

From the Minister's Desk

Dear Friends,

I've been thinking a lot recently about the idea of community. Our Kirk Session conference at the end of October had 'community' as its theme and we thought about the relationships that exist between the Church and our communities and how we might strengthen these relationships. There is now a Juniper Green Community Council which had its first meeting in mid-November, something new and exciting for the community. I read a book called *Life Together* that raised a number of questions about the way Churches live and behave together.

Communities are about people. Traditionally we have thought that they are made up of people who live in the same geographical place; so Churches were given parishes to look after, a piece of land on the map of Scotland which is ours and for which we are the Church. We are to care for the people of that community and are responsible for doing mission amongst the people. Our parish consists of Juniper Green, Baberton Mains and the piece of Lanark Road down to Kingsknowe Golf Club. Church is to care for the people who live in our parish.

But there are other kinds of communities that exist nowadays. Everyone who works has a network of contacts and relationships with the people with whom they work. That workplace network can be spread all over the city and beyond, gathering in the workplace and not meeting again anywhere else. There are also virtual communities and networks: *Facebook* hosts a community of contacts and friendships on the Web; people keep in touch with one another through these social network sites rather than by phone or even text.

We are told that we are becoming a society in which people are increasingly isolated. In the next few years, the number of people living on their own in the UK will exceed 50%, if I remember the statistic correctly. Yet, people are made to be sociable; we are made to have contact with other people in some way or another. I suppose the question that remains is how we do that in such a way that these contacts and relationships are always positive and helpful things.

The Church is a distinctive community, brought together in a particular way, sharing important things together. Here's a quote from *Life Together*, written by Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who died in 1945. He wrote: "Our community with one another consists solely in what Christ has done to both of us." I like that! What binds Christians together is something mutual; Christ has done something for and in both of us; so we belong together and our community is an expression of that. Sadly, the day-to-day reality of Church has often been quite different as Christians have not been slow to air their differences in sometimes a very public way; that is to our shame, because it takes away from the glory of God and produces barriers to people hearing the gospel.

**"Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ."
(Ephesians 1:2)**

There are so many aspects of Christian life that feed that sense of community. We worship God together; worship is a group activity; we do it in company with other people on a Sunday. We sit together round the Lord's Table and share bread and wine with one another, passing it from one to the other, serving one another; the communion service is a group activity. We pray together; we study the Bible together; we sing together; we walk together; we clean together; we have tea and coffee together; we talk together. We need to repent of the times when we gossip about one another, or backbite, or snap at someone, or do anything that serves to take away from Christ at work in both of us.

One last thought: Christmas is all about Jesus coming to live in a real-life community. We can fix on a map the place where Jesus was born; we can fix, at a point in history, when He came. John's gospel tells us that "The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood." (John 1:14) Jesus lived in the middle of a human community: he grew up in a village; His ministry was centred on a community of disciples who went with Him everywhere He went; He suffered at the hands of powerful people when community went awry; when He was raised from the dead, He changed the world forever.

Jean, Alistair and Sara, Fiona and Kirsty, join me in wishing you a happy Christmas and a new year full of grace and peace.

Yours sincerely,



TREASURER'S REPORT

As you would expect me to, I have been keeping a close watch on the state of the Accounts as we come up to the end of the Financial Year. Compared to last year our income is very slightly down but I am confident that in the few weeks remaining to 31st December we can rectify that situation. It is up to all of us to do what we can to ensure that we at least manage to beat last year's figure, if not reaching our target which is 3% more than last year. Apart from our Givings, the income from our investments will be down due to the fall in dividends and interest rates. There will also be a decrease in the income from hall rent as we have lost two long-term users this year. On the bright side, there has been a small increase in our own fund raising this year as well as an improvement in premises fees from an increase in the number of Weddings held in the church this year.

Our expenditure is practically constant apart from fabric, which varies considerably from year to year. When we have large projects costing above average expenditure (as we did last year), we can request some cash from the funds held on our behalf by the General Trustees. This fund, which is supplemented every year from the income from the rent of the church house, can only be used for fabric and generally only for especially large projects. There has been no special fabric project this year but fabric expenditure on day-to-day matters has still managed to cost nearly £10,000. However, if we can ensure that our Givings at least reach last year's figure (£75,000 excluding Gift Aid) then we should be in surplus at the end of the year. So please do all you can to make that happen.

As your Presbytery Elder, I am privileged to be on the Congregational Finance Committee where I see all the income relating to the other 84 churches in the Presbytery. Our income per member in 2008, which included money received from the General Trustees (£11,000), was just slightly below the average per head for the Presbytery and it would be good if we could in fact be above the average. Perhaps that is something we can all think about when we make up our minds how much we are going to put into the WFO envelope, or give by bank standing order, in 2010. Also, if you are an income tax payer and are not giving by Gift Aid – now is the

time to make the change. It only requires your signature on the relevant form.

Andrew Kinnear:

At the end of this year, Andrew Kinnear will relinquish his duties as Gift Aid Convenor and consequently as a member of the Finance Committee. Andrew took on this role quite a few years ago when the system to reclaim Income Tax for charitable purposes used to be known as Deed of Covenant. He controlled that system making sure that the Deeds were renewed at the appropriate time and made the relevant hand written returns to the Inland Revenue and to the members. He successfully managed the transfer to the new Gift Aid system and conscientiously over the years increased the number of members who now make their Givings to the church by this method. There are now 144 members (more if you add the non tax paying husband/wife to the total) who give by Gift Aid. Making the returns has become slightly easier with the introduction of the computer and standard forms but nevertheless, it still takes some time to make sure all figures balance.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank Andrew for his work over many years where he exercised accuracy, competence, reliability and integrity in everything he undertook.

