



From the Minister's Desk

Dear Friends,

The minister of a Church (not in Scotland) had to make a monthly report to his bishop. Every month after he sent the report he would get a reply, saying 'thank you for the report; keep up the good work!' He became suspicious. Did the bishop actually read these reports? He thought he would test out his suspicions?

In his next report, he wrote that everything was going well with the Church, but that he had begun to drink quite heavily. The bishop replied: 'thank you for your report; keep up the good work'; there was no other reply! In his next report, he told the bishop that the work was going well, that his drinking had got worse and that he had begun an extra-marital affair with the church organist. (*You will understand that all of this was made up!*) The bishop's reply said 'thank you for your report; keep up the good work!' Finally, he sent a report saying that Church was fine, but that he was now drinking more heavily than ever, the affair was continuing and that he was being treated for clinical depression. The reply came back 'thank you for your report; keep up the good work!'

The minister then decided that enough was enough! He met the bishop and asked him about the reports – 'have you actually read them?' 'Oh, yes!' declared the bishop. 'Then when are you going to help me deal with my alcohol problem, my affair and my depression?' There was a puzzled look on the bishop's face as if to say 'what on earth are you talking about?' The bishop had just confirmed the minister's suspicions – his reports were never read!

The Church is in the communication business. We set out to tell people a good news story about Jesus, a story that brings peace, hope, forgiveness and joy to people's lives. It also brings the challenge of God's kingship with it, a challenge to live life by the values of God's kingship. It is our job to

communicate that story well, in ways that people can understand, so that people will know about Jesus and be given the opportunity to believe in Him. As a preacher, I try very hard to preach

clearly, in ways that my audience will understand. We all need to be able to tell the Christian story simply and effectively; how well could you tell a little of your own life-story, or faith-story, to someone who asked you?

We communicate in all sorts of other ways. 2 years ago, the Kirk Session discussed the topic 'What does our building say about us?' The fact that the building is there at all says something, as do its style and condition. Our lives communicate something: we like to think that our lives communicate good things, something of Jesus seen in us perhaps! Our lives may also communicate other things: for example, that Church and faith don't matter much to us, since we don't go to Church very often. Or that we prefer the values of our society and culture rather than the ways Jesus teaches, since we behave selfishly.

Communication is also about listening, hence my story at the start. How well do we listen or take things in? People who write in *Church News* wonder if anyone ever reads their pieces since nothing seems to happen as a result. What does your neighbour need most? What bothers your children or grandchildren more than anything else? We can only find out the answers to these questions by spending time listening to them. Only then will we be able to respond positively to these situations.

God is the ace-communicator of all-time. He spent generations telling people about Himself, sending prophets who would tell the people what God is like and inviting them to respond with faith. Then finally, He communicated with the world in the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, showing us at first-hand that God is "full of grace and truth" (John 1:14)

How well do we listen to this story and respond to Jesus? You will hear bits of the Christmas story if you come to Church over the next few weeks and it might seem familiar, but will it pass you by because it is familiar, or will it make a real impact on you as you take to heart the truth it contains? Listen well!

Jean, Alistair and Sara, Fiona and Kirsty join me in wishing you all a Happy Christmas and a New Year full of grace and peace.
Yours sincerely

MESSAGE FROM MINISTRY STUDENT RUTH HALLEY



CHRISTIAN ACTION TEAM

November 2007

Warm greetings to all in Juniper Green! It is wonderful to have been given this opportunity to be part of the church family here for a time. I thought it would be appropriate to introduce myself to readers of Church News and to tell you a little about myself.

Since May this year I have been a candidate in training for full time ministry with the Church of Scotland. This involves me in many new experiences including this placement with Juniper Green Church until May 2008. Already I have been made very welcome and this is much appreciated. I hope to get to know as many members of the congregation and community as I can during my stay so please say hello if you see me out and about. My training also involves studying for a degree in Divinity with New College, part of Edinburgh University, and so I will be there for the next three years.

Before coming into training with the Church I worked for around 20 years with the City of Edinburgh Council where, latterly, I was the Service Planning Manager for Children and Families. My home is in Dalkeith and so it is not too far for me to travel around the bypass to come into the parish. Some of you will already have met my husband, Kenny, when he has been with us for worship on Sunday mornings. We also have three 'children': Adam (23), Paul (22) and Emma (17), two of whom are still living at home with us. Paul has already flown the coop and has a flat in Edinburgh.

I am very excited about this new journey, which I believe God has called me into, and I am looking forward to sharing the next part of it with you all. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly in my first weeks with you.

May the blessing of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all,

Ruth Halley

The work of the Christian Action Team has been quietly going on in the background. The Care Van crew went out in August and we are due to go out again on the 21st December. Please remember this group of 6 folk as we head out in the van – that we may show love and compassion and engage in good conversations, and yet will be kept safe in all that we do. We are also helping in the night shelter on 31st January, when we go to one of the allocated churches and cook a 2-course supper for those who come in to spend the night out of the cold. We also serve teas and coffees and leave breakfast for the morning. We have to cater for up to 40 people so this is no mean feat.

Instead of a bus outing this September we had tea in the church hall followed by a concert by 'City Bypass'. This was a most enjoyable evening, with almost 60 folk laughing and singing and playing a variety of musical instruments. The photos are a testament to the good time which was had by all and thanks are due to all those who helped on the day – setting up the hall; preparing the tea and serving; clearing away and to the members of the band who so royally entertained us.

Our second clothes collection of the year took place recently and we thank all those who have donated items of clothing they no longer require. The Edinburgh Clothes Store is always grateful for our contribution.

This Christmas we have decided not to have our usual afternoon of Christmas music and verse with the children from the local primary school. The children have moved to a new school site for the time being while their new building is under construction so it was not practical to ask them to come. However, we hope to have an afternoon earlyish in the new year of a good old fashioned sing-song with afternoon tea. Further intimation and invitations will be issued in due course.

**Congregational Mission
Statement**

***“Building Christ’s Church in the
Community”***

SESSION NOTES

The Session recently spent a Saturday at Heriot Watt Chaplaincy so that we might be together in a different setting from an evening Session meeting and discuss topics without business essentials crowding debate. We started with some input from individuals on personal aspects of being an Elder and then discussed what the ideal qualities of an Elder might be. That resulted in quite a few of us wondering how we had ever become Elders. However, perfection is not a prerequisite for the Eldership; Jesus calls people not for what are but for what they can become if they trust and follow him.

Before the meeting I had dipped into some booklets, rather old booklets on aspects of the Eldership and was interested to find that much of what I read was still relevant whilst some of it was now very dated. For instance, everything was written in the assumption that an Elder was male. The reality now is that many Elders are women and many Kirk Sessions would be very much poorer without all that women have brought to the Eldership.

Following our discussion of Eldership we debated what goals and aims we could identify as being important in several areas of Church life – Worship; Mission; Nurture; Prayer; Service; Other. The General Assembly, through the Panel on Review and Reform, asked Presbyteries to report on the use of goals and aims in their local churches. The responses nationally were mixed but Edinburgh was among the leaders in recognising that having clear goals and aims is vital for the mission of the Church. If we do not know where we are going and what we are aiming for we have no direction and nothing to challenge or stretch us. That is why the prayerful setting of goals and aims is so important and why we hope that you will be interested in the Session’s proposed goals and aims and participate in their completion.

We were saddened by the death of our Senior Elder Dr Bill Henderson who contributed so much to Church life over many years – a faithful pastoral Elder; a singer with the choir; exceptional diligence in attending worship. And in every circumstance Bill Henderson was a perfect gentleman. When considering the ideal qualities that an Elder might have we need look no further than the example of Elders like Bill Henderson.

Charles R Godon,
Session Clerk

A SERIES OF MEN’S EVENTS

On the evening of Thursday September 6th twenty-five men from our congregation attended a dinner at Baberton Golf Club. After the meal Ian Archibald of Business Matters gave a short talk advocating the benefits of men meeting to discuss religion based on the Bible. A discussion followed at which several present urged that this event should not become a “one-off”.

So, and with grateful thanks to a group of ladies who provided food, a breakfast meeting was organised for the morning of Sunday October 7th. The theme was what do the young want to know of the old and what can the old learn from the young. Again, the discussion that followed suggested that one item of interest was how Christianity helped individuals cope in the workplace.

The next follow-up meeting on Sunday 11th November brought our own Ritchie Adams in as our guest speaker. Ritchie explained how a word of prayer helped with the kind of incident he has to deal with regularly in his work with the police. The discussions ranged widely over issues of drug abuse, robbery and death. It was also heartening to hear Ritchie tell us that the Police in the UK have a Christian Association and the Police in Edinburgh meet monthly as part of that association. A lively discussion ended at 10am prompt after a reading from "The Word for Today" part of a series regularly acquired By Ian Aitken and available at the front of the church.

Cliff Beevers on behalf of the Nurture Team



PROPERTY MATTERS

The process of maintaining, repairing and where possible upgrading the church premises and fabric is an ongoing task.

Although I gave a more wide-ranging review of property issues in the last edition of the Newsletter I thought it would be informative for you if I quickly run over the issues we have dealt with in the intervening period?:

Manse Central Heating

This has now been finalised and the dust (literally) has now settled. This has been one of the most substantial projects which we have undertaken for some time and Douglas Buchanan as Treasurer will no doubt be highlighting this within his own Finance Report.

Church Railings

The Property Committee is aware of the poor condition of the paintwork to the front church railings and a quote has been obtained from a decorator to have these primed and re-painted. Unfortunately this work is weather dependent but will hopefully be dealt with in the not too distant future.

