lot to add to my previous contribution, except to highlight an event at the Sacred Heart Church on Sunday 9 November at 6.30pm which will be a repeat of the format used last year to provide a framework for meditation for the Remembrance season. There will be readings and music, times of silence and times of prayer. The St James Choir will be contributing, and we hope to include the opening movement of Fauré’s Requiem, and Parry’s setting of Tennyson’s poem “Sunset and Evening Star”.

Please come and be part of this, and don’t forget, too, the **Evensong for All Souls** the previous Sunday (2 Nov) at 6.30pm.

Following on from my mention last month of the book “How to be a successful choir director”, I’ll just quote one snippet from the section on efficient rehearsals and dealing with the persistent bletherers:

“Give a quick glance at the talkers and say, without a smile ‘See me afterwards’.”

Aren’t you all glad that I’m such a mellow, benign chap?

Mike Hay

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:

John Ford, Rose and her family, June Virtue, Val McGavin, Florence Petrie, Mae Mann, Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman and Margaret Paton. Pray for continued healing for Margaret McLennan.

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, remembering in particular those affected by extreme weather 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 in Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Kenya, Zimbabwe and Afghanistan, remembering especially the MU in St George's Church Baghdad and in Harare. 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 for Africa, remembering especially Rev Charles Makonde and 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!)

Collections

	<u>Aug</u>
Cash	199
Gift Aid Cash	93
Envelopes	898
Direct giving	<u>1498</u>
Total	2688

Events coming soon...

Sat 11 October	10am - 12noon LINKS Mission Sale, Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains
Sat 11 October	7.30pm Harvest Supper
Sat 25 October	Lunchtime(North Kirk) Leprosy Mission Fundraising
19 -26 October	One World Week
Wed 22 October	One World Week event in the Church Hall
Sat 1 November	St Mungo's (West Linton) Coffee Morning
Sun 2 November	6.30pm Evensong for All Souls
Sat 8 November	Tearcraft Sale and Coffee Morning
Sun 9 November	6.30pm at the Sacred Heart: meditation for Remembrance
Wed 26 November	7.30pm South Kirk Quiz Night

Marriages

6 Sept Paul Murray and Charlotte Hathaway
13 Sept (*At St Michael's Church, Peasenhall, Suffolk*)
Steven Longmore and Imogen Trovell

“Outreach” needs you!

Remember that “Outreach” only uses contributions made by members and friends of St James, and we depend on you to keep these contributions coming! Articles of any sort are welcome, including letters to the Editor, funny stories, serious articles, food for thought which you might have read elsewhere etc, etc. Don’t worry if you can’t get them typed; handwritten articles (by the deadline, of course!) are very welcome. Over to you.....!

The November 2008 edition of “Outreach” will be published on Sunday 2 November . Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, caplaw@hotmail.co.uk , by Wed 22 October at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.

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Frances celebrating 20 years since her ordination!



Guess who?
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Congratulations to Paul and Charlotte!



And some supporters....
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