



OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



On top of the world - intrepid climbers on Cumbrae!

Issue No 141 February 2008



God's wonderful scenery: this view of the Outer Hebrides from Geoff and Marion was too good to miss (see *article in December edition*)

“Seated one day at the organ” - Richard and Georgina’s budding organist grandson Joseph (who had apparently asked “what’s that noise?” during the closing voluntary!)

Pictured with Katharine - another budding organist!



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Service Times

Sundays: 8.00 am Said Communion
 11.00 am Choral Communion
 Evensong as announced

Thursdays: 11.15 am Informal Said Communion as announced.

On the first Sunday of the month the 11.00am Sunday Service is a Family Communion; on the other Sundays the young people go out to Young Church during the first hymn and return in time for Communion.

Groups and Activities

(please contact the appropriate person listed inside the back cover)

Sundays:	7.30pm	Youth Group for 10-16s
Tuesdays:	9.30am	“J-Tots” Playgroup
	10.00am	Bible Study at 24 Mauricewood Park
	7.30pm	Mauricewood Housegroup at 6 Arras Grove
Wednesdays	7.00am	“Earlybirds” Prayergroup
Thursdays :	7.00pm	Choir Practice (Junior Choir on Sundays, 10.15am)



Rector's Letter

I tease members of our youth group about being ‘young and full of hope’.

They roll their eyes. Life is not as simple as all that. The young are not necessarily hopeful. And in fairness, their elders aren't quite dead yet either. Life is more complicated. Some who are young won't manage to find their niche in life. Some of us who are old(er) will come to our right minds and dance about like Scrooge on Christmas morning having been lucky enough to discover new life on the far side of sin and sadness. It's actually not simple at all – not just a matter of being ‘young and full of hope’.

The story of the Velveteen Rabbit would suggest that we become ‘real’ when most of our fur has been worn off. Jesus tells us that unless a stalk of wheat dies its seeds can't be released into the field. Full of life and standing tall and green in the field it is useless to both the sower and the reaper.

You'll remember a sermon about Potential and Kinetic energy. You'd better remember it. I've preached it twice. The pendulum held at a height and to one side contains a great deal of stored energy. It has the potential to swing across its arc. Hold it for another five minutes. It will lose nothing. Admire what it could do. Preserve it thus. Estimate what sort of power would be released if only you opened your hand and let the bob swing. But don't. Hold on to it until I've finished this thought. If you let it go now then we'll have nothing to talk about – no future possibilities. The conversation will end.

Let it swing and the Potential Energy will become Kinetic Energy and then watch what happens - the bob will come to rest at the lowest point in the arc. Inert. Finished....

Done with.....

Kaput.....

When we were very small we imagined what we might be. We made drawings. There was no end to the possibilities. Our parents supported us in these fantasies – encouraged us – talked us through them. There was a theme in much of what they told us – that we should keep our options open. And so if we landed ourselves in trouble or failed at a public task they worried aloud that we would “blot our copy book” - our offences could be recorded and our options narrowed. Were we to announce our intention to marry precociously we’d have been taken aside and encouraged to play the field a little longer – and in so doing to keep our options open.

Surely this is time-limited advice. What we will regret when we are truly old is not that we did not wait long enough, or allow our resources to mature adequately, or hold our pendulum in their air for long enough. We would regret, rather, that we did not spend our talents. Afraid, as we were, of losing our potential we never let the pendulum swing – we never let it do what it was designed to do which was to fly free in glorious and unimpeded motion. We did not love enough or risk enough. For every one person we know who tends to act rashly we know a dozen who have hedged their bets for far too long.

In last week’s Gospel reading John the Baptist directs the attention of those around him to Jesus, who is passing by him at that moment. ‘Behold’ he says, “the Lamb of God’. In an age which had seen its share of messianic pretenders and the dashed hopes of faithful Israel such a proclamation presented any number of risks. John puts his neck on the line. As Jesus coaxes his disciples out of their fishing boats and away from their tax tables you must imagine the expressions on the faces of these men as they each let their pendulum swing. There can be no more talk of potential energy – there is no stepping back from this decision. Each in his own way steps away from life – defined as hidden and gathered strength - and begins his walk to death. The clicking sounds you hear is that of other doors now being closed, of options

being narrowed, of confused and disappointed family members watching the breadwinner down tools and leave his trade.

But there is fruitfulness in this actualising deathwardness. This is life being expended to an end and for a purpose. This is the hand fitting its glove. This is the arrow hitting its target. Nations will be evangelised by such men. The poor will have grace preached to them, the straying will be reconciled because somebody has agreed to limit his potential and narrow his path.

So kids - it's not simple – it's so unsimple that Jesus needs to make use of paradoxical stories about life being death and death being life and loss being gain and gain being loss. You'll figure it out. I know you will.

