

Buccleuch & Greyfriars FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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

Rotas



Bill and Sheila Anderson

May 2009

Minister's Update

I want to thank all those who prayed for me when I had the opportunity to debate “Does God exist?” with Richard Dawkins recently. That was much appreciated and I did feel that I was upheld and enabled to keep calm and trusting, in spite of the obvious tensions of a situation like that.

Richard Dawkins was a lecturer in zoology and latterly Professor for the Public Understanding of Science at Oxford University until he retired in 2008. Since the 1970s he has become a well known author of books explaining the life sciences to a popular audience, such as *The Selfish Gene* (1976), but his publications became increasingly atheistic – *The Blind Watchmaker* (1986), *River out of Eden* (1995), *Climbing Mount Improbable* (1996), *A Devil's Chaplain* (2003) and, most well-known, *The God Delusion* (2006). He has also produced various film documentaries including *The Root of All Evil?* for Channel 4. Richard Dawkins is not to be confused with Stephen Hawking (some do confuse them), the world renowned

theoretical physicist who suffers from neuromuscular dystrophy. You might wonder how such an unlikely debate came about. The RME department in Charleston Academy, Inverness, had previously hosted a debate between a creationist speaker and a local Church of Scotland minister concerning Genesis. One of the parents protested that having two Christians speak about such matters was biased. She said that Richard Dawkins was a personal friend, and she was sure he could be persuaded to come to speak at the school.

In looking for a Christian speaker who was free and willing to debate with Dawkins on that occasion, they eventually contacted me (on Principal Donald Macleod's recommendation). At first I thought it might have been an April Fool (!) but it turned out to be genuine.

I found it difficult to prepare for a number of reasons, not least being I had no idea which of the many arguments Professor Dawkins uses in his books he would concentrate on. However, in the end I decided to try to answer only a couple of these and focus

more on the evidence for God's existence.

We received a warm welcome from the RME teacher and the Headmaster and were made to feel at ease. As we had a little time before the debate, we had opportunity for conversation, but Professor Dawkins appeared rather reserved and preoccupied (somehow I don't think it was anxiety about debating with the great Alex MacDonald!), but just before the students came in, he asked me about the Free Church and whether it was a Calvinistic Church and believed in predestination! We were just getting going when the students started arriving, but I did manage to recommend the writings of his fellow scientist, the late Professor Donald Mackay of Keele University. Perhaps he will follow up on that.

Around 70 fifth and sixth year Philosophy and Science students attended the debate and it was chaired by the RME teacher. Professor Dawkins spoke first and he presented several of his arguments from *The God Delusion*. He argued that just because you can't disprove God's existence that

doesn't mean he exists. He said that it is possible to believe in some sort of creative intelligence but that is not the same as God. He did not accept that the atrocities perpetrated by people like Stalin and Hitler was down to their atheism. His main argument was that of course it is extremely improbable that the universe came about by chance, but the only alternative is not the existence of God. He believes that Darwinian natural selection (which relates to the evolution of life on earth) can provide a key to understanding how the universe could have reached its present complexity, given enough time. His final argument, which is his main argument in *"The God Delusion"*, was "Who designed the designer?" (Who made God?)

In reply I made reference to the ad campaign "There's probably no God. Now stop worrying and enjoy your life" and how Bertrand Russell's atheism did not prevent him being extremely anxious about the nuclear threat destroying the world. I then attempted to answer two of Dawkins' arguments: that belief in God is

anti-science, and his “Who designed the designer?” argument. The former I answered along the lines of my recent sermon “Science has disproved God” (available online) and the latter by showing it is a straw man argument – the Christian does not believe in a created God.

I then presented three evidences for the existence of God: human rationality, morality and Jesus. Most of this material is again available online in my sermons on “The Bible isn’t reliable”, “Jesus can’t be God”, “Miracles are impossible” and “Science has disproved God”. In addition the notes I used for the debate are also available online at www.buccleuchfreechurch.org, so if you’re interested, you can get them there.

The students asked searching and intelligent questions of both of us and the staff seemed well pleased with the debate and how it had gone. The impression was that my own contribution was appreciated.

