

Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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February 2005

MINISTER'S UPDATE

On the two Sundays following the Boxing Day Tsunami disaster in Southeast Asia, we had collections for the Free Church Disaster Relief Fund which is channelled through Tearfund. The Tearfund website had the following information about the response from the UK public.

“Officials at Guinness World Records announced today that the response from the British public to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) Tsunami Earthquake Appeal has broken a World Record.”

“Between 6.16pm on 30th December and 6.16pm on the 31st December 2004, the DEC website, with the timely help of BT and their increased capacity, received 166,936 donations, raising £10,676,836 for the Tsunami Earthquake Appeal. This is the most money ever donated online in 24 hours.”

It is expected that the total raised by the British public will be in excess of £200 million.

“The Disasters Emergency Committee is an umbrella organisation of Britain’s 12 leading aid agencies which launches and coordinates Britain’s national appeal in

response to major disasters overseas. Members of the DEC are ActionAid, British Red Cross, CAFOD, Care International UK, Christian Aid, Concern, Help the Aged, Merlin, Oxfam, Save the Children, Tearfund, World Vision.”

Keith Ewing from Tearfund, one of the 12 members of the DEC, has just returned from Sri Lanka where he has been witnessing the aid operation. He says, “Thanks to the generosity of the British public our local partners are able to speed essential relief supplies to those whose lives have been devastated by this crisis. Our partners have been telling me how grateful they are for the support of the British people who have donated and who are standing with them across thousands of miles.

“The agencies will concentrate on meeting immediate needs in the first, one year phase of the relief operation whilst planning longer term work. They are already providing food, shelter, clothing, medical supplies, and access to clean water. The second phase will last two years. It will emphasise

rehabilitation and livelihoods projects, to make a lasting difference to people's lives."

While we are very thankful to God for the amazingly generous response to this appeal, we know that it takes more than money to put things right. There needs to be people on the ground providing aid, building houses, coordinating, administering and ensuring that the aid actually gets to the people in need. This is a mammoth task and we need to remember them in prayer.

Similarly in our own small corner, it's great to have generous financial support, and we certainly have had that again in 2004 (see the financial figures later in the newsletter), but we also need people to do the work – practical work about the Church: making the teas and meals, repairing and caring for equipment and facilities; also outreach work: BGs and Campaigners, Bethany and Big Questions. Above all, we need to be inviting people to meetings and church, as well as seeking to win them personally. A spiritual disaster of tsunami proportions is sweeping our land, and we need to be warning

of the devastation, snatching people from danger and seeking to rebuild lives ruined by sin.

Alex MacDonald

ASSISTANT MINISTER'S UPDATE

One of my favourite books is an old copy of Charles Spurgeon's Soul Winner. In one chapter, Spurgeon gives a sermon on Proverbs 11.30, "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise." Spurgeon urges his readers to be engaged in the work of soul-winning or as we would say evangelism - sharing the gospel of our saviour Jesus Christ. This is not the work of the gifted few but rather the calling of all the people of God (reread Matthew 28 if you need to be convinced). Do we pray for the conversion of souls, i.e. that men and women who are lost and in danger of Hell forever are saved, redeemed and restored by the grace and power of Jesus? Do we labour for the extension of God's kingdom? How do we judge the success of our congregation? Is it by financial givings or Sunday attendance or the number of people at the prayer meeting? As important as these things are, we must ask ourselves, has

God blessed this congregation with conversions? We have much to be thankful for and God has indeed blessed us in the past but we desire to see men and women and boys and girls brought into the kingdom of God.

Please pray for the preaching of God's word, the preachers of God's word. Pray for those who come to Buccleuch who are not as yet followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. Invite friends, witness to friends, pray for opportunities to share the message of Jesus and pray that as with Lydia in Philippi the Lord would open the hearts of many to respond to Jesus.