Father Rob Warren

"Penicuik for Africa" (PfA)

Ambulance purchased! That simple heading covers a multitude 'ifs', 'buts' and emails. Ever since the November AGM, we had been trying to get a precise quote for a vehicle and its conversion, including any taxes which might be reclaimable. Telephone calls to Toyota Zambia obtained promises but no details. A Chairman's letter to the MD was apparently answered by the salesman who had fielded our earlier unsuccessful queries, yet he had not been seen at the showroom for weeks! We were seriously thinking of switching to the Edinburgh or Malawi branches of Toyota when along comes our 'knight in shining armour', one Edmund Farmer who, with Kim, runs the Kasanka Trust and Game Reserve not far from Chitambo. He regularly commutes to the Zambian capital Lusaka and, following a plea from Jo Vallis, presented himself in the showroom, inspected their current stock- which included a De Luxe Landcruiser- , inspected it in the 'bond' and negotiated a charitable discount that reduced its price to about £22,000! He moved on to a local engineering firm that did conversions and got a quote for the desired re-fit: it was for a startling 32 million but the units were Zambian currency and equated to £5000, bringing the total cost to £27,000 – the amount we had in the 'Ambulance' a/c! By the time you read this, the a/c should be empty and the vehicle ours! There are, however, further responsibilities with cost implications: according to Edmund insurance in Zambia costs about 6% of a vehicle's value. Operating policy is often to run vehicles into the ground without insurance or maintenance and

hope that someone will donate another one! We can and will do better! Edmund has kindly offered to provide workshop labour if we cover the material costs of maintenance- but what with?

Fellowship lunch Following two successful lunches in March, we have provisionally arranged to stage another after the Palm Sunday service on March 16th . North Kirk have been leaving us behind in the fund-raising stakes and this is our chance to chip in and 'secure' our investment in Chitambo. Please come along in support and if you are a soup-maker of distinction, get out the recipe book!

Kirsty McGavin goes to Tanzania We were thrilled to hear that our Kirsty would soon be going to Africa to fulfil the 'elective' part of her training to become a nurse. PfA

extends their best wishes, will be contributing to her costs and looking forward to hearing how she gets on. We are learning fast how important it is to have people 'on the ground' in Africa and it may be possible to channel support through Kirsty to another needy community in that vast continent of need.

Vestry Notes

For Minutes of 21 November 2007, please see notice board. This is a brief summary from 10th January 2008; full minutes, once approved, will be posted on the notice board.

- Matters arising: Rectory repairs and refurbishment, wedding information sheet.
- Rector's report: Christmas services, arrangements for AGM, visit to the Gambia.
- Treasurer's report: analysis of income and expenditure, budget, appointment of Independent Examiner.
- Fabric report: repairs and refurbishment identified and progress reported.
- AOCB: Team gifts, Food Safety guidelines, 8am service, Book of Remembrance.

DONM: Thursday 21st February 2008 at 8.15pm.

Georgina Phillips

Weekend on Cumbrae

It seems like a long time ago now, back in the mists of time when 9 intrepid pilgrims set out across the country, in November, on our way to the Isle of Cumbrae. We headed for the Cathedral of the Isles and College of the Holy Spirit in Millport, for a weekend retreat which the Rector had booked for those hardy enough (some may say foolhardy) to venture there in the depth of winter!

Although I had visited before I had never stayed over, and tales of the cold and basic lodgings that I had heard of, did make me pack a hot water bottle, I must confess. However we were all delighted to find that the accommodation has been fully upgraded in recent years, the rooms were warm and very comfortable, and there were new showers and bathrooms en suite and tea and coffee on hand whenever we wanted it, so I didn't need my hot water bottle! The food too was very good and plentiful and pleasant soft music floated round the refectory as we ate.

Rob had prepared a study programme for us based on the Matthew's gospel and gave us an interesting history of the Synoptic gospels and their differences to St John's gospel, which we had a brief look at on Friday evening.



Saturday dawned and after a lovely cooked breakfast it was decided that we would go for a walk. Rob, having been there before, told us of a walk to a lookout point on the island, which was a gentle walk with a little incline. The little incline turned out to be a hill that led to the highest point on the island, Phew!, but we took our time and were rewarded with spectacular views all around the island as we clung on to each other to stop being blown over, it was a little windy up there! In the afternoon there was a car safari arranged to circumnavigate the island for those who did not have a walk in the morning while the others read or rested till we all met again to continue with our study.

On Sunday morning we had our worship service in the Lady Chapel in the cathedral and sung hymns accompanied by Rob on his mandolin. There was time then for a walk down to the sea front to whet our appetites for lunch after which we set off for home.

All of us agreed that it would be nice to visit the place again in the spring or summer! Despite the cooler weather we all had an enjoyable time. So next time perhaps we'll go when the sun is shining and have a joint weekend away with our friends from West Linton.

Val McGavin

World Day of Prayer

God's Wisdom Provides New Understanding



....is the theme chosen for our 2008 service. After much prayer and planning, the women of the World Day of Prayer committee of Guyana in South America have prepared a service that invites us to acknowledge the wisdom of God to be found in the marvels of His creation - rejoicing in the natural beauty of their country, known as the Land of Many Waters.

We are further encouraged to develop our understanding of wisdom as we look at Job, and the suffering he endures which leads to a deeper relationship with God

and awareness of His holiness,

We are then challenged to move forward, empowered to love and serve each other, and to fulfil God's will for our lives.

The artwork (overleaf), from the inspiration and dream of a young man, was chosen to accompany the theme, and help us understand more fully its meaning. The shaped stick people, joined in a circle at the

bottom of the drawing, highlights that we are all made different (in appearance, size, talents, nationalities, etc.), but around the cross, and in prayer, we can be united in our differences. You are invited to join that circle of prayer, encompassing our communities, and reaching around the world, as we pray together with the women of Guyana.

A warm welcome awaits you at the local service at the North Kirk at 7.30pm on Friday 7 March. Contact Jean Hindle for more information.

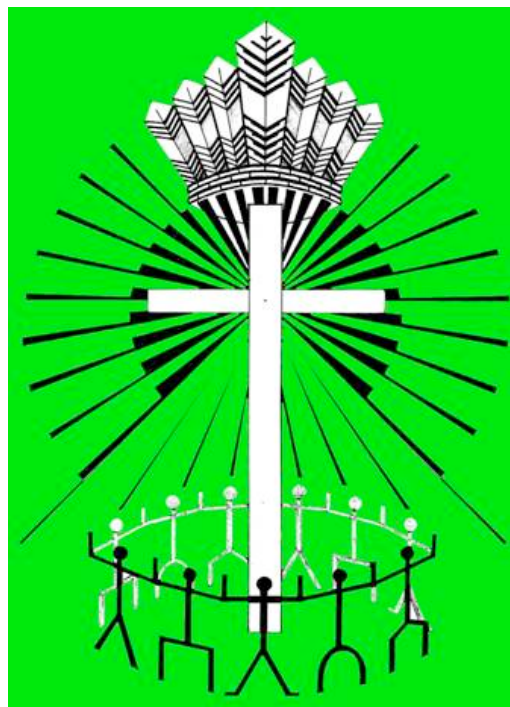
Congratulations to Broomhill Day Centre!

On Thursday, Jan 16th, the Broomhill Day Centre's 25th anniversary was celebrated with a 3 course lunch. The actual opening in St James Church Hall was on Thursday 20th January 1983. It was attended by some of the original volunteers and steering committee members. The cake was cut by Tilly Suttle, the original Chairman. A display of old photos was put up by Angela Sibley the current Chairman and a video was shown that had been made shortly after the opening of the present premises in Bellman's Road. The present premises have enabled considerable expansion to take place, both in available space and the development from a one day /week to the current 5 days a week.

Tilly writes:

Broomhill Day Centre: 25 years on

The provision of Day Care in Penicuik owes much to two former rectors of St. James. It was in the late summer of 1982 that Angus & Janet Palmer attended a meeting at which a panel, of which I was a member, answered questions about the needs of the frail elderly and their carers in the town. Representing Age Concern, I had gone along without a thought of setting up a Day Centre but at the end of the meeting, Neville



and I got talking with Angus and Janet and we agreed that the new church hall would make an ideal venue and Neville should put the idea before vestry. A need had been clearly expressed at the meeting and there seemed to be great support from Social Services for such a venture.

Vestry approved the idea, provided somebody else paid for the heating, and appeals were made from all the pulpits for volunteers, 15 of whom attended our first planning meeting, together with five representatives from the Social Work Department (SWD) and the local Councillor. It appeared that we had all the support necessary to open and the SWD officials went away charged with the responsibility to arrange lunches, transport and a cash supply. The second meeting was a different story: all requests for practical support were turned down by SWD chiefs and we were left with nothing but willing volunteers! In my early-40's at the time, I was not prepared to let things go that easily and proposed that: we cooked the lunches ourselves; asked YMCA for a 'loan' of their minibus; used private cars for additional transport; asked the Guides and Brownies to find the cash. The plan was agreed, Jean Hindle and I visited a list of frail elderly and dementia sufferers provided by local health visitors and we decided to open for day care business on Jan 20th, 1983.

The atmosphere that day was exhilarating. Sixteen elderly people were picked up, 3 in wheelchairs and 2 with zimmers: they were served with Angela's home-made steak pie + dessert for 50p and we never looked back! Volunteers were loyal and hard-working, drivers were willing and able, six ladies took turns on a rota to cook lunch and another rota of 'spud-bashers' eased their task. Isaac Palmer organised an entertainment programme and was well placed as local reporter to get plenty of publicity. Word quickly spread and in two years, numbers had increased to 36 and we had to start a waiting list. We obviously needed to open on a second day and that's where the second rector came in.

John Farrant came to visit us one evening and I raised the possibility of using the hall for a second day. He didn't think it was feasible and suggested that we content ourselves with what we had because we were unlikely to get dedicated premises for the frail elderly in Penicuik for 30 years! Three years older and wiser, I took this as a personal challenge. First port of call was the local Age Concern committee but

they felt that running a day centre was too great a responsibility, so we decided to strike out on our own. Most people know the story from here.

We approached Unemployed Voluntary Action Fund (UVAF) for funding for a feasibility study, which involved gauging demand and required resources, including premises. UVAF were so impressed that they came up with money to convert the school clinic in Belman's Rd. plus £11,000 p.a. to staff it for 2.5 years. Of 100 organisations written to, 64 offered financial help: Help The Aged offered to provide half a minibus and we had enough money to buy the other half, build a garage and tarmac the drive! By July 1987, we were ready to open 4-days-a-week and welcome 20-30 elderly folk each day. Our first visitor was none other than John Farrant, appropriately enough because it was his challenge that had prompted us to take the great step forward. Broomhill went from strength to strength and in 1999 we won a national IMPACT award from Glaxo Smith Kline, after an assessment by the King's Fund. In 2000, we took over the whole building from the school and extended it to fulfil our dream - a world class facility for the frail elderly in our community, served by two minibuses, a much larger staff but still a large band of willing volunteers.

Unfortunately, my ill health forced me to retire in 2005 but it was a treat to be back for the 25th Anniversary last week. Those volunteers from St James can be proud of their achievement and, with Angela Sibley at the helm, still play a lead role.

P.S. Many of the original volunteers still helping are over 75 and a new generation of St James volunteers would be most welcome. Even 2-3 hours in the morning would be a help and a full day-5 hours- a real bonus! Entertainers - singers, musicians, storytellers, craft demonstrators, slide showers, reminiscers - all are welcome and it takes less than an hour. If you can help in any way, just contact Angela or the Day Centre on 678109.

The Princes Street Easter Play Trust

For the last three years, the real meaning of Easter has been celebrated in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens by a community performance organised by the Princes Street Easter Play charity. Four

and a half thousand people watched it in 2007 and this year, many more are expected.

The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ follows in the traditions of medieval passion plays and involves sixty adult and child volunteers, representing all Christian denominations. This year, these brave souls will meet up in February and March to practise in St John's Church in Edinburgh's West End on Wednesdays, at 7pm. Initial drama workshops are built around the theme and text, involving improvisations to build the characters, and text work. Director Suzanne Lofthus from the **Cutting Edge Theatre Group** welcomes all-comers, and gives every volunteer something to do – there's even a role for homing pigeons! Duncan Rennie is the only professional actor; he has played Jesus for two years and enjoys the sheer enthusiasm that everyone shows. He tells me that lots more people join the rehearsals during Lent, when the project gathers momentum, culminating in an unforgettably moving performance.

The free performance will take place on **Easter Saturday, 22nd March**, at 2.30pm in the Gardens, regardless of weather! All are welcome, and the organisers aim to assist disabled and elderly comers, where possible.

The Cross will remain in Princes Street Gardens for five days after the play. Early on Easter Sunday morning it will be decorated with flowers to symbolise the New Life and hope that is available to all in Christ.

The performance is supported by a wide variety of churches and community arts organisations across Edinburgh, and sponsors are listed on its website. Lots more support is needed, and all those interested are invited to access the Easter Play website <http://www.easterplay.org>.

The Director, Suzanne Lofthus, is looking for actors, support crew, sound technicians, and marshals. If you would like to take part, please send her an email at cuttingedge21@btopenworld.com. I am involved with PR and fundraising and if you can help me, please email Sarah Tolley at this address sarah.mysteryplay@hotmail.com.

February 2008 Rota

	3-Feb-2008	10-Feb-2008	17-Feb-2008	24-Feb-2008
	7th before Easter	Lent 1	Lent 2	Lent 3
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Young Church	Isobel Stenhouse & Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark & Margaret Coull	MacLennans
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Johnstons	Dicksons	Clerks
1st Reading	<i>Exodus 24:12-18</i>	<i>Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7</i>	<i>Genesis 12:1-4a</i>	<i>Exodus 17:1-7</i>
	Young Church	Joyce Black	Margaret Coull	Ruth Green
2nd Reading	<i>II Peter 1:16-21</i>	<i>Romans 5:12-19</i>	<i>Romans 4:1-5, 13-17</i>	<i>Romans 5:1-11</i>
	Young Church	Jo Bullough	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark
Gospel	<i>Matthew 17:1-9</i>	<i>Matthew 4:1-11</i>	<i>John 3:1-17 or Matthew 17:1-9</i>	<i>John 4:5-42</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark	Ruth Green
Pray for	Vestry	Young Church	Youth Group	Bible Study Group
Server	Angela/Emma	Val/Alice	Angela/Steven	Val/Charlotte
Coffee	Isobel Stenhouse & Jean Wright	Gillian Little & Marion McCluskey	Frantoms	Elizabeth Clark & Robert Clerk
Flowers	Marion McCluskey	Lent		
Cleaning	Moira Rendall & Jennifer Edge	Mona Bennett & Ruth Green	Mona Bennett & Ruth Green	Clerks
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

(Where an alternative reading is given, the first reading is used unless clergy notify readers otherwise)

March 2008 Rota

	2-Mar-2008	9-Mar-2008	16-Mar-2008	23-Mar-2008	30-Mar-2008
	Lent 4 Mothering Sunday	Lent 5	Palm Sunday	Easter Day	Easter 2
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	David	Jean	David	Mike	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Andy Longmore/ Nigel Johnston	Isobel Stenhouse/ Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/ Margaret Coull	McGarvas
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Leavys	Barretts	Johnstons	Matins
1st Reading	<i>1 Samuel 16:1-13</i>	<i>Ezekiel 37:1-14</i>	<i>Isaiah 50:4-9a</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6</i>	<i>Acts 2:14a, 22-32</i>
	Young Church	Brigitte Fuge	Ian Fuge	Robert Clerk	Ian MacLennan
2nd Reading	<i>Ephesians 5:8-14</i>	<i>Romans 8:6-11</i>	<i>Phillipians 2:5-11</i>	<i>Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>1 Peter 1:3-9</i>
	Young Church	Gill Amos	Mike Hay	Val McGavin	Marion McCluskey
Gospel	<i>John 9:1-41</i>	<i>John 11:1-45</i>	<i>Matthew 26:14-27:66 or Matthew 27:11-54</i>	<i>John 20:1-18 or Matthew 28:1-10</i>	<i>John 20:19-31</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Geoff Mather	-----
Pray for	Bible Study Group	Choir	Church Women's Fellowship	Early Birds Prayer Group	-----
Server	Val/Sara	Angela/Emma	Val/Steven	Angela/Emma	-----
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Mona Bennett/ Margaret MacLennan	Hays/ Graham Smith	McGarvas	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black
Flowers	Lent			Easter Day	Marion McCluskey
Cleaning	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/ Sue Crosfield	Marion Hunter/ Angela Sibley
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore
Care Van			*		
Pentland House			*		

Mothers' Union News

MU Scottish web address is: www.muscotland.org.uk or via St James web page link. Mothers' Union Theme for this year is: "Time for Relationship 2008"

Provincial Retreat 4 - 6 March 2008 at Kinnoull - £85 to be paid 4 Feb. conducted by MU Central Chaplain, Bishop Richard Inwood.

Diocesan Activities:

Intercessions in St Mary's Cathedral - 11 Feb & 10 Mar 12.30 pm.

Branch

On Dec 5th members enjoyed the Advent Carol Service at St Leonard's, Lasswade and on 12 Dec 'The Singing Padre' from Glencorse Barracks entertained us with songs and carols. He spoke about the problems experienced by those who return home injured - the lack of adequate treatment and compensation.

A hamper was delivered by Cathie McIlwhan to a single mum with 3 children, greatly in need of this service. The mum expressed her great appreciation to Cathie.

Members also sent gifts and cards to serving soldiers. Replies have been received expressing thanks. The men were especially grateful to be remembered and supported by those at home.

2008:

On 9 Jan Kathryn Topham, assisted by Alison Cole spoke about the Youth Group activities and on 23 January the speaker was the Rector.

13 Feb: World Day of Prayer Bible Study

27 Feb: Isla MacLeod speaking about her year working at Vadala Mission in India

The above meetings will all be Lunch Meetings, noon for 12.30.

Fri 7 Mar: 7.30 pm - World Day of Prayer at The North Kirk.

12 & 26 March - Topics T.B.A.

Church Womens' Fellowship News

21 Jan: A Celebration Supper was held in the church Hall.

Next Meetings: Feb 25th & March 17th (*to be confirmed - 64 Deanburn*)

Fellowship Lunch: 24th February. In aid of Links and Diocesan/Central Mothers' Union Funds.

Mission News

Contributed by Frances McLean

I have been reading the 1894-9 archives of St. Barnabas Mission, they make interesting reading, and I am just going to offer a few items.

Pondoland is roughly the size of Wales and, at that time, there were no made-up roads, only rough tracks made by the ox-wagons, which followed the contours of the country. The early missionaries used horses as the fastest form of transport to reach their outstation churches, the schools, and to visit the sick in their homes.

Mission buildings were thatched huts of mud and wattle, or sun dried mud bricks. The floors, where possible, were made of ant-heap which gave a firm, waterproof surface, and then smeared regularly with cow-dung.

Benches and other furniture, for the church and for the schools were made on the Mission by the Africans who were taught carpentry by the priest or other helper.

Pupils were usually from the chiefs' families or from the local headmen, and were always male. Numbers in each school, were few at first but rapidly increased to 50 or more. Because of distances, many had to be borders. If the Government inspectors were satisfied with the school building and furnishings, and, of course, the educational standard, a grant of £10 per year was forthcoming. I cannot say if that was per pupil, or for the school! I doubt if there were textbooks, possibly a few slates and a blackboard.

Compare this 'luxury' with what I have just read in a recent publication about schooling in Sudan, (110 years later), where the church is providing schooling for 80,000 children, sometimes with virtually no resources. 'Illiteracy, the invisible enemy and Illteracy is ashame' (*sic*) Enthusiastic, if misspelled, hand-written poster to mark World Literacy Day, put up in Juba, Southern Sudan.

Infrastructure varies greatly. Some schools have permanent brick buildings, others are mud and thatch huts, reed shelters or tents. While some are not more than a clearing in the forest, with a portable blackboard and some logs to sit on. The average class size, 100, and mostly male. UNICEF and the Government are distributing exercise books, pencils and textbooks.

An interesting comparison!

Train arriving at.....

The speaker at the next meeting of West Linton Historical Association on Tuesday 19 February, will be Rae Montgomery, whose subject is "Leadburn, Linton, Dolphinton Railway". Any rail enthusiasts from St James would be welcome.

The venue is St Andrew's Large Church Hall (opposite Graham Institute), starting at 7.30pm; there is a small entry fee for visitors and refreshments are provided. Further details from Chairman (Alan Cameron 01968 661104) or Secretary (Jill Sinnott 01968 660157).

Georgina

Choir News

We were delighted to see the church so full for the Nine Lessons and Carols; it's the first time that I remember extra seating having to be brought in, and there being insufficient service sheets! It makes a tremendous difference to the choir to be so well supported - many thanks to all who attended, and many thanks too to all the choir members whose stamina and commitment over Advent and Christmas (not only in terms of the choir!) was outstanding. We hope you also enjoyed the excerpts from "Rock Nativity" at the morning service. Hard to believe that it's almost 25 years since we performed the whole work, on stage, from memory!

Now it's back to "auld claes and parridge" as my granny used to say (well something like that, anyway). Between now and a very early Easter, we have a number of things planned, including, on Sunday evening **2 March at 6.30**, "Of earth and altar" - a service of readings and music to explore the relationship between some hymns that we sing and the folk music origins of their tunes. It would be great to see the church full again that evening; please come if you possibly can for what I'm sure will be an interesting and enjoyable event.

On **Palm Sunday evening, 16 March**, we are offering a new work, recently published by the RSCM, "The Way of the Cross". This is a compilation of readings, music and congregational hymns, some familiar, some less so, which we are sure will be a very poignant and effective way of marking the start of Holy Week. There are some beautiful new settings of well known texts, notably "It is a thing most

wonderful” and “Take up your cross”, as well as a challenging setting of a “Crucifixus” by the late 17th Century composer. Antonio Lotti.

So the choir will certainly not be idle over the next couple of months - we also hope to continue to contribute anthems to the morning services as well!

Mike Hay

News from Germany

Contributed by Ian Fuge

- For anyone who has access to Internet audio and likes Taizé, the Cologne Cathedral website (<http://www.domradio.de>) apparently broadcasts a Taizé service every Saturday evening at 9 p.m. (UK time). Click on ‘Live Hören’.
- No photographs of St James the Less this time, but I rather like this unusual font. It is in the Marktkirche in Wiesbaden, which is a magnificent red brick Victorian Gothic edifice, built, incidentally, by Brigitte’s great-great-grandfather. I suppose if they had used the bell the other way up, Baptisms would require rather too much water. Appropriately, the church has a full carillon in the centre spire. Every Saturday there is a half hour organ recital in the church – free and much patronised by those who have been shopping in the market outside. The organist then turns to the carillon and performs for another half hour on the bells for the benefit of those outside still shopping or serving.
- Rob may have brought back from his trip the suggestion of three hour sermons, but from our recent trip we bring a suggestion for the Christmas Eve midnight service – a glass of mulled wine on leaving. We were offered glühwein on leaving Christmas Eve mass in



Cologne to warm us on our walk home – along with a candle to light our way. Very civilised!

- Also from Cologne, a piece of alternative philosophy
The pessimist says “the glass is half empty” - the optimist says “but not for much longer”

Energy policy:

more politics than engineering?

Ralph and Jean Hindle have sent us the thought-provoking article below; there are differing views on the important issues discussed and further comments or discussion will be welcomed!

From “Power Engineer” October/November 2007 www.theiet.org/power
By Dr Steve Parlour M1ET - Reproduced by permission

“The pages of “Power Engineer” have, over the past few months, featured the concerns of engineers that the compact fluorescent - or “low energy lightbulb” as they are more publicly known - is not the panacea it first appeared to be. Unfortunately, once the momentum of media driven policy is under way, it is very difficult to stop.

The poor power factor of fluorescents means that the energy saving benefits suggested by the power rating is not what it seems. There also seems to be agreement that the life of these units is becoming shorter: possibly intentionally. The everlasting lightbulb is, of course, commercial suicide. If the misguided green lobby get their way and ban incandescent lamps, the lifespan and price of the remaining alternative will undoubtedly take full advantage of the absent competitor. As reported in July's Engineering and Technology, electronic chips no longer have the longevity once assumed and their shortening lifespan is now becoming a problem. All good for business no doubt, but not for the environment when so much electronic equipment has to be replaced earlier.

The evolution of compact fluorescents is understandable. Attempts to produce small lamps with separate gear in a fitting have floundered as the complete package, easily changed by the householder when the old lamp expires, has sold easily. The public do not realise that they are buying a complete light fitting and then throwing it away. Changing a

lamp to one that is perhaps a little dimmer with slightly poorer colour rendering is acceptable; a fluorescent fitting in the living room is not. Our politicians understand that global warming knows no national boundaries but do not, or will not, realise that its causes are similarly global. They smugly point out that Britain's emissions are falling and censure countries with accelerating power consumption; failing to note that the former is due to the fact that we no longer have a manufacturing industry and the latter due to our goods being made in China.

Public discussion of the carbon footprint of a product ignores its manufacture. The compact fluorescent has to be manufactured, its control gear has to be made and all the components start as raw materials, mined, refined and processed. At the end of its life it has to be disposed of. The mines and refineries are not next to the assembly plant so some degree of transportation - possibly global - is involved. How much carbon is produced by the mines, refineries, factories, packaging, storage and transportation per year divided by the number of units produced? It may be significant: it may not, but the fact that no one knows the true carbon footprint is what we should worry about.

The same argument could be applied to other domestic appliances. We are encouraged to change our old refrigerators for more efficient models in order to save the planet. Even the IET's Energy Sector Panel advises as much. The same questions apply; how much carbon to mine and refine the raw materials, make the components, assemble the refrigerator, ship the parts and finished product halfway round the world, store it in warehouses and deliver it in vans to the door? Add to that the disposal of its predecessor and it does not seem worth the energy saving potential over the life of the appliance to justify scrapping a serviceable piece of kit. Cars may also be subjected to this assessment; buying the latest environmentally friendly car every two years feeds an enormous industry and prevents economic stagnation but is the overall effect green? Apart from the energy concerns, how can the word "sustainable" be used in the context of policies that involve digging up more raw materials and burying more rubbish? Driving policy by public opinion - which is in turn led by over simplifications - leads to the EU banning mercury in barometers and having to issue directives to cope with all the noxious materials in discharge lamps to replace the newly banned incandescent ones. The directive will have little effect on CFLs

used domestically and their disposal will put more poison into the environment than a few barometers.

Using taxes as a disincentive to affect consumer choice, such as buying a car, justifies a claim to be green while not having to show where the additional revenue has gone. George W Bush and Karl Marx agreed on one thing; everything is dictated by the economic base. This may seem overly cynical, but political parties need contributions from commerce and industry in order to win power in government. Government needs taxes to operate so encouraging consumption of 'green' goods and raising 'environmental' taxes serves both purposes without upsetting the voter.

There is so much that could be done with environmental policy rather than blame the public for the increase in CO₂. We are told not to drive so much while they close post offices; we are told to turn off the standby on televisions and radios while the transfer to energy hungry digital transmission continues apace; fortnightly rubbish collections are used to encourage recycling (not to save costs of course), but nothing done to halt the creation of excessive packaging and junk mail. Standby facilities can be eliminated by type approval regulations, miles driven to do shopping is a planning issue. We can stroll down the local high street to buy a house, but have to get in the car to shop for weekly essentials. All of these anomalies can be dealt with by policy, but claiming green credentials by raising taxes and banning the lamps that maintain a competitive market are easy and financially beneficial to both government and party.

Although the IET are consulted in regard to energy policy, there is certainly no serious public debate outside of our closed world on the less than simple subject of energy conservation. Surely one of the tasks of our institution is to bring such matters into the public domain: even if only as a series of questions until someone funds the finding of answers.”

Comment from Ralph: Frequent switching on and off of light bulbs, shortens the life of the bulb. You cannot use low energy lamps with a standard dimmer switch. The recent objections to Nuclear Power Stations are based on emotion and not fact; the energy balance from wind generation as published ignores the enormous amount of energy

locked in the construction of wind farms. The most reliable form of renewable energy is tidal energy, but the costs are horrendous. The fallacy of a completely nuclear free Scotland ignores the fact that the sun, on which all life depends, is a nuclear furnace, and we are a species which has evolved in the presence of radiation. Granite is radioactive. Solar Energy is Nuclear Energy!

Financial News

Collections (£)

	Oct	Nov	Dec
Cash	183	339	424
GA Cash	65	55	114
Envelopes	989	841	1024
Direct Giving	1303	1303	1303
Total	2540	2538	2865

Special Collections (£)

Erskine 105

Alternative Christmas Card

A great total of £225 was raised for World Vision's work in Bolivia. Very many thanks to all who signed the Card and contributed!

Ros Hay

Your prayers are asked for.....

Please pray for all those known and unknown to you who through sickness, need, bereavement or any other trouble are in need of God's comfort, remembering in particular:

Betty and Arthur White as they move to their new home in Banchory, Joy and John Ford, June Virtue, Don Mackenzie, Mae Mann, Sarah (aged 8 with Crohn's disease), Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman and Margaret Paton.

Pray for continued progress towards peace and reconciliation between Lebanon and Israel and for the people of Gaza. For those suffering as a result of natural disasters, remembering in particular those affected by

extreme weather and from famine and drought. Pray for the release of all who are enslaved, for those held captive unfairly or illegally and for the work of Amnesty International. Pray for those suffering under corrupt and uncaring political regimes, remembering especially the people of Zimbabwe.

Pray for the peoples of countries torn apart by conflict and civil war remembering especially Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Iraq, Kenya and Afghanistan. Remember also the British troops and the families of those overseas or about to go overseas, particularly those based at Glencorse Barracks.

For those who staff the Bethany Trust Care Van as they minister to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh, and for the homeless themselves. For the work of Penicuik in Africa, remembering especially Rev Charles Makonde and those working to combat the ravages of AIDS in Mombasa and other African countries.

(A reminder from Frances that the Prayer Request book is either to be found in the chapel or on the altar, waiting to be used. Please do make use of it by adding your concerns and prayers. The requests are prayed for on other days as well as on Sundays. Also let her or other clergy know the progress of the person held in prayer, The list is updated every two to three months. Thank you!)

Events coming soon...

Tue 19 Feb	7.30pm	Railway talk, West Linton Historical Society
Thu 21 Feb	8.15pm	Vestry meeting
Sun 24 Feb		Fellowship lunch In aid of Links and Diocesan/ Central Mothers' Union Funds.
Sun 2 Mar	6.30pm	"Of earth and altar", St James
4 - 6 Mar		MU Provincial Retreat
Fri 7 Mar	7.30pm	World Day of Prayer, North Kirk.
Sun 16 Mar	6.30pm	"The Way of the Cross", St James
Sat 22 Mar	2.30pm	Easter Play (Princes St Gardens)

Outreach on the Web!

The current edition of the magazine, and previous editions, can be viewed on the church website: <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk/> . Just click on the appropriate link near the top of the page.



Pictures from the Gambia (see back cover)

Teachers at the Nursery School in Serrakunda funded almost entirely by the Scottish Episcopal Church in Dumbarton.

The March 2008 edition of “Outreach” will be published on Sunday 2 March. Information about events, and contributions, should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, caplaw@hotmail.co.uk , by Wed 20 February at the latest. If sending by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk.

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Not 'the' Nativity scene!

Joyce Black's daughter Gillian and granddaughter, taken after Rebecca's christening in 1989. How many faces can you name?



The choir bring Christmas to Drummond Grange!





Broomhill Day Centre celebrations!

Rob and Hannah with Father Jimmy Cole and the choir of St Andrew's Anglican Church, Lamin Village, the Gambia.



...and Cockle pickers on the beach near Banjul, the Gambia