



OUTREACH

St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



***'Make a joyful noise unto God ...'
the Israeli Youth Orchestra visits St James***

Issue No 172 September 2011



"I want to send my very sincere gratitude, not to mention the enormous surprise, which your gifts and messages brought me and Sue on Sunday 14th August. Someone knows my fondness for Malt Whisky and Sue's for decorative plants: and your more than generous gift tokens and cheque will be a great help in buying the things I will need as I change gear. We will never forget that Sunday: thank you all a thousand times. Our best, best Love.

Philip & Sue."



Sir Robert and Lady Clerk speaking to Bishop Brian at his farewell

From the Editor

And so it's goodbye from him, and goodbye from ... all of us really. Our gratitude to Mike for all the time and technical expertise he has put into Outreach over recent years. He has pounded the keyboard, tweaked the ether, and, in short, very much been 'the lad who understands these technical gubbins' (for those of us old enough to remember The Navy Lark)! Thanks also to Ros for all her support and assistance. We wish you both every happiness in your new home.

This issue has been produced by Ian Fuge; he and Sue Owen will share the production, with others helping to proofread etc. Please continue to channel material through the Editor.

Georgina Phillips

Service Times

Sundays: 11.00am Choral Communion; Evensong as announced
Wednesdays: 12.15pm Midweek Eucharist

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

Please join us in the Hall for coffee after the Sunday service.

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

7.30pm Mauricewood Housegroup at 6 Arras Grove

Wednesdays: 7.00am "Earlybirds" Prayergroup

8.00am "Earlybirds+" Prayergroup

Thursdays : 7.00pm Choir Practice

From the Rector

There's a scene in David Lean's movie Dr Zhivago that I have had to suffer through all my life.

At one point in the film the hero struggles through a war-torn Siberian landscape until he reaches his childhood home - abandoned and encased in snow and ice. There he is reunited with his lover. They fire up the stove in one room and make it habitable. In the midst of all this chaos - the Russian Civil War and the depths of winter - they enjoy a brief interlude of peace.

Zhivago finds the desk he wrote on as a child. He opens the drawer and discovers there, laid out in order, a sheaf of white paper, a pen and a bottle of ink

He writes a poem.

My mom used to go on at length about "Zhivago's Drawer": It's order, simplicity and adequacy.

She would open the door to my bedroom, which looked like any boy's bedroom. Nothing at all like Zhivago's Drawer.

She would make reference to my school bag with its crumpled homework assignments and mouldering apple cores. Again, not Zhivago's Drawer.

And over the years I have muttered about "Zhivago's Bloody Drawer" countless times as I see what a mess my Income Tax return looks or the list of tasks which I meant to get around to but haven't.

As a younger priest I would arrange to spend four or five days at the Trappist monastery north of Montreal, after Easter and after Christmas - not everybody's idea of a riotous good time for a young man - but I was attracted to the simplicity there. The balance and order of two lines of monks gliding through the darkness to worship in the wee hours of the morning, the Salve Regina sung at the end of the day with a single candle at the feet of a statue of Our Lady.

Please, God, before I die,
give me that small place of order and harmony
at the centre of my soul.

Father Rob Warren

Choir News

This September brings to an end an era of music leadership at St James, as Ros and Mike Hay head off to a new life in York. It's now well over 30 years since Mike first joined the choir, and was able to firstly support Mrs MacFarlane before taking over as Organist and Choirmaster. Now they leave with our love and best wishes ringing in their ears – we shall miss them!

The past few weeks have been very eventful at St James, where catering manager Sue Owen and her team provided board and lodgings for 60+ young musicians from northern Israel. They stopped over in Penicuik on their way home from a youth music festival in Aberdeen at the invitation of friends in Silverburn

Question – how do you fit 60+ musicians into St James choir chancel?
Answer – with great difficulty and absolutely no room for any seats. You do need space when playing a trombone!!

So it was when we listened to Kfar Vradim Orchestra and their fantastic repertoire of upbeat music, Stevie Wonder, Glen Miller ... such enthusiastic playing from their members, all aged between 12 – 18 years. I don't think we've had many people jiving in the aisles of St James over the years, but a few displayed their dancing talents; I wonder if they'll be around for MFSE 20 – (the Orchestra that is.)

The concert was repeated at Bank Mill on the Monday evening in a joint programme with Penicuik Silver Band, where there was more room for the musicians (and percussion instruments) to show off their talent.

Choir practice has just started again, and we're looking forward to planning our music throughout the next months. We'll be looking at *The*

Word Revealed published by RSCM. This book provides both a framework for a service and a repertory of texts and music to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible. It seeks to trace through history the place of the Bible in Christian life and worship.

We are always looking for new singers; if you're interested, please contact me by email david.mcgavin@virgin.net or phone (01968 675614). Everyone is welcome, including children (so long as they are old enough to read), and there are no auditions.

David McGavin

Financial matters

Collections	May	June	July
Cash	184	182	222
Gift Aid cash	20	25	14
Envelopes	671	902	561
Direct giving	<u>1723</u>	<u>1623</u>	<u>1523</u>
Total	£2598	£2732	£2320

Graham Smith

Fundraising update – August 2011

Fundraising events are happening regularly at the moment, in a bid to raise the substantial amount of money we need for fabric repairs.

Recently we have raised £2,030.29 from the following events:

Penicuik in the Park	273.00
Sponsored Walk	1,081.01
Tesco Bag Pack	473.28
Israeli Orchestra Concert	203.00

These results are encouraging and are a very good return for our efforts. They also demonstrate *our* commitment to external funders to whom we are applying for grant aid.

The following events will take place before Christmas. Please support them and help put the *Fun* into *Fundraising!*

- **Curry Night:** Saturday 24 September 7.30pm in the Hall. Tickets £10/£8 from Marion (01968 678081) or Kathleen (01968 673567)
- **Ceilidh:** Friday 28 October 7.30pm in Bowling Club. Tickets £10/£8 from Ishbel (01968 677437) or Karen (01968 677477)
- **Bella's Bistro:** Saturday 19 November 7.30pm meal in the hall. Details from Marion (01968 678081) or Kathleen (01968 673567)
- **Nigel's Slide Show:** Friday 9 December 7.30pm in the Hall. Details from Marion (01968 678081) or Kathleen (01968 673567)

With thanks for your continuing support,

Marion, Kathleen and the Team

RIP ...

Our thoughts are with the families and friends of Florence Petrie, who died 9 July 2011, Elizabeth Black, (née Topple), who died 26 July 2011 and Bill Leavy, who died 23 August 2011.

Diocesan notices

The annual Sponsored Walk for Bethany Christian Trust takes place on Saturday 10 September. The walk starts at Currie Kirk, follows the picturesque Water of Leith Walkway and finishes at Ocean Terminal (where a coach will take people back to the start if they have cars). A great day out for families and friends taking a different and scenic route through the city. Last year, we saw more than 120 walkers raise over £17k, which is vital to keep our services going!

All details can be found on our new website:
www.bethanychristiantrust.com<<http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/>>

Many thanks for your continuing support to help homeless and vulnerable people across Scotland. Hannah Daly, Events Fundraiser, Bethany Christian Trust, 65 Bonnington Road, Edinburgh EH6 5JQ tel: 0131 561 8925 mob: 07968 024686

Mad Scientist

The case of the blind biologist

My customary holiday retreat on the Algarve has an extensive, well-ordered library but a previous visitor had left a book out which the maid had not spotted. *Evolution's Workshop: God and Science on the Galapagos Islands* was begging to be read. Written by Edward Larson (2001), a Professor of the History of Science in the USA, it vividly describes the impact which the unique flora and fauna of the archipelago had upon its visitors. Herman Melville, the American author of Moby Dick, first visited the islands in 1841, and was convinced that they were cursed by God. Recent volcanic activity had created a rugged, arid and apparently soil-less environment, littered by the carcasses of birds and snakes, where dogs could not bark and the hideous reptiles only hissed. The large tortoises that gave the islands their name were the most accursed creatures, forced to endure that 'hell on earth' for over a hundred years. Melville's gruesome descriptions in magazine articles challenged the prevailing scientific and religious views that all species had been created by God for a *useful* purpose. All natural theologians, like William Paley, had to do were define the purpose that made each niche filled a 'happy place'. The infinite variety of animal and plant species convinced Paley, indeed the whole Royal Society (RS), that all were crafted by an intelligent designer; after all, if a watch with complex movements were found, it would be recognised as the handiwork of a skilled watchmaker.

Charles Darwin had set foot on the Galapagos six years earlier and began a rigorous scientific analysis, noting that weathering had created pockets of sparse soil, and whalers had slaughtered most of the tortoises to stock their galleys. Darwin avidly collected specimens of rock, soil, plants and animals, logging their island source and simply noting at the time that each island seemed to have its own *varieties* of inhabitants. On returning to England, young Charles distributed the

precious specimens amongst specialist RS colleagues and, one-by-one, they reported back with similar descriptions: each island had a unique collection of species. Darwin's theory for the 'Origin of Species' through natural selection ('survival of the fittest') thus began its 20-year gestation. He eventually recognised that death had been the creative force, leaving space for individuals better adapted (through random mutations) to multiply in these, the harshest of environments.

