

# Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## Newsletter

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Nick and Martha Middlemiss  
9<sup>th</sup> September 2005  
*(photo courtesy of Willie Lytle)*

October 2005

### Minister's Update

I was recently invited to attend the launch of the Genomics Forum. "Geno-what?" you might say.

I suppose most of us are now reasonably familiar with the term 'genetics' - the study of genes and how they influence or determine the life of all living creatures, including humans. For instance, each human being has within every cell of their bodies 46 chromosomes, composed of DNA and containing around 25,000 genes (or 3 billion base pairs of code). It has been discovered that this genetic material encodes the information required both for reproduction and for the normal cell production for growth and repair.

In 1986, the Human Genome Project was launched, the purpose of which was to map the human genome (the complete pattern of genes) so that we could understand which gene related to which characteristic of the individual (ranging from colour of eyes to proneness to a particular disease). In 2003 the project was successfully completed covering 99% of the human

genome to 99.99% accuracy. Genomics, therefore, is the study of the complete genome.

What is the significance of this discovery? It was called at the time "the outstanding achievement not only of our lifetime, but in terms of human history". Allowing for the (perhaps unconscious) hype of that statement, it is obvious that this is among the most significant discoveries ever made. But to what uses can this new knowledge be put?

Possible uses range all the way from the medical treatment of disease caused by genetic malfunction, to the deliberate changing of the human genome to produce "better" individuals; from projects which will merely use the new knowledge to gain greater understanding of ourselves and our past, to actual intervention to select, modify or engineer other species or our own descendents.

It is obvious that this new knowledge is extremely powerful and, like all knowledge, can be used for good or ill. The real trouble is not the new knowledge – we were created by God to think, explore and have dominion over

the creation – but the fact that these new discoveries come at a time when there is no generally agreed worldview with accompanying ethics.

This was abundantly clear at the launch of the new Edinburgh-based Forum. The approach was firmly sociological, rather than philosophical, ethical or religious. In other words, the purpose of the Forum is to ensure that everyone, including governments and the general public, understands the new science, to describe what is happening with the new developments and all the interactions arising, but not to major on the question of whether a particular development is right (bioethics were specifically sidelined).

All of this has the weight (and the millions) of three universities and the Economic and Social Research Council behind it. In comparison, the Christian church is weak, marginalized and largely ill-informed. Jimi Hendrix added a verse to Dylan's All Along the Watchtower which said, "All I've got is a red guitar, three chords and the truth". Sometimes I feel all I've got is

a sermon, three points and the truth! Our comfort is that we have the truth.

Thank God he has people involved in all these areas of science and social science and politics and media. But we need to pray that the Christians voice will more and more be heard above the high volume of complicated jargon of science, sociology and politics.

Alex MacDonald

### Assistant Minister's Update

Tonight as I write this I really should be packing for my trip to Carloway tomorrow but I am very excited about our new Christianity Explored Course. Twelve of us enjoyed a meal prepared by Anne Grant and the conversation freely flowed. Several different countries and cultures were represented and everyone seemed to have an enjoyable night. This is our fourth Christianity Explored Course. Each has been different and each has been worthwhile. Tonight is the second night and the topic is "Who is Jesus?" This really is the key question that we must all ask and answer. The Bible makes great claims about Jesus but he makes even greater

claims about himself. Tonight we studied the miracle recorded in Mark 2 where Jesus healed a paralysed man. Before he healed the man, he said, "Son, your sins are forgiven." This is our greatest need - the need for forgiveness. Jesus can give us a new heart and a clean heart. This is possibly Jesus' greatest claim, namely that he can forgive our sins. One of the discussion questions was, "What is your view of Jesus?" There are many different answers to that question but only one is correct. Jesus claims to be Saviour and Lord and he wants each of us to come to that profound and life changing realisation. How would you answer that question?

This Sunday evening I plan to preach on the familiar story of Zaccheus the tax collector in Luke 19. Jesus called this small man down from a tree in order to share a meal with him. Zaccheus went to see Jesus but he ended up welcoming Jesus gladly into his home. On this day his life was changed because he knew for himself who Jesus was. As Jesus taught those gathered round, "For the Son of Man

came to seek and to save what was lost" (Luke 19: 10). As you hear about Jesus and read about Jesus, he is seeking after you. Has he found you? Has he saved you? Do you know the joy and comfort of sins forgiven and the gift of eternal life? Please pray for the next six meetings of Christianity Explored that many would be found by Jesus and come to know him for themselves.

As I close and return to my packing, please pray for me this weekend as I preach at Carloway on the isle of Lewis. At their recent communion they welcomed four new members and there is a real sense of blessing and encouragement. Remember their minister Kenny Macleod and his wife Maggie and their boys, Chris, Seumas, and Calum. Heather and I are hoping for a pleasant crossing and an enjoyable weekend.

Yours faithfully  
Bob Akroyd

### Illness

Please pray for those who are ill, including:

*Jessie Murray*, who has been in hospital and is recuperating at home;

*Sandra MacLeod*, who broke

her arm in a fall, and is recovering with her brother and sister-in-law in Inverness;

*Catriona Taylor's mother* (from Lewis), who had an operation on Thursday, here in Edinburgh.

Please remember *Elizabeth MacKenzie* who will be travelling to Peru (with John and Catherine MacPherson) in the next week. Pray for health, strength and safe travel and that she would enjoy meeting up with old friends.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

#### **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.

#### **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 to 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 the 12<sup>th</sup> October. We will be continuing our study on Faith, Hope and Love in the New Testament. Study sheets and details of venues will be available before then.

#### **Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court**

Kirk Session: Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November at 7:30pm in the manse.

Deacons' Court: Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October at 8:00pm in the manse

#### **Harvest Thanksgiving Service**

Our annual harvest thanksgiving service will be on Sunday, October 30<sup>th</sup> at 11am when Alex will preach. There will be a collection after both services that day for Tearfund. Tearfund is a leading relief and development charity, working in partnership with Christian agencies and churches worldwide to tackle the causes and effects of poverty. For more information see [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)

**Guest Speaker**

On Wednesday, October 5th at 7.30pm, Clive Parnell, UCCF Staff Worker in Edinburgh, will speak about his work among students in the city. Please come along to hear about this exciting work which is very relevant to our own ministry here at Buccleuch.

**Late Night Bible Studies**

Beginning on October 13<sup>th</sup>, we host the Late Night Bible study in Buccleuch Church Hall on Thursday evenings to continue studying the Gospel of Matthew. The study is co-led by Bob Akroyd and Jeremy Auld, the Anglican Chaplain to the university. Everyone is invited to attend this meeting which begins at 9.30pm with pizza and concludes at 11pm. The Schedule is:

*October 13:* Matthew 18

*October 20:* Matthew 19

*October 27:* Matthew 20

*November 3:* Matthew 21:1-27

*November 10:*

Matthew 21:28 - 22:14

*November 17:*

Matthew 22:15-46

*November 24:*

Thanksgiving Break

*December 1:* Matthew 23

*December 8:* End of Term Meal

**Guest Services**

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday, October 30th at 6.30pm when Bob will preach on "The Big Cover-Up". 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.

**Music**

Calling all musical and/or singing teenagers - I'm looking for a group of young people to get together to make some music possibly with the aim of putting on a fund-raising event around Christmas. If you're interested come along to the Church Hall on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm and we'll take it from there. Bring your instruments - all styles - no Stairway - no chav tunes!

Donald Forsyth

**International Students' Day Out**

If you are an international student who would like to make Scottish friends and see the Scottish countryside, come along to the Day Out on SATURDAY 15th OCTOBER. Transport will leave from the

front of the church at 10:30am in order to join the Youth Fellowship at their weekend away in Tayside. There we will enjoy lunch and afternoon walk together before returning to Edinburgh by early evening. Please book your place with Catriona Macdonald by Sunday 9th October. The trip costs £5.

This trip is also open to those who would like to get to know international students as well as for those who want to know what the YF gets up to on their weekends away....

### **International Students' Meal**

The next meal for international students and friends from the congregation will be held on FRIDAY 28th OCTOBER at 7.00pm at the home of Bob & Heather (275 Guardwell Crescent). Please meet in front of the church at 6.30pm if you need a lift.

More helpers are needed in providing transport, making friends and providing hospitality. Please see Catriona Macdonald for more details.

### **OMF International**

Interested in finding out more on sharing your faith with those from East Asia? OMF

International is running a day seminar on reaching East Asians in the UK. Topics include 'How an East Asian would read the Bible' and 'East Asia mindset'. This will be held on SATURDAY 8th OCTOBER at 10.30am (coffee at 10.00am) in Charlotte Baptist Chapel. Please bring a packed lunch. Further details are available on the church notice board or from the organiser, Carolyn Kemp (0771 936 7223).

Catriona Macdonald

### **Christianity Explored 2005**

The topics and dates for the meetings are as follows:

October 6	Week 3	<i>Jesus - Why Did He Come?</i>
October 13	Week 4	<i>Jesus - His Death</i>
October 20	Week 5	<i>What is Grace?</i>
October 27	Week 6	<i>Jesus - His Resurrection</i>
November 3	Week 7	<i>What is a Christian?</i>
November 10	Week 8	<i>Continuing as a Christian</i>

### **What Can You Do?**

*Pray* - Pray that people would come, hear the message of Jesus and come to believe in

him. Pray for leaders and speakers. Please start praying now!!

*Attend* - Come along if you'd like to find out more. This course is very helpful and everyone would be welcome. You can sit and listen or ask as many questions as you like.

*Invite* - Ask your friends, family member and neighbours. This is a great opportunity for people to hear the gospel - take advantage of this opportunity!

*Volunteer* - We need caterers and helpers for the kitchen. People to set up and people to clear up. We need table leaders and others to help on the night. *Can you help?*

If you need any more information, please contact Alex (667 4651 alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk) or Bob (664 6306 bobandheather@talk21.com)

### The Klub

The KLUB is for young people from the three Edinburgh congregations. Junior KLUB is for ages 7-10 and takes place on a Friday evening (every fortnight) in St Columba's from 7-8.30pm.

The programme is as follows;

7<sup>th</sup> Oct Treasure Hunt

28<sup>th</sup> Oct Video Night

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Games Night

25<sup>th</sup> Nov Craft Night

9<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Party

Senior KLUB is for ages 11-15 and also takes place fortnightly, in Buccleuch from 7-9pm.

The Programme is as follows:

7<sup>th</sup> Oct Games Night

28<sup>th</sup> Oct Video Night at 5 Gillespie Crescent

11<sup>th</sup> Nov Games Night

25<sup>th</sup> Nov No Senior Klub

9<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Party at St Columba's

13<sup>th</sup> Jan start of new session

### Part-time Courses at the Free Church of Scotland College 2005/06

*Certificate in Theology:*

A 2-year part-time course in Biblical Studies, Practical Theology, Christian Discipleship and Christian Doctrine.

*Diploma in Christian Studies:*

A further 2-year course for those who have already gained their Certificate in Theology.

*Programme:*

Classes meet one Saturday a month from 10 am (coffee at 9.30!) to 4 pm on the following dates:

8 October, 12 November, 10

December 2005

14 January, 11 February, 4

March, 8 April, 6 May 2006

*Enrolment:*

Saturday 8 October 2005 at  
9.30 am

*Venues:*

Free Church College,  
Edinburgh

Free Church, Stornoway (by  
video-conferencing)

*Courses:*

The Book of Acts (Rev Alasdair  
I Macleod)

Studies in Isaiah (Professor  
John L Mackay)

Christian Hope (Professor  
Donald Macleod)

*Fees:*

£200 a year, payable in  
instalments (October and  
February)

Concessions (e.g., students,  
senior citizens): £60 a year

Under 18: free!

*Information:*

Anne MacLeod, Secretary, Free  
Church College, The Mound,  
Edinburgh, EH1 2LS

E-mail:

[xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

### **Induction**

On 7 October at 7.30pm,  
Gordon Matheson, who was on  
student placement with us two  
years ago, will be inducted as

the Assistant Minister in  
Greyfriars Church, Inverness.  
We wish Gordon every blessing  
and encouragement as he settles  
into this new post.

### **Communion - Advance Notice, Sunday November 27th**

We next celebrate the Lord's  
Supper on Sunday November  
27th. There are pre communion  
services on Friday 25th  
November and Saturday 26th  
November at 7.30pm. The  
services on Sunday are at their  
usual times of 11:00am and  
6.30pm and the evening service  
is a joint service for all three  
Edinburgh congregations. Rev  
Dr Iain D Campbell, Back Free  
Church, will be our preacher for  
the entire weekend. If you are  
interested in joining the  
congregation by professing faith  
in Jesus Christ or by  
transferring your membership  
from another congregation,  
please contact Alex or Bob or  
any of the elders in the  
congregation.

### **The Presbytery Gaelic service**

The Presbytery Gaelic service is  
on Sunday October 9th in St  
Columba's hall at 3pm. It is a  
communion service, and the  
preacher will be Rev Murdo

MacLeod (retired from Dunvegan)

**Missions Conference** - Saturday 29th October, Downvale Free Church (details for this are in the Monthly Record)

### **The Prodigal**

There is a recommended 'seminar' (?) run by Care for the Family in the Usher Hall on Saturday 15th October. It's called 'The Prodigal' and focuses on how to minister/pray for those who have left the faith and church. Information can be found on the Care for the Family website.

### **CITY PRAISE 2005**

Sunday 16 October, 8pm, Usher Hall, Admission Free.

This is the third City Praise and promises to be as great a time of worship as the previous two packed out events. Get your tickets from Wesley Owen bookstore (George Street, Edinburgh) in person (max 5 per person), or online at [www.citypraise.net](http://www.citypraise.net)

{<http://www.citypraise.net>} (from tomorrow). For group tickets use the website.

Catriona Macdonald

### **YF Weekend Away**

The YF weekend away will take place from 14th-16<sup>th</sup> October and the speaker will be Archie Macphail on John 17 'Jesus Prayer'. It will take place at Gulabin Lodge, Perthshire. Transport will be provided. The cost is £35 for the whole weekend or £15 for a single night. Please contact Johnnie on 0772 910239 or 667 0250 or Shanana 0770 493160 for more details.

### **Shoe Box Appeal**

Start filling those shoe boxes! There will be a collection of filled shoe boxes during the last week of October. Please leave the shoe boxes in the hall during the week of the 30<sup>th</sup> October. Speak to Dolina Macdonald for more details.

### **The Big Free Rally**

The Big Free Rally is on Saturday 8th October, 10:30-16:00 in Inverness. It is an excellent day of worship and teaching, especially for 10-teens. Transport is available. Please encourage your children to go and let Rob know if you want a place.

Rob MacDonald

**Women In Action Workshop**

This is a chance to get involved in the development and building of our church family and in reaching out to our community with the love of Jesus. The meeting will take place on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> October in St Columba's Hall from 10:00am-12 noon. You are warmly invited to come along and discuss ideas over coffee and croissants.

**Week of prayer for international students**

Friends International is an evangelical ministry dedicated to equipping and motivating UK churches to reach international students for Christ. They are launching a special week of prayer during 2-8 October for international student ministry in the UK. Will you join them for praying for the nations on our doorstep?

*Sunday - International students arriving*

Over 1 million international students study in the UK each year. Please pray that each one will make a Christian friend.

*Monday - Outreach to international students*

Pray for outreach events (such as meals, outings, etc) to be useful tools for showing genuine friendship and sharing the Christian faith.

*Tuesday - Churches in the UK*

Praise God for those churches in the UK involved in ministry among international students. Please pray for more churches to develop a vision for this.

*Wednesday - University witness*

Please pray for the Lord to keep doors open on university and college campuses so that Christian students and staff are free to share their faith with those around them.

*Thursday - Supporters*

Give thanks for all those who support the work of Friends International - through prayer, financial giving and local involvement. Pray that God would supply the needs of all our staff and that we would enjoy good relations with our supporters.

*Friday - Discipleship*

Praise God for the international students who have become Christians whilst studying in the UK. Pray that they will stand

firm in their faith and find people who can nurture and encourage them in their spiritual growth as they return home.

*Saturday - Friends International staff and associates*

Give thanks for the 65+ staff and associates committed to reaching international students in 30 UK university towns and cities. Pray that they would be effective and that the Lord would raise up more people to join them.

Catriona Macdonald

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Weddings

Congratulations to Donald and Anne who married on 24<sup>th</sup> September at Tenandry Church, near Pitlochry and to Nick and Martha who married on the 9<sup>th</sup> September in St Columba's Free Church.

### 25<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary

Congratulations to John and Mary Mackay who will be celebrating their silver wedding anniversary on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> October.

### Coffee Rota

The coffee rota is short of volunteers. If anybody is willing to take a turn in serving coffee after the morning services and guest services please speak to Christine Macleod.



*Donald and Anne Mackay  
24<sup>th</sup> September*

### 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.

We are including an extra column for mobile phone numbers so if you want this number included let Bob know.

### **'Encounter with God' Bible reading notes**

If you pick up a copy of the SU 'Encounter with God' Bible reading notes (Oct-Dec) you may recognise a familiar name. Our very own Fergus Macdonald has written the notes on Ezekiel 40-48 for the beginning of November. Now you know who to ask if you have a question about Ezekiel....

### **Happy Birthday**

This month it is Happy Birthday to Keir Greatorex, whose birthday it is on the 9<sup>th</sup> of October.

### **Socks Appeal**

Buccleuch helps to run the Care Van which seeks to help the homeless population of Edinburgh. At this time of year we need clothes to give out to those who come to the van. The vast majority of requests are for male clothes especially socks.

Any male underwear, warm clothes, hats etc would be appreciated. Please bring any contributions to Rob at church. Read Luke 3:11.

Rob MacDonald

### **Hearing Aid Loop**

To benefit from the loop system in the Church and Hall, it is essential that hearing aids are switched to the T position and the volume TURNED UP to around position 4. In addition, those on duty should ensure that the loop amplifier, as well as the PA amplifier, is actually turned on!

### **Pregnancy Crisis Centre – sponsored walk**

Thank you to everyone who supported Amica by sponsoring me to walk St Cuthberts Way in May. The amount raised was £1670.48. I really appreciate your support and encouragement.

I started the walk on Tuesday 17th May in Melrose and finished on Saturday 21st on Lindisfarne Island. It is a beautiful walk and I would encourage anyone who enjoys walking to consider it as a holiday option. I stayed in B&B's and a Youth Hostel

strategically placed along the way. You can access information about St Cuthberts Way on the internet, and there are books you can borrow from the Central Library.

The walk is fairly easy going and reasonably well sign posted. It takes in stretches of Deere Street – a Roman road, and passes through quaint Borders villages. The walk out of Melrose is an inspiring start as it takes you up between the Eildon Hills and allows panoramic views of the surrounding countryside.

I had all kinds of encouragement along the way. The first evening Maisie and John Mackenzie gave me dinner and a pair of excellent walking socks. Calum came to meet me the second day and ended up walking over the highest point of the walk twice - on his own to meet me and then both of us to Kirk Yetholm. The fourth day Loise Hogg met me at the bus stop in Wooler and we walked to the coast. Louise returned to Edinburgh and I was joined by Joy Moore, one of the Amica volunteers, who accompanied me on the last exciting stretch to Lindisfarne, via the Pilgrims Causeway. We

were spurred on to walk quickly by the sight of the refuge boxes where you can climb up and take shelter if the tide catches up with you.

Spending time alone in such beautiful surroundings gave me opportunity to reflect on God's goodness and his kindness towards us. Psalm 16 provided a great theme to rejoice in. Before I set off on the walk I noted verse 11 as a focus for meditation:-

“You have made known to me the path of life;

You will fill me with joy in your presence,

With eternal pleasures at your right hand.”

Liz Ferguson  
Amica Pregnancy Crisis Centre  
29 Nicolson Square

**FINANCES**

August 2005

**General fund**

Income of £70,225 is c£7,000 less than budget and c£2,000 less than the same period last year. As I noted In July, we are slipping further behind the budget each month – March £400, April £700, May £2,900, June £4,500, July £5,800 and now £7,000.

If general fund income does not improve significantly we will fall well short of our budget for giving to central funds. The general fund had a deficit of c£4,000 and a bank overdraft of £6,643 at the end of August – the cupboards are bare!

Expenditure of £19,566 is £1,200 less than budget.

**Church funds**

Remittances of £44,000 are £4,000 less than budget and £6,000 less than last year.

**Fabric fund**

Manse roof repair	£123
Lights for church hall	£613
New floor covering for Manse dining room	£662
Stonework and stone survey	£3,038
Decorating manse (including new fireplace)	£3,155
Tarmac	£9,189
Expenditure to date	£16,780

**Millennium fund (for the expenses of the Assistant Minister)**

No comments.

**Other special funds**

No comments

Donald Forsyth  
Congregational Treasurer  
July 2005

Statement of financial activities	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Special Millennium	Funds Other	Total
Gross ordinary income	£ 70,225		£ 10,947	£ 5,645	£ 86,817
Transfer to fabric fund	-£ 7,023	£ 7,023			£ 0
Net ordinary income	£ 63,203	£ 7,023	£ 10,947	£ 5,645	£ 86,817
Expenses	-£ 19,566	-£ 16,780	-£ 10,947	-£ 3,727	-£ 51,020
Surplus before EDO and central funds	£ 43,637	-£ 9,758	£ 0	£ 1,918	£ 35,797
EDO	-£ 20				-£ 20
Church funds	-£ 44,000				-£ 44,000
Surplus for the year to date	-£ 384	-£ 9,758	£ 0	£ 1,918	-£ 8,223
Opening balance - at start of year	-£ 3,723	£ 29,197	£ 0	£ 50,978	£ 76,452
Closing balance	-£ 4,107	£ 19,440	£ 0	£ 52,896	£ 68,229

Balance sheet	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Millennium Fund	Other Funds	Total
<i>Fixed assets</i>					
Guardwell Crescent	£ 146,775				£ 146,775
Loan from Bank of Scotland	-£ 97,829				-£ 97,829
Loan from Bob & Heather Akroyd	-£ 46,703				-£ 46,703
Fixed assets at cost less debt	£ 2,243	£ 0	£ 0	£ 0	£ 2,243
<i>Other items</i>					
Alex's expenses	£ 565				£ 565
Bob's expenses	-£ 193				-£ 193
Amounts owed to the Congregation	£ 1,610				£ 1,610
Cash	-£ 6,643	£ 19,440	£ 0	£ 52,896	£ 65,693
Bills to be paid	-£ 1,689				-£ 1,689
Closing balance	-£ 4,107	£ 19,440	£ 0	£ 52,896	£ 68,229

**Other special funds comprise**

Special donation	£ 50,000
Free Church Camps	£ 625
Tear Fund	£ 513
Project ANYI	£ 500
Church improvements	£ 395
Sunday school	£ 261
Willie Raeburn - benevolent fund	£ 253
Mother & Toddler	£ 100
Women for Mission	£ 86
Niger	£ 60
Foreign Missions	£ 50
Congregational outing	£ 40
Campaigners	£ 13
	£ 52,896

### **Missionary News**

Please pray for two of Catriona Macdonald's former team-mates, who have been refused permission to return to their ministries in Central Asia. For reasons that are not forthcoming, the government has decided not to renew their yearly visas. The workers are not even allowed to re-enter the country to say goodbye to their friends and team-mates. Please pray for comfort, guidance and protection for all involved.

Catriona Macdonald

*The following message comes from Douglas and Julia Campbell in South Africa.*

Dear Friends

Springtime greetings from South Africa.

We trust you are well and thank you again for your interest and support of our work. Here is a brief summary of our news over the past few months. We appreciate your continued prayers.

In May, Douglas was elected Moderator of the Free Church in SA and presided over the shortest Assembly ever! He was also recently made interim moderator of Burnshill District,

which comprises 7 congregations in the Keiskammahoek area. This was necessitated following the sad death of Rev FF Mva. Please pray for Doug as he now oversees 14 congregations and for the family of Rev Mva, especially as they lost elder Mva in January. Please also pray for the Free Church in SA as it has now lost 2 ministers this year.

Douglas has also continued to teach in Dumisani this past semester with 1 student for Hebrew 2 and a rather larger diploma class for Church History 2. Please remember another Preacher's Training Day to be held in Knox District on September 24th.

The girls continue to grow and to talk non-stop. We give thanks that they survived the winter fairly unscathed healthwise. Doug and Julia were able to get away for a few days to visit Potchefstroom in the North – West province. This is the first time we have left the children for an extended period. Despite our concerns, Mari and Beth seemed unaware we had left at all! We have just received news that Ovi has been selected for the local pre-

primary school. This had been a matter of prayer as the school had double the number of applicants to places.

We look forward to hearing your news and don't forget we do have a spare bedroom!

With our love in Christ  
Doug, Julia & Girls

BXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

*And the following comes from  
Patty Reaño in Colombia.*

Dear friends,

We arrived fine in Colombia about a month ago. With the firm decision of keeping all of you updated with our news, but you see, it is a month ago, and the time flew.

Manuel is in another town (Armenia), with the preachers project.

Let me tell you some things about BINCO, the Community Childrens Library,

so you can pray.

The number of kids is amazing, we have had up to 56 in one shot but we don't have enough people to help. Having said so, this last week three ladies started to get involved, coming four hours per week, each of them.

Because of the amount of kids we had to split the group, and some parents got cross. Hopefully we'll have a parents meeting this Saturday and we will be able to explain.

Please pray and encourage others to pray for:

1. More people to work with Binco, the number of kids is increasing.

2. The relationship with the parents, that we may start building relationships and sharing our faith in Jesus and His love with them.

3. For the students that help there, that they may feel encouraged even though some times they are challenged by the amount of work and the indiscipline of some kids, specially those between 8 to 12 years old.

4. Some of us are starting a small research about that problem, remember that we are in a quite poor and aggressive

community.

5 We are really happy with the Lord for His faithfulness for the response of the community. We didn't imagine it was going to be that positive.

6. For Cielo, the lady who helps us with the coordination in BINCO.

There is much more to say, but I will try to get in touch soon with more.

Love  
Patty Reano

## WONDERFULLY MADE

Unlike sharks, but like whales, seals are mammals. Seals are often found round the coasts of Scotland. The Common Seal and the Grey Seal frequent the coastal sea around Britain, but there are many other types of seal.

There are three main groups:

1) Earless seals which have very small ear openings, but no ears outside the body - harbour seals and elephant seals.

2) Eared seals which have distinct, but small, external ears - including fur seals and sea lions.

3) Tusked seals which otherwise are like the earless seals - walrus.

Most seals have some hair on their bodies, although walruses are almost hairless, but fur seals have thick coats of fine hair. All seals have a layer of blubber that may be from an inch to six inches thick. The blubber helps to keep the animal warm and they can get energy from the blubber when food runs short.

Many seals have small heads and short noses, but an elephant seal has a long, curved

nose about 15 inches long and a hide that looks like an elephant's. With the male hooded seal, a pouch extends from its nose over the top of its head. When it is annoyed, it blows air into the pouch so that it expands like a balloon which forms a bright red hood over its head, frightening its enemies.

The eyes of many species of seal are large and cope with seeing under water as well as out of the water. They seem to be able to see and hear well, but their sense of smell is less strong.

Seals have arms and legs, but the shoulder joints and elbows as well as the hip and knee joints are buried inside the body. The parts that extend outside form the animal's flippers.

Earless seals have smaller and narrower flippers and they travel in water by moving their bodies and tails, the front flippers remaining close together. On land they cannot turn their front flippers forward and use their strong body muscles to drag themselves across land or ice.

Eared seals have longer and flatter front flippers. Fur seals and sea lions use these to

help make them very strong swimmers. On land, along with walruses, they walk on all four flippers.

Most seals live in groups and may stay together on long ocean journeys. Some kinds of seal may live up to 40 years. In spring they move to their breeding grounds, called rookeries. Fur seals sometimes gather in groups as large as 150,000. Female seals usually have one pup, but rarely they may have twins. Seal milk is very rich and the pups grow quickly. After three or four months they are left to fend for themselves.

Seals eat fish, sea birds and squid. Leopard seals and walruses sometimes eat other seals. Crabeater seals in the Antarctic eat shrimps and small fish, not crabs. With sharp, pointed teeth suitable for biting, but not chewing, seals tear their prey, but swallow small fish whole, head first.

Large sharks and killer whales attack seals in the water and polar bears attack them on the ice, but man is probably their greatest hunter. The Weddell seal in the Antarctic can dive as deep as over 2000 feet to avoid predators and stay

underwater more than 40 minutes before returning to the surface to breathe.

There are many different kinds of seal - the Common Seal, the Harp Seal between six and nine feet in length, the Bearded Seal up to ten feet long, the smaller Ringed Seal, the Grey Seal about eight feet long, the Crested or Hooded Seal, the Elephant Seal with the males reaching twenty feet and the females about ten, and also the Leopard Seals of the Antarctic.

Eared Seals are divided into Sea Lions and Sea Bears. Sea Lions have long coarse hair and are called hair seals, while Sea Bears have the same coarse hair, but also soft, delicate fur and, for that reason, are called fur seals. Fur seals are highly valued for their skin. Male Sea Lions are about eighteen feet in length, females about half that.

Although most seals live in the Northern Hemisphere, large numbers are also found in the Southern Hemisphere. In both cases greater numbers are to be found in colder oceans and some are found in inland seas.

WMM

<b>BUCCLEUCH &amp; GREYFRIARS FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND</b> <b>Our identity, mission and vision</b>	
Identity	Local congregation of the Free Church of Scotland which is a branch of the universal Church of Jesus Christ
Mission	To worship God together To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ To care for and encourage one another To show practical compassion for those in need
Vision	<p>A church which is characterised by friendliness towards, and genuine interest in, all those who cross the door whether regularly or only once.</p> <p>Relevant-to-the-times, applied preaching and enjoyable worship.</p> <p>An increasing proportion of those attending committed to Buccleuch as central to their life and Christian witness.</p> <p>A congregation increasingly united as a “family” through fellowship and through working together in the “in-reach” and “outreach” work of the congregation.</p> <p>A church that values all of the people who are associated with it and in particular one that appreciates its full-time ministers.</p> <p>A church with strong and effective leadership whose leaders lead by example and which equips its members to fulfil their calling as witnesses and servants.</p> <p>A church where the members gladly serve one another in love.</p>

**ROTAS****Crèche**

9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Heather Akroyd	Jocelyn Hammer
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evelyn MacDonald	Anne MacRae
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Mairi Forsyth	Norma MacLean
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Madaleine McCrea	Kirsty Clunie

**Amplifier**

9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Ken MacKenzie
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Douglas MacDonald
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Graham Hardy
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Rob MacDonald

**Cleaning**

8th Oct	Johnnie Macleod	<i>Volunteer required</i>
15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Alasdair Black	<i>Volunteer required</i>
22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Lois Eddie	Nick Middlemiss
29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Richard /Sarah Lytle	Alex Brown

**Door Duty**

9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Roddy Macleod Ken MacKenzie	Andy Cumming Donald Mackay
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Eric Mackay Stephen Hammer	Alasdair Black Willie Lytle
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Neil Campbell Dolina Macdonald	Alison MacDonald Nick Middlemiss
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Donald Forsyth Mairi Forsyth	Colin Macleod <i>Volunteer required</i>

**ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by \*)**

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b><u>11:00am</u></b>	<b><u>6:30pm</u></b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
23 <sup>rd</sup> Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
30 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Alex MacDonald	Bob Akroyd ( Guest Service)

Creche and Sunday School during morning service.

\*Youth Fellowship after the evening service – see Johnnie Macleod

**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	2-3:30pm – contact Ena Mackay (447 5937)
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**Wednesday**

Prayer Meeting	7:30pm
*Home Bible Studies	7:30pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> 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**

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](http://www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk)