

Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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**Jeff, Mingxiu, Elizabeth and Catriona
at one of the International meals**

March 2006

Minister's Update

We have been having an exciting time recently as a congregation. Not only have we had a change of venue over the past few weeks, but also attendances have been up, babies have been born and we have had two adult baptisms. God is good.

When we were contemplating the move out of Buccleuch for the refurbishment, we were a bit apprehensive as we thought of all the things that could go wrong! These fears were not realised and instead we have discovered that the Lord is blessing us in our new temporary home. There is a lesson for us there for life in general! If we commit things to the Lord in prayer, we ought to look expectantly to him to answer and bless.

One of the slight problems with the Chaplaincy Centre has been the Public Address system, which is not very good and has made us realise just how good our system in Buccleuch is! This has been particularly true of the loop for those with hearing impairment. Hopefully we now have it working better, and I will include instructions

for those looking after the PA later in this newsletter. In this connection it is essential that those on the PA rota either be there or find a suitable replacement! This is true of all other rotas too of course. What would you think if Bob or I just didn't turn up when it was our turn on the preaching rota?!(Don't answer that!) It hasn't happened so far, but there's time yet!

The work on the Church is going ahead well, but there is one problem. At the time of writing, the heaters for the new heating system have not been delivered. We anticipated that there might be problems with work taking longer than estimated due to unforeseen difficulties arising, but we never thought there would be a problem with the late delivery of the heaters! They are about three weeks overdue. This in itself would not be a problem as the wiring is all in place and as soon as they arrive they can be fitted. The problem is that the new heating is required to dry out plasterwork and paintwork, so this may delay things. Hopefully not. The scheduled handover date from the contractors is Friday 24th

March, but we will keep you posted on whether that is still a possibility.

Keep on praying that the work would be done well and on time, that the workmen would be kept safe and blessed and that our time in the Chaplaincy Centre would continue to be encouraging.

Alex MacDonald

Your prayers needed

One of our members, Mingxiu Li, who was recently baptised, has just received news that her husband is seriously ill in Hong Kong and needs an urgent heart operation. Of course Mingxiu (pronounced Ming-shoo) is worried and upset being so far away, and wants to go to be with him.

Mingxiu has asked that we pray for her and her husband Jeff. Particularly pray that all her travel arrangements would go smoothly. She has had to apply for a visa. It is strange that it seems it's easier for a British citizen than a Chinese citizen like Mingxiu to travel to Hong Kong! Please pray for Jeff's operation and that God would work this together for their good. Mingxiu plans to travel to Hong Kong tomorrow,

Monday.

Alex MacDonald

Communion Weekend

We are very pleased to welcome into membership Mrs Mingxiu Li and Miss Rebecca Maslin both by profession of faith. We wish them every blessing and encouragement and are delighted that they have joined our congregation.



Mingxiu, her husband Jeff and friends on the occasion of Mingxiu's baptism.

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 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, 8th March**. We will continue our studies in the Old Testament book of Zechariah. Please look out for the study sheet listing the subject and venues nearer the time.

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session: March 21st at 7:30pm in the manse.

Deacons' Court: March 13th at 8:00pm in the manse.

Communion Dates for the rest of the year

May 26th, 27th, 28th

August 26th, 27th

November 24th, 25th, 26th

Joint Service at St Columba's

At 11 am & 6.30pm on Sunday

12th March, we will be worshipping at St Columba's Free Church (The Chaplaincy Centre was previously booked). Derek Lamont will preach at the morning service and Bob Akroyd will preach the evening service. At the evening service, communion will be celebrated and everyone who loves the Lord Jesus is invited and encouraged to participate. Thank you to Derek and the congregation for accommodating us in our time of need!

St Columba's Free Church is located on Johnston Terrace opposite the Hub near the top of the Royal Mile. **There will be no services at the Chaplaincy Centre on March 12th.**

Late Night Bible Study

We are meeting on Thursday nights from 9:30 – 11pm for pizza, fellowship and Bible study – all are welcome. The schedule and theme for this semester is:

Matthew's Gospel Concluded

March 9

Matthew 27:11 – 27:56 The Crucifixion

March 16

Matthew 27:57 – 28:20

Burial, Resurrection &
Commission

March at 7:30pm

Mary Campbell

Guest Services

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday March 19th 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.

International Students' Meal

Bob and Heather Akroyd will host the next international meal at their home (275 Guardwell Crescent) on the evening of Saturday 25th March at 7pm. Meet at the church at 6.30 if you need a lift. See you then!

The KLUB

The Klub dates are March 10th and 24th. The senior Klub is in Buccleuch from 7:00-9:00pm and the Junior Klub is from 7:00-8:30pm in St Columba's.

Mairi Forsyth

Women's Fellowship

The next Buccleuch Women's Fellowship will be held in the church hall on Friday 17th

Care Van

Buccleuch will be involved with the care van on the following dates during 2006 are :Wed 29th Mar,

Sun 30th Apr, Wed 31st May,

Sun 30th Jul, Wed 30th Aug,

Sun 29th Oct, Wed 29th Nov.

If you are able to help please speak to Douglas MacDonald.

Douglas MacDonald

Discipleship Explored

Discipleship Explored is a journey into the book of Philippians. Philippians is a letter written to young Christians, encouraging them to stand firm and live for Christ. It is compelling, challenging and inspiring - particularly to those beginning the Christian life, because they are on exactly the same journey as the Philippians! As they discover Paul's extraordinary letter, participants explore for themselves the meaning of Paul's words: "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Also built into the course is a Bible reading plan to help every participant explore each theme further - and develop the habit

of reading the Bible daily.

Who is Discipleship Explored intended for?

DE is for all who want to make the most of their Christian lives.

How long is Discipleship Explored?

The course lasts eight weeks, with each weekly session lasting about 2 hours.

What happens during a typical session of Discipleship Explored?

Each session begins at 6.30 pm with a meal in the church hall, followed by a short talk and a Group Discussion based on a portion of Philippians. Each session finishes by 8.30 pm.

Dates and Topics:

March 9

Knowing Christ
(Philippians 3:10 - 4:1)

March 16

Rejoicing in Christ
(Philippians 4:2-9)

March 23

Content in Christ
(Philippians 4:10-23)

Volunteers are still required to cater for the Discipleship Explored Course on the 16th & 23rd March.

Please contact Sarah Lytle if you can help.

Weekend Away

This year's Congregational Weekend Away will take place in Pitlochry at the Acarsaid Hotel (www.acarsaidhotel.com) from 5th - 7th May 2006.

We hope to have the Rev Donnie Smith as our Guest Speaker. Donnie is the Rector of the Lima Evangelical Seminary (Peru), and is Moderator Designate of the 2006 Free Church General Assembly.

Application Forms are available in the Foyer - everyone is encouraged to go. Book early to ensure a space! Please see Roddy MacLeod, Jeff Brannon or Norma MacLean for further details.

Free Church Youth Camps Certificate of Essential Food Hygiene

There are two courses on Essential Food Hygiene for all Camp Cooks. The first in Perth is on Saturday 29th April 2006 from 10am-4pm, and the second in Smithton Free Church on Saturday 20th May 2006 10am-4pm. Tea, coffee & lunch will be provided.

The cost of the course is £40 but the cost to Camp Cooks will be subsidised. If there are

spaces available we will offer the course to any others who may be interested.

To reserve a space please contact Mhairi on 01463 790977 or email mhairi@freechurchofscotland.org.uk All reservations require to be made by 20th March 2006.

Missionary Speaker

Tim Donachie will speak about his work in Peru at the midweek meeting on Wednesday 5th April.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Bereavement

Let us continue to remember Willie Lytle whose mother died in January.

Let us also remember Iain Urquhart whose mother, Alice Urquhart, died at the end of January at the age of 99. Mrs Urquhart was our oldest member in Buccleuch.

From the Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on Monday 16th January. Amongst other issues the following decisions were taken:

- To minimise the risk of scalding, a water heater for

hot drinks is to be plumbed in the kitchen next to the sinks.

- A red carpet sample was available and this pattern was approved to cover the entire sanctuary area, including under the pews.
- Various decisions were taken about clearing the church ahead of the refurbishment, which were followed up the week before work commenced. Boy, was the old carpet well glued down!
- A freezer is to be bought for the kitchen to help us comply with Health & Safety regulations when meals are prepared in the church.
- The Deacons' Court will meet on the following dates during 2006: 13th March, 15th May, 12th June, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Ken MacKenzie who graduated from the Scottish International Fire Services College in Gullane. He will begin work at Tollcross Fire Station on 11th March.

Congratulations to Andy Cumming who heard last month that he passed his final set of

accountancy exams for the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA).

New Arrivals

Congratulations to Lee and Kirsty on the safe arrival of their second son, Matthew John Paul Clunie, born at 3am on Tuesday 7th February at St. John's Hospital. Big brother Joshua is delighted.

Congratulations to Richard and Sarah Lytle on the birth of their second daughter, Abigail Rose Lytle, born at 10.30am on Wednesday 22nd February weighing 7lbs 14oz: a wee sister for Carys.

Visiting list

We are currently updating the visiting list for the congregation. If you would like to receive a regular visit from someone in the congregation, please contact Heather Akroyd.

Many in the congregation visit others regularly, but if you feel you could give some time to visit someone in the congregation on a regular basis, please speak to Heather.

Sunday School

We are looking for volunteers to teach the Preschool Sunday School class. If there are enough volunteers, it could be on a rota basis, so don't feel that volunteering would mean a commitment for every week. You would be teaching three delightful, quiet young boys! Please see Willie Lytle or Norma MacLean.

A teacher is also needed for the Junior Sunday School which currently consists of a small class of 2 or 3 6-8 year olds. Anyone willing to consider doing this part-time or full-time should speak to Willie Lytle.

Willie Lytle

Happy Birthday

This month it is Happy Birthday to Alasdair MacLeod who has a birthday on the 5th of March.

Happy Birthday to Fergus Macdonald who celebrated his 70th birthday on the 2nd of March.

On The Move

Louise Hogg moved down to Galashiels on 28th February.

We thank her for her involvement in the congregation over the past few years. Her new address is: x

x, x

x x

x x

x

Catherine Thomson moved north to Lewis last month. We thank Catherine for her help with the Sunday school and for her invaluable help with the Mission Workgroup.

Christians at Work

Are you needing encouragement in your job? Do you want to build more fruitful relationships with your work colleagues? Then mark the 25th of March in your diary. Mark Greene (author of the book "Thank God its Monday" which

inspired a few of us to set up the Big W group) is coming to Glasgow for a one-day conference entitled "Getting God to Work Mark 2". This interactive, multimedia presentation, which is for those in paid and unpaid employment, will focus on the importance of Christian witness in the market place. As well as hearing Mark Greene, you will be able to choose 1 of 4 seminars on work-life balance, stress and anxiety, possibilities for workplace ministry and human rights and the workplace.

It takes place at Jordanhill Campus, University of Strathclyde from 10am-4.30pm. It costs £25 (includes coffee and lunch). You need to register in order to attend. You can register and get more info online at www.care.org.uk (select 'what we do' then 'CARE for Scotland'). Or contact can be made by post to GGTW2, Evangelical Alliance, Challenge House, Glasgow G4 0AD

An Update on Anne Grant's Travels

The latest e-mail from Anne was at New Year, when she was staying at Pondicherry on the coast south of Chennai in India, where food and fireworks were

enjoyed!



Steven's Green Tips

A monthly look at how to have greener lifestyles.

What is being green all about? Is it compatible with being a Christian? Do I have to grow dreadlocks and wear 'ethnic' clothing if I want to be green?

There are numerous misconceptions about green lifestyles and their effect on people. One important question to ask, regardless of how we view green people, is: what does God have to say about the environmental movement and its aims?

A Christian environmental understanding starts at Creation. There, mankind is given dominion over all creation (Gen 1:26,28) and is then commanded by God to look after the Garden (Gen 2:15). It continues through the books of the Law, where instructions are

given to Israel on good use of the environment such as the year of Jubilee (Lev. 25). The psalms speak of God's joy in the many natural processes that He has created for His pleasure and our benefit (e.g. Psalm 104).

Much debate has raged in the scientific media and the media at large on whether climate change is happening, and if we can do anything about it. Regardless of the scientific evidence for or against this, the Christian has a responsibility to care for God's creation as part of the commandment to "fill the earth and subdue it".

There are numerous green Christian resources, many of which are available on the Internet. The websites below will give a taste of how some Christians have responded to the challenge of the environmental movement.

Eco-congregation

(www.ecocongregation.org)—this Church of Scotland/Keep Scotland Beautiful led initiative encourages congregations to reduce their environmental impact and encourage our theology of the environment. Buccleuch has signed up to the initiative, and we will be

looking at ways to reduce our environmental footprint.

What would Jesus drive?

www.whatwouldjesusdrive.org

– Is Christ Lord over everything, or are cars excluded? A refreshing look from a North American perspective at how what we drive reflects what we believe about stewardship.

A Rocha (www.arocha.org) – “Christians in Conservation” is an international conservation organisation working to show God’s love for all creation.

Steven Hammer

TREASURER'S REPORT

Instead of the usual financial report I've summarised an article by Robin Stevens, formerly National Stewardship Officer with the Church of England, that appeared in a recent edition of the Share, a stewardship magazine – I found it both helpful and challenging!

Six steps of Christian giving and discipleship

Attitude	Need	Analysis
Survival: I give a bit when I'm asked in the same way that I pay an insurance premium – because the church ought to be there in case I need it.	The need is survival – and there's a chance that the church might help. My relationship with the church is that I know it's there if I need it – all being well, I won't.	You'll need to start worshipping in church to take the first step
Supermarket: I'm happy to pay towards the cost of bits of the church that I want to enjoy.	The need is for safety and by treating the church on my terms I feel safe and unchallenged. I see myself as a customer.	You're developing an element of commitment to the church – or even God. Your attendance is becoming regular – if only once a month.
Support: The work of the church is important and so I'll support it.	I want to belong to the church and I see myself as a member of the supporter's club.	You see that it's your duty and your joy to be involved in worship and other activities and you'll want to move to full 'membership'.
Subscription: I see myself as a 'church member' and I wish to contribute my fair share of the resources it needs – so I give regularly and tax efficiently.	I identify with 'my' church – I see myself as an active part of the church.	Faith is taking over and you're starting to trust in God – be careful as anything could happen! (this is probably the point of conversion but it may be frightening to say so).
Submission: My understanding of being a disciple is that I should put God first in my life and do what he wants – even with my money. My giving is at a level that others might consider to be generous.	I see a deeper meaning in life and my giving responds to God and not just the needs of the church.	You see yourself as a child of God and you're putting Him first in your life.
Sacrifice: My Christian calling is to be Christ-like and so naturally I give joyfully and sacrificially in faith.	I see a purpose in my life and going out to church is more important than coming in.	As Archbishop George Carey once said, "The first question to ask is not, 'how much do I need to give?' but rather 'how can my giving reflect something of God's love for me?'"

Donald Forsyth

WONDERFULL MADE

Pluto, the furthest known planet from the Sun

On Thursday, 19th January 2006, the New Horizons probe carried by the Atlas V rocket was blasted off from Florida by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Its purpose is to investigate Pluto, the planet furthest from the Sun, a ball of ice and rock about which very little is known.

Pluto was first discovered by Clyde Tombaugh, a junior astronomer at the Lowell Observatory in Arizona in March 1930. It orbits the Sun at an average distance of about 3.7 thousand million miles, more than 39 times the distance between the Earth and the Sun of about 93 million miles. One day on Pluto is equivalent to 6.4 days on Earth and it takes Pluto 248 Earth years to complete one orbit around the Sun.

The diameter of Pluto is about 1,466 miles and it is smaller than our own Moon. Its surface is believed to be made up of carbon monoxide, methane, nitrogen ice and water ice. Its average surface

temperature is estimated to be negative 243 degrees Centigrade.

The New Horizons spacecraft is the fastest ever launched, but will take nine years to reach Pluto, arriving in 2015. It carries instruments designed to study the atmosphere and surface of Pluto as well as its largest moon, Charon. Early next year it should reach Jupiter and swing round in Jupiter's gravity, being shot off to Pluto as from a sling. Without that extra impulse from Jupiter's gravity, New Horizons would take an extra four years to reach Pluto.

It will not be able to go into orbit around Pluto, but will fly past it. The instruments on board will take a series of measurements and radio them back to earth. At the speed of light, 186,262 miles per second, it will take four hours for this information to reach NASA.

Even when this information is published, it will only take us to the limits of the solar system, a small part of the galaxy in which the solar system is found. There are other details that we should keep in mind. Our sun is a star

of average size and brilliance among one hundred thousand million stars in the Milky Way galaxy. It is reckoned that there

are as many galaxies as there are stars in the Milky Way.

Wonderfully made!



Being considered as standard issue for all the Scottish Fire Service regions. MacKenzies, that is, not bagpipes.



“His knife see rustic Labour dight,
An' cut you up wi' ready sleight...”



Haggis survivors.

BUCCLEUCH & GREYFRIARS FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Our identity, mission and vision	
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**

5 th March	Madaleine McCrea	Kirsty Clunie
12 th March	Jocelyn Hammer	Neil Campbell
19 th March	Anne Macrae	Heather Akroyd
26 th March	Norma MacLean	Evelyn MacDonald
2 nd April	Mairi Forsyth	

Amplifier

5 th March	Douglas MacDonald
12 th March	Graham Hardy
19 th March	Rob MacDonald
26 th March	Ken MacKenzie
2 nd April	Douglas MacDonald

Cleaning

11 th March	Karen Murray	Rob MacDonald
18 th March	Lois Eddie	Mairi Forsyth
25 th March	Esther /Alasdair Black	Alison MacDonald
1 st April	Kenny Macleod	Johnnie Macleod
8 th April	Heather Akroyd	Alex Brown

Door Duty

12 th March	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Ken Mackenzie	Alison MacDonald
19 th March	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Stephen Hammer	Willie Lytle
26 th March	Donald Forsyth	Dolina Macdonald
	Colin Macleod	Mairi Forsyth
2 nd April	Willie Mackay	Calum MacLean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
9 th April	John MacRae	Seoras MacGillivray
	Neil MacRae	Iain Gill

Instructions for use of PA in the Chaplaincy Centre

1.Ensure both microphones are switched on! Unlike our mics in Buccleuch there are switches on the actual mics. Check that they are on by scratching the head of the mic after the amp is switched on and adjusted. The mics should not need to be switched off or the levels turned down as long as the preacher does not sing directly into the mic!

2.Ensure the PA amp is plugged in and switched on. The master volume should be set to max and mics 1 and 2 set to about 4, but this depends on variables like the volume and tone of the preacher's (or precentor's) voice and the distance of the preacher (or precentor) from the mic. The bass should be set to -3 and the treble to about +2.

3.Ensure the loop amp is switched on. The loop system is problematic. It is fed not by the mics at the front but by concealed mics in the ceiling. This means that it picks up extraneous noise. The levels on the loop amp have been turned up so that the preacher can be heard, but it may prove that this is too noisy. If they need to be turned down, there is a small screwdriver under the loop amp. We may have to connect the PA amp directly to the loop amp if this is possible.

4.We will probably have the system running smoothly by the time we return to Buccleuch!

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>6:30pm</u>
March 12th	Derek Lamont (At St Cols)	Bob Akroyd (At St Cols)
March 19th	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald Guest service
March 26th	Alex MacDonald	Bob Akroyd
April 2nd	Bob Akroyd	Alex MacDonald

Crèche 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 –

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 nd Wednesday of the month)

Thursday

Discipleship 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
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