Who knows what may come of such an interaction, but if it even showed the students that there are intelligent

arguments for God’s existence, it will have served some useful purpose. Please continue to pray, and also remember David Robertson, Dundee, in prayer as he has many such opportunities to debate these questions in a variety of situations as a result of his book “The Dawkins Letters”.

Alex MacDonald

Assistant Minister’s Update

I was asked today by a young man, “How do I become a Christian?” His life has not been an easy one but over the years he has met Christians in his community and in prison. He went onto tell me that he believes in God and believes that Jesus died for his sins. “Is that enough?” He asked.

In response to his questions, I tried my best to explain the most famous verse in the Bible, “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16) In sending Jesus, God has done everything that is necessary for us to be forgiven and given eternal life. So becoming a Christian is quite easy – simply believing in Jesus. Taking God

at his word, all that is needed is a simple faith in Jesus.

I tried to be as honest as I could with this young man telling him that being a Christian is a real challenge. When asked, "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: " 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbour as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments." (Matthew 22: 36 – 40) Jesus sets a very high standard for his followers and he demands a change of heart, a change of mind and a change of life. But Jesus gives us everything we need for this transformation: resources, strength, guidance and wisdom. As the Apostle Paul stated, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:13) "And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19)

If you are not yet a Christian simply take God's word as a promise. He means

what he says and he will never yet you down if you trust him.

For those of us who have already trusted let's take seriously Jesus' call to discipleship (Mark 8:34 – 38)

"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me and for the gospel will save it. What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, yet forfeit his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul? If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels."

Yours faithfully, Bob Akroyd

May Communion Weekend, 29th – 31st May

We next celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday 31st May. Rev Colin Morison, Elgin, will be our preacher for the weekend. There are pre communion services on Friday 29th May and Saturday 30th May at 7.30pm. The services on Sunday are at their usual times of 11:00 am and 6.30pm.

If you are interested in joining the congregation by professing faith in Jesus Christ or by transferring your membership from another congregation, please contact Alex or Bob or any of the elders in the congregation. We would be delighted to welcome new members into the congregation.

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

Dr Rahmat Hussain

We were saddened to hear of the recent death of Rahmat's wife. Rahmat, who works in North India and is supported by our International Missions Board, has spoken in Buccleuch

in recent years.

It was suggested to the Deacons' Court that we in Buccleuch should send a gift to Rahmat to express our support and sympathy. The Deacon's Court decided that there should be a collection at the close of the services on Sunday 10th May for Rahmat. If you cannot be present then, please place your donation in a marked envelope in the collection plate in the next couple of weeks.

Christianity Explored Support

The Deacon's Court recently received a letter from Rico Tice of Christianity Explored. It is an appeal for a donation to help match a promised grant of £400,000 which they intend to use for creating a new DVD and a youth DVD.

Many connected with the congregation have benefited from Christianity Explored, and the Deacons' Court invite donations for this excellent cause. Please place your donations in a marked envelope in the collection plate.

Objections to the Christian Faith

Over the coming months, Alex intends to preach a series of

sermons on various objections to the Christian faith. He hopes to deal with the following objections on these dates (all at the morning service, 11am). Any change of date or subject will be notified on the website – www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk

1. The Bible isn't reliable - 8.3.09
 2. Jesus can't be God - 22.3.09
 3. Miracles are impossible - 29.3.09
 4. Science has disproved God - 5.4.09
 5. Christianity is only one religion - 26.4.09
 6. Religion has caused wars - 3.5.09
 7. Suffering disproves God - 17.5.09
 8. A loving God can't send people to hell - 21.6.09
- (Sermons 1 to 5 are now available online)

Side Door

Recently there have been a couple of instances when people have knocked on the side door during the service. On both these occasions this door was opened to ascertain the situation.

Please do not answer the side door during the service! The reasons for this are:

1. It causes an interruption of the worship and, depending on the caller, this could escalate into a serious disruption.

2. It could be unsafe for those opening the door, as it is not known who is on the other side.

It is the responsibility of those on door duty to attend to such situations by exiting the main door and approaching the callers from outside.

