

## From the Minister's Desk

Dear Friends,

Do you have a favourite Christmas carol? I know that some people just love singing all of them and would find it hard to choose one as their real, all-time favourite. For me, the answer would probably be *Still the Night*: I love the story that goes with it, whether true or not, of the carol being written in a hurry because the organ in the village church had broken down. It is probably the only carol that I can play. It is full of the truth of the Bible story of Jesus' coming - three good reasons for making it my favourite.

One of the most poignant pieces of music I have ever come across also involves this Christmas carol. In 1966 Paul Simon wrote a version of *Silent Night* and over the song, he recorded the Seven O'Clock News from an American television station. The News headlines included pieces about the death of comedian Lenny Bruce from a drugs' overdose in Los Angeles, potential race riots in Chicago because of a visit from Dr Martin Luther King and the ongoing debate in Washington over involvement in Vietnam.

Some people might hear that piece of music and think it sacrilege: how dare someone put these horrible things next to a special Christmas song! Yet, I actually think it is a quite profound piece, whether Paul Simon knew this or not when he did it. The end result is that we hear the Christmas song being sung against the background of the real issues that we face in the real world. That has to be the way in which we understand the coming of Jesus into the world.

If we were re-recording that piece today, Huw Edwards would read headlines about the credit crunch and £billions that we no longer have; or another young person in one of our cities stabbed to death in a Friday night fight; or the ongoing battle our society has with the twin addictions to drugs and alcohol; or the hopes that many people have for the future now that Barack Obama has been elected US president.

Do you ever find yourself trying to use Christmas as an escape from the realities of the world? For some people, Christmas Day is a time not to think about the big, bad world outside, but to encase themselves in a little cocoon of family warmth, good food, presents and happiness all round. We try to make sure that nothing disrupts our Christmas because we want everything to be 'just so!'

On Christmas Day 2008 there will be soldiers on active service in Iraq and Afghanistan and so there will be families on edge just in case the phone rings. There will be families divided for Christmas Day. There will be families in Edinburgh whose children will have one or two presents, and these will be provided by the Salvation Army. There will be people in Edinburgh whose real home is thousands of miles away, but have been forced to come here. No matter how hard we try, or how much we would like to do it, we can't ignore reality.

**"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."  
(Jesus in John 8:12)**

Yet, the glory of the gospel and the coming of Jesus into the world is that He came to heal, save and rescue this real world. Jesus did not come into some sanitised version of the world, where everything was neat and tidy and people wore haloes. Jesus was born in an occupied country; by the age of two He and His family were refugees in Egypt. It is likely that Joseph died while Jesus was a young man. In His ministry, He came up against many of the outcasts of His society, the lepers and people who lived on the margins. He was the victim of a miscarriage of justice at the hands of a weak man, concerned only about his political future.

Yet, into this world Jesus brought some wonderful gifts. He brought grace from God, forgiveness, peace, hope, and the endless love of God in a new way. Most of all, He brought the light of God's presence, reminding us that God is with us and God is at work in our world. His grace and peace are for us and our real world all of the time.

Jean, Alistair and Sara, Fiona and Kirsty join me in wishing you a Christmas full of grace and a peaceful 2009.

Yours sincerely,



### **Craig Davie Appreciation**

Craig resigned from membership of our Kirk Session just over a year ago and is sadly missed. He had given 45 years of service as an Elder and his pastoral care was appreciated greatly by the many households he visited over many years. Craig's participation in Session debate was always measured, helpful and gracious and how he was at Session meetings was how he was in all areas of life.

Craig's contributions to church work and witness were many – in addition to his pastoral work he was for many years Clerk to the Congregational Board, Property Convener and latterly leader of the Christian Action Team. But much of Craig's work was done without any asking or official appointment – he just got on with things. He was a very practical man and good with his hands and could often be found fixing or renovating this or that around our premises. No challenge was too large to tackle or too small to bother about. Everything was done with self-effacing efficiency.

It has been a real privilege to have Craig as a very faithful worshipping member of our congregation, an active member of the courts of our church, a dear friend to many and our privilege to have known him. Our thoughts are very much with Jan and his family.

**Charles R Godon**  
Session Clerk

### **Scott Stewart Appreciation**

Scott Stewart's quiet and faithful witness will be long remembered by all who knew him. He was a member of our Session for almost a decade and carried out all his duties with dignity and grace. However, it is perhaps his personal witness in recent years that leaves the most lasting impression. Despite being ill, sometimes obviously unwell, and undergoing repeated treatments, Scott was exceptionally faithful in Sunday attendance. Some people find all sorts of reasons why they might have a Sunday off. Scott must have had many good reasons for perhaps staying at home but he rarely ever missed morning worship and was always friendly, courteous and gracious – a delight to engage with and a privilege to know.

When asked directly how he was, Scott always found some words to the effect that he was 'not so bad' and often moved the conversation on to how others were managing with greater burdens. Our fellowship is the poorer for Scott's death as we have lost a good friend along the sense of dignity he brought to all areas of life – he was a real Christian gentleman. Our thoughts are with Moira and all who loved Scott.

**Charles R Godon**  
Session Clerk

### **FROM MOIRA STEWART**

I want you to know how much the family and myself appreciated the flowers and the many cards and letters sent to us offering sympathy, love and prayers.

Thanks you all so much for your continued support both practical and emotional and for just 'being there' for us.

**Moira Stewart**

**Congregational Mission  
Statement**

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

**Session Notes**

Our October meeting took the form of a day conference at Heriot Watt Chaplaincy and was greatly enjoyed. We spent the morning discussing our Mission Statement (can you remember what it is?), what we understand it to mean, whether we can express it better and what part we each play in fulfilling the Mission Statement. Our study was assisted by a paper written by our minister whilst on Study Leave. One of the most helpful parts of that paper drew attention to the fact that, whilst Mission specific events have value, every church activity is a Mission opportunity – a coffee morning; a social event; a chat with someone using our halls. Each time we meet with people we are presented by a Mission opportunity.

That reminds me of the words of Eric Liddell - “We are all missionaries. We carry our religion with us. Wherever we go, whoever we meet, we either bring people nearer to Christ or we repel them from Christ”.

In the afternoon we looked at indicators of a healthy church and rated Juniper Green against criteria suggested by Robert Warren in his book ‘The Healthy Churches’ Handbook’. From the scores recorded we then looked at what we need to tackle in our own church. That dialogue is ongoing in the Development Group and in the Session. More on that another time.

**Charles R Godon**  
**Session Clerk**



**SHOEBOX APPEAL  
2008**

Do you know where Moldova is? Well get the map out and have a look (You will need an up-to-date map!) because that’s where our 195 Blythswood shoeboxes are headed. What a fantastic achievement by the congregation. Many thanks to all those who donated empty shoeboxes and all the goods to go inside them, along with the paper to wrap them in. Thanks are also due to the 10 ‘wrappers’ and the 14 ‘fillers’ who completed the mammoth task of putting the whole thing together. There was much laughter in the manse on the wrapping night and a more serious night for the filling – such a responsibility to get the right things for the right folk. Usually we have no idea where the boxes are going, only that they will wing their way to Eastern Europe somewhere. However, this time we were told when they were being collected that the last week in November would see them on their way to Moldova. (It’s between Romania and Ukraine, by the way.)

The boxes all contained essential items of hat, scarf, gloves, toothbrush and toothpaste and everything else on the official lists which we could get into a shoebox – everything from shaving kit to toys, and shampoo to socks. It’s hard to imagine what it must be like, when your life is so hard, that the gift of a box containing items which we just buy from a supermarket shelf every week is greeted with tears of joy and delight that someone loves them.

So I would ask you to pray for folk in Moldova who receive a shoebox as you open your presents on Christmas Day, that they too may realise that they are loved, and not just by our folks here who made up the boxes, but by Jesus, who knows them all by name.

**Jean Dewar**

**MIKE GARGRAVE**

Mike came to Juniper Green in October 2004 just as he began his training for ministry. On December 16<sup>th</sup> he is to be ordained and inducted as the minister of Mount Florida Church in Glasgow; not bad for an Edinburgh boy and a Hearts fan! This is a very significant day for Mike and Mary and we do assure them of our prayers.



## LIBRARY

The review of the content of the Library by the Nurture team has been completed with a removal of a number of books over 25 years old.

A recently donated addition in excellent condition to the Library is "A Shepherd looks at Psalm 23" by W. Philip Keller and it can be found in the "Bible Related" Section.

The Library has some 636 books/videos/tapes and the complete list is in Author List order and is available on the Church Web Site ([www.jgpc.org.uk](http://www.jgpc.org.uk)). The complete list is also in Subject Reference order also available at the Library.

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

*"Teach me knowledge and good judgement,,,"* Psalm 119 vs 66

## A SERVICE FOR REMEMBERING

Christmas can be a difficult time for many people. We are supposed to be happy and joyful, but for many people it is a painful time, remembering loved ones who have died this year or in years past. For this reason, the Bereavement Support Group and I organise **A service for Remembering** and will hold it this year on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 3pm in the Church. 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 prayers. The afternoon is rounded off with tea and coffee in the Hall. If this is for you, please do come.

**James Dewar**



## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

3 events will have taken place by the time of this publication.

In September, a Dinner was held in the Baberton Golf Club and the after-dinner speaker Peter Simmons of the Church of Our Lady Currie spoke on the topic "A 20<sup>th</sup> Century Catholic in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century World", followed by discussion. One of his many challenging thoughts was - "What do you value in your Church?" What would be your answer?

In October, a Breakfast meeting was held in Hall 3 of the Church and the after-breakfast speaker, who led discussion, was Malcolm Brown from our Church and his topic was "Borrowed Time". Malcolm reflected on incidents in our life that challenge us on what use we are making of our time on earth. Malcolm is a Master Mariner for the Oil Industry in the Gulf and he highlighted the challenges for a Christian working and living in a different society from ours as well as highlighting many interesting technical issues associated with transportation of Oil.

In December, a Breakfast meeting is planned for 14 December in Hall 3 and the speaker to lead the discussion will be Douglas Buchanan, our Church Treasurer, on the topic "The Treasurer's Journey".

The Nurture Team are planning to hold more meetings in 2009.

### Nurture Team

*"We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard so that you may also have fellowship with us."* 1 John 1 vs 3



## TREASURER'S REPORT

This is the time of year we make donations to various charities and I thought I would copy the responses we have had from some of the recipients:

### **Emmanuel Healthcare:**

'Your support is very much appreciated. Your gifts will help to strengthen and develop the work of EMMS International and take medical mission into the world community. Our projects now stretch from Nazareth and the Middle East into India, Nepal and Malawi. There is much work to be done and your donation will be of great benefit to us.'

### **MAF – Mission Aviation Fellowship:**

'MAF provided flights for the Christian Blind Mission who performed 143 eye operations and distributed 173 pairs of spectacles at Nzara in Sudan. Several people previously blind in both eyes can now see. Our friends in Juniper Green Parish Church help keep our aircraft flying and we thank you for being part of our team.'

### **Dr. Graham's Homes**

'Our work is still as important as it was 100 years ago in giving a future to those children in families who are struggling to live below the poverty line. The UK Committee undertakes the task of ensuring there is sufficient funding for each of the 233 children we support. Your donation will help us to continue with this work.'

### **Scottish Poppy Appeal**

The Retiring Collection for the Scottish Poppy Appeal taken on Armistice Sunday amounted to £245.00. We were thanked for making a real difference to the lives of veterans and their families in Scotland.

In addition, the Board has decided the following:

### **Christmas Eve / Day Retiring Offerings**

The three charities we have chosen for the Retiring Offerings after the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Services are:

### **CLIC Sargent:**

Founded to ease the burden of childhood cancer on children, young people and their families.

### **Cystic Fibrosis Trust:**

This is the only national charity dedicated all aspects of Cystic Fibrosis, the UK's most common life-threatening inherited disease. Our donation will all be used to help those children affected in Scotland.

### **Richmond's Hope:**

Based in Richmond Craigmillar Church, support and help is given to children and young people to rebuild their lives after the death of someone they loved.

Do not also forget that **Birthday Boxes** will be used to collect funds on Sunday, 21st December for the following charities:

### **Crossreach – Sunflower Garden Project:**

A Church of Scotland Charity that is concerned with the rehabilitation of children affected by drugs.

### **Quarriers:**

Provide a wide range of services in Scotland through more than 100 projects covering the care of: children with a disability; children and families; young people with housing support needs; people with epilepsy; and young carers.

### **Donations in 2009**

The Congregational Board has also agreed to continue our annual donation of £3,000 to Scripture Union to support the 'es-team' and also approved making a payment of £40 per month to CHO, the Cambodian Hope Organisation.

Please give generously. Matthew Ch 6 v 4 'Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.'

**Douglas Buchanan**  
Treasurer





## CHRISTIAN ACTION TEAM

During October, CAT again held an evening for the older people of our fellowship. It was decided that we would start the evening with tea and follow this up with entertainment. To that end the hall was set up and a sumptuous tea was served up by the committee and some willing extra helpers. The entertainment for the evening was provided by the Edinburgh People's Theatre and what entertainment it was. We were treated to sketches, songs, jokes and so on and much laughter was heard in the hall.

For many years the congregation has provided home baking for Bethany. However, it has become more and more difficult to find folk who are willing to do some home baking and to get it to Jane Street. There was also concern about getting it across the city at a very busy time of day and the rising transport cost involved, sometimes for not much baking. The issue of Health and Safety and refreezing was also discussed. After consulting with Bethany it was agreed that the provision of home baking would come to an end. May I take the opportunity to thank all those who have contributed in anyway to this venture: baking, arranging the rotas for bakers and drivers and especially Gordon, who always did the transporting himself if no one else was available.

The crew for the care van continues to enjoy the evenings out we are allocated on the van. Some evening there are not so many clients using the van, but there is always good banter and it's such a fantastic service that it's a pleasure to be on the rota for this. The summer evenings are great to be out in, the nights at festival time are full of colour and noise, the party season in December is often cold but the needs of the homeless in our city remain the same. They are grateful for the homemade soup and rolls and tea and coffee which we provide. Please pray for the team as we next go out on Jan 16<sup>th</sup> and also for the team which will be required on 22<sup>nd</sup> January to provide a 2-course hot meal in the Care Shelter for 40 – 50 people. Pray for the folk who use the service and for the team that they may remain safe and engage well with those they encounter.

**Jean Dewar**



## GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

The Guild has had a successful autumn programme, although we have had to manage without both our

President and Secretary. We are glad that Sally is now back, and that Jean will be home from hospital soon.

We embarked on a project in the summer to make hats for the Save The Children *Knit a Hat* project, and sent off about 320 hats in assorted colours and sizes in October. Save the Children have received a total of 650,000 hats, all of which have been distributed to babies in a wide range of countries. This should help to prevent deaths from hypothermia in the first week of life, so has been a very worthwhile effort.

During the autumn we have had talks on the work of a hospital chaplain, Scottish Love in Action and a talk by Alastair Paisley on the work of a Baillie, as well as a poetry afternoon. Our next talk is "The Beginning of the End", and then we have our Christmas Lessons and Carols. New members are always welcome.

The first meeting in the New Year will be a Communion service on 15 January 2009.

Also we are having a concert given by the Edinburgh Telephone Choir on Wednesday 14 January at 7.30 pm. Tickets, priced £4.00 and £1.00 for young people still in education, are available from members of the Guild committee, and we hope to have a large audience for what will be an excellent concert.

**Elaine Wilson**



So far this term the youngsters have worked on a variety of topics. The great story of Ruth reminded us all so well the happiness that comes from trusting God. We also have spent time thinking about how we are all part of a great big family - God's family.

This year is the United Nations Year of the Potato. Our celebration is now hanging up in Hall 2 - a lovely potato printed sheet. We also created potato printed cards and gave other churchgoers the opportunity to try it out for themselves - great fun. We now know how important the humble potato is to so many people in our world. It also made us think how lucky we are that we can have lots of different kinds of food.

We meet in the big hall every Sunday morning during term time. There's a bit of craft, some drama and games and the icing on the cake is hearing and sharing our news about our wonderful friend Jesus. Do come. We'd love to see you.

### **Gill Hales**

### **Issues...**

What do Christians think about....? Now's your chance to find out!

Have you wondered what the Bible says about the issues in the news? Or what other Christians think about these big issues?

Have you struggled to come to terms with views that are different from your own? Now is your chance to find out what others think!

So many of these issues have been in the news during the last few months; now is the chance to talk about them together.

**Issues** is a series of discussion evenings led by the Minister to air some of the big issues of the day from a Biblical point of view. Each evening begins at 7.30pm in Hall 4 and will finish by 9pm.

Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Women, Men and God
Apr 8 <sup>th</sup>	Marriage and divorce
May 13 <sup>th</sup>	The sanctity of life – abortion and euthanasia
June 10 <sup>th</sup>	Same-sex partnerships

## **BABERTON MAINS HOUSEGROUP**

The house group meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month at the home of Greg and Babs McIntosh. Meetings start at 8pm with a few songs of praise then, led by Greg, about an hour and a quarter is spent looking at a chosen book of the bible. Discussion is lively and everyone has the opportunity to speak if the wish, either by adding to the discussion or asking questions. This is not normally possible during a Sunday morning service. It's wonderful what we can learn from other people's questions, and sharing out thoughts and ideas with fellow Christians.

We set aside some time for prayer after bible study, praying for each other, those are ill or the work of the church. We don't expect that everyone should speak, or lead, or pray out loud, as some might not feel comfortable doing so. This time is followed by tea and biscuits and a chance to catch up on each others news.

There are 10 of us in the group at the present but not everyone can attend every meeting, so we vary in numbers each time. Although we are known as the Baberton Mains house group, you don't have to live in Baberton to attend (And some don't) Everyone is welcome. If anyone wished to join our happy band please come along and see if you like it, or contact Greg McIntosh.

Hebrews 10 : 24-25 says: " And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another."

### **Greg McIntosh**

## **MINISTER'S SERMONS**

**Minister's Sermons on the theme of Book of Ezekiel are available, after being preached, on the Church Web Site – [www.igpc.org.uk](http://www.igpc.org.uk).**

**For members who do not have access to the Web Site, paper copies are available in the Church Library to take away.**

### **Nurture Team**

*"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path" Psalm 119 vs 105*



172<sup>nd</sup> Pentland  
Scouts



Harlaw  
Brownie Fun  
Day 2008!

### Swimmers Badge

We recently had a swimming night at WHEC where the scouts took part in the swimmers badge. There are 5 stages based on the individual ability. All those that attended completed the badge.

### Communicator Badge

The older scouts went to Napier University in November to complete the communicator badge.

### Winter Camp

We are having a winter camp in December at Avondyke scout centre in Lanarkshire. This is a joint camp with a scout troop from Morningside.

### Scout Post

We would like to thank you all for your continued support with Scout Post this year. Best wishes for Christmas and the new year.

Contact Us

Web – <http://www.172scouts.com>

## 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.jgpc.org.uk](http://www.jgpc.org.uk) and follow the link to 'sermons' and you will find them there.

At 1.45pm on Saturday, 15th November, 138 Brownies arrived at Juniper Green Church Halls from 8 units in Harlaw Division – Balerno, Ratho, Currie and Juniper Green.

The entrance was decorated with bunting and the main hall was decorated with twinkling coloured lights, bunting and paper rings that the Brownies had decorated. Each unit had also made posters that were displayed at their meeting points in the hall. Each Brownie also had a "clown" hat name badge to wear.

At 2pm the fun began. In the main hall we had games – hockey and parachute games, in hall 2 we had fun fair games – ping-pong balls into jam jars, ping-pong balls through clowns' mouths, in hall 3 we had crafts – icing and decorating biscuits and decorating paper carousel horses and in hall 4 we had more fun fair games – roll-a-ball and splat-the-rat. Each unit spent 12 minutes at each activity.

At 3pm we had a snack break or, commonly known as "quiet time" more for the adults than the Brownies!

After more fun and games, it all came to an end at 4.15pm when each Brownie collected a badge, certificate and crafts. (Some time ago I had asked each Brownie to design a badge that we would have made to give to each Brownie on the Fun Day. Each unit then voted on their designs and submitted three favourites for final judging. The chosen badge was a white background with red edging and a red and yellow carousel with yellow horses, designed by Jessica Sullivan from Currie. We also used the winning badge design to edge the certificates.)

The Brownies certainly looked and sounded as if they had had a really good Fun Day.

I, on behalf of Harlaw Division, would like to thank Juniper Green Church for letting us hold our Fun Day in the halls as it certainly would not have been possible without your wonderful facilities. A big thank you from us all for your support.

The Guides, Brownies and Rainbows wish you all a Merry Christmas.

**Anne Mack**

Division Commissioner – Harlaw





## **JUNIPER GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL**

### **A Day in the life of a shark by Ronan**

On a dark cold morning I wake up in the deep dark depths of the ocean. You can just about make out some black smockers underneath me. Occasionally you can feel the warm currents. I feel hungry! I better go and get some food. Suddenly something moved. There was nothing there, then something else moved. I thought I better investigate. It turned out to be just a crab.

Later on I had a great sighting, a huge shoal of fish coming towards me, I better react fast. I went hurtling through the water and gulped as much fish as I could. I kept swimming and suddenly banged my nose on something. It opened an eyelid, a huge tentacle came and grabbed me. I thought Uh! Oh!

I tried biting the tentacles but they were thick and strong. Then another massive tentacle grabbed me and started stretching me, four of my lovely white shiny teeth fell out. Then along came a huge whale and thumped the giant squid. It let go of me. I was free!

That night for my tea I went out hunting for fish but all the fish were asleep. I see something that looks like a massive fish so I to try and eat it and Suddenly it swims away fast. I knew it was a dolphin now.

It then got in to a chase but the dolphin was just to quick. Eventually I bit it but the dolphin reacted fast. It came hurtling towards me, it ripped my gills open.

I swam back to my home and fell asleep.

**Abernethy is a place of fun  
Beautiful snow drifting all around,  
Every day filled with adventure,  
Running and jumping about all the time,  
Northwards from Edinburgh it lies,  
Evedence I have, that it is amazing,  
Though you might not believe my evidence,  
Having been there I know it's true,  
You should trust me, go there!**

**By Toni**

**Abernethy is a great fun place.  
Brilliant because of all the space,  
Every one enjoyed getting there.  
Racing to see what activeties there were.  
Nethy Bridge here we are!  
Every staff playing a guitar  
The mission impossible,  
Hey it was possible  
You ought to go to ABERNETHY!**

**By Kerr**

**Adventures Activities  
Beautiful bedrooms  
Excellent entertainment  
Rocky roads  
Nice Snowy Days  
Every day is great  
Time to play  
HIP! HIP! HOORAY!  
You Should Come Along One Day**

**By Megan**

**Absailing, Archery and much much more.  
Beating a ball against the sports hall door.  
Every-day in the swimming pool.  
Raring to go out and play games that rule!  
Now lets take a break  
Everyone is so wide awake  
Thinking of other things to do.  
Hip – hip huraah.  
You should come along some day too**

**By Lori**

**Adventurous Abernethy is so fun!  
Beautiful scenery and snow lying all around,  
Everyone's excited all the time,  
Racing to there next activity,  
Never stopping.  
Excited  
To go home but sad to leave!  
Hearing them shouting goodbye!  
You should go there I never lie!**

**By Jane**

There were many good articles but due to limited space we could only print this selection.



## The Green Strollers

Another year has almost passed and it is time for an update on the progress of The Green Strollers. We are still on the move although the weather has not always been in our favour but we have had several excellent walks. One that springs to mind is when the leader of the walk, Ian Marshall, spoke about having hot dogs on the beach at Tynninghame Estate. When this was suggested a few people said with tongue in cheek "What a good idea" and chuckled at the thought never thinking it would happen. Low and behold Ian unpacked his rucksack and produced, frying pan, gas cooker, sausages, buttered rolls and every necessary condiment and served up a "Hot Dog Lunch" for everyone. A real fun occasion and that's what the Green Strollers are all about. Dates of our forthcoming walks are available in Hall 2 and details of the walks are in the Church Intimations two weeks beforehand. Thanks go to our team of leaders who take care to "recce" the walks and look after us while they are in charge. Without their help the Green Strollers would not survive.

*Jeanette and Sheena.*



## QUIZ OF THE YEAR 2008

Just when you want to escape the television; just when you've nothing left to do; just when you need to entertain the family... Come to the Church Quiz Night on **Saturday Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2009** at 7pm in the Church Halls. The tickets are £3; the proceeds will be shared between the Church and CHAS; there will be tea and coffee and bakes in the interval. Get your team together or come on your own. Tickets will be available from Jim and Jean Dewar.

*James Dewar*

## AUCTION SALE

**An auction, in aid of Church funds, will be held in the Church Halls on Saturday 21 March 2009. Please make a note, NOW, in your diary.**

## HOW TO KILL A CHURCH

(Poem by Rev. Mike Shepherd)

I almost went to church last night,  
But couldn't find the time.  
So much to do around the house,  
To leave it would be a crime!  
So I brushed, washed and polished  
And went wearily to bed  
But I made a resolution  
To go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night,  
But then an old friend came:  
And to have to close the door on him  
Would have been a dreadful shame.  
So we talked and chatted and gossiped  
Until the goodbyes were said.  
But I made a resolution  
To go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night  
But something made me late,  
And unpunctuality  
Is a sin I really hate!  
So I didn't go and stayed at home  
And to my conscience said:  
I'll make a resolution  
To go next week instead.

I almost went to church last night,  
But my programme was on;  
And by the time it ended  
The time for church had gone.  
So I stayed before the telly  
Until the set was dead  
I'll make a resolution  
To go next week instead.

I actually went to church last night  
But alas I was too late!  
The church was locked and silent,  
"For Sale" was on the gate.  
Oh, the remorse that then I felt,  
For that little cause was dead:  
And I, 'twas I, who killed it  
By going next week instead.

## **NO MEN ALLOWED**

It all began with a comment made a helper at the Summer Mission in August: "Why do we never get the chance to make things like this?"

The seed was planted in my mind and I thought we could give it a go. But would anyone come if I organised things? Would it work if we made the event for ladies of the congregation only (after all the men have a dinner and Sunday breakfast meetings in the church)? Maybe 10 ladies would venture out to join me. I put out a feeler intimation and names were slow to start with but soon the ball rolled and in the end **41** ladies of the congregation had a fun night on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November in hall 1.

The hall was set up with 5 craft tables down one side and 11 supper tables down the other. After I had introduced the evening and the format - the fun began. We did some crafts for about 30 mins, then had our supper of baked potatoes and fillings followed by puddings, tea and coffee and then back to the crafts until everyone had had enough. We painted flowerpots, made pom-pom creatures, painted and decorated jewel boxes, made Fimo model masterpieces and created bead coasters. The noise levels grew throughout the evening as blethering increased and we had the opportunity to speak to folk we might not have had the chance to meet before. A charge of £10 was made to cover the food and the craft materials and in the end I was able to send a donation to Children in Need with the amount left over.

The evening was fun and the feedback was positive so I hope that this type of occasion will be repeated at some other date – perhaps with different crafts, perhaps with something different, so the next time you hear an intimation about NO Men Allowed, get your name in quickly! In the meantime thanks to Sheena and Alison who helped me set up the hall, to Alison, Bev and Sheena for puddings and to all those who helped clear away and wash up the dishes. BRILLIANT!

**Jean Dewar**

## **Staying connected!**

I have needed to be going elsewhere, and in a way back 'home' to the church I attended as a student 33 years ago, at Morningside Baptist. I will miss you folks at Juniper Green, as you have been a part of my family's life for 12 years, and I have been an elder at the lovely community of St Margaret's Court, with its comings and goings, arrivals and departures, joys and sadnesses.

It has been a rich part of my development as a person and as a student in community education training and now in my studies at Strathclyde University to become a counsellor.

It is now I wish to say 'thanks' to everyone who is and was and will remain apart of this wacky woman's life! I have treasured memories and learnt so much in the listening to folks. It is painful, but necessary, to go and grow elsewhere. One more thing..... stay connected! It makes community and makes folk SMILE!

Lovingly, **Lynda Anderson**

## **THE JOINT VALLEY SERVICE**

There are 3 reasons why I think you should come to the Joint Valley Service on Jan 25<sup>th</sup>. The first is great worship: the Church will be full and we will sing a whole lot of familiar hymns and songs together. Secondly, you will have the chance to be together with people from Currie and Balerno, as we meet together for worship. Thirdly, the guest preacher is the Rev Andrew Anderson, minister of Greenside Church on Royal Terrace: Andrew is Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery this year and also has a great, first-hand, knowledge of the Church in many parts of the world; we have asked him to reflect on the world Church and our part in it. For these 3 reasons (and any others that you can think of) the Joint Valley Service is well worth being part of.

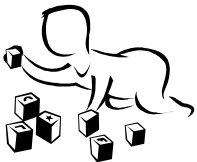
**James Dewar**



## HALLS CLEANING REPORT

Halls cleaning is still going ahead smoothly, with six teams participating. As we have three teams with only three members, we should still like more volunteers, as we have no cover if anyone is ill or away. Please think hard if you could spare two or three hours once every six weeks, and get in touch.

**Elaine Wilson.**



## OPEN DOOR CAFÉ AND TODDLER GROUP

You will find us in hall 1 on Tuesdays (during term time) between 10am and 12 noon. Refreshments and good company are available, and if you have a little person in tow, they will enjoy it too! We have some new members at the moment so now would be a good time to come along.

For more information contact myself or Inez Paisley.

**Karen Berry**



## CHOIR NOTES

A group of enthusiastic singers are meeting on Thursdays to get ready to entertain, inspire and delight on Sunday evening on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, with carols old and new. What is on offer will be music to your ears. So finish your shopping that bit earlier on the 21<sup>st</sup>, so that you leave time to come along to church that evening. Enjoy!

**Florence Kinnear**



## FRESH START

I attended the AGM in October and whilst it would be better if we weren't needed at all, it has been a successful year.

- 120 Edinburgh churches of various denominations now take part.
- 86 of these do STARTER PACK collecting, with 64 volunteers.
- 6,146 packs, each of 6 sets of goods, were issued.
- 51 tenants were helped with redecorating by 20 volunteers on the HIT SQUAD.
- 13 tenants are now living independently, due to support from 9 volunteers on the BEFRIENDING SCHEME.
- Some hotels and university departments are now donating goods when they upgrade their premises, which means more help for tenants.
- 2 – 9 month placements have been undertaken on the BUSINESS & TRAINING INITIATIVE and one of them is now employed at the Ferry Road Drive sorting centre.
- The COOKER FOR CHRISTMAS appeal raised £14K and nowadays fridges and washing machines are also given.
- 1,270 small electrical appliances were checked and distributed.

As you can imagine, all your donations are most gratefully received and much appreciated by the recipients, so let's keep up the good work! We don't have a collection in January - our next date is 1<sup>st</sup> February – Dishes and cutlery. The box is always available in the right-hand corner of the Church vestibule.

Many thanks,

**Marilyn Godon**

# FAMILY NEWS

## BAPTISM

*Jesus said "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these." (Matthew 19:14)*

November 30th Eilidh Beatrix Mary, daughter of Alison and Alasdair Robertson, Murieston

## WEDDINGS

*"Love never fails" (1 Corinthians 13:8)*

September 27th Stacy Gibb to Stewart McConnachie  
October 11th Sheena Buchanan to Ashley Carroll

## FUNERALS

*Jesus said "I am the Resurrection and the Life" (John 11:25)*

September 12th Mrs Marion MacFarlane, Pentland Nursing Home, Edinburgh  
October 8th Mr Scott Stewart, Balerno  
October 9th Mr Norman Robertson, Juniper Green  
October 14th Mr Craig Davie, Juniper Green  
October 16th Mr Kevin Sparks, Plymouth  
November 14th Mrs Marion Thomas, Lorimer House, Juniper Green  
November 19th Mr Ian Watt, Currie

## DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs Olive McGowan, Threipmuir, Balerno  
Mrs Lynda Anderson, Buckstone, Edinburgh

## CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Mr William, Mrs Fiona and Miss Lindsay Hooper, Corstorphine formerly Juniper Green  
Dr Alison Mohammed, Esher, Surrey formerly Juniper Green  
Dr Kingsley Urum, Sale, Manchester formerly Edinburgh  
Miss Sheila Wilson, Cluny Lodge Care Home, Morningside, Edinburgh, formerly Juniper Green

## Congratulations to



Betty Murray, Currie, on the birth of her grandson, Luke Ian Brian Murray on 12th October

Christine McBean, Currie, on the birth of her first grandchild, Calum Willem McBean on 10th November.



## *Note of Appreciation*

### **from May MacNair**

*"I would like to thank all my friends in the Church for the cards I have received, for the concern, and encouragement, I have been given during the past two years. Oh and Sheena for her soup – great!!!"*

*I thank you for the prayers you have said and continue to say for me. God has so graciously answered them. I keep going in His strength.*

*I wish you all of God's richest blessings.  
Love in Jesus' name,  
May"*

### **from Jean Stewart**

*"I would like to thank all of you who sent me cards, letters and good wishes, and also for your prayers. I appreciated them so much and they made my long stay in hospital more bearable. Now I am hoping to get home soon.  
Jean C Stewart"*

## **WHODUNIT?**

**(or rather "WHOSOLVEDIT?)**

We thank everyone who assisted in making the Quiz such a resounding success. Thanks to your help, £900 was raised which means that Juniper Green Parish Church and Cancer Research will each receive £450. We were amazed at the number of Charities chosen (34!) but Cancer Research was way ahead of all others.

The prize winners were –

1<sup>st</sup> Jennifer Campbell, Leith

2<sup>nd</sup> Alan Cook, Airth

3<sup>rd</sup> Moira Steven, Juniper Green

Entries were received from far and wide – Anstruther, Forfar, Kilmacolm and Cambridge to name but a few so obviously you cast your nets far and wide. Someone asked for a copy of the Quiz (with answers) in order that it could be used to raise funds for a School in Ethiopia!

We will miss being accosted by folks saying "See you and that Quiz" but we truly didn't mind.

**Christine and Isabel**

## **LIFE AND WORK**

Have **you** considered subscribing to Life and Work? No? Think again – this magazine is the award-winning magazine of the Church of Scotland.

Each month the magazine contains topical articles on people and events that play important parts in all our lives. There is also a letters section with opinions and comments from readers, book reviews, crossword puzzles, etc., etc.

We offer a discounted subscription of £17 for the 12 issues of 2009 as against £1.60 per month. Interested? Please contact me when I will arrange for you to have a free trial copy.  
**Isabel Campbell**



The Communications Team wishes all our readers the Compliments of the Season and thanks all who have helped in the production of Church News during 2008. At this time, those who have delivered Christmas Cards to all households and businesses in our Parish area are especially thanked.

The next issue of Church News will be the Spring edition and all copy, covering the period March-June, should be sent by 17th February to Alison Robertson .

# What's On

## **Sunday Services: Morning Worship 10:30 am, Sunday@Seven in Hall 2**

Dec 10 <sup>th</sup>	<i>Issues facing Christians today – poverty, wealth and simplicity</i> ; Hall 4 at 7.30pm
Dec 11 <sup>th</sup>	St Margaret's Court service at 10.30am
Dec 14 <sup>th</sup>	Morning Service at 10.30am – Gift Service for Salvation Army Service for Remembering at 3pm
Dec 16 <sup>th</sup>	Outlook at 8pm in Hall 3
Dec 17 <sup>th</sup>	Discovery Group Bible Study in Hall 4 at 7.30pm
Dec 21 <sup>st</sup>	Communion Service at 9.30am, followed by coffee and mince pies All-age service with Kids Church at 10.30am followed by coffee and mince pies Service of Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm
Dec 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b><i>The Quiet Place at Christmas</i></b> – Church open for prayer 2-3pm, 7-8pm.
Dec 24 <sup>th</sup>	Family Carol Service at 6.30pm The Late Service at 11.30pm
Dec 25 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Day Service for all the family at 10.30am
Jan 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Quiz of the Year 2008 in the Church Halls at 7pm
Jan 4 <sup>th</sup>	Open House at the Manse 2-5pm
Jan 14 <sup>th</sup>	The Telephone Choir
Jan 15 <sup>th</sup>	The Guild of Friendship Communion Service at 2pm
Jan 19 <sup>th</sup>	Green Strollers Walk
Jan 20 <sup>th</sup>	Outlook in Hall 3 at 8pm
Jan 21 <sup>st</sup>	Congregational Board at 7.30pm in Hall 2
Jan 25 <sup>th</sup>	The Joint valley Service in Juniper Green at 10.30am
Jan 27 <sup>th</sup>	Housegroup Bible Study at 8pm in 4 Baberton Mains Green
Jan 28 <sup>th</sup>	Discovery Group Bible Study at 7.30pm in Hall 4
Feb 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kirk Session meeting in Hall 2 at 7.30pm
Feb 10 <sup>th</sup>	Green Strollers Walk
Feb 11 <sup>th</sup>	Issues – <i>Women, men and God</i> in Hall 4 at 7.30pm
Feb 12 <sup>th</sup>	St Margaret's Court service at 10.30am
Feb 16 <sup>th</sup>	Heriot Watt Chaplaincy lecture at 6.30pm
Feb 17 <sup>th</sup>	Outlook in Hall 3 at 8pm
Feb 24 <sup>th</sup>	Housegroup Bible Study at 8pm in 4 Baberton Mains Green
Feb 25 <sup>th</sup>	Discovery Group bible Study at 7.30pm in Hall 4
Mar 1 <sup>st</sup>	Communion Services at 10.30am and 3.30pm
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Green Strollers Walk
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Kirk Session meeting in hall 2 at 7.30pm
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	Stated Annual Meeting of the congregation (provisional)
March 12 <sup>th</sup>	St Margaret's Court service at 10.30am
March 17 <sup>th</sup>	Outlook in Hall 3 at 8pm
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Congregational Board meeting at 7.30pm in Hall 2
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	Auction Sale

**Outlook** – Outlook meets for prayer on the third Tuesday of each month in Hall 3 at 8pm. This begins again on 20<sup>th</sup> January.

**Sunday@Seven** in Hall 2 – A mix of contemporary and traditional songs, interactive Bible teaching and prayer, quiet reflection, relating to Christian faith to the life of the Church and the community. Do come and join us for a more informal style of worship. This begins again on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

# 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.