I had the privilege last week of meeting a soul winner. May Nicholson grew up in one of the worst housing estates in Europe, Ferguslie Park, Paisley. Her life was dominated by alcoholism, self-harm and a generally chaotic lifestyle. One day she went to Christian meeting where she met Christians who cared about her shared the message of Jesus with her and pointed her to the Lord. Her life was changed and immediately she began to evangelise her neighbours.

May's story is told in Miracles from Mayhem and Christian Focus publication written by Irene Howat. This book does two things - it encourages Christians to actively serve God and share his word and it presents the life-changing message of Jesus those who don't yet know him. Read the book or come listen to May when she speaks at our midweek meeting on May 4th but more importantly pray that God would be at work in our city and in our congregation changing lives and raising up a new generation of soul winners.

Yours faithfully,
Bob Akroyd

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Communion

We celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday 27th February. Bob Akroyd will conduct the Communion service. There will be a pre-communion service on Saturday 26th February at 7.30pm to be conducted by Alex MacDonald. If you are interested in joining the congregation by professing faith in Jesus Christ or by transferring your membership

from another congregation, the session would be delighted to meet with you on Friday or Saturday evening after the services.

For your diaries: Just a reminder for 2005 onwards our communions will be the last Sunday of February, May, August and November.

Joint Service at St Columba's

At 6.30pm on Sunday 6th February, there will be a **joint** evening service for the three Edinburgh congregations at St Columba's Free Church on Johnston Terrace opposite the Hub near the top of the Royal Mile. **There will be no service at Buccleuch that evening.**

Student Lunch

Young people (and not so young people) mark your calendars: Friday afternoons 1pm – Free food at Buccleuch! 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 9th February and the subject will be King Solomon. A study sheet with details about the venues and the topic will be available in the hall. If you haven't come along to a home bible study yet, please consider coming - it is a great way to meet people and to get to know the Bible better.

Prayer Meeting: Gideons

Ian Hall for the Gideons will be speaking at our midweek meeting this Wednesday at 7.30 pm. This is always a fascinating meeting when we hear about how God is using the Bible to bring people to himself. The Gideons do a great work in providing free Bibles for schoolchildren, students, prisoners and hotel guests in particular.

Youth Fellowship

- 30 Jan Secular pressure and how to respond
 6 Feb St C's Communion (cong. fellowship)
 13 Feb Prayer Meeting
 20 Feb Our Communion
 27 Feb Caring for those with illnesses: spiritual, psychological and physical
 6 Mar Liberty of conscience and legalism
 13 Mar Living in the Spirit
 20 Mar Any Questions?
 (See Alasdair Black for details)

The Big W

Did you have an 'Office Party' Some of us did at Buccleuch Tower on Thursday 9th December 2004.

In a party atmosphere with traditional trappings, decorations, music and food, we spent a profitable time thinking through the implications and opportunities for Christians of such events, as we played 'Pass the Parcel' and peeled off the layers of wrapping paper to reveal questions for discussion and prayer, e.g. 'Do you go?' 'Why?', 'Should you drink alcohol?', 'How do you react to vulgar conversation?', 'How do you relate to junior/senior

staff?', 'How do you share the true meaning of Christmas?'

As it happened we were able to share materially with the Night Shelter downstairs. We hope you can join us for the February meeting at the church on Friday 4th February at 7:30pm on the subject 'People think you're the difficult one? Dealing with Challenging colleagues'.

The final meeting will be on March 4th and the topic is entitled 'Moving on: Career choices'

Elizabeth MacKenzie

Congregational Weekend Away

The Weekend Away will take place from Friday 29th April to Sunday 1st May 2005.

We will be returning to Balvonie Conference Centre, Skelmorlie. www.balvonie.com
 Expected cost:

Adults	£80
Students	£35
Children (11-16)	£18
(5 - 10)	£10

The cost includes all meals (breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon coffee, evening meal) from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. All rooms are either en-suite or have private facilities. Further

information regarding the weekend, along with booking forms, will be available in February. Speak to Donald Mackay, Roddy MacLeod or Norma MacLean for further information.