The Deacons' Court

Summer Student Placement

From 18th May – 29th June, Alex Stewart, a second-year student at the Free Church College, will be on placement here at Buccleuch. Please make every effort to make Alex and his wife Florica and their children Anna Maria and David feel welcome in Buccleuch and pray that this experience would be both a blessing to him and to our own congregation

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Guest Service

The next guest service will be on Sunday 31st May at 6.30pm when Colin Morison will be our guest preacher. 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.

Congregational Outing

The congregational outing is to be on Saturday 20th June to Vogrie Country Park, Midlothian (near Pathhead). Lifts will be available. More information to follow nearer the time.

Willie Lytle

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 13th May. We have started a new series on the life of David entitled Transformation: Developing a Heart for God by Rebecca Manley Pippert. Copies are available in the hall – please help yourself. This study is part of the Christian Basics Bible

Studies.

The six studies are as follows:

- 1 From Fear to Faith
1 Samuel 17:1-50
- 2 From Envy to Compassion**
1 Samuel 20:30-42
- 3 From Hatred to Love
Psalms 52
- 4 From Rebellion to Submission, *1 Samuel 24*
- 5 From Anger to Meekness
1 Samuel 25:18-35
- 6 From Despair to Hope
Psalms 18:1-6, 16-19, 46-50

We will be using Study 2 for the next meeting. 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.

The Hosts and Venues for the next Bible study are:

North West

John & Anne Macrae

East

Bob & Heather Akroyd

South East

Fergus & Dolina Macdonald

South

Willie and Anne Lytle

South West

Donald & Joan MacDonald

Buccleuch Church Hall

Please note the change of venue for the south group this month.

Training Day For Disclosed Workers with Children

CCPAS are running a series of training days for Disclosed workers with Children and there is one scheduled for Edinburgh on 30th May 2009 at Morningside Baptist church from 9:30am to 4:00pm.

This course is almost identical to the one which they ran a few years ago and the local course we ran ourselves in the Church, all based on the video "Facing the Unthinkable". Those who have attended any of these previous course do not necessarily need to attend unless they so desire, but it is important that all Disclosed Personnel who have not attended a Course, make an effort to be at this training day. There is a lot of advice and knowledge imparted on Child

Protection, what to look for and what action to take etc.

The course costs £19.50 and anyone going can book on line at www.ccpas.co.uk

Anyone who is going please notify John MacRae or Roddy MacLeod in order that our records of trained personnel can be updated.

John MacRae

Youth Fellowship

The Buccleuch YF is 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.

Joint Missionary Meeting (3rd June) - Christian Witness to Israel

On Wednesday 3rd June at 7.30pm, Christian Witness to Israel will holds its annual meeting at Buccleuch. Please

make every effort to attend this meeting to find out more about the exciting work of sharing the Gospel with Jewish people.

Prayer meeting

The First Wednesday – 6th May
@ 7.30pm Church Hall

On the first Wednesday of each month at the usual time of 7.30pm, we are encouraging the entire congregation to join together in prayer in the hall. If you can attend only one prayer meeting in the month, please make every effort to attend this meeting. If you don't usually attend the midweek meeting, please attend this meeting. The focus will be on prayer with a reading and a short Bible message. The meeting will finish promptly at 8.30pm. We as a session realise that there are legitimate pressures on many in the congregation. We do not wish to add to these burdens but rather to find a way to encourage regular and concerted prayer in the congregation.

Of course we will continue to have our regular Prayer Meeting and Bible studies and Home Bible Studies on the other Wednesday evenings and each Saturday

morning at 9am we will have our prayer breakfast where all are welcome to share food fellowship and prayer.

Bob Akroyd

Joint Service at Leith

On Sunday 10th May at 6.30pm, the three Edinburgh Congregations will meet together at Leith Free Church, Casselbank Street for a joint Evening Service. The preacher will be Rev Alasdair Macleod, Crossbost, Isle of Lewis.

Please note that on this date, there will be no evening service at Buccleuch .

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session Meetings for 2009:

5th May

15th June (Monday)

15th September

12th October (Monday)

Deacons' Court Meetings for 2009:

23rd June

18th August

13th October

15th December

Meetings of the **Deacons' Court** are generally held on Tuesdays, and **will be in the**

manse (pro tem) at 7:30 pm, and Kirk Session meetings are also held at the same time in the manse, except at Communion.