Church Floodlighting

This required some minor work but more importantly required the timer to be adjusted to reflect winter hours!

Kitchen Water Heater

Unfortunately the permanent water heater in the main kitchen broke down recently and a replacement unit had to be purchased and installed by our usual plumbing company.

There have of course been other more minor matters which the Property Committee and Team have dealt with over the course of the last three months. The committee now endeavour to meet regularly to deal with these issues on an ongoing basis.

Can I just remind you once again that if there are any problems which come to your attention please don't hesitate to pass these on to either myself, Ian Gilmour (Joint Property Convener) or any other member of the Property Committee.

Ross Mackay



SHOEBOXES

This week 183 shoeboxes have been uplifted by Blythwood for onward transportation to Eastern Europe. What a brilliant

effort this has been from the congregation. We had a night of box wrapping in the manse – and you have never heard such laughter. It was the best evening I have had for a long time and there were points when we were sore from laughing. It's amazing to watch different folk wrapping boxes – like something out of the Krypton Factor! Not all the boxes were wrapped on the night so each person took some away and they were duly returned ready to be added to the giant heap for filling. The following week was box filling. All the goods were separated and laid out ready to be put into the boxes. We chose who we were going to fill each box for eg boy aged 6, teenage girl, elderly woman etc and then put in the desired items and all the extras we had. Each box had a hat, scarf, gloves, underwear, socks, toothbrush and toothpaste, soap and comb and the extras could be anything from pretty hankies to hand knitted baby cardigans. It was great fun to fill the boxes knowing we were going to make a difference to someone's Christmas. The boxes took 2 nights to fill and we were all exhausted by the end of it.

And so 'Buying for the Boxes' is over for another year. Thanks to all the folk of the congregation (and beyond) who donated goods – it's a thought that items we just add to our shopping basket every week are luxuries to some folk even today in the 21st century. We don't know where 'our' boxes will end up – a children's home in Romania perhaps or an old folks' home in Albania – but rest assured they are all appreciated. Just remember on Christmas day to pray for those less fortunate than ourselves – everyone counted by God – and be thankful that Blythwood cares enough to organise this.

Thanks to the wrapping and packing crew of Sheena, Moira, Caroline, Inez, Alison S x2, Babs, Yvonne, Marilyn and Jim.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Every year one of our Elders is offered the opportunity of serving on the Edinburgh Presbytery as a Representative Elder. This year I thought I should put my name forward on the basis that it is good to know, at first hand, what is going on in Presbytery but principally because I had never done it before. Of course, when you put your name forward for this role, you are inevitably asked to serve on one of the Presbytery Committees. I am sure you will not be surprised to learn, therefore, that I have been placed on the Congregational Finance Committee. There are ten elders, two ministers, and a convener, who just happens to be an elder and an ex-colleague from my working days, on this Committee and so far I have found it very interesting. It has been good to see how other churches are managing (or not, as the case may be) their financial affairs and also to have an insight into how the Mission and Service costs are shared across the Presbytery.

Ten churches in the Presbytery ran Stewardship Campaigns this year. It's three years since we actively ran one – our Gift Day Appeal in 2004 raised over £15,000. But I often ask myself why it is necessary to have a special Appeal. Surely all members are motivated to give what they can all the time and realise that every year there are new projects within the church that require new funding. For example, this year we have spent over £15,000 on upgrading the Manse central heating system and replacing old heating pipes that should have been replaced at least ten years ago. It was decided to upgrade our sound and vision system at a cost of £5,000 and we also spent nearly £3,000 on repairs to the Church roof.

The work on the roof has been paid out of normal givings but the work on the manse heating and the sound and vision system has been financed by funds that are held on our behalf by the General Trustees. And there is no way of replacing that money apart from the annual rent that we receive from the Church House. However, we do need more offerings to meet day-to-day expenditure. **We are heading for a deficit in our Accounts this year of around £11,000.** Do we really need to have a formal stewardship campaign so that we can meet the **normal expenses** of running the Church? There may be times when it helps but

I would encourage you all to give a little more over the next four weeks of this year to see if we can raise at least something towards this year's deficit. So please do try to make a special effort (be motivated!) to increase your giving before the end of December. **It would help a lot if everyone could give an extra £10 or £20.** Those that could afford it could maybe give more. After all, how much are you spending on all sorts of different material things over the next few weeks?

Apart from balancing income against expenditure, I have yet another problem to contend with this year. The Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act came into force in April 2006. As we qualify as a Charity, one effect of this new Act is that the Congregational Accounts require to be amended considerably. The new requirements have originated from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, which is commonly referred to as 'OSCR'. You will see quite a difference in the 2007 Accounts when they are presented at the next Stated Annual Meeting.

