

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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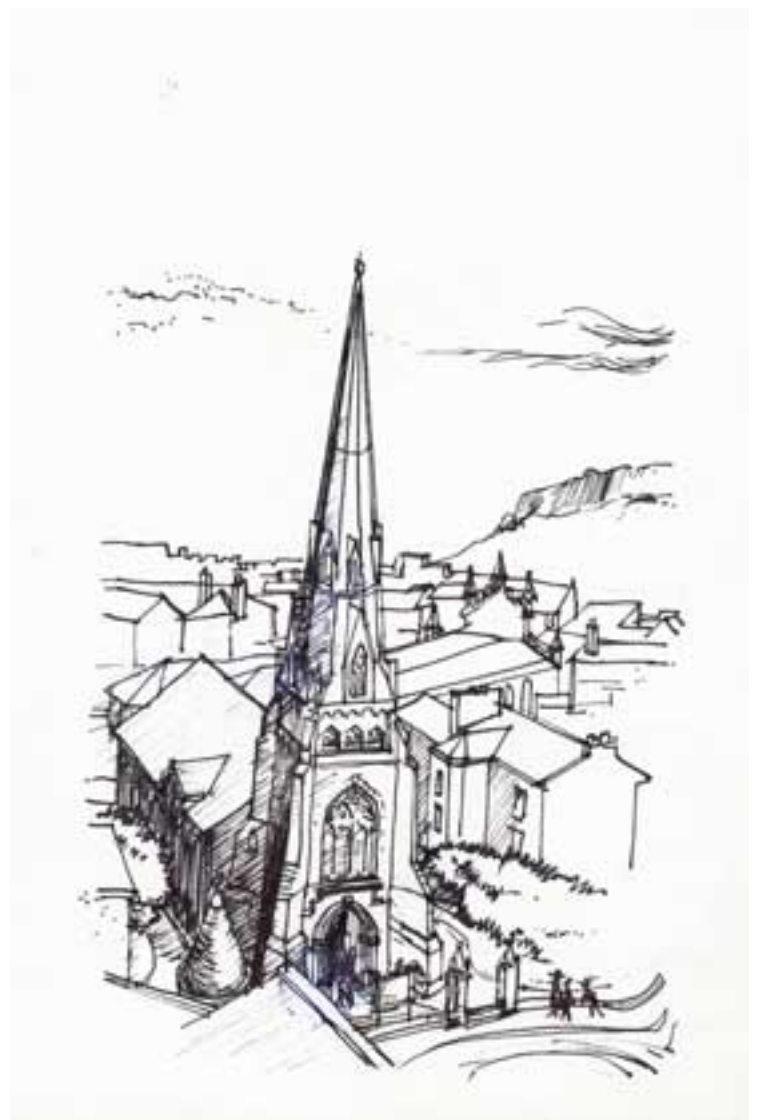
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September 2004

WELCOME

It is always a pleasure to see new people in the congregation whether they are students, new residents in Edinburgh or visitors passing through Edinburgh on holiday. We hope you feel welcome and that you enjoy your time with us at Buccleuch.

MINISTER'S UPDATE

I had hoped to be able to tell you in this newsletter about the outcome of the mediation which has taken place between the Free Church of Scotland and the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing). For anyone who is new to the congregation, the Free Church of Scotland (Continuing), also known as the FCC, is made up of a group who left the Free Church in 2000, and who have gone to Court to attempt to obtain the assets of the Church. The mediation process was an attempt to settle things out of Court.

Hopefully by the time you read this we will know whether the Court case is going ahead or not, and we will know what we ought to be praying for. But at the time of writing I am still waiting for the outcome of the meetings of the Commission of Assembly of both Churches.

It's very hard waiting for something. We may be waiting for guests to arrive, for exam results to come, for the results of medical tests, for a letter from someone, for news of something important. We get impatient, particularly if there is any delay. We need to take to

heart the words of Psalm 27:14 – “Wait for the LORD; be strong and take heart and wait for the LORD.”

We are maybe waiting on the answer to our prayers. We all ought to be waiting for answers to prayer! Let's take heart from the opening words of Psalm 40 – *I waited for the LORD my God and patiently did bear;*

At length to me he did incline my voice and cry to hear.

Sometimes we are crying out to the Lord from the depths of despair or confusion: *“Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD... I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope”* (Psalm 130:1,5). We can hold on to the promises of God's word: *“O Israel, put your hope in the LORD, for with the LORD is unfailing love and with him is full redemption”* (v.7).

We wait, but not idly, or in fretful anxiety. We wait, committing our way to the LORD and looking to him to answer in his time.

Alex MacDonald

ASSISTANT MINISTER'S UPDATE

After a restful but travel filled vacation, it's good to be back in Edinburgh. I was able to visit the Free Churches in Prince Edward Island and had an opportunity to preach in North America for the first time. Now that we're back, it seems like it's all is go!

It is a great joy to see new people at Buccleuch and if you are new I hope that you feel welcome and that you take the

opportunity to become involved in Buccleuch. There is plenty for everyone to do something. Could I draw everyone's attention to the upcoming Christianity Explored Course. This is the third annual course that we have run and everyone who has been involved has benefited from it. So if you are interested, why not come along and see for yourself or if you can't attend, maybe you could pray for those who lead the course and for those who have been invited to come.