Mentoring

If you have recently decided that you wish to be mentored, then please contact Alex MacDonald, Bob Akroyd, Mary Macmillan, Mary Campbell or Eric Mackay.

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.

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!

Ladies' Bible Study

The next Ladies' Bible Study will be at Esther's home on 15th May at 7:30pm, and on Saturday 6th June it will be at Anne MacDonald's. All are

welcome.

Toddler Group

Have you pre-school children? Do you like cake? If so come to Toddlers on Friday mornings 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

Causey Project

The project is at an early stage yet, but concerns a proposal to change permanently the layout of the area at the front of Buccleuch including the traffic island. Alex is at the moment a member of the Steering Committee for the West Crosscauseway Association (WCCA) which is responsible for the project. It would be good to have input from other members of the congregation as well. The AGM of the WCCA is on Monday 11th May at 7pm in the Southside Community Centre, and this would give you an insight into the work of the Association. In particular WCCA is looking for a Treasurer!

Edinburgh City Mission

Between June and September this year Edinburgh City Mission will be running a Christian Heritage Centre on the Royal Mile. The purpose for this will be to communicate the Christian faith in word and deed through an information desk, exhibition of the spiritual history of the Royal Mile, Christian book-table, Celtic Tour and media presentation. You do not have to be a historian or expert to serve Jesus in this outreach, but just have a desire to love people and share the Gospel in a friendly way.

We are aiming to run the Christian Heritage Centre based at St Columba's Free Church between June and September two days a week. If you would like to help out as a volunteer one afternoon a week (or more), we would love to hear from you soon. Training will be given.
 Paul James-Griffiths (ECM)
 Yours faithfully Ann Laidlaw
 Edinburgh City Mission
 9 Pilrig Street
 Edinburgh
 EH6 5AH
 0131 554 6140
www.ecm.org.uk

Future Group

New Futures Group: this free support group for those between jobs or facing redundancy is being run on a Wednesday morning from 11am to 12 noon in Charlotte Chapel Lounge by Business Matters, as part of their service to those in the businesses and offices in Edinburgh. They have been able to provide a series of excellent talks on various aspects of dealing with the difficult situation of redundancy and are about to start on the third cycle through these topics next Wednesday 6th May. Information is available at <http://www.businessmattersedinburgh.com/events> or by phoning Iain Archibald

Please contact Donald Forsyth for further information.

**COMMUNITY WORKER
VACANCY**

Kirkcaldy Free Church is seeking to appoint a full-time Community Worker to work in the area around its church building.

The successful candidate will be responsible for a wide range of duties including

planning, implementing and leading congregational activities in the local area, developing existing relationships with support services, and be the church's point of contact for community residents.

You must be able to demonstrate the necessary enthusiasm, flexibility and experience to work under your own initiative.

As you will be working in a Christian environment, it is essential that applicants are sympathetic to the mission and ethos of the Free Church of Scotland and have a 'live' church connection.

An application and job profile can be obtained from:

Mr. Phillip Klein,
Clerk to the Deacons' Court
9 Mitchell Place
Kirkcaldy
KY1 2PB
kfc.deacons.court@googlemail.com

The closing date for applications is 5th June 2009.

Fund Raiser in support of Amica Pregnancy Crisis Centre

A "Book Evening" is planned for Thursday 28th May from

7:00pm to 9:00pm in St Columba's Free Church Hall. Coffee and cake will be served and there will be a focus on BOOKS. Following on from the success last year of a similar event held in Buccleuch Free Church, there will be several book readings by local authors in one area, and there will be stalls with all kinds of books for sale, including children's books. There will also be cards for sale. A small admission charge of £2.00 will cover the cost of refreshments.

This is a great opportunity to buy holiday reading for the summer.

You can support the event in the following ways:

- Donate second hand books
- Provide home baked cake to accompany the coffee
- Invite friends to come along
- Offer to help serve in the kitchen or at a stall

Please contact Liz Ferguson for more details.

Scholarship for Colegio San Andres, Lima

The proposal to set up a

scholarship to enable a student to attend Colegio San Andres to undertake their secondary education, starting in March 2010 and lasting for 5 years, has received encouraging initial support from the congregation.

