



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Off to Lambeth - Bishops galore!

Issue No 145 September 2008



Adrian and Karen “tie the knot” on 5 July



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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

“The rain it raineth every day”. This, I think, pretty well sums up the last two summers here in Scotland. I'm wondering if they make lawn mowers with float pontoons instead of wheels.

Shakespeare's Twelfth Night is a romantic comedy in which pretty well everything works out well at the end and almost everybody (except the villain Malvolio) is to marry the person they are best suited to. It's a romp. So how do we explain the sombre series of lines spoken by Feste the fool at the very end of the play:

*When that I was and a little tiny boy
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
A foolish thing was but a toy,
For the rain it raineth every day.*

*But when I came to man's estate,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
'Gainst knaves and thieves men shut their gate,
For the rain it raineth every day.*

*But when I came, alas, to wive,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
By swaggering could I never thrive,
For the rain it raineth every day.*

*But when I came unto my beds,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
With toss-pots still 'had drunken heads,*

For the rain it raineth every day.

*A great while ago the world began,
With hey, ho, the wind and the rain,
But that's all one, our play is done,
And we'll strive to please you every day.*

“Popular but a bit shallow, this play” – Shakespeare must have thought – it needs a dose of reality before the audience all files out to the pub. The lines spoken by the clown at the end of Twelfth Night indicate how, across the span of a single life, adversity goes from being a plaything in one’s youth to being the very thing which defeats us in our dotage: the short poem moves swiftly from child’s play, to the preoccupation of action in adult life, to failure in later life and, finally, to drunkenness and decrepitude. Trouble – like the unending daily rainfall - ultimately exacts its toll as wonder and playfulness are replaced by care, weariness and declining ability. We are defeated, in the long run, by the very things we once toyed with.

Bit of a downer, no? The romantic leads up there on the stage or the movie screen – think Hugh Grant and Andy MacDowell - may well trade freely in the currency of love and power – ultimately we all go home and back to work and out there to our daily grind along the banks of the Thames. We clutch to ourselves and fear for the very relationships they toy with up there on the screen. Life is more serious than they’ll ever show in a lighthearted romp.

A similar adage exists in the New Testament: Not the line about the rain falling on “the just and the unjust” – that’s something else - but those lines spoken between Jesus and Peter in John 21:18-19, where, after the resurrection Jesus says to Simon Peter:

“I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.” Jesus said this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, “Follow me!”

The New Testament has a particular angle on weakness and defeat – one which escapes the world’s notice rather frequently. Peter is a strong man who began to follow Jesus in the prime of his life. Towards the end of the story he has lost his composure rather dramatically. At one point he has so clearly misunderstood the purpose of Jesus’ walk to Jerusalem to the point of earning the rebuke – “Get behind me Satan”. Later in the Gospels, when pressed by members of the crowd outside the High Priest’s house, he has denied that he even knew Jesus. It is failure that follows Peter around and not success. Now, walking alongside Jesus on the beach Jesus tells him that he, Peter, will glorify God and this, not by reversing the process of ageing and weakness, but, in fact, by being led onward through continued weakness to the point that his life can become a gift – something given away.

Anyone believing that the purpose of life is to hold on as long as possible to strength and ability will be confounded by the recurrence of themes in the New Testament which describe the redemptive power of suffering and death. Corn does not sprout until the plant first dies and spreads its grains across the field. Faithful servants who entreat God for deliverance from personal failings may well be told that God’s power “is made perfect in weakness”.

Our lives are in the hands of Another. Our lives frequently fall into the care of others. The world is bigger and subtler than we imagine in our darker moments. There is a place for wisdom and not merely for strength. There is power in the confession of great weakness and not merely in the presumption of great strength and ability.