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 (Scotland):

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

Cystic Fibrosis Trust (Scotland):

Dedicated to all aspects of the UK's most common life threatening inherited disease.

Richmond's Hope:

Support is given to children and young people after the death of someone they loved.

Do not also forget that **Birthday Boxes** will be used to collect funds on Sunday, 20th December for Crossreach and Quarriers.

I hope you all have a very enjoyable Christmas with your family and friends.

R Douglas Buchanan

Treasurer

Congregational Mission Statement

“Building Christ’s Church in the Community”

SESSION NOTES

The Unitary Constitution Deed, having passed all necessary legal steps, was sent to me a few months ago by Church Headquarters (often referred to as ‘121’ due to its location in George Street) and is now filed away in the Session deed box along with other interesting historical documents for St Margaret’s, St Andrew’s and Juniper Green Church. These documents make fascinating reading and I would be happy to let anyone interested have sight of them. The new constitution means that our Session meetings since September have included business dealt with previously by the Congregational Board. We have been encouraged at how smoothly business has been managed despite the Session’s workload having increased.

As I write this, twelve members of the Session are due to meet with a Presbytery team as part of a special visit. Presbytery decided some months ago that quality information was lacking for encouraging effective city-wide mission, for making decisions about church futures and for updating the Presbytery Plan. The Plan is a document that lists all churches in the Presbytery, places them into agreed or notional groupings, shows the listing of all buildings and indicates ministry staffing for the next ten years. An initiative called “Unless the Lord Builds the House……” is now underway and that will require a visit to every church by trained teams. They will meet with each church’s leadership representatives and from the wide-ranging information gained the Presbytery Plan will be updated in a more accurate way than would otherwise have been possible.

The outcome may well mean that hard decisions have to be made about the future of some churches. The Presbytery visit to Juniper Green will be past by the time you

are reading this article and I am confident that Juniper Green has a long term future. However, the number of congregations across our city will almost certainly reduce well within the next decade. Your prayers are requested for the Presbytery visitors, those who will analyse the information gathered and the resultant decisions that will affect congregational life, ministry staffing and buildings.

It would be easy to consider issues such as Constitutions, Presbytery wide visits and statistical analyses as irrelevances in Kingdom work. However, unless we address basics such as efficient conduct of church business and the best use of resources and assets, Kingdom work will not be enabled and mission will be harmed.

Charles R Godon
Session Clerk



GUILD OF FRIENDSHIP

The Guild has had a successful start to the new session, with membership numbers maintained at around fifty-five. Sadly, two members have died, and another two moved away, but we have gained some new ones.

We started with our welcome tea party in September, and so far have had six meetings in all. We have two meetings scheduled for December, and start again on January 14 with our New Year Communion Service. Meetings so far have been: a performance by the Deaf-blind Scotland Drama Group; talks on A Journey to Africa with the Moderator, the Library Service, Mission Aviation Fellowship, Newbattle Abbey College, and a poetry afternoon. A full programme is displayed on the notice board in Hall 2, and anyone interested is welcome to join us.

We also continue to fund-raise for various organisations, and have a bring-and-buy stall at most meetings.

Elaine Wilson

CHURCH WEDNESDAY

Our new arrangement for prayer and Bible Study has begun well, with an average of 12 coming to pray and 15 coming to study the book of Acts. Some have come every week; some have come occasionally; some have come to try it out and might come back again; there is plenty of room for more to join in and it is quite acceptable simply to sit and listen. There is a leaflet inside *Church News* giving details of the next three months; the Prayer Time continues at 7pm and we will also carry on our way through the story of the early Church in Acts at 7.30pm in Hall 2.

From January to June, we are also going to be working our way through a course called ***Just People?*** which is designed to help Churches think about the communities in which they live and work and worship, with a view to engaging in mission with these communities. This promises to be eye-opening and fascinating as well as challenging; do come and join in!

CAMBODIA TRIP

10 of us are preparing for a trip to Cambodia in July 2010. More details still need to be settled, but we plan to visit Poipet on the Thailand-Cambodia border and spend most of a two-week trip working with Chomno and his wife Kim and the Cambodian Hope Organization.

We will tell you more about the trip when more is settled; for the moment the group consists of Jeanette Campbell, Rosanne Christy, Fiona Dewar, Martin Elliot, Emma Hales, Yvonne Hunter, Hannah Pountain, Eric and Sandra Paulin and me. We have already done a little bit of fundraising, but we will be doing more over the next few months; some of that money will be to fund our trip, some of it will go to CHO itself. Please be generous.

James S. Dewar



HALLS CLEANING REPORT

The cleaning teams continue to keep the halls in very good order, although one team is still working with one member short. It would be great if someone could volunteer to join team 6, whose next week for cleaning duty will be the week commencing 4th January 2010. Plenty of time to get organised! Anyone interested please contact me.

Elaine Wilson.

FRESH START



We come to the end of another successful year, thanks to the generosity of all our members and friends. We have now been collecting for 10 years!!

As usual, we will not have a collection for January, but will begin on Sunday 7 February with Towels. The collection box is always available in the right-hand corner of the Church vestibule. All items should be clean, ready for immediate re-use.

Many thanks to you all

Marilyn Godon

LADIES BADMINTON



We are well into our season and have welcomed one new member this year, namely, June Flynn. At the moment, June is in New Zealand awaiting the arrival of her first grandchild, and we wish her and her family all the very best at this happy time. We will be pleased to see anyone for badminton or even just for a cup of coffee on Wednesday mornings in the church hall. May we also take this opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Alison Buchanan



SHOEBOXES

Each year I issue an appeal on behalf of Blythwood for empty shoeboxes and goods to fill them for onward transportation to Eastern Europe and each year I am amazed that the folk of the church, and beyond, respond with such generosity. I should not be amazed, but thankful to God for that generosity.

This year has been no exception and a squad of 8 women spent a hilarious evening wrapping 181 boxes at the manse dining table. We got in each other's way; pinched each other's paper and sellotape; misplaced lids and scissors and laughed away the evening. It was hard work but oh, so much fun.

The following week was a much more intense evening as we had the responsibility of filling the boxes correctly with the mandatory items and adding additional items. Who in Juniper Green would ever think of a toothbrush and toothpaste or hat, scarf and gloves as mandatory items? We can get hold of these any time we need them, but to those who receive the boxes these are luxuries. I still have great difficulty in coming to terms with that - despite the DVD pictures we saw in church of folk receiving their box presents last year. The joy and smiles on their faces made the giggling and the hard work and sore backs worthwhile.

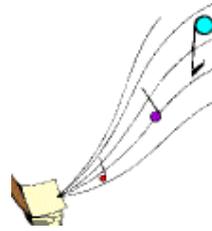
In the end we filled 185 boxes and in addition some of our left-over items were used to fill up some boxes from another Edinburgh church. These have all now gone to Glasgow where they will be checked and an adult's calendar or child's book in the language of the recipient is added. Once checked they are crated and sent to Eastern Europe, India and Africa. When Jim and I were in Glasgow we saw huge boxes ready to go to the Ukraine. Perhaps that is where our boxes will go. Who knows?

All the extra empty boxes and items which were surplus went either to Blythwood, the Salvation Army or Fresh Start so nothing was wasted.

As before, as you open your own presents on Christmas Day, say a prayer for those who will receive a much less lavish gift, but one which we know will bring a smile to faces and be appreciated by someone whose name is known to God.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, wrapped and filled (and provided the home baking!).

Jean Dewar



CHOIR NOTES

Christmas time for the Church Choir is Carol Time.

Christmas Carols were first introduced into this country from France in the Middle Ages. Carol Singing is one of the oldest customs in Great Britain. The best known Christmas Carols date from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The first Christmas carol was sung from the sky:

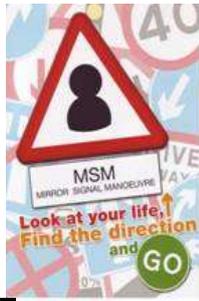
Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel praising God and saying "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace to men on whom his favour rests." (Luke, Chapter 2)
Was it said, or was it sung?

As the Church Choir practises the Carols for the December 20th Carol Service many parts of the Christmas story are covered by the words of the songs. Sometimes the music is traditional, sometimes modern, but **always** the story is there. The words of a 14th century German carol start -

*"In dolci júbilo
Now sing with hearts aglow"
and finish with the line
"O that we were there."*

"Lord, speak softly to my soul;
Tell me more of that first Christmas night
When a warm breath of peace covered Bethlehem,
And the hills came alive with your light."
(Angela Griffiths)

Florence Kinnear



Mirror Signal Manoeuvre

juni.msm@googlemail.com

It has been a busy term for MSM which started with the, now annual, Youth Meal, on the evening after the Youth Led Service at the end of August. This saw 16 young people getting together at Al Borgo to catch up, have a laugh, enjoy a good meal and say goodbye to those members heading off to University.

Since then we have had a couple more social events with a group of MSM members heading to the excellent Origin Praise Night in the newly refurbished Usher Hall and a ten pin bowling contest which saw some very fierce competition between members and leaders alike!

As always we have also had a number of Nights@theFlat, where the group get together in the informal and comfortable surroundings of Alistair and Sara Dewar's new flat to look at issues surrounding our faith. This term has seen us studying the lives of characters from the old testament and seeing what we can learn from them. So far we have looked at the lives of Abraham and Ruth and will finish the series by looking at the life of Daniel, before finishing the term with Christmas dinner, where we will hopefully be joined by some of the members who have been away at University.

If you want to find out more about MSM or any of our events please see the flyers in the church vestibule, or visit the MSM Facebook page.



MESSAGE FROM JUNIA

Thank you Juniper Green! I have only been worshipping with you since September but such was the warm welcome I received, that you all made me very quickly feel part of the community here. My own Parish is Mayfield Salisbury and I've just graduated from New College. This year whilst I'm exploring more deeply what my calling is, I've taken the opportunity to study music at Stevenson College and improve my musicianship. I'm really excited at this opportunity to become part of Juniper Green and broaden my experience of worship and church life. I'm really looking forward to spending the next sixth months with you as I shadow Jim and find out more about Ministry.



NO MEN ALLOWED

On November 14th 31 women gathered in Hall1 for an evening away from homes and families to relax, eat, make crafts, enjoy conversation and have fun before the onslaught of Christmas and the many other tasks of the next few weeks.

We enjoyed a supper of baked potatoes with various fillings and salad and followed that by a marvellous selection of puddings – too much choice - so we were *forced* to have more than one pudding!

Candles and glass holders were decorated; keyrings were drawn and shrunk in the oven; cards were etched and door hangers were painted. Everyone went away with at least a couple of items they had proudly made and there was lots of laughter and conversation. Some folks said they hadn't done any of that kind of thing since their children were small! There was a lovely buzz about the evening and you can see from the photographs in Hall 2 that everyone concentrated on what they were doing.

Many thanks to those who helped set up the hall, cleared away and washed the dishes – everyone mucked in and it was time to go home all too soon.

Anyone for another NMA next year?

Jean Dewar



CRECHE

Is available from 10.30am every Sunday morning for babies and children up to three years old. Two of our crèche team members will be there to meet you and welcome your little ones. We are in Hall 3. A range of toys is set out for the children to play with in a safe, warm and comfortable environment.

If you have young children and would like to meet our helpers, and find out more about creche, please feel free to pop in on a Sunday morning.

If you would like to be a member of the creche team, it would be great to hear from you.

Aileen Hardie



KIDS' CHURCH

Kids' Church meets for those of nursery and primary school ages during the church service. This term we have been learning about people who have had to put their trust in God, and how He has looked after them. We learn, do puzzles and crafts, play games and have great fun together. Just now, we're looking forward to Christmas activities. If you have any questions, please contact **Beverley Christy**

ROCK SOLID



Our children's club has been running again since September and each week we have had 15-20 children come to play games and make things together. We have been telling some of the best-known Bible stories on DVD and

reinforcing them in other ways. Just last week, we told the story of the Good Samaritan and the children were acting out the different emotions of the story by making faces that looked happy, sad, thirsty, hurt and disappointed. Just when you think they're not listening, they can tell you all of the details of the previous story. There are lots of good relationships being formed and connections made and we're glad to see the children (most of whom don't come to Church at any other time) respond and flourish.

James Dewar

Young People's Group

The Young People's Group, for those at secondary school in S1 and S4, meets during the church service. We study the Bible, using activities and discussion to explore its meaning. We have just finished a study of 1st Chronicles, looking at the life of David and at present are looking at Paul's letter to the Ephesians, learning about how we should witness to others through the way we live as Christians. We are always delighted to welcome new members. To find out more, please contact **John Christy**

74th A JUNIPER GREEN BROWNIES

This year Girlguiding is celebrating our centenary and as part of the community section of our celebrations, the Church Brownies have provided a planter outside the front door of Hall 2. Every Brownie was involved in filling it and planting it on one cold evening at the beginning of November. It was great fun and it is filled to bursting with daffodils, tulips, crocuses etc and over-planted with cyclamen and violas. We hope you enjoy it in the coming months when it comes into bloom.

Jean Dewar



172nd Pentland Scouts

District Camp

In September we were involved in the 2nd Pentland District Camp at Fordell Firs camp site. There were lots of activities including Mountain Biking, Water Sports, Abseiling, and Sumo Suits. There are some photographs on our website.

Chief Scout's Gold Award

Five of our older scouts have achieved the Chief Scout's Gold Award – this is the highest award at Scouts. Well done to Alex, Owen, Jack, Adam, and Jackson.

Zodiac Award

We have also been working to the Zodiac award which includes camping for at least 8 months of the year. Some Scouts have gained the Silver or Bronze level.

Next Year

Next summer we are travelling to Cheshire to take part in the Cheshire scouts jamboree. This is a joint camp with the 98th and 42nd Pentland scout troops.

Cubs and Beavers

Both our Cubs and Beavers have now settled in to the church hall for their meeting place on a Friday night. A big thank you to the church for accommodating us.

We wish all of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Chris Welch

Web – <http://www.172scouts.com>



A Sunday School teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?'

One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'



As I mentioned in my last article our units have been working extremely hard on their Changing The World projects as part of our Centenary Celebrations. I am very pleased to tell you that the units within Scotland have raised to date an amount of £117,172 with 14 various Charities being involved. The Brownies in Juniper Green raised the awareness and funds in respect of Water Aid, Asthma UK and the Woodlands Trust. Well done to the girls and thank you to everyone who gave their support.

I recently attended Rainbows for a sponsored sing-a-long which involved the Rainbows and Leaders singing a wide range of songs for 30 minutes. We had great fun and raised lots of money. Well done Rainbows.

On 5th September we held our Centenary Launch Party in Balerno High School which was attended by girls from all our Rainbow, Brownie and Guide units in Juniper Green, Currie, Balerno & Ratho together with ex Guiders and friends of Harlaw Division. We were delighted to welcome our County Commissioner, Margaret Winter, Assistant County Commissioner, Anne Mackintosh and Harlaw Division Ambassador, Mr Alastair Paisley.

We were delighted that Irene Thomson agreed to officially launch our Centenary year and would like to thank her on behalf of Harlaw Division for all her input and participation on the day.

Everyone got involved in making paper pom-poms, learning cheerleading, decorating face masks and making and drinking fruit cocktails.

I shall keep you updated with all our activities and events throughout our Centenary year.

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and thank you for all your support during 2009.

Anne Mack
Division Commissioner
Harlaw Division

JUNIPER GREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Many thanks to the children, and teachers, of Primaries 5A and 5B. Here are a few extracts from P5B's articles and you will find P5A's colourful Autumn Leaves displayed on our Church Notice Board in Hall 2.

Juniper Green School Brownies

.....Last week we got to do a fashion design. We had a French hat, a clutch bag and a dress. Me, Charlotte and Megan were the designers and Nicole was our model. Our dress had ruffles. We had to make our dress out of newspaper and everything else was made of newspaper as well. After you finished the dress you made we done a cat walk. It was only the pretend models that got to do the cat walk but if you were the designers you were the audience.

Beth Campbell

The Weekend of My Life

On my weekend I went Scooba Diving at the Merchiston School for Boys Swimming Pool with the Cubs that I'm in. It was quite good because I've never done it before and not just that I also got to do Snorkling. The Scooba Diving was my favourite because you could breath under water but only if you had something special in your mouth. I did Scooba Diving first so when it came to my turn to do Snorkling I forgot that I couldn't breath under-water so I got water in my mouth
..... ***Aidan Cleland***

Formula 1

This year I have started to watch Formula 1 and have enjoyed it a lot. My favourite person is Lewis Hamilton. I've not been watching it for that long. I've only watched it for a couple of months and enjoyed it. I'm glad Jenson Buttun won the championship I now know a lot about Formula 1
.....**Jake Alexander Edgcombe**

Sooty the animal catcher

My lovely cat Sooty has a hobby of catching mice, birds and shrews. Sooty doesn't tend to kill the animals. All she does is bring them in then chase them around the house until someone catches it, and believe me that's hard. Once she brought in a bird

At night dad was watching the news and this thing appeared from behind the TV. It was a baby sparrow. The sparrow flew and made a little nest in his hair.....

Jenny Park

Juniper Green Football Team

I am on the boys football team with 2 other girls in P5 called Hope and Nicole. We all enjoy playing football as a year group on a Saturday morning. Our coaches are Eddie Cairns and Rab Cleland. They are really helpful and kind. Every Friday night I have to get to bed early because every Saturday at 9.15 I have to leave the house for Football....

Sophie Mauriello

Ho! Ho!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Ho!

Santa is coming through the snow
Delivering all the presents in the night
The children are saying it is right
Santa Claus is coming to town
Look he is coming down
I don't want anyone on my natty list
For Christmas!

Clark David Gray

My Christmas Hamster

.....So do you think he behaves. Well listen to this. He jumped off the top of his cage and hurt himself, and keeps doing it! He does acrobating on his water bottle, and even goes on the outside of the wheel instead of the inside (what a silly hamster). As you can see he is a wee bit clumsy. Tee hee!

But remember looking after a hamster is hard, you need to clean his cage once a week or if not once a week ... ok fine! When it stinks. Tee hee....**Erika Palmer**

Our Topic

Primary 5B have been working on science, light, sound and shadow. We have been doing tasks that is all about light and shadow. We are going to also be moving on to liquids, gases and something else. We have made instruments from tissue boxes and cardboard and different material like that. We are going to paint them soon. Some people made drums which I thought was too hard. Most people just made a guitar like me.....

Sophie McVinnie



GREEN STROLLERS

As we head into winter, it is time to reflect on some of the great walks the Strollers have enjoyed throughout the summer. The walks have ranged from fairly challenging to moderately easy. Whatever the degree of challenge, the real enjoyment comes from the shared company; great scenery; fresh air and the general sense of achievement from just getting out there and walking.

Not all of our walks go to plan. One particularly wet day, instead of our planned walk around Blackford Pond, we made an impromptu switch to visit the new, rather grand centre at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Edinburgh. It is well worth a return visit as there is plenty to see and explore not to mention the fact that it is warm and dry on a wet day.

Our most recent walk took us to Musselburgh and the John Muir Way. It was a beautiful early winter's day, with clear skies and just a hint of the rain that was to come. This very kindly held off until we were on the bus home. We all enjoyed a picnic at Prestongrange and one or two in our party managed a spot of bird watching. Thank you also to our leader for the historical insights presented during our walk.

The Green Strollers embarked on a new venture this year. In September a group of eight Strollers spent a walking weekend in Callander. The weather was perfect and the autumn colours magnificent. The walks were fairly challenging with 10 miles being covered on the second day, with a couple of Strollers walking a grand total of 20 miles. A good time was had by all and it is hoped to repeat the experience next year at a different venue. So do please come along.

Thank you to all the leaders for organising the walks; the drivers who get us there and, especially to all the 'Strollers' who support us and make the walks special. Without you they could not happen.

Jeanette and Sheena



Men Eat Their Way to Fellowship!

The Nurture team have organised further men's breakfast meetings this Autumn with speakers Chas Godon and Robin Winney starting discussions in October and December on relationships and health respectively. These occasions have been greatly enhanced by the preparation of a meal by several ladies in the congregation. It is hoped to continue this series of meetings in 2010.

After that, however, the next Men's Dinner has been arranged for THURSDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2010 to be held in Baberton Golf Club from 7.00PM FOR 7.30PM. We have had two recent such events in September 2007 and again in September 2008. The Nurture team have decided to move the meal to a different part of the year. The meal is likely to be a 2 Course Dinner with an alternative choice for each Course with vegetarian option. The cost of the meal will be negotiated in the early New Year.

The format as before will be an excellent meal, non-golfing conversation and then an After-Dinner Speaker to address the gathering for about 20 minutes followed by a short discussion.

The speaker will be Robert McNab, a former Company Director and Chairman. Bob has been married for over fifty years to a local Juniper Green lass but as he says himself he is not old enough to use a zimmer yet! Bob has run a community breakfast meeting at St Mark's Church in Oxgangs since 1999 together with a number of other voluntary activities. Be assured of an entertaining evening.

All men are welcome. Please let **Ian Aitken, Cliff Beavers or Martin Elliot** know if you are intending to come along

Cliff Beavers,

on behalf of the **Nurture Team**



CHRISTIAN ACTION TEAM

The work of the team continues quietly and regularly. There is a small team of folk who visit Fords Road Home and play bingo with residents; another team who visit Davidson House to talk with residents (including some of our own members) and play Scrabble and dominoes; dry goods are collected by the congregation and are taken to Bethany where they are given out as part of the starter packs for folk going into their own home; the Care Van team go out delivering soup and rolls, tea and coffee to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh 4 times a year; another team cooks a 2-course meal at the night shelter on one night during the winter; transport is provided to church, hospitals and other places it is required and events are organised in the church to entertain the older folk in the church.

At the beginning of November, in the first week of this year's night shelter, 4 of us went to Abbeyhill Baptist church to cook for any homeless folk who wanted a hot meal, and the Bethany staff who stay with them overnight to supervise. We cooked for about 35 people – some who were battered and beaten, some who were in need of a good wash, some who were under the influence of alcohol or... Jesus washed the disciples' feet and fed the hungry and we should do likewise. We now have to cook on the premises instead of cooking in our own homes and transporting it to the venue, so the evening is much longer than before, but it was rewarding to know that folk who would not have had a hot meal since the previous night's shelter, were provided for.

We are still in need of someone in the congregation to take over the running of transport provision. It's not an onerous task and anyone who is interested in serving our Lord in this way should contact Gordon Campbell, who will tell you what's involved.

Please continue to bring a few dry or tinned goods to church for onward transportation to Bethany and pray for the work of our team. In this Christmas season, if you are buying a real tree, I would also ask you to consider a tree from Bethany – see their website for details.

Jean Dewar



WORLD MISSION



We have been maintaining contact with Geraldine and Justus Mutura in Kenya

(they are fine but praying for rain for their crops), with the Shands in Israel and the Marathi Mission Boys Hostel in India. I will shortly be sending them a Christmas newsletter and a calendar from our Church.

The Guild of Friendship are keeping up their links with World Mission and have had a speaker from the Mission Aviation Fellowship about their work in Southern Sudan and a talk about a visit with the Moderator to Malawi.

At this time of year remember to keep your used stamps and put them in the box at the front of the Church. They help to fund a World Mission Project each year and you are all very good at collecting for this.

Jean Stewart

Mission Correspondent



BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

For a number of years a small team of Church members has offered support to those suffering loss or bereavement. The role of the team is not to give advice but to offer support and encouragement to those who wish it. All the team members have undergone training and have worked with bereaved families, experienced personal loss, or both. Referrals are received from Mr Dewar.

On Sunday, December 13th there will be a Service of Remembering at 3pm in the Church. The service will be very short, consisting of readings, poems, prayers and periods of quiet reflection. It is for anyone who wishes to attend whatever their loss – a job or career, health, a loved one or friend, a change in life's circumstances which is difficult to deal with. It is aimed to bring comfort and peace of mind to anyone who finds themselves in a new and difficult situation.

Christine McBean



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.

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 v 105

IAN MACFARLANE

Every time you are in Hall 2 of the Church Halls you "pass" Ian Macfarlane. Who is Ian Macfarlane? He was a captain in the Royal Army Medical Corps who died in 1917 in Kantara, Egypt. He grew up in the Manse, because his father was the Rev Norman Macfarlane, the minister of Juniper Green Free Church (and then UF Church) from 1890-1925.

At the beginning of October we had a couple of visitors in Church, one of whom came to Juniper Green to see the photo of Norman in the vestry and the plaque to Ian in Hall 2. He then sent me a photocopy of Norman's little book about his son *Ian Macfarlane – Solider and Missionary*. It is a fascinating little book, quite easy to read, telling a great story of a young man growing up as a Christian in Juniper Green over 100 years ago and then going on to serve Jesus as a doctor in the Middle East. The book is now in the library; pick it up and read the story of the man you pass every Sunday!

James S Dewar



CHURCH LIBRARY

The Church Library is available every week in the Church Sanctuary after the Morning Service. There are

books for all ages including children.

By kind donation we have recently **added another 17 books** to the Library and created a new section for Devotional books. Included in the books are

"90 Minutes in Heaven" by Don Piper with Cecil Murphey
"The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Bible" by Colin Sinclair
"Heart Gifts from Helen Steiner Rice"
"Christmas Glory" by Patricia Strong
"True Gold" by Cliff Rennie
"Life is an Adventure" by Robert Murray McCheyne

and the new books are available on the Library table along with the all books of the Library to view and select.

MUSIC LIBRARY is now part of the Library and **3 more CD's** have been added and listed here are 2 of them.

"Beyond Amazing Grace -The Forgotten Hymns of John Newton" by Todd Murray

"Christmas Favourites" by The Salvation Army Band & Songsters

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

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...."
Colossians 3 v 15



BOOK REVIEW

“Thank God it’s Monday” by Mark Greene
(Library Section – Christian Living)

I’ve just read this book which is mainly about folk in paid work. The book, however, is a real challenge for all of us. The opportunities we may have day by day; suggestions on how we might use those opportunities, no glib easy ways, but pointers to possibilities. Jesus is with us in every situation, teaching us to share this life and love with those around us. This book breathes honesty and relevance to daily living and I can thoroughly recommend reading it.

Jill Wallace

LEPROSY MISSION

I am pleased to report that, since February, the Leprosy Mission has received £351.74 from the Guild of Friendship and other members of the congregation, a very worthwhile sum that can be used in a most satisfying way.

One letter of thanks from the Mission told of a 24 year old girl, Elsie, who had leprosy which affected her fingers so much that she had great difficulty doing her daily chores until a pottery group started near her home to assist leprosy affected people. She developed an amazing skill forming beautiful Macua pots which are used to store water and prepare food. This has brought great joy and satisfaction to Elsie and a belief in her own abilities.

Our donations help to restore confidence and dignity to people like Elsie. Thanks so much to you all.

Sheena Blair



Ladies, don’t forget the Jumble Sale. It’s a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.



BIBLE READING

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

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)
- “Gideon Bible Helps” (Gideons International)
- “Word 4u2Day” Booklet (United Christian Broadcasters) for Young People.

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

If you wish more information about Bible Reading material please speak to **Ian Aitken** or **Martin Elliot**.

Nurture Team

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

JUMBLE SALE – 13th March 2010

We intend to hold a Jumble Sale, for church funds, on the morning of Saturday, 13th March in the church halls. Please do not throw out anything that can be sold in the meantime, but store it and either bring it along on the Friday or let us know about it and we will arrange to pick it up. We need to hold these fund raising events to supplement our income but they are also useful as very sociable occasions. So put that date in your diary now!

Douglas Buchanan

Congratulations to



Kingsley and Grace Urum, Manchester, on the birth of their son,

Kenechukwu Kalu David on 28th August
Alison and Salim Mohamed, Esher, on the birth of their second daughter, **Isla Catrin Mohamed** on 12th September. Isla is also the second granddaughter of **Margaret and Graham Thomas, Juniper Green**

Ann and Malcolm Brown, Baberton Mains, on the birth of their second grandson, **Morris Crowley Hunter Brown** on 29th October

Sandra and David Gibb, Baberton Mains, on the birth of their second grandson, **Archie James McLean** on 16th November

June and John Flynn, Baberton Mains, on the birth of their first grandchild, **Callum George Tait** on 21st November in New Zealand.



Sid Boyle, Juniper Green, who celebrated his 90th birthday on 12th October.



Anne and John Strachan, Juniper Green, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in October

Peggy and George

Turnbull, Juniper Green, who celebrated 64 years of marriage on 6th October.



Gavin Niven (a former student attachment) who has just been elected to

Stewarton: John Knox and will be ordained and inducted on 7th January 2010.

Andrew Watson, Craiglockhart, (Dr Watson to Currie High pupils) who won the prestigious Scottish Qualifications Authority's Champion Award for his services to the pupils of Currie Community High School.

Mairi Mackay, Juniper Green and **Sandy Mackay**, Juniper Green who have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Awards

Emma Hales, Juniper Green who has successfully completed her Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award.

Thank You

from **Calum Grigor**, Baberton Mains, to all in the congregation who ordered shortbread from him and so helped in his work experience project (and thanks to Calum for his gift of shortbread to the Church).

to **our Brownies**, and **their leaders**, for supplying the tub and plants that now greet us as we make our way into the Church Halls (via the West Door). Your gift is much appreciated now and will be next year too when the Spring bulbs appear.



The Magazine Team thanks all our contributors and deliverers and wishes them, and our readers, a Happy Christmas and

Every Blessing in the New Year.

The next issue of Church News will be the Spring edition and all articles and/or items of family news covering the period March-June should be emailed to Alison Robertson at alison.m.robertson@gmail.com by Sunday 21st February 2010.

FAMILY NEWS

BAPTISMS

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)

- October 11th Paul Thomas Anstruther
Thomas Ewan Anstruther, son of Paul and Emma Anstruther,
Baberton Mains
- November 15th Cooper William Ward, son of Peter and Clair Ward,
Woodhall Mill, Juniper Green

WEDDINGS

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

- October 3rd Lesley Blair to David Imlach, Baberton Mains

FUNERALS

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

- September 23rd Mr Henry Baxter, St Margaret's Court, Juniper Green
September 24th Mr John Wilson, Baberton Mains
October 24th Mrs Muriel Baillie, Currie
October 30th Mr Denis Matthews, St Margaret's Court, Juniper Green
November 4th Mrs Sarah McMillan, Baberton Mains
November 25th Mr William Lang, Kingsknowe

NEW MEMBERS *"All the saints salute you" (2 Corinthians 13:13)*

BY RESOLUTION OF KIRK SESSION

Mr Peter Ward, Woodhall Mill, Juniper Green

BY PROFESSION OF FAITH

Mr Paul and Mrs Emma Anstruther, Baberton Mains

BY CERTIFICATE OF TRANSFERENCE

Mr Martin and Mrs Ruth Dunn, Baberton Mains
Miss Emma Dunn, Baberton Mains
Mrs Rena Lister, Eltringham, Edinburgh
Mrs Margaret Thomas, Juniper Green

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

Miss Isabella Westwood, Davidson House, Colinton, Edinburgh
formerly Kingsknowe
Mrs Nicola Adams, Ballymoney, Northern Ireland
formerly Kirkintilloch
Miss Lorna Graham, Langside, Dalkeith
formerly Leith
Mr Albert Burnap, Greenhills CareCentre, Biggar, ML12 6HA
formerly Currie

What's On

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

- Dec 6th** Morning service followed by informal communion
Dec 10th St Margaret's Court service at 10.30am
Dec 11th Rock Solid at 1.30pm in the Church
Dec 13th Gift Service for the Salvation Army
Service for Remembering at 3pm
Dec 16th Church Wednesday – **The Bible in three weeks – part 3**
Dec 20th Communion service at 9.30am followed by coffee and mince pies
All-age service at 10.30am, with Kids' Church, followed by coffee and mince pies
Carol Singing at Lorimer House at 2.30pm
Service of Lessons & Carols at 6.30pm in the Church
Dec 23rd **The Quiet Place at Christmas** – Church open for prayer and reflection,
2-3pm, 7-8pm
Dec 24th Family Carol Service at 6.30pm
The Late Service at 11.30pm
Dec 25th Christmas Day Service for all the family at 10.30am
Dec 27th Morning service at 10.30am

Jan 3rd Morning service at 10.30am followed by informal communion
Open House at the Manse 2-5pm
Jan 14th St Margaret's Court service at 10.30am
Guild of Friendship Communion service at 2pm
Jan 16th **Quiz of the Year 2009** – Hall 1 at 7pm
Jan 17th Morning Service at 10.30am followed by Prayers for Healing
Jan 31st Joint Valley Service in Juniper Green Church at 10.30am;
guest speaker – Sally Magnusson
Lorimer House Service at 3.30pm

Feb 3rd Kirk Session meeting in Hall 2 at 7.30pm
Feb 7th Morning Service at 10.30am followed by communion
Feb 8th Heriot-Watt Chaplaincy lecture at 6.30pm; Prof Steve Fuller *IS atheism a science stopper?*
Feb 11th St Margaret's Court service at 10.30am
Feb 28th Lorimer House Service at 3.30pm

March 3rd Kirk Session meeting at 7.30pm in Hall 2.
Mar 7th Communion Service at 10.30am in the Church
Communion Service at 3.30pm in Hall 2.

Church Wednesday meets every Wednesday at 7pm in Hall 3 for The Prayer Time and thereafter a mixture of Bible Study and other discussion events in Hall 2 at 7.30pm. See the flyer inside *Church News* for fuller details; if you want extra copies they can be found in the vestibule of the Church building.

Sunday@Seven is our evening service in Hall 2 at 7pm from September till June. A mix of contemporary and traditional songs, interactive Bible teaching and prayer, quiet reflection, relating Christian faith to the life of the Church and the community. Do come and join us for a more informal style of worship.

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. If anyone is interested in booking a Hall for any purpose, please contact Ian Marshall 453 4253.

MONDAY

Kumon Centre	4.30pm	Ravi Karajkar
Rainbows	5.45pm	Sandra Gibb
Scouts	7.00pm	Neill Sinclair
Pentland Pilates	7.15pm	Sara Wood

TUESDAY

Open Door Café	10.00am	Inez Paisley
Blue Sky Pilates	1.00pm	Claire Macdonald
Brownies	6.30pm	Jean Dewar
Scottish Slimmers	7.00pm	Susan Shaw
Edinburgh Budgerigar Society^	7.30pm	Bill Miller

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

FRIDAY

Cubs & Beavers	6.30pm	Caroline Wood
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SATURDAY

Kumon Centre (Children Self-Learning Group)	10.00am	Ravi Karajkar
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SUNDAY

Kids' Church	10.30am	Beverley Christy
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^ Monthly

+ 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	George Anderson
Bereavement Care Team	Christine McBean
Catering	Sandy Watt
Child Protection	(Inez Paisley (Maureen Heathwood
Christian Action Team	(Jean Dewar (Ann Brown
Christian Aid	Vacancy
Church Halls Cleaning Team	Elaine Wilson
Church Secretary	Alison Robertson
Communications Team	Vacancy
Congregational Board Clerk	Linda Gray
Creche	Aileen Hardie
Fig Tree Orchard	Florence Kinnear
Flower Convener	Hilda McNeil
Freewill Offering Administrator	Fiona Lackie
Fresh Start Organiser	Marilyn Godon
Garden Team Co-ordinator	Jean Dewar
Gift Aid Treasurer	Andrew Kinnear
Girlguiding District Commissioner	Lesley Wilson
Green Strollers Walking Group	(Sheena Blair (Jeanette Campbell
Guild of Friendship	Sally McFadzean
Halls Convener	Jack Emslie
House Group : Baberton Mains	Greg McIntosh
Kids' Church	Gill Hales
Ladies Badminton Club	Alison Buchanan
Leprosy Mission	Sally McFadzean
Magazine Distribution	Isabel Campbell
Mission Correspondent	Jean Stewart
MSM	Martin Elliot
Nurture Team	Cliff Beevers
Open Door Café & Toddlers' Group	Karen Berry
Organist and Choirmaster	Florence Kinnear
Prayer Team	Chas Godon
Joint Property Conveners	(Ian Gilmour (Ross Mackay
Roll Keeper	Isabel Campbell
Social Team	Vacancy
Tapes of Church Service	Sandra Paulin
Transport Service	Gordon Campbell
Youth Group	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

igpc@supanet.com.