The cost will be approximately US\$2,000 p.a. Subject to variations in exchange rate and trying to take inflation into account, this will amount to some £8,000 over the five year period. To date £3,000 has been pledged (including a £50 p.a. pledge from the Sunday School), with £700 of this already having been donated. We are very grateful to those who have supported so far, and would ask other individuals or groups who are of a mind to support to contact Eric Mackay (in person, using the blue slip provided in the church, email Eric.Mackay@pet.hw.ac.uk or txt 07855 326 691). It is our hope to be able to contact the headmaster, Clive Bailey, by our summer to indicate that we have full support for the project so that the process of candidate selection can be started.

Oswestry Camp

We desperately need a main

cook for our Oswestry senior camp running from Thu 2nd to Fri 10th July. They would need to be able to cook for about 60 people. We have one definite assistant cook and another probable but they don't feel confident being main cook.

Any help would be greatly appreciated

Thanks, Catriona Lamont

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Bereavement

Let us remember Anna Macdonald in our prayers. Her sister died suddenly last month after a long illness.

Illness

Please remember Elizabeth Mackenzie who has been unable to attend church for a number of weeks due to ill health.

Farewell

Michael Bennett has moved south to a new job. Stephen Hammer interviewed him before he left.

Describe yourself in three words: Um...I don't know...academic?

Hobbies: hillwalking, reading, outdoor pursuits (canoeing, skiing).

Q: Where are you from?

A: Lincoln - born in Kent. I did my first degree at Loughborough and my second and third at Edinburgh.

Curiously, it's the same distance from home to Southampton as it is from home to Edinburgh!

Q: What's your new job?

A: "Senior Research Scientist in Image Processing" in NHS Medical Physics in Southampton.

Q: When did you start going to Buccleuch?

A: After going to Mexico with Steven (Hammer) in late 2003. It was all Steven's fault! My first experience of a Presbyterian church was in Spanish while in Mexico at a conference with Steven. Steven nervously asked me along to church.

Q: How long have you been a Christian?

A: I don't think I ever really wasn't a Christian. I used to go to church when I was younger. For a long time I didn't really do the church thing - just while at home with my parents. This carried on until I started to go to Buccleuch. I felt I always was a Christian but it was a background thing. I didn't think about it much then started to

take it more seriously.

Q: Do you have any defining memories of Buccleuch?

A: The fact that it takes so long to leave after a service! At other churches it's so not like that - at others people can't get out fast enough. Also, I couldn't visit without someone talking to me.

Q: What will you miss most about Buccleuch?

A: Fellowship. Definitely. Buccleuch is the thing I'll miss the most about Edinburgh. I'll miss the "extra-curricular" stuff e.g. men's bible study, district bible studies, Forum, Christianity Explored.

West Highland Way

Ryan is a gentle 19 year old young man who has autism spectrum disorder and learning difficulties. He is non verbal and sometimes finds it difficult to communicate his needs and to make sense of our world. One of his favourite pleasures in life is to walk in the countryside. He loves the freedom and the happiness he feels when outdoors. Ryan attends Autism Initiatives in Edinburgh and in May intends to walk the West Highland Way to raise funds for both his day Centres and a new wheelchair

for one of his peers who also attends the Centres. So as well as walking for a very worthy cause, Ryan will also benefit from the pleasure and happiness this will bring to him.

Ryan is Rhona Gallagher's son and Kathleen's brother. If anybody would like to sponsor Ryan please see the sign up sheet in the hall or give direct using the following tax efficient web site:

<http://www.justgiving.com/westhighland-way>

WFM project

Thank you to all who gave so generously to this years WFM project. A total of £793.68 was raised.

A big thank you to the Sunday School, who raised £106.47 through the smartie tube appeal.

Thank You

Grace Fraser wrote to thank the congregation for their donation to the Southern Support Mission Group of £171.81.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

If you have any unwanted shoe boxes over the next few months please pass them on to Dolina "Imelda" Macdonald.

Use of Church Hall

Since the Arch Language School have ceased to use the Hall, the Deacons' Court are exploring ways in which we can make good use of the facilities we have for the work of the gospel. Any suggestions you may have should be passed on to Alex or Bob or Ian Urquhart (Clerk of The Deacons' Court) and will receive careful consideration.

