

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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Artwork by Ailis Maclean

February 2007

Minister's Update

Twelve reasons I stopped going
I recently heard of someone who decided to stop going to football matches and gave twelve reasons why.

1. Every time he went, they asked him for money.
2. The people there didn't seem very friendly.
3. The seats weren't comfortable.
4. The referee made wrong decisions.
5. The manager and team weren't interested in him.
6. A lot of people went who weren't genuine football fans – they were more interested in meeting their friends than in the game.
7. Songs were sung that he wasn't familiar with.
8. Some games went to extra time, and made him late getting home.
9. The games were always on when he had other things to do.
10. He's read a lot about football and he knows more about it than the manager.
11. His parents took him to football too much when he was a kid.
12. He doesn't want to take his children to games – he

wants them to choose for themselves when they grow up.

I suppose it all depends what's important in life for you. If you want excuses you'll always find them. I'm sure I can leave you to work out the rest for yourself!

Alex MacDonald

Assistant Minister's Update

Thursday night at Buccleuch. The two hours between 6.30 and 8.30pm have become a highlight in my weekly diary. Great food, interesting conversation and lots of questions. Tonight we had 22 people from several different countries discussing the Gospel of John. Friends are inviting friends and each week we meet someone new! From eight weeks of Christianity Explored to a further ten weeks on John's Gospel, there is a clear desire among many to learn about the Bible and to find out more about Jesus.

God is clearly at work in drawing people to our church and recently one of the Chinese students has become a Christian. Without doubt, Christianity Explored and the related courses have been the

most exciting outreach activity that we have had in the last ten years. Please pray for everyone who attends these meetings and for those who are leading the discussion. There are some difficult questions that are being asked and much wisdom is needed to give genuine answers to genuine questions. Pray that people will be converted and that young Christians may grow in their faith. Give thanks to God for working in this way and for the blessings that have already been enjoyed.

Yours faithfully
Bob Akroyd

Bereavement

Let us continue to remember John, Mary, John and Fiona Mackay following the death of Margaret at the end of last year.

Louise Ferguson 1918 - 2007

Louise, one of our members at Buccleuch, died recently and here is an extract from the tribute prepared by her family.

Louise Ferguson was born on 21st September 1918 and died on 22nd January 2007.

She was one of six children in her family and now only her sister Joyce remains. These sisters had a very close and happy relationship. Louise

looked after her mother for many years.

Louise worked as a Laboratory Assistant at the College of Agriculture, King's Buildings of the University of Edinburgh and she took a keen and intelligent interest in all aspects of her work there.

She was a very organised person, keeping her diary assiduously. She was a keen reader. She knew the Scriptures well, reading the Bible every day she enjoyed discussing the Scriptures with her two special friends, Betty and Doreen, when they visited her every week.

Louise was well cared for by her niece, also Louise, and her grandniece Rosslyn and her husband Guiseppi who moved in to care for their aunt in the closing weeks of her life.

To them, and to her elderly sister Joyce we extend our sympathy in their loss.

Rev. Bill Graham conducted Louise's funeral on 29 January 2007. Bill & Elizabeth Graham remained in regular contact with Louise ever since Bill was minister at Buccleuch.

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 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 Wednesday, 14th February. We will continue our studies in the New Testament book of Ephesians using a Bible study book prepared by John Stott. Please take this opportunity to join a district group if you haven't already done so as this enables you to get to know more people from

the congregation.

The hosts and venues for the next bible study are:

North West:

John & Anne Macrae,
12 Cammo Brae EH4 8ET
(476 1844)

East: Bob & Heather Akroyd,
275 Guardwell Crescent, EH17
7SL (664 6306)

South East: Fergus & Dolina
Macdonald, 113 St Albans
Road, EH9 2PQ (667 1546)

South: Donald & Mairi
Forsyth, 24 Blantyre Terrace
EH10 5AE (447 6908)

South West: Donald & Joan
MacDonald, 6 Craiglockhart
Grove EH14 1ET (455 8777)

Buccleuch church hall**Joint Service at St Columba's
- 4th February**

At 6.30pm on Sunday 4th February, there will be a joint evening service for the three Edinburgh congregations at St Columba's Free Church on Johnston Terrace opposite the Hub near the top of the Royal Mile. There will be **no** service Buccleuch that evening.

Communion Services

Sunday February 25th

We celebrate the Lord's Supper

on Sunday February 25th. Bob Akroyd will conduct the Communion service at 11am. There will be a pre-communion service on Saturday 24th February at 7.30pm to be conducted by Alex MacDonald. If you are interested in joining the congregation by professing faith in Jesus Christ or by transferring your membership from another congregation, the session would be delighted to meet with you on Saturday evening after the service.

At its recent meeting, the Kirk Session took the decision to increase the number of communion services in the year from four to six, the additional two being during the evening service. The principal reason is to enable those who work shift patterns to take part in communion more regularly.

The communion dates for this year will be:

25 th February	(11:00am)
22 nd April	(6:30 pm)
27 th May	(11:00 am)
26 th August	(11:00 am)
7 th October	(6:30 pm)
25 th November	(11:00 am)

You are encouraged to put these dates in your diary.

The First Wednesday - 7.30pm Church Hall

Beginning on Wednesday 7th February at the usual time of 7.30pm, we are encouraging the entire congregation to join together in prayer in the hall. If you can attend only one prayer meeting in the month, please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you don't usually attend the midweek meeting, please attend this meeting. The focus will be on prayer with a reading and a short Bible message. The meeting will finish promptly at 8.30pm. We as a session realise that there are legitimate pressures on many in the congregation. We do not wish to add to these burdens but rather to find a way to encourage regular and concerted prayer in the congregation.

Of course we will continue to have our regular Prayer Meeting and Bible studies and Home Bible Studies on the other Wednesday evenings and each Saturday morning at 9am we will have our prayer breakfast where all are welcome to share food fellowship and prayer.

Looking forward to seeing you on Wednesday. Mark your

calendar and make this a priority!

Bob Akroyd

Strategy Conference

The next meeting will be on February 10th at St Columba's Free Church.

Who Can Come? Everyone!

Booking: Derek Lamont, minister at St Columba's, will have a list on Sunday night for people to add their names to if they intend to come (It'll make things easier for catering etc, although it is not essential.) Alternatively, please give an indication to Alex, Bob or Neil.

Timings: Start at 10:00am (with tea and coffee at 9:45am) and end by 2:00pm. A soup and sandwich lunch will be included.

Guest Service

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday, February 25th 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 these occasions to convert those who attend.

Adult Sunday School

The Pursuit of Holiness: A Puritan Vision of the Christian Life

Everyone is warmly invited to attend a five week course on the life and teaching of John Owen (1616-1683). By studying this important Christian leader, our goal is not to relive 'the good ol' days' of the seventeenth century but to apply the insights of the past to the needs of the present. There will be time for questions and discussion. The course will begin at 9:45am and end at 10:30am in time for tea and coffee. For more information, please contact John Tweeddale, who will lead the classes.

March 4 These Boots Were Made for Walking: The Ministry and Message of John Owen

March 11 A Catholic Faith?: Communion with the Triune God

March 18 NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

March 25 Faith vs. Sight: Meditations on the Glory of Christ

April 1 NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 8 NO ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 15 NO ADULT
SUNDAY SCHOOL

April 22 Four Hefty Tomes:
Thomas Chalmers's Favourite
Commentary

April 29 A Civil War Within:
Overcoming Sin and
Temptation

Women's Fellowship

Buccleuch Women's
Fellowship will meet on Friday
23rd February at 7:30pm in the
hall.

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

The Kirk Session Meetings will
meet on the following Tuesdays
at 7:30pm in the manse (except
at Communion, where they
will be held in the vestry).

February 24th/25th Communion

March 20th

April 17th

April 22nd Communion

May 25th-27th Communion

June 19th

July No meeting

August 25th/26th Communion

September 18th

October 7th Communion

October 23rd

November 23rd-25th Comm.

December No meeting

The Deacons' Court will meet

on the following Tuesdays at
7:30pm in the hall.

February 13th

May 15th

August 21st

December 4th

Deacons' Court

At the December meeting of the
Deacons' Court the following
issues were agreed:

Donations to Extra
Denomination Objects (EDO –
organisations outwith the Free
Church) for the year 2006
would be:

Amica	£325
Bethany	£325
CARE	£100
Edin City Mission	£150
Fresh Start	£50
Gideons	£50
Scottish Bible Society	£300
Scripture Union	£100
Edin Univ Christian Un.	£100
Total	£1500

Heating – The controller
for the church heating to be
replaced with another unit, with
a view to giving better control
of when the new heating system
comes on and goes off.

International Students' Meal

International Meal: Free Food & Fellowship!

Attention all internationals: Our next International Meal is on 16th February at the home of Bob and Heather Akroyd, 275 Guardwell Crescent. Meet at the church at 6:30pm. For more information, please contact John & Angela Tweeddale (xxxxxxxxxxxxxx) We look forward to seeing you!

Informal English Classes

The informal English classes meet in the church hall on Tuesdays from 2:00pm-3:30pm. Please speak to Ena Mackay for more details.

Christian Life and Work

Over the last few months a number of us have been looking at why we work, who we work for and ministry at work. Those who have come have found it very enlightening and informative. Each session is "standalone" so you can come to any one that you are interested in. For those of you who are very busy and would benefit from advanced notice, the topics and dates for future meetings are as follows

Friday 2 March: Relating to your boss

Friday 20 April: Handling pressure

Friday 18 May: Spirituality in the fast lane

All of these meetings will take place in the hall and begin at 7.30pm. If any of you are not able to attend but would like to read about all or any of these topics I have a varied selection of 14 books which anyone can borrow. I have also collated a book list which gives a brief summary of each book. I am very willing to give this to anyone who is interested. Just let myself or Steven Hammer know

Joan Macdonald

Introduction to the Gospel of John (Thursday Evening 6.30–8.30)

Due to popular demand, we are extending our follow-up course on John's Gospel on Thursday nights in Buccleuch Church Hall. This course presents us with Jesus Christ; who describes himself with these words, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but

will have the light of life."
(John 8:12)

From 6.30 - 8.30pm, we will have the opportunity to share a meal and join in discussion. The next topics for discussion are as follows:

Feb 1 : Loving John 13:1 – 15:17

Feb 8 : Sending John 15:18 – 17:26

Feb 15th : Break for School Holiday

Feb 22: Dying John 18 – 19

March 1: Living John 20 – 21

For more information contact:

John Tweeddale, 667 7990,

jxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Or Jeff Brannon, 557 3297,

jxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

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.

Attend - Come along if you'd like to find out more. Everyone is welcome. You can sit and listen or ask as many questions as you like.

Invite - Ask your friends, family members and neighbours. Take advantage of this opportunity!

Volunteer- we need caterers and helpers for the kitchen. We

need people to set up and people to clear up. If you can help in the kitchen, please contact Sarah Lytle, 551 1529,

Guest Speaker

On Wednesday February 21st, 7.30pm, there will be a guest speaker at our midweek meeting in the Buccleuch hall. Ian McNaughton, from DayOne, will speak about his work throughout Scotland. Please make every effort to attend this meeting to support this work in prayer.

The Klub

For S1-S3 7-9pm in Buccleuch Church Hall (unless otherwise stated)

9th Feb : Quiz Night

23rd Feb: Bowling Night
(meet at Fountainpark, 7pm, cost £5)

9th Mar : Mayhem IV

23rd Mar: Cooking at St C's
(7pm, St Columba's Church Hall)

20th April : Movie Night
(meet at 7pm, Richard's house, 20 Gilmore Place)

4th May : Mayhem V

18th May : Oscar Night

1st June : Meadows Malarky (meet 7pm, Buccleuch

Church)

15th June : BBQ (meet 7pm at Esther's house, 2/2 New Orchardfield, off Leith Walk)

If you need more information phone Mairi Forsyth on 447 6908

Advanced Notice

Camps Training Day

Saturday 12 May 2007 10am-3pm at Perth Free Church. Lunch will be provided

Mhairi Mackintosh
Camps Administrator
Free Church Youth Camps

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Prayer triplets

Interest has been expressed by some in the congregation in forming prayer triplets. If interested, please put your name on the list at the back of the hall, or speak to an elder.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Neil Macrae who has recently started working for the police force and at present is studying at the Scottish police College at Tulliallan.

Church Cleaning

With our new carpet, church

cleaning has become a bigger job for those faithful folk who turn up every week to clean the church. To keep the church looking as it should, we need more cleaners! So, if you are a dab hand with a duster or a whizz with the vacuum (or just willing and able) and have a couple of hours to spare every few weeks, please get in touch with Kenny Macleod or Heather Akroyd.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Matthew on the 7th February, Lindsey on the 9th February, Abi on the 22nd February and Beth and Mari on the 21st February.

Any special big birthdays that you feel should be announced - please contact the editor!

Anyone for Tennis?

Come and keep fit on a Saturday morning and have a game of tennis. We are now playing at Craiglockhart due to the weather, and the time can vary. If you are interested speak to Evelyn, Heather, Mairi or Moira.

WONDERFULLY MADE

What Bones Can Tell Us

To Margaret Mead, a famous anthropologist, the earliest sign of civilization was a healed femur, a leg bone. She had examined bones from many different parts of the world. Often there were clues of brutal violence - skulls crushed by clubs, temples pierced by arrows. A healed femur showed that someone had cared for the injured person, provided food, giving time for the bone to heal without it having to bear the stress of the weight of the person.

The pelvis bone gives clues as to the sex of the person it belonged to. A man's pelvis is narrower than a woman's, more heart-shaped and formed with heavier bones. Hard, nub projections on the inner ring mark where muscles and ligaments have been attached. A broad and shallow pelvis bone with a smooth inner ring allowing a baby's head to squeeze through is that of a woman.

Dr. Paul Brand explains why female athletes generally do not compete as well as male runners because the projections on a man's pelvis allow for

more powerful muscles and because a man's hip sockets are closer together, nearer his centre of gravity and enabling more efficient movement. A woman with a similar bone and muscle structure would not be able to have children born naturally. As Dr. Brand puts it, "The survival of the human race depends upon her being just the shape she is".

Discus throwers and weight lifters have very dense bones because exercised bone collects more calcium for needed strength. A horseman leaves clues in the leg bones and pelvis. A porter whose livelihood involves him in lifting heavy suitcases will show the effects of stress on his hip and shoulder.

Clues as to age can be discovered from bones. Teeth are often used, but by fifteen the foot is fully formed, by twenty-five the collarbone is fused to the breastbone and, by forty, seventy-five per cent of the seams in the skull have joined up.

140 years ago an engineer demonstrated that the arrangement of bone cells forms the lightest structure, made of least material, to support the

body's weight. Bone possesses incredible strength. Stress-bearing bone is hollow, but the centre is filled with a red blood cell factory that produces a billion new cells each day.

Each foot has twenty-six bones, with about the same number in each hand. A footballer may subject these foot bones to a cumulative force of over 1000 tons for each foot during a football match. The bones maintain their elasticity in spite of the stress. While not everyone plays football, most people walk about 65,000 miles

during their lifetime, more than two and a half times round the equator.

Bone's strength is quiet and dependable. It is not a burden. It gives us freedom for movement.

WMM

Note: For anyone wishing to know more read "Fearfully and Wonderfully Made" by Dr. Paul Brand and Philip Yancey (Zondervan).

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**

4 th Feb	Kirsty Clunie	Jonnie McCrea
11 th Feb	Neil Campbell	Jocelyn Hammer
18 th Feb	Jen Brannon	Flora MacPhail
25 th Feb	Kenny MacLeod	Anne Macrae
4 th March	Evelyn MacDonald	Norma MacLean

Amplifier

11 th Feb	Shanana
18 th Feb	Ken
25 th Feb	Kenny
4 th March	Stephen

Cleaning

10 th Feb	Kenny Macleod	Johnnie Macleod	Rebecca Copty
17 th Feb	Lois Eddie	Dolina Macdonald	Mairi Forsyth
24 th Feb	Rob/Mary Bonne	Michael Bennett	
3 rd Mar	Calum/Norma MacLean	Karen Murray	Rob MacD.
10 th Mar	Alisdair /Esther Black	Heather Akroyd	
17 th Mar	Kenny Macleod	Johnnie Macleod	Rebecca Copty

Door Duty

11 th Feb	Willie Mackay	Calum MacLean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
18 th Feb	John MacRae	Neil MacRae
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
25 th Feb	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Ken MacKenzie	Alison MacDonald
4 th March	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Hammer
11 th March	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Dolina Macdonald	Willie Lytle

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday	11:00am	6:30pm
11 th Feb	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
18 th Feb	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
24 th Feb	Alex MacDonald preparatory service at 7:30pm	
25 th Feb	Bob Akroyd (Communion)	Bob Akroyd (Guest Service)
4 th March	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald

Crèche and Junior Sunday School during morning service.

Monday

BG's Youth Club	7-8pm – contact Alison MacDonald (664 9038) or Kenny MacLeod (555 1010)
*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

*Eight-a-side Football	9:30pm – contact William Lytle (477 1403)
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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.mackay@blueyonder.co.uk

Buccleuch and Greyfriars web page www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk

PROCEDURE FOR BOOKING THE CHURCH HALL

- 1) Check availability at www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk -> Newsletters -> Church Year Planner
- 2) Contact Alasdair Black (buccleuchyearplanner@hotmail.co.uk), who will check suitability with the ministers and respond to you