



Juniper Green  
Parish Church

# Church News

## Autumn 2015





Friends,

How hard is it for someone to come to Church for the first time? If you've been in the habit of coming to Church regularly for all of your life you will never really understand how physically and emotionally difficult it is for someone to come through the front door for the first time. What can you do to make it easier?

A friend of mine gave me a copy of a little exercise from a study booklet on the books of Acts. Tim Chester, who wrote the study guide, challenged the members of his church to go into the local betting shop during the week and place a bet on a horse before their next study group meeting. He says "there was uproar". He told the group that he wasn't encouraging gambling, but he would explain it all to them the following week.

**"You are the light of the world... Let your light shine."  
(Matthew 5:14f)**

About half of them (including Tim Chester himself) did it. The next week he asked them what it felt like. Some of them said: "It was an alien environment"; "I hadn't got a clue what to do"; "it was better with a friend"; "I felt on edge and that people were looking at me"; "I wanted to get in and out as quickly as possible"; "the people inside were very different from me."

The excuses of those who didn't do it were just as revealing: "I don't agree with it"; "I didn't want to be seen"; "I didn't want it to be misunderstood"; "I wouldn't know what to do"; "I would be excruciatingly embarrassed"; "I wouldn't like the people in there".

Tim Chester went on to explain to the group that this is often how people feel

about coming to church. Those who might come would not have a clue when to stand up and when to sit down; we know because we do it! They feel as if they are being watched because they are new; they feel awkward and on edge the whole time. Those who don't come have all sorts of ideas about what goes on inside a church building, but most of the time it is just not an idea they even entertain. "Why would I go to church?" They are not sure they would like the people they meet.

We complain that people don't come to our church services and events. We think that we simply need to open the doors and people will come flocking in. That might have been true once, but it is true no more. The Church is no longer at the centre of the way our community sees itself. We need a new, "mission-shaped" way of thinking!

We need to take church out of the building. The first-century missionary church took the gospel into the market-place – read the story of Paul in Athens in Acts 17:16-33. We need to take the church to the market-place, to the Deli, to all sorts of places; some of that will be formal events.

Some of it will be about conversations. "It was better with a friend!" Most people new to church come because their friend invites them and comes with them. Offer to walk your friend to church, and through the front door. If you want to understand how your friend feels, go somewhere like the betting shop or the pub; see how you feel as a fish out of water; then you'll know how hard it is for your friend to come to church for the first time.

*Jim*



## Treasurer's News

### Accounts for 2015:

The Accounts for 2015 are now into the last third of the year and at present there is no need to worry too much about where the money is coming from to see us through the rest of the year. Our Offerings are still slightly less than we predicted, although a legacy of £3,000 (gratefully received) has helped matters, and expenditure is more or less as budgeted. As previously mentioned, there will be some expenditure on the church roof and rhones later this year as well as other costs in connection with the 'Fit for Purpose' exercise. The Architect's initial fee of £2,000 incl. VAT has recently been paid.

**Fundraising:** Tickets are now available for 'An Evening of Song with the Edinburgh Telephone Choir' on Friday, 30th October at 7.30pm. Please organise your friends to come along with you and tickets costing £5 can be had from myself and Michael Grieve. Although the tickets say it will be held in the church halls, it has been decided to use the church for the concert and the halls for tea/coffee afterwards.

It's not too early to start looking out some items that we could sell at the Christmas Fayre. If you have anything that you would like to hand over at any time in the next three months please let me know as soon as possible and it can be stored in the church.

**Gift Aid:** If you pay income tax and do not make your offering through the Gift Aid scheme, please consider this method of increasing your offering to the church by 25% – it makes sense.

**R Douglas Buchanan**, Treasurer



## BADMINTON

We begin our new season on Wednesday, 23rd September at 10.00am to 12.15pm in Hall 1. We would welcome anyone who could be interested in some gentle play, nothing too strenuous, to come along and join us.