A note about Hit Squad From Ian Urquhart

You may not know that I am a volunteer (through Rotary) and a director of Fresh Start (representing the Free Church). The function of the Hit Squad is to provide practical support with painting and decorating. Through guidance from volunteers, new tenants learn new skills that will enable them to establish and maintain their new home. Anybody who is interested in volunteering can get more info from the web site www.freshstartweb.org.uk or speak to Ian Urquhart

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

Golden Wedding

Congratulations to Bill and Sheila Anderson who were married in Buccleuch fifty years ago on the 15th of May. Bill will celebrate his 79th birthday on the 24th of May.

Wedding

Congratulations to Pete Wands and Debbie Bonthron on their marriage in Buccleuch on Saturday 2nd May.

Congratulations to Rebecca and Jonathan on their marriage on Saturday 2nd May in Massachusetts.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Janey and Mairi whose birthday is on 1st May, and Ailis whose birthday is on 21st May.

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 by an adult at all times.

This last point is intended to be taken seriously. Last week one of the three carved chairs in the precentor's box was damaged after the morning service. It is great to see the children at church, and enjoying being at church. Their being in the main part of the church means that there is a lower risk of them having a hot drink spilled on them in the hall, or of running out onto the street.

However, it is not good if their capers result in furniture being damaged. Also, if they are clambering along the rail around the precentor's box or their activities result in bits of wood being broken, then there is perhaps a risk to their own safety.

Hence there is some merit in the suggestion that parents supervise their children, and perhaps make the precentor's box out of bounds.

Anyone for Tennis?

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

Womens' Fellowship

No report, but the bread made at the last meeting does look rather good, doesn't it?



Financial Update

The target for personal offerings for 2009 has been set at £105,000 by the Deacons' Court. This is 5% more than we gave last year. This is how much we need to pay for our necessary expenses in 2009.

Any donations for special collections are not included in the target, eg donations to Tearfund, WFM etc (which are shown in the "funds other" column below).

The offerings received by the end of March were about £1,300 below the target (for the first three months of 2009), and are exactly £63 less than the total offerings received during the same period last year!

As always, there are a lot of bills to pay and commitments to meet! Hopefully, if we can all contribute as much as possible, then personal givings to Buccleuch will increase by enough to reach the 5% increased target and allow us to meet our commitments this year.

Thanks for your continued support,

Alasdair Black

Statement of financial activities**January to March 2009**

	General Fund	Fabric Fund	Special Millennium	Funds Other	Total
Gross ordinary income	£21,576		£3,521	£4,503	£29,600
Transfer to fabric fund	-£2,158	£5,269		-£3,111	£0
Net ordinary income	£19,418	£5,269	£3,521	£1,392	£29,600
Expenses	-£8,357	-£574	-£3,521	-£172	-£12,624
Surplus before EDO and central funds	£11,061	£4,695	£0	£1,220	£16,976
Extra-denominational objects					£0
Church funds	-£7,000				-£7,000
Surplus for the year	£4,061	£4,695	£0	£1,220	£9,976
Opening balance - at 1st Jan 09	£0	£14,294	£0	£1,008	£15,302
Closing balance - at 31st Mar 09	£4,061	£18,989	£0	£2,228	£25,278

Balance sheet as at 31/3/09	General	Fabric	Millennium	Other	Total
<i>Fixed assets</i>					
Guardwell Crescent	£146,775				£146,775
Loan from Bank of Scotland	-£87,132				-£87,132
Loan from Bob & Heather Akroyd	-£46,712				-£46,712
Fixed assets at cost less debt	£12,931	£0	£0	£0	£12,931
<i>Other items</i>					
Owed to Alex for expenses	-£136				-£136
Owed by Bob for expenses	£625				£625
Amounts owed to the Congregation	£1,610				£1,610
Cash	-£7,881	£17,228		£2,228	£11,575
Accruals	-£3,087	£1,761			-£1,326
Closing balance	£4,061	£18,989	£0	£2,228	£25,278

Other special funds comprise

Willie Raeburn - benevolent fund	£545
Sunday school	£397
WFM	£68
Congregational outing	£40
South Africa mission trip	£501
Colegio San Andres	£672
Other	£4
	<u>£2,228</u>

WONDERFULLY MADE

Infrared Rays

Infrared rays are waves of light that are too long to be seen by the human eye. In the spectrum of white light the longest waves the eye can see are those of red light – it takes about 28 million of these to stretch a distance of one inch. Some infrared rays are 150 times this length.

Infrared rays are given off strongly by hot objects and are often called heat rays. An ordinary electric bulb sends out almost 20 times as much infrared as visible light whereas a steam radiator in older buildings does not give off sufficient visible light to be seen in a dark room. Near infrared radiation is given off in large amounts by molten metal surfaces in furnaces and is responsible for the prevalence of cataract among furnace workers.

Many of the uses of infrared rays depend on their ability to pass through materials that block ordinary light rays, and to produce heat inside them. Doctors use special infrared lamps to treat skin

diseases and sore muscles.

Newly painted car bodies are moved slowly through a tunnel lined with infrared lamps that dry the paint in a few minutes. Houses, and churches like Buccleuch & Greyfriars, can be heated by infrared rays from electrical wall panels.

Any warm object, including the human body, gives off infrared rays. Special cameras, sensitive to these rays, can take photographs in complete darkness. Surveillance cameras and cameras for use in nature photography can take pictures without normal light, but depending on infrared rays produced by objects within their range.

A night-sight is a sighting device on a camera or a rifle that enables it to be used at night. There is a telescopic image tube with an infrared source. Its effectiveness depends on the reflection of invisible infrared rays from the object being viewed. The telescopic image tube picks up the reflected image and converts it into a visible one. This has been used effectively in war situations, but naturalists

have used equipment with this facility to learn much about animal movement at night or underground.

In the Creation all these electromagnetic waves would be included under what was made on the first creation day and would include other aspects that may be in the process of discovery or not yet discovered, but covered by the statement, "Let there be light".

WMM

ELECTRO-MAGNETIC WAVES

COSMIC RAYS:

- From outer space

GAMMA RAYS:

- Given off by radium
- Used in treating cancer

X RAYS:

- Penetrate the human body

ULTRAVIOLET RAYS:

- Produce sun tans

VISIBLE LIGHT:

- Eyes respond only to light waves

INFRARED RAYS:

- Heat rays bake enamel

SHORT-WAVE BROADCASTING

LONG-WAVE BROADCASTING

ALTERNATING ELECTRIC CURRENT

- Produced from generators

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**

10 th May	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer
17 th May	Neil Campbell	Flora MacPhail	Rebecca Macleod
24 th May	Evelyn MacDonald	Mairi Forsyth	Anne Macrae
31 st May	Kenny Macleod	Norma Maclean	Jennifer Macleod
7 th June	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer

Amplifier

10 th May	Ed
17 th May	Graham
24 th May	Shanana
31 st May	Ken

Cleaning

16 th May	Heather Akroyd	Anne MacDonald
23 rd May	Kenny MacLeod	Flora MacPhail
30 th May	Rob MacDonald	Stephen Allison
6 th June	Rob/Mary Bonne	Steve Willis

Door Duty

10 th May	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
17 th May	John Macrae	Ken MacKenzie
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
24 th May	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Neil Macrae	Rebecca Copty
31 st May	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Allison
7 th June	Donald Forsyth	Dolina Macdonald
	Mairi Forsyth	Willie Lytle

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday	11:00am	6:30pm
10 th May	Bob Akroyd	Joint service at Leith
17 th May	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
24 th May	Bob Akroyd	Alex Stewart
29 th May	Colin Morison preparatory service at 7:30pm	
30 th May	Colin Morison preparatory service at 7:30pm	
31 st May	Colin Morison Communion	Colin Morison (guest service)

Crèche and Junior Sunday School during morning service.

*Youth Fellowship meets fortnightly - see Kenny MacLeod for details

Forum meets after the evening service - see Jenny Somerville for details

Monday

*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 nd Wed of month, except July & August)

Thursday

*Eight-a-side Football 9:30pm – contact Finlay Macleod

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

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