

OUTREACH

St. James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik



Margaret Coull takes over leadership of the St James Mothers' Union!

Magazine Issue 139, November 2007

What's the collective noun for engaged couples? (There's a lot of it about! Many congratulations!)



Contents

Service Times.....	4
Groups and Activities.....	4
Rector's Letter.....	4
Cumbrae retreats – book now!.....	6
"Penicuik for Africa (PfA)".....	6
Report of Vestry business.....	7
St James Annual General Meeting.....	8
Choir News!.....	8
Shoebox Appeal.....	9
South African Safari - 2008 Style!.....	10
Another clip from the past.....	13
News of Margaret Paton.....	13
November 2007 Rota.....	14
December 2007 Rota.....	15
January 2008 Rota.....	16
Interfaith dialogue.....	17
Churchwomen's Fellowship (CWF) News.....	18
Cumbrian Quest.....	18
The Rev. goes to work on the pipes!.....	19
Good luck, Rachel!.....	20
Financial Matters.....	20
Thanks!.....	21
Doors Open Day.....	22
The Spong Lecture.....	22
Your prayers are asked for.....	24
Events coming soon.....	25
Contacts at St James.....	26

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 at 6.45pm)



Rector's Letter

When I was a child I used to watch a television show called 'Romper Room'. At the end of each episode Miss Betty would hold up a 'magic mirror' (which was just an empty frame' and peer through it exclaiming that she could see 'Billy and Pamela and Bobby and.....' I only found out later that one could write Miss Betty at the studio in Hamilton, Ontario to have a name included on the list. At the time I probably bought into the fact that the mirror was special and that she could see me at home sitting in front of the black and white television set.



In Roman Antiquity, the *Augur* would carry with him a curved wooden wand called a *lituus* which served a roughly similar purpose. Looking through it, he would 'enclose' a certain part of a flock of birds, for example, and interpret these signs or *auspices* in a way that would bode well (or not) for the Emperor at the beginning of a military campaign or a projected plan for public works. These birds, those stars, this little slice of a much larger something would be the test case. I have to start somewhere – Caesar is expecting a response – and I choose to start here.

We do that all the time. We start at a particular point. We can't look at all the birds in the world so we begin with just a few. We can't be everywhere so we get out our schedule and decide where we can be – on what date and at what time. We have to choose.

This means, of course, that we have to say no as much or even more than we say yes.

At our Diocesan Synod this week, we were reflecting upon the Strategic Review which the Scottish Episcopal Church is undertaking at the present time. What sort of questions were being posed in this document? Do we need 7 Dioceses? What ought to be the relationship between Episcopal leadership and Synodical government? Time and time again we returned to the local nexus of the Congregation. We heard the stories of young people at Synod who referred to themselves as 'survivors'. Some of them were from wee churches where they had numbered among a handful of children, but who had been gathered into multi-church groups or who had *discovered* the Provincial Youth Camp at Glenalmond. We became aware, in the process of discussions both at Synod and at Area Council of the work of impromptu groupings of Christian men and women, the work of small congregations in promoting fellowship or pursuing projects which help to feed people in desperate countries or equip their hospitals with needed supplies. Choirs and clubs, bible studies and prayer groups. These are groups of people – subgroups of some larger whole – which do yeoman duty in the service of the Kingdom. They are the backbone of any congregation and in spite of the best efforts of the 'cultured despisers of religion' to look askance at the place of Revealed Religion in the modern world, Christian congregations are still the backbone of the local culture of care in any small community.

A congregation like St James' has a dozen or so of these groupings. They require your enduring support and your prayers. There is a piece of work at St James for everybody – according to your personal interests, your natural inclinations and your discernment of what God happens to be speaking to you about these last years. You might notice that I didn't say 'according to how much time you have' because there is never enough time. Ever.

Which is why we have to choose. We are approaching the First Sunday in Advent which is the beginning of the Church Year. And we're asking you this year to choose us.

Father Rob Warren

Cumbrae retreats – book now!

The College of the Holy Spirit
Millport, Isle of Cumbrae
November 23-25 2007

Members of our congregation will be gathering for a weekend retreat at the College of the Holy Spirit on the Isle of Cumbrae. St Mungo's weekend was last week and everybody is still raving about it. The weather was cooperative and I imagine that it is not always so perfect.

We will arrive on a Friday evening having had our tea already or having brought it with us in a bag. The final sailing of the Calmac Ferry is at 8:15 and I would advise trying to make the 7:15 or 7:45 sailing. We will be staying until lunch on Sunday.

There will be two short studies on Matthew's Gospel. The rest of the time will be spent enjoying the surroundings. Please bring your children. We bend part of the programme to their needs.

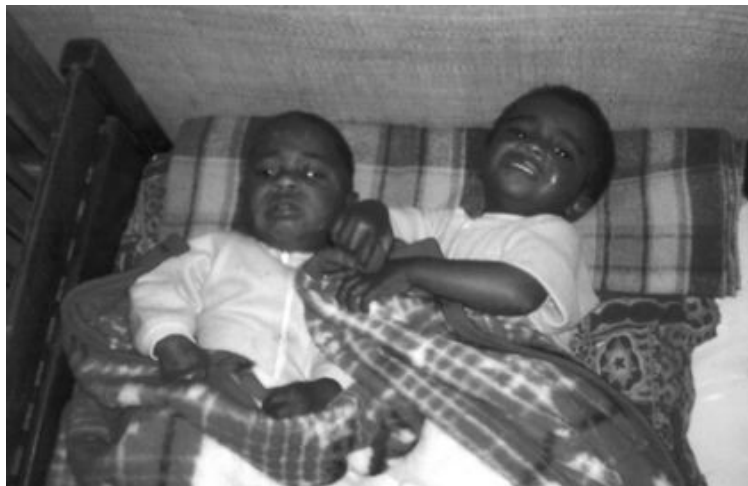
"Penicuik for Africa (PfA)"

Penicuik for Africa AGM

No report this time; you can hear all about our recent progress and the exciting plans for the coming year at the forthcoming meeting:

7.30pm on Monday November 12th in the Church Hall

Indeed, you can help to shape our future as we make the final decisions on what kind of ambulance to buy for Chitambo hospital, how to equip it, how and by whom it is to be delivered and who will oversee its operation. A delegation from Penicuik may drive the ambulance from Lusaka to Chitambo and the personal contacts made then could form the beginnings of a deeper relationship between our two communities.



As a reminder of our purpose, take a look at the picture of the Mozambican children snug and warm under the blankets gifted by PfA.

Neville Suttle

Danny, Andry and Tinah in Mozambique snuggling under their PfA blankets!



Report of Vestry business

Vestry has met on two occasions since the last edition of Outreach, on 30th August and 4th October respectively. In order to save space and avoid repetition I have detailed the business from both meetings in one report. Full minutes will be posted on the notice board once they have been approved by vestry.

- Matters arising from previous meeting, including the letter from Councillor David Fletcher, feedback from the visit of Thomas Joyner, sidesmen's duties, rectory guttering, OSCR actions, appointment of Archive officer, Synod questionnaire, Doors Open Day feedback, wedding fees

- Rector's report, including rector's forthcoming marriage, congregational weekend away to Cumbrae, notice of forthcoming Sunday evening services, arrangements for Harvest, details of Advent study, recording sermons
- Treasurer's report, including analysis of income and expenditure, budget for next year, need to appoint Independent Examiner of accounts
- Fabric report, including list of works completed and works outstanding, new tables and chairs, church lighting, Autumn work party
- AOCB. including, Doors Open Day arrangements, Synod questionnaire, Fellowship of the Maple Leaf, Diocesan Retirement Welfare Committee vacancy, Alpha Course, wedding fees, church letterhead, Loss and Bereavement course, OSCR regulations, distribution of Harvest gifts
- DONM: **Thursday 8th November at 8.15pm** to discuss next year's budget and **Wednesday 21st November at 7.30pm**.

Alison Cole

St James Annual General Meeting

This will take place at St James' on Sunday 2nd December immediately following the 11am service.

Choir News!

As usual at this time of year, getting started with the choir for the new session has been a little like wading through thick treacle, due to all the other pressures which inevitably emerge, and the amazing number of weekends away that we all seem to enjoy (the Hays included!). However, the Songs of Praise last month was most successful, thanks to David's efficient organisation, and judging by the numbers from other congregations, was a really ecumenical event. Tonight, if you are reading this on the day of publication, (4 November) at 6.30pm we are having a **festal evensong**, which will include Stanford's setting in C of the Canticles, and Martin Shaw's robust and exciting setting of "With a voice of singing" – verses from Isaiah 48.

On Remembrance Sunday, which this year actually falls on the eleventh day of the eleventh month, we are including at the morning service a

setting of a poem by Robert Herrick, set to music by Peter Hurford: "In the hour of my distress... sweet Spirit comfort me". The words and music are very moving with a wonderful meditative repeated organ interlude. The same evening at 6.30pm we are joining with other choirs in the **Sacred Heart church** for an hour of meditation with quiet choral and organ music.

Christmas arrangements aren't quite firmed up yet (they should be by the end of December!), but we hope to include at least some music from Tony Hatch's "Rock Nativity" somewhere in the Christmas events. We had hoped to perform the whole work (we did this last in 1982, we think), but the timescales and scale of rehearsals needed have made this impracticable this year – but perhaps in the future.

