

Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

CONTENTS

Ministers' Updates

Dates for Your Diary

Congregational News

Church Finances

Wonderfully Made

**Buccleuch's Identity, Vision
and Mission**

Rotas

Activities



October/November 2007

Minister's Update

Once upon a time there was a wealthy king and he wanted to show how rich he was and how great was his kingdom, so he had a huge golden statue made. It was a statue of a great lion. And everyone praised the statue of the lion and said it was the most wonderful thing in the whole of the kingdom.

Everyone, that is, except the court jester. When everyone was praising the statue, he said, "A living dog is better than a dead lion!" Everyone laughed and thought how silly the jester was.

But some weeks later when the king was out hunting a great wild boar, he fell off his horse and while he was still on the ground trying to get up, the wild boar came crashing out of the bushes, his great white tusks gleaming. The king was certain he would be killed or badly injured. Suddenly his faithful hunting dog leaped on the boar and killed it. And the king remembered the words of his jester, "A living dog is better than a dead lion!"

When the king returned to his castle, he rewarded his hunting dog by giving him a new kennel and the best meat,

and he rewarded his jester by making him his counsellor. And ever after, the words on his coat of arms were "A living dog is better than a dead lion."

Of course, these words come from Ecclesiastes 9:4, and they have an important lesson to teach us.

God tells us that we are dead in trespasses and sins (Eph. 2:1). That means that we are like the statue of the lion. We may look very fine, we may be worth a lot, people may think we are beautiful, but we are dead. There is no spiritual life in us. We have no living relationship with the living God.

We are like the rich man in the story Jesus told (Luke 16:19-31). He was very rich, and Lazarus who begged at his gate was very poor – he was starving and covered in sores. If people were asked "Which is better? Who would you like to be – the rich man or Lazarus?" they would have said "the rich man". But the rich man was dead in sin, he never repented (v.30), and he ended up where all who are dead in sin end up – in hell. And Lazarus, who was viewed as no better than the dogs that came and licked his

sores, was carried by the angels to heaven, because, in spite of all appearances, he had the life of God in his soul.

We need the enlivening power of the grace of God: “because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions – it is by grace you have been saved” (Eph. 2:4,5). All that is required of us is faith: “For it is by grace you have been saved through faith – and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God” (Eph. 2:8). Simply believe what God has done for sinners in Christ

Alex MacDonald

Assistant Minister's Update

First a word of welcome if you are new to Edinburgh or to the congregation and a word of welcome back to students retuning to Edinburgh or others returning from summer holidays. Summer seems like a distant memory and the longer nights remind us that winter is on the way. Nature demonstrates a recurring pattern of transition and change.

This is true of the life of a congregation. Every year is

different and yet every year is also similar. Indeed, every Sunday is always different as we welcome visitors and friends from around the country and around the world.

A new term means a new course of Christianity Explored and a new course always means new people. Thursday nights begin with setting up for the meeting which always involves a mixture of anxiety and expectation until the people start to arrive. Every course has brought surprise and excitement. This year is no exception.

Christianity Explored encourages people to say what's on their mind and to ask the questions which are on their heart. Certain questions often are repeated in different ways; “How do we know the Bible is reliable?” “How about suffering and evil in a world created by a good God?” “Why is Jesus so important?” or “how do you become a Christian and how do you live as a Christian?”

Those who lead discussions try to give honest answers to these honest questions even if the answer sometimes is “I don't know!” It certainly makes you humble

when you realise the limits of your own knowledge and insight. While many questions are difficult to answer, what we try to convey at Christianity Explored and in every other of Buccleuch's ministry is that some questions do have answers. God has provided his word the Bible and he has given us his Son that we would find the answers to the big questions of life such as origin (where do we come from?), destiny (where are we going?), purpose (why are we here?) and morality (what is right and what is wrong?).

If you are already a Christian, you've begun to grasp how Jesus and the Bible answer these searching questions. If you are not yet a Christian, I would urge you to ask questions and to find answers. Jesus gives this advice along with a sure promise, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened." (Matthew 7:7 – 8) You will find that if you put his words into practice, you'll find

that answers soon follow.

Bob Akroyd

Bereavements

Let us remember Rory MacDonald, whose older sister Flo MacKenzie died during the summer. She was also Mairi Forsyth's aunty.

Sheena MacInnes' mother also died recently. Let us remember Sheena at this difficult time, and in her concern for her father's wellbeing.

Let us also remember Marion Wellwood's family. Marion died last month, and we will miss her from our midst.

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.

Baptism

The Kirk Session have arranged for the sacrament of baptism to be administered on Sunday 28th October at the morning service. If you wish baptism either for yourself or your child, please speak to Bob or Alex as soon as possible.

Communion Services

The November Communion services will take place on the 23rd, 24th and 25th November. There will be a preparatory service on the Friday and Saturday evening in the church at 7:30pm and the Communion service will be on the Sunday morning at 11:00am. The services will be led by Kenny Macleod.

Home Bible Study

The next home Bible study will be on Wednesday November 14th. 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

Joint Missionary Meeting
(October 24th) at St
Columba's – The Reids

On Wednesday October 24th, 7.30pm, there will be a Joint Missionary Meeting at St Columba's Free Church, Johnston Terrace. Norman & Angela Reid will speak about the work of the Free Church in Southern Africa. Please make every effort to attend this meeting to find out more about this exciting work.

Prayer meeting

The First Wednesday of the month - November 7th at 7.30pm in the Church Hall

On the first Wednesday of each month (November 7th), at the usual time of 7.30pm, we encourage 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 – 8.30pm)

Our Christianity Explored Course has begun 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:

(October 18th School Holidays)

Oct 25th Jesus - His Death

Nov 1st - What is Grace?

Nov 8th Jesus - His Resurrection

Nov 15th - What Is A Christian?

Nov 22nd – *Break for*

Thanksgiving

Nov 29th - 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?

If you need any more information, please contact:

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

Men's Bible study

We will meet in the church hall from 7:30-8:30 AM and will be studying Colossians. Coffee, tea and a small snack will be provided.

This grew out of a need I felt for the men of the church to spend some time to pray and study God's word together.

Please spread the word to anyone you feel may be interested. And, if you would

like to come and feel like coming extra-prepared, you could read Colossians. We'll look at an overview of the book (main themes, audience, etc.) to get started.

Treven Wall

Guest Service

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday, 28th October at 6.30pm when Alex MacDonald will preach. Please take this opportunity to invite your friends to church to hear the Good News about Jesus Christ and pray that God would use these occasions to convert those who attend.

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).

October 23rd

November 23rd-25th Comm.

December - No meeting

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

October 16th

December 4th

Amica Fundraising Dinner & Auction

Come along to St Columba's Church Hall on Saturday 27th October at 7.30pm for a relaxed meal and auction of services in aid of Amica, Crisis Pregnancy Service - our own Willie Lytle is auctioneer. Tickets are £15 each (£25 for two) or why not book a table of eight and bring along your friends? Tickets are available from Mairi Forsyth.

Informal English Classes

The informal English classes on Tuesday afternoons have resumed. Please contact Ena Mackay for further details.

Missionary Supper Evening

On Saturday 3rd November there will be a missionary supper evening. This will afford an opportunity to present to the congregation plans for a mission trip to South Africa in 2009.

Buccleuch Women's Fellowship

The next meeting will be on the 9th November at 7:30pm in the hall. The speaker will be announced nearer the time. There will be a Christmas stall.

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 14th October and the next Communion during the morning service will be on the 25th November.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**New treasurer**

Alasdair Black is the new congregational treasurer. Alasdair has taken over from Donald Forsyth with effect from 1 October 2007. There will be a period of transition whilst Donald hands the control of the congregation's financial affairs to Alasdair. Please do address all queries to Alasdair in the first instance.

Please also remember that requests for funding should be addressed to the Deacons' Court rather than the treasurer.

Thank you to Donald who has worked cheerfully as treasurer for Buccleuch for a number of years.

Farewell

Lois Eddie and Alison MacDonald are going to New

Zealand for six months where they will be working as nurses for a time as well as fitting in holiday. They are leaving on Thursday 18th October.

Farewell to the Myers

It is time to say goodbye to Stephen, Lisa and Quinn Myers. Their time in Scotland has quickly come to an end. We will remember them as they return to live temporarily with Stephen's parents in North Carolina awaiting direction for the next chapter in their ministry.

A message from the Myers:

By the time this newsletter comes out, we will have returned to the United States and Stephen will have begun seeking a call to a church here. We want to thank the entire congregation for all that you did for us and meant to us during our years in Edinburgh. In more ways than we can number, we saw Christ and His love in you and through you and we will never cease being thankful for that. Please do know that Buccleuch will always be dear to us and that we will never stop praying for you all and for your witness in Edinburgh. We love you all.

Stephen, Lisa, and Quinn Myers

We also said farewell to Jeff and Mingxiu last month. They are now working in America. Let us remember them in our prayers as they settle into new jobs in different parts of America.

James, Roszie, Mia, Caleb and Seamus Forsyth have left for America where James will be working as an assistant pastor in a church in Washington DC. Let us remember them as they begin this new work.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Micaiah who has a birthday on October 17th, Keir on the 9th October, Cameron on the 26th October Sam on the 8th November and Carys on the 26th November.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Willie and Anne who got married on a lovely sunny day in Oban on Friday 5th October – photo below.



Across is a photo of Johnnie and Rebecca’s wedding, mentioned in the last newsletter.

Congratulations to Stephen and Jocelyn on the birth of their second son, Ian on the 20th of September - a wee brother for Ben.

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.

New Address

Jonnie, Mada, Ana and Jacob have new moved into their new home in Moira, Co Armagh



The Campbells’ News

After much prayer and looking, the Church Trustees have purchased a property to act as a

manse for the Dunfermline congregation. The house is 36 Maclean Walk and is situated just south of Pitreavie Park. As the date of entry is in late November, we will be moving over to Fife after the school term ends. Please give thanks for the Lord's provision and continue to pray for us as we settle in the area. The congregation would also value your prayers as it looks for a more suitable place to worship and to move its service to the Sunday morning in order to attract new people.

Douglas Campbell

Bubble Wrap

Johnnie and Rebecca have a large stockpile of bubble wrap. (There's a clue why on the previous page!) If anyone has need of bubble wrap please speak to Rebecca. It can't be recycled and seems an awful waste to put it in the bin.

Rebecca

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. A small team appointed by the Kirk Session will 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, bungee jumping 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.

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**

Oct 21 st	Flora MacPhail Jen Brannon Anne MacRae
Oct 28 th	Kenny Macleod Evelyn MacDonald Mairi Forsyth
Nov 4 th	Alison Wall Anne MacDonald Norma Maclean
Nov 11 th	Jocelyn Hammer Sarah Lytle Kirsty Clunie
Nov 18 th	Jennifer Macleod Neil Campbell Flora MacPhail

Amplifier

Oct 21 st	Ken
Oct 28 th	Kenny
Nov 4 th	Stephen
Nov 11 th	Rob

Cleaning

Oct 20 th	Lois Eddie Dolina Macdonald Mairi Forsyth
Oct 27 th	Rob/Mary Bonne Michael Bennett
Nov 3rd	Calum/Norma Maclean Karen Murray
Nov 10 th	Alasdair/Esther Black Heather Akroyd
Nov 17th	Kenny Macleod Johnnie Macleod Rebecca Copty
Nov 24 th	Dolina Macdonald Mairi Forsyth

Door Duty

Oct 21 st	John MacRae	Neil MacRae
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
Oct 28 th	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Ken Mackenzie	Alison MacDonald
Nov 4 th	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Hammer
Nov 11 th	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Dolina Macdonald	Willie Lytle
Nov 18 th	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday	11:00am	6:30pm
Oct 21 st	Bob Akroyd (Harvest Thanksgiving)	Bob Akroyd
Oct 28 th	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald (Guest service)
Nov 4 th	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
Nov 11 th	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
Nov 18 th	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald

Crèche and Junior Sunday School during morning service.

Monday

Monday Club	7-8pm – contact 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)
------------------------	--

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)
------------------------	---

Friday

Mothers and Toddlers	10:00am-12 noon
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.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