

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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April 2005

MINISTER'S UPDATE

We are all no doubt relieved and encouraged by the news that the action in the Court of Session by the FCC to claim the identity and the assets of the Free Church of Scotland has failed. Lady Paton dismissed their action on all counts and agreed that we in the Free Church of Scotland have not departed from our constitution. See the full text of her Opinion at

www.scotcourts.gov.uk/opinions/2005CSOH46.html.

Of course we don't know yet whether the FCC will appeal and thus prolong the legal process. And even if they don't appeal, we don't know what their attitude will be to discussing practical local arrangements for those congregations who have lost buildings and assets.

At one level, although the Court decision is not directly related to local property, it does put local congregations who adhere to the Free Church of Scotland in a strong position to claim back their property. However, we wish to avoid, if at all possible, further legal wrangling in the Courts. Not only would that be costly,

lengthy and time-consuming, it would continue the impression in the public mind of "Wee Frees" being loveless and legalistic.

With this in mind, following a recent meeting of our Legal Group, Rev Fergus Macdonald, the Moderator of last General Assembly, was asked to write to his counterpart in the FCC, Rev David Fraser. He did so in the following terms:

Dear David,

Our Legal Group met earlier this week to review the outcome of the case in the Court of Session and consequent to this, I have been asked to write to you.

In the interests of avoiding further damage to the cause of Christ, we would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you as our brothers in Christ the implications of Lady Paton's Opinion. If you are receptive to this proposal, we invite yourself along with six other representatives to meet on a mutually convenient date in mid-April with myself and an equivalent number of my colleagues.

In order to keep our own

people informed of what is happening, a copy of this letter will be sent to congregations. No general press release will be made.

I look forward to your early response.

Yours sincerely

Fergus A J Macdonald

Moderator of the General Assembly

We should earnestly pray that this approach will receive a favourable response and that we can sort out the remaining property issues in a way that is just and God-honouring.

While Buccleuch has not been directly affected in that we did not lose a section of our congregation or any property, nonetheless the life of the congregation has been impinged on in various ways, and we must not forget our neighbouring congregation of St Columba's who were badly affected and have still property issues to be sorted out.

Alex MacDonald

Bereavement

We wish to express our sympathy to four families in or connected with the congregation. Anne MacRae's

father died last month after a long illness. The funeral took place in Ullapool. Barbara MacPherson's mother also died last month after being ill for some time. The funeral took place in Kilmallie. After a long illness Jonnie McCrea's father died. The funeral took place in Northern Ireland. Darren Grady, a young man from Niddrie whom Bob had been helping for some time, died of a brain haemorrhage down in Sheffield where he and his mother Kate had moved recently. He was just 24. It is hoped there will be a memorial service in Buccleuch in the not too distant future. We commend all these families to the grace and compassion of our Lord.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 13th April. 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.

Special Meeting

Buccleuch will be hosting a special meeting on Wednesday 4th May when May Nicholson will be speaking. May was converted from a tough background in the Ferguslie Park area of Paisley, and has devoted her life to serving similar communities. She helped to set up the Preshal Trust and has told her story in "Miracles from Mayhem" by Irene Howat (CFP). More details of the meeting will

follow nearer the time, but put it in your diaries now!

Youth Fellowship

April 10 *Colin Dow: The Beatitudes*

April 17 *Maretta Sangster: Fruit of the Spirit*

April 24 *Scott Brennan: Prayer*

May 1 *John Angus MacLeod: Eschatology*

May 8 *Joint at Leith*

May 15 *Minature Heroes: Bible Study on Christlikeness*

May 22 *Prayer Meeting*

May 29 *Communion*

(See Alasdair Black for details)

All Age Sunday School

Bible Overview: New Testament

The All Age Sunday School will continue in May, and is designed to provide an overview of the whole of the New Testament. Everybody is warmly invited to attend. The course will be held at 9:45am. It will end at 10:30am in time for coffee before the morning service.

The weekly topics are:

15th May *The Letters: Romans to Philemon*

22nd May *The Letters: Hebrews to 3 John*

29th May *Revelation*

The Big W

The next meeting of the Big W is on FRIDAY 22nd APRIL at 7.30pm in the church hall. Our guest speaker will be Rev Bill Denholm who is part of the pastoral team at Charlotte Baptist Chapel. He will be speaking on the topic 'Moving on - career choices'. Come and hear about Bill's experiences - they may be useful to you too! For further information, contact Joan Macdonald (467 3494).

Joan Macdonald

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. All forms should be returned to Norma Maclean by 17th April.

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, 24th April at 6.30pm when Alex MacDonald will preach. Please take this opportunity to invite your friends to church to hear the Good News about Jesus Christ and pray that God would use this occasion to challenge and convert those who attend.

Christianity Explored Course

There's a 'Christianity Explored' course in Buccleuch church hall every Wednesday afternoon at 1.30pm. This is especially for **International students** who'd like to find out more about Christianity. Feel free to go along and bring your friends!

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session: (7.30pm, Manse)

Tuesday 19th April

Deacons' Court: (8pm, Manse)

Monday 18th April

Women's Fellowship

The next Women's Fellowship will take place on Friday 15th April at 7:30pm at the home of Mary Campbell.

International Meal

If you are an international student or interested in getting to know international students, make a date on SATURDAY 16th APRIL for a meal at the home of Fergus and Dolina Macdonald, 113 St Alban's Road, at 7.00pm. Come along and enjoy good food and fellowship! Those needing transport should meet in front of the church at 6.30pm. If you would like to participate or help in any way, please contact Catriona Macdonald (667 1546).

Catriona Macdonald

The Klub

The next meeting of the Klub will be on Friday 15th April: The Junior Klub will meet from 7-8.30pm at St.Columba's. The Seniors Klub will meet from 7-9.00pm at Buccleuch.

Nigel Anderson

Vision for 2010

What will the Free Church of Scotland be doing as a church

in 2010?

Yes, it's in God's hands, but it is our duty to plan for the future and seize opportunities. The General Assembly of 2004 authorised the Stewardship and Policy Committee to hold consultations with ministers, office-bearers and the membership. In January three conferences were held for ministers and presbytery elders and the next round of conferences is for the membership in general and any office-bearers unable to attend the January events. The conferences will be interactive and participative.

These conferences are on Saturdays in April and will last from 10am to 2pm. The Edinburgh Conference is planned for 16th April in St Columba's Church Hall. Speak to Neil Campbell if you would like to attend.

Fergus MacDonald

Accident & Illness

We keep a list of people who are medically or first aid trained for those on door duty to call on should someone become ill during church services etc. To keep this up to date can you let me know if your name can be

added to the list. This is not to be a substitute for hospital care but, for example, to give basic life support while awaiting an ambulance. Phone/Text me Jonnie 07715 169337.

Jonnie McCrea

Friends International

If you are interested in finding out more about ministering to international students, here's advance notice of two forthcoming events run by Friends International.

This year's Friends International Scottish conference on 29-30 April focuses on 'Crossing cultures – crossing mindsets' with Dick Dowsett as the key speaker. Seminar topics include 'Islam' 'How to lead evangelistic Bible studies' and 'Asian mindset'. The full cost is £57 or £25 for Saturday only (with reduced prices for students).

There will also be a gathering of those involved in (or wanting to become involved in!) international student ministry in Edinburgh. This forum takes place on Thursday 12th May at 7.30pm at Bellevue Chapel (Rodney Street) and the discussion will focus on evangelism.

For further details on both these events, please see the information on the noticeboard or speak to Catriona Macdonald.

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

Amica

Pregnancy Crisis Centre Celebrates Five Years.

It is now almost five years since Amica Pregnancy Crisis Centre opened. The centre is situated at 29 Nicolson Square and is staffed by two employees and a team of committed volunteers, all Christians from a

variety of church backgrounds.

Why Amica? The word is a Latin word meaning friend and because it begins with A, the hope is that it is easily found in Yellow Pages.

What does Amica do? There are three main areas of work. One aim is to help people take time to think through the options available when they face an unplanned pregnancy. Often it is a time when people feel overwhelmed and may make decisions in a state of panic. In Amica we help people to look at all the options and the consequences of each. Another aspect of the work is post abortion counselling. There are many women who have an abortion and later regret their decision. Amica is a place where they can find a way to peace and forgiveness. The third aspect is schools work. Fiona, the Centre Co-ordinator, and some of the volunteers have had the opportunity to take classes that raise awareness of the difficulties relating to unplanned pregnancies. So far we have participated in 50 classes in this academic year.

Amica Sponsored Walk

I have been working in Amica for the past year and a half, and have found it very challenging. My current challenge is to help raise funds for Amica. The work is entirely supported by individual gifts, gift aid, Trust funds and Fund-raising events. At the time of writing I am in training to undertake a sponsored walk. I plan to walk St Cuthbert's Way from 17th to 21st May. The walk is 62.5 miles, and begins in Melrose and ends in Lindisfarne. It covers some splendid borders countryside and takes in sites of historical interest. Part of the walk follows an old Roman road. I intend to complete the walk in five stages.

- Stage 1 is from Melrose to Ancrum – 15miles
- Stage 2 is from Ancrum to Kirk Yetholm – 17.5 miles
- Stage 3 is from Kirk Yetholm to Wooler – 12 miles
- Stage 4 is from Wooler to Beal – 12 miles
- Stage 5 is from Beal to Lindisfarne – 6 miles

I plan to complete the final stage on Saturday 21st May. The timing will depend on the

tides as you can only cross to the island at certain times of the day. One of the volunteers from Amica is travelling down to Beal on Friday evening, and we will complete the walk together. If anyone else would like to join me for any stages of the walk, you would be very welcome.

If you would like to sponsor me, Mairi Forsyth has kindly taken on the task of gathering names. Alternatively I can be contacted on 664 7567, or by e-mail:-
calumandliz@blueyonder.co.uk

Liz Ferguson

WFM Project

Please note Saturday 14th May at 7:00pm in your diary as the date and time planned for an "Auction of Services" in Buccleuch Hall. Funds raised will go towards this year's Women for Mission (WFM) Project "Club Medellin", which is supporting the Bible Seminary of Colombia in its setting up of a children's club. Through this club, Patty Reaño says that the seminary "will try to open up to them the wonderful world of books, and start them on the road that we hope will take them away from

the illiteracy with which they finish their school years."

A list of possible services that people may wish to offer in exchange for a contribution to the fund will be put up in the hall. Please have a look at the list to see if there are any services you may wish to offer (you can of course add your own ideas), or if there are any services that you would wish to bid for (again, you can add your own ideas, in the hope that someone might consider offering that service). Come the 14th of May the services will all be auctioned, and you will have the opportunity to bid (and counter bid!) for the services on that evening.

Eric Mackay

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Moving House

Alastair and Lillian Ross expect to move on 23rd April from 9, Howdenhall Way to 14 Kirkland Court, 8 Lasswade Road, EH16 6RZ. The phone number will be as before - 664 9800. *We wish them every blessing in their new home.*

Cookery Book

The WFM committee has

decided to produce a second cookery book to raise money for the Disaster and Relief Fund and so once more are asking for your favourite recipes. Dishes are required for all the usual categories as well as international cooking, special diets and budget meals. If you have a dish in the first cook book please do not resubmit it as it is hoped that the second edition will be completely different. Similarly please do not submit any recipes that have been lifted straight from any other cookery book as this infringes copyright and could get the Committee into trouble! Apart from those provisos anything goes – get cooking! Your recipes are wanted by the end of March. For further information or to submit any recipes please see Sarah Lytle.

Sarah Lytle

Missing book

Someone borrowed a book from Alex some time ago – “Whatever Happened to the Human Race” by Francis Schaeffer and Everett Koop. This was a signed copy that he was presented with by Dr Schaeffer and therefore has considerable sentimental value

as well as ongoing usefulness in itself. He cannot remember who borrowed it, but it was for some project on abortion or something similar. He would greatly value the return of the book, and no questions will be asked!

Alex MacDonald

Congratulations

Congratulations to James and Roszie Forsyth on the safe arrival of their son, Seamus William Forsyth on 3rd April at 4:30am (USA Time).

Let us remember James and Roszie and their family at this busy time.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Nobody is too old to have a birthday mention in the newsletter! This month it is Happy Birthday to Kirstie Ann Macpherson who has a birthday on 16th April, Amy Campbell who has a birthday on 25th April Mairead Macleod has a birthday on 10th April (today!) and Lydia Macleod on the 17th April.

Footballing achievement!

On the 28th of February a Buccleuch team won the Faith & Football five-a-side tournament in Dunfermline.

This seemed far from possible even on the day of the event, as our team was weakened by call-offs and injuries, not to mention having two veterans in the side! However, through our St Columba contacts, we were strengthened by the addition of Craig and Phil, who along with John MacRae in goals, Richard Lytle, Inigo, Rob and Alex MacDonald made up a formidable, if hastily convened, squad.

We cruised through the league stage, losing only narrowly to a rambunctious team of young upstarts from the East end of Glasgow. In a competition of supposedly church teams, we wondered which denomination had taught them their colourful language and interesting variety of fouls. However, as runners up in our section, we qualified for the semis, where we narrowly scraped through against last year's winners. So we were in the Final and – you've guessed it – who did we meet but our friends from Glasgow. This time we were ready for them. But I don't think these boys were ready for the combined wrath of a Free Church minister and elder! Thanks to the

exploits of Phil in particular, we thrashed them. It is possible to wind some people up too far!

If anyone wants to see the cup we won, it is proudly displayed in the manse at the moment!

Drug Awareness

The latest meeting of those interested in learning more about drugs was held in the church hall on the 21st February. John Macrae introduced the speaker, Jimmy Gray, a former colleague of his from the Drugs Squad. Jimmy gave us a lot of information and he showed us samples of the drugs which are presently in circulation. He described each drug, the effect they have, their price, how the user would use them and how available they are. It was an education to listen to his talk whilst viewing the real thing, albeit safely encased in see-through boxes.

Those of us who attended this meeting and the six sessions on "Drug Proofing your Kids" agree that our knowledge of this vast subject is still basic. John Macrae has years of experience from his time with the Drugs Squad and we intend to call on his

expertise to further our knowledge.

A date for the next meeting has yet to be decided but will appear in the news sheet in good time. You are welcome to join us then.

Jessie Macleod

A Word Of Thanks

Please could you pass on my heartfelt thanks, on behalf of the Caladh trust, to all Free church congregations for the generous support for the '40 days' project for prayer and fundraising. At the end of the 40 day period, our pledged and received total stood at approximately £42,000. With some money still arriving and with the gift aid benefits which many donations assigned to us, we are hoping to raise almost £50,000, which is testimony to the generosity of those who have given and the goodness of God, who has done far more than we thought or imagined. It is testimony to the love and unity in the Free Church that so many people from the denomination have given so much to this work. The way that the money came in also shows the wisdom of God our Father – around £1,000 per day

came in, with our target only being exceeded on the final day. On the 40th and final day of the project, 40 donation envelopes arrived at the trust! Just as important were the prayers offered for our work. On the 11th day of the project the islands suffered the worst storm in living memory with five lives lost. At that time and in the days afterward our 40 days of prayer took on new significance and our daily prayer times in an Caladh were given a new significance. By way of this email, please pass on my thanks and those of all involved in the trust, for the prayers and generous giving of Free Church people.

Iain Macaskill

A Request from ARCH

The ARCH school are looking for someone to assist with administrative duties up to five mornings a week during school term time. If anyone is interested in further details please speak to Eric Mackay.

MISSIONARY NEWS

A Message from Peru

Just a very quick note to acknowledge the Buccleuch

donation of £285. Thanks indeed to those who contributed. It is a great help to Moisés who is most grateful. We are in the midst of matriculation and start of classes. We have had 38 new students and altogether there are more than a hundred, with hopefully a few more to come before the close next Wednesday. The response to all our campaigning was just enough to launch the new programme, but not enough to finance it fully. We are going ahead anyway, but it is going to be a very tough year financially. We used most of our reserves to set up the new programme so we must get in more than we spend. At the moment we have a gap on the red side of about £15,000 to fill, even after a ferocious pruning of the budget. Life is never dull around this place.

Donnie Smith

A Message from South Africa

Dear Friends

We trust you had a very blessed Easter and that this email finds you all well.

Some folks have asked to be kept up to date with the

goings on in South Africa. Conscious of your interest and support we share these things with you for prayer.

2005 may only be a few months old, but it has been a very difficult one for us here in the Knox District.

Already we have seen seven deaths of members and adherents. Last month saw two funerals of Deacon Vumile Noge of Bulembu Location (who leaves a young wife and 5 month old son – Siphokuhle ('Beautiful Gift')) and Mama Khonzi from Engcamgeni (who leaves a husband and three young children). Both were only 32 years old. Another young woman is being buried tomorrow (2nd April).

The District is still feeling the loss of Elder Colin Mva who died on the 2nd January. He was, among other jobs, the elder responsible for the Youth Organisation. Now with the death of Noge, who was very active at the Youth meetings, the Youth are especially feeling the loss.

There have been encouragements – The Preachers' Workshop in January was a great success and the men have asked for this to

be repeated regularly.

Friendships with the people in the District have continued to develop and grow.

Mari and Beth celebrated their 2nd birthdays (21st February). Give thanks that they are well and growing, talking and causing general mayhem with Ovayo. Ovayo is much better after being admitted to hospital with a serious asthma attack brought on by a bout of Tonsillitis and Bronchitis.

Yours in Christ

Doug, Julia and the girls

News from Moheli

Mohéli is a sleepy sort of place; the pace of life is slow; but life is never dull.

On Monday of this week we were awakened at around 4.30 am by the mwezin, calling the faithful to prayer. Usually we sleep through this as there is no electricity and therefore no amplification of the call. We later found out why the electricity was on. A French tourist had died on Sunday walking in the forest, and his friends had paid for the island's generator to keep running in order to better store the body. A friend who had been staying

with us left on Monday on the same small plane as the body. While at the airport Richard discovered that a friend, who has shown an interest in spiritual things and read the scriptures in the past, had been the forest guide to the tourists; he was quite shaken by what had happened, the police questioning and the effort of carrying the body back down the mountain.

Tuesday night was unusually noisy here. We were aware of people talking and lots of vehicles moving. In the morning we discovered why. An earthquake under the sea somewhere near Indonesia had been reported on the radio, and folk were scared of another tsunami, not that the one in December did any damage in the Comores. Well, a sizeable part of the population took cars and lorries to move from coastal villages like ours to villages in the hills. A boat that was due to sail to Zanzibar didn't leave. People were terrified that a disaster was about to overtake them.

We have had visitors. Since January two young people from UK have been on Grande Comore as part of our

team teaching sports and English. They have come to visit Mohéli. We have enjoyed their youthful enthusiasm, their willingness to do anything, their interest in James and Libby and their energy. Matt has already returned to Grande Comore. Hannah should also have left last week but the boat she was to sail on has gone for "repainting"; this may have something to do with the airlines losing trade to this new fast comfortable and cheap boat. We've also had a visitor from Mayotte. Norma Kelly, who has served in a number of African countries and in UK, is currently on Mayotte for six months filling in for some colleagues during their home assignment. It was good to see her again and to share with her.

Please continue to pray for the work here, that the Lord Jesus may be honoured amongst the people of Mohéli.

Richard and Barbara Davies

FINANCES

February 2005

General fund

Income of £16,985 is £1,693 less than the same period last year.

Expenditure of £4,276 is £2,181 less than the same period last year.

Church funds

Remittances of £8,000 are the same as last year.

The balance on the general fund at 28 February was a deficit of £733.

Fabric fund

No expenditure to date.

Millennium fund (for the expenses of the Assistant Minister)

No comments.

Other special funds

No comments

Donald Forsyth
Congregational Treasurer
12 March 2005

| Statement of financial activities | General Fund | Fabric Fund | Special Millennium | Funds Other | Total |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------|---------|
| Gross ordinary income | £ 16,985 | | £2,063 | £3,462 | £22,510 |
| Transfer to fabric fund | -£1,699 | £1,699 | | | £0 |
| Net ordinary income | £15,287 | £1,699 | £2,063 | £3,462 | £22,510 |
| Expenses | -£4,276 | £0 | -£2,063 | £0 | -£6,339 |
| Surplus before EDO and central funds | £11,011 | £1,699 | £0 | £3,462 | £16,171 |
| EDO | -£20 | | | | -£20 |
| Church funds | -£8,000 | | | | -£8,000 |
| Surplus for the year to date | £2,991 | £1,699 | £0 | £3,462 | £8,151 |
| Opening balance - at start of year | -£3,723 | £29,197 | £0 | £50,978 | £76,452 |
| Closing balance | -£733 | £30,896 | £0 | £54,440 | £84,603 |

| Balance sheet | General Fund | Fabric Fund | Millennium Millennium | Other Other | Total |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|-----------------------|-------------|----------|
| <i>Fixed assets</i> | | | | | |
| Guardwell Crescent | £146,775 | | | | £146,775 |
| Loan from Bank of Scotland | -£98,521 | | | | -£98,521 |
| Loan from Bob & Heather Akroyd | -£45,703 | | | | -£45,703 |
| Fixed assets at cost less debt | £2,551 | £0 | £0 | £0 | £2,551 |
| <i>Other items</i> | | | | | |
| Alex's expenses | -£398 | | | | -£398 |
| Bob's expenses | £362 | | | | £362 |
| Amounts owed to the Congregation | £1,610 | | | | £1,610 |
| Cash | -£4,071 | £30,896 | £0 | £54,440 | £81,265 |
| Bills to be paid | -£787 | | | | -£787 |
| Closing balance | -£733 | £30,896 | £0 | £54,440 | £84,603 |

Other special funds comprise

| | |
|----------------------------------|---------|
| Special donation | £50,000 |
| Tsunami appeal | £2,718 |
| SANDS | £734 |
| Church improvements | £395 |
| Willie Raeburn - benevolent fund | £253 |
| Sunday school | £240 |
| Mother & Toddler | £100 |
| | £54,440 |

REMARKABLE WITNESSES

John Knox: 1514 – 1572

3. Conflict with Mary Queen of Scots and her supporters.

In December 1560, Knox suffered a very serious loss. His wife Marjory died, leaving their two sons, Nathanael and Eleazar, motherless. Knox's mother-in-law returned to care for them, but eventually they were cared for in England by Marjory's relatives. Nathanael, a Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge died at the age of 20, five years after his father. His brother died unmarried in 1591, a clergyman in the Church of England.

In the spring of 1564, when Knox was almost 50, he married Margaret Stewart, daughter of an old friend, Lord Ochiltree. She was the great-niece of the Duke of Chatelherault and a relative of Mary Queen of Scots. More surprising was that she was only seventeen. They had three daughters - Margaret, Martha and Elizabeth - who were all under eight years of age when their father died, the younger two married Church of Scotland

ministers, Zachary Pont and John Welsh.

Mary Queen of Scots was born in December 1542 and became queen six days later when her father, James V, died. A marriage arrangement was made between the Earl of Arran and Henry VIII of England that she would marry his son, Edward, and so unite the Crowns of Scotland and England. Her mother, Mary of Guise, opposed this arrangement. In 1547, Henry II of France proposed that Mary Queen of Scots should marry his 4-year old son, Francis, and the following year a treaty between the French and the Scots was signed at Haddington and Mary was taken to France to keep her out of English hands. Mary married Francis in April 1558 and a year later, on the death of Henry II as the result of a jousting accident, she became Queen of France as well as of Scotland at the age of 16. She also claimed the throne of England against the claim of Elizabeth. In December 1560, Francis II died, leaving Mary a widow, but still Queen of Scotland. She returned to Scotland in August 1561, accompanied by three of her

Guise family uncles.

For several years, Mary cast about for someone suitable to marry. Don Carlos of Spain, Archduke of Austria, son of the Emperor, was a strong candidate for a time, but others from France were also considered. By August 1564, these negotiations seem to have come to nothing. However, early in 1565, Mary met Lord Darnley who had a claim to succeed to the throne of England and would bolster her own desire to be Queen of England. They were married in July of the same year. The following year, in June, a son James was born. In February 1567, Darnley was murdered, dying before he reached the age of twenty-one and buried with little pomp or ceremony.

Darnley had many enemies, one of them being the Earl of Bothwell who may or may not have been the instigator of the murder. He was certainly a significant suspect and now became a principal actor in the events which followed. At the end of April he intercepted Mary and took her to his castle in Dunbar. On 3rd May, Lady Bothwell who had married her husband

the previous year, as a devout Roman Catholic, obtained judgement from the Protestant Commissaries against her husband on the ground of his adultery with one of her servants. On 7th May, Bothwell, a professing Protestant, procured from the Papal Court the decision that their marriage had been null from the beginning. A week later Mary married Bothwell at Holyrood, three months after the death of her husband. Confronted by the Protestant Lords, a month later Bothwell fled, Mary abdicated at the age of 25 and James, her son, became king at the age of thirteen months.

From the time of Mary's return to Scotland, John Knox had warned the people of her intention to be the means of undoing the work of reformation in Scotland. She was accomplished, tall, of good appearance, and astute. By befriending leading nobles she isolated them from the main reformation movement, often attracting to her support those who had been friends of Knox.

In these circumstances Knox continued to press for the validity of religion that

acknowledged the authority of the Scriptures over against the authority of the Roman Church. As minister of St. Giles, he was very outspoken in his criticism of Roman teaching and practice and was ready to denounce from the pulpit actions and example that he understood to be detrimental to the character of true religion. From his experience of what had happened in England during Mary Tudor's reign and of what he had known and seen in France, he was aware that there was murderous opposition within the Roman Church. Months before his death, several thousand French Protestants were annihilated with royal consent and Papal approval in August 1572. Knox laboured to ensure that the Scots would be free to worship according to the Word of God in a church that owed its first loyalty to the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is often made out to have spent his life trying to make Mary Queen of Scots miserable. He had four interviews with her.

The first was on 4th September, 1561. The previous month, the Protestant Council had accepted that the Queen and

her servants should be permitted private Mass. Knox had warned in his preaching of the danger of compromise with the Queen. She summoned him and challenged him. He stated his position as not of rebellion, but of faithfulness to Scripture. There appears to have been a long discussion and Knox held to his position, urging her to give it serious consideration. She was used to respect for an absolute monarchy and shed tears of frustration.

The second was towards the end of 1562. A Huguenot congregation had been massacred at Vassy in France by one of Mary's uncles. This pleased Mary and some time after she held a ball at Holyrood. Knox attacked the frivolity and vanity of princes, not because he objected to Mary enjoying herself, but because the reason for her enjoyment was, in his opinion, a celebration of the death of fellow-Christians. Mary accused him of speaking irreverently of her and of stirring people against her. Knox gave an outline of his sermon in which he had made no direct reference to her. Realising that she had no

ground for complaint, she spoke kindly to him and sent him away.

The third was after Easter in 1563. Archbishop Hamilton, a Roman Catholic, and a number of others celebrated Mass in Ayrshire. They were arrested by some of the Protestant gentry for breaking the statute of 1560 which forbade celebration of the Mass. Mary summoned Knox to Lochleven Castle where she was hunting. She wanted Knox to have Hamilton freed from the consequences of breaking the law. Knox enunciated the principle of mutual responsibility of ruler and subject to keep established laws. Mary did bring the Archbishop and forty-seven others to trial. They were imprisoned during the meeting of Parliament, but released very shortly after, thus avoiding any investigation by Parliament.

The fourth was later in 1563. When Knox got to know that secret negotiations were being carried on for Mary's wedding to a Roman Catholic prince from Spain or France, he publicly denounced the fact. Mary had persuaded her chief Protestant advisers to support

the idea. The matter was to be put to Parliament and, in a sermon, Knox warned that the Members would be held responsible to God for the welfare of the church if they approved the proposal. Mary again summoned Knox and sought to bully him into submission. He refused to be persuaded and stood firm. From vexation and frustration, she burst into tears and demanded by what right he had anything to say about her marriage. Knox stated that he was only fulfilling his duty as a preacher of God's Word and as the Queen's subject.

There was another incident in 1563 when he was brought before the Privy Council in an attempt engineered by Mary and her advisers to silence Knox. Mary had never given up on the idea of restoring Scotland to loyalty to the Roman Church. During Mary's absence from Edinburgh, members of her court arranged for Mass to be held in the chapel at Holyrood. Some of the Edinburgh burgesses broke up the service. Mary had the three leaders summoned for trial. Knox was very concerned about Mary's

actions and the possible fate of the men. He sent out a letter informing the brethren of these events and advising them to come to Edinburgh to ensure a fair trial. He was told to apologise to the Queen. He refused and was summoned before the Privy Council. The charge against him was treason and Mary hoped to humiliate him. She demanded that Knox read the letter he had sent - a serious mistake on her part for he had given good and careful reasons for his action that stirred the conscience of at least some of the Privy Councillors. He answered respectfully and forcefully other questions put to him and was then dismissed. The Queen also withdrew while the Councillors debated. The Queen returned to be present at the vote and discovered that they had all, including the Bishop of Ross, found him not guilty. When she upbraided and insulted the Bishop of Ross, he replied that what moved him to absolve Knox was 'the simple truth which appears in his defence'.

Knox was in England when Darnley was murdered in 1567. Mary, defeated at Carberry four months later,

abdicated. On 29th July of that year Knox preached the sermon at the Coronation of the young King James. The following year Mary escaped from Lochleven Castle and after her defeat at Langside fled to England. Scotland was divided between those who supported the Queen's cause, some of them Protestants, and those who were of the King's party.

Knox continued to exhort the church to faithfulness. He was even shot at when in his home. The people persuaded him in 1571 to leave Edinburgh and he spent a year in St Andrews, preaching even when he was very infirm. He returned to Edinburgh the following year and preached his last sermon on the crucifixion and death of Christ. He settled his affairs, making arrangements for his wife, their three daughters and the two sons in England from his first marriage.

He died in November 1572 and was buried in the churchyard of St. Giles with national mourning. The Regent, the Earl of Morton, said at his grave: 'Here lies one who never feared the face of man'.

Much maligned in his own

time and since, John Knox was a Christian leader of exceptional courage and quality. To him under God are due many of the qualities that

go to make up Scottish character through his influence on the Scottish Church and education in Scotland.

ROTAS**Crèche**

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 10 th April | Anne Macrae | Heather Akroyd |
| 17 th April | Evelyn MacDonald | Norma MacLean |
| 24 th April | Mairi Forsyth | Rebeca Topping |
| 1 st May | Kirsty Clunie | Neil Campbell |

Amplifier

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 10 th April | Rob MacDonald |
| 17 th April | Douglas MacDonald |
| 24 th April | Graham Hardy |
| 1 st May | Ken MacKenzie |

Cleaning

| | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| 16 th April | Lois Eddie | Nick Middlemiss |
| 23 rd April | Sarah/Richard Lytle | Alex Brown |
| 30 th April | Rob/Anne Bonne | Douglas MacDonald |
| 7 th May | Dolina Macdonald | Calum /Norma Maclean |

Door Duty

| | | |
|------------------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 10 th April | Willie Mackay | Calum Maclean |
| | Rob MacDonald | Kenneth Macleod |
| 17 th April | John MacRae | Seoras MacGillivray |
| | Neil MacRae | Iain Gill |
| 24 th April | Roddy Macleod | Andy Cumming |
| | Ken MacKenzie | Donald Mackay |
| 1 st May | Eric Mackay | Alasdair Black |
| | Stephen Hammer | Willie Lytle |

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

| <u>Sunday</u> | <u>11:00am</u> | <u>6:30pm</u> |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| 10 th April | Alex MacDonald | Alex MacDonald |
| 17 th April | Fergus Macdonald | Donald Macleod |
| 24 th April | Bob Akroyd | AlexMacDonald (Guest Service) |
| 1 st May | Donald Macleod | Donald Macleod |

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