Rob Warren

(Ed: Given the summer weather, I can’t resist the old rhyme:-

“The rain it raineth just the same

Upon the just and unjust fella

But more upon the just, because

The unjust has the just’s umbrella”)

One World Week (OWW) – October 19th-26th

OWW has been nurtured by the Church of England for 30 years now and tries to focus the church’s mind on her ‘global responsibilities’. As we roll up our sleeves to get stuck in to a new season at St James’ and St Mungo’s, observance of OWW provides an opportunity to broaden our horizons. OWW addresses the challenges of world poverty, climate

change and religious conflict. It provides resources of many kinds for all ages and we will use some of them in our worship in the designated week, for which the theme is 'Growing Together'. Here is a quote from the build up.

"Sharing this fragile planet, our rights are inextricably linked to those of our fellow human beings. However faraway the event may be, if another human being anywhere is denied their fundamental rights, that impoverishes the world I inhabit."

Milind Kolhatkar, Chair of One World Week. April 2008.

This early notice is aimed at leaders of all church groups, directing your attention to the OWW website ('google' One World Week) where you will find ideas and activities for all ages, including a Quiz/Survey on 'How Big is Your Footprint'!. If your group finds things there that could contribute to our worship in OWW, please get in touch.

Neville

Penicuik for Africa (PfA)

Africa featured in the OWW build up too in this quote: Ubuntu is the traditional African philosophy described by Dr Mustafa Ali, Secretary General of the African Council of Religions, in April 2008, as meaning:

"we must all take care of each other for us all to be secure."

PfA is standing at its second set of crossroads feeling somewhat insecure: the first set were safely negotiated with the handover of the ambulance by our delegation to Chitambo Hospital at the end of last month but a second set lies on the same road. Our success has caused us to 'rub shoulders' with other organisations who have the needs of Africa at heart and our fund-raising has drawn their admiration- so much so that they would like to work with us. The Scottish Executive are looking for a secure and effective channel for aid to the tune of £1m to widen its support for Africa beyond Malawi. PfA has been invited to join a Scottish Zambia Consortium (SZC) to bid for funding, with a specific remit to set up a maternity care project at Chitambo Hospital. The other members of the consortium are Waverley Care, Trade Africa, NHS Lothians and NHS Borders. Chitambo hospital has already been chosen as a teaching centre for maternity care and our delegation

handed over a 2nd-hand laptop computer to collate child birth data from surrounding villages – we have made a start, thanks entirely to the initiative of our Secretary, Jo Vallis.

However, the fledgling PfA needs to become strong and streetwise- we need more committed supporters to support a bid for charitable status, become a full member of the SZC and complete our project. On a day in One World Week yet to be decided (i.e. between Oct 20th and 25th), we will be holding an AGM in our Church Hall and those assembled will be asked to sign up as trustees of PfA and guarantors of our charitable intentions. It's nothing to be scared of- our vestry are trustees for St James under the new rules for Charities in Scotland. PfA is giving you the chance to bring about significant improvements in the health and well-being of Zambians- please take it!

Neville

Donald Mackenzie RIP

The following tribute was paid to Don at his funeral by his daughter:

“On behalf of my Mum, Rose, and the rest of the family, thank you all very much for being here today to honour and share in this celebration of my Dad, Donald Mackenzie.

Dad was born on 1st March 1926, the elder of two sons born to John and Violet Mackenzie. He was raised in Invergordon on the Cromarty Firth. They say you can take a boy out of the highlands but you can never take the highlands out of the boy and that was very true of my Dad. When he was young he was often up to mischief with Dick Ross his life-long friend. One of their many exploits was to build an aeroplane out of a go-cart (or bogie as we called it) and launch my poor unsuspecting uncle – persuaded to be the pilot in exchange for a lollipop - off the roof of a nearby shed. Their unsuccessful sortie into the aircraft business ended with a broken arm and probably a couple of sore rear ends.

As soon as he was old enough he joined the Parachute Regiment – obviously still interested in flight of some kind or another. The second world war ended before he could see active service, however, he went on to serve in India and in Palestine. One of his most disturbing experiences was escorting the Exodus to its destination.

After the war, he joined the Civil Service where he worked alongside my mother, Rose. They teamed up to play table tennis doubles.... a double act that would last almost 60 years. When we were young many's a rainy Saturday, the nets would be screwed on to the dining room table and they would teach us children how to play. As some of you probably know, Tom is keenly continuing that tradition today.

Mum and Dad had five children. Dad was transferred to Portree on the Isle of Skye, and he brought my London born-and-bred mother to live on the side of a hill in a croft with no running water. My Dad began his life-long interest in Gaelic while he lived there. I arrived while they lived on Skye, my Dad cycling 22 miles to visit us in hospital clutching a bunch of flowers which were bereft of heads by the time he got there.

Next came Tom, then Christine – his Miss Piggy as he called her. My brother John was born but then left us too soon. When Brenda arrived it was like we had been gifted a little miracle. And so our family was complete, often made more so by the company of our cousin, Irene, who bravely taught my Dad how to drive. He bought a little blue Ford Popular and somehow seven of us would pile into that car and drive all over the north of Scotland, singing at the tops of our voices.

Every week he would take us all to the library where he would pick up three books – always one fiction, one biography and one non-fiction. His love of books and literature, history, poetry and music were a very big part of who he was and a part of him that lives on in his children and grandchildren.

Dad was transferred to the Central belt around 1968, first to Glenrothes and eventually to Edinburgh and so the family moved here to Penicuik in 1973. A life long civil servant, he was awarded the MBE in the 1986 New Years Honours List - something I think we were all more proud of than he was. He loved hill walking – which is just as well, because it occurred to me that every house we lived in, be it Skye, Invergordon, Glenrothes, Penicuik, was always up a hill.

Dad had a series of strokes, the last one resulted in him becoming a resident at Drummond Grange. There he made many friends and we want to express our undying gratitude to Mrs. Hutchison and her team for the loving care and support they gave to Dad over the past 10 years.

In the last few weeks we have experienced that care first hand. I saw his face when the staff said “welcome home Donald” at the door of Drummond Grange as he was brought back from hospital two weeks ago – he just grinned that big grin that those who know him will know very well. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for the support that you gave to him and to all of us. Our thanks also go to the many friends who visited Dad and enabled Mum to visit him during those years.

The vision that I have been having of my Dad in the last few days is one from many years ago, passing us on our way back “down the hill” to school after lunch in Invergordon. We heard this whooping and turned to see Dad sailing down the hill on his bike with his arms and legs fully outstretched, grinning from ear to ear and shouting “Look – No Hands!”

He had a wry sense of humour, a man of immense integrity. The legacy that he leaves, with a little help from my Mum of course, are four children, Ian and Mary his son and daughter-in-law, ten grandchildren, and one little great granddaughter. To his grandchildren he was the grandpa who, when they were little, would never tire of bouncing them on his knee while singing Gaelic rhymes, and who latterly surrounded himself with their photos – proud as punch of each one's achievements.

Dad loved nothing better than a family get-together which would usually end up in us reciting Tam O Shanter and singing those songs we sang in the old Ford. I know he is looking down on us all today and hoping that this is the way we will remember him. We will love him always. Thank you all again.”

And Rose writes:

“My family and I would like to thank everybody at St James for all the help, support and lifts during the past 10 years whilst Don has been in Drummond Grange. I wish to thank the choir for their willingness to sing carols at Drummond Grange which for many marked the start of Christmas and also at other times during the year.

I also want to thank all who helped with the arrangements for Don's funeral, those who attended the service and Tony, Mike and Rob for the most moving service.

Thank you also for the contributions for the Chest, Heart and Stroke Charity. (Graham has the details of the amount raised)”

Doors Open Day

Once again St James is taking part in the Midlothian 'Doors Open Day' on Saturday 13th September. The church will be open from 12.00 - 16.00. Everyone is welcome to help show visitors round, play the organ, exhibit archives, make tea, amuse any children, set up stalls etc for some or all of the afternoon.