Further details are available from Alison Buchanan 453 -4029



## Halls Cleaning

During the summer the teams have been continuing with their work, keeping the rooms clean and ready for use by various groups for a range of activities. We are still short of helpers in some of the teams, and would be delighted if a few more volunteers would come forward to help out for a couple of hours every six weeks. If you think you are a master of the new rubbish collection system, can wield a duster and mop or push a Hoover, your services would be much appreciated. Please get in touch.

**Elaine Wilson**

441 3490, [ek.wilson@btinternet.com](mailto:ek.wilson@btinternet.com)



## VISIT TO CAMBODIA

Some people have indicated that they would welcome the possibility of a trip to Cambodia to visit our friends at CHO. The visit would be to Poipet on the Thailand border, probably in February of 2016. If you would be interested, then it is not too late to register that interest and after the summer we will begin to make preparations for the trip.

**Jim**



## BIBLE READING

Regularly reading the Bible is an essential part of anyone's journey of Faith, reflecting daily on God's Word. We continue to offer 6 Bible Reading options, including one for young people.

See all the Bible reading material in the Vestibule at the front door of the Church.

There is also the opportunity to join other people sharing a Bible Study at Church Wednesday led by our Minister.

If you wish more information about Bible Reading material please speak to Ian Aitken or Yvonne Hunter.

## Nurture Team

"...from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth."

2 Thessalonians 2 vs 13



## FRESH START

You'll remember that in "Summer News" I told you I'd be giving up as Fresh Start Representative in December. As yet, no-one has volunteered to take over. So that the work can go on seamlessly, it would be good if someone would come forward, ready to start in January 2016. Do think about it and contact me so that I can introduce you to the FRESH START folk.

Thanks

**Marilyn Godon**



## LET'S CELEBRATE CHURCH!

In June we celebrated church! We have so much to thank God for. We celebrated His promise to be with us always and everywhere, His faithfulness and love. We celebrated the work that we've done with our children and young people; in particular, we celebrated the work done by Gill Hales as we said goodbye to her. We did our celebrating in worship, reflecting all of this in our Sunday service; we also celebrated by pizza and ice cream in the hall afterwards. See the pictures in Hall 2!

**Jim**

## Minister's Sermons



READ IT AGAIN! READ IT FOR THE FIRST TIME! LISTEN TO AN AUDIO VERSION ON THE WEB SITE! LISTEN ON A CD OF A MORNING SERVICE

Did you want to read the Minister's Sermon from last Sunday? Did you miss it? Were there bits of it you didn't understand? Go to the Church website at [www.jgpc.org.uk](http://www.jgpc.org.uk) and follow the link to 'sermons' and you will find them there. Alternatively, go to the publications area in the Sanctuary for paper copies. There are also sets of Sermons from back to 2009 in titled folders for read and return. Or, get a CD copy of a Morning Service from Sandra Paulin. Or, if you would like a large print copy speak to Ian Aitken.



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The final meeting of 2014/15 was a Breakfast Meeting on 14 June 2015. The topic was "Reform - do we need it?" with the discussion led by Gordon McFadzean

Gordon opened by defining "Reform" including emphasizing that it can be seeking to improve the system as it stands, never to overthrow it wholesale. He quoted Rev Dr Doug Gray, Principal Trinity College Glasgow, who said "It is part of the Church of Scotland's DNA as a Reformed Church it is always reforming, always still to be reformed, in response to the word and call of God." Gordon went on to challenge "Do we need Reform? Yes, we do!" He led this short introduction into 2 issues – "The governance of the Church of Scotland" followed by "Church Community".

This led to an interesting discussion about Presbyterianism and Church family. Both topics are likely to be continued as part of future meetings.

A programme of meetings is now being planned for Session 2015/16. Anyone wishing more details about the Fellowship Meetings or have suggestions concerning speakers or format please speak to Ian Aitken, Edward Campbell, Gordon Laing, or Michael Merriman, all members of the Nurture Team.

### **Nurture Team**

"May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight, O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer."

Psalm 19 vs 14

## What does Presbytery do?

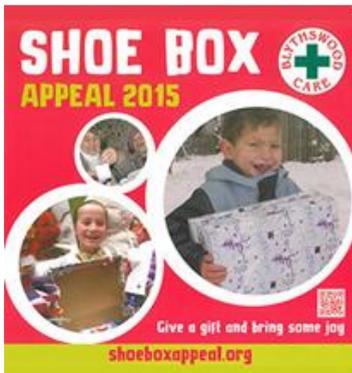
Your first question may be, what is Presbytery? As a Presbyterian church, the Kirk is governed by its elders and ministers. At a congregational level this is done by our Kirk Session who are then answerable to regional presbyteries, which are ultimately responsible to the General Assembly.

In 2014 I was chosen by our Kirk Session to be Juniper Green's elected elder on Edinburgh Presbytery. I represent the church at 8 meetings of Presbytery over the year and sit on one of its committees. Whilst the former can be fairly dry it is my experience on the latter which has demonstrated the value of Presbytery to me.

I joined the resourcing mission meeting which supports congregations develop their mission activities through financial grants and training events. It also allows successful ideas from across the Presbytery to be shared to help and inspire congregations with their own mission activities, such as a seminar we held exploring how different generations prefer to worship. This year it has also pushed greater youth involvement in church leadership, an issue I am very interested in, and through this I was nominated to be one of the 4 members of Presbytery's new Strategy Group to help develop Presbytery's ongoing vision and purpose.

I have found my first year as Presbytery elder very interesting and if you want to find out any more about Presbytery please feel free to get in touch with me

***Martin Elliot***



## IT'S SHOEBOX TIME!

Last year, Blythswood delivered 106,000 shoeboxes, mainly across the countries of Eastern Europe. There is a new copy of their newsletter attached to the noticeboard with lots of stories: lonel and Lenuta, from Moldova, children who are cared for by their grandfather; Neda in Serbia whose mother is unemployed and whose house lacks even running water; so many more. The Shoebox appeal is a very simple way of bringing a smile to the faces of children like these, as well as adults. Leaflets will be available soon to show you what to contribute to the shoeboxes; in the meantime, if you want to know more, just ask.

Jean Dewar

## Christmas Church News



Articles for the Christmas edition of the Church News should in by 24<sup>th</sup> November. They can be handed to Alison Robertson or sent to [jgchurchnews@gmail.com](mailto:jgchurchnews@gmail.com).

## Family News



### WEDDINGS "Love never fails"

June 5<sup>th</sup> Lisa Fraser and Andy Insley

July 31<sup>st</sup> Rachel McLister and John Turnbull



### NEW MEMBERS "All the saints salute you"

By Certificates of Transference

Mrs Jillian Macaulay, Juniper Green



### FUNERALS "I am the Resurrection and the life"

July 10<sup>th</sup> Mr Peter McConnon

July 28<sup>th</sup> Mr George Turnbull

## Congratulations to



Linda and Hamish Gray who celebrated their Ruby Wedding on the 5<sup>th</sup> July.

# The Noticeboard



## Communion Services

**Sunday 4th Oct** as part of the morning service.

**Sunday 1st Nov** after the morning service.

**Sunday 6th Dec** after the morning service.



## Messy Church

Sept 5<sup>th</sup>, Oct 3<sup>rd</sup>, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>, Dec 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Lorimer House services** - 27<sup>th</sup> Sept, 25<sup>th</sup> Oct, 29<sup>th</sup> Nov – in Lorimer House at 3pm.

**Sunday@Seven** at 7pm in Hall 2 on Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, Oct 18<sup>th</sup>, Nov 15<sup>th</sup>, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Thursday services** – 10th Sept, 22nd Oct, 19th Nov, 17th Dec, at 10.30am in St Margaret's Court

**Church Wednesday** at 7pm in Hall 3 for The Prayer Time and thereafter a mixture of Bible Study and other discussion events in Hall 2 at 7.30pm; see the leaflet for details.

### **Fresh Start Collections:**

Sept 6 Towels

Oct 4 Dishes/Cutlery

Nov 1 Cleaning Things/Light bulbs

Dec 6 Bedding



**Prayers for Healing** take place after the morning service on the third Sunday of each month; we have a list of names of people who are ill and have asked for prayer, there is then a short Bible reading and a prayer in which we include the list of names. It is quite a simple 'service' but many have found this prayer time to be significant.

## FRIDAY SOUP AND ROLL

Bring your knitting; come and do your crossword; chat to your friends. Why not do this over lunch, soup and a roll, a cup of tea and a tray-bake in Hall 2. Details are still being worked out, but the first of these will take place on Friday Sept 25th, probably from 12noon till 1.30pm. We'll give you the space; come and have lunch; the rest is up to you!



## CAFÉ CONVERSATIONS IN WOODS DELI

By the time you read this, we will be holding the first of our Café Conversation events in Woods Deli's café. There will be 3 more, we hope; on Oct 4th, Nov 1st and Dec 6th. These are meant as events to which you can bring your non-churched family or friends, a neutral space for curious people. There will be a theme to the conversation, perhaps some live music and lots of good coffee, tea and eats. If you want to come, you need to book a space; phone Jim McNair on 623 2230.

# WHO'S WHO

CONTACT	NAME	TEL. NO.
<b>Minister</b>	Rev James S Dewar	453 3494
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Ross MacKay	453 4601
<b>Treasurer</b>	R Douglas Buchanan	453 4029
Beadle	George Anderson	442 1927
Bereavement Care Team	Jim Dewar	453 3494
Catering	Sandy Watt	449 2744
Christian Action Team	Jean Dewar	453 3494
Church Halls Cleaning Team	Elaine Wilson	441 3490
Church Secretary	Alison Robertson	629 1471
Communications Team	Shona Cook	458 5956
Crèche	Aileen Hardie	453 4936
Flower Convener	Hilda McNeil	453 4129
Freewill Offering Administrator	Lesley Grieve	442 1475
Fresh Start Organiser	Marilyn Godon	449 2670
Garden Team Co-ordinator	Jean Dewar	453 3494
Gift Aid Treasurer	Douglas Buchanan	453 4029
Girlguiding District Commissioner	Jean Dewar	453 3494
Green Strollers Walking Group	(Jeanette Campbell (Beth Walker)	442 1111
Global Church Co-ordinator	Fiona Elliot	466 2017
Guild of Friendship	Elaine Wilson	441 3490
Halls Convener	Alison Robertson	629 1471
Kids' Church	Vacancy	
Ladies Badminton Club	Alison Buchanan	453 4029
Leprosy Mission	Sheena Blair	449 2493
Magazine Distribution	Isabel Campbell	449 3641
MSM	Martin Elliot	466 2017
Nurture Team	Yvonne Hunter	442 1282
Open Door Café & Toddlers' Group	Inez Paisley	453 3100
Organist and Choirmaster	Florence Kinnear	441 3150
Prayer Team	Greg McIntosh	442 1183
Joint Property Conveners	(Ian Gilmour (Andrew Watson)	477 3823 443 5773
Recordings of Church Service	Sandra Paulin	539 9954
Roll Keeper	Isabel Campbell	449 3641
Safeguarding	Maureen Heathwood	453 3000
Youth Group	Fiona Elliot	466 2017
Church Office is open on Friday mornings 9.30 – 11.30am		458 5147

**Church Website : [www.jgpc.org.uk](http://www.jgpc.org.uk),**

**Email : [jgpc@supanet.com](mailto:jgpc@supanet.com)**

**Facebook – Juniper Green Parish Church**