

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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May 2008

Minister's Update

I said last year when I gave up the editorship of the Monthly Record that I would be devoting more time to congregational work. This was supposed to be even more the case this year as I am retiring as the church's Media Officer this month. I was looking forward to a slightly less hectic life and more involvement in congregational life and work.

I still hope this will be the case, but it is being proposed to the General Assembly that I be appointed as Chairman of the new Home Missions Board. You may wonder what a Home Missions Board is and what it will do. To tell you the truth, I am wondering that myself!

I have not been involved in this at all, but in recent years the central administration of the Church has been having an overhaul. Part of this, such as a Board of Trustees replacing both the old General Trustees and the Stewardship and Policy Committee, has been to comply with new Charity law. But the Church has taken this opportunity to look at the whole central administration and is proposing a new division of labour amongst Assembly

Committees and Boards (who carry out the work of the Church in between Assemblies). In addition a whole new method of financing the Church's work is being proposed.

As part of this process a totally new Home Missions Board is being set up with a wide remit, including the planning and oversight of planting new churches, reinvigorating declining congregations, and assessing how to minister to the more scattered communities of the north and west particularly, as well as oversight of the Church's social responsibility and youth work.

As you can see, that is a huge remit demanding a big time commitment, and I had grave reservations about taking on the chairmanship when I was asked if I would be willing to let my name go forward. However, it has always been my policy to prayerfully consider what the Church asks me to do. I discussed it with friends and sounded out the Kirk Session, and all the feedback was positive. I certainly think it is a very important work at this point in

the Church's history, and I did not feel I could turn it down. Of course, it will be up to the General Assembly if I am appointed or not, but I thought it only right to inform the congregation of what is being proposed so that you are not taken by surprise when you hear of it.

Nothing would have pleased me better than to slip into a blessed obscurity in local and congregational work, but in the providence of God, this may be delayed for a few years. In the meantime I value your prayers in this as in all things.

Alex MacDonald

Manse Family News

April and May are proving eventful months for the MacDonald family. On 4th April Alex and Evelyn's new granddaughter was born in Glasgow – Niamh (pronounced Neve) Duffy, Kath and Kieran's daughter and a little sister for Julia. Very inconsiderately, Grandpa was getting off a plane in Stornoway at the time of her birth and had to wait several days before he could see her, but she has since forgiven him. Little Niamh has already made an appearance in Buccleuch.

On 18th April Alison together with her friend Lois Eddie arrived back from 6 months in New Zealand which they thoroughly enjoyed. (We look forward to a report!) If New Zealand is half as beautiful as they make out, we all want to go! It was supposed to be a working holiday, but it turned out there was more holiday than working (not by their choice!) It's good to have them both safely back from a country where the natives throw themselves off bridges with only elastic bands tied to their feet! Welcome back, Alison and Lois!

Doug is getting married to Vicky on 24th May. Of course, being Doug it had to be different. So they're getting married on the Greek Island of Sifnos. Doug and Vicky were holidaying with friends in Greece last summer and Doug proposed on the steps of the Parthenon. (Alex wonders where he went wrong with his sons turning out so romantic – one proposing in beautiful Budapest and the other on the steps of the Parthenon!) So when they heard about the beautiful island of Sifnos, the wedding had to be there. But

it's an ill wind that blows nobody any good, as they say. So while his colleagues are sweating in a sticky, stuffy Assembly Hall, Alex will be basking in the glorious Aegean sunshine. He will also miss the May Communion, for which he apologises to the congregation, but sometimes family commitments come first.

Doug and Vicky are setting up home at 12 Grange Loan. Doug is a social worker in Dalkeith and Vicky works for the Festival of Spirituality and Peace in St John's Church, Princes Street.

Alex MacDonald

Bereavement

Let us remember Jocelyn and her family following the death of her stepfather last month.

Illness

Many know and enjoy seeing Mrs Macritchie (Mary Campbell's Mum) when she is down from the Isles on her holidays. Let us remember her as she recuperates in Edinburgh following a recent spell in hospital.

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

Joint Service in Leith

On Sunday 11th May we will be joining with the other Free Church congregations in Leith Free Church for the evening service of their communion at 6.30pm, when Rev Dr Iain D Campbell, Back, will be preaching. These joint services are great occasions. Please make every effort to be there! Leith Free Church is on Casselbank Street near the bottom of Leith Walk.

Communion

The preparatory services will be held on Friday May 23rd at

7:30pm and Saturday 24th May at 7:30pm. The Communion service will be on Sunday 25th May at 11:00am. All services will be led by Kenneth Stewart, Dowanvale.

Guest Service

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday, May 25th at 6.30pm when Kenneth Stewart, Dowanvale 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.

INTERNATIONAL MEAL

Check your diaries. Mark your calendars. Friday, 16th May at 7:00pm is the next International Meal. Our hosts will be Willie and Ena Mackay (53 Lauderdale St. EH9 1DE). All are most welcome. You will not want to miss this opportunity for great fellowship and free food! Be sure to invite a friend.

Lifts to the Mackays will be provided at 6:30pm outside Buccleuch & Greyfriars Free Church. Drivers are needed. If you have any questions, please contact John Tweeddale at

jwtweed@aol.com. I look forward to seeing you on 16th May!

John Tweeddale

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 14th May. The study continues 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 remaining studies are:

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

Neil and Mary Campbell

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 two weeks we 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.

Kenny Macleod

Prayer meeting

*The First Wednesday – May 7th
@ 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

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

The Kirk Session Meetings for 2008:

23rd-25th May - Communion

17th June

July - no meeting

30th-31st August - Communion

28th Sept - Evening Communion

16th September

21st October

28th-30th Nov - Communion

December - no meeting

The Deacons' Court Meetings for 2008:

10th June

19th August

14th October

9th December

All meetings are on a Tuesday and are held in the hall at 7:30pm, except for Kirk Session meetings at Communions.

Informal English Classes

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

Free Church College

The closing service and awards Ceremony of the Free Church College will be held in the college on Friday 16th May at 7:30pm.

The General Assembly

The Women for Mission Annual General meeting will take place in the Presbytery Hall Free Church College on Thursday 22nd May at 2:00pm.

Missions Night on Thursday 22nd May at 7:30pm in St Columba's Free Church. This is an opportunity to hear about mission work from around the world.

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

Ladies Bible Study

The next Ladies Bible study will be on Friday 16th May at 7:30pm at the home of Rebecca Copt.

Gaelic Services

27th July Principal Donald Macleod at St Columba's Free Church

7th September Rev. Duncan Macleod at Perth Free Church

14th December Professor John Angus Macleod at St Columba's Free Church

Amica Pregnancy Crisis Centre Update March 2008

For those who might be new to the congregation and don't know anything about Amica, I will try and summarise what we do.

What is Amica?

Amica Pregnancy Crisis Centre is a Christian Charity based in Edinburgh. We are affiliated to CareConfidential. Together with similar centres throughout the United Kingdom we are seeking to support people who are faced with an unplanned

pregnancy and to provide counselling for people who are struggling with issues relating to a previous abortion experience. We see both women and men. We also go in to secondary schools in the Lothian area to talk to young people about the difficult consequences of unplanned pregnancies and to make them aware of what happens to the unborn baby during pregnancy. Our centre is located at 29 Nicolson Square above the Clydesdale Bank, and we are open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11.00am until 6.00pm. We would be delighted if any of you came to visit us - to encourage us, pray with us or just to see what the centre looks like.

Befriending

Last year we had the opportunity of befriending four women in different parts of the city. For the first month after the birth of a baby we visited the new mother in her home, brought meals if needed, helped with shopping and housework, provided baby clothes and generally tried to be supportive. We were helped in this by women from different churches

across the city. We would like to be able to increase our availability in the year ahead, and would like to work with a wide range of churches in the city so that we can have a wide pool of resources to draw on if we have women looking for such support. I would be interested to know if any of you would like to be involved. We are careful to see that no one is overburdened by this.

Current needs and challenges

We are very keen to raise awareness of our work among the Christian community in Edinburgh as we seek their prayers and support. Since last May we have been looking for a treasurer to help us in organising our finances, and this is becoming a more urgent need. The role would involve attending management meetings 4 or 5 times a year, giving guidance with budget planning and taking responsibility for the annual accounts to comply with the dreaded OSCR regulations. The previous treasurer said the role was not too demanding, and perhaps involved 15 to 20 hours work in the year. It is a voluntary post, and would be Edinburgh-based.

Financial support

We have an annual budget of about £37,000. A quarter of this is provided by regular donations which are also gift aided, and the rest is found through applying to Trusts, fundraising events and donations from some churches in Edinburgh. The need to fundraise is ever before us and in this coming year we still have around £22,000 to find. I would like very much if we could find 150 – 300 new people to gift aid £5 to £10 a month, from throughout the Christian community in Edinburgh. This would largely solve our fundraising concerns. For the first time since we opened we were unable to meet our financial obligations at the beginning of March. I think I have discovered that fundraising is not my forte, so if any of you feel gifted in that area and have a bit of time – it's good to talk.

My role in Amica

Since last May I have taken on the role of coordinating the work, and have been focusing on awareness raising, training volunteers, supporting volunteers, seeing people who

come for help and fundraising. I have greatly appreciated support from many of you to whom I am writing. Without your involvement this work would be impossible. I have some specific requests which I would like to place before you as my immediate church family.

- I am looking for three women - one from each of the congregations in Leith, Buccleuch and St Columba's - to meet with me once a month to pray for me. If anyone feels they could do this I would love to hear from you.

- If you or anyone you know might be willing to take on the role of treasurer, please get in touch.

- If what we are involved in strikes a chord and you would like to support the work financially, please contact me.

Again I would just like to reiterate how much we have appreciated all the support and encouragement that many of you have shown in past years, and again ask that you continue to pray for Amica and all who are involved.

Liz Ferguson Tel 0131 667 7800 (Amica) 0131 664 7567 (Home)

e.ferguson@amicapcc.org

Fund Raising For Amica

It is planned to hold a fundraising event in Buccleuch Free Church Hall on Thursday 29th May from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. Coffee and cake will be served and there will be a focus on BOOKS. We plan to have a section of the hall devoted to book reviews, book readings etc and another area for folk to browse through books DVDs, CDs, videos etc.

You can support the event in the following ways:

- Donate second hand books, DVDs ,CDs etc
- Provide cake to be eaten with the coffee!
- Ask friends to come along
- If you know a famous author who might do a book reading, let us know

Please contact Liz Ferguson for more details

Advanced Notice

2008 Day Away For Women

The Ladies Day Away will take place on Saturday 27th September from 10:00am to 5:00pm at the Aviemore Inn, Aviemore Highland Resort PH2 21PN. Please see the leaflets for more details.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Marie-Christine Lux - Marie Curie 1,250 mile sponsored bike ride

Marie-Christine is going to cycle from Warsaw to St Petersburg from 16th August to 14th September to raise money for Marie Curie Cancer Care, with a target of £9,500. If you are willing to sponsor her please use the sponsor sheet at the back of the hall, which will be available until Sunday 11th May, or you can sponsor online at www.justgiving.com/mclux

Southern Mission Support Group

This group, drawn from the Presbyteries of Edinburgh & Perth and Glasgow & Argyll, is now into its fifth year. So far we've focused on and raised support for: Dumisani Theological Institute, Annie Soper Christian School, Colegio San Andrés and Chhapara Christian School and Chhapara Manse. This year we're back where we started, since we're looking again at Dumisani Theological Institute in South Africa.

Dumisani is grateful for missionaries from different

countries who have served and are serving there. But if it is to be truly South African, serving South African churches, it needs to be well staffed by trained and committed South Africans. Right now there is a special focus on providing better training for the administrative staff, one of them being the College Librarian.



Nomaphelo Kwikwi

This is a special call going out to our three Edinburgh churches on behalf of Nomaphelo Kwikwi and her ongoing librarianship training. She is studying part-time for a Diploma in Librarianship at Fort Hare University, but would love to continue to degree level. In a recent interview, here is part of what she told us:

How long have you been a Christian?

I was born in a Christian family and baptised by the late Rev. E.

M. Madikane. I grew up attending Sunday School and accepted Jesus Christ as my personal Saviour. I am now the Secretary of the Youth Committee.

How long have you been working at Dumisani?

I was appointed on January 2004, so it's been four years now.

What are your studies about?

My studies are Information Science, Library Science, Anthropology, Communication and Sociology.

What does your job involve?

It includes cataloguing new books and other items on the computer, registering library users, controlling books that are late by sending reminders and following up on that, repairing damaged books, putting books back on shelves, sorting the shelves, placing the record of new books on the notice board, filing the invoices and assisting in teaching the special Library course for new students, assisting students in search of books and on the Internet and doing stock taking at the end of the year.

What is your vision for Dumisani Library?

I want to see our Library more equipped with resources including the Internet and a photocopying machine. We need to be able to access North West University Library and other institutions via the Internet along with the security system to protect books. We would also like to be able to attend Librarians' Workshops. With these things in place our Library would be at the same level as those of other institutions.

What is your vision for Dumisani?

To see Dumisani on the map, and see the products of Dumisani as the ministers God has called them to be, along with new students being sent to our institution, and lastly to have our own Library building.

How can you help?

- Learn all you can about Dumisani from its website (www.dumisani.org) and from articles in From the Frontiers.
- Pray for Nomaphelo, all the other staff and the students.
- Envelopes will be made available during the month of

June in each of the Edinburgh churches. Take one and give as much as you can so that Nomaphelo will be able to continue her studies and be a capable and committed servant of the Lord in Dumisani Theological Institute.

John Macpherson provided this information.

WFM Meal

Thanks to all who contributed and came to the congregational meal to support the WFM project. A total of £862 was raised. -----

Mr Web Master

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

Book Review

Here are two more book reviews enjoyed by those who were at the ladies fellowship a

couple of months ago:

The Laws and Polity of the Jewish Nation: E.W. Edersheim (published by Keren Ahvah Neshihit, Jerusalem :ISBN965-447-118-3)

While the title may lack immediate appeal, this is a fascinating and informative little volume. The author was one of a brilliant group of Jewish scholars in 19th century Hungary. When they converted to Christianity, their deep understanding and knowledge of the Scriptures was a rich enhancement of their ability to express their faith in Christ.

It's always rather perplexing that there is such a large body of laws given in the Old Testament to the Jewish nation, but this book helps us to understand that it was precisely because this was, in fact, a newly-forged nation that it was in need of guidance and guidelines, particularly when hemmed in by nations of spectacular immorality and cruel laws. The law reveals the love and tender care of the Lord for His people, their land, their servants, even their animals. Far from being just a code of laws in the worldly sense, it is a revelation of the Lord Himself

and of His holiness and kindness.

If you have ever felt pricks of doubt about some of the laws that now appear so alien to us in the 21st century, this book will give you an understanding of the reasons behind them, of how they would have been applied (with mercy and with the intent of healing, unlike those of the surrounding nations), and of the Lord's loving concern for His people's welfare and for the awesome glory of His own name.

Ena Mackay

Cover To Cover; publisher CWR

Hezekiah, Job, Daniel, Elijah, Methuselah. You are doubtless familiar with these names but do you know in which order they occur in the Biblical narrative? You know stories from different parts of the Bible. Do you have the 'Big Picture' in your mind? If not this version is for you.

The events of the Bible are presented in chronological order and divided up so that the whole Bible can be read in one year. Each day you can pick up the stories where you left off

the day before. There are helpful maps charts, diagrams and also a website.

So challenge yourself to read the Bible in one year. This version makes it easy. It will be your year's best read!

Dolina Macdonald

Congratulations

Congratulations to Gordon and Grace who married in Buccleuch on Saturday 12th April.



Congratulations to James and Roszie Forsyth on the safe arrival of their daughter Isla Grace on 20th March.

Happy Birthday

A belated happy birthday to Kathleen Gallagher who had her 21st birthday on 28th April!

Happy birthday to Janey and Mairi MacPhail who had a birthday on 1st May, to Euan Macleod who has a birthday on 9th May and Ailis Maclean who has a birthday on 21st May.

Happy birthday to Donald (see photo). Guess how old!

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 at all times, and should not be encouraged to play bingo with the numbers for the Psalm boards, nor treat them as some form of medieval random number generator.

Anyone for Tennis?

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

Mentoring

The mentoring scheme is up and running in the church. Anyone else interested in being mentored should contact Mary MacMillan, Mary Campbell, Bob Akroyd, Alex MacDoanld or Eric Mackay.

Deacons' Court

The Deacons' Court met on Tuesday 15th April. This was the first meeting since the ordination of Alasdair Black, Chris Somerville and Neil MacRae as Deacons, so they were duly welcomed to the

Court. They probably then found that things went dully, but jobs were quickly found for them to keep them occupied.

In fact, Alasdair was found a job so quickly that he has been doing it for months before he was even ordained – the very significant job of treasurer.

Someone thoughtfully produced an invoice, but as it dated back to somewhere in the mid 18th Century, Alasdair was let off the hook this time. It was then agreed that all minutes, etc up to 1950 (amounting to a few hours, one would imagine) should be sent to the National Archives of Scotland.

Much of the discussion centred around the budget, the Fabric Fund, payment for church refurbishments, Arch School rent, Lease Agreements, Insurance, Electricity Bills (this can get a bit heated at times), Meter Readings (follows on naturally from discussion about bills), OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator, not some awards ceremony for the person who can suggest the best way of cutting the electricity bills), Gift Aid, donations and requests for financial support.

Neil MacRae will take on

the role of Gift Aid treasurer (as well as his side job of breaking up domestic disputes outside the church), and Chris Somerville is our new Health and Safety Officer. One Health and Safety issue discussed was the juggling around of knives in the kitchen - where to stick them, that is.

Risk assessment, and manse and church maintenance also featured.

It is now necessary to indicate on various documents which emanate from the congregation that the congregation is a Registered Scottish Charity – as this eminent document emanates, see if you can spot the mandatory mantra.

Some Church Bulletins

The following have actually appeared as church announcements!

‘Next Thursday there will be try outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.’

‘A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.’

‘Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.’

Mission Trip to South Africa

The congregation plans to send a team to South Africa in June 2009 to teach teenagers in a village near King William's Town, in collaboration with a local congregation of the Free Church in Southern Africa.

The team will be expected to engage in preparation, training and fund raising during the 12 months preceding the trip. They will then travel to South Africa, attend Sunday church services in the village in which the classes are to be held, and lead classes for five days (Monday – Friday). This will take place during South African school end of term winter holidays. Each day there will be time set aside for worship at which all attending the school would be present.

Objectives

- *Village teenagers* - to help them develop their English to improve their opportunities for further education
- *Village congregation* – to encourage them in their witness
- *Village community* – to enable them to see their local congregation doing something practical for them
- *Missionaries* – to provide

fellowship and ongoing support

- *Team members* – to see South African teenagers and missionaries in their context
- *Home congregation* – to engage personally in work of church extension and to encourage a zeal for mission

The team will consist of

- Leader – Douglas Campbell
- 4-6 people from Buccleuch Congregation to travel to South Africa
- Support personnel (from within and without Buccleuch)

Key Dates

- **June 2008 Team selected**
- June 2009 Travel

Funding

It is anticipated that the cost of the trip will be ca. £7,000 (based on a seven person team). Those travelling will be expected to engage in fund raising with support from the organising team. Funds will not be sought from the congregational general fund.

Please pray for this mission activity, **and prayerfully consider whether you would be willing to go.** If you would be willing to go, please speak to Fergus or Eric or any other member of the outreach and mission group.

Finances

Financial position as at 31st March 2008

Statement of financial activities	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Special Millennium	Funds Other	31/03/2008 Total
Gross ordinary income	£21,907		£3,705	£2,242	£27,854
Transfer to fabric fund	-£2,191	£2,191			£0
Net ordinary income	£19,716	£2,191	£3,705	£2,242	£27,854
Expenses	-£6,470	-£443	-£3,705	-£200	-£10,818
Surplus before EDO and central funds	£13,246	£1,748	£0	£2,042	£17,036
Extra-denominational objects (EDO)	£0				£0
Church funds	-£12,000				-£12,000
Surplus for the year	£1,246	£1,748	£0	£2,042	£5,036
Opening balance - at 1st Jan 08	-£426	£0	£0	£1,247	£821
Closing balance - at 31st Mar 08	£820	£1,748	£0	£3,289	£5,857

General fund

Income of **£21,907** is £1,828 less than the same period last year. Expenditure so far is broadly similar to last year. Our target income for the year is **£112,000**. This is a 5% increase on last year's income. Tax refunds (expected to be c£20,000 for the year) had not yet been received as at 31st March, but will start to be shown in the next quarter's statement.

Kitchen fundraising

As at 31st March, contributions totalling **£16,951** had been received. We require a further £16,463 to cover the total cost of the new kitchen (£33,414). We're past the half way mark now!

Alasdair Black

*Buccleuch & Greyfriars Management Accounts
January to March 2007*

WONDERFULLY MADE

Bears in Warmer Climates

While the better known bears are found in the temperate and cold regions of the northern hemisphere, there are three other types found further south with two of these found in the southern hemisphere. These are:

- The Sloth Bear found in the rock valleys and hills of India and Ceylon;

- The Sun Bear, also called the Malayan Bear, lives in the forests of Borneo, Burma, Indochina, the Malay Peninsula, Sumatra and Thailand.

- The Spectacled Bear is to be found in the high mountain forests of Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela.

Sloth Bears are different from sloths which are animals found in the jungle trees of South America which move upside down very slowly, hanging from branches. The sloth bear is so called because its movements are generally slow. It is a big, shaggy animal about five feet long and weighing up to 250 pounds. Its fur is black with a light-coloured patch on its chest. Its face is grey and almost hairless. They are short-tempered and

may be dangerous, moving very rapidly, when approached.

They hunt for food at night and sleep during the day in places that offer protection, often in caves in river banks. They do not hibernate as some other bears do. They eat termites (white ants) and the larvae of bees. They also eat flowers, leaves, fruits and grain. They climb trees to reach nests of termites or bees. With their large feet and long claws they rip open termite nests and tree trunks and branches that hold honeycombs. From their liking for honey they are also called Honey Bears. Two of the incisors in its upper jaw are missing, giving it a gap in the front part of its mouth. Its lips are hairless and very large. Having found a termite mound it tears it open, pushes its snout into the hole, purses its lips to form a long tube and sucks with its long, sticky tongue. The termites are hoovered out of their chambers and corridors in their hundreds.

Usually two cubs are born at a time and, in the early stages of development, ride on the mother's back.

The Malayan Sun Bear is the smallest species of bear. It

gets its name from the yellow or white marks it has on its chest. It was considered by native peoples that these marks represented the rising sun. This bear grows to three or four feet and weigh 60 to 100 pounds. It has a black coat with a grey or orange nose and sometimes light-brown feet.

Its large paws have no hair on the soles and the claws are very curved and sharp-pointed. The Sun Bear hunts at night and spends the day sleeping and sunbathing in the trees, building a nestlike bed in a tree by bending or breaking the branches.

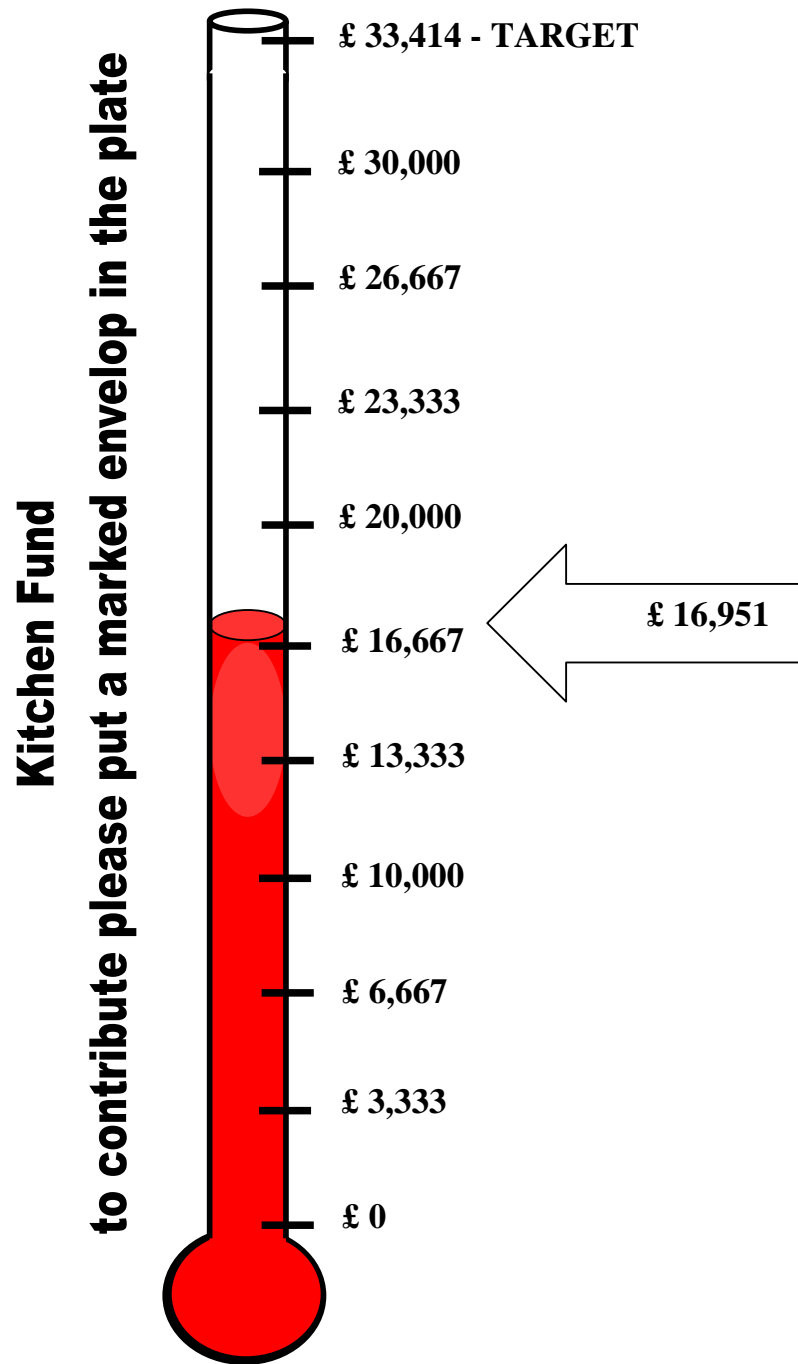
The Spectacled Bear is the

only bear found in South America. It was the bear used by Michael Bond as the basis for his Paddington Bear stories. In real life it is a large bear, five or six feet long, weighing between 200 and 300 pounds. It has shaggy black or blackish-brown fur. It gets its name from the large circles or half-circles of white fur round its eyes, looking rather like spectacles. It also has white markings on its neck and chest. It eats fruit, leaves and roots.

WMM

(Is it the gluttonous, murderous, uncaring panda that eats, shoots and leaves? – Ed)





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**

May 11 th	Anne McIntosh	Jennifer Macleod	Alison Wall
May 18 th	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer
May 25 th	Neil Campbell	Flora MacPhail	Rebecca MacLeod
June 1 st	Evelyn MacDonald	Mairi Forsyth	Anne MacRae
June 8 th	Kenny Macleod	Anne MacDonald	Norma Maclean

Amplifier

May 11 th	Ed
May 18 th	Graham
May 25 th	Shanana
June 1 st	Kenny

Cleaning

May 17 th	Michael Bennett	Mairi Forsyth
May 24 th	Kenny Macleod	Flora MacPhail
May 31 st	Johnnie Macleod	Steve Willis
June 7 th	Rebecca Copty	Anne Grant
June 14 th	Rob/ Mary Bonne	Karen Murray

Door Duty

May 11 th	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Hammer
May 18 th	Donald Forsyth	Dolina Macdonald
	Mairi Forsyth	Willie Lytle
May 25 th	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
June 1 st	John MacRae	Ken MacKenzie
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
June 8 th	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Johnnie Macleod	Neil MacRae

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday 11:00am 6:30pm
 May 11th Bob Akroyd Joint Service in Leith
 May 18th Bob Akroyd Bob Akroyd
 May 23rd Friday preparatory service at 7:30pm led by Kenneth Stewart
 May 24th Saturday preparatory service at 7:30pm led by Kenneth Stewart
 May 25th Kenneth Stewart (Communion service) Kenneth Stewart (Guest service)

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)

Wednesday

Prayer Meeting 7:30pm
 *Home Bible Studies 7:30pm (2nd 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 Steven Willis (buccleuchyearplanner@hotmail.co.uk), who will check suitability with the ministers and respond to you