Next week, I head north to Inverness for a two day conference to discuss cooperation between the Presbyterian Church of America (PCA) and the Free Church of Scotland. We at Buccleuch have benefited from this link in the past and we hope to see further opportunities for cross-cultural ministry.

I have just had my six-monthly review at prison (I passed!) and I continue to enjoy that work and I have even more opportunities to meet with prisoners to share the message of Jesus.

I am looking forward to restarting then late night Bible Study and the Student lunch and I pray that these may be means of encouraging people to come to church and get to know Christians.

As you read through this newsletter and learn more about the activities of the congregation, consider ways that you too can get involved and benefit from many opportunities for service.

Yours sincerely
Bob Akroyd

MEDIATION STATEMENT

The following press release was issued by the Free Church of Scotland at 1pm on Tuesday 14th September (*after the Minister's update was submitted – Ed*).

Press Release

It is with a sense of great sadness and disappointment that the Free Church of Scotland has received the response of the Free Church Continuing (FCC) to the recent mediation between the two bodies. The FCC has rejected the agreement worked out between representatives of the two Churches with the help of John Sturrock QC of Core Mediation. Mediation was entered into in an attempt to find an alternative to the action the FCC has raised in the Court of Session against the Free Church.

Instead, the FCC Commission of Assembly has come back with a series of counter-proposals. These proposals include going to Court to determine whether the Free Church or the FCC is right in their understanding of the Constitution of the Free Church. As this is the nub of the Court case which they are pursuing against the Free Church of Scotland, the FCC are refusing to remove the threat of legal action and are therefore turning their backs on settling the matters under dispute by a process of discussion rather than by resorting to the Law.

The Free Church of Scotland profoundly regrets this decision of the FCC Commission and appeals to them to agree to the proposals submitted to them as a result of the mediation process, as a basis

for withdrawing their Court action against the Free Church.

The agreement, worked out over 4 days of talks at Carberry Towers, included the proposal for the two Churches to recognise each other as separate Christian Churches. Consequently, the Free Church would recognise FCC ministers as ministers in good standing in a Christian Church, and as a result their ministers would no longer be regarded as suspended ministers.

The possibility of immediate reunion of the two Churches was ruled out because of the FCC's insistence on "the right of continued protest" which the Free Church understands to mean the right of a dissentient minority to decide which issues are unconstitutional and to go on refusing to submit to decisions of Church courts and to go on campaigning until the majority agrees with them. But it was agreed that the two Churches could consult further on this issue.

It was also agreed that, although the Free Church could not give up title to its property, local arrangements would be encouraged whereby ministers of neither Church would be rendered homeless and whereby congregations of both Churches would have the use of suitable buildings.

Unless the FCC have a change of heart in the next few days, it looks certain that they are going to proceed with their Court case against us.

In spite of this discouraging news, congregations are urged to continue to conduct themselves in a Christian manner towards those with whom they

disagree, and to pray without ceasing for an outcome that will be to the glory of the Lord Jesus and the advancement of His cause.

Copies of this statement together with the findings of the two Commissions are available on the Free Church website.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Baptisms

Mhairi Thomson MacLean, daughter of Calum & Norma, will be baptised on Sunday 19th September and Miriam MacDonald, daughter of Colin Alasdair and Donna (Newcastle) will be baptised on Sunday 26th September. Please pray for Alex as he conducts the services, the parents who are taking vows, and for all who attend that the service will be a blessing and encouragement to all.

Christianity Explored

The Christianity Explored Course will begin again on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm in the hall. The course is as follows:

- | | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Oct 7 | Introduction |
| Oct 14 | Jesus - Who Was He? |
| Oct 21 | Jesus - Why Did He Come? |
| Oct 28 | Jesus - His Death |
| Nov 4 | What is Grace? |
| Nov 11 | Jesus - His Resurrection |
| Nov 18 | What is a Christian? |
| Nov 25 | Continuing as a Christian |

Christianity Explored Training Day - 2 October

On Saturday, October 2, at Carrubbers Christian Centre, 65 High Street from 9 – 4pm there will be a training day for Christianity Explored. Our own CE course begins on October 7th, so this is a great opportunity for anyone interested in leading or helping out to find out more about the course. Please see Bob or Alex if you wish to attend.

Late Night Bible Studies

Beginning on September 23, we host the Late Night Bible study on Thursday evenings to study the Gospel of Matthew. The study is co-led by Bob Akroyd and Bob Gould the Anglican Chaplain to the university. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting which begins at 9.30pm with pizza and concludes at 11pm.

Pastoral Care Training Day

This will take place on Saturday 9th October from 10:30am-12:30pm — to address training needs, to encourage the session, to facilitate the pastoral care team and in general to raise the profile of pastoral care within the congregation, the session has planned a Pastoral Care Training Morning. This morning would be for elders, deacons, prospective members of the pastoral care team and any in the congregation interested in pastoral care. If you are interested, please come along or speak to Bob or Alex to find out more.

Student Lunch

Young people (and not so young people) mark your calendars, Friday afternoons 1pm – Free food at Buccleuch! Starting 24th September, we have our weekly student lunch. Please come along and bring your friends!

