

Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

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Summer 2006



Minister's Update

The following is based on the notes of Alex's morning sermon on Sunday 18th June on 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, especially 9:7 – "God loves a cheerful giver".

To us, there is something rather disconcerting about the way Paul mixes certain things that we like to keep apart! We have a tendency to separate the spiritual and the material, the worlds of grace and of nature.

This is a general tendency that has been proceeding in the Western world for centuries. It has ended up in the separation of the sacred and the secular and in the privatisation of religion.

We see the contrast between how the Bible talks and how we think in this passage. Paul happily mingles the most profound theological truth (the grace of our Lord Jesus) with the most practical and material matters (collecting money for the work of the gospel).

We like to keep God away from our pockets (or our credit cards!) and maybe from other areas of our lives too. The Bible instead encourages us to integrate every area of our lives.

Once we come to know the grace of God, it should spread to every area of life.

It is quite clear that Paul is here talking about financial giving for the work of the gospel. It is not clear what the specific appeal was, although it is likely that it was a collection for the church in Jerusalem which was experiencing difficulty (1 Corinthians 16:1-4). In other places Paul talks about the need to support those who work for the church: "The worker deserves his wages" (1 Timothy 5:18).

Ambitious mission

The Church of New Testament times had an ambitious mission - to evangelise the world! And they had an ambitious programme - to support preachers in every town and city, and to express the community of the church by supporting those in need.

The Free Church of Scotland also has an ambitious programme (for our size) – to continue to provide gospel ministry where we are already involved and at the same time reach out beyond that to plant new churches and to engage in new fields of international

mission.

At the recent General Assembly we were hearing of exciting new developments – the plan to start a new work in a Muslim country, the planting of a new church in Dunfermline, the growth of our neighbouring congregation, St Columba's, the redevelopment of the work in Badenoch. This on top of the various aspects of the work mentioned in the latest Update from central office:

- New church building in Portree – “We have a vision of a modern, multi-function building from which we can serve the community and further develop the work of the gospel”
- The Camps programme – “the main reason why camps mean so much to me is because it's the place that turned me towards Jesus. The leaders at Camp are awesome at getting the message of Jesus across to the campers.”
- Road to Recovery programmes in South Uist and Inverness for those affected by alcohol and drug abuse – “The Road to Recovery has given me a life I never realised existed. Through coming to these

meetings, I began to take the Christian path.”

Here in Buccleuch too we have an ambitious programme – supporting an Assistant Minister with a specific outreach mission, running outreach programmes of Christianity Explored etc. as well as the normal ongoing weekly work, and refurbishing the building to make it as serviceable as possible.

This is an exciting time in the Church and you can be part of it! Because all of this costs money!

Awesome motivation

The greatest motivation is the grace of Jesus. He made himself poor to make us rich (8:9); “thanks be to God for his indescribable gift” (9:15); “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son” (John 3:16). Giving is at the very heart of the Christian gospel.

The motivation is not law, but grace. C. T. Studd was the most talented cricketer of his generation and the son of a wealthy family. He gave it all up to become a missionary in China. He said, “If Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice is too great for me to

make for him.”

You are asked to give, not because that will buy God’s favour, but because it is an opportunity to express your thanks to God for his gift to you.

But there are other (lesser) motivations. Paul uses friendly rivalry by which he encourages the Macedonian and Corinthian Christians to vie with each other in their giving (8:1ff, v.8). So it is good to look at the back page of The Monthly Record and see how Buccleuch is doing in relation to other similar congregations!

There is also consistency of commitment. Paul urges them to carry out their good intentions (8:10,11). He even uses an argument about the prevention of embarrassment (9:2-5). He doesn’t want himself and the Corinthian Christians themselves to be shamed by not meeting their commitments. This is one relevant to ourselves here in Buccleuch. We are not meeting our denominational commitments of giving 77% of our Net Ordinary Income to the Central funds of the Church (these are the funds from which ministers, missionaries, Youth

Workers and other staff are paid, and which supports all the denominational work). Now there may be all sorts of arguments about the percentage figure and that we run expensive local programmes of outreach and so on, but the fact remains that we are embarrassed! Other similar congregations manage it, but we don’t!

Attitude to money

Paul also has several very practical emphases about our attitude to giving. He stresses the sharing aspect in 8:13-15. We may give to help others at one point, but they may have given in the past (or will give in the future) to help us. This is part of the community of the church.

Another important aspect of Paul’s teaching in this area is correct administration (8:16-21). He stresses that several people will be involved in the collection, so that everything will be above board. We should not think that just because it is the Church and funds are being administered by Christians that there is no need for this. Equally we should be so thankful that all the

administration of the Free Church at local and central levels is correct and complies with current requirements and regulations for charities.

Very noticeably, Paul commends generosity in giving (9:5,6, cf. 8:2-5). This is balanced by the emphasis in 8:12 on giving according to one's means, or "as the Lord has prospered him" (1 Cor. 16:2, AV). This involves consideration of proportional giving – giving a percentage of your income. We sometimes speak of "tithing" or giving a tenth, but in the Old Testament, people were required to give three tithes in addition to sacrifices and offerings! So the main emphasis is on generosity – a cheerful generosity – God loves a cheerful giver (9:7).

We may sometimes wonder if we can afford to give, or give more. The real question, Paul suggests, is "Can I afford not to give?" If we sow sparingly we will also reap sparingly (9:6). But the Lord, through Paul is giving us assurance that we will not be losers – if we sow generously we will also reap generously. The Lord will prosper us (9:8-11). He is no man's debtor.

Also giving is productive (9:12-14): it meets a need, it produces thanks and praise, and prayer for yourself by those who benefit from your giving!

Giving is part of our spiritual service to Christ. There should be no separation of our spirituality from our economics! Our giving to the work of Christ's kingdom is one of the ways in which we can express our thankfulness to him for his indescribable gift.

Alex MacDonald

Ministers' Holidays

Bob will return from holiday on 8th July and will be away at Camp (not a holiday!) from 21st – 29th July. Alex will be on holiday from 3rd – 30th July. If you need ministerial assistance and can't get in touch with either Alex or Bob, contact Neil Campbell, Session Clerk, or speak to any of the ministers or professors in the congregation (to all of whom thanks in advance!)

Bereavements

We remember Julia Campbell (South Africa) whose father died very suddenly. Douglas, Julia and the children have been in Australia on the first leg of

their furlough, but will travel back to the UK as soon as can be arranged.

We also remember Mary, John L., John, Fiona and the wider family following the death of Mary's father, Rev Calum Lamont.

Thank You

"I wish to express my sincere thanks to friends in Buccleuch who have expressed their concern and sympathy on the recent sad loss of my father.

Your love and prayers have meant a great deal to myself and the wider family.

Mary Mackay

Illness

Continue to pray for Mrs Chirsty Hampson in the Victoria Hospital, and for Mrs Catherine Cairns recovering at home from a fall.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Prayer Breakfasts

We continue to meet weekly at 9am on Saturday mornings for prayer, food and fellowship. Thanks to all who have made these breakfasts possible and thanks to all who attend. If you haven't been able come, please stop by one Saturday morning to enjoy this special time of fellowship and prayer together.

Home Bible Study

The next Home Bible Study will be on Wednesday 9th August. (There will not be one in July.) The usual notes will appear the previous Sunday, and it is possible that St Columba's will be joining with us for these studies and the following two midweek meetings, due to traffic problems during the Festival and Tattoo.

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session: Communion 26th and 27th August

Deacons' Court: 14th August at 8:00pm in the manse

Communion

Our next Communion is on the

weekend of 26th/27th August. If anyone wishes to join the membership of the congregation, whether by professing faith for the first time or by certificate from another church, please speak to Alex, Bob or Neil. The following communion season will be November 24th-26th.

Guest Service

There will be a Guest Service at 6.30 pm on Sunday 27th August. There will be invitation cards available the Sunday before and you are encouraged to invite friends along to that.

International Students' Meal

The next international meal will be on Saturday August 12th at Michael and Jenni Bräutigam's home – 89 Cornhill Terrace. This will be a BBQ at 3:00pm (2:30pm at the church if you need a lift).

Care Van

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

Fourth Annual Visit of Colegio San Andres Pupils: Request for Accommodation in Edinburgh

A group of 12 senior pupils (6 boys and 6 girls, aged 15-16) from Colegio San Andrés in Lima, Peru, will be arriving in Scotland mid-July, 2006. They will spend one week in Edinburgh and Glasgow, one week at a Free Church camp, and one week in the North of Scotland. It will be greatly appreciated if Free Church homes in Edinburgh could provide accommodation for our young Peruvian friends on the following dates:

Bed and breakfast over Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, 4th, 5th, 6th August

Evening meal on both the Friday and Saturday, and all meals on the Sunday

Ideally, we are looking for 7 or 8 homes. 6 of these would provide accommodation for either two boys or two girls in a twin-bedded room or in two rooms. Two extra homes are needed for the two teachers (one male, one female), or one home with two rooms available. The pupils speak reasonable English, and since one of the aims of the visit is the improvement of their English, it

would be best if they were accommodated with families where nobody speaks Spanish. If anyone does speak Spanish, they would be expected to use it as little as possible. Both the teachers are native English speakers.

The pupils have been carefully chosen, and it is expected that they will be a credit to their school and their country. For the families concerned, it should prove to be a stimulating experience and an opportunity for Christian service.

If you can offer help please speak to Rev John MacPherson, either via Leith Free Church, the Free Church Offices or 7 Guardwell Crescent, Edinburgh EH17 7JA (Tel: 0131 672 2413).

John MacPherson

The Psalms At The Fringe

Rediscover your soul! Join actors and musicians in a walk through Auld Reekie enlivened by performance and meditation of ancient psalms that helped shape Edinburgh's and Scotland's history.

So read the entry under *Soulgait* in the 2006 Edinburgh Festival Fringe programme.

From 13th-20th August Fergus Macdonald is helping to produce an event aimed to present the Psalms for today to Fringe goers.

Beginning at John Knox's House and ending in St Giles Cathedral, *Soulgait* will guide Festival visitors on a spiritual walk through Edinburgh's old town which will be marked by the performance of psalms that have helped shape the city's history, and which some recent research has shown to resonate remarkably with many people's spiritual journey today as they search for life's meaning and purpose. The walk will also take in the City Chambers, Upper Bow, The Grassmarket and Greyfriars Kirkyard. Walks begin at 3:00pm on Sundays and 5:30pm on week-days. Tickets (£5) can be booked from the Fringe Office (0131 226 0000 or www.edfringe.com

The Artistic Director of *Soulgait* is Suzanne Lofthus, Director of Cutting Edge Theatre Productions. Among her recent Edinburgh outdoor productions are 'The Life of Christ' performed at Dundas Castle and 'The Passion of Christ' performed in Princes Street Gardens, Easter2005.

Andrew Harrison will be the lead actor. The musical director will be Mark Calder of the Origin Choir.

Fergus Macdonald

Camps

A main cook is required for the Kilravock Junior Camp from 22-29 July. Please contact Mhairi MacIntosh if you are able to help.

Friends International

Friends International is holding a summer outreach programme for overseas students, mainly attending language schools in the city centre. A small team of 20 – 25 people will be involved in contacting students and putting on events to allow them the opportunity to meet Christians. The programme will start on 1st of July and continue until the 16th.

The team require to be fed over this period of time, and I am looking for help in feeding them. I am hoping to gather together a small team of people who will be able to help with the catering. The cooking will be done on site in Carrubbers. I will do the buying of the food, but will be open to ideas on menu planning. If you think

you could help in any way, I would be delighted to hear from you. I am looking both for people who have experience of cooking for numbers (eg at camps, church events etc and who have their food handling certificate), and also for people who can work alongside such experienced people, and who can roll up their sleeves and get into the sink.

Please contact me by phone or e-mail if you can help or if you know anyone who can. CalumAndLiz[at]blueyonder.co.uk, 0131 664 7567.

Liz Ferguson

Want To Keep Fit?

A 10k run will be taking place in Strathclyde Country Park on the 9th of September. This is a sponsored event in aid of TearFund.

Anyone interested in taking part must register before the 15th of July. Please contact Rebecca Maslin for more details. We are also looking for sponsors!

www.runningtherace.co.uk

Rebecca Maslin

WFM Project

The congregation raised £331.50 for the 2005/6 WFM

Project, Rooms on the Roof, for which the WFM committee have expressed their grateful thanks. Over £30,000 was raised – a record. This will help with the Lima Evangelical Seminary's planned renovations to the student accommodation.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Congratulations

Congratulations to:

Katie MacLeod who graduated with a 2:1 MA (HONS) in Fine Art from Edinburgh Art College and has won a scholarship to go to Florence for three months.

Johnnie MacLeod graduated from Edinburgh University with a 1st LLB (HONS) and won the prize for the top graduate.

Rebecca Maslin graduated with a 2:1 LLB (HONS) from Edinburgh University.

Paul Taylor graduated from Aberdeen University with a 2:2 (HONS) in Geography.

Lindsey MacLeod graduated from Glasgow University with a 2:1 (HONS) in Physiology.

Fiona Mackay will graduate MB, Ch.B from Aberdeen University on July 7th.

Coffee Rota

If there is anyone wishing to

help out on the coffee rota on a Sunday morning please speak to Christine MacLeod.

Crèche

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.

The Klub

Thank you to all the leaders who have helped with The Klub over the past year and thanks to Mairi Forsyth for co-ordinating the meetings.

Happy Birthday

During the month of July Beth MacPhail celebrates her birthday on the 16th and Angus on the 7th. Neil Campbell has his birthday on the 28th of August. Eric hits 40 on the 9th of August (or it hits him) and Dolina has a birthday on the 10th of August (just slightly over 40).

Deacons' Court

Highlights from the June meeting of the Deacons' Court include:

The replacement of the freezer is postponed until the

planning of the kitchen refurbishment has been carried out. In that connection it was remitted to a group comprising Sarah Lytle, Mary Campbell, Jonny McCrea and Richard Lytle to make recommendations to the Court, complete with indicative costs - the refurbishment also to include a new cooker and a countertop urn.

The stanchions supporting the front railings have proved to be a potential tripping hazard, and so it was agreed that they should be painted a colour to make them more noticeable.

A legacy from the late Mrs Alice Urquhart had been received with gratitude.

Other items discussed included a Risk Assessment Review, an Insurance Review, Properties Inspection, a draught excluder for the back door, a wheelchair ramp, a fixed wiring test, manse maintenance, and provision for bicycle parking.

There are keys available for the front gates; the gates should now be locked when the church is not in use. Keys for the front door of the church (required only during the refurbishment) should be handed to Eric Mackay or put

on the appropriate key ring in the safe.

Emmanuel Healthcare

Emmanuel Healthcare is a Christian Charity involved in primary healthcare, training and education in Malawi, India, Nepal and the Middle East.

One way in which they raise money is through their charity shop in Stockbridge. It is their belief that cooperation between EMMS and the congregation would increase the profitability of the shop and thus contribute greatly to their work overseas - www.emms.org Such cooperation could entail, for example, members of the congregation volunteering to help with the running of the shop, or donating saleable goods. If interested contact William Snow on 313 3828.

Buccleuch Women's Fellowship

Thank you to Mary Campbell and Mairi Forsyth for organising the Ladies meetings over the past year.

Congregational Outing

Thanks are expressed to all those who contributed towards the Congregational Outing to Aberdour on Sat 24th June.

WONDERFULLY MADE

In Australia there are a number of remarkable animals. It may be of interest to look at some of these.

Duck-billed Platypus

This is a most unusual creature. It is also known as the Duckbill or Duckmole because of its unusual bill or beak. The technical name for it is Ornithorhynchus - bird nose - from two Greek words. It lives beside streams and digs a tunnel as a burrow which can be from 20 to 50 feet long and usually has two entrances - one below and one above water-level.

Although the platypus lays eggs instead of bearing its young alive, the platypus is not a bird, but a mammal, nursing its young with milk as other mammals do. The female uses its claws to build the tunnel where it builds a nest. In the nest are laid from one to three eggs about an inch long which have soft, leathery shells like those of turtles and snakes. Once hatched, the young are held close to the mother's body by her tail as she nurses them. The young have no fur when hatched and remain in the nest until they are several months

old.

The platypus is about 18 to 20 inches long with the male longer than the female. Its body is covered by soft, thick fur. The bill at the front of its head is a horny sheath with the nostrils far forward where other mammals have noses and lips. The platypus uses its bill to find worms, shellfish and water insects on the bed of streams or ponds. Adults have no teeth, but chew their food with eight horny plates, sharp-edged in front and broader behind. Its eyes are very small and its ears concealed.

It is essentially aquatic, swimming and diving skilfully, and can remain under water for several minutes. Webs of skin grow between the toes of all four feet. The webs of the front feet grow beyond the toes as thick flaps of skin. Its webbed feet and tail assist its swimming skill. It is most active as darkness falls. When it is frightened or sleeping, it rolls into a ball. The male platypus has a hollow claw, or spur, on each hind leg. The spurs are connected to poison glands. It may scratch or poison its enemies with the spurs.

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 July	Evelyn MacDonald	Anne Macrae
16 th July	Mairi Forsyth	Norma MacLean
23 rd July	Madaleine McCrea	Kirsty Clunie
30 th July	Jocelyn Hammer	Neil Campbell
6 th Aug	Heather Akroyd	Jen Brannon

Amplifier

2 nd July	Rob MacDonald
9 th July	Ken MacKenzie
16 th July	Douglas MacDonald
23 rd July	Graham Hardy

Cleaning

15 th July	Heather Akroyd	
22 nd July	Rob/Mary Bonne	Douglas MacDonald
29 th July	Dolina Macdonald	Calum/Norma MacLean
5 th Aug	Karen Murray	Rob MacDonald
12 th Aug	Lois Eddie	Mairi Forsyth

Door Duty

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

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

	<u>11:00am</u>	<u>6:30pm</u>
Sunday		
Jul 9 th	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
16 th	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
23 rd	Stephen Meyers	Stephen Meyers
30 th	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
Aug 6 th	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
13 th	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
20 th	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
26 th	Bob Akroyd (Saturday 7.30 pm – Preparatory)	
27 th	Alex MacDonald (am – Communion; pm – Guest Service)	
Sep 3 rd	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd

Crèche and junior Sunday School during morning service.

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

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	10:00am-12 noon
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