

# **Buccleuch & Greyfriars**

**FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

# **Newsletter**

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### **Minister's Update**

This summer I spent part of my holidays helping my brother demolish an old shed on the croft in Sutherland. It was a job we had intended to do last summer, but when we inspected the garage where we hoped to transfer some of the contents of the shed, we discovered it needed considerable remedial work which took up our attention on that occasion.

This summer we took full advantage of the great weather the North was experiencing (in contrast to the South!) and not only demolished the shed, but also built a new one with some of the materials salvaged from the old one.

The old shed had originally been a combined barn and byre and was a substantial construction consisting of railway sleeper walls and a corrugated iron roof. The reason we decided to demolish it was that we suspected it was unsafe. It was only when I was up on the roof removing the sheets of corrugated iron that we realised just how unsafe it was! As I removed each sheet, the couples and rafters simply disintegrated and plunged to the ground. It had been the corrugated iron

that had been holding the thing together! Then when we came to removing the walls, we discovered that whole sections of the sleepers were rotten at ground level. It's a wonder the whole thing had not collapsed in a gale.

However, it was great fun and very satisfying demolishing the old shed. It was also relatively easy. Apart from being hard work physically, it did not require a great deal of planning. You could see what had to be taken down and once you worked out how to dismantle the various parts, it was straightforward. It's like life in general. It's easy to do the negative – to tear down, to demolish and destroy.

By contrast, building the new shed was challenging. We had to come up with a plan of construction – one that was feasible and achievable for two old men using the materials we had! And then we had to select the best materials and construct them in a certain order and in line with the plan. It is much more challenging to be constructive in life. But that is what we are called to as Christians – to follow the great example of our Lord and

Saviour, who came not to destroy but to build. In that great construction project that is salvation, there is a tearing down, a clearing of the ground, but the purpose is to rebuild, yes, even using the same human materials, but constructed according to a new plan.

My brother and I are very proud of the new shed, but it is a poor thing in comparison with the building that Christ is erecting – in the lives of his people and in his Church. We are given a glimpse of its future glory in Revelation 21:2ff – “I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.”

Are you part of this greatest of all building projects, God’s great transforming plan? Have you offered your life to the Master Builder, Jesus, to mould you to his pattern? Only thus will you be part of that great City one day.

Alex MacDonald

### **Assistant Minister’s Update**

First, if you are new to Edinburgh or to the congregation – Welcome! It’s great to meet new people and to welcome you to the congregation. If you are a

regular at Buccleuch, welcome back from summer holidays.

For everyone, there are plenty of opportunities to become involved – there is always a need for willing and committed workers. The words of Jesus are as appropriate to our own congregation as they were to his audience two thousand years ago, “The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.” Matthew 9:37 - 38

At Buccleuch, we are convinced there is a great harvest to be brought in and we have the privilege of serving in the Lord’s harvest field. Notice that the solution to the problem of insufficient workers is persistent prayer. We need more workers, we look for a great harvest but above all we must be willing to commit ourselves to prayer.

Will you commit yourself to pray for the congregation, to pray for those who are Christians and for those who are not, to pray for the ministers and the office bearers, to pray for the elderly and for the young, to pray for the Monday club and for the outreach to

Bethany House, to pray for Christianity Explored and for the guest services? We believe that God is a hearer and answerer of prayer but we must in turn be a people of prayer.

The opportunities for congregational prayer are many: Wednesday night, Saturday morning and Home Bible studies. There are prayer triplets and mentoring meetings while some friends commit to regular times of prayer together. The timing and the venue is not all that important but what is important is the willingness to pray and the expectation that God will answer our prayers in the way he sees best.

If you've never been to one of the prayer meetings, come and see for yourself how God is faithful. If you have stopped attending the prayer meeting, maybe now is a good time to set aside an hour a week to join with God's people in prayer.

Yours faithfully, Bob Akroyd

### **Welcome**

It is always a pleasure to see new people in the congregation whether they are students, new residents in Edinburgh or visitors passing through

Edinburgh on holiday. We hope you feel welcome and that you enjoy your time with us at Buccleuch. Please feel free to contact either of our ministers for information, pastoral support, and advice. Their contact details are:

Alex MacDonald (667 4651, [alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk)) and Bob Akroyd (664 6306, [bobandheather@talk21.com](mailto:bobandheather@talk21.com))

### **Congregational Directory - 2008/9**

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](mailto:bobandheather@talk21.com)

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

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Guest Service**

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm when Alex MacDonald will re-tell a story from the Bible. 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.