Another effect is that the Accounts will not be able to be examined or audited by a member of the congregation or a close relative of one of our Trustees. I should therefore like to thank Richard McNeil who has audited the Church Accounts for the last five years and also audited the Accounts for a further five years in the 1990s. He is now ineligible to do this work for us. At the time of writing, a person to act as Independent Examiner has not yet been identified but we are working on it.

Finally, I will end with a verse, spoken by Jesus, from Luke Ch. 12. Verses 34 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

Hope you all have a really good Christmas.

Douglas Buchanan
Treasurer



HALLS CLEANING REPORT

Cleaning has progressed as usual, and quality maintained, although we have not managed to recruit any new volunteers. We have had to reduce the number of teams from seven to six, which means each team's turn comes round sooner, and so we would love to have some new members to spread the load. Please think about it.

Elaine Wilson.



CATERING

I am very grateful for the willing assistance given by everyone each Sunday. On this occasion a special thanks must go to Cathy Duncliffe who has decided, after several years service, that the time has come to retire. However, I am pleased to welcome Elaine McLeod who kindly volunteered as a replacement to maintain the numbers. Thank you

Sandy Watt



CHOIR NOTES

Choir members continue to meet faithfully at 9.30 a.m. on Sundays to prepare for morning worship. After the initial shock of realising that it is necessary to leave the house at a considerably earlier time on a Sunday morning than is necessary to attend the 10.30 Service then once singing begins the early start is forgotten.

At this time of year the choir are also meeting on Thursday evenings to prepare for the Carol Service on 16th December. The choir welcomes extra singers at this time to augment their number.

During January there will be preparation for the United Service when the praise will be led by united choirs.

Florence Kinnear



LADIES BADMINTON CLUB

We play on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 12.15 p.m. in the large church hall. We welcomed one new member to the Club this September, namely Linda McLeod from Balerno who is returning to the game after a few years' break. There has been a good turn out this autumn and we hope it continues. We welcome anyone to join us who would like to play for fun in a friendly atmosphere. There is even time for a coffee and a chat!

We wish all members of the congregation a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Alison Buchanan



172nd Merchiston Scouts



Scout Football Competition

Our scouts were beaten in the final of the annual scout football competition at Sighthill Power league. This means that we are the best in our district at least.

This is the second year running that we have made the final. Here's hoping that we can win it next year.

Zodiac Award

Over this year we have been working towards a special badge called the Zodiac Award. This involves camping once a night for at least 8 months (different calendar months) over a period of 12 months. We have provided the opportunity to camp 9 times this year.

The last camp was on Friday 23rd November at Bonaly scout camp site. It was a very cold night (below 0 C).

I am please to say that 3 scouts have completed the Bronze version of this badge and two others are very close to completing. This shows great commitment and a wonderful achievement. Well done to Jack, Alex, and Jackson.

Scout Post

By the time of publication we will be distributing your scout post cards around Edinburgh. We wish to thank you for your continued support.

Happy Christmas

We hope that you all have a Happy Christmas and a Guid New Year. Look forward to seeing you in 2008.

Help Required

We are always looking for anyone who would like to help out with scouts.

If you are interested then please contact us,
Web site: www.172scouts.com

The Rainbows are "21" in 2008. To start off our celebrations we are having a sleepover in the church hall on 30th November. There will be get togethers next years with other units to do fun things including a parachute picnic in the park.

We hope to go to the zoo to see the new Rainbow Lorikeets that we Sponsor, collecting about £70 each year by saving coppers, which we send to the zoo to help with their upkeep.

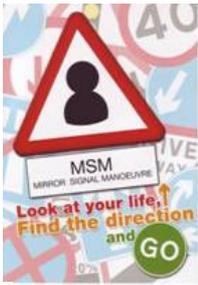
We have organised a night for Guiders old and new and finally a "watch out for a sunflower in a rainbow pot" that the Rainbows will be leaving at some doors to celebrate our "21" years.

TEARCRAFT SALE

Sunday 18th November saw lots of folk wielding purses and wallets in Hall 1! Our annual Tearcraft sale was held that day and as usual there were lots of beautiful gifts and cards from all over the world. It wasn't quite a rugby scrum, nor were elbows sharpened for pushing rivals out of the way, but there were some disappointed folk who missed out on the goods they wanted because they weren't near enough to the front of the queue!

£650 was raised in half an hour – what a fantastic sum. This money goes back to the producers of the goods to allow them to buy raw materials etc in order to make more. The goods were very reasonable priced and were of great quality and everybody seemed pleased with what they bought. All were genuinely delighted to be helping folks from abroad to help themselves.

Same time, same place next year and in the meantime, if you want to know more about Tearcraft goods, then please get in touch with me and I can get a catalogue for you. Thanks to Bev for her help on the day of the sale.



Mirror Signal Manoeuvre

Juni dot msm at
googlemail dot
com

In August, a group of 14 young people from the church met up for a meal at Bar Roma. As well as being an opportunity to get together before many of the group went to University, it also allowed me to look at how we could best provide activities aimed at young people in the Church, as at the time there was nothing for them.

The result of this was **Mirror, Signal, Manoeuvre** (MSM for short), a new series of events aimed at young people between S4 age and their late twenties, which are now running on the second and fourth Sunday evening of every month.

On the second Sunday of the month we have a social event, so at the time of writing we have been to see the Exile singers at City Praise in October and held a DVD and pizza night at my house in November.

Then on the fourth Sunday of the month we hold **Night@theFlat**, at which we look at various issues surrounding our faith in the very comfortable surroundings of Alistair and Sara Dewars' new flat. We held the first of these in October entitled 'One Way' (anyone see a theme developing?) at which we looked at the Christian faith within a multifaith world.

The feedback from these events has so far been positive and I would encourage anyone who is interested to come along to find out more. We have two more events planned for this year. There will be a bowling night at Fountainpark on the 9th December and **Night@theFlat** on the 23rd December, at which Alistair and Sara have kindly agreed to provide Christmas dinner.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped get MSM off the ground and in particular thank Alistair and Sara who did a lot of work helping to set it up and who have very kindly provided us with

somewhere to meet. I couldn't have done it without you!

If you want further information about MSM please see the flyers in the church vestibule, or e-mail juni dot msm at googlemail dot com.

Martin Elliot

Kids Church

GOD ROOLZ OK!!!

We've been checking out God's rules for living and found they are an excellent way to live your life. Keeps parents happy, keeps friends happy, keeps teachers happy and keeps you happy. That's got to be a good way of doing things. Want to hear more? Are you aged between 4 and 11, looking for fun, crafts and bit of a challenge on Sunday mornings? Then come along to kids church and we'll fill you in. We meet in Hall 2 during the Church service time.

Gill Hales



CRECHE

Crèche is held every Sunday morning at 10.30am in Hall 3. A good range of play materials are

set out for the children.

Two crèche team members are on duty each week, and we aim to provide a welcoming and safe environment for the children.

Do come along and meet us, or give me a call if you wish to find out more about the service.

Aileen Hardie

JUNIPER GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you to the children of Primary 4 for the following examples of the various topics they have covered during this term. See our Notice Board in Hall 2 for more.

No sun – no fun,
No flowers – no showers,
No tan – no fan,
No breakfast in bed,
No laughter – no shade,
No butterflies – no muttering,
No bees – no nature,
No star-watching no happiness,
November!

Fiona Hales

No sun and moon
No paddling pool
No having lunch in the garden
No lovely picnics
No long walks – which I enjoy
No cold drinks
No ice cream
No cutting the grass
No water pistols
No warm nights like July – it's November!

Alasdair Bisset

FIREWORKS!

Beautiful fireworks come out tonight
Zooming into the night sky.
Colourful sparks and exploding things
Makes you scared and frightens your limbs
Fireworks Fireworks so shiny and bright.
Makes your eyes glow in the dark night.
The sparklers shine like fire light.
The smelly smell of smoky steam.
Making the children run and scream.
Fireworks Fireworks so shiny and bright,
Make your eyes glow in the dark night.
The storming of fireworks that make the sky bright,
The beautiful sight of bonfire light!

Rachel lu

Fireworks boom fireworks zoom
They make you get a frite
They are made of dynamite
Everyone has a fuse.
They smelly and are smoky
And loud and there very
Very noisy

Bang bang boom boom
Fireworks go
Be careful when
The fireworks blow.
Fireworks boom
Fireworks bang
Up goes the dynamite
And makes a bang.
Bang bang boom boom
Fireworks go
Be careful when the
Fireworks blow
Boom boom and it ends
Jonathan McVinnie

Suggested New School Rules

Don't call people names
Eilidh Saville
Respect everyone and everything
Ciara Simms

All About Laurent Kong

I am eight years old. My birthday is the twenty-first of June. I was born in the year of the rabbit.

My dad's name is Xianwen. His wife's name is Hao. They have two children, me and my sister Mary.

I speak two and a half languages – Chinese, French and some English.

I like playing, drawing, maths and food. My favourite foods are pizza, vegetarian rice and chips.

I like jumping on a trampoline, playing Yu-Gi-ho cards and making new worlds with Lego.

I like looking in my TV Ben 10, Yu-Gi-ho, TMNT, Star Wars, Looney Tunes, Tom and Jerry, Transformeurs!

Goodbye Mr Buchanan

*"Thanks for all the good things you have done. Goodbye! Im very sad that you are leaving. I hope you have a good time!
from **Kirsty**"*

*"I remember when you told us about World War 1 and the duck who went to school.
Best wishes from **Lewys**"*

*"I remember in primary 3 you ate a banana like a monkey. From **Ben**"*

*"In primary 3 you helped me with my maths. Have a good time. Best wishes from
Samantha"*

*"Goodbye, thank you, have a good time not working. Enjoy your retirement! From **Ellie Boyle**"*

THE TABLECLOTH

The brand new pastor and his wife, newly assigned to their first ministry, to reopen a church in suburban Brooklyn, arrived in early October excited about their opportunities. When they saw their church it was very run down and needed much work. They set a goal to have everything done in time for their first service on Christmas Eve.

They worked hard, repairing pews, plastering walls, painting etc, and on December 18th were ahead of schedule and just about finished. On December 19th a terrible tempest – a driving rainstorm hit the area and lasted two days.

On the 21st, the pastor went over to the church. His heart sank when saw the roof had leaked, causing a large area of plaster about 20feet by 8 feet to fall off the front wall of the sanctuary just behind the pulpit, beginning about head height. The pastor cleaned up the mess on the floor, and not knowing what else to do but postpone the Christmas Eve service, headed home.

On the way he noticed that a local business was having a flea-market type sale for charity so he stopped in. One of the items was a beautiful, handmade, ivory coloured, crocheted tablecloth with exquisite work, fine colours and a Cross embroidered right in the centre. It was just the right size to cover up the hole in the front wall. He bought it and headed back to the church.

By this time it had started to snow. An older woman running from the opposite direction was trying to catch the bus. She missed it. The pastor invited her to wait in the warm church for the next bus 45 minutes later. She sat in a pew and paid no attention to the pastor while he got a ladder, hangers, etc, to put up the tablecloth as a wall tapestry. The pastor could hardly believe how beautiful it looked and it covered up the entire problem area. The he noticed the woman walking down the centre aisle. Her face was like a sheet. "Pastor," she asked, "where did you get that tablecloth?" The pastor explained.

The woman asked him to check the lower right corner to see if the initials, EBG were crocheted into it there. They were. These were the initials of the woman, and she had

made this tablecloth 35 years before, in Austria.

The woman could hardly believe it as the pastor told how he had just gotten the tablecloth. The woman explained that before the war she and her husband were well-to-do people in Austria. When the Nazis came, she was forced to leave. Her husband was going to follow her the next week. He was captured, sent to prison and she never saw her husband or her home again. The pastor wanted to give her the tablecloth; but she made the pastor keep it for the church. The pastor insisted in driving her home that was the least he could do. She lived on the other side of Staten island and was only in Brooklyn for the day for a housecleaning job.

What a wonderful service they had on Christmas Eve. The church was almost full. The music and the spirit were great. At the end of the service, the pastor and his wife greeted everyone at the he door and many said that they would return One older man, whom the pastor recognised from the neighbourhood, continued to sit in one of the pews and stare, and the pastor wondered why he wasn't leaving.

The man asked where he got the tablecloth on the front wall because it was identical to one that his wife had made years ago when they lived in Austria before the war and how could there be two tablecloths so much alike. He told the pastor how the Nazis came, how he forced his wife to flee for her safety and he was supposed to follow her, but he was arrested and put in a prison. He never saw his wife or his home again in all the 35 years in between.

The pastor asked him if he would allow him to take him for a little ride. They drove to Staten Island and to the same house where the pastor had taken the woman three days earlier.

He helped the man climb the three flights of stairs to the woman's apartment, knocked on the door and saw the greatest Christmas reunion he could ever imagine.

This is a true story.

Who says God doesn't work in mysterious ways?

A SERVICE FOR REMEMBERING

Coping with loss can be a very hard experience; bereavement is arguably the hardest experience of all because death separates us from people that we love. For this reason, the Bereavement Support Group and I organise **A Service for Remembering** and will hold it this year on Sunday Dec 16th at 3pm. We invite people with whom we have come into direct contact during the year through conducting a funeral in their family, but the service is open to anyone who wants to come. There will be readings and prayers, as well as a quiet time for your own thoughts and prayer. The afternoon is rounded off with tea and coffee in the Hall. If this is for you, please do come.

James Dewar

GOALS AND AIMS 2007-2012

In September, the Kirk Session held a day Conference at Heriot-Watt Chaplaincy Centre, so that we take the time to look to the future and make plans. The result of these deliberations is a set of goals and aims for the next 5 years; you will find them here in the table printed in this issue of *Church News*. Over the next few months you will begin to see signs of these goals and aims being implemented as we look to develop Church life in some very positive and exciting ways. We have tried to take some of the thoughts expressed last year in the Questionnaires which many of you completed and allow your views to give some shape to these goals. We are very aware that we need to be sensitive to the ways in which God is leading us; we hope to build Christ's Church in the way that Christ would want.

James Dewar



FOREIGN CURRENCY

If you have foreign notes or coin left over from your holiday, please bring them to church. There is a box in the vestibule where you should leave them and the money will be exchanged to pounds and put to good use within the church.

THE LEPROSY MISSION



As we enter the Festive Season with the enjoyment of entertaining and being entertained, it would be good to remember those who are unable to be part of this. In India, for example, a meal in a restaurant, in a busy city, consisting of rice, two bottles of water and a range of vegetable curries would cost less than £1. A cup of tea bought from a street vendor as little as 5p. Compare this with what we pay in Edinburgh and you can see how very little, in our eyes, can be a fortune in other people's. Sadly, there are many people in India, and other developing countries, who cannot afford even these prices especially leprosy sufferers and their families.

It is good news therefore that, since the summer, £150 has been raised for the Leprosy Mission by collecting "odd change" and selling beautiful crocheted mats produced by Dot Marshall who is 99 years young! This means that more people will also enjoy the Festive Season as the money will provide means to escape a life of poverty and disability that, in turn, helps the community where they live.

Many thanks to all who contributed and please remember to save your coppers, and anything else, in the future. The money means a lot to those it helps.

Sally McFadzean

BEREAVEMENT TEAM

The members of the team - Helen Emslie, Nancy Gordon, Christine McBean and Eleanor Pountain continue their work with members of the Parish who have suffered loss, either through the death of someone close to them or by some other form of loss. Referrals are made through the Minister.

In October, three member of the team attended a full day's conference organised by the Church of Scotland at Carberry, Musselburgh on Bereavement Visiting where they met and worked alongside other groups from all over Scotland.

WORLD MISSION

SOS - Save Old (used) Stamps.

Now we are nearing Christmas, please save your used stamps and put them in the box at the front of the Church. They are a marvellous money earner for the work of World Mission and our Church are very good indeed at the amount we collect. Thank you.

SOS again.

We need new ideas of how to proceed in our support of World Mission and in particular in supporting our three main areas - the Sudanese refugees (and their plight is still not improving), the Muturas in Kenya and the boys' orphanage in India. Have you any ideas for fund raising - or information talks - or new areas you would like to support? The Guild of Friendship has heard about the Mercy Ship for eye operations and Fair Trade - what about supporting these? . As a Church we are good at supporting World Mission initiatives but where would you like us to go from here? Please let me know.

Jean Stewart
Mission Correspondent

FIG TREE ORCHARD

The Advent series was opened by Rev. Dr. Graham Blount who works in the Scottish Parliament. Dr. Blount's talk was interesting as he told of the part that is played by the Christian Churches in the political life of Scotland. On the following evenings the speakers were - Martin Johnston whose topic was "Beyond the Good Samaritan - why Charity is not enough"; Ian Swanson "Working in the media to-day"; Eileen Baxendale "Challenges of Life with our new neighbours - Asylum Seekers".

There was an alternative strand of talks on the many ways to approach God. Those speakers were Peter Snow who talked on the Spiritual Dimension of Rudolph Steiner; Partick Harding on Complimentary Healing and Judith Nelson on Realising God through Meditation.



GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

Our new session has started and once again we have new members and are delighted to have so many of our OLD (not in years!) members back with us. Our attendances have really been very good but we are still delighted to see new faces and you will be made most welcome.

We started with our usual tea party in September and were delighted to welcome Rev. Margaret Forrester who told us about her love of gardening over 60 years. Next we had a tour of the Royal Mile in the steps of John Knox and St. Cuthbert from the Edinburgh City Mission, who challenged some of the issues of our faith, especially their worry about the rise of witchcraft in the community. As a complete contrast our next meeting was a demonstration of Tai Chi. We are considering running a class at our Church so if you are interested, any age - men and women, do contact me. Sheena Blair showed us how to make some of her well known tray bakes and did not help our waist lines by giving us lots to sample, but they were delicious! The retired members of the Southern Light delighted us with their singing and we hope to have them back. Our last two meetings of the year are a talk from a nurse from the Mercy Ship which works in Africa doing eye operations - a marvellous service and lastly our usual carols, lessons and poems plus of course Christmas tea.

We resume in January - details on the board in Hall 2 or from me, on every second Thursday at 2.00 p.m. We look forward to seeing you then.

Jean C Stewart
Guild Secretary

READ IT AGAIN!

Do you want to read the Minister's sermon from last Sunday? Did you miss it? Were there bits of it that you didn't understand? Go to the Church website at www.igpc.org.uk and follow the link to 'sermons' and you will find them there.

BIBLE READING



For those attending the "Discovery Group meetings" discussing a number of questions set by the Minister on Luke's Gospel along with the content of previous sermon(s) has raised challenging thoughts and personal questions but is also helping in journeys of Faith and greater understanding of God's Word.

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 women members.

They are as follows –

- 3 Year Bible Reading Plan "Every Word in the Bible" to take you completely through the Bible, reading every word. (Scottish Bible Society)
- "Our Daily Bread" Booklet (RBC Ministries)
- "Every Day with Jesus" Booklet (Crusade for World Revival)
- "The Word for Today" Booklet (United Christian Broadcasters)
- "GideonBible Helps" (Gideons International)

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

Another booklet for Women, · "Inspiring Women" Booklet (Crusade for World Revival), can be arranged on request.

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

Nurture Team

".. the seed on the good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop."

Luke 8 vs 15

LIBRARY



The Church Library has some 663 books/ videos/ tapes and the complete list is in Author List order and is available on the Church Web Site (www.jgpc.org.uk). The complete list is also in Subject Reference order also available at the Library.

The review of the content of the Library by the Nurture team is continuing.

Any suggestions or for new books would be welcome.

If you need any assistance on using the Library or have any suggestions for improvement, please speak to either Ian Aitken or Eleanor Pountain.

Nurture Team

".. live a life worthy of the Lord ... growing in the knowledge of God." 1 Colossians 1 vs 10b



FRESH START

Grateful thanks for all your donations – it's amazing that you seem to have something every month for collection, and at other times, too! The up-to-date Review and magazine are on the notice-board in Hall 2, and copies are also available in the Church vestibule and the library area.

We won't have a collection in January, but will start again next February with household cleaning things and light bulbs.

Thanks again

Marilyn Godon

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Our Church Halls are used by various groups during the week and, if anyone is interested in joining a group, do telephone the contact noted below.

MONDAY

Jo Jingles	9.30am	Joanne Goodall
Rainbows	5.45pm	Sandra Gibb
Scouts	7.00pm	Neill Sinclair
Weight Watchers	5.00pm	Rhona Huckle

TUESDAY

Open Door Café	10.00am	Karen Berry
Pilates class	1.00pm	Claire Macdonald
Brownies	6.30pm	Jean Dewar

WEDNESDAY

Ladies Badminton	10.00am	Alison Buchanan
Pentland Probus Club+	10.00am	Leslie Hannaford
Drama Studio	3.30pm	Julie McDonald
Guides	7.30pm	Karen McCarrison

THURSDAY

Guild of Friendship*	2.00pm	Jean Stewart
Enjoy-A-Ball	2.30pm	Alister Ramm
Yoga Group	7.00pm	Maureen Clarke

SATURDAY

Scottish Slimmers	10.30am	Suzanne Smith
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SUNDAY

Kids' Church	10.30am	Gill Hales
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- + First and third Wednesdays, September to May
- Alternate weeks

Juniper Green Primary School PTA uses the Church Halls for various functions throughout the school session such as discos, family ceilidhs, etc

Children's Birthday Party bookings are also popular.



WHO'S WHO

CONTACT

Minister
Session Clerk
Treasurer

NAME

Rev James S Dewar
Charles R Godon
R Douglas Buchanan

Beadle
Bereavement Care Team
Catering
Child Protection

Christian Action Team

Christian Aid
Church Halls Cleaning Team
Church Secretary
Communications Team
Congregational Board Clerk
Creche
Fig Tree Orchard
Flower Convener
Freewill Offering Administrator
Fresh Start Organiser
Garden Team Co-ordinator
Gift Aid Treasurer
Girlguiding District Commissioner
Green Strollers Walking Group

Guild of Friendship
Halls Convener
House Group : Baberton Mains
Kids' Church
Ladies Badminton Club
Leprosy Mission
Magazine Distribution
Mission Correspondent
MSM
Nurture Team
Open Door Café & Toddlers' Group
Organist and Choirmaster
Prayer Team
Joint Property Conveners

Roll Keeper
Social Team
Tapes of Church Service
Transport Service
Youth Group

George Anderson
Christine McBean
Sandy Watt
(Inez Paisley
(Maureen Heathwood
(Jean Dewar
(Ann Brown
Colin Anderson
Elaine Wilson
Alison Robertson
Bill Blair
Linda Gray
Aileen Hardie
Florence Kinnear
Hilda McNeil
Fiona Lackie
Marilyn Godon
Jean Dewar
Andrew Kinnear
Lesley Wilson
(Sheena Blair
(Jeanette Campbell
Sally McFadzean
Jack Emslie
Greg McIntosh
Gill Hales
Alison Buchanan
Sally McFadzean
Isabel Campbell
Jean Stewart
Martin Elliot
Cliff Beevers
Karen Berry
Florence Kinnear
Chas Godon
(Ian Gilmour
(Ross Mackay
Isabel Campbell
Vacancy
Sandra Paulin
Gordon Campbell
John Christy

Contact can be made either at the Church Office, which is open on Friday afternoons only (1.30pm – 3.30pm), telephone number 453 5147, or through the Church e-mail address jgpc@supanet.com.