Prayer Breakfasts

We continue to meet weekly at 9am on Saturday mornings for prayer, food and fellowship. Thanks to all who have made these breakfasts possible and thanks to all who attend. If you haven't been able come, please stop by one Saturday morning to enjoy this special time of fellowship and prayer together.

Home Bible Study

The next home Bible study will be on **Wednesday**, October 13. We will continue looking at character Studies in the Old Testament. Please look out for the study sheet listing the subject and venues nearer to the time

Guest Speakers

On Wednesday October 20th at 7.30pm, Shirley Fraser & Pete Edwards of Friends International will speak about their work among international students in Edinburgh. Please come along to hear about this exciting work which is very relevant to our own ministry here at Buccleuch.

The Fellowship of Faith for the Muslims

is holding a prayer morning on Saturday 9th October at the Faith Mission College

from 10.30-12.00 (coffee from 10.00). The speakers include Rev Andrew Anderson, who will talk about his visit to Pakistan, and David Andrew, the Scottish rep of Christian Solidarity Worldwide. If this meeting is anything like those held in Glasgow, it will be truly inspiring! For more information contact Alison Gray (0141 339 1601).

Youth Fellowship

- 26 Sep Testimony Night
- 3 Oct Bible Study on Peter
- 10 Oct Abraham - Prof. John L. MacKay
- 17 Oct Moses - Fergus Macdonald
- 24 Oct Reaching out to Muslims
- 31 Oct Missions Prayer Night
- 7 Nov Reaching out to Mormons - Dr. Carl Mosser
- 14 Nov What is communion and why do we do it? - Bob Akroyd
- 5 Dec Glorifying God at work - Donald Forsyth
- 12 Dec Culture and the Christian - Alex MacDonald

(See Alasdair Black for details)

THE BIG W

Do you find it difficult to formulate a Christian response to situations at work? Do you have a ministry to your work colleagues? Do you struggle to keep your life and work in balance? Are you a retired person with many years of work experience?

If your answer is “yes” to any of these questions, you might be interested in joining ‘The Big W’. This will be an

informal gathering where people can discuss issues they face in the workplace. The first meeting on ‘WORK – WHY BOTHER?’ will take place on FRIDAY 8 OCTOBER at 7.30pm in the church hall.

After that it is hoped to meet monthly for 5 months and continue the group if there is interest.

Joan Macdonald

Emmanuel Healthcare

Buccleuch is hosting the annual meeting for Emmanuel Healthcare (EH) on Wednesday 29th September at 7.30 pm. This will be in place of our normal Prayer Meeting. EH is the result of the union of the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (EMMS) and Emmanuel Hospitals Association (EHA). The Free Church has cooperated with EHA over many years in our medical work in India. Let’s give good support to this meeting.

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons’ Court

Kirk Session: 21 September and 12 October (7.30pm, Manse)

Deacons’ Court: 11 October (8pm, Manse)

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Note from James, Roszie, Mia and Caleb Forsyth:

Having completed an MA at Edinburgh University, we now head off for the Deep South! We’re going to Jackson, Mississippi, to continue studies at Reformed Theological Seminary. We

look forward to seeing all at Buccleuch when we return home for a holiday next summer.

James and Roszie's address is:
606H-1 McDonald Drive
Clinton
Mississippi
39056
USA

Tel: 00 1 601 924 2588
Email xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

John Mackay is sending his best wishes to everybody and his new address is:

Room #3D
402 South 5th Avenue
Ann Arbor
MI 48104

Tel: 00 1 734 327 4795

Farewell

Paul, Elizabeth and Hannah Ferguson have moved back to the Isle of Lewis this month. We thank them for all the work that they have done in the congregation, and we assure them of our prayers as they settle into their new home.

Catriona's travels in Central Asia

In July I headed off to Azerbaijan with Ruth from Edinburgh plus Ronnie and Cathy from Dumbarton. In the company of 25 Azeris, 7 Moldovans, 4 Uzbeks, 1 Georgian and 1 guy from Manchester, we took part in a three day training conference and three week outreach. In

total there were 12 teams which went as far afield as parts of the Northern Caucasus as well as Iran.

My team joined a small group of locals working amongst Azeri refugees. They run a dental clinic giving free treatment to those who fled their homes ten years ago after Armenia occupied the western side of the country. Finance-permitting the team travels to villages with their mobile clinic from time to time. It was fascinating to see them in action and I was very impressed with the work they are doing. Although only one was a believer at the beginning of the project, now there's only one non-believer on the team of five!

Over the three weeks we went with the mobile clinic to three different places, offering dental treatment as well as classes on looking after your teeth, English, art, sports and football. My job was to teach English to beginners! Most of our other activities simply involved hanging out and drinking tea with people. We spent a lot of time with the small group of believers in the town, most of whom have been Christians for less than a year. They are very enthusiastic although they're also quite shy about sharing their faith even with their families. I got a lot of opportunities to encourage my host family (in my funny mixture of Uzbek with a few Azeri words thrown in!) and to share a few thoughts from the Bible when we visited other believers' homes. One of the most significant things we did was to arrange a weekly meeting for the women (who,

unless they work, hardly ever leave their homes) for Bible study and prayer.