I eventually picked up one of the two books I had taken with me, *The Blind Watchmaker* by Richard Dawkins, and was struck by the contrast between the way in which he used centuries of subsequent scientific progress to explain why Darwin was right and Paley was wrong, blind to the fact that theological progress had also taken place. Images of God have changed since Paley's time, at least in a few minds, like that of Marcus Borg, author of my second read, *The God We Never Knew*. Anxious to replace the old 'monarchical' image of God with the view of 'God as Spirit', Marcus used the example of a Brazilian fish that had two compartments to its eye, one for seeing above water, the other for seeing below. Different lenses are required to make sense of the material and spiritual worlds. The partially sighted Richard Dawkins would no doubt put the 'library mutation' which so neatly fitted my natural selection of books for Algarve reading down to pure chance. Do you?

Neville Suttle

Volunteering in faith: obligation or joy?

A day conference organised by the Church in Society committee of the Scottish Episcopal Church on: **Saturday 19 November 2011 at St Mary's Centre, Kinnoull, Perth 9.30am - 4pm. Morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea shall be provided.**

Keynoter speaker: Ann Morisey, freelance community theologian and lecturer.

Workshops: valuing volunteers; training volunteers; recruiting and retaining volunteers; general volunteering; volunteering with the elderly; volunteering with young people; volunteering overseas.

The conference will be of interest to all who volunteer in a church setting or outwith the church and for those interested in exploring this issue in relation to the “Big Society”.

Booking: send details (please print name, address, telephone, email, dietary requirements) with your **registration fee of £5**, (cheque made payable to the Scottish Episcopal Church) to the Church Relations Officer, General Synod Office, 21 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh EH12 5EE by the 14 October 2011.

Further details on notice board or www.edinburgh.anglican.org

Services for Hard of Hearing and Deafened People

One of the lesser-known but interesting services that happens in the diocese is that taken by the Rev Sarah Kilbey, who has been Chaplain to the hard of hearing and deafened people since 1997. This group is larger than might be supposed, for 1 in 6 of the wider population has difficulties with their hearing. It is sometimes said to be one of the least recognised disabilities, because there is no visual sign of it.

Sarah had been leading lip-reading classes before her Ordination, and about 100 people whom she had helped came to the service, and several remarked how much they had appreciated a service that really included them, too. This gave Sarah the stimulus to start monthly services that would be ‘friendly’ for those who may feel very isolated due to their deafness.

The services have been running for the last twelve years, formerly at St Martin’s, and now at St John’s, Princes Street in Edinburgh. The services are held in the chapel, and the congregation sits in a semi-circle, so that people can easily see Sarah, as well as everyone else. This way communication is greatly aided for everyone. The welcome and the sharing of the Peace are very important parts of the service, and Sarah prepares a very full service sheet, so that people can follow the words of the service easily. For those who need it, Sarah also writes out her address, but in everything she is very careful to enunciate each word. She also makes use of a whiteboard, which again helps people to

'see' what others have said in the discussion which is associated with the address.

At present there are about 24 people who are attached to the 'chaplaincy' representing a number of different denominations: about half of them have no Church connection at all, however. Most are at the monthly service, which ends with coffee and biscuits in the hall, where people can talk among their friends, some of whom come quite a distance, from as far as Musselburgh, West Lothian and Fife. New members keep joining the group, but there must be many who would appreciate the chance to worship in such a friendly and inclusive group, if they knew it was available. So spread the word!

The services are usually held on the first Monday of the month at 10.30 from October to June; but it is as well to contact Sarah first to confirm the details [0131-447-2378]. Sarah is always happy to meet with incumbents/congregations to help them to become more deaf-friendly, because people are not always aware of the problems involved.

*[reprinted with permission from *The Edge*, Spring 2011 – this seemed worthy of a wider audience – Ed]*

Scottish Episcopal Church Mission Association

The AGM of SECMA, otherwise known as *Links*, was held in our hall in July, when we heard about the projects we support. These are varied: a football project designed to give self-respect to the street children in the Philippines, especially those who live on the cities' rubbish dumps, and also a place where they can seek help with nutrition and medical care; a bakery project in South Africa with an HIV testing centre; and a teaching kitchen training women to make bread for themselves and to sell; hospitals and girls' hostels.

In Latvia, St Saviour's Anglican church runs a day centre, providing meals, hot showers and activities, and support for the elderly who have no family support. A very small congregation supports this vital work. The hostel in Madagascar provides a safe place for the girls and boys

who live too far away from the school. Without the hostel, many would not be able to attend secondary education, as the roads are impassable for six months of the year. In PNG, they are starting to use solar lighting, replacing kerosene lamps. Our donation will provide one self-contained solar system to light a room in a remote clinic, or a community room where children can do their homework.

Hopefully, the *Links* magazine will appear later in the year with more information.

Angela Sibley

Zimbabwe

As eviction of Anglican priests begins, Harare bishop prays: "God help us"

In the wake of a High Court judgement that Dr Kunonga had interim custody of church properties, an Anglican priest in Zimbabwe, Revd Dzikamai Mudenda and his extended family, have been evicted from their home at St James, Mabvuku by priests loyal to excommunicated bishop Dr Nolbert Kunonga.

Other priests living in parish rectories have received stamped copies of the High Court judgment from supporters of Dr Kunonga who, in one case, were accompanied by the police, and have all been told to move out.

The Rt Revd Chad Gondiya, Bishop of Harare, said yesterday: "*Our parishes are busy finding alternative accommodation for them. We don't know who he is going to put in these houses. This is not going to be easy at all. It will disrupt their family life and ministry. I have been busy this evening getting in touch with my priests and encouraging them.*"

The Anglican Church in Zimbabwe has been under attack from the excommunicated bishop, Dr Nolbert Kunonga, since 2007. In a recent media interview, Dr Kunonga was quoted as saying he aimed to control

the 3,000 Anglican churches, schools, hospitals and other properties in Zimbabwe, Zambia, Botswana and Malawi.

Please remember Bishop Chad, the legal bishop, and pray for those affected.

contributed by Angela Sibley

Jubilee Scotland

Debt's Not Done tour programme

- 6 September, 7.30pm, St John's Episcopal Church, Edinburgh
- 8 September, 7.30pm, Smith Art Gallery and Museum, Stirling
- 19 September, 7.00pm, Renfield St Stephen's, Glasgow
- 29 September, 6.00pm, Spectrum Centre, Inverness
- 26 October, Venue tbc, Ayr

Alys Mumford, Outreach Officer, Jubilee Scotland, 0131 225 4321

Find out more about Jubilee Scotland at

<http://www.jubileescotland.org.uk/>

Penicuik for Africa

The new church season has begun with a bang! By the time you read this, Jo Vallis will have attended the mini conference in Zambia that will hopefully clear the decks for the introduction of elearning technology into the curriculum for registered nurse training at the new school in Chitambo (and others in Zambia and Ghana), and I will have participated from Edinburgh, thanks to a wonderful new facility known as Skype. She will have handed over as a gift from us a portable DVD player for taking the latest teaching methods to outreach clinics. Levi, 'our man in Chitambo', reports that students have been interviewed, and 30 chosen for the first class that will assemble this month, seated at desks and sleeping on beds we have provided! We had to postpone our bag-packing project, but will be at Penicuik street fair in the precinct in mid-September with a bric-a-brac stall to top up our funds again; donations and helpers welcome as ever!

Neville

Rotas

September 2011

	4 September	11 September	18 September	25 September
	Pentecost 12	Pentecost 13	Pentecost 14	Pentecost 15
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	David	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	tba	Jean
Sidesmen	Richard Phillips Margaret Coull	Elizabeth Clark Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore Isabel Stenhouse	McGarvas
Bread and wine	Children	Clerks	Leavys	Barretts
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>
	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Glynis Murray
2nd reading	<i>Romans 13:8-14</i>	<i>Romans 14:1-12</i>	<i>Philippians 1:21-30</i>	<i>Philippians 2:1-13</i>
	Marion Mather	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Joyce Black
Gospel	<i>Matthew 18:15-20</i>	<i>Matthew 18:21-35</i>	<i>Matthew 20:1-16</i>	<i>Matthew 21:23-32</i>
Prayers	Geoff Mather	David McGavin	Val McGavin	Sue Crosfield
Pray for	Bible Study Group	Choir	Young Church Leaders	Vestry
Server	Angela	Val/Annie	Martin/Alice	Angela/Steven
Coffee	Gillian Little Marion Mather	Marchants	Barretts	Frantoms
Flowers	----- tba -----			
Cleaning	?????????????	Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse	Gill Amos Isabel Stenhouse	???????????
Welcomers	McGarvas	Sir Robert Clerk	Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore
Care Van			St James	
Pentland House				