We were well supported by members in September last year and hope to attract even more interest this year. Please come along!

Nigel Johnston

Congratulations...

To Betty & Arthur White who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Saturday 2 August!

Leprosy Mission

The Leprosy Mission Pancake Morning in June - willing helpers from St James assisting many more supporters from all the Penicuik churches. £1160 was raised for physiotherapy services to lepers in Darfur.



The next fund raising event is over lunch time on 25 October at the North Kirk - slide show, stalls and sandwiches.

Marian Hunter

Thanks!

I must say a big thank you, both to St. James' folks and to St. Mungo's folks, for a wonderful bouquet of flowers which was presented to me after evensong last month, (July). Rob produced the bouquet, saying it

was to mark a special occasion, I can't really remember what Rob said before revealing it was for me. Wow, for me! It was not my birthday and I'm a bit ancient to become engaged! Then I remembered that I had mentioned to Tony it was 20 years since I had been ordained as a Deacon. At that time, Brigitte had presented me with a large stone with the date, St. Peter's Day 29th June, 1988, it sits on the TV and is a reminder of that day. Ordination to the Priesthood came six and a half years later on 17th December 94, when the Church in Scotland decided to ordain women into the priesthood; that was another memorable day. The bouquet of flowers was a lovely gift and I am still enjoying quite a few of the flowers five weeks later.

THANK YOU..

Frances

..more thanks!

Jeni and Dave and both their families would like to thank most sincerely all those who helped in so many ways to make their wedding day so special (including those who organised the fine weather!). It was a wonderful family day including so many from the "St James family" who were able to be there.

Mike & Ros

...and another big "Thank you"

When you are in hospital you have a lot of time to think especially when you cannot sleep at night. I found myself thinking of my family here and abroad and of friends at church. I realised I had a lot to be thankful for. I received flowers, cards, visits, good wishes and very many prayers were said for me, while I was in hospital and after I came home. Ian and I are grateful for all these things and say a very big thank you to everyone. I am happy to be back at church again.

Margaret McLennan (...and we're delighted to see you! - Ed)

Mission News

We have had lots of overseas news with all the Bishops and spouses attending the Lambeth Conference and I am sure lots of the news will be in the EDGE. As Angela and I are on the International Committee, we were invited to an informal lunch party to meet four visiting Bishops with their wives. I managed to have a few words with all of

them, and even had an invitation to go to Brazil, The Bishop of Myanmar (Burma) spoke of the cyclone tragedy and how much the Church was involved in helping the people. The Bishop from Papua New Guinea was based on an island, east of the parish where John Farrant had served. He described how he travelled around his Diocese, usually by boat.

The Bishop from Ghana is now Archbishop of Ghana, elected this year. Angela was gathering lots of MU news from his wife; she must be the President for the Province.

News from Lesotho

The number of orphans in Lesotho is rising dramatically. Ten per cent of the population (180,000) are currently classified as orphans and vulnerable children, and that figure is expected to rise to 25% by 2010 (UNICEF). There is no government provision for orphans, so it is left to volunteers to take care of these abandoned children. One such volunteer is M'e Mavis, a pastor in Maseru who founded the MIS Orphanage which is home to 120 children and young adults, aged from a few months to 22 years.

Moshe, aged 10, ended up at the orphanage after he was attacked by his mother, who doused him in petrol then tried to set him alight, Moshe suffered severe burns and was rushed to hospital where he subsequently contracted HIV during a blood transfusion. He is now receiving basic care and education at the orphanage.

Many of the orphans have horrendous stories to tell and come from tragic backgrounds.

(Quoted from the USPG. Prayer Diary for August)

Pray for all the children and young people in Lesotho, especially the orphans at the volunteer institutions, that they may receive the necessary education, care and spiritual guidance. For the volunteers running the institutions helping the children. And for the medical workers tackling the HIV/aids pandemic.