As always, there were challenges too. For one, the team was led by an Azeri guy who didn't believe in schedules! We definitely worked at a different pace and learned to enjoy the chance to have long conversations with people instead of rushing about all the time. Overall, it was really, really great! I thought I would enjoy myself but it surpassed all my expectations. Azerbaijan is so similar to Uzbekistan that I felt as if I was going home.

All the teams met up again at the end of the time to swap stories. It was fascinating to listen to experiences of being hauled into police stations, preaching inside buses on long journeys, visiting small groups of believers, learning to get on with team members from different countries and leading people in prayer to accept Jesus. God is definitely working in this troubled part of the world!

Thank you for your prayers as well as for your generosity in supporting my trip financially. I received so much money that I was able to give the extra to the organisers who used it to subsidise several locals to take part. They asked me to pass on their special thanks to all in the congregation so THANK YOU!

My next jaunt to Central Asia (21 September-15 October) includes a visit to Tajikistan for meetings with those involved in church planting. I'm also hoping to visit old friends in Uzbekistan on the way home. I'd really appreciate

prayer for all aspects of this trip, especially for getting my Uzbek visa on time!

Catriona Macdonald

Dishes

There are a number of dishes that need to be claimed from the kitchen!

Dolina Macdonald

Congratulations

A number of students graduated in the summer. We congratulate them and wish them God's blessing as they embark on further study and employment.

Roddy Gunn graduated with a MbChB from Edinburgh and is working as a Junior House Officer (surgery) in Stirling.

Alasdair Black graduated from Edinburgh with a MALLB and is working as a trainee accountant for Edinburgh Council.

George Brownlee graduated with a BVM&S from Edinburgh and is working as a vet in Cookstown, Northern Ireland.

Rob MacDonald graduated from Edinburgh with a Bsc(Hons), and is now studying for a Phd in Acoustics.

James Forsyth graduated with a MA from Edinburgh and is now studying in Mississippi.

Health and Safety

For Health and Safety purposes the Deacons' Court have a list of those people who are medically or first aid trained, on the main noticeboard. This is so that if someone becomes unwell, as does

happen, those people with training might be called on for assistance. Please note: This is not in place of calling the ambulance, but so that basic life support/advice might be provided, while an ambulance is on its way.

We currently have six people on the list but it would be helpful if there were more. If you can, please give Jonnie McCrea your name:- 07715 169 337.

Jonnie McCrea

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND CLUBS

Sunday School

The Sunday School meets each Sunday during school terms during the morning worship service.

At the minute there are 4 classes –

1. A bible class (13+) – teacher, Dolina MacDonald
2. Junior Bible Class (12/13) – teacher, William Lytle
3. Junior (7-11) – teacher, Richard Lytle
4. Infants (4-6) – teachers, Norma MacLean & Sheena Greatorex

A Bible lesson is taught in each of these classes and the children fill in worksheets and sometimes do related crafts. A small amount of memory work is set for the children each term.

A small prize is given to the children at the end of each year as a reward for attendance and work done.

For any more info please speak to one of the teachers.

The Sunday School is looking for

someone to teach the P1/P2 class, either for a year or for a term. If anyone is interested, please speak to Willie Lytle or Norma MacLean.

Willie Lytle

The Toddler Group

The Toddler Group meets on a Friday between 0930 and 1130 in the hall. It's a chance for mums (or dads, grannies) to have a coffee and chat. The children take the opportunity to run about, play with toys, paint and draw. It is a small but growing group. Most of the mums are from the church, a couple of others are from the local area. Anyone with preschool children is welcome to drop in on a Friday morning.

Norma Maclean

Campaigners

Many thousands of children and young people are being deprived of hearing and learning of God's love for them. Schools give just a passing reference to the Christian faith and millions of homes mention God in a derogatory sense.

This is where Campaigners come in: seeking to give clear biblical teaching, direction in social conduct and encouragement in good teamwork. This is what Campaigners is really all about; providing children and young people with the opportunity of having a lot of fun through activities and games, learning personal and social skills through interaction with each other and their leaders, developing an awareness of the world around them through a programme

of challenges that they face, and all within the context of weekly, consistent bible teaching centring around what God has done for us in Christ Jesus the Lord.

There are four age groups catered for within the Campaigners programme; C Club (for 4-6year olds), KidzZone (for 6-10 year olds), Cross Trax (for 10-13 year olds) and Delta Plus (for young people over the age of 13).

In Buccleuch the group that meets weekly is a KidzZone group, although I'm sure if there was a demand for another group to meet that could be looked into. We meet on a Tuesday night between 6.30 and 8pm. In KidzZone we have been looking at Conservation, Cooking and at present we are looking at Athletics as a challenge. In each of these challenges the young people learn about what is involved in each area and are afforded the opportunity to engage in first hand experiences such as cooking under supervision, working on a Conservation project and at this moment in time, engaging in various athletic activities.

I think what really motivates us as a team of leaders is that Jesus seemed to have a lot of time for children when he was in the world, and as Alex was preaching on in the recent past, there seems to be much that we can learn from children in terms of what it means to be a Christian and what it means to follow Jesus. Campaigners is a challenge in many ways but given the downward trend in awareness of and respect for Christ and Christianity in our day it seems to be the least that we can do to make a difference

in the lives of our young people.

So, if you are interested to know more about Campaigners or have an interest in becoming involved then please speak to me (Colin Macleod) or any of the other leaders involved (Rob Macdonald, Shanana Beattie and Kathleen Gallagher).

Colin Macleod

The Klub

Klub meets every fortnight, primarily for children from the various Free Churches in Edinburgh to get to know each other in a social capacity. Primary age children meet at St. Columba's Free Church from 7 pm to 8.30pm while Secondary age children meet from 7 pm until 9 pm in Buccleuch Free Church. Activities planned for this term include Games' nights, Video Evening, Treasure Hunt and Christmas party. The first meetings of Klub are on Friday 24th September.

For any further information please see Nigel Anderson (Buccleuch) or Alan Fraser (St. Columba's)

Nigel Anderson

BG's

BG's is a youth club for the boys and girls aged 10 to 14, who live in the neighbourhood. We meet on Mondays from 7 to 8pm (leaders come at 6:30 to get organised) when the schools are on.

On average, we have around 8 children, but sometimes more come. It is the only thing I know of, which goes on

at the church, where we have had to turn people away due to popularity. Last year we had over 30 different children come to BG's at some point, only about three of whom had any church background.

This year we have had new children coming, having been brought by their friends, and already have had more than 10 over the first two weeks.

The kids come and we play Pool, Table Tennis, Table Football, etc with them for about half an hour, then we do a group game with them. After this we have a Bible lesson, which is an absolute privilege. They listen, fidget, and listen to the Gospel. You think they don't remember, but then when your playing a game of table football the following week you'll be asked (and I paraphrase slightly), "Do you believe in God?", and you have an opportunity to speak to them, or "So, why was it that Jesus came and died?", or, "Is it true that we are all sinners and Jesus died for us?" These kids keep coming back, we get to know them more and more, they keep hearing the Gospel message, we meet with their parents regularly and are able to get to know them too.

We have been very sad to lose two of our most faithful leaders, Roszie Forsyth and David Bremner, both of whom moved away last summer.

We tried to get some replacements from Buccleuch but there were none, but thankfully we have been able to recruit leaders from other evangelical churches. We could do with about two or three more.

What skill do you need to be a leader?

None, only a love for them to tell them of Jesus and his love for them. "How will they hear without a preacher?"

Pray for all the leaders – Become one!

Pray for the kids who come – Come and get to know them.

Pray that the kids will listen and understand the Gospel – Come and explain it to them.

"Go into all the world and preach the gospel" – Come to this wee corner of the world on your way.

Speak to Kenny Macleod, Alison Macdonald or Jonnie McCrea if you'd like to help.

Jonnie McCrea

E-mail directory/Congregational Directory

The new congregational directory is being prepared for publication. If you are not currently in the directory and would like to be included, or if you are included in the directory and would like to be omitted please let Bob know. If your address/phone number has changed or if you would like your e-mail address listed in our new directory, please contact Bob Akroyd by phone (664 6306) or by e-mail: bobandheather@talk21.com. This year we are including an extra column for mobile phone numbers so if you want this number included let Bob know.

FINANCES

Summary

Income is slightly behind budget. As expenditure is also behind budget, we have been able to maintain our remittances to central funds.

General fund

Income of £71,803 is £3,184 behind budget.

Expenditure of £19,172 is c£1,700 less than the budget. The main under spends are as follows:

Area	Variance	Explanation
Repairs & replacements	(£1,400)	Insurance cheque from last year
Student levy	(£1,100)	Invoice for financial support levy not yet received

Church Funds

Remittances of £50,000 are c£12,500 higher than last year and exactly £4,000 ahead of budget. The £50,000 represents 77% of our net ordinary income of £64,623.

The balance on the general fund at 31 August is a deficit of £1,232. By curtailing our additional contributions to central funds we should be able to restore the general fund to a small positive balance before the end of the year.

Whilst I am confident that we will give more to central funds than we did last year, in both absolute [£74,000] and relative [70%] terms, we may not achieve the full 77% of net ordinary income.

Fabric Fund

Description	Amount	Paid to:
Church - wall & gates	£7,252.00	Stonemason
Church – roof repairs	£2,826.00	Morris & Spottiswood Ltd
Manse – bathroom	£7,141.00	Various
Total expenditure to date	£17,219.00	

Millennium fund (for the expenses of the Assistant Minister)

No comments.

Other special funds

Donation of £50,000 received in June. No other comments.

Donald Forsyth (Treasurer)

Statement of financial activities	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Special Millennium	Funds Other	Total
Gross ordinary income	£71,803		£9,365	£51,897	£133,065
Transfer to fabric fund	-£7,180	£7,180			£0
Net ordinary income	£64,623	£7,180	£9,365	£51,897	£133,065
Expenses	-£19,172	-£17,219	-£9,612	-£1,632	-£47,635
Surplus before EDO and central funds	£45,451	-£10,039	-£247	£50,265	£85,430
EDO	£0				£0
Church funds	-£50,000				-£50,000
Surplus for the year to date	-£4,549	-£10,039	-£247	£50,265	£35,430
Opening balance - at start of year	£3,317	£37,462	£247	£910	£41,936
Closing balance	-£1,232	£27,423	£0	£51,175	£77,366

Balance sheet	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Millennium Fund	Other Fund	Total
<i>Fixed assets</i>					
Guardwell Crescent	£146,775				£146,775
Loan from Bank of Scotland	-£99,636				-£99,636
Loan from Bob & Heather Akroyd	-£45,703				-£45,703
Fixed assets at cost less debt	£1,436	£0	£0	£0	£1,436
<i>Other items</i>					
Advance to Alex for expenses	£135				£135
Advance to Bob for expenses	£353				£353
Cash	-£2,850	£27,423	£0	£51,175	£75,748
Bills to be paid	-£306				-£306
Closing balance	-£1,232	£27,423	£0	£51,175	£77,366

Other special funds comprise	
Special donation	£50,000
Sunday School	£542
Willie Raeburn	£253
Missionary support	£200
Mother & Toddler	£100
CWI	£50
Romania	£30
	£51,175

HEROIN

The medicinal value of the poppy goes back a long number of years and seeds and capsules of the poppies have indeed been found at Stone Age sites.

Some of the opiate alkaloids extracted from the opium poppy comprise morphine, codeine, laudanum, just to name those better known. The search to produce other strong opiates for medicinal use led to the discovery of diamorphine or heroin in 1874.

However, heroin today is more widely known because of the way in which it is abused, and the social degradation that goes with the resulting addiction.

I am sure many of us will remember the 1980s when heroin was a major problem in Edinburgh, so much so that this City was looked upon as the Heroin Centre for Europe, particularly in relation to the intravenous use by the abusers. For some reason the injecting culture was particularly strong in this city much more so than any other city in the UK, or even Europe for that matter. This in itself brought associated problems, with the upsurge in HIV and Hepatitis as a result of the sharing of syringes and needles.

The Police tackled the problem very aggressively, with street dealers in the main being targeted. This proved very successful, as by the late 80s and early 90s heroin at street level was a scarce commodity, but not totally eradicated as some suggested. It had been confined to a very select group and the scene had become extremely covert, resulting in the

Police tactics having to change.

However, in 1997 heroin re appeared in greater abundance at street level after years of relative scarcity. Its availability has been increasing ever since, until today it is felt that the problem is as great if not greater than in the bad old days of the 80s, so we have to be alert to this danger for our children.

After the change in the scene in the early nineties, the method of abuse also changed from injecting to smoking, (chasing the dragon). This was mainly due to the fear of contracting HIV through sharing needles, but sadly many abusers were also of the opinion that if they smoked heroin they would not become addicted. How wrong they were. Heroin addiction is extremely strong and difficult to withdraw from.

As with alcohol, people who take it do not intend to become alcoholics, but some do, and those who take drugs do not intend to become addicts. However, with alcohol, alcoholism can take up to three years to take place, but not so with heroin. Although not instantly addictive, it does take place in a very short period of time. Some people have been known to become instantly addicted to heroin after one injection, but that is the exception. The average number of doses would possibly be in the region of half a dozen, which means that addiction can take place within a week.

The 'buzz' from the first injection is alleged to be the most effective, and the effect achieved is never again reached no matter how often or how much the addict

takes. This is what prompts the abuser to take more, and then more, until, before they or anyone, particularly family, knows what has happened, they are addicted. Once they are addicted to heroin, it takes over their lives. Nothing else in life matters except the next fix. On waking every morning, the only thought on the mind of the addict is the first injection of the day. If they have some heroin left over from the previous day, then they are more relaxed, as they are aware that the drug is there and available. However, in their own words they “hear it calling” as soon as they are awake. Many put off as long as possible before taking the first one of the day, as that one is always the best of the day and putting it off seems to enhance that anticipation and increase the effect. They are not putting off because they are trying not to take it, it is to increase the so-called pleasure. There is no thought when rising to wash, or have breakfast, it is only the drug that is on their mind.

If on awakening heroin is not available and money is short then the first thing is to make some money, and that is done through crime. Once enough money has been made then the drug is bought. However, there are instances when the addict is unable to obtain the money and sheer desperation sets in, so much so that they lose all reason and are even prepared to kill in some cases to obtain money for their fix. (I have personal experiences of such instances, but space does not allow me to go in to the details.) If a person requires a £100 a day for heroin to feed their habit, then they will require to steal

at least £500 of property to realise that £100. A £100 a day habit is not unusual. To steal that amount, the chances of detection increase and many addicts turn to supplying the drug themselves to make enough money for their habit. (I will explain later how they do this.)

The following is a poem written by a drug addict while in prison, and describes the effect the drug has on their life much more than my words can do.

*A turnkey, a gizmo, some powder to mix,
A spoon and a filter, then cook your own
fix,
Then tighten the turnkey, a vein will
appear,
Now stick in the spike and lets ride out of
here.*

*This new world you've entered, there's
nothing that's real,
But your mind it is numb and no pain you
can feel,
Then you walk round all day with one
thing in your mind,
“Where will I get money for that fix the
next time?”*

*Then your body starts sweating, but
you're feeling so cold,
You're addicted to drugs and your habit
grows old,
What you thought you could handle is out
of control,
And now to the devil you would sell your
own soul.*

A ten bag, a twenty, a napp for your high,

*By the needle you live, and by it you'll die,
You won't be remembered and what will they say?
That was only a junkie who OD'ed today.*

As I indicated earlier, Heroin is readily available today in Edinburgh, and not only in this City but all over the country, Cities, Towns and Rural Communities. There has been an increase in the use of heroin in the under 18 year olds, and there have been reports in some parts of the UK of children as young as 10 getting addicted. It would appear that a large number of young people are totally unaware of the massive addictive properties of Heroin. Many start using it in an effort to “come down” from the more trendy Ecstasy tablets used in nightclubs.

Nightclubs are a fashionable place of “entertainment” for many of our young people, and drugs are available in great abundance at these places, so, as parents and adults, we have to be aware of these dangers and educate our children accordingly.

It also appears in Edinburgh that injecting is once again the main way in which heroin is now being abused, the smoking trend being abandoned because injecting is much more efficient and more economical, as there is less waste and the effect is quicker and more intense. So injecting is less costly and more effective.

Another worrying trend in the abuse of heroin is that it is often being used along with “Crack Cocaine”, which is itself a very addictive drug, (more on that one

another time) and this can lead to a dual addiction.

Heroin is a very expensive drug, but the prices today are much cheaper indicating a greater availability. Dealers will very often sell a young person the drug very cheaply on the first occasion, £2 to £3 or even for free, just to get the buyer hooked and then the prices go up when the outlet is secured. The profits to be made in the sale of heroin are vast, as I will try to illustrate.

A “middle of the road” dealer could buy five ounces of heroin for £2,500, and he in turn could sell that on to a dealer of similar status but in another part of the country for £3,000 making an immediate profit of £500. That dealer then would split the five ounces in to five single ounce bags and sell to five dealers lower in the drug dealing echelon, classed as street dealers, at £800 or £900 an ounce, thus making at least a £1000 profit. He or she could have made even more if they had adulterated the drug by adding some other powder, making the five ounces in to six, seven or eight ounces.

Those five dealers then cut and wrap the ounce into 280 bags containing 100 milligrams of the drug selling at £10 each. Each street dealer makes a profit of £2,000, so in a few days £2,500 of heroin has made £11,500 profit. All this profiteering is achieved by preying on those who are weak and vulnerable.

As I mentioned earlier, some addicts revert to dealing drugs themselves. They are also classed as street dealers, but at the extreme lower end of the scale. In

Edinburgh today such a person will purchase 3.5 grams, (1/8th of an ounce) for around £150-£200. They will split this, retaining 1.75gms for themselves, and cut and wrap the remaining half into 10x £20 bags (they are called score bags). Each bag will contain approximately 150–200 milligrams. This means they realise £200, which enables them to purchase another 3.5 grams and have £25-£50 profit. And so it goes on.

The situation in Edinburgh at present is similar to that experienced in the mid 80s, but more of the drug is being recovered. This could be down to better intelligence coupled with change in emphasis by Police regarding the type of dealer that is targeted. Back in the 1980s the amounts of heroin being seized were usually in gram amounts, with ounces being seized only occasionally. Today ounces of the drug are regularly being seized which indicates that there is a lot of it about. Recently Lothian and Borders Police made a seizure of 2 Kilos of this drug, which is an enormous amount. A Kilo costs between £20,000 and £25,000 to purchase. It is also much cheaper to purchase at street level, and the purity is also much higher than before. Today it averages around 30% purity compared to single figures in the past. This increased purity can make the addiction more severe but it also brings the hazard of overdosing as well. This can happen when an addict, who perhaps has been in prison and has not had any heroin for a while, resumes his habit and takes the same amount as he used to. The body cannot cope with this

high purity heroin and death occurs. There are other factors as well in several situations where death has taken place.

There have been several deaths in the city recently which appear to be heroin related, but so far that has not been totally established, although drug paraphernalia has been found around most of the bodies. In many instances those addicts overdosing have been taking a cocktail of drugs.

Many addicts will go out for a drink on an evening, and consume some Valium with the alcohol. Later in the evening they will require their dose of heroin, and in these circumstances if they succeed in making a purchase and inject heroin, then death is almost a certainty.

I mentioned in my last article about the dangers of cannabis and how widely it is abused, but heroin is indeed a much more dangerous drug and it is a severe problem in our city and rural areas at present. We have to be alert to these dangers and be knowledgeable on the subject. We also have to have a concern for our children and make every effort to protect them from these dangers, which is something that is very difficult, because we cannot be watching over them 24 hours a day. That is why this Drug Proofing Course is of such importance and value to us all.

John Macrae

Please remember John in prayer as he organises the drug proofing course due to start at the end of the month. Ed

REMARKABLE WITNESSES

John Knox: 1514 - 1572

There are conflicting opinions about the influence of John Knox and many today consider him too abrasive a character to be considered either a significant Christian or even a Scotsman worthy of the name.

James Froude, Regius Professor of Modern History in the University of Oxford in the late Nineteenth Century, describes the situation in Scotland and England in the late 1560s and early 1570s as one of the gravest danger, with French and Spanish armies again to be invited over to Scotland to ensure Roman Catholic dominance. Maitland of Lethington assured Mary Stuart that he had gained the support for her plans of all the nobles and ministers except one.