If you would like to listen to some recent stories which Alex has retold, check out the website,

<http://www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk/stories.htm>

### **Prayer Breakfasts**

We continue to meet weekly at 9am on Saturday mornings for prayer, food and fellowship. 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, 8<sup>th</sup> October. We are studying selected Psalms using the study guide, Perseverance: A Long

Obedience in the Same Direction. This is part of the IVP series of Christian Basics Bible Studies. Copies of the Bible study are available at church – please take one. The subjects of the six studies are:

1. Repentance - Psalm 120
2. Help - Psalm 124
3. Joy - Psalm 126
4. Patience - Psalm 129
5. Hope - Psalm 130
6. Faith - Psalm 132

**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.

**Prayer meeting**

*The First Wednesday of the month (5<sup>th</sup> Nov) at 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

**Christianity Explored 2008**

*Thursday Evenings 6.30 – 8.30 pm*

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

9 October: Week 3

**Jesus - Why did He Come?**

16 October: Week 4

**Jesus - His Death**

23 October: Break

*School Holidays*

30 October: Week 5

**What is Grace?**

6 November: Week 6

**Jesus - His Resurrection**

13 November: Week 7

**What is a Christian?**

20 November: Week 8

**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 on 667 4651 or

[alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alexjmacdonald@blueyonder.co.uk)

or Bob on 664 6306 or

[bobandheather@talk21.com](mailto:bobandheather@talk21.com)

**Catering for Christianity**

**Explored**

We still need cooks and helpers for Christianity Explored. Please have a look at the sign up sheet and consider when you can volunteer. In these times of credit crunch, the cooking could be shared by two or more people - each giving for example, a casserole for six. Remember we have a lovely new freezer which is longing to be filled. In addition to a cook or two, it would be great to have a helper whose duties would be setting and clearing tables and loading the dishwasher. For more information please see Bob or Sarah.

**Monday Club**

The Monday Club has started again in the hall from 7:00 to 8:00 pm with games, tuck shop and talks. It is for Children aged 11-14. Please pray for the year ahead that we will get more

children coming along and that those who came last year will come back. Speak to Ali or Kenny for details.

Alison Macdonald

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

*Kirk Session Meetings for 2008:*

4<sup>th</sup> November

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

December - no meeting

*Deacons' Court Meetings for 2008:*

14<sup>th</sup> October

16<sup>th</sup> December

All meetings are on a Tuesday. Meetings of the Deacons' Court are held in the hall at 7:30 pm, while Kirk Session meetings are held at the same time, but in the manse - except at Communions.

### **Women's Fellowship**

All meetings for the women's fellowship will be in the hall at 7:30 pm unless intimated differently. Everyone is welcome. The programme is as follows:

10<sup>th</sup> October *Alex Macdonald*

7<sup>th</sup> November *Irene Howat*

5<sup>th</sup> December *Pippa Harry*

16<sup>th</sup> Jan *Kenny and Rita MacDonald*

27<sup>th</sup> Feb *Karen MacCormick*

27<sup>th</sup> March *Morag Millar*

April *no meeting*

1<sup>st</sup> May *Music*

### **Informal English Classes**

The informal English classes on Tuesday afternoons are in full swing. Please contact Ena Mackay for further details.

### **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 Hosea.

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!

### **Stephen Allison**

Stephen will speak about his trip to Malta at an after church fellowship on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

### **Gaelic Services**

14<sup>th</sup> December Professor John Angus Macleod at St Columba's Free Church.

### **Ladies' Bible Study**

The dates for the next Bible Studies are Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October

and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The ladies are studying the book of Job and all are welcome. Please speak to Esther Black for more details.

### **Crèche Rota**

As we need to comply with the new Free Church guidelines for crèches - requiring 1 adult per 2 children - we need more helpers for the crèche. Please speak to Norma MacLean if you are able to help.

Norma Maclean

### **Toddler Group**

Have you pre-school children? Do you like cake? If so come to Toddlers on Friday morning between 10 am and 12 noon for play and a chat. The group is very informal and all are welcome. Good fun, good coffee, good times.

Sarah Lytle

### **The Marriage Course**

The Marriage Course is going to be run again at St. Columba's, by Calum and Liz Ferguson. The Marriage Course (see [themarriagecourse.org](http://themarriagecourse.org)) is for married couples of any vintage, and is designed to help any married couple strengthen their

relationship.

It will take place over seven Thursday evenings in November and December. Each evening involves a meal, a video talk, and personal discussion time for each couple. Please note that you have to register in advance in order to attend. See the poster on the noticeboard, and speak to Calum or Norma MacLean for more details.

### **Free Church College: part-time courses 2008/09**

Classes for the part-time Certificate and Diploma courses at the Free Church College resume on Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> October, at 10.00 am (coffee at 9.30!). The courses offered this year are:

- Communicating the Gospel Today (Rev Alex J MacDonald)
- Introducing the New Testament (Professor John A MacLeod)
- The Cross of Christ (Principal Donald Macleod)

Classes meet one Saturday a month from October to May (eight Saturdays in all). Fees are £200 a year (£60 to non-wage earners).

The course is free to those

who are 18 years old or younger.

New (and old) students are welcome, even if they don't want to do the formal assignments.

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

### **Dear Friends in Buccleuch**

I would like to thank you all for the love and concern you so beautifully expressed in the many cards, letters, flowers and visits I received during my stay in Edinburgh. I especially want to thank you for your prayers that were and are very precious. May the Lord bless you all.

Marilyn MacRitchie

### **Maintenance Book**

A maintenance book has been placed on the noticeboard next to the kitchen hatch.

This is to record any blown bulbs or broken tables etc. so the deacons know what to fix. Please make use of this.

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Iain and Alison Macleod on the birth of their daughter Lily Beth on the 24<sup>th</sup> July.

Congratulations to John and Angela Tweeddale on the

birth of their daughter Amelia Joy born on 13<sup>th</sup> September.

*John writes:*

*'On Saturday evening, 13 September 2008, at 11:20pm, Angela and I gladly welcomed Amelia Joy Tweeddale into the world. After a long labour and delivery process, Angela had an emergency c-section, but both mum and baby are doing very well. Amelia is a petite little girl, weighing in at 6lb 1oz and 48cm in length. And, if I don't say so myself, she's absolutely beautiful! Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. To God all praise and glory!'*

Congratulations to Willie and Anne Lytle on the birth of their son, Calum Kennedy born on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

Let us remember these young families, with new responsibilities, in our prayers.

### **Engagements**

Congratulations to Neil Macrae and Ruth MacDonald on their engagement. Neil popped the question whilst they were visiting James and Roszie in America and they hope to get married in August 2009.

Congratulations to Rebecca Copty and Jonathan Green who got engaged on the

10<sup>th</sup> September on a hill outside Jerusalem.

*Rebecca and Jonathan write:*

*'Jon and Rebecca would appreciate your prayers as they sort out Jon's move to the UK'*

### **Happy Birthday**

Happy birthday to Micaiah Burns on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Children's Safety**

The crèche is on the vestry side of the church hall. The screens remain up until the church is vacated, so that children can be collected from the crèche / preschool safely. Juice is 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 found arguing about what punishment should be meted out to the author of Wonderfully Made for either using invisible ink or else gross dereliction of duty this month.

### **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**

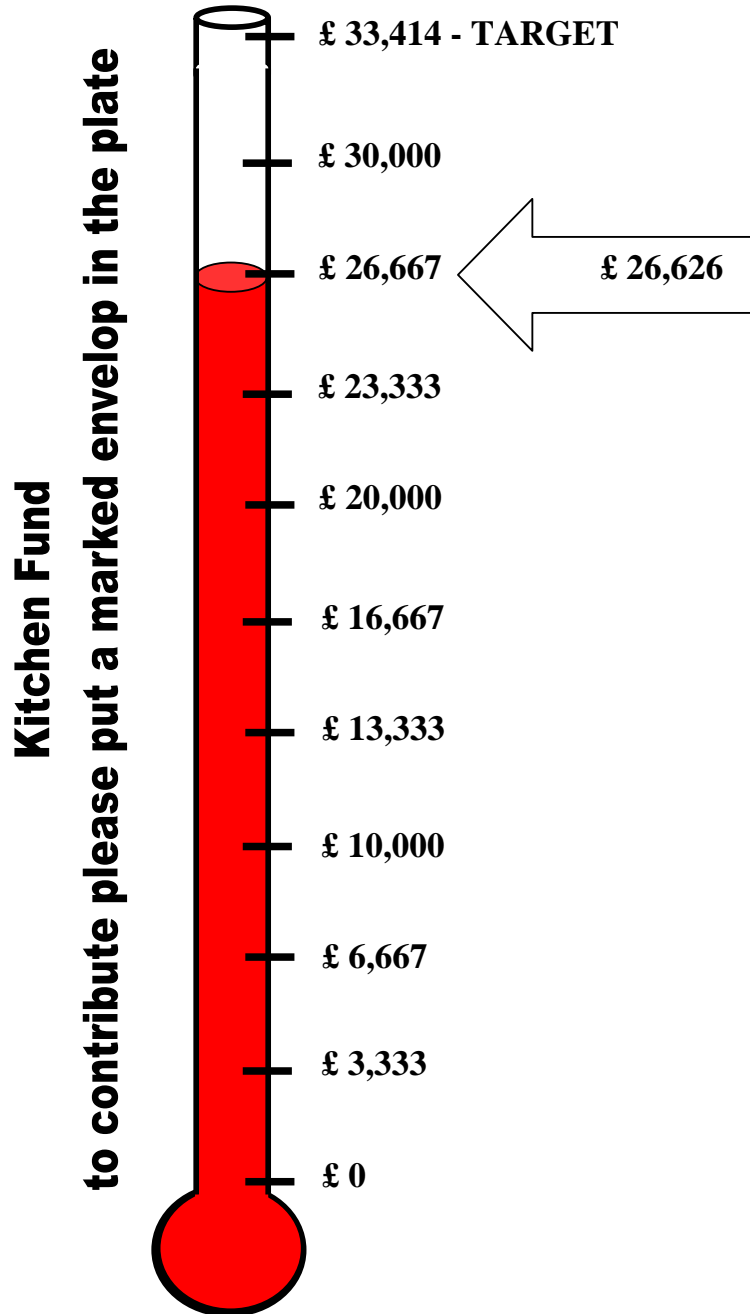
The mentoring scheme is up and running in the church. Anyone else interested in being mentored should contact Mary MacMillan, Mary Campbell, Bob Akroyd, Alex MacDonald or Eric Mackay.

### **Buccleuch Women's Fellowship Fundraiser**

Thank you to Mary and Mairi for organising a great curry night last month. The total raised for the kitchen renovation came to £1,011.

## **WONDERFULLY MADE**

In the absence of the usual article entitled “Wonderfully Made”, the reader is referred to the pictures on the front cover of this edition for reason enough to give praise to our God who is good above all measure.



<b>BUCCLEUCH &amp; GREYFRIARS FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND</b> <b>Our identity, mission and vision</b>	
<b>Identity</b>	Local congregation of the Free Church of Scotland which is a branch of the universal Church of Jesus Christ
<b>Mission</b>	To worship God together To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ To care for and encourage one another To show practical compassion for those in need
<b>Vision</b>	<p>A church which is characterised by friendliness towards, and genuine interest in, all those who cross the door whether regularly or only once.</p> <p>Relevant-to-the-times, applied preaching and enjoyable worship.</p> <p>An increasing proportion of those attending committed to Buccleuch as central to their life and Christian witness.</p> <p>A congregation increasingly united as a “family” through fellowship and through working together in the “in-reach” and “outreach” work of the congregation.</p> <p>A church that values all of the people who are associated with it and in particular one that appreciates its full-time ministers.</p> <p>A church with strong and effective leadership whose leaders lead by example and which equips its members to fulfil their calling as witnesses and servants.</p> <p>A church where the members gladly serve one another in love.</p>

**ROTAS****Crèche**

12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Neil Campbell	Flora MacPhail	Rebecca Macleod
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Evelyn MacDonald	Mairi Forsyth	Anne MacRae
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Kenny Macleod	Anne MacDonald	Norma
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Anne McIntosh	Jennifer Macleod	Sarah Lytle
9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Neil Campbell	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer

**Amplifier**

12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Stephen
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Rob
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Ed
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Graham

**Cleaning**

6 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Michael Bennett	Mairi Forsyth
13 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Kenny Macleod	Flora MacPhail
20 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Johnnie Macleod	Steve Willis
27 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Rebecca Copt	Anne Grant
4 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Rob/ Mary Bonne	

**Door Duty**

12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
19 <sup>th</sup> Oct	John MacRae	Ken MacKenzie
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Johnnie Macleod	Neil MacRae
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Hammer
9 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Dolina Macdonald	Willie Lytle

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

<b>Sunday</b>	11:00am	6:30pm
12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald (guest Service)
19 <sup>TH</sup> Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
26 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
2 <sup>nd</sup> Nov	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald

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
*Bethany House Outreach	8-10pm – contact Bob Akroyd (664 6306)

**Tuesday**

Bible Study for Men	7:30-8:30am
Informal English Class	2-3:30pm – contact Ena Mackay
Deacons' Court	7:30pm as announced

**Wednesday**

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

**Thursday**

*Eight-a-side Football	9:30pm – contact William Lytle
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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