Finally, although choir numbers are still reasonably healthy, I'm constantly aware that we need to keep recruiting, particularly as our younger members depart to pastures new, usually to university or further study. Please keep an eye open for anyone who you think might be "persuaded" to join us in the choir and/or the junior choir – there are no auditions of course, and everyone is welcome. The junior choir now meets on Sunday mornings at 10.15 before the morning service – this is another invaluable way of encouraging our young people to discover the joy and satisfaction of singing. Only by regular recruitment can choir numbers be maintained at a level which allows us to tackle music of the variety which we have managed to include over such a long period. Over to you!

Mike Hay

Shoebox Appeal

Kathryn Topham writes:

As this edition of Outreach goes to press an action of outreach is in full swing at St. James-the-Less and St. Mungos, W. Linton. Shoe boxes are being covered in wrapping paper by our youth group and being packed with an assortment of presents, donated from the whole congregation, to be sent to places far and wide. A couple of years ago I first tried the shoe box filling with the youth group and was pleased by their enthusiasm. Fuelled also by some personal feedback – one of our youth group leaders had at one time shared a flat in Edinburgh with a

recipient of one of the shoe boxes, when a teenager back in her home country.

I should just like to take this opportunity to thank all the folk who have donated empty shoe boxes, Christmassy wrapping paper, soap and



flannels, hairbrushes and combs, pens and notebooks, toys and puzzles.....and to the army of elves for the packing of the boxes, some found it more challenging than others. The Church of St. James-the-Less has got a 'Great' heart. Please hold the safe carriage of these boxes, to children around the globe, in your prayers.

An announcement of how many boxes sent will be made later.

South African Safari - 2008 Style!

Contributed by Frances Maclean

After nearly 24 hours of travel, with very little sleep, Angela and I arrived, amazingly fresh, at around 6am in Johannesburg. As we were coming in to land, the whole country appeared dried up and barren, it was the end of a dry winter, and then saw the skyscrapers and mine dumps and just how many homes appeared to have swimming pools in the gardens. We had not thought to pack swimming costumes! My friend, Dr. Andrew Truscott was awaiting our arrival, and in no time, we were on our way through the crowded roads of the city. Rush hour starts much earlier in that part of the world!

Our first day was perfect, we sat on the wide veranda enjoying our second breakfast, the first one had been about 4am in the plane, and not very appetizing.. While the family carried on with their daily tasks, we relaxed in the warm sunshine, bird watching and throwing balls for the two family dogs and reading. In the afternoon, Andrew drove us to the local sports ground for a ramble to stretch our legs. And then after dinner, were only too glad to have an early night – we were spending the night with the next-door neighbour, a very interesting lady. Pam Staples lived alone, her family scattered around the world, so she too

has travelled extensively. This Christmas, she was planning to visit her family in China.

After a very cold night, we awoke to warm sunshine and joined Pam for breakfast in the conservatory watching the birds eat the pawpaw skins. We too enjoyed pawpaw every day for breakfast Pam was a very active Christian Scientist and it was interesting to hear about her church activities. On Sundays and also during weekday meetings, she would read from the Bible and follow it up with a scientific expounding of the selected passage.

After lunch, we were off to the airport to fly down to Pietermaritzberg, a two-hour flight in a small plane, to be met by friends, Elizabeth and George. They had arranged many outings during our stay in PMB. There was a wonderful drive up to Champagne Castle, part of the Drakensberg Mountain range, where we had a picnic. It included a visit to an interesting African craft market. There was a visit to a very large, upmarket shopping Mall.

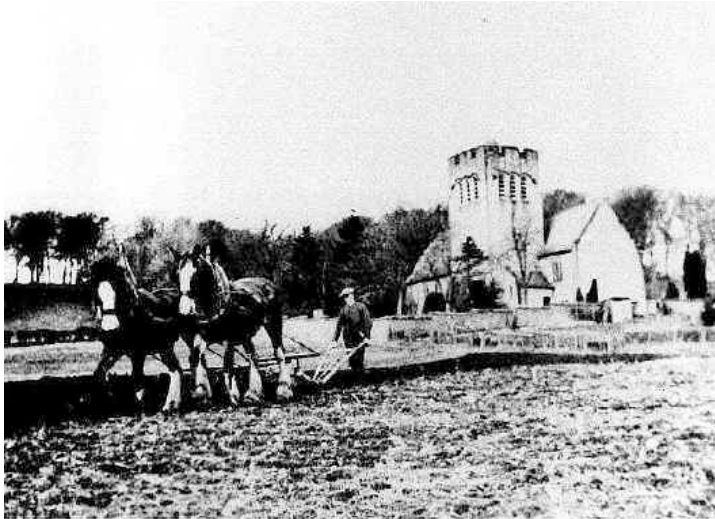
Then there was a three night stay at a holiday home belonging to George's family, at Uvongo on the South Coast, at least 50 miles south of Durban. The house overlooked the rocky shoreline and we would sit watching the great waves pounding the rocks. Yes, there are sharks out there but we only saw dassies, the rock rabbits, which are the elephants close relatives! I wonder if, in the distant past, the elephants evolved from the dassie, or vice versa? Further along the shore, we watched fishermen having a wonderful time catching their quota of five fish from the shoal which had come close in shore. Then a drive down further South to Port Edward where the River Umzimkulu forms the border between Natal and the Transkei. We visited the various craft stores and beaches on the way. Several months ago, violent storms caused massive damage at several of these beaches, but work was going ahead to prepare them for the coming season. Lunch was in 'Mac-Banana's' a fruit and vegetable store with lots of delicious home baking. They also specialised in pancakes, enormous in variety and size. The two hour drive back to PMB in time for a school concert, George's grandson was a character in an unusual Treasure Island play. We stopped for lunch at the Farmer's Club, where Elizabeth had worked as secretary.