October 2011

	2 October	9 October	16 October	23 October	30 October
	Pentecost 16	Pentecost 17	Pentecost 18	Pentecost 19	4 th before Advent
11.00am Organist	Jean	David	Jennifer	Jennifer	David
St Mungo's Organist		Jean		Jean	
Sidesmen	Catherine Pow Des Frantom	Tom Moffat Richard Phillips	Marchants	Margaret Coull Elizabeth Clark	Nigel Johnston Andy Longmore
Bread and wine	Children	Sibleys	Johnstons	Dicksons	Frantoms
1st reading	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20 or Isaiah 5:1-7	Exodus 32:1-14 or Isaiah 25:1-9	Exodus 33:12-23 or Isaiah 45:1-7	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 or Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	tbc
	Margaret Coull	Elizabeth Clark	Richard Phillips	Sir Robert Clerk	Ian Fuge
2nd reading	Philippians 3:4b-14	Philippians 4:1-9	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	tbc
	Adrian Marchant	Faye Clerk	Sue Owen	Georgina Phillips	Brigitte Fuge
Gospel	Matthew 21:33-46	Matthew 22:1-14	Matthew 22:15-22	Matthew 22:34-46	tbc
Prayers	Andy Longmore	Elizabeth Clark	Alan Murray	David McGavin	Val McGavin
Pray for	Young Church	MU	Pastoral Care Group	Mauricewood House Group	Clergy Team
Server	Martin/Alice	Val/Sue Owen	Angela/ Steven	Martin/Sue Owen	Val/Alice
Coffee	Mona Bennett Margaret MacLennan	Kathleen Cox Smiths	Margaret Vesco Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse Jean Wright	Marchants
Flowers	----- Marian Hunter -----				
Cleaning	Marian Hunter Ruth Frantom	Marian Hunter Ruth Frantom	????????????	-----	Gillian Little Sue Owen
Welcomers	McGarvas	Sir Robert Clerk	Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore	McGarvas
Care Van			St James		
Pentland House					

Holiday churches

St Helen's, Burgh on Bain, Lincolnshire

Staying with a friend just outside the village of Burgh on Bain east of Lincoln, we were taken to the monthly Sunday morning service. Our hostess, a churchwarden, was afraid we might double the congregation, but in fact we only swelled it by some 10%. The earliest parts of the church are Norman, but as in so many cases, it was 'improved' by the Victorians. In this case they added plaques inside with worthy quotations. Think of a Victorian portrait of a couple, he extravagantly moustached and she all in black, seated bolt upright in their parlour in front of a framed embroidery saying 'God is Love', or something similar. The plaques are in the same style as that embroidery – fancy script picked out in a very Victorian dark ochre red, carved into very white stone (or possibly plaster). They are quite elegant in their own right, but to me they are too large; they are out of scale and out of character with the church.

An oddity is that the nave and the chancel are not aligned. The centre lines meet, but walking up to the altar, one has to change direction at the chancel steps, by a couple of degrees to the left. There is no apparent reason for this; one of the congregation remarked that it must have been a 'Friday afternoon' church. Those who remember faulty cars being described as 'Friday afternoon' cars (supposedly manufactured with less care on a Friday afternoon when the workforce wanted to get home for the weekend) will catch the allusion.

Like St James, the organ came from a private house – in this case the local manor house, now no more. The old hand pumped bellows are still next to it, but we didn't find out if they are ever called into use because of a power cut.

During WW2 there were many Bomber Command airfields in Lincolnshire. One night, a Lancaster didn't quite make it back to base and crashed in a field close to the village. The resulting blast blew out two small diamond panes of glass from the lattice windows in the nave. Unable to get matching glass during the war, they were replaced with plain glass. After the war, the congregation decided not to seek proper

matching glass, but left the plain glass as a small memorial to those who died that night.

St Helen's is one of a group of 25 churches, all ministered to by the vicar of Horncastle. As she obviously cannot get round all of them every week, she does have some support (our service was taken by a retired cleric) and it is understandable that it was the monthly service.

Paderborn Cathedral

As a postscript to my recent article about Aachen, we recently visited Paderborn Cathedral. If you associate anything with Paderborn, it is probably with the British army in Germany, maybe remembering it vaguely (if you are old enough) from Forces Family Favourites on the radio. We stopped in Paderborn because it was a convenient place to spend the night en route, thinking that it would be a nondescript industrial place where we would eat, sleep, breakfast and be off again straight away. In the event, we spent all the next morning exploring a very pleasant city, with several lovely churches, including a splendid example of a Jesuit church – baroque exterior, elegant and fairly plain interior, but with a riotously rococo altar.

It also has a fine cathedral. Yes, Paderborn is industrial; Nixdorf computers (now part of Siemens) are made there and there is a computer museum. Is it therefore just pure coincidence that the splendid nave windows put one in mind of printed circuit boards? They are replacements for those destroyed in the war and must have been installed at about the time Nixdorf was founded. Whether coincidence or not, they are certainly very beautiful. Another highlight is a very different window, but not because of the glazing. It is a 'hare window'. It is circular, with three hares depicted chasing each other round the periphery, but carved so although it appears that each has two ears, there are only three ears in total. I have subsequently read that there are several examples in the English West Country and that it is believed the design came from the Orient via the Silk Road.

Why 'a postscript to Aachen'? Paderborn is another of Charlemagne's haunts. A meeting there between him and the Pope lead to the formation of the Holy Roman Empire. As we walked round the outside of the cathedral, we came to a post bearing the information that it was

the end of the Charlemagne Trail, the start being in Aachen, some 150 miles away. Opposite the post, beneath one of the entrances to the cathedral and protected behind thick glass were some archaeological excavations, including a stone structure that is believed to be another of Charlemagne's thrones.

Ian Fuge

[Please share your finds with Outreach readers. See photos on inside back cover – Ed]

Kfar Vradim Youth Orchestra visit

There we were, ready. A huge pile of food was set out, all pots were simmering. Places for 64 people were set at 8 tables in the hall. We'd cope. The rain had been torrenting down and Nigel had swept the puddles away from the entrance repeatedly. It was still pouring. Then the double-decker bus was spotted. Our Israeli visitors had arrived. I was suddenly terrified. OK, that's a lie, I had been terrified for some time. I plastered a smile on my face and went tripping out with the others into the rain to greet them. The orchestra (aged 12-18 years) started to disembark and file into the church with their bags. Most bags were larger than their owners. I hadn't thought of that. And there were the instruments too. About a quarter of the bus occupants had disembarked, and the church and hall already seemed full. Those of them in the church looked around with amazed curiosity and started to re-arrange the kneelers in various imaginative ways. I trembled at my folly at taking this on, and prayed hard. To my astonishment, although the youngsters were curious, wet, tired, culture-shocked, hungry, and already very crowded, their two gentle, quiet leaders (Reuben and Ze'ev) maintained relative order and compliance with just a few quiet Hebrew words. So they unpacked the bus and dealt with their luggage and their instruments and just got on with things without any apparent moaning or complaining. They filed into the hall for the food and consumed it with gusto and appreciation, the noise levels being kept down with the occasional gentle hiss from Reuben. Although he appeared to discipline them firmly, he was relaxed and smiley and they seemed to love him.

There were a few hitches to help them deal with: the bus company had let them down several times and was threatening to abandon them in Penicuik with no means of getting different groups to the other two sleeping halls (Silverburn and the Art Centre), or of transporting their instruments to Bank Mill on Monday. That was eventually resolved after several hours of anxiety and making new plans. The orchestra was expecting to borrow percussion from the Penicuik Silver Band for the St James' concert, and it hadn't arrived. After several phone calls, it was discovered that there had been a misunderstanding. The percussion would be available for the Bank Mill concert on Monday evening, but for now it was locked up in Penicuik High School with nobody available to release it. Reuben had to organise his band to play for the first time with no percussion. However, they did have a small drum which was given a loud position on the pulpit. Other percussionists also appeared to have something to play, albeit not what was in the music score!

So their first concert was given at St James. What a sight met our eyes entering the church! The chancel and sanctuary, choir stalls, chancel steps and pulpit were alive with the orchestra of 60 youngsters in red sweatshirts, brandishing every type of brass band instrument (except most of the percussion!). And what an amazing sound! These kids are professionals, no doubt. They enchanted us with music of every type and rhythm, feet-tapping, jiving, through to lullaby rhythms. They were great.

The second day (Monday) dawned. I was on the outside of the door of the Art Centre at 7:30 am, and the 23 youngsters were on the inside. We were unable to unlock the door. It couldn't have been more than a few minutes of wondering if I should call the Fire Brigade to get them out, when the door did eventually open and out they staggered, exhausted after a night of not sleeping on a hard floor. We arrived at St James' hall where all of them were to have breakfast. They were hungry! Two days worth of breakfast were consumed in a sitting, and more stuff was bought from a quick mercy-shop down the road. Wooo!! Kath and Roger from Silverburn, and Roger Kelly kindly came to the rescue with further shopping and supplies for breakfast the next day. I left a team washing up, while I accompanied the kids in the bus to the Bog Road sports pavilion where I had arranged for them to shower. However, a message came that the showers were not working, and please to go to the Penicuik Centre where the staff were waiting for us. We could use the showers normally used by school parties. But the first

party of girls backed out of their shower rooms with wrinkled noses, complaining of a bad smell. I wondered if they were being a bit precious, so I went into the room to check, and almost fainted. Those girls had good cause to wrinkle their noses. Apparently the showers had been shut for a few weeks, and something had dried that shouldn't have, causing the pong. It was a bit better after a spray, but the girls weren't going to chance it again.

Finally they went off to Edinburgh in their double-decker bus with Roger Kelly as guide, and I set to with a band of helpers at the church to finish clearing and cleaning, and to start preparations for the evening meal. Everything went smoothly, and after their meal, another stalwart team washed up and cleared up and it was possible (for those of us who wanted) to go to the concert at Bank Mill, where our youngsters were playing another set of music in the second half, after the Penicuik Silver Band had entertained us. Did I detect a slightly patronising note as the Penicuik Silver Band leader promised they would appear again with the youth orchestra, once they had performed their set? Maybe not, but once he heard them, he was obviously thunderstruck by their talent and lively performances. Their joint performance of Loch Lomond was brilliant. I was very touched during this concert, when I ("of St James") was presented with a pennant and little figurine as a thank-you gift. I was proud to belong to this congregation and I was VERY glad that St James had a well-deserved public mention. I've put it on the pulpit ledge for everyone to see, as it was such a huge team effort.

And so, after breakfast on the second day, we waved them goodbye. Overall it had been a fantastic experience for them, and for us.

SPECIAL THANKS to so many, both from St James and elsewhere (particularly the Kellys and Hills, outwith our congregation). THANK YOU to the very hard working teams who helped prepare, serve food and clean up afterwards; to everyone who contributed food or other help. St James' is brilliant at rallying round. I was moved by all the support, aware that St James fund-raising continues to stretch us all a bit more than usual (but we do have fun at all the events!). I hope everyone thought the effort was worthwhile. Music does transcend problems and conflicts of all types – personal, political, religious, etc. And it was also a bit of St James' outreach. We made ourselves known

in Penicuik as that great bunch who hosted all those young Israelis. And they did say that St James' food was the best of their travels!

Sue Owen

Tearcraft Catalogues

The catalogues will be available at church soon. As ever, there is a wonderful range of gifts and jewellery which you might like to buy for Christmas presents. Please give me any orders as soon as you can, and I will arrange to get things for you. It will be good if we at St James can do our bit to help this worthy charity once again.

Thank you,

Valerie McGavin

From the newsletters

100 years ago ... Mr P Gordon* was appointed the new Caretaker/Church Officer. The minister expressed concern over the effort needed to maintain the Day School: '*the craze nowadays is that people wish to get something for nothing*'.

[Peter Gordon was a sergeant in the 13th Btn Royal Scots in World War I. He was reported missing in 1917, and his death confirmed in 1918. His name is recorded on St James' war memorial and the Tyne Cot Memorial.]

50 years ago (Aug/Sept) ... the Children's Church numbered 60-70, aged 4-14. The new Bishop was elected: Canon Kenneth Moir Carey. The new notice board in the porch was presented by Lt Col McRae in memory of his mother, Eleanor, who worshipped at St James for many years. Mr Franklin (George) recalled she used to treat the choirboys to supper at Easter and Christmas. The Episcopal Church sign in West Street was erected. Wyndham Neish and Bernard Kitching attended Bromlees (West Linton) RSCM choirboys camp in August.

News from PNG

Susan sends greetings to one and all hoping we enjoyed our holidays. She received a large parcel containing baby clothes from the Wagstaffs in Bargara, Australia, but doesn't know who they are; but the bush Radio does work well. *

She is starting her 6th month and life is very challenging. The girls in the Home Economics class have done so much in such a little time; it has been fantastic. Each student now has her own allotment: runner beans, peas and broccoli have grown and been eaten, patchwork bags finished and clothes made and a few sold at the market. So many projects, it is wonderful.

We are isolated here ... sometimes parents come in, or listen at the window – all eager to learn. Please send kindest regards to all and keep me in your prayers.

God Bless, Susan

* I wrote and told her about Norman and his connection with St James. Unfortunately, I have not heard if our parcel of baby clothes has arrived, (or been "taken"), but the posters I sent have arrived. If you want to send any posters, I can give you the address.

Angela Sibley

Update ...

Jean & Ralph thank everybody at St James and St Mungo's for their prayers and the concern shown to them at this difficult time. Ralph got home on Wednesday Aug 17th with a care package, and the possibility of extra help as his illness takes its course. It has been arranged that Ralph will continue getting blood transfusions as a day patient in Ward 1 at the Western General, every 2 weeks starting on Aug 31st.

Jean Hindle

80 years young

I would like to thank everybody at St James and St Mungo's for the lovely cards, e-cards and flowers for my 80th birthday. My best present was to have Ralph home from hospital. It was a most unusual celebration, a day early, with the family who came over on Saturday and made a start on clearing the garage and outbuildings. We regard ourselves very fortunate to have such a caring and supportive family. Since Ralph wasn't fit to go out for a meal we enjoyed a meal in house for nine of us. On the 21st, I had a phone call from Gwenn & Norman Wagstaff in Australia. They send their regards to all who remember them at St James and St Mungo's. We enjoyed several visitors calling, and had phone calls from my two bridesmaids, Babs & Joan. Joan now lives in California.

Many thanks to all who made my 80th such a memorable time.

Jean Hindle

[And congratulations, love and best wishes to Jean from all at St James – Ed]

Your prayers are asked for...

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

Pray for the bereaved families and friends of Florence Petrie, Elizabeth Black and Bill Leavy.

Pray for Mae Mann, John Ford, Eric Marchant, Mrs Wesson (Ruth Green's mother), Philip Crosfield and Ralph Hindle. Pray for Julia Clerk in New Zealand and all her family. Also for Sue Owen's grand-daughter, Dani Cooper, and her family. Pray for the continuing recovery of Jim McGarva and Bill Little.

Pray for all victims of natural disasters throughout the world; for the helpless and the helpers as they seek to rebuild their lives. Pray that aid reaches those for whom it is intended. Give thanks for the safe return of 2 SCOTS. Pray for the service personnel and their families as they resume life in the UK.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation; for the work of Penicuik for Africa. 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 people of North African countries torn apart by conflict. Pray for all victims of the recent riots in England; pray for resolution and reconciliation, for the growth of respect for self and others.

Pray 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.

(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!)

Mike & Ros Hay

New address:-

66 Severus Avenue
Acomb
York
YO24 4LY

Phone number (tbc): 01904 791372

Events coming soon...

September 2011

- | | |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| Sat 10 Sept | 'Doors Open' St James |
| Thur 22 Sept | 8.15 pm Vestry |
| Sat 24 Sept | Curry Night |

October 2011

- | | |
|------------|---|
| Fri 28 Oct | Ceilidh + buffet at Bowling Club |
|------------|---|

November 2011

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| Sat 12 Nov | Penicuik for Africa (PfA) Coffee Morning |
| Sat 19 Nov | 'Bella's Bistro' meal in Hall |

December 2011

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| Fri 9 Dec | Nigel's slide show; + wine & cheese |
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January 2012

- | | |
|------------|---------------------|
| Sat 28 Jan | Burns Supper |
|------------|---------------------|

March 2012

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| Fri 2 Mar | World Day of Prayer at St James |
|-----------|--|

Outreach can also be viewed on the St James website:
<http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk> The next issue will be published on Sunday 2 October 2011. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Georgina Phillips 01968 661039, Merlewood, The Loan, West Linton, EH46 7HE phillg13@toucansurf.com, by **Wednesday 21 September 2011** at the latest.

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	Revd Dr Neville Suttle	673819	suttle_hints@hotmail.com
	Revd Stephen McCaulay	672976	562mccau@armymail.mod.uk
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Fabric Team Leader	Geoff Mather	678081	geoff.mather@midlothian.gov.uk
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CWF	Joyce Jones	674187	
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House Group	David & Val McGavin	675614	david.mcgavin@virgin.net
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	Alison Cole	672400	alisonmariecole@btinternet.com



The Hare Window Paderborn Cathedral
(See this month's 'Holiday Churches')



MU members on their recent visit to Eyemouth

Hay-heigho, it's off to York they go ...



A fond farewell to Ros and Mike Hay from all the
choir of St James the Less