

# Buccleuch & Greyfriars

## FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

# Newsletter

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Neil Macrae

September 2007

### Minister's Update

It's amazing the heights and depths of human experience.

Recently, as you know, I was invited to preach at Crathie Church and was invited by the Queen to stay at Balmoral. It was a great honour and privilege. To the best of my knowledge only one other Free Church minister (Rev Iver Martin) has ever been so invited (which, if you think of it, is a great tragedy – that so many great preachers of the past never had this opportunity).

Certainly the tradition of having visiting preachers is one the Queen is keen to see maintained, and she and her household could not have been more welcoming. I was put at my ease, and after the Sunday Service had various good conversations with the members of the Royal family who were there. They all were kindly appreciative of my sermon (I preached on Luke 19:1-10 – “The Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost”).

I must say I was greatly impressed with the Royal family. I saw that the public perception is often very wide of the mark (as is no doubt the case with most people in the

public eye). I found them to be charming, humorous and knowledgeable and very interested in what you had to say, and protocol was kept to a minimum.

That weekend will remain a treasured memory.

By contrast, this week I was helping my son-in-law Kieran to sand their hall floor. It was one of these days when everything went wrong. First, when we went to collect the sanding machine, we were told it was to cost nearly three times the price he had been quoted! We eventually decided to go elsewhere. This set us back timewise. Then the floor needed a lot more remedial work than I had realised. This took us most of the rest of the day, having little setbacks like cutting the main phone cable (by mistake!) and then rerouting and reconnecting it! Finally, late afternoon, when I started to actually sand the floor, the machine broke! It was too late to go back for a replacement, as it was after closing time.

Sometimes life is like that. As well as the high points, we have our low points, when everything seems to go wrong. Of course we can have far

lower points than simply a frustrating day of DIY, and these times are much more difficult to even talk about.

God has promised that he will be with his children in the depths as well as in the heights. There are two passages in Paul's Epistles that speak of this marvellous love of God: "... neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom.8:39. NIV) and "I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ" (Eph. 3:17,18. NIV).

God's love in Christ is as deep as it is high. It reaches to the depths of human experience as well as to the heights, and neither can separate us from that love.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose" (Rom.8:28, NIV).

Alex MacDonald

### **Assistant Minister's Update**

Again as you read this I'll be far way in America. Three trips to America in two months is quite a few air miles. I would like to thank you all for your prayers, friendship and support in recent weeks. Dad's death came as quite a shock, but knowing that so many were praying enabled me and my family to cope better with the real sense of loss and sadness. Especially as I conducted the funeral, I was aware of being upheld in prayer.

I chose two readings for the funeral which are very special to me: John 11 and John 14. These passages speak of Jesus' present help to those in distress and his future hope for all who trust in him. In John 11:25 - 26, Jesus says to Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" These are great words of comfort in the midst of the sadness of bereavement. Jesus' question challenges us to put our faith into action because it is at these times of crisis when we need God's help most. While in John

14, we are urged by Jesus, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me." He gives us reason not to be anxious because he promises, "in my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you." The great thing about Jesus is that he accomplishes all of his plans; too often our own plans remain unfinished or unfulfilled.

So as Heather and I return to America we are grateful for your prayers and good wishes for us and for my mother, Ruth, and my sister Nancy.

I look forward to seeing you again in September and am excited about a new term for University and a new series of Christianity Explored meetings. We have much to be thankful for at Buccleuch. We have seen God's hand at work over the recent year and it is exciting to look ahead to a new chapter of ministry and service.

With best wishes and deep gratitude to you all,

Bob Akroyd

### 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. Please feel free to contact either of our ministers for information, pastoral support, and advice. Their contact details are:

Alex MacDonald (667 4651, alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk) or

Bob Akroyd (664-6306, bobandheather@talk21.com)

### Congregational Directory – 2007/8

The new congregational directory is being prepared for publication. If you are not currently in the directory and would like to be included, or if you are included in the directory and would like to be omitted, please let Bob know.

If your address/phone number has changed or if you would like your e-mail address listed in our new directory, please contact Bob Akroyd by phone (664 6306) or by e-mail: bobandheather@talk21.com.

We include name, address phone number, mobile number and e-mail address.

**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, September 12th. We will continue our studies in the New Testament book of Ephesians using a Bible study book prepared by John Stott.

The Hosts and Venues for the next Bible study are:

*North West*

Neil & Mary Campbell, 54 Strachan Road, EH4 3RG (343 6067)

*East*

Rob & Anne MacDonald, 336 Gilmerton Road, EH17 7PU (664 9038)

*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 (455 8777)

Buccleuch Church Hall

**Prayer meeting**

*The First Wednesday-,  
September 5<sup>th</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
@ 7.30pm Church Hall*

On the first Wednesday of each month (September 5th), 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.

Bob Akroyd

### Christianity Explored 2007

*(Thursday Evenings 6.30 – 8.30)*

Our Christianity Explored Course will soon begin on Thursday nights in Buccleuch Church Hall. This course introduces us to Jesus; who he is, what he has done and what he expects from us. From 6.30 - 8.30pm, we will have the opportunity to share a meal, watch a video and join in discussion. The topics for discussion are as follows:

Date

Sept 27<sup>th</sup> Introduction  
 Oct 4<sup>th</sup> Jesus - Who Was He?  
 Oct 11<sup>th</sup> Jesus - Why Did He Come?  
 October 18<sup>th</sup> School Holidays  
 Oct 25<sup>th</sup> Jesus - His Death  
 Nov 1<sup>st</sup> What is Grace?  
 Nov 8<sup>th</sup> Jesus - His Resurrection

Nov 15<sup>th</sup> What Is A Christian?  
 Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> Break - Thanksgiving  
 Nov 29<sup>th</sup> Continuing as a Christian

#### *What Can You Do?*

*Pray* - Pray that people would come, hear the message of Jesus and come to believe in him. Pray for leaders and speakers. Please start praying now!!

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

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

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

Title Topic

If you need any more information, please contact:

Alex (667 4651, alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk) or Bob (664-6306, bobandheather@talk21.com)

**Guest Service**

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday, September 23rd 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.

**Gaelic Service**

The next Presbytery Gaelic service will be in Knox Free Church Perth on Sunday 9th September at 3pm.

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

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

September 18<sup>th</sup>

October 7<sup>th</sup> Communion

October 23<sup>rd</sup>

November 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> Comm.

December - No meeting

*The Deacons' Court* will meet on the following Tuesdays at 7:30pm in the hall.

October 16<sup>th</sup>

December 4<sup>th</sup>

**Informal English Classes**

The informal English classes will resume in October. Please contact Ena Mackay for further details.

**Buccleuch Women's Fellowship**

The first meeting of this session will take place in the church hall at 7:30pm. The speaker will be Roszie Forsyth.

**Sunday School**

Sunday school has restarted and takes place during the morning service. There are classes for children from the age of 3 up to the age of 16. The classes are:

Preschool (3/4) led by Mary Campbell

Infants (4/5-6/7) led by Catherine Thomson and Heather Akroyd

Junior (7/8-9/10) led by Richard Lytle

Bible Class (11/12-16) led by Dolina Macdonald

Sunday school meets every week except during school holidays and when there is a communion. On these occasions there will be one class provided for the preschool and infants. To let the regular teachers attend communion, volunteers

from among the parents or any other interested parties are asked to take the class. Please speak to Willie Lytle or one of the other teachers. Half term holiday will be on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October and the next Communion during the morning service will be on the 25<sup>th</sup> November. A collection is taken at the start of Sunday school each week for a specific project. Last year over £100 was raised to help send children to Church camps in South Africa.

## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

### Bereavement

Let us continue to remember Bob, Heather, Bob's mum Ruth and sister Nancy following the death of Bob's father. Bob and Heather have returned to the USA for three weeks.

### Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Josh who has a birthday on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and David on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### Congratulations

Congratulations to Grace and Gordon on their engagement. No date has been fixed for the wedding but we wish them

every blessing in their plans for the future.

Congratulations to Johnnie and Rebecca who got married on Friday in Buccleuch. Hope to have a photo for the next newsletter.

Congratulations to Jeff and Jen on the safe arrival of their new baby boy on 8<sup>th</sup> August weighing in at 6 pounds.

### Exams

Congratulations to Neil MacRae (photo on front cover) who graduated on April 27<sup>th</sup> from Tulliallan Police College and is now working at Gayfield Square which he is enjoying. He has already been involved in numerous incidents including receiving a dog bite in a tender area!

Congratulations to Alasdair Black on completing his accountancy exams.

Congratulations to Amy Campbell for being accepted to study medicine at Dundee University. Let us remember Amy and all those who will be leaving home to study, that they would enjoy their studies and settle into a church where the Gospel is preached.

Remember those who have left school and are now working, those who have returned to school to sit standard grades and highers, and those who are just beginning school.

### **Farewell**

Last month Jonnie, Madda, Ana and Jacob moved to Northern Ireland. Thank you to them for all the work that they have done over the years in the congregation. They will be greatly missed in the congregation but we hope that they find a new home soon and come back to visit us in Edinburgh.

### **Shoe Box appeal 2007**

Yes, it is that time of year already. Blythswood are appealing for shoe boxes to be filled with goodies! These will need to be ready for collection by the end of October. Speak to Dolina for more details.

### **Mentoring**

The Kirk Session wishes to commend mentoring to the congregation, with the objective “to partner individuals with mature Christians, for spiritual sharing and prayer together”. If you would like to be mentored,

or wish to find out more about what is proposed, please contact Alex or Bob (phone numbers and email addresses to be found at the end of this newsletter) or any of the other members of the Kirk Session. At the end of the summer a small team appointed by the Kirk Session will then pair you up with a mentor. There will be training provided for the mentors, and the system will be reviewed annually.

### **Children's Safety**

The crèche has now moved to the opposite side of the church (vestry side). The screens will remain up until the church is vacated, so that children can be collected from the crèche / preschool safely. Juice will be served to the children there. Due to Health and Safety children MUST NOT be at the kitchen side of the hall unsupervised. If children are in the church, then they need to be supervised, and should not be eating, drinking, smoking or climbing over the pews.

### **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.

### Pregnancy Crisis Centre

**FUND RAISING DINNER** in support of Amica Pregnancy Crisis Centre.

It is planned to have a dinner and auction to help raise funds for Amica on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in St Columba's Free Church hall. The occasion will be appropriate for people of all ages and sexes to attend. Tickets will cost £15.00 each. It will be possible to reserve a table of eight, so why not get a group of friends together and use it as an opportunity to catch up.

Here are just a few examples of what we will be auctioning:

- Christmas gift wrapping service
- Dinner for 6 prepared and served in your own home
- Relaxing Massage
- Foot pampering appointment with chiropodist

There will be more details about this event in future newsletters,

but this is advance notice to get this important date in your diaries.

For further information on any of these subjects please contact Liz Ferguson in any of the following ways.

Address:- Amica PCC

29 Nicolson Square

Edinburgh

EH8 9BX

Work Tel 0131 667 7800

Home Tel 0131 664 7567

E-mail enquiries@amicapcc.org

Check out our web site:

www.amicapcc.org

### CHURCH FINANCES

See the statement from the Congregational Treasurer, Donald Forsyth, on the following page.

## Buccleuch &amp; Greyfriars

30/06/2007

Statement of financial activities	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Special Millennium	Funds Other	Total
Gross ordinary income	£55,293		£7,001	£3,409	£65,703
Transfers	-£5,530	£14,172		-£8,642	£0
Net ordinary income	£49,763	£14,172	£7,001	-£5,233	£65,703
Expenses	-£13,717	-£34,647	-£7,001	-£600	-£55,965
Surplus before EDO and central funds	£36,046	-£20,475	£0	-£5,833	£9,738
Extra-denominational objects	£0				£0
Church funds	-£31,344				-£31,344
Deficit for the year	£4,702	-£20,475	£0	-£5,833	-£21,606
Opening balance - at start of year	£0	£20,195	£5	£7,195	£27,395
Closing balance - at end of year	£4,702	-£280	£5	£1,362	£5,789

Balance sheet	General	Fabric	Millennium	Other	Total
<i>Fixed assets</i>					
Guardwell Crescent	£146,775				£146,775
Loan from Bank of Scotland	-£92,682				-£92,682
Loan from Bob & Heather Akroyd	-£46,712				-£46,712
Fixed assets at cost less debt	£7,381	£0	£0	£0	£7,381
<i>Other items</i>					
Advance to Alex for expenses	-£477				-£477
Owed to Bob for expenses	-£616				-£616
Amounts owed to the Congregation	£2,875				£2,875
Cash	£3,749	-£280	£5	£56,362	£59,836
Bills to be paid	-£8,210			-£55,000	-£63,210
Closing balance	£4,702	-£280	£5	£1,362	£5,789

**Other special funds comprise**

Willie Raeburn - benevolent fund	£545
Sunday school	£405
Camps	£180
Women for Mission	£122
Foreign Missions	£50
Congregational outing	£40
SASRA	£10
College Centenary	£10
	£1,362

## WONDERFULLY MADE

### Neurons

There is a force that runs through the body, linking its many parts, linking the millions of tiny nerve cells. A Greek physician named Galen, living in Asia Minor and Rome in the later part of the Second Century A.D, described communications within the body as 'animal spirits' flowing through hollow tubes. More modern views link these communications to chemical action and electrical impulses.

The man responsible for changing the older view was Luigi Galvani (1737-98), born in Bologna in Italy. He bought a few frogs for dinner on a cloudy day and hung them up in his porch. He beheaded the frogs, skinned them, and ran a wire from a lightning rod to the exposed spinal cords of the frogs. At this point a summer thunderstorm broke over Bologna. Galvani (whose name gives us 'galvanized') described what happened, "As the lightning broke out, at the same moment all the muscles fell into violent and multiple

contractions, so that, just as does the splendour and flash of the lightning, so too did the muscular motions and contractions precede the thunders and, as it were, warn of them".

Had he had guests for dinner, one of them might have described the beheaded frogs jerking and kicking as if they were swimming across a pond. Electricity had flowed through the nerves of the frogs and stimulated movement in the dead animals. Galvani insisted that the reaction was due to animal electricity and from his discovery have come monitors, biofeedback machines, and electric shock treatment.

It took another 150 years before an explanation of how electricity travels through the body was given. Nerves are so fine that a bundle of them, only the width of a hair, contains 100,000 separate strands. Electric current inside the body passes through the chemical interaction of sodium and potassium ions and nerve cells carry a positive charge outside the membrane and a negative charge inside. Molecules carry the nerve messages like runners passing a torch.

A cell called the neuron is the most important unit of communication inside the body. Twelve thousand million neurons are ready for action when a baby is born. All other cells in the body die and are replaced every few years. The neuron doesn't. When it dies it doesn't grow back. They are reservoirs of memory and information about the world.

They are extraordinarily complex. A neuron begins with a series of very fine strands like the root hairs of a plant which all lead to the single stem. Some neurons carry messages to the brain and their strands extend to every part of the body. Others, controlling muscles, wrap branches round muscle fibre and directly control muscle activity.

Neurons are not found isolated and alone within the body. Hundreds, if not thousands, are found joined in strands that thicken as they reach towards the spinal chord. Even with a microscope it is

virtually impossible to see where one ends and another begins. In the body each of the twelve thousand million neurons stops just short of its neighbouring neurons, forming a precise gap called a synapse.

The synapse allows extraordinary complexity. In the case of one motor neuron controlling one muscle fibre in one hand, there will be along the length of that one nerve cell, at thousands of separate points, synapses from other neurons. On a large motor nerve ten thousand separate contacts are made. A brain neuron may have as many as eighty thousand. If a signal stimulates that motor nerve into action, thousands of other nerve cells in the vicinity are immediately put on alert.

The single cells extend to every square millimetre of skin, to every muscle, to every blood vessel and to every bone.

Most remarkable!

WMM

<b>BUCCLEUCH &amp; GREYFRIARS FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND</b> <b>Our identity, mission and vision</b>	
<b>Identity</b>	Local congregation of the Free Church of Scotland which is a branch of the universal Church of Jesus Christ
<b>Mission</b>	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
<b>Vision</b>	<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

Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Jocelyn Hammer Jennifer Macleod Neil Campbell
Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Flora MacPhail Jen Brannon Anne MacRae
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Kenny Macleod Evelyn MacDonald Lisa Myers
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Mairi Forsyth Anne MacDonald Norma Maclean
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Alison Wall Sarah Lytle Kirsty Clunie

### Amplifier

Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny
Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	Stephen
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Rob
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Johnnie

### Cleaning

Sept 8 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny Macleod Johnnie Macleod Rebecca Copty
Sept 15 <sup>th</sup>	Lois Eddie Dolina Mac. Mairi Forsyth
Sept 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Rob/Mary Bonne Michael Bennett
Sept 29 <sup>th</sup>	Calum/Norma Maclean Karen Murray
Oct 6 <sup>th</sup>	Alasdair/Esther Black Heather Akroyd
Oct 13 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny Macleod Johnnie Macleod Rebecca Copty

### Door Duty

Sept 9 <sup>th</sup>	Willie Mackay	Calum MacLean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
Sept 16 <sup>th</sup>	John MacRae	Neil MacRae
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
Sept 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Ken Mackenzie	Alison MacDonald
Sept 30 <sup>th</sup>	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Hammer
Oct 7 <sup>th</sup>	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Dolina Macdonald	Willie Lytle

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

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

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 as announced –

**Tuesday**

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

Prayer Meeting	7:30pm
*Home Bible Studies	7:30pm (2 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

**Thursday**

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

**PROCEDURE FOR BOOKING THE CHURCH HALL**

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