Pray too for the many counties in Africa suffering acute food shortage due to failed harvest and the price of basic foods is soaring (i.e. rice, maize, bread)

Frances

September 2008 Rota

	7-Sep-08	14-Sep-08	21-Sep-08	28-Sep-08
	Trinity 16	Trinity 17	Trinity 18	Trinity 19
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	David	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	McGarvas	Des Frantom/ Alan Sibley	Margaret Coull/ Elizabeth Clark
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Clerks
1st Reading	<i>Exodus 12:1-14 or Ezekiel 33:7-11</i>	<i>Exodus 14:19-31 or Genesis 50:15-21</i>	<i>Exodus 16:2-15 or Jonah 3:10-4:11</i>	<i>Exodus 17:1-7 or Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32</i>
	Young Church	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little
2nd Reading	<i>Romans 13:8-14</i>	<i>Romans 14:1-12</i>	<i>Phillipians 1:21-30</i>	<i>Phillipians 2:1-13</i>
	Young Church	Marion Mather	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray
Gospel	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	<i>Matthew 20:1-16</i>	<i>Matthew 21:23-32</i>
Prayers	Angela Sibley	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Geoff Mather
Pray for	Fabric Team	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group
Server	Angela/ Alice	Val/ Sara	Angela/ Stephen	Val/Alice
Coffee	Elizabeth Clark/ Robert Clerk	Mrs Neish & family	Mona Bennett/ Margaret MacLennan	Frantoms
Flowers	Ros Hay			
Cleaning	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Sue Crosfield/ Ros Hay	Sue Crosfield/ Ros Hay
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)

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	GeorginaPhillips	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	GeorginaPhillips
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				

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					

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

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".

Stirling Roadshow - 25th June

This year the staff from Mary Sumner House have toured the length and breadth of Britain to get the Mothers' Union message to the 'people'. A sizeable group from St. James attended. About 300 members and guests came to Stirling from all over Scotland and parts of England. We also had one of the General Trustees from Australia with us. We were welcomed by a member of the local Council and then heard from our Provincial President, Sheila Redwood and Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempshall.

The theme was 'Joining the Dots', to quote Reg Bailey MU Chief Executive: 'We want to reach out to communities through an informed, engaged and supportive network of local members and supporters.

Christian care is not just our strapline.'



A new resource was also launched [home], exploring what makes a home. It is for use with groups, Churches, Sunday Schools, Youth Groups etc. We have a Branch pack which people are welcome to have a look at.

As you can see a full, interesting day leaving us with much food for thought.

Treats for the Troops

Following on from our Christmas initiative, sending parcels to the 1SCOT, in Iraq, which were much appreciated, it was agreed to involve the whole Congregation this time and very generous you have been too.

On Thursday 10th July Captain Walter Hunter, Welfare Officer at Glencorse, and Corporal McGee came to accept the gifts from Rob on behalf of the Battalion. A similar photograph will be on the Army net so that the troops can see who are sending treats to them. I wrote some cards to be included in the boxes, from the Congregation of St. James.



We are hoping to get Captain Hunter to come to speak to the MU about his work with the troops and their families especially at this time of deployment.

Vadala Mission

Members of the MU and some others sponsored Isla MacLeod's Headshave to raise funds for the children at the mission. I had an e-mail from her at the beginning of August saying that things were going well. The girls took 100 boys (5-16 yrs.) on a picnic to a waterpark. They then took the Leprosy children's hostel to Aurangabad to see the baby Taj Mahal, the Ellora caves and a zoo. A good time was had by all.

They have kept the children busy with colouring pens and pencils, kite and frisbees but want to leave something more permanent. They hope to use some of the money to create a park with swings, slide, see-saw

and roundabout or climbing frame. This will be for all the children to use. So as you see they are working hard and making a difference.

New Session

Our first meeting is on the 24th September at 12:00pm. It will take the form of Communion followed by lunch and our AGM.

I would ask your prayers for the continued healing of Margaret McLennan and Catherine Pow, and for Mae Mann in hospital and celebrating her 90th birthday. Also pray for the work of the Mothers' Union here at home and overseas especially in trouble hotspots in Zimbabwe and Baghdad.

Margaret Coull

CWF News

Monday September 22nd - Opening Service in Church

Next meeting - Monday 20th October

(date and venue to be confirmed).

The picture opposite is of the CWF supper at The Steading on June 23rd.



Choir News

Well, this is certainly the year of the weddings! I hope I'll be forgiven if I dwell briefly on one particular wedding in which, for obvious reasons, I had a particular interest! We have had so many compliments about the day itself, but in particular the music at Jeni and Dave's wedding service was very much highlighted in cards, letters and emails. When Jeni (rather rashly as I thought at the time!) asked for the choir to sing the "Hallelujah" chorus, I reminded myself of the ability and willingness of the choir "troops" to tackle anything that I throw at them, and this time was no exception. It was great, too, to be joined at that point by so many singing guests. We've expressed elsewhere in "Outreach" our

thanks to all who helped on that day, but in this slot we offer very grateful thanks to the choir, and to David for his masterly accompanying.

It's been good to welcome Val and Alison back to regular practices, and also to welcome Martin, a *new tenor* (yes, don't die of shock!). We continue to need "new blood" - some of us, including the choirmaster, aren't getting any younger, so please keep a lookout for any potential new members.

Things planned for the next few months include an Evensong for All Souls on 2 November, for which I hope we will be joined by members of the choir at St Peter's, Peebles. We intend to use an attractive setting of the responses by the seventeenth century composer William Smith of Durham - if you're a regular listener to Choral Evensong on Radio 3, I'm sure you'll recognise the arrangement.

You may know that Rob has been asked to record some more "New Every Morning" Sunday Services for BBC Scotland, and we are hoping to record some of the hymns and music to be used. This should be an "interesting" exercise! We also hope to produce anthems for the morning service at regular intervals, choir availability permitting. And, of course, Christmas is coming.....

I've recently bought a book on becoming a successful choir director (not before time, I hear you shout!). The writer is probably some way to the right of Genghis Khan in his approach to choir-training, and I've been reading some excerpts from his book to the choir, in the (forlorn) hope that they will then realise what a kind, gentle and reasonable person their current leader is! *Mike Hay*

Beatitudes for relationships

- Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves: they will have no end of fun.
- Blessed are those who can tell a mountain from a molehill: they will be saved a lot of bother.
- Blessed are those who know how to relax without looking for excuses: they are on their way to becoming wise.
- Blessed are those who know when to be quiet and listen: they will learn a lot of new things.

- Blessed are those who are sane enough not to take themselves seriously: they will be valued by those about them.
- Happy are you if you take small things seriously and face serious things calmly: you will go far in life.
- Happy are you if you can appreciate a smile and forget a frown: you will walk on the sunny side of the street.
- Happy are you if you can be kind in understanding the attitudes of others: you will achieve clarity.
- Blessed are those who think before they act and pray before they think: they will avoid many blunders.
- Happy are you if you know how to hold your tongue and smile: peace has begun to seep into your soul.
- *Author unknown - submitted by Irene Hair*

Bridge of Allan Parish Church

Our visit to Bridge of Allan served a twofold purpose: to take our visitor for a pleasant trip and to pursue a family history connection. I had found, almost by chance, that my mother's great-aunt, Sarah Horne, was, firstly, the family governess, and then the third wife of the eminent Scottish architect, John Honeyman. In 1889, Honeyman took into partnership John Keppie; one of their assistants was the young Charles Rennie Mackintosh. The firm's output was prolific.

After the wedding in 1884, John and his wife lived in Bridge of Allan, settling finally in a house called "Minewood". They joined the congregation of the church in Keir Street, where John became an Elder. He designed the adjacent hall and beadle's cottage in 1895.

In 1903, a donation was made to the church "towards improving and modernising the church organ" and these changes would affect the chancel furnishings. Church records and practice logs show that for designing new furnishings Mackintosh received an architect's fee of £20; the work was carried out by John Craig, a joiner who had already worked for him.

The suite consisted of pulpit, communion table and chair, organ screen and chancel rail. Missing are the choir pews and possibly two more chairs. The carvings contain many of the motifs associated with Mackintosh and are intricately carved in light oak; they are said to be some of the finest designs in wood by Mackintosh and are indeed worth seeing.

There is also some very fine stained glass, including a window from the Kempe studio.

We had a guided tour by a very knowledgeable member of the congregation, a retired architect who has contributed his own skills to enhancing the building.

We had arrived in the rain to have our coffee and home baking in the church hall, and were made most welcome. Everyone talked to the visitors, and I would recommend anyone who likes Mackintosh design, or is simply looking for a day trip, to visit this church.

The church is open 1000-1600 Saturdays in June, July and August, with guided tours; coffee is served in the hall during the morning.

(further information: STARK, D.: Charles Rennie Mackintosh and co. 1854 to 2004; <http://bridgeofallanparishchurch.org.uk>) Georgina Phillips

An ageing cleric reminisces



It was a difficult funeral. Shirley had taken me out for a cup of coffee after early Mass and mentioned that she was in poor health and needed to put her affairs in order. She had never written a Will and knew that she needed one. Well sir, if she didn't up and die on us within the week - before she'd had time to arrange any of these things. Her grown children gathered to make the arrangements.

And the little old man Shirley was still officially married to but who no one had seen for twenty years – he arrived in town too and moved into Shirley's flat. He sold her things, took the art off the walls and drove it down to a dealer, found the key to the safety deposit box and claimed the contents of that as well.

The children had told me this would happen. There was precious little they could do to prevent it. A number of items, of purely sentimental value, were simply disposed of. Which hurt. Which seemed almost like spite. When the old man showed up at the funeral or at least at the graveside, people were pretty subdued. They shifted their weight from foot to foot. They didn't know what to say around him.

After I'd finished the words of committal and Shirley's coffin was lowered into the ground, the old renegade husband broke the silence.

"She was a good wife" he said.

It was the wrong thing to say. Bill the funeral director and I caught this sudden movement out of the corner of our eyes as the youngest daughter – a pretty little blonde thing - launched herself across two or three relations in the direction of the old man. We stepped between them Bill and I did. I was young and Bill had good reflexes. Like many funeral directors, Bill is a solemn fellow – very prompt and very correct. But he admitted later that he'd delayed intervening just long enough for the daughter to land one good right hook.

"It was the least I could do", said Bill, with a twinkle in his eye.

Submitted by the Rector

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.

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 in 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!)

Vestry Moments!

My apologies for not ensuring there is a brief report from the Vestry in each "Outreach". This is a summary of recent matters discussed:

- Quinquennial Review
- Food hygiene and use of kitchen
- Fabric report – identification and prioritisation of work to church and rectory; contribution of all involved in work parties, e.g.:
decoration of hallway and toilets, painting of choir vestry, new notice boards for hallway, re-fixing of exterior church sign etc.
- Treasurer's reports
- Pre-Lambeth visit of Bishop of Moosonee
- Doors Open Day September 13th
- Church archives

Georgina Phillips, Minutes Sec.

Collections

	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>
Cash	184	173
Gift Aided Cash	18	58
Envelopes	1013	889
Direct Giving	<u>1488</u>	<u>1488</u>
Total	2703	2608

Special Collections

Chitambo Ambulance	64
Marie Curie Hospice	540

Events coming soon...

Sat 13 September	12.00-16.00	Doors Open Day at St James
Sun 21 September		Congregational Picnic at Penicuik House
Sat 25 October		Lunchtime(North Kirk) Leprosy Mission Fundraising
19 -26 October		One World Week
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

Births

13 July (their wedding anniversary) to David and Theresa (nee Suttle) Marwick, a 7lb 9oz son, James David, and brother to Peter and Robert. A fifth grandchild for Tilly and Neville.

28 July to Mark and Lorna (nee Kemp) McLintock, a 7lb 14oz daughter, Mairi Iona and sister to Isla.

Marriages

5 July	Adrian Marchant and Karen Haig
26 July	David Seaton and Jeni Hay

The October 2008 edition of "Outreach" will be published on Sunday 5 October (ie soon!!). Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, caplaw@hotmail.co.uk , by Wed 24 September at the latest. If sent by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.

Contacts at St James

All numbers 01968.. unless otherwise shown.

		Phone	Email
<u>Rector</u>	Revd Robert Warren <i>23 Broomhill Road, Penicuik EH26 9EE</i>	672862	rector_penicuik@yahoo.co.uk
<u>Clergy Team</u>	Revd Dr Tony Bramley	675240	tbramley@staffmail.ed.ac.uk
	Canon Philip Crosfield	676607	sue.crosfield@tiscali.co.uk
	Revd Frances McLean	675029	frances.mclean@talktalk.net
	Revd Dr Neville Suttle	673819	suttle_hints@hotmail.com
<u>Vestry: Secretary</u>	Nigel Johnston <i>17 Broomhill Road EH26 9EE</i>	674321	drnjohn17@aol.com
Treasurer	Graham Smith	673012	caplaw@hotmail.co.uk
Minutes Secretary	Georgina Phillips	661039	phillg13@toucansurf.com
Rector's Warden	David McGavin	675614	david.mcgavin@virgin.net
People's Warden	Robert Clerk	679777	rclerk@penhouse.demon.co.uk
Lay Representative	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@tiscali.co.uk
Alt Lay Representative	Richard Phillips	661039	rphillips52@toucansurf.com
Elected Members:	Nikki Dickson		alannicky@tiscali.co.uk
	Gill Amos	673395	gill.amos@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk
	Ruth Green	672146	liverdiet@hotmail.com
	Geoff Mather	678081	geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk
	Jo Bullough	675549	josephinebullough@hotmail.com
Co-opted Members:			
Fabric Team Leader	Geoff Mather	678081	geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk
Social Coordinator	Alan Murray	678610	alan.murray@ee.ed.ac.uk
<u>Ministry Team Leaders & Other Officers</u>			
Child Protection	Nigel Johnston	674321	drnjohn17@aol.com
Choirmaster	Mike Hay	675761	mike@hayfamily.co.uk
CWF	Joyce Jones	674187	
Flowers	Marion McCluskey	678081	marion.mccluskey@tiscali.co.uk
Hall bookings	Val McGavin	675614	val.mcgavin@virgin.net
J-Tots	Alison Cole	672400	alisonmariecole@btinternet.com
Mothers' Union	Margaret Coull	675223	margcoul@hotmail.co.uk
Organists	David McGavin	675614	david.mcgavin@virgin.net
	Jennifer Edge	673234	jenniferedge@talktalk.net
	Jean Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
Pastoral Visits	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@tiscali.co.uk
Books/magazines	Moira Johnston	674321	moirajohnston@aol.com
Prayer & Alpha Courses	Faye Clerk	679777	rclerk@penhouse.demon.co.uk
Rotas	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@tiscali.co.uk
Sacristan	Ros Hay	675761	ros@hayfamily.co.uk
Stewardship Envelopes	Jean Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
Young Church	Alison Cole	672400	alisonmariecole@btinternet.com
	Gill Amos	673395	gill.amos@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Youth Group	Paul Murray 0131 477 2188		p.r.murray@ed.ac.uk



**Don Mackenzie after receiving his MBE
at Buckingham Palace in 1986 (*Tribute: Page 8*)**



James David Marwick (see “Births”)



Dave and Jeni Seaton after their marriage on 26 July!



And a fine array of kilts...