Norma Maclean

Guest Service

The next in our series of Guest services will be on Sunday 20th February at 11:00am and Sunday 27th February at 6.30pm, when Alex MacDonald will preach. Invitation cards are available today and please take this opportunity to invite friends along to hear the good news about Jesus.

Late Night Bible Studies

The late night Bible Studies will continue to meet in the hall at 9:30pm. The programme for the term is as follows:

- 3Feb Matthew 13
Parables of the Kingdom
- 10 Feb Matthew 14
Death, Feeding, Walking and Sinking
- 17 Feb Matthew 15
The Disciples, the Canaanite woman & the 4,000
- 24 Feb Matthew 16

Testing, confessing and predicting

3 Mar Matthew 17

The Transfiguration

10 Mar Matthew 18

More Parables of the kingdom

The Big Questions

(Thursday 6.30pm – 8.30pm)

We are starting a new series of meetings as a follow up to Christianity Explored. It's called "The Big Questions" and will deal with some of the key questions that come up in discussion of the Christian Faith. These meetings are suitable for those who are interested in finding out more about what's involved in Christian faith and for Christians who want to gain a better understanding of their faith. We meet on Thursday Evenings 6.30 – 8.30 pm, and the evening follows the usual pattern of a meal followed by a talk and discussion.

- 3 Feb Week 1
What about the Bible?
- 10 Feb Week 2
What about evolution?
- 17 Feb Week 3
What about the environment?

- 24 Feb Week 4
What about miracles?
- 3 Mar Week 5
What about other religions?
- 10 Mar Week 6
What about suffering?
- 17 Mar Week 7
What about hell?

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session: (7.30pm, Manse)

27th February

Deacons' Court: (8pm, Manse)

14th February (Happy Valentine's Day, boys)

Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship will be a fundraiser for the victims of the Tsunami disaster. Many of us have donated money already, however, here's another opportunity to give and at the same time clear out your wardrobe. Come, and bring a friend, to 54 Strachan Road on Thursday 10th February at 7.30 pm to a clothes and accessories bring and buy. Turn your clothes, shoes, bags and jewellery into cash.

Please contact Mary Campbell or Sarah Lytle to find out how you can get your "stuff" to Strachan Road before

the meeting.

This would also be a good opportunity to return any books taken from the book swap to their rightful owners.

Mary Campbell

International Meal

If you would like to host the International Student Meal please sign the sheet in the hall or speak to Catriona Macdonald.

Catriona Macdonald

The Portrait Gallery

There is an exhibition at the Portrait Gallery called 'Keeping Face'. The current Free Church Moderator features in this exhibition! The exhibition finishes on 6th February.

Camps Training Day

The Camps Training Day will take place on the 26th February. Please contact Mhairi Mackintosh, the Camps Administrator, for more details.

Sunday School Teachers' Training Day

The Free Church Youth Committee in association with the Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow are putting on a training Day for Sunday School

Teachers at the Royal Lodge Hotel, Bridge of Allan, on Saturday 5 March 2005, 10.00am – 4.00pm. The main speakers are Rev Alex MacDonald, Buccleuch Free Church and Mrs Irene Howat, Editor of The Instructor. There will be Workshops, Seminars and Sunday School Resources. The Cost of £10 includes Lunch and Teas/Coffees. More details and booking form may be found in the January Monthly Record.

R U Connected

This is an exciting interactive mission event for students and the young at heart. The key speaker will be George Verwer, and it will take place on 12th February at 7:30pm in Charlotte Chapel.

Catriona Macdonald

Advanced Notice: Working To Live

Is work worth getting up for? Is it inspiring, motivating and fulfilling? Or are you stressed, weary or just plain bored? Join the Working to Live team from Care for the Family for a seminar at Carrubers Christian Centre on 25th May, 7:30-10:00pm to get fresh insights and practical ideas, challenging you to work smarter not longer

and make your life count.

To book tickets, which are £6 each (special offer buy three get one free) call 01368 864070 or visit the Care web site at www.careforthefamily.org.uk

Elizabeth Mackenzie

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Freewill Offering Envelopes

Freewill Offering Envelopes for 2005 are now available in the hall. If anyone would like a set of envelopes for the first time, please speak to Sheila Anderson.

Sheila Anderson

Newsletter Distribution

For over 25 years, the newsletter has been sent out to friends of the congregation by Miss Betty Bell. On behalf of the many people who have much appreciated getting the newsletter, we thank Betty for this unstinting service. As of the end of last year, Betty has given this up and it has been taken over by Anna Macdonald. (The newsletter is also on the congregational web page).

Congratulations

To Mary Mackay who graduated on Friday from Edinburgh University with a Masters degree in Education.

A Note of Thanks from Mabel

Apologies first for disturbing the service on Saturday 20th November 2004, but sincere thanks to those who came to my help, and brought me 'in time' to the New Royal Infirmary. My deep gratitude also for the prayers of the church during that time and thus instrumental with God's intervening mercy, in the issue of what was termed 'an excellent recovery'.

Since coming home, I have been overwhelmed by the concern and good wishes of friends, expressed in letters, cards, visits, telephone calls, shopping, gifts of flowers and generous supplies of food - a wonderful experience of the love of the brethren in so many ways, a feeling of 'family' in very truth.

I can truly say 'it was good for me that I was afflicted....' therein proving God's wonderful mercy in sparing me, and the love of the Buccleuch family, which have

enriched my life.

Sincere thanks to you all
Mabel Fraser

A Note From Iain Gill

Thank you to the congregation for the retirement gift given so unexpectedly at the 1st January service and also for the support of the congregation over the past 30 years, not least in the past 8 years when Isobel has been ill. Thank you also for the many kind personal expressions of love to us both.

Iain Gill

A Message From America

Dear all,

We just had to drop you all a note to say an enormous "Thank You!" to all who were involved in the fundraiser. We were so touched by the thought and effort that went into preparing and organising on our behalf - it actually made us quite homesick! Also, as we anticipate the arrival of our second baby boy in March, to say we appreciate the money is an understatement!

Seriously friends, we're very grateful.

We are all doing well, just settling back into the normal routine after a restful festive

period. I'm currently in the middle of an intensive Hebrew Course. Rosie continues to proceed through a far more intensive childrearing course (achieving more in a day than I manage in a week!) while Mia and Caleb continue to have more energy than can possibly be healthy!

It now looks like we might be able to come home this summer after all, if so, it will be great to see you all and to introduce you to our new addition.

Until then, God bless.

Affectionately,

James, Rosie, Mia, Caleb (and bump)

1 Thess 1:2



Farewell

Ken and Joan Cameron moved house in the New Year. Their new address is:

23 Holly Grove, Menstrie, FK11 7DR

and their e-mail is: kwrc2@tiscali.co.uk

We wish them God's Blessing in their retirement.

Scripture Union

We are looking for volunteers to help run weekly lunchtime Scripture Union Groups in various Primary and Secondary Schools in Edinburgh City Centre. Do you have a passion to reach children with the gospel and have some free time during the week? Then please get in touch with Susan Gemmell – Schools Worker – XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXOXXXX

Congregational Directory – Any Corrections?

We are currently revising the congregational directory to update the elders' districts. If your address/phone number has changed please contact Bob Akroyd by phone (664 6306) or by e-mail:

bobandheather@talk21.com

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 again please let Bob know.

Child Protection Disclosures Forms

Only a small number of the Disclosures Forms which were issued quite some time ago have been returned, which means that there is a large percentage of youth workers who have not been disclosed by Disclosure Scotland. It is necessary by law that every worker must be checked at Scottish Criminal Records before they can take up working with children. This includes the voluntary section as well as those in paid employment. Therefore, as a congregation we are not complying with the legislation and this anomaly must be addressed.

