

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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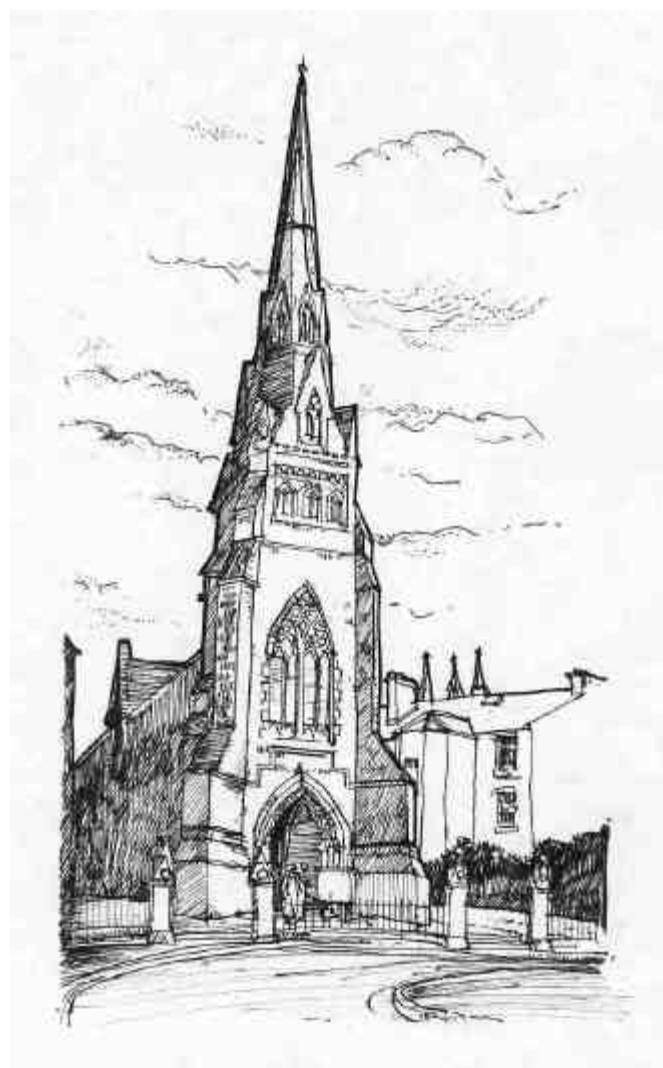
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April 2006

Minister's Update

At the AGM I gave the following thoughts from this New Testament passage:

“The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain. Now about the collection for God’s people... On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...” (1 Corinthians 15:56-16:1).

One of the striking things about the writings of the Apostle Paul is how he moves so easily from great spiritual and theological truths to very practical matters, and vice versa. Indeed this is true of the Bible in general. This emphasises for us that this is God’s will—there should be no divorce, no dichotomy, between the spiritual and the practical.

The spiritual correction (15:56,57)

The Apostle has been dealing

with the great human problem—death—and what God has done about it. Without God’s great correction, we are all faced with the situation described in 15:32: “If the dead are not raised, let us eat and drink for tomorrow we die.” We have to face a bleak, hopeless situation, because our spiritual hopes and aspirations are all mocked by death.

But why do we die? It is because of our great spiritual problem—sin (v.56). We all have to face death, because “the wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23), and we face not only physical but spiritual, eternal death, because the deadly sting of death is sin (15:56).

But for the Christian, God has applied a great spiritual correction—the great victory of the death and resurrection of Jesus: “But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (v.57).

The practical connection (v.58)
“Therefore” is the great connecting word. There is a vital connection between the spiritual and the practical. Therefore—because in Christ we have the victory over even death itself—be steadfast,

immovable. You know your destiny, you know where you're going, so don't allow yourself to be pushed around, by all the changing ideas and fashions and influences around you. Be dependable. Just as God is dependable for us, so we ought to be dependable—dependable for friends, dependable for the church and the work of the Lord.

And blossom in the Lord's work! The expression "give yourselves fully" is used of abounding, overflowing, excelling, and even of flowers coming to full bloom. Because Christ's work for us is so excellent, so overflowing with generosity, so should our work for him be.

And we know that such work will be productive—it will not be in vain. The plans of the wicked come to nothing, death mocks them. But our labour in the Lord will produce lasting effect in this world and for the world to come.

The financial collection (16:1)
There were no chapter divisions in Paul's original letter! Isn't it interesting how our chapter divisions so often split up things that he saw as intimately

connected? The collection for the saints was very much part of that practical work of the Lord that is a response to his great spiritual corrective work. The collection mentioned here is for the practical needs of the Christians in Jerusalem (v.3), due to either famine or having to provide for a large number of widows and others in need. Paul makes practical arrangements (v.2) which are still instructive for us. He encourages regular giving—setting aside something every week. He also recommends proportional giving—according to income. We ought all to examine the financial contribution we make to Christ's church, as well as every other kind of contribution we make, and consider if it adequately reflects his goodness to us in prospering us both materially and spiritually.

What was the outcome of this kind of thinking in the early Church? "A great door for effective work has opened to me" (16:9)—literally "a mega energetic door has opened up"! May that be our desire and our experience.

Buccleuch Re-opening

The Kirk Session has decided

that we will hold a special service to mark the official re-opening of the Church. We have decided on the morning service of Sunday 23rd April. We hope to have someone from the contractors there and a local minister will bring greetings from local churches. More details will follow in the newssheet. Please use this occasion to invite friends to Buccleuch.

At the time of writing, the work is very nearly complete, but there will be a couple of weeks for “snagging” and fixing up the public address system. Also it is hoped that the pew cushions will be in place by the date of the official opening. Originally we thought we would be back in the building before that date, but that looks unlikely now. You will be kept informed by newssheet, email, website and The Scotsman church notices.

Alex MacDonald

Assistant Minister's Update

Another year, another annual general meeting. I think it is possible to listen to the same information and draw two very different conclusions. On the positive, it was clear that there

are a lot of valuable ministries ongoing at Buccleuch. From the women's fellowship, to BG's, to international students, to Bethany and the Care-van, there are many opportunities for involvement. With regard to outreach and evangelism, there are many regular opportunities for people to invite others along to guest services, Christianity Explored and Discipleship Explored. I am convinced that in recent years there are more people connected to the congregation who are not Christians and this must be a good thing because this means that more people are engaging with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Even this year we have seen three people profess faith in Jesus Christ for the first time. One young person was raised in a Christian home and came to faith through the input of Free Church camps while the other two came from much different backgrounds and yet each came to the same point of faith and trust in the Lord Jesus. Each of these conversions is a cause for sincere thanksgiving to God for his goodness and a further incentive for prayer that he would continue to work in our congregation corporately and in

our lives individually. So there is good news to report from the AGM!

However, the same meeting could lead you to draw very different conclusions. The number of people involved and committed to the work of Buccleuch has not just reduced in the last ten or twelve years but even last year there was a significant drop in regular attendance at the Sunday services and the prayer meeting. This makes our increase in givings all the more remarkable. We seem to have fewer people committed to the congregation but those who are committed are very generous in their givings and generous in giving their time to the congregation. Donald Forsyth, our treasurer, encouraged us all to consider our current level of financial giving, but on a bigger scale, we all need to consider our level of commitment not just to our congregation but the cause of Jesus Christ. Is this a priority in how we use our time, talents and treasures? We should ask this question now because we will all give an account later.

As we turn to the Bible, we read a lot about labourers

and labour. Jesus surveyed the sick and suffering society in which he lived and gave the following diagnosis, "When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." His reaction was startlingly simple, "then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:36 – 38). At the meeting on Wednesday, Alex spoke on the text from 1 Corinthians 15:58, "Therefore, my dear brothers, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain." So Jesus encourages us to ask for more labourers and Paul enjoins us to stand firm in our labour for the Lord. We need more labourers and we need more labour. Above all we need the presence power and blessing of the Lord himself – may this be our prayer and motivation for the coming year.

Yours faithfully
Bob Akroyd

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, April 12th. 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 to the time.

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session: 18th April at 7:30pm in the manse.

Deacons' Court: 15th May 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

Baptism

The Kirk session has appointed the morning service on Sunday 30th April for baptism. Any parents wishing to have their child baptised on this occasion should speak to one of the ministers as soon as possible.

Guest Services

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday April 16th (Easter Sunday) at 6.30pm when Bob Akroyd 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

Catriona Macdonald will host

the next international meal at her home in Glasgow on 22nd April. The plan is to make a day trip to Glasgow, see the Burrell Collection and then have dinner at Catriona's. Put this date in your calendar and more details will be circulated. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please speak to Bob.

Women's Fellowship

The next Buccleuch Women's Fellowship will be held on Friday 21st April and the speaker will be Liz Ferguson.

Mairi Forsyth

Care Van

Buccleuch will be involved with the care van on the following dates during 2006:

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

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.

Book early to ensure a space! Please see Roddy MacLeod, Jeff Brannon or Norma MacLean for further details.

WFM Project

The WFM Project for the current year is "Rooms on the Roof", which has as its aim to provide new and to improve existing accommodation for students at the Lima Evangelical Seminary. Rev Donnie Smith will speak to the congregation on Sunday 14th May about how the fund will help the students. There will be a retiring collection on this day for the project. It will also be possible to contribute by putting money in the plate in an enveloped marked WFM Project any time before then.

Missionary Speaker

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

Guest Speaker

On Wednesday, May 3rd at 7.30pm, members of the Gideons will speak about their work of distributing Bibles in this country and abroad. Please come along to hear about this exciting work which is reaching people all over the world.

Adult Sunday School

Theme: The Kingdom of God led by Jeff Brannon

A special six-week course designed to give an overview from the Old Testament and New Testament on the themes of the Kingdom of God, God's plan for the nations, and eschatology will take place on Sunday mornings starting on April 23rd. Everybody is very warmly invited to attend! The course will begin at 9.45 a.m. It will end at 10.30 a.m. in time for coffee before the morning service. The discussion will cover the following portions of scripture:

23 April Genesis -Deuteronomy

30 April Psalms

7 May Break (Congregational Weekend Away)

14 May Prophets

21 May Gospels

28 May Ephesians

4 June Revelation

Camps Food Hygiene Courses

From Mhairi Mackintosh, Camps Administrator:

There are 2 Cooks Courses on Essential Food Hygiene to be run, one in Smithton Free church on Saturday 20th May and the other in Perth Free Church on Saturday 29th April.

Again, I need folks to "sign up". If there are any spaces left we will open them up to others in the church who may wish to get an Essential Food Hygiene Certificate. The cost to all camp cooks will be £20. The cost to others will be £40. The camps cost is being subsidised. Please let Mhairi Mackintosh know if you plan to come

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Bethany News

Following the Bethany Caring Christmas Trees project this past December you mentioned you may be interested in hearing about our exciting annual event - The Big Sleepout. We'd be thrilled if you joined us for this great event when over 100 people 'sleep rough' in the city centre to raise awareness about and money for Scotland's homeless.

It's a fun and unusual experience with a serious message behind it.

Bethany Big Sleep out is on Friday 21st April from 10:30pm -all night sleep out.

This is your chance to do something significant to fight homelessness. Sleep outside for a night with your friends and raise money through sponsorship. It's an experience you'll never forget!

For an info pack: call Claire on 467 3030 or email sleepout@bethanychristiantrust.com or text your name and address to 07971 268955.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

From the Deacons' Court

- The Deacons' Court will meet on the following dates during 2006: 15th May, 12th June, 14th August, 11th September, 9th October, 13th November and 11th December.
- The Deacons' Court are grateful for the provision of the Chaplaincy Centre during the renovations to the church. One safety issue while we are in the Chaplaincy Centre: Prams and buggies should be stored in the area beside the kitchen during services.

- The source of dampness in the kitchen is the guttering – the contractor has been instructed to deal with this. In addition, the fan in the kitchen should be switched on whenever the kitchen is in use.
- Most of the other discussion has centred around the renovation work. See the comments in the Minister's Update and see what you think when we get back into the church – its looking very good indeed!

Creche

We need helpers for the crèche. You would be on crèche duty approximately once every five weeks. If you are interested in helping please speak to Norma MacLean.

Happy Birthday

This month it is Happy Birthday to Kirstie-Ann McPherson on 16th April, Lydia MacLeod on 17th April and Amy Campbell on 25th April.

Thanks

Many thanks to all those who brought us dinner after Abi was born. Each meal was delicious and eaten with much pleasure

and appreciation. We feel that our Church family met our practical needs in the wonderful but difficult time following our new arrival. Thanks also to Jocelyn Hammer for organising the excellent meals-on-wheels service.

Yours
Sarah, Richard, Carys and
Abigail Lytle

Cook Books

If you placed an order for a new cookery book but still have not collected it, please see me by the 16th of April. I will be on holiday for a week before then but you can let me know by emailing xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or by leaving an answering message on 620 1134. Any uncollected copies will be sold to anyone who wants them after the 16th along with a few extra copies I have. If you would like one of these copies, let me know.

Sarah Lytle

Discipleship Explored

Many thanks to the following people who helped with the catering for Discipleship Explored: Jenny Sommerville, Flora MacPhail, Heather Akroyd, Mairi Forsyth, Joan

MacDonald, Michael
Brautigam, Ruth Ardon and
Norma MacLean.

Steven's Green Tips

Green Babies!

Babies. They smell. They produce several times their weight in dirty nappies every week (some do that every day). Your washing machine had a quiet life until Baby came along. All that dirty stuff has to go somewhere. If you use disposable nappies, it all goes to a landfill site. About 8 million nappies go to landfill every year in Britain. They stay there too - they take between 200 and 500 years to degrade due to the plastics in them. Added up over the life of a small child, who may be in nappies for over two years, it costs a lot too. True, they're convenient, but their environmental and monetary cost is high.

The only alternative used to be the nasty cloth things that our mothers used to buy. They would leak like crazy, and the whole idea of sticking a safety pin so close to your baby is a bit scary. However, modern cloth nappies don't suffer from these problems. They usually come with leak-proof covers that are

held on with Velcro or poppers. Some can adjust to the size of your growing baby, extending their life by several months. Their most important advantage is their reusability. One nappy can be used hundreds of times until Baby grows out of it. It can even be re-used for their siblings if they come along too. Or it can be passed on to someone else or sold second-hand once finished with.

You still have to clean them though. And nappies smell the same whether they're disposable or reusable. However, the total environmental cost can still be less than with disposables. If cleaning and drying nappies is a problem in a small Edinburgh flat, there are nappy schemes around Edinburgh that will collect your dirty nappies and provide you with fresh ones.

Wipes are an environmental problem too. Most wipes sold are disposable, and like nappies, they go straight into landfill once used. You can buy reusable cloth wipes though. They are easy to stick in the nappy bucket with the putrid piles of nappies and wash them together. Unlike nappies, your baby won't ever

outgrow them.

The Edinburgh Real Nappy Project (Tel 538 5381 Email realnappies@leep.org.uk http://www.leep.org.uk/reusable_nappies can provide you with trial nappy packs and vouchers for nappies, and can provide advice on what brands and nappy schemes are available. Jocelyn and I got a pack from them with several different makes of nappy to try out. You can even get leopard-skin print nappies and other snazzy designs from one company!

Steven Hammer

WONDERFULL MADE

Crickets and Cicadas

The cricket is a jumping insect related to grasshoppers, but it has very noticeable feelers which are longer than the insect's body in most kinds of crickets. Unlike the grasshopper, the wings of the cricket lie flat over each other on top of their backs. Some crickets, however, are wingless.

Only the male cricket produces sound, but both sexes have hearing organs located in their front legs just below the knee. During the day they hide up in sheltered places and go out looking for food at night. For food they eat grain and can also do considerable damage to woollen clothing and to the binding of books.

They lay their eggs in autumn, usually in the soil, and these hatch out the following spring.

In China and Japan, people keep singing crickets in cages as pets, but the best-known crickets are the House Crickets of European countries and the Common, Black or Field Cricket of America. Either black or brown they are

about an inch long.

The Ant-loving Cricket is a very small wingless cricket, as broad as it is long - it lives in ants' nests.

The cicada or harvest fly is a heavy-bodied insect with four thin wings that it folds over its back with each pair on one side at an angle to those on the other, like a sloping roof over its back. It is darkly-coloured, between 1 and 2 inches long. Its head is short and wide and its feelers are short and bristle-like. Most cicadas live in tropical and sub-tropical countries.

Grasshoppers may chirrup, but cicadas make an extraordinary deafening buzzing noise which starts and ends very suddenly and for no apparent reason. They do it in chorus. The sound comes from a drum-like membrane on the abdomen which the cicada vibrates. Only the males make this extraordinary sound.

There are two kinds of cicadas: Dog-day and Periodical.

It takes from two to five years for a Dog-day Cicada to develop from an egg into an adult. They appear in summer,

are large, dark and have greenish markings.

Periodical Cicadas take much longer to develop, either 13 years or 17, according to their species. They are also dark, but have red eyes and wing veins.

In both cases there are so many broods that there are no gap years when the extraordinary sound is not heard.

The female cicada lays her eggs in the twigs of trees and shrubs, making a hole with a saw-like apparatus near the tip of her abdomen. The twigs are

often badly damaged and die. After a few weeks the eggs hatch and young cicadas, called nymphs, appear. These fall to the ground, burrow into it and feed on roots. They remain there until they are fully grown, in some cases as long as 17 years.

When they come out of the ground, they climb a tree, shed their skin and emerge as adults. Although they take so long to come to maturity, the adults only live a few weeks.

WMM

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**

9 th April	Madaleine McCrea	Neil Campbell
16 th April	Jocelyn Hammer	Heather Akroyd
23 rd April	Anne Macrae	Evelyn MacDonald
30 th April	Norma MacLean	Mairi Forsyth
7 th May	Kirsty Clunie	Madaleine McCrea

Amplifier

9 th April	Graham Hardy
16 th April	Rob MacDonald
23 rd April	Ken MacKenzie
30 th April	Douglas MacDonald
7 th May	Graham Hardy

Cleaning

15 th April	Rob/Mary Bonne	Douglas MacDonald
22 nd April	Dolina Macdonald	Calum /Norma Maclean
29 th April	Karen Murray	Rob MacDonald
6 th May	Lois Eddie	Mairi Forsyth
15 th May	Esther /AlasdairBlack	Alison MacDonald

Door Duty

9 th April	John MacRae	Seoras MacGillivray
	Neil MacRae	Iain Gill
16 th April	Roddy MacLeod	Neil Campbell
	Ken MacKenzie	Alison MacDonald
23 rd April	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Willie Lytle	Stephen Hammer
30 th April	Donald Forsyth	Dolina Macdonald
	Colin Macleod	Mairi Forsyth
7 th May	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>6:30pm</u>
9 th April	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
16 th April	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd Guest service
23 rd April	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
30 th April	Alex MacDonald	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)

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting 7:30pm

*Home Bible Studies 7:30pm (2nd 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

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