What more? A curry Braai with the family who were camping beside the Midmar Dam. I was brave enough to climb aboard the motorboat for a zoom around the dam. The following day, a Sunday and our last in PMB, another braai, (barbecue) in a nature reserve.

Arriving back in Jo'burg, there was just time to repack what we needed for 5 nights at the Magalies Country Club (highly recommended for all golfers) It is along side the Hartebeestepoort Dam and a wonderful family holiday Park with well equipped chalets of varying size, there were about 500 of them, well hidden among the trees. Our chalet looked over the golf course towards the Magaliesberg Mountains. We were able to watch lots of interesting birds from the veranda. There were also many more, mostly waders, down by the dam. We also saw small buck. An hour's drive further North, past the road to Sun City, lay the Pilanesberg National Park. We spent a day there and saw lots more game, even found a sleeping rhino. I thought it was a large rock! Because the grass along one side of the road had been burned, we were able to identify many small birds as well as the larger ones. Our lunch, a braai, was on a hill above the Mankwe Dam, we could see crocodiles and some waders. Our picnic attracted more birds in search of tit-bits, including a squirrel - the total bird count for our entire holiday amounted to at least 300 different varieties.

Angela and I have had the holiday of a lifetime; our friends shared so much of their time to make it so. So much was packed into it, and there was so much I have not included. The main reason for the visit was not only the delight of seeing friends, but also to visit the Mission Archive department at the University. We spent a full day there reading and taking notes and photocopies of the records about the early days of St. Barnabas mission and the hospital. It was fascinating day and really needed a much longer period of research.

I am sure Angela will have other stories to relate about the holiday!
Frances



Another clip from the past...

John Black ploughing the Hay's garden - or was it Bill and Gillian's?!

News of Margaret Paton

I have had a letter from Margaret about her Profession which took place on Friday, 26th Sept. It took place in the Mary MacKillop Chapel, The foundress of the Community. Her family was originally from Scotland.

"It was a wonderful evening. The chapel was full and the singing was very lovely. Bishop Alfred Holland and his wife Joy (Anglicans) from our days in Jerusalem were there. Hayden Ramsay, a student from the Philosophy Department, Edinburgh was there. He is Deputy Vice Chancellor of Notra Dame University in Sydney, and carried the cross in the entrance procession, which was a very nice touch."

She also sent a copy of the Service, and, before I post it off to John, I will bring it to church for folks to have a quick at it; it is very meaningful. She received a card from Brigitte and Ian Fuge, in which they mentioned how nice it had been to have John Farrant back taking the service at St. James and telling the congregation she was being Professed. Margaret has also just heard that she has been granted permanent residence, something she has applied for since her arrival in Australia. Margaret is also having a little book on pilgrimage published soon, and will be sending a copy to me soon.

Frances MacLean

[For the benefit of more recent arrivals at St James, Margaret was a committed and dedicated, member of St James congregation who emigrated to Australia several years ago to join a religious community. She was undoubtedly the most efficient vestry secretary we ever had – ed]

November 2007 Rota

	4-Nov-07	11-Nov-07	18-Nov-07	25-Nov-07
	Trinity 22	Remembrance	6th before Christmas	Sunday before Advent
11.00am Organist	Jean	Mike	Jennifer	David
St Mungo's Organist	David	***	Mike	Jean
Sidesmen	Young Church	MacLennans	Margaret Coull/ Nigel Johnston	Andy Longmore/ Isobel Stenhouse
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Fords	Leavys	Barretts
1st Reading	<i>Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 or Isaiah 1:10-18</i>	Haggai 1:15b-2:9 or Job 19:23-27a	<i>Isaiah 65:17-25 or Malachi 4:1-2a</i>	Jeremiah 23:1-6
	Young Church	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little	Joyce Black
2nd Reading	<i>II Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12</i>	<i>II Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17</i>	<i>II Thessalonians 3:6-13</i>	Colossians 1:11-20
	Young Church	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray	Margaret Coull
Gospel	<i>Luke 19:1-10</i>	<i>Luke 20:27-38</i>	<i>Luke 21:5-19</i>	<i>Luke 23:33-43</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Elizabeth Clark	Ruth Green
Pray for	Fabric Team	J Tots	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group
Server	AS/Sara	Val/Emma	AS/Steven	Val/ Alice
Coffee	Frantoms	Mona Bennett/ Margaret MacLennan	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Hays/ Graham Smith
Flowers	Gill Amos & Marion McCluskey			
Cleaning	Clerks	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Mona Bennett/ Ruth Green	Gill Amos/ Isobel Stenhouse
Welcomers	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas
Care Van			*	
Pentland House		*		

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

December 2007 Rota

	2-Dec-07	9-Dec-07	16-Dec-07	23-Dec-07	24-Dec-07	25-Dec-07	30-Dec-07
	Advent 1	Advent 2	Advent 3	Advent 4	Christmas Eve	Christmas Day	Christmas 1
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David	David	Mike	Mike
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	David	Mike	??	??	David
Sidesmen	Young Church	Alan Sibley/Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/Margaret Coull	Ian & Margaret MacLennan	Ian & Margaret MacLennan	Jim & Moira McGarva	Nigel Johnston/Andy Longmore
Bread and Wine		Johnstons	Hindles	Dicksons	Clerks	Young Church	Matins
1st Reading	<i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>	<i>Isaiah 11:1-10</i>	<i>Isaiah 35:1-10</i>	<i>Isaiah 7:10-16</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:2-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 63:7-9</i>
	Young Church	Faye Clerk	Ruth Green	Elizabeth Clark	Ruth Green	tba	Jean Hindle
2nd Reading	<i>Romans 13:11-14</i>	<i>Romans 15:4-13</i>	<i>James 5:7-10</i>	<i>Romans 1:1-7</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Titus 2:11-14</i>	<i>Hebrews 2:10-18</i>
	Young Church	Georgina Phillips	Jo Bullough	Mike Hay	Ian MacLennan	tba	Val McGavin
Gospel	<i>Matthew 24:36-44</i>	<i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 11:2-11</i>	<i>Matthew 1:18-25</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>Luke 2:1-14 (15-20)</i>	<i>Matthew 2:13-23</i>
Prayers	Young Church	Val McGavin	Jean Hindle	Angela Sibley	Val McGavin	tba	-----
Pray for	Bible Study Group	Choir	CWF	Early Birds Prayer Gp	Fabric Team	J Tots	-----
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Charlotte	Angela/Sara	Val/Emma	Val McGavin	Angela/Alice	-----
Coffee	Margaret Vesco/Joyce Black	Isobel Stenhouse/Jean Wright	Gillian Little/Marion McCluskey	Elisabeth Clark/Robert Clerk			Mrs Neish & family
Flowers	Marion McCluskey				A McGavin		
Cleaning	Gill Amos/Is	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Ros Hay/Sue Crosfield	Marian Hunter/ Mgt Vesco			Marian Hunter/ Mgt Vesco
Welcomers	Mae Mann/Elizabeth Clark	Carol Hodgkin/Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/Robert Clerk	McGarvas			Mae Mann/Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*				
Pentland House				*			

January 2008 Rota

	6-Jan-08	13-Jan-08	20-Jan-08	27-Jan-08
	Epiphany	Epiphany 1	Epiphany 2	Epiphany 3
11.00am Organist	Jean	Jennifer	Mike	David
St Mungo's Organist	Mike	Jean	David	Mike
Sidesmen	Isobel Stenhouse/ Des Frantom	Elizabeth Clark/ Margaret Coull	Ian & Margaret MacLennan	Andy Longmore/ Nigel Johnston
Bread and Wine	Young Church	Clerks	Leavys	Hindles
1st Reading	<i>Isaiah 60:1-6</i>	<i>Isaiah 42:1-9</i>	<i>Isaiah 49:1-7</i>	<i>Isaiah 9:1-4</i>
	Gillian Little	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Gillian Little
2nd Reading	<i>Ephesians 3:1-12</i>	<i>Acts 10:34-43</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 1:1-9</i>	<i>1 Corinthians 1:10-18</i>
	Gill Amos	Marion McCluskey	Andy Longmore	Alan Murray
Gospel	<i>Matthew 2:1-12</i>	<i>Matthew 3:13-17</i>	<i>John 1:29-42</i>	<i>Matthew 4:12-23</i>
Prayers	Geoff Mather	Sue Crosfield	Mike Hay	Andy Longmore
Pray for	Junior Choir	Mauricewood House Group	Mothers Union	Pastoral Care group
Server	Angela/Steven	Val/Alice	Angela/Charlotte	Val/ Sara
Coffee	Kathleen Cox/ Sue Crosfield	Mona Bennett/ Margaret MacLennan	Hays/ Graham Smith	Margaret Vesco/ Joyce Black
Flowers	Marian Hunter			
Cleaning	Helen Topples/ Ruth Frantom	Helen Topples/ Ruth Frantom	C & M Leavy	C & M Leavy
Welcomers	Carol Hodgkin/ Andy Longmore	Nigel Johnston/ Robert Clerk	McGarvas	Mae Mann/ Elizabeth Clark
Care Van			*	
Pentland House				

Interfaith dialogue

The week before Advent is being observed as a week for promoting dialogue between faiths in Scotland. We began early with our focus on 'All Faiths Together' in the 'One World Week' services, but confining such matters to 'special weeks' is never sufficient (take Christian Aid for example). We will also preempt official business with another special event:

'Christian Muslim Conversations' in the Church Hall on Monday, November 19th at 7.30pm

We are fortunate that Andrew Sarle & Na'eem Raza of the Churches Agency for Interfaith Relations (CAJRS, Dunblane) are able to bring their 'roadshow' to Penicuik that night to dispose of some irrational fears, to show how much we have in common in our striving for peace and justice and open the way for some lively discussion. Refreshments will be available and we won't go on beyond 9.15pm. Please come along with a friend in tow to show that there is an audience for such topical matters outside the big cities. Also, look out for a Mothers Union outing to the Edinburgh Synagogue in Salisbury Rd soon; a little bird tells me one is being planned and they won't mind a few extra cuckoos in their nest!

Neville

Mothers' Union News

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

The meeting on Oct 24th enjoyed Neville's power-point presentation of 'Glimpses of the Russian Orthodox Church' and Neville's commentary on the trip that he and Tilly enjoyed to Moscow and the cruise from there to Petermaritzburg.

14 Nov	Noon	Lunch (venue to be decided)	Topic TBA
20 Nov		Quiet Day	Christ Church Centre, Morningside
28 Nov	2.00 - 3.00pm	Wave of Prayer	at 64 Deanburn
5 Dec	2.30 pm	Advent Carol Service	at St Leonards, Lasswade.

12 Dec Noon Lunch Meeting in the Hall: Advent Carols with "The Singing Padre" from Glencorse Barracks. Hampers to be arranged.

2nd Monday in the month 12.30 pm Intercessions in St Mary's Cathedral (NB: 1st Mon in Dec 2007 and not in Jan or Aug 2008)

4 - 6 Mar 2008 Provincial Retreat: to be conducted by MU Central Chaplain, Bishop Richard Inwood. Details re applications later - cost will be £85

Churchwomen's Fellowship (CWF) News

The group met on Monday 22nd Oct and agreed that for the next meeting, members would attend the Christian - Muslim Conversation to be held in St James Church Hall at 7.30 pm on Mon 19th Nov.

Dec 3rd: Last meeting before Christmas at 64 Deanburn.

Cumbrian Quest

Contributed by Richard and Georgina

A while ago, Richard and I saw on BBC "Songs of Praise" a delightful church at Wreay in Cumbria, south of Carlisle, which looked well worth a visit. We finally managed to arrange a short break this October half-term, combining a visit to friends in Kendal. However, despite several checks on the website which still said it was open daily, we found to our dismay it was closed for renovation.

All was not lost, as we took the opportunity to visit Brampton church, east of Carlisle, noted for its Pre-Raphaelite windows by William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones. St Martin's was designed in 1874 by Philip Webb. The interior is somewhat gloomy, but this only enhances the incredible effect of light blazing through the amazing colours of the stained glass. Here are no traditional scenes of Christ's life, but larger than life heroes from Old and New Testament in vibrant reds, blues and greens, with intricate mosaic of flowers as background. The women who inspired The Brotherhood's art were used as models for the "Faith, Hope and Charity" window. Altogether a feast for the senses.

See more: <http://www.stmartinsbrampton.org.uk/>

Our friends told us also of a tiny redundant church near Sedbergh, cared for by The Churches Conservation Trust. St Gregory's, Vale of Lune was originally built in the 1860's when a Scripture Reader was

sent to minister to the navvies building the railway; it was refurnished in 1900. There is some wonderful oak carving on communion table and pew ends, each one different. The gem is the series of stained glass windows by Frederick George Smith, depicting local flora and fauna, and three panels by Morris & Co.

A building may not be the most important part of our faith, but outstanding craftsmanship can surely lift the spirits!

P.S. Please tell "Outreach" readers about any special churches **you** have visited.

The Rev. goes to work on the pipes!

Jean Hindle writes:

The following cutting from a 1975 newspaper, was sent to me by Betty White - Must be our ex Rector! Betty said that she found the newspaper cutting when turning out albums.

"Charles taught Arthur to play the pipes when they belonged to St Adrian's for 10 years (67 - 77). He always spoke of St James, but we didn't know where it was then".

When a bagpipe-playing minister retires this weekend, he will be looking forward to a new career.

For the Rev. Charles Harvey (above) who is retiring on his 68th birthday after a lifetime in the church, will start work for a firm of bagpipe makers. The Rev. Harvey learned to play the pipes at school and his marriage ceremonies at St Adrian's, in Gullane, East Lothian, have been something really special. For he offers to play the wedding march on his pipes and then pipes the newly weds out of the church.

At a Harvest Thanks-giving service earlier this month he chose as his sermon - the history of the bagpipes.

He said: " I've always had a soft spot for the bagpipes, so I applied for a job with



Hugh Macpherson, the Edinburgh bagpipe-makers and they agreed to take me on.

" I have to learn the trade from the very beginning, but I can't think of anything I'd rather do with my spare time. It's really a paid hobby."

A spokesman for Hugh Macpherson's, of West Maitland Street, Edinburgh, said: " Mr Harvey is very popular with the staff and there's not much he doesn't know about bagpipes."

Good luck, Rachel!



Rachel is pictured here cutting her good luck cake before setting off to study music at Royal Holloway, London. Haste ye back!

!

Financial Matters

With our financial year ending in September October is always the busiest month for the treasurer, doubly so this year as the accounts need to be presented in the OSCR* approved format, which as you will discover at the AGM involves something of a sea change. Nevertheless I am heartened by the fact that we have met almost all of our budget targets and, moreover achieved a small surplus in our operational account i.e. day-to-day income and expenditure. It was particularly pleasing that the appeal for the kitchen refurbishment was successful

so thanks to all who gave so generously. In the end we exceeded the required £3300 – the extra money donated will be used to purchase additional items for the kitchen.

And finally a cautious note from our investment manager: the US sub-prime crisis has now hit Japan in a big way. In the last 7 days Origami Bank has folded, Sumo Bank has gone belly up and Bonsai Bank has announced plans to cut some of its branches. Yesterday it was confirmed that Karaoke Bank was up for sale - and will likely go for a song. Today shares in Kamikaze Bank were suspended after they nose-dived. 500 staff at Karate Bank also got the chop. Analysts report that there's something fishy going on at Sushi Bank, and staff there feel that they are likely to get a raw deal. *(Even Treasurers have a sense of humour! - Subed)*

Collections (£)

	Aug	Sept
Cash	174	209
GA Cash	15	44
Envelopes	838	910
Direct Giving	<u>1298</u>	<u>1298</u>
Total	2325	2461

Special Collections (£)

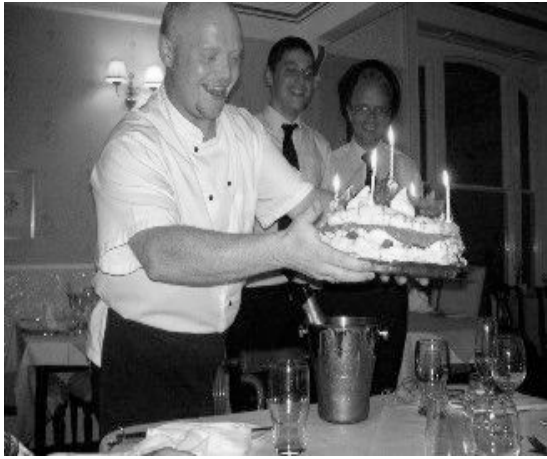
	Aug
Leprosy Mission	325
Mission to Seafarers	305

*Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator

Graham Smith

Thanks!

Ralph wishes to thank everybody for all his 80th birthday greetings, cards and gifts. He writes: "We enjoyed 5 days away to Nent Hall



Country House Hotel, Alston, Cumbria. Paul and Pat came with us. The staff at the hotel made his birthday on Oct 2nd a memorable occasion, as can be seen in the 2 pics attached. The chef described the Viennese Pavlova as a '*pavlova on steroids*'. " (See also photo on back page)

Doors Open Day

Contributed by Margaret Coull

Our Doors Open Day was a great success. The Church registers were a great source of interest. I even found a marriage entry with my great-uncle as a witness (he was not Episcopalian).

But the most interesting visitor was David Perry, an archaeologist, who had travelled all the way from Perth, by bus, to visit St. James. His grandmother had been a teacher at the Tin School. I managed to find a Church magazine from 1902 recording when she left to get married. This I sent along with copies of two photographs of the Church and school (courtesy of David McGavin).

I have had a reply from him expressing his thanks and also saying that a colleague had found the foundations of a Tin Church in Glen Lyon. Perhaps the foundations of the Tin School are still there! It would be interesting to find out if anything was found during the building of the Rectory.

The Spong Lecture

Contributed by Neville Suttle

When it was announced that 'Jack' Selby Spong was to visit Australia on a forthcoming lecture tour to promote his latest book, 'Jesus for the Nonreligious', Anglicans there were advised by their bishops not to attend. The Scottish bishops said nothing and it was 'standing room only' at St. Mark's Unitarian Church in Edinburgh on Thursday, October 17 for a lecture by the radical, former Bishop of Newark, New Jersey:

he did not disappoint! Looking much younger than his 76 years, he captivated his audience throughout an hourlong exposition on the Gospels and sustained their interest for an equally long question time. His mission was to free the Jesus story from the suffocating cloak of historicised prophecy and literal interpretation to reveal 'the divine in the heart of humanity' as a powerful force for reconciliation today.

His four key 'facts' have been pointed out many times by biblical scholars: for forty years, the story of Jesus circulated through oral tradition alone; when it was written down, it was in a different language from that which Jesus would have used, giving scope for errors in translation; the writers were not eye witnesses; by strange coincidence, Jesus is reported to achieve a series 'miracles', previously reported in the OT. For Spong, there were two broad possibilities: either Jesus went about his ministry deliberately ticking all the boxes of messianic expectation or the writers of the earliest gospels, Mark & Matthew, embedded Jesus in that expectation to ensure acceptance by the Jews.

Two observations led Jack to side with the latter possibility. First, he refreshed for us a part of Matthew's gospel that bible studies and sermons never reach the opening genealogy and focused on the appearance of what be called 'the four shady ladies' in an otherwise male lineage. Each had delivered a son who went on to play a formative role in Israelite history despite an 'immoral' liaison. Why are they mentioned at all? Did Matthew insert them to head off rumours that were circulating about Jesus parentage? Secondly, the picture of Jesus changes radically as one goes from the earliest (Mark) to the latest (John) gospel: Jesus did not change but the perception of him changed and got closer to reality in the intervening 30 years.

A fascinating picture was painted of the way in which the oral tradition concerning Jesus may have developed through discussions at the synagogue rather than marketplace gossip. Jesus spent most of his time assailing the barriers that the old religion had thrown up and his message of reconciliation would have resonated with Gentiles sitting in the synagogue balcony. It is a life-enhancing message which resonates with seekers of truth today and is at risk of being lost, suffocated by the church in general and a literal interpretation of scriptures in particular. Spong would claim that Gospels written for a very different age cannot be used as a handbook of morality for today's society. This is how I

understood and record Jack Spong's message but no doubt the 500 or so present (I didn't count them!) have probably started their own oral traditions.

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, John and Joy Ford, June Virtue, Alex Barrett recovering from a heart attack, David Gibling (Ros's uncle), Don Mackenzie, Mae Mann, Sarah (aged 8 with Crohn's disease), Elizabeth Black, Ruby Graham, Ralph, Eiliah, Cliff, Lorna Coleman, Eleanor Jack and Margaret Paton. Also please continue to pray for the family of Madeline McCann that she might speedily be reunited with them.

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 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 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.

Fundraising

Date for next fundraising Meeting is Thursday 15th November in hall after Choir practice about 8.15pm, this meeting is open to all, if you have any ideas for fundraising and cant come to the meeting pass your ideas on to Marion or me.

Kathleen Cox

Events coming soon...

Sat 3 Nov		TearCraft Sale
Sun 4 Nov	6.30pm	Festal Evensong
Sun 11 Nov	6.30pm	Meditations for Remembrance (Sacred Heart)
Mon 12 Nov	7.30pm	Penicuik for Africa AGM (St James)
Thu 15 Nov	8.15pm	Fundraising meeting
Mon 19 Nov	7.30pm	Christian – Muslim conversation (St James)
Fri 23 – Sun 25 Nov		St James Weekend at Cumbrae
Sun 2 Dec	12.15pm	St James' Annual General Meeting

"Outreach" on the Web!

The current edition of the magazine, and previous editions, can now be viewed on the Web. Go to <http://www.stjamespenicuik.co.uk/> and click on the appropriate link at the top of the page.

The next edition of "Outreach" will be published on Sunday 2 December. Information about events, and contributions should be with the Editor, Graham Smith 673012, 1 Caplaw Way, EH26 9JE, caplaw@hotmail.co.uk , by Wednesday 21 November at the latest (ie pretty soon!). If sending by email, please copy to Mike Hay, mike@hayfamily.co.uk

Contacts at St James

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CWF	Joyce Jones	674187	
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J-Tots	Alison Cole	672400	alisonmariecole@btinternet.com
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	Jennifer Edge	673234	jmedge@sagainternet.co.uk
	Jean Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
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Prayer & Alpha Courses	Faye Clerk	679777	rclerk@penhouse.demon.co.uk
Rotas	Angela Sibley	674211	angelasibley@tiscali.co.uk
Sacristan	Ros Hay	675761	ros@hayfamily.co.uk
Stewardship Envelopes	Jean Hindle	674591	jean@jrhindle.co.uk
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	Gill Amos	673395	gill.amos@gro-scotland.gsi.gov.uk
Youth Group	Paul Murray 0131 477 2188		p.r.murray@ed.ac.uk

Willing helpers at the Open Doors Day in September



...yet another St James the Less (courtesy of Ian Fuge) Painting in Mosteiro dos Jeronimos, Belem, Lisbon (St James the Less being the guy with the staff in the middle - note the sun shining through the window opposite spotlighting his portrait)



Congratulations to Ralph on his 80th birthday!