Although there is an explanatory leaflet with each form many get it wrong and this prolongs the process. The main points to remember are:

- a. write in black ink,
- b. sign on back page only,
- c. all the documents declared on the front page, ie. driving licence, passport, birth

certificate have to be produced to me along with a utility bill or bank statement, (for address verification) in order that I can check the details, as I also have a form to sign certifying that I have done so.

d. leave section C blank, as I fill that in.

So I would urge all those of you who have outstanding forms to complete them and return through your group leader as soon as possible because the Session have decided that the current situation cannot continue. We must be seen to be doing this correctly.

A decision has been made that any worker who does not have his/her form completed and returned by Sunday 20th February will be disqualified from working with children until such time as the Disclosure Forms are completed and returned.

Child Protection Training Course

The recently held training course went very well and has been reported to have been successful, but there were only eight youth workers who showed an interest. This is a poor response as there are forty-

eight people in the congregation involved in working with children.

In the employment sector it is compulsory for youth workers to attend training courses, as this is looked upon as a being of great importance and indeed extremely necessary. While it is not possible to compel those in the voluntary sector to attend such courses the requirement to do so is just as essential. The Free Church in its Child Protection Guidelines requests that all workers make an effort to attend Child Protection Training Courses.

It is hoped to hold other courses in the future although no dates have been set but those who feel they would like to attend should in the meantime notify Roddy MacLeod or John MacRae of their intentions. Once numbers have been determined, dates and frequencies will be decided.

John MacRae.

Drugs

Following up the recent "Drug Proofing Your Kids" course which ran for 6 weeks in Oct/Nov it was decided to further broaden our knowledge

of drugs.

This is where you come in. On Monday 21st February at 7.30 pm in Buccleuch there will be a prime opportunity to educate ourselves by actually seeing some drugs and hearing about the effects they have on users. This information will be presented to us by a member of the drugs squad, who helpfully agreed to speak to us following John MacRae's invitation.

Please don't discount this notice without asking yourselves some serious questions:

1. Would you recognise cocaine if you came across it in your child's bedroom?
2. Do we know the homes our children visit for sleepovers and parties are drug free?
3. Should I go to this meeting?

We seriously urge you to come along because it will be an invaluable experience.

Mary Campbell

Tsunami Disaster

So far the amount collected in the congregation for aid to the victims of the Tsunami disaster comes to £2,350. This is being passed on through the Free Church's Disaster Relief fund to Tearfund.

MISSIONARY NEWS

Richard and Barbara are Free Church Members serving as Missionaries in The Comores. (First under 30 year old who tells the Editor where the Comores are gets a sweet) They have sent us the following letter.

Dear Praying Friends

The month of fasting, Ramadan, ended with the celebration of Eid - presents and new clothes for the children, visiting and well-wishing, cakes and good food. Many people then continued with an extra 6 days of fasting, just in case they hadn't kept some days properly and in order to gain extra merit. Muslim scholars stress the value of fasting in developing self-control, but the popular view is legalistic. The fast provided opportunities to speak with individuals on spiritual matters.

The year 2005 is approaching, and soon we will be giving out scripture calendars (in French). These have been well received and used in the past. Many are turned to the new text each day; one is on the wall of a shop

where customers can see it. Pray for God's blessing upon his own Word.

Our home help, Kibibi, has just announced to us that she will go on pilgrimage to Mecca in a few weeks time. She may be gone for about a month. Apparently there will be 7 going on pilgrimage from our village, Djoiezi, this year.

This reflects the relative wealth of the village. The village is also building a new, very large mosque. It will be quite a status symbol. It was started perhaps 15 years ago; work stopped for many years, but steady progress is now being made. Thankfully (as it just a stone's throw from our house), there is still a long way to go. Our prayer is for a church - not a big building but a community characterised by love for the Lord Jesus Christ and his Word, love for one another, patience and good works.

Our desire to do something tangible for Djoiezi (most of you will have read of this in the letter posted last month) has got no further yet. Things move slowly in the Comores, and particularly on Mohéli, the smallest of the

islands. People are enthusiastic, but getting a group together to sit down and discuss the way forward takes time. We need patience.

The school year finally got started after the teachers received some of the arrears of salary. But many are on strike again as they did not get as much as they believed they would. It is frustrating for teachers and children alike; and also for our colleague who teaches sport in the schools (when they are working).

Now that Elizabeth has left, Barbara is more than fully occupied teaching James and Libby and looking after the home. She is often tired. School is going well and the children are learning fast. Richard has been unwell, a virus perhaps. Medical facilities are poor here - no reliable malaria test is available. He took malaria treatment just in case, and is doing much better now.

Please continue to pray for us and for spiritual fruit amongst the people of Mohéli. Please also remember the man who Richard meets with who has a firm interest in the faith

and whose family are open too.

With our love in Christ

Richard & Barbara

FINANCE

Buildings Expenditure

In 2004 we had considerable expenditure on our buildings – particularly the Church and the Gilmour Road Manse – as outlined in the summary of the spend from the Fabric fund below.

In addition, in 2005 we need to upgrade the surface around the front and side of the Church for safety as well as aesthetic reasons and to erect gates to prevent access to the back and the other side of the building for security reasons. This work will amount to a sum in the region of £10,000.

2004 Finances

December 2004

I think it may have been Groucho Marx who said “Never prophesy, particularly about the future.” This is good advice. My estimate for 2004 didn’t quite work out!

General fund

Income of **£108,501** is £9,039 behind budget.

Expenditure of **£28,191** is £1,409 less than the budget.

Church funds

Remittances of **£75,000** are £1,000 higher than last year. The £75,000 represents **77%** of our net ordinary income of **£97,651**.

The balance on the general fund at 31 December is a deficit of **£3,723**. I need to confirm a few figures before finalising the numbers for the independent examiner. I suspect that the deficit may decrease by a few hundred pounds.

FABRIC FUND

Description	Amount	Paid to:
Church - wall & gates	£7,252	Stonemason
Church – roof repairs	£2,826	Morris & Spottiswood Ltd
Manse – bathroom	£7,141	Various
Assistant’s Manse – Service and parts for boiler	£395	Arnott & Mann Limited
Manse – dry rot treatment	£1,228	Frank Holmes Property Consultants
Miscellaneous	£273	Various
Total expenditure to date	£19,115	

Other special funds

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

Donald Forsyth
Congregational Treasurer
15 January 2005

REMARKABLE WITNESSES

John Knox: 1514 – 1572

The years from 1559 to his death in 1572 were spent in Scotland. They can be divided into 3 sections:

1. Conflict with Mary of Guise, the Regent, mother of Mary Queen of Scots - 1559 - 1560.
2. Significant developments in establishing reformed Christianity.
3. Conflict with Mary Queen of Scots and her supporters.

1. Knox and Mary of Guise

On the ship that brought Knox back from France in 1559 travelled a messenger from Mary Queen of Scots with a Great Seal bearing the arms of France, Scotland and England. That represented the intention of France to rule all three kingdoms. It also represented to John Knox the threat of the persecuting Roman Church which he had seen at work in France.

While the reformation movement was gaining strength in Scotland, there was much opposition to it from the Regent, the Church and many of the nobles. In addition, the

English were withdrawing from Lowland centres they had occupied and were being replaced by French troops and French advisers, generally more sympathetic to the Roman Church.

Mary had summoned the Protestant preachers to be present before her at Stirling on 10th May. A large group of nobles and gentry gathered to support the preachers in Perth, prepared to march to Stirling with them. Mary, foreseeing trouble, persuaded one of the nobles to have these remain in Perth or return home. When the preachers didn't appear in Stirling as cited, the Queen Regent declared them rebels and outlawed them.

Knox arrived back in Scotland on the 2nd May. A day or two later when news of his arrival reached the Queen Regent who was in Glasgow, she outlawed him. Knox went to Dundee and then to Perth to join those gathered there. When the preachers heard that they had been outlawed on the 10th May, feelings ran very high. On the Sunday following Knox preached against the Mass. After the service a priest attempted to celebrate the Mass

in the same church building and a riot then ensued, during which images in the church were destroyed and monasteries in Perth or nearby were looted by the populace.

The Queen called the nobles to act against the Protestants. The Protestants wrote letters to the Regent, to the French commander, the French troops - some of whom were Protestant, and to the nobles, declaring their readiness to accept the constituted authority, but requesting liberty to practise their religion. Several thousand supporters came to Perth and the Regent sought an agreement. A guarantee was given that no French garrison would be placed in Perth and there would be no persecution of Protestants.

The 'Congregation', as it came to be known, retired towards St. Andrews. Royalist forces entered Perth, Roman Catholic services were re-established, Protestants were removed from the burgh council and the Provost was replaced. A garrison, stated to be of Scots, but paid by the French, was imposed on the town. Some of the Scots who had supported

Mary to that point then left her and joined the Congregation, considering that she had broken a solemn promise.

The Regent then prepared to take St Andrews. Knox stated that he would preach on the Sunday in spite of strong opposition from the Archbishop. He spoke on Jesus' cleansing of the temple to such effect that the provost agreed to "remove all monuments of idolatry". Opposition to the Regent and her forces was such that Perth and Stirling were held for the Congregation and the Regent fled to Dunbar. Leith declared for the Regent while Edinburgh was sympathetic to the Congregation, but the captain of the Castle threatened to turn his guns on the Congregation. A treaty was signed at Leith Links on 24th July 1559 and the Congregation withdrew from Edinburgh to Stirling.

However, on 7th July, Knox was publicly called to become minister of St. Giles and he continued to be its minister and the spiritual leader of the city until his death. However, he was obliged to accompany the leaders of the Congregation when they

withdrew to Stirling at the end of July.

Mary used the support she had from France to keep pressure on the Scottish nobles. Knox encouraged the political leaders to seek help from the English and wrote acquaintances in England requesting their help.

Knox preached throughout the Lowland areas and in the Borders. Congregations were set up in the main cities and Knox continued his ministry in St. Giles with the assistance of John Willock.

The Protestant nobles tried to retake Leith, but failed and were obliged to retreat to Stirling. Knox there preached on the need for trust in God and cautioned against trusting in human strength and the support of the nobility. Edinburgh was in the hands of Mary's forces and St. Giles was reconsecrated by the Roman Church and Mass was again said.

During that winter Knox was in St. Andrews and the Protestant nobles were fighting a rearguard action against the French forces of Mary of Guise along the coast of Fife. Early in 1560 help arrived from England with the arrival of a

small English fleet, buffeted by storms on the way. France had also sent a fleet, three-quarters of which was driven ashore on the mainland of Europe. Only 900 soldiers arrived in Leith.

Leith was besieged by English and Scottish forces and, in June 1560, the French forces were ready to give up. Mary summoned the Scottish nobles to Edinburgh Castle as she lay dying and urged them to continue the alliance with France. She died on 11th June, 1560.

A truce was arranged and the Treaty of Edinburgh was signed on 6th July, 1560 between English and French envoys. All foreign soldiers were to withdraw from Scotland: Mary Queen of Scots would not include the English arms on her standard: everything relating to religion would be referred to the Scottish Parliament.

In April, Knox was able to return to Edinburgh and a special service of thanksgiving was held in St Giles to celebrate the signing of the Treaty and the prospect that opened before the Church.

2. Developments in Establishing Reformed Christianity

What related to religion was to be referred to the Scottish Parliament, but it hesitated to act. Knox and others presented a petition asking that reformation of the Church be instituted. Knox and five others - the six Johns: Knox, Willock, Row, Douglas, Wynram and Spottiswoode - were commissioned to draw up a confession of faith. It was prepared in four days. On the 17th August the Confession was adopted and a week later came into effect. It declares that all things necessary to be believed for the salvation of mankind are sufficiently expressed in the Word of God, and that that the interpretation of the Word belongs to none but the Spirit of God by whom the Scripture was written. At the same time the celebration of the Mass and papal authority were abolished throughout Scotland.

Later the same year, on 20th December, the first General Assembly of the Reformed Church of Scotland met in Edinburgh. There the Book of Discipline was approved. It contains the considered

opinions of the Scottish reformers regarding the fundamental principles of the Church they were working to establish in Scotland. It dealt with the permanent and temporary office-bearers of the Church, the process of appointing ministers and office-bearers, the Kirk Session and its activities, local meetings for the study of exposition of the Scriptures, the provincial Synod, and the General Assembly. Guidance for public worship and for celebrating the sacraments was also set out.

Educational provision was to be made at primary, secondary and tertiary levels and funds were to be set aside for the education of the poor.

Ecclesiastical discipline was to be firmly and fairly administered and the patrimony of the Roman Church was to be employed in the service of the ministerial, educational and charitable purposes of the newly established reformed Church.

Approved by the General Assembly in January 1561, it also received sanction from the Privy Council in the same month.

In the space of some 20

months from the return of John Knox to Scotland, a reformed Church with a sound constitutional basis had been established in Scotland contrary to the expectation of many. However, much remained to be

done to ensure the survival of this infant church and there was much opposition.

(to be continued)

WMM

ROTAS**Crèche**

6 Feb	Heather Akroyd	Anne Macrae
13 Feb	Evelyn MacDonald	Norma Maclean
20 Feb	Mairi Forsyth	Rebeca Topping
27 Feb	Kirsty Clunie	Neil Campbell

Amplifier

6 Feb	Douglas MacDonald
13 Feb	Graham Hardy
20 Feb	Ken MacKenzie
27 Feb	Rob MacDonald

Cleaning

5 th Feb	Donald Mackay	Alasdair Black
12 th Feb	Lois Eddie	Nick Middlemiss
19 th Feb	Richard/Sarah Lytle	Alex Brown
26 th Feb	Douglas MacDonald	Rob/Mary Bonne

Door Duty

30 th Jan	Roddy Macleod	Andy Cumming
	Ken Mackenzie	Donald Mackay
6 th Feb	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Steven Hammer	Willie Lytle
13 th Feb	Neil Campbell	Alison MacDonald
	Dolina Macdonald	Nick Middlemiss
27 th Feb	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod



More pictures from Christianity Explored class

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>6:30pm</u>
30 th Jan	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
6 th Feb	Alex MacDonald	At St C's
13 th Feb	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
20 th Feb	Alex MacDonald (Guest Service)	Alex MacDonald
26 th Feb (Sat)	Preparatory Service at 7:30pm	Alex MacDonald
27 th Feb	Communion Bob Akroyd	Alex MacDonald

Creche and Sunday School during morning service.

*Youth Fellowship after the evening service – see Alasdair Black

Monday

BG's Youth Club 7-8pm – contact Alison MacDonald (664 9038) or Kenny MacLeod (5551010)

*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

*Home Bible Studies 7:30pm (2nd 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

CONTACTS

Minister	Alex MacDonald	(667 4651)	AlexJMacDonald@blueyonder.co.uk
Assistant Minister	Bob Akroyd	(664 6306)	bobandheather@talk21.com
Newsletter/sheet	Moira Mackay		Moira@theMackays.fsnet.co.uk

Buccleuch and Greyfriars web page www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk