

# **Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

# **Newsletter**

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**New Deacons: Alasdair Black, Neil  
MacRae and Chris Somerville**

**March/April 2008**

### **Minister's Update**

This week I was privileged to attend the Christian Booksellers Convention in Telford near Birmingham. I was there at the invitation of Christian Focus Publications for a book signing of "Tell Me the Story".

It was fascinating to see what a large and varied industry the Christian literature business is in the UK. But there were also people there from Europe, Africa and India, who distribute literature or run bookshops, and who were there to see what new literature might be useful in their settings.

It was also interesting to meet various people like Greg Haslam, the minister of Westminster Chapel, where Martyn Lloyd Jones preached, and Steve Chalke, founder of Oasis Trust and Faithworks. My book signing and Steve Chalke's were happening at the same time and right beside each other, so at the end I cheekily gave him a signed copy of "Tell Me the Story" and asked him to give me one of his "Change Agents" which he was happy to do. Steve has recently stirred up a lot of controversy by attacking the traditional evangelical doctrine of the atonement

(where I think he is clearly wrong), but he is undoubtedly a great communicator and entrepreneur of Christian projects. We ought to pray for men like him who have a great influence even in the secular media.

On the Monday night there was an awards dinner where the Book of the Year Award was won by Alister McGrath's "The Dawkins Delusion?". I found that really strange, because every reviewer I have read, including atheist ones, back up my own opinion that our own David Robertson's book "The Dawkins Letters" is by far the better answer to Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion".

If you want to find out more about the Christian Booksellers Convention, check out their website at [www.cbcltd.co.uk](http://www.cbcltd.co.uk).

William Mackenzie, Managing Director of Christian Focus, set me thinking when he asked me if we had a church bookstall. I answered that because we have the Free Church Bookshop so close by, I hadn't thought it necessary. But as a result of that conversation I have spoken to Charles

Douglas, manager of the Bookshop and he would be happy to supply books either for a bookstall or for occasional Book Events. So if anyone would be interested in helping with this, please let me know. There is a great selection of Christian books out there, and it would be good for us all to read more Christian literature and be challenged not to be conformed to the pattern of the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds (Romans 12:2).

Alex MacDonald

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

As I write this, Heather and I are in Northern Ireland. We learned on Monday morning that our niece Emily died suddenly in her sleep. Emily was only five years old but it is obvious that she touched many lives.

Our only strength comes from God himself ("God is our refuge and our strength an ever present help in time of trouble." Psalm 46:1). Emily was a Christian and she knew for sure that she was saved and that Jesus had washed her sins away. Therefore in the face of death there is hope. Many

questions and few answers but we know that Jesus understands our sorrows and he is moved by our tragedy.

On Saturday night of our recent communion weekend, Alex read from Hebrews 4: 14 - 16, "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has gone through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need."

These words have been a real comfort to us and we pray that out of these sad days, blessings may somehow come.

In the meantime, we thank you for your prayers and kind wishes.

Yours faithfully, Bob and Heather Akroyd

### **Bereavement**

We were greatly saddened to hear the news of the death of Heather Akroyd's little niece Emily in Northern Ireland. She

was just in Primary 1. She died in her sleep, and the pathologist's report could determine no cause. Please remember in prayer her parents Alan and Shirley, grandparents Bobby and Gladys, and Bob and Heather as they try to cope with this tragedy. What a blessing it is to know the One who said, "Let the little children come to me".

### **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)

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Buccleuch Annual general Meeting**

The Annual General Meeting of

the congregation is arranged for Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm. Come and hear about the work of the congregation over the past year and plans for the future.

### **EEFC meeting Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March**

There will be a presentation on the work of Eastern Europe for Christ (EEFC) Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> March in the Hall after the evening service. See Rob MacDonald for more details.

### **INTERNATIONAL MEAL**

Check your diaries. Mark your calendars. This month's International Meal will be on Saturday, 29<sup>th</sup> March at the home of Donald and Mairi Forsyth. You don't want to miss this opportunity for a wonderful time of food and fellowship. Be sure to invite a friend!

We will meet outside the church at 6:30pm. Drivers are needed.

For more information, contact John and Angela Tweeddale at [jwtweed@aol.com](mailto:jwtweed@aol.com).

John Tweeddale

### **Guest Service**

The next in our series of guest

services will be on Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Visiting Speaker, Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup>**

On Wednesday March 26<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm, Iain McNaughton, from DayOne will speak about his work in Scotland. Please make every effort to attend this meeting to find out more about this exciting work.

### **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 12<sup>th</sup> March. We have begun a new study in the book of Proverbs, using the

study guide, *Wisdom: Making Life Work*, by Bill Hybels. This is part of the IVP series of *Christian Basics Bible Studies*. The subjects of the six studies are:

2. Develop Discipline  
- *Proverbs 6:6-11, 20-24*
3. Speak Truth  
- *Proverbs 11:1,3; 12:19,22; 14:25, 15:4*
4. Honour Family  
- *Proverbs 15:17; 17:1,6; 19:18; 21:9,19; 23:22*
5. Manage Anger  
- *Proverbs 12:18; 15:1; 16:32; 19:19; 22:24-25; 29:22*
6. Trust God  
- *Proverbs 3:1-12*

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. If you aren't sure about which study to join please speak to Alex or Bob.

#### *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  
(455 8777)

Buccleuch Church Hall

### **Youth Fellowship**

The YF has started in Buccleuch for all teenagers who want to come. Every 2 weeks we will meet after the evening service in someone's home, and discuss a topic. For the next few meetings we are going to cover prayer. YF is open to all teenagers and it would be great if you all came; even if you don't normally come to the evening service. Transport will be provided and it won't go on too late. Please speak to Bob Akroyd or Kenny Macleod if you want to know more. The next meeting will be Sunday March 16<sup>th</sup> at the home of Eric, Moira and Lindsey Mackay, 7 Shandon Street.

Kenny Macleod

### **Prayer meeting**

*The First Wednesday – March*

*5th & April 2nd @ 7.30pm in  
the Church Hall*

On the first Wednesday of each month 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

**Public Debate**

There will be a significant public debate on the resurrection of Jesus at the McEwan Hall, University of Edinburgh at 7.30 pm on March 10<sup>th</sup> (£1 at door) with Prof Gary Habermas who is undertaking a UK tour with a number of similar debates and events around the UK. Prof Habermas is a graduate of Cambridge and Michigan State Universities in philosophy and theology and currently teaches at Liberty University, USA. He is also a visiting professor at around 15 different graduate schools and seminaries in the US and abroad. He has made the evidence for the resurrection of Jesus a major part of his academic work.

**The BBC present The Passion for Easter**

The BBC have announced the creation of a bold event drama retelling the last week in the life of Jesus Christ – The Passion – written by Emmy Award-winner Frank Deasy. The Passion will be shown across Easter week on BBC One, drawing to a dramatic climax on Easter Sunday.

Visually arresting and rich

in colour, the story is rooted in the tangled and chaotic world in which it took place – the city of Jerusalem during Passover week.

Set in the political and religious context of the time, it combines both narrative tension and thematic power to convey the extraordinary events that took place that week in a bold and distinctive way.

This production places the audience at the heart of the action by telling the story from three points of view – the religious authorities, the Romans and Jesus.

See the following for more info:  
[http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2007/12\\_december/04/passion.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/pressoffice/pressreleases/stories/2007/12_december/04/passion.shtml)  
<http://www.churchesmediacouncil.org.uk/passion/>  
<http://www.rejesus.co.uk/passion/index.html>

**Ladies Bible Study**

We are having a women's Bible Study - all ladies welcome. So far the planned dates are:

March 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm at the home of Esther Black, 2/2 Orchardfield

April 11<sup>th</sup> venue TBA

For more details, please speak

to Anne MacDonald.

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

*The Kirk Session Meetings for 2008:*

March 18<sup>th</sup>

April 22<sup>nd</sup>

May Communion 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

June 17<sup>th</sup>

July –no meeting

August Communion 30<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>

September 16<sup>th</sup>

October 21<sup>st</sup>

November Communion 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>

December –no meeting

*The Deacons' Court Meetings for 2008:*

April 15<sup>th</sup>

June 10<sup>th</sup>

August 19<sup>th</sup>

October 14<sup>th</sup>

December 9<sup>th</sup>

All meetings are on a Tuesday and are held in the hall at 7:30pm.

### **Informal English Classes**

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

### **Discipleship Explored**

*Discipleship Explored 2008 (Thursday Evenings 6.30 – 8.30)*

Discipleship Explored is a journey into the book of Philippians. Philippians is a letter written to young Christians, encouraging them to stand firm and live for Christ. It is compelling, challenging and inspiring - particularly to those beginning the Christian life, because they are on exactly the same journey as the Philippians! As they discover Paul's extraordinary letter, participants explore for themselves the meaning of Paul's words: "For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." Also built into the course is a Bible reading plan to help every participant explore each theme further - to develop the habit of reading the Bible daily.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Rejoicing In Christ  
- *Phil 4:2-9*

March 20<sup>th</sup> Content In Christ  
- *Phil 4:10-23*

What Can You Do?

*Pray* - Pray that people would come, hear the message of Jesus and come to believe in him or grow in their knowledge of 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 and to grow in their faith - 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,  
alex.macdonald@freechurch.org  
or Bob (664 6306,  
bobandheather@talk21.com)

### **Men's Bible Study**

The men's Bible study continues to meet from 7:30-8:30 am on Tuesdays, and all interested men are invited to join us. We are studying 1, 2 and 3 John. Come start your

Tuesdays off on the right foot with a chance to study the Bible and to share in some good fellowship, coffee and snacks!

Treven Wall

### **Easter and Sunday School**

For Sundays during the Easter holidays (23<sup>rd</sup> March, 30<sup>th</sup> March and 6<sup>th</sup> April) there will be a combined Sunday School class for the pre-schoolers and the junior primary class. Any that wish to volunteer for teaching this class during any holiday time may speak to Willie Lytle or any of the teachers.

Catherine Thomson

### **Free Church Youth Conference 2008**

Lendrick Muir SU Centre  
21st - 24th March

Speaker: Rev Mark Johnston,  
Snr Pastor Grove Chapel,  
London

Theme: The Grace of God  
(Defining and Exploring Grace  
in three steps: Created in Grace,  
Saved in Grace, Sanctified in  
Grace)

For more information, visit the Free Church website and click on the poster.

**WFM Meal**

There will be a meal to raise funds for the WFM project on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April in the church hall.

**Advanced Notice: EMMS International (operating as Emmanuel Healthcare)**

The ANNUAL MEETING will be held at Davidson's Mains Parish Church Hall, 1 Quality Street, Edinburgh on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2008 at 7.00pm. The principal speakers will be Mrs Esther Lupafya, HIV & AIDS Co-ordinator Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi, Dr Syd Thyle, Eye Service Co-ordinator and Regional Director (Central) EHA India, and Dr Ann Thyle, Reproductive Health Co-ordinator and Regional Director (North) EHA India.

Charlie Douglas

**Gaelic Services**

April 20<sup>th</sup> Rev. Duncan Macleod at St Columba's Free Church

July 27<sup>th</sup> Principal Donald Macleod at St Columba's Free Church

September 28<sup>th</sup> Rev. Duncan Macleod at Perth Free Church

December 14<sup>th</sup> Professor John

Angus Macleod at St Columba's Free Church

**CONGREGATIONAL NEWS****Illness**

Let us continue to remember those who have been unwell. Morag Stewart is recovering from a fractured arm, Sandra Macleod is in hospital following a fall at home and Mabel Fraser continues to recover from a chest infection.

**Ordination of Deacons**

On Sunday March 2<sup>nd</sup> Alasdair Black, Neil MacRae and Chris Somerville were ordained as Deacons. Let us remember them in our prayers as they take up their duties.

Alasdair is our treasurer and was featured a couple of months ago. Here are short articles about Neil and Chris.

*Neil is well known for his football fanaticism, having been trained in it from an early age. However in this he proved to be a great disappointment to his old Dad when he spurned the parental advice and chose to be an attacking midfielder and not a goal keeper. It was through this love for football that Neil came to trust in his Saviour as*

*he never missed a Church Football Camp and there not only did he enjoy the game but found there was more to life than just football, and came to trust in and give his heart to Jesus. Neil made a public profession of his Faith in Buccleuch when he was 14 years of age and it is a great delight to now see him accepting responsibility and take on the office of Deacon and serve his Saviour and the Congregation.*

*Chris is 27, grew up in Dromara, Northern Ireland. and believes it to be the most beautiful country in the world.*

*He grew up in the RP church of Northern Ireland. He can't remember the exact time when he became a Christian but knew he trusted in Jesus as his saviour from a young age, following the example of Godly and loving parents. He is married to Jenny (who is lovely!!!)*

*He loves Maths and believes it to be the most important subject ever. He has a degree in Maths, with its Applications in Biology and has the ability to make Maths sound interesting and exciting (even*

*though it's not really!) Chris works in North Lanarkshire as a letting agent and his favourite sport is ultimate frisbee, but he doesn't play as much as he would like, so if anyone would like a game....*

*Chris loves wildlife, esp. birds, and his favorite is the goldcrest. He likes identifying mushrooms (some people might call him a geek!!)*

Thanks to John MacRea and the lovely Jenny for providing these interesting descriptions.

### **Mr Web Master**

Calum Maclean is now the Controller of the Buccleuch website! Any comments, articles, complaints should be sent to Calum.

### **E-Mail**

Grace Macdonald's blueyonder email isn't very reliable so the best one to use is  
gxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

### **News from The Hammers**

As some of you will be aware, we plan, God willing, to move to Spain in a couple of years. This would be to work with Latin American immigrants under the auspices of Latin

Link. We feel that the time is right to give you all some more information so that you can pray for us in the decisions that lie ahead.

The plan is to live and work in the Basque country of Spain (in the north), probably Donostia-San Sebastian, which is next to the French border. This area is being promoted just now as a research centre so it's very possible that Steven would work in a university there. Jocelyn is currently doing a Diploma in Christian Counselling, with a view to using that in some capacity there. The church we'd hopefully be working with is an Evangelical Church of Spain (IEE) which is similar to an evangelical Church of Scotland. We plan to visit the area at the end of March and have arranged a meeting with the pastor and the Synod of the church there. We'd value your prayers for all of this and for wisdom to make the right decisions for Spain and for our remaining time here.

Thank you, Steven and Jocelyn

**From Jonnie MacCrea**

*This letter was written to Alex but Jonnie wanted it printed in*

*the newsletter. Let us remember our friends who have moved away from Edinburgh recently*

I have been trying to write this letter for months now, because I wanted to try to say so much in it. I have much to say, to thank you for, yet I fear the result is a letter which falls far short of what it should be.

I have been aware that I had not resigned my positions and membership of Buccleuch. I hoped I would just quietly 'drift off your books', as to actively resign is not something I would want to do, but here is the paperwork if that helps to keep things right. I therefore, with great sadness, offer my resignation from office and membership. It was an especial honour and privilege to be part of the Buccleuch session. Truly humbling to have been apprentice to such an amazing bunch of elders.

It was over a decade ago that I became a member, was baptised, married and then twice ordained by yourself. Indeed I recall observing to you that I had to make more promises and say more 'I do's' to be ordained, than I did to be married. Without reservation I

can say that it was one of the great privileges of my life to be under your ministry since you came to Buccleuch and also to be involved in the inner workings of the church and congregation. Additionally, it was great fun working with you on many practical projects in the church properties, and I remember with great happiness those last words of “surely there can’t be any more water left in the pipe now” as it summed up the talents, optimism, pragmatism and business motto of:

MacDonald (Rev) and McCrea (Dr) Un-Limited

“If you need a job done, even one we’ve never done before, one that someone has quoted you a million pounds to do, or you can’t find anyone able, brave or stupid enough to take on, we’re the men you need. Never knowingly beaten by anything, ever!”

I suppose you shall never fully appreciate how much you have been used of God to mould my own life, and the lives of my family. There are some particular things which I shall always remember you by.

You made the Bible come alive – Many times you would

read a passage and then coming to your sermon would take an obscure phrase or word and ‘make it sing’. Mada and I would often laugh in amazement at how you could do this.

Biblical Christianity became real – As a young student with many questions, doubts and anxieties about the truth of Christianity you in a deep and philosophical way addressed these obstacles and provided the building blocks for a ‘rock solid’ Christianity.

Preached with compassion – When there was personal grief, loss and distress you expounded the love of God and his fellow feeling to us in a way that ‘poured in the oil of joy for mourning’. During times when my dad was too unwell to get out to church I would send him tapes of yours and I can still remember chatting to him about how your sermons were used to ‘restore his soul as he was being led through the valley of the shadow of death’. There were great truths which you expounded which we discussed and held onto when things were tough.

We always appreciated your wonderful God given

abilities, we were aware that we were often taking them for granted, we knew that we should have told you more times how brilliant we thought you were, and now that we've left, we realise how much we miss you!

To you Alex I owe the greatest debt of gratitude, one which I can never repay.

Yours with the most sincerest thanks,

Dr Jonathan T McCrea

### **Book Reviews**

*Last month the Ladies Fellowship had an evening of book reviews. These were enjoyed by all who attended the meeting but it was felt others may enjoy them too. More reviews will feature next month so watch this space.*

### **In the Eye Of the Storm by Max Lucado**

I chose In the Eye of the Storm by Max Lucado where he follows Jesus through a day full of sadness, pressure and disappointment, first hearing his cousin John the Baptist had been murdered, then that Herod wanted to kill him too, crowds of people demanding his time,

when he wanted to be alone and rest, yet he remained calm. The book is very easy to read and Max Lucado makes you think about how we would react if we were in the situations Jesus faced. It helps you to know that Jesus understands the stresses and pressures we face in life, and knows exactly how we are feeling as he has been through these pressures himself and that he will be with us to help us.

Christine Macleod

### **The Life of Susannah Spurgeon**

Many of us know much about the preacher and theologian Charles Haddon Spurgeon. However, less is known about his wife, Susannah. That is to our loss. 'The Life of Susannah Spurgeon' is an exceptional read. The book describes Susannah's early days, her conversion, her meeting with her future husband Charles, their marriage and family life, and her role in supporting her husband's ministry. These events are described in the book in what are at times light hearted and amusing anecdotes and sometimes poignant and moving accounts of God's dealings with them both.

Susannah made much use of her time and her gifts. For example, when Charles completed the first volume of 'Lectures to my Students,' he gave a copy to Susannah to read. Her response was "I wish I could place it in the hands of every minister in England" - to which Charles replied "Then why not do so?" Susannah counted up her savings, which were enough to enable 100 books to be published. This was the beginning of the 'Book Fund,' which provided pastors with books, which were scarce at that time. Shortly before this, Susannah had sown some lemon pips in the garden. From these, a lemon tree grew. Susannah noticed that the Book Fund "kept pace" with the growth of the lemon tree - "as new leaves were formed, so new subscribers came forward to help." From this time on it was said that the Book Fund and the lemon tree were closely associated in Susannah's mind.

Susannah was described after the death of her husband "as the woman who found solace in suffering by ministering to the needs of others" and as such that she would stand out through all

time. This has happened in that a century later we still remember this remarkable woman.

The book is well worth a read. In addition to biographical material, the other half of the book is comprised of 24 devotional readings written by Susannah Spurgeon herself.

'The Life of Susannah Spurgeon' by Charles Ray; first published in 1903 and recently republished by the Banner of Truth (2006).

Catherine Thomson

### **Finances**

At the quiz and auction evening £2043 was raised (including gift aid). Thank you to all those who supported the evening. A huge thank you to Mary Campbell for organizing an enjoyable and very competitive(!) evening .

### **Happy Birthday**

A belated happy birthday to Abigail who was two on 22<sup>nd</sup> February and a happy birthday to her father Richard who has a birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> March - but I am not sure how old he is!

Happy birthday to Angus who has a birthday on 4<sup>th</sup> April, Mairead who has a birthday on

10<sup>th</sup> April and Kirsty Ann on 16<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Children's Safety**

The crèche has now moved to the vestry side of the church. 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 drinking nor eating blaeberrys, cranberries or crowberries, nor should their breath smell strongly of fish, however wonderfully made.

### **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 profusion of Wombles on the Common, and the time can vary. If you are interested speak to Evelyn, Heather, Mairi or Moira.

### **Old Friends From America**

*A message from Sarah who studied in Edinburgh and*

*worshipped in Buccleuch. Included is her wedding photo ..... Katie is coming back to see you all this summer! I am so unbelievably jealous. As for me, I have been married now for almost two months, and am enjoying it so much. My husband hears about Edinburgh all the time, and I really want to be able to come back with him sometime to see you all.*

*Well, I thought I would just send you a quick email to see how everyone is doing. Please send my love to all the dear people of Buccleuch! .....*

*Blessings, Sarah Dugan*



## WONDERFULLY MADE

### The Polar Bear

In the far north, the polar bear lives on the ice floes in the cold waters of the Arctic Ocean. Some polar bears spend time on the arctic shores of Alaska, Northern Canada, Greenland and Siberia; others live on or near the islands of the Arctic Ocean and never come close to the mainland. At the edge of the pack ice, where icebergs and broken ice alternate with open water, is the favourite hunting ground of polar bears. Just occasionally, polar bears are seen in the Atlantic Ocean as far south as the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

In winter the female polar bear behaves in the same way as the grizzly. She digs a den in the snow and there produces her cubs - usually twins. Her tiny hairless cubs, birthweight of one pound each, would not survive in the open in temperatures of down to - 30 degrees Centigrade. The males take no part in caring for the cubs and remain active through the winter, taking advantage of the food available on the sea-

ice. Seals must come to the surface to breathe throughout the winter. Their breath smells strongly of the fish they feed on. Bears can detect the smell of a breathing hole in the ice from up to three miles away, even when it is buried under three feet of wind-driven snow. They wait patiently beside the hole and use their forepaws to strike a seal that comes to the air hole, hitting it with such power that it may fracture its skull. Bears will also eat walrus and dead whales that have been washed ashore.

Female seals are also vulnerable when from February onwards they hollow out small chambers beneath the snow where they give birth to their pups. If they sense the approach of a bear, they may be able to escape by sliding into the water, but the bear may bring its full weight down on the snow chamber and kill the pup or pups which are unable to escape.

In summer, life is more difficult for polar bears. The winter ice disappears. Although they are excellent swimmers, they cannot swim for weeks on end. They come to the land, but their food comes in much

smaller dimensions - ground squirrels and lemmings. Like grizzlies they also eat blaeberrries, cranberries and crowberries and dig for roots. They often have to draw on the reserves of fat that they have built up over the winter. Sometimes, in their desperation for food, they will kill and eat polar bear cubs, including their own.

A full-grown bear may be as much as nine and a half feet long and weigh over 1,000 pounds up to a maximum of 1,600. It has a warm dense coat of white fur, tinged with yellow, and has pads of fur on its feet which help to keep them warm

as well as give a good grip on ice. Against a background of snow and ice it is well camouflaged. The polar bear has a smaller head, a longer neck and a more slender body than other bears. They can run about 25 miles in an hour in spite of their size, sufficient speed to catch a reindeer, and are excellent swimmers, covering 3 to 6 miles per hour with ease.

Eskimos hunt polar bears, eating the meat, using the bones for a variety of implements, and using the hides for clothing.

WMM

**ROTAS****Crèche**

Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer	Neil Campbell
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Flora MacPhail	Jen Brannon	Anne Macrae
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny Macleod	Evelyn MacDonald	Mairi Forsyth
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Anne MacDonald	Norma Maclean	Alison Wall
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer

**Amplifier**

Mar 9 <sup>th</sup>	Rob
Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Johnnie
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Graham
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Shanana

**Cleaning**

March 15 <sup>th</sup>	Rob MacDonald	Anne McIntosh
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Michael Bennett	Mairi Forsyth
March 29 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny Macleod	Flora MacPhail
April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Johnnie Macleod	Steve Willis
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Rebecca Copty	Anne Grant

**Door Duty**

Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	John MacRae	Ken MacKenzie
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Neil Macrae	Johnnie Macleod
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Hammer
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Donald Forsyth	Dolina Macdonald
	Mairi Forsyth	Willie Lytle

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

<b>Sunday</b>	11:00am	6:30pm
Mar 16 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
Mar 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald (Guest Service)
Mar 30 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
April 6 <sup>th</sup>	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Alex MacDonald	Bob Akroyd

Crèche and Junior Sunday School during morning service.

Youth Fellowship meets fortnightly-see Kenny Macleod for details

**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)
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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 Steven Willis ([buccleuchyearplanner@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:buccleuchyearplanner@hotmail.co.uk)), who will check suitability with the ministers and respond to you