Froude has written, "John Knox alone defied both his threats and persuasions. Good reason has Scotland to be proud of Knox. He only, in this wild crisis, saved the Kirk which he had founded, and saved with it Scottish and English freedom. But for Knox, and what he was able still to do, it is almost certain that the Duke of Alva's army would have been landed on the eastern coast. The conditions were drawn out and agreed upon for the reception, the support, and the stay of the Spanish troops. Two-thirds of the English peerage had bound themselves to rise against Elizabeth, and Alva waited only till Scotland itself was quiet. Only that quiet would not be."

A more recent writer, Roderick

Graham, a former Head of TV Drama for BBC Scotland, published a biography of John Knox in 2001 with the title "John Knox - Democrat". In his introduction, he made some interesting comments about contemporary Scottish opinion of Knox which he considers are untrue. They are worth considering before looking in greater detail at the detail of his life.

In the opinion of many Scots today, Knox was a ranter, vain, dogmatic and a misogynist. According to Graham, all four opinions are totally mistaken.

Knox was vehement in the pulpit and, even in the last months before his death, declaimed with extraordinary power. However, in debate or conversation he used the logic and reason in which he had been trained. His writings, however forceful, reflect a reasoned understanding.

If Knox had been a vain person, he would not have refused advancement in the Church of England as he did, nor would he have been so critical of those in power in England and Scotland when such criticism might have earned him imprisonment or worse. In Frankfurt, he was formally elected pastor of the English-speaking congregation, but when problems arose he preferred to move to Geneva to avoid disturbing the peace of the congregation. He was pleased to be relieved of his position as Secretary to the Protestant Lords at a time when they were in revolt against Mary of Guise, the Queen Regent, and resume his position as minister of St. Giles. The relatively peaceful life of a scholar was a much greater attraction to him.

Knox's dogma was to accept fully the authority of the Scriptures, and to condemn anything man-made introduced into the worship of God. In the relationship of man with God, no priest was necessary. Christ as Saviour was directly accessible to the believer.

The accusation of misogyny, or hatred of women, can be traced to a tract he wrote in 1557 entitled, *The First Blast of the Trumpet Against the Monstrous Regiment (Rule) of Women*, where he condemned Mary Tudor for her persecuting zeal. In fact he was very considerate in his relationships with women, writing letters to them of spiritual

comfort and support. He married twice and expressed his regret that he had given his first wife a life of great trial and danger. He wrote his mother-in-law letters of pastoral comfort and help, as well as to his sister in Edinburgh, signing himself to her as John Sinclair, using his mother's surname, to avoid suspicion that might fall on her for receiving letters signed by John Knox.

On his deathbed, John Knox asked his wife Margaret to read chapter 17 of John's Gospel to him. It was the chapter, he said, where he cast his first anchor. Reading that chapter helps us to understand from where he drew his spiritual strength.

WMM

ROTAS

Crèche

19 Sep	Bianca Mariani	Catriona Lopez
26 Sep	Heather Akroyd	John/Anne Macrae
3 Oct	Evelyn MacDonald	Norma Maclean
10 Oct	Mairi Forsyth	Rebeca Topping

Amplifier

19 Sep	Douglas MacDonald
26 Sep	Graham Hardy
3 Oct	Ken MacKenzie
10 Oct	Robert MacDonald

Cleaning

25 Sep	Lois Eddie	Nick Middlemiss
2 Oct	Richard/Sarah Lytle	Rachel Morrison
9 Oct	Douglas MacDonald	Ruth Macleod
16 Oct	Dolina Macdonald	Calum/Norma Maclean

Door Duty

19 Sep	Eric Mackay	Jocelyn Hammer
	Steven Hammer	Neil Campbell
26 Sep	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Nigel Anderson	Colin Macleod
3 Oct	Willie Mackay	Rob MacDonald
	Calum MacLean	Kenneth Macleod
10 Oct	John Macrae	Neil Macrae
	Iain Gill	

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday	11:00am	6:30pm
19 Sept	Alex MacDonald	Bob Akroyd
26 Sep	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
3 Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
10 Oct	Bob Akroyd	Alex MacDonald
17 Oct	Rowland Ward	Bob Akroyd

Creche and Sunday School during morning service.

*Youth Fellowship after the evening service – see Alasdair Black

Monday

BG's Youth Club	7-8pm – contact Jonnie McCrea (337 9233)
*Bethany House Outreach	8-10pm – contact Bob Akroyd (664 6306)
Deacons' Court	8pm monthly – contact Andy Cumming (667 9291)

Tuesday

Informal English Class	2-3pm – contact Ena Mackay (447 5937)
Campaigners	6:30pm – contact Colin MacLeod

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting	7:30pm
*District Bible Studies	7:30pm (2 nd Wednesday of the month)

Thursday

Christianity Explored	6:30pm – meal followed by discussion
Late Night Bible Study	9:30pm (with food) – contact Bob Akroyd (664 6306)
*Eight-a-side Football	9:30pm – contact William Lytle (477 1403)

Friday

Mothers and Toddlers	9:30-11:30am
Student Lunch	1pm (free food during term!)
Women's Fellowship	as announced

Saturday

Prayer Breakfast	9am
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CONTACTS

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Buccleuch and Greyfriars web page

www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk