



Juniper Green
Parish Church

Church News

Summer 2015





Friends,

We changed the communion service! It was done, to begin with, as an experiment; I said nothing, but some people noticed. “There was something different today!” they said. Well done for paying attention. The change was quite small and I don’t blame you if you didn’t notice; but it was a significant change to make, symbolic of something quite profound in the spirit of doing church in Jesus’ name.

The change we made was in serving the bread and wine. Before, the minister and the elders were served first and then we served the congregation. That’s the way in which the book tells us to do it. We changed it: now the elders serve the congregation first and only then does the minister serve the elders and the elders serve the minister. You needed to be paying real attention to notice the change; some did, and wanted to know why.

The clue is in the word “serve”. The sermon on the day we changed it was about humble service in Jesus and the disciples; two of them wanted the most important places in the kingdom, but Jesus spoke about the path to greatness being the path of service. Even He came to serve! So it seemed right that the communion service reflected that pattern of service, that the leaders of the congregation put the people first and that the minister should be served last. So it was done! The Kirk Session has approved that way of serving the communion service as the way in which we will now do it.

“The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and give His life as a ransom for many.”

I came across a piece of paper recently that described the “Life cycle of the congregation”. It started with birth, infancy and adolescence and described the energy of a new church growing and developing. It then moved on to prime and maturity where all of the factors of Church life are at their strongest. There are three more stages: aristocracy, bureaucracy and death – it is possible for congregations to die, quite naturally coming to the end of their life-cycle.

I’m not prepared to identify where, in that life-cycle, I think we are in our congregation, but it does seem clear to

me that we have some tough choices to make in the next while to continue to be a mature church, in our prime. We have over a hundred adults and children in the Open Door Café on a Tuesday morning – what else can we do for these families? We have an opening to take church into one of the village cafes in the autumn – how can we maximise that opportunity? We have a “fit for purpose” building project bubbling under – where will that take us?

Underlying all of this is the deep desire to be the church *for* our community. We see people longing for faith, but struggling to know where to start; others who know that Church is important, but getting over the doorstep is a huge ask; some who are wrestling with life and its troubles, needing support. How can we be Church *for* these people, the church that serves the people of our community in all of their needs? That is the aim behind all that we might plan, even things that we might change. Will you be an active part of that serving church?



Jim
Treasurer's News

Accounts for 2015:

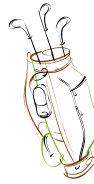
The Accounts for 2014 are progressing more or less as we budgeted. The Offerings are slightly under budget but hopefully there will be an improvement over the second half of the year. The expenditure is reasonable although heating costs still remain on the high side – the effects of a cold winter and spring. There will be some expenditure on the church roof and rhones later this year as well as other costs to improve the property which will take us up to our level of forecast costs on fabric. The Session will also be considering other plans for upgrading our property next year.

Fundraising: Please enter the next planned fundraising event in your dairy. It is Friday, 30th October at 7.30pm when we will be entertained to an evening of song by the **Telephone Choir**. It will be held in the church and it would be good if we had a full house. So start organising your friends to come along with you and tickets costing £5 will be available shortly.

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 six 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.

Douglas Buchanan



Treasurer
Alistair McBean
Memorial Quaich

The 2015 Alistair McBean Golf Competition will be held at Baberton Golf Course on Friday 28th August 2015 from 2:00pm. The presentation of prizes, followed by a meal, will take place that evening in the new club house, 7 for 7.30 pm. The competition will be a Stableford and is open to golfing church members with the meal being open to all church members. The approximate cost of the meal including wine will be £20 and the entry fee for the golf £6 for Baberton Golf Club members and £12 for non-club members. The total number for the meal is limited so to avoid disappointment please reserve your place early.

To reserve a place at the meal and/or enter the golf competition contact Malcolm Brown. Golfers are requested to indicate their present playing handicap.

Malcolm Brown

Halls Cleaning



Cleaning of the church halls has continued as usual, efficiently carried out by our 6 teams. When someone leaves, is ill or on holiday, the other team members cover very well, but we could still use some additional volunteers to join teams which are understrength. Please get in touch if you think you could spare about 2 hours every 6 weeks.

Elaine Wilson



Guild of Friendship

During the year 2014-15 we have had a successful series of meetings, and other activities have also prospered. We have not held a special event, but are planning a games afternoon for members and friends on 25 June.

Since the last edition of Church News, we have had talks on the following topics: The Church of Scotland Guild Project, "Passage from India", "Working in HM Prison, Edinburgh", "Teaching in China and Other Foreign Parts", a Floral Art demonstration, and a concert by the Springwell Golden Voices. The floral art demo was a change to the published programme, and was carried out by one of our members, Riona McNaughton and her friend, Christine Sinclair, who stepped in at the last minute to ensure we had an enjoyable afternoon.

We completed our year with our AGM and summer lunch, on 7 May, beautifully catered for by Irene Shepherd.

Over the year, our attendance at meetings has been 25 – 30, with some men attending on certain occasions. Our current membership is 45, including 6 new members.

At the AGM we welcomed a new Committee member, Margaret Woodrow, and Riona McNaughton has taken on the role of Secretary, supported by a small programme planning group.

A new president has not been forthcoming, and so I shall continue in that role meantime.

Our autumn programme will start on

Thursday 3 September, at 2pm, and we look forward to seeing all our members, and some new ones then.

Elaine Wilson,
President



BIBLE READING

Booklets and a Daily Reading List are available in the vestibule at the front door of the Church to encourage daily reading of God's Word.

The material available is as follows:-

- "Every Day with Jesus" Booklet
- "Our Daily Bread" Booklet
- "Word For Today" Booklet
- "Word 4u2Day" Booklet for Young People.
- 3 Year Bible Reading Plan "Every Word in the Bible" to take you completely through the Bible, reading every word. (Scottish Bible Society)
- "Gideon Bible Helps"

Taking a Booklet, with daily readings supported by a commentary, can be a way of opening up your spiritual journey or can be helpful in keeping you on that spiritual journey.

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

Nurture Team

".. faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ." Romans 10 v 17



FRESH START

As you know, FRESH START was begun about 15/16 years ago by some Edinburgh churches to help those who have been homeless start new lives and similar schemes have since been started in many other cities. Donations of household goods, clean and with some reasonable life left in them, are taken to the central depot in Pilton, where they are sorted into Starter Packs, i.e. individual packs of bedding, towels, china, kitchen things etc. When a homeless person gets the key to a flat, they are able to go to FRESH START and are given a selection of Starter Packs. When the scheme started, it was hoped homelessness would soon be a thing of the past, but sadly, things have not improved. In fact the situation is now so bad that FRESH START and other organisations have opened food banks. I have put a list of foodstuffs on the board in Hall 2.

I've been Juniper Green representative for 15 years, during which our congregation has faithfully contributed household goods regularly, for which I and FRESH START give many thanks. However, I now feel it's time to step aside and let someone new take over. Though we have worked on a monthly collection basis, that's not the only way to help. Other congregations do other things, so if you would be interested in taking over, please speak to me and I can introduce you to the folk at FRESH START – a new person with new ideas will be a benefit. I'll be finishing in December, so that the new representative can take over in 2016.

Meantime, we'll continue as usual. There will be no collections in July and

August, but as always, the large cardboard collection box with a FRESH START poster on it will be in the right hand corner of the Church vestibule, and donations can be left there any Sunday.

Thanks again for your continuing support.

Marilyn Godon



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 Dewar



Minister's Sermons

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 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

'FIT FOR PURPOSE' EXERCISE

The Property Committee want to share with the Congregation what they have been involved in doing whilst trying to keep the Church premises wind and watertight.

As part of the autumn 2012 Local Church Review (LCR) conducted by a team from Presbytery, the Session agreed the following Property SMART Goal.

During 2013 the Property Team to review all properties (sanctuary, halls, manse, Church Officer's house) considering whether they are 'fit for purpose' in the medium to longer term in the light of higher expectations of levels of comfort, facilities and general appearance expected by premises users, worshippers, house residents, and those who rent our halls. Approaches used to include visits to other churches especially neighbouring congregations to learn from their experiences and view their facilities. Report to be presented to Kirk Session with suggested priorities and estimated costs early in 2014.

The Property Committee, having been given this task, met on a number of occasions and members contributed knowledge of other church premises. After lengthy discussions, the Committee's response to the above was to answer the question;

“Are the buildings fit for the purpose for which they are currently used”?

Any prediction of how the Church properties would be used in the future and the levels of comfort, facilities and appearance required should be decided by the Session and Congregation.

Consequently, the Property Committee reported back to the Session in January 2014, giving them an outline of the answer to the question of current use. That report is not included here but is available from the Session Clerk.

The Session, having considered the report, asked the Property Committee to enquire what the Church of Scotland General Trustees would require of the congregation if significant changes were being made to the buildings. Mr Dewar also conducted a survey of the congregation at a Saturday coffee morning to see what were their views and ideas.

The Session Clerk and I met Brian Waller, Assistant Secretary (Ecclesiastical Buildings), and he informed us that the Church required to write a brief, which should include our vision, after which he would send two people from the General Trustees Fabric Committee to look at the buildings, raise issues, look at the options, discuss the reasons for the developments we propose and comment on/change the brief in consultation with ourselves. We also needed to advise Presbytery that we are doing this.

We should then take this revised brief to 2 or 3 architects and ask for a fee quote to do a feasibility study. This will cost £2000 - £3000. The advice is that we fund this ourselves as we are perceived to be a solvent congregation with a rising membership.

At this point we have to go back to the General Trustees for their comments. If they are happy then we need to write a business plan. This is simply how much it is going to cost, how much capital we have to put down, how much we intend

to raise from the congregation through events and how much we would like from the General Trustees. All of this has to be realistic and affordable.

The Session, having been given this information asked the Property Committee to come up with a Brief. This they did and when it was approved by the Session the meeting with the General Trustees Fabric Committee was arranged. They approved the Brief which is given below.

Brief for Fit for Purpose Upgrade of Church Property

Vision: To be a family friendly Church with comfortable flexible facilities

Outside: New signage; remove steps at west side and have a ramp for access for all to the lower Halls and Church; redecorate external parts of Church to enhance presentation.

Church Vestibule: Remove the wooden hymnbook storage to create a larger entrance area. Install "curtain" heaters above the doors to cut down the cold draughts into the Church when the weather is inclement. Enhance vestibule area overall.

Hall 1: Remove the stage and adapt for increased storage, access and flexible use.

Behind Hall 1: Extend the kitchen, either into the stage area or into room to the east of the kitchen to make a better facility to serve Hall 1. If part of the room next to the kitchen is used, then the current storage in this room would require to be moved to remain within the area remaining after the kitchen extension.

OR

Behind Hall 2: Extend the kitchen into the old office. Create a hatch into Hall 1 from the old office and a door into the cupboard in Hall 2 so that one kitchen could be used to service both Halls.

Toilets: Require full modernization.

Halls Entrance: Renovation, redecoration and enhanced access to all halls.

Sanctuary: Consideration to be given on possible enhancements based on vision.

We are now at the point of approaching architects to do the feasibility study. When this is to hand the Property Committee and Session will consider it before bringing it, with recommendations, to the Congregation. This will, hopefully, take place by the autumn of 2015.

A J Watson

On behalf of the Property Committee



**LET'S CELEBRATE
CHURCH!**

Sunday 21st June is the time to celebrate Church. The service will be an all-age event when we will take time to celebrate all that is good about the Church in Juniper Green. We will mark the end of a the session of Kids' Church and Youth Group; we will rejoice in God's goodness to us in other ways. After the service we shall continue the celebrations in ways yet to be arranged, but it will be good.

Florence Kinnear

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

For a week in May, I was a commissioner to the Church's General Assembly at which there were some headline decisions made. The first of these decisions was to extend to people in Civil partnerships the right to be recognized as ministers of the Church of Scotland. When it was proposed that the same right be accorded to people in same-sex marriage, that was also carried, but that decision was subsequently "sent down" to the Church to be agreed (or otherwise) under a legal mechanism called the Barrier Act. If you want to know more, I'm happy to talk with you about these decisions.

Jim Dewar

Leprosy Mission

Last year I sent the leprosy donations every month rather than every fortnight, this makes it easier for everyone. For this Guild year we have sent £619.22, a wonderful amount!! Please look at the Guild of Friendship notice board in Hall 2 after the church service while having your tea or coffee, or if you are in the hall any other time, to see the Mission letters of thanks and some of the very moving stories of how your donations have helped. These donations have been given by the members of the Guild of Friendship, many of their families and grandchildren, not forgetting the phials which can be found in the Church Vestibule. Thank you also to the people who hand money to me personally. Putting all these donations together add up to a wonderful amount and I'm very proud to be able to help the Guild in this way.



Members of our congregation can come and go for a variety of reasons all as part of life's tapestry. It was with particular sadness though

that Session learned of the decision of Gill Hales (who I am sure the vast majority of you will know) to both resign as Elder and to relinquish her membership at Juniper Green with a view to moving on in her faith journey. It would not be appropriate to let Gill go though without recording the very best wishes of the Session, and I am sure all of you, for all the hard work, energy, enthusiasm and of course good humour that Gill has brought to us over the years in a variety of roles within Church life. In particular, Gill has spent many years guiding and leading Kids Church and the youth of the Church generally for which we are all most thankful. Well done Gill!

Ross MacKay

Choir Notes



The Church Choir and the instrumentalists meet on a Sunday morning to prepare for worship. Formerly Choir practice was on a Thursday evening and only a 'warm up' was needed on Sunday. Thus the current arrangement is, while not involving so many hours, really much harder especially when new songs are used.

Nevertheless it is a wonderful thing to praise God! We would warmly welcome anyone who would like to join us on a Sunday morning at 9.30am. Do Come.



Sheena Blair
MEN'S
FELLOWSHIP

The third meeting of 2014/15 was a Dinner Meeting on Thursday 5 March 2015 in the Baberton Golf Club. After an excellent meal the After-Dinner Speaker was Mr Paul Drury, Director of Income Generation and Development of Bethany Christian Trust speaking about "The Work of the Bethany Christian Trust.". The Bethany Christian Trust was established in 1983 by the Rev Alan Berry, then a minister in Leith in response to the needs of the homeless and vulnerable people he confronted daily. The Charity is designed to deliver support to people moving from the despair of rough sleeping through to sustainable interdependent living in the community. Support is not only in Edinburgh but also in Dumfries, West Lothian, Fife, Inverness, and Aberdeen. The focus is to build a package of support around individuals to empower their transition. Mr Drury said that the Trust provides services to 6000 people a year from 250 staff and 2500 volunteers. Support provided by the Trust can take the form of visiting people in homes, caring support for ex-offenders, working with families to help them to stay together, help people become free of alcohol and drugs or dealing with legal and financial matters, and providing emergency and arranging long-term accommodation.

The Trust works with Edinburgh City Mission in the operation of the Winter Care Shelter and the Care Vans throughout the year (members from JGPC support these activities as team members on a rota basis). Currently, the Trust is developing a 29 bed unit for

men in conjunction with Blythswood Care in Evanton.

Those present found the talk by Mr Drury informative, challenging, and thought provoking bringing out the many daily problems facing the homeless and vulnerable people today but the Trust working towards giving "hope" to those in need.

The next meeting of the session was a Men's Breakfast on Sunday 19 April when after the Breakfast Cliff Beevers led a discussion on the subject "What can Juniper Green Parish Church do for its Local Community". Cliff said that he was not talking about activities that members of the Church have been involved in for years but rather say becoming part of a Fair Trade community alongside the Primary School, the Village Association, and the Community Council. There were a number of other ideas, one of which included being part of a Gala Day planned for next year by the Primary School and the Village Association.

The final meeting of the Session will be a Breakfast Meeting will be held on Sunday 14 June 2015 at which Mr Gordon McFadzean will lead the discussion on the topic "Reform – do we need it?"

Anyone wishing more details about the Fellowship Meetings or have suggestions concerning speakers, format, please speak to Ian Aitken, Edward Campbell, Gordon Laing, or Michael Merriman, all members of the Nurture Team.

Nurture Team

"...For I know the plans I have for you"... declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans

to give you hope and a future.”
Jeremiah 29 v 11

Community Activities

MONDAY

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------|----------------|
| Zumba Fitness Class | 9.30am | Lynne Langmead |
| Rainbows | 5.45pm | Sandra Gibb |
| Scouts | 7.00pm | Chris Welch |
| Pentland Pilates (Intermediate) | 7.15pm | Sara Wood |

TUESDAY

| | | |
|-------------------------------|---------|--------------|
| Open Door Café | 10.00am | Inez Paisley |
| Brownies | 6.30pm | Jean Dewar |
| Scottish Slimmers | 7.00pm | Susan Shaw |
| Edinburgh Budgerigar Society^ | 7.30pm | Bill Miller |

WEDNESDAY

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|------------------|
| Ladies Badminton | 10.00am | Alison Buchanan |
| Pentland Probus Club | 10.00am | Leslie Hannaford |
| Guides | 7.30pm | Susan Gibson |

THURSDAY

| | | |
|----------------------|---------|----------------|
| Zumba Gold class | 10.00am | Lynne Langmead |
| Guild of Friendship* | 2.30pm | Elaine Wilson |
| Yoga Group | 7.00pm | Maureen Clarke |
| Pilates | 7.50pm | Judith Rintoul |

FRIDAY

| | | |
|----------------|--------|----------------|
| Yoga | 9.30am | Lynne Langmead |
| Cubs & Beavers | 6.30pm | Lorrette Nicol |

SATURDAY

| | | |
|---------------|--------|-----------|
| Messy Church~ | 3.30pm | Jim Dewar |
|---------------|--------|-----------|

SUNDAY

| | | |
|--------------|---------|------------|
| Kids' Church | 10.30am | Gill Hales |
|--------------|---------|------------|

^ Monthly

+First and third Wednesdays, September to May

*Alternate

~ First Saturday of the Month

Family News

DISJUNCTION

*“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
be with you”*

Mrs Gill Hales, Juniper Green



June.

To say I have been overwhelmed by the love, care and concerns shown towards me and the family by the congregation over the last few months would be an understatement. I don't think there are words to describe just how grateful we all are and how much prayers, cards, calls etc all helped us get through the tricky bits of chemo and surgery.

Those bits are behind us now with no further treatment planned, just the long slow slog to full recovery and adjustment to the new plumbing set up. This is a bit challenging but by the end of the year, hopefully, things will have settled a good deal and I should be up and “running” again; I even hope to be able to return to teaching on a supply basis, doing the odd day here and there.

Without your help in all its forms I would not be where I am now and I cannot thank everyone enough.

THANK YOU ALL.

Love
Linda



FUNERALS

**“I am the Resurrection
and the life”**

- Mar 3rd** Mr John Wallace
- Mar 3rd** Mrs June Hannah
- Mar 18th** Mr Donald Cameron
- April 1st** Mr Brian Andrew
- April 21st** Mrs Sylvia Wright
- May 8th** Miss Jean Stephen
- May 29th** Mr Clement Matthews
- May 29th** Mrs Margaret MacHugb

Congratulations to



**Christine and
Gordon Laing,**
*Currie on the birth of
their fourth grandson,
Louis Gordon Murray*

Offord, on 3rd April.



Bill Blair, Juniper
Green, who
*celebrated his 80th
birthday, on 3rd
June.*



**Arthur and Sylvia
McAnna,** Baberton Mains,
who celebrated their

The Noticeboard



Communion Services

Sunday 7th June –
10.30am communion
service

Sunday 5th July – after the morning
service, conducted by
the Rev Grant
McLaughlan

Sunday 2nd Aug – after the morning
service

Sunday 6th Sept – after the morning
service



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.



Messy Church Sept 5th

Lorimer House services - 28th June,
26th July, 30th August – in Lorimer
House at 3pm.

Sunday@Seven will be back after the
summer holidays

Thursday services – will be back after
the summer holidays

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;
will be back after the summer holidays.



Prize winners from last year's Show

**Currie Parish Horticultural and
Industrial Society** invites you to
compete in and/or attend the 137th
Annual Show to be held in Balerno
Community High School on Saturday,
29th August 2015 from 1.30pm-4pm.
Further information may be found at
www.currieshow.org.uk or speak to
Isabel Campbell, 449 3641.

Autumn Church News

Articles for the Autumn edition of
the Church News should in by 26th
August. They can be handed to
Alison Robertson or sent to
jgchurchnews@gmail.com.