

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

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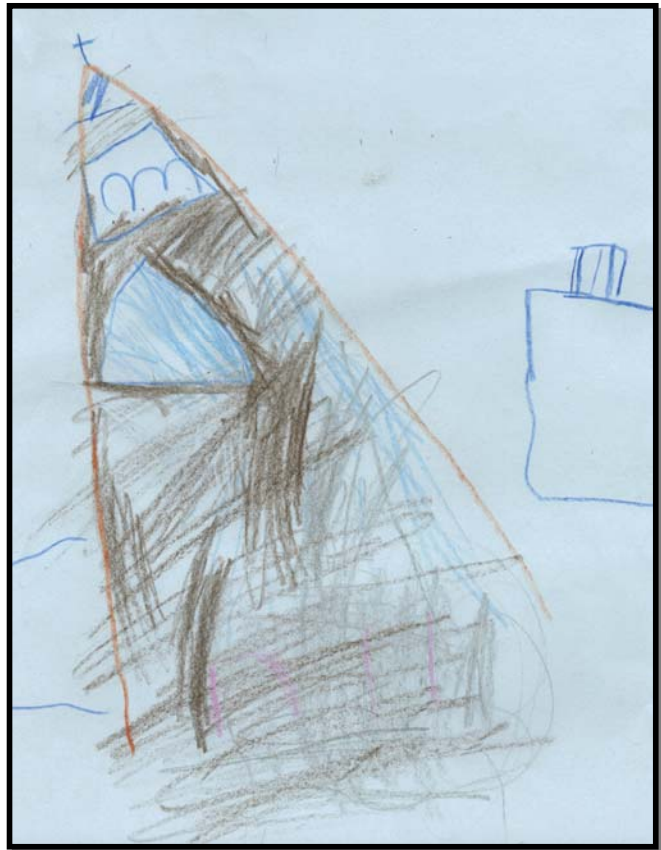
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by Carys Lytle (aged five years)

September 2009

Ministers' Updates

Minister's Update

Compassion has been much in the news in recent days - as a result of the statement made by Kenny MacAskill, the Justice Secretary, when he ordered the release of Lockerbie bomber, Abdelbaset Al Megrahi.

Of course, compassionate release has been part of the Scottish justice system for a good number of years and several terminally ill convicted criminals have been released because of it. None of course as high profile as Al Megrahi.

On 31st January 2001, he was convicted, by a panel of Scottish Judges sitting in a special court at Camp Zeist in the Netherlands, of 270 counts of murder for his part in the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, on 21st December 1988. Megrahi was sentenced to life imprisonment.

A few months ago he was diagnosed with terminal cancer, and on 20th August his release on compassionate grounds was announced.

Of course, this has provoked a furore on both sides of the Atlantic, and strongly held views are expressed on

both sides of the argument.

For myself, I found Kenny Macaskill's statement very encouraging and made me proud to be Scottish.

There were two things that stood out. First, his recognition that there is a Higher Power than any human court. He said: "Mr Al Megrahi now faces a sentence imposed by a higher power. It is one that no court, in any jurisdiction, in any land, could revoke or overrule. It is terminal, final and irrevocable. He is going to die."

Second, he saw the basis of compassion, even in the face of ruthless and remorseless terrorism, in our Scottish heritage of faith and humanity: "The perpetration of an atrocity and outrage cannot and should not be a basis for losing sight of who we are, the values we seek to uphold, and the faith and beliefs by which we seek to live... Compassion and mercy are about upholding the beliefs that we seek to live by, remaining true to our values as a people - no matter the severity of the provocation or the atrocity perpetrated."

That this decision has been misunderstood and misrepresented both by

American politicians and by Islamic fundamentalists, leads me to conclude that it must have been on the right lines. Compassion, mercy, grace have always been difficult for the human race to grasp, but they are at the very heart of the Christian gospel, which was the great influence on our Scottish heritage.

It is interesting that there is a special word used for showing compassion in the New Testament. It means to be moved from the depths of your being in compassion and pity. What is notable is that it is used only in the Gospels, and then (except in three instances) of Jesus himself.

Jesus is moved by the spiritual lostness of the crowds (Matt. 9:37,38). He is moved by people's hunger and pain (feeding the 5000, healing the blind, lepers and others). He is moved by sorrow and grief (the death of the widow of Nain's son).

By the very use of the word in the NT, our attention is being drawn to Jesus. Charles Wesley was right in his hymn "Love Divine" - "Jesus, thou art all compassion / Pure unbounded__love thou art".

Jesus is at the heart of the Christian gospel and at the heart of Jesus is compassion. This is not some optional extra to the Christian faith - it is of its essence

I mentioned that there are three places where the word is not used of Jesus. But in those three instances it is used by Jesus in three of his best known parables. And the three uses are very revealing.

It is used of the compassion of the King to his servant in massive debt (Matt.18:27). It is used of the compassion of the Samaritan to the dying traveller (Luke 10:33). And it is used of the compassion of the father to the prodigal son (Luke 15:20).

In each case it is counterintuitive - the action seems the opposite of what we would expect in the circumstances. It is compassion to the undeserving. Jesus is teaching that compassion for the undeserving is at the heart of the Christian message. We can all understand compassion for those who love us and haven't hurt us, but Jesus taught and lived a different compassion - for those who didn't deserve. It involves the

overcoming and removing of some kind of offence - debt, hurt or prejudice.

This is the amazing gospel. God has compassion on sinners - those who have rebelled against him, broken his law and reviled or ignored him.

But this compassion is more than a feeling - it involves action. The Father ran to the prodigal son, the Samaritan helped the traveller, the King cancelled his servant's debt. This is the essence of the Christian gospel.

It goes far beyond what happened with Al Megrahi. He is still guilty before the law, he is not pardoned. The gospel is that God in his compassion grants you a full pardon, he cancels your debt, he sets you free. Jesus prayed, "Father, forgive them". He pardoned the criminal on the cross.

Who bears the cost of such extravagant compassion? The king did, the Samaritan did, the father did. Jesus did!

Have you any idea of the debt you owe God, of the offence you have caused? Plead for mercy and have your debt cancelled. Return to the Father and be welcomed unconditionally.

And then knowing such compassion, be compassionate! Jesus expects those who have been shown compassion to show compassion (Matt. 18:33,35).

Kenny MacAskill spoke of the sentence of a Higher Power - referring to Al Megrahi's death. But there is a Higher Court before which we must all appear. It is a Court that features little in the thinking of our age, or in the decisions of politicians or the discussions of the media. But it is a Court that no power on earth can overrule.

It is the judgement seat of Christ. Yes, that same Christ who showed compassion to the hurt and helpless, who in his great compassion died for the guilty and undeserving. On that great day he will be your Judge, and you will have to explain to him whether you responded to his compassion or not.

If you have never responded before, respond now! "I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called you son... But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him

and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.”

Alex MacDonald

Assistant Minister's Update

Homeward bound. The bags are almost packed, the boarding passes are printed and by the time you read this we will be in New Jersey enjoying summer weather!

As a new school year begins and a new University term commences, please pray for our congregation. Pray that we would be strengthened in our faith and filled with joy that comes from knowing Jesus and believing in his Gospel. Pray too that God would be pleased to use us to reach out to those who don't know Jesus and to reach in to those who need help and support within our own number.

Thank you for your love, support and prayers in these past several months. I look forward to my return to Edinburgh, rested, refreshed and maybe even tanned.

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

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Communion

We celebrate the Lord's Supper at the evening service on Sunday 27th September. Bob Akroyd will conduct the Communion service at 6.30pm. If you are interested in joining the congregation by professing faith in Jesus Christ or by transferring your membership from another congregation, the session would be delighted to meet with you. Please speak with Alex or Bob or any of the elders prior to the service.

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.

Opening Service For the College

The Opening Service for the new session at the Free Church College takes place on Monday evening, 7th September at 7.30 pm in the Presbytery Hall. The address will be given by Professor Mackay. This is a public meeting and all are welcome.

Home Bible Studies

The next home Bible study will be on Wednesday 9th September. We are continuing our studies in the life of David using the study guide Transformation: Developing a Heart for God by Rebecca Manley Pippert. We will be studying Chapter 4: From Rebellion to Submission, 1 Samuel 24.

The Hosts and Venues for the next Bible study are:

North West

Neil & Mary Campbell

East

Chris & Jenny Somerville

South East

Fergus & Dolina Macdonald

South

Donald & Mairi Forsyth

South West

Donald & Joan MacDonald

Buccleuch Church Hall

Guest Service - 20th September - Morning Service

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday Morning, 20th September at 11.00am when Bob Akroyd 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.

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.

Prayer meeting

The First Wednesday – 7th October - at 7.30pm in the 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

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Kirk Session Meetings for 2009:
21 September (Monday)*
27 September (communion)
12 October (Monday)
27-29 November (communion)

Deacons' Court Meetings for 2009:

26 October (Monday)*
15 December

Note that dates of meetings marked have changed

Meetings of the **Deacons' Court** are generally held on Tuesdays, and **in the hall** at 7:30 pm, and Kirk Session meetings are held at the same time, but in the manse, except at Communions.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving is scheduled for Sunday 18th October. A retiring collection is normally taken for Tear Fund.

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 Bible study will be on 26th September at Esther Black's home. The following

one will be held on Friday 30th October at Sarah Lytle's home, and then on Saturday 21st November at Rebecca Green's home. All meetings will start at 7:30pm.

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

New Futures Group

The purpose of this message is to draw to your attention the restart of our New Futures Group support group for those between jobs or facing redundancy which we have been running since the start of the year. Over this period we have managed to offer help and encouragement to more than 60 folk and have seen around a third of them move on into employment.

We restarted the programme again on Wednesday 2nd September and we would like to let anyone within your organisation who

might benefit from the group know about it.

Details are on our website www.businessmattersedinburgh.com/events/.

With thanks in anticipation of your help in this.
Eric Smith

International Students' Hospitality Scheme

In recent years the various religious groups throughout Edinburgh have offered invaluable support with the hospitality scheme for overseas students at the University of Edinburgh and this is greatly appreciated.

With an ever increasing number of students from overseas coming to the University, and with financial restrictions and distance preventing many of them from going home during their time at Edinburgh, there is a greater demand for hospitality.

Hence we would like to ask if any members of your congregation would be prepared to invite an overseas student to join them for a family meal or visit, either during term time or over the period of the University's general closure at Christmas and New Year. No

overnight accommodation is required. If you are interested in taking part, please contact Stephen.McFadden@ed.ac.uk or write to Stephen McFadden C/O 57 George Square, EH8 9JU or phone 0131 650 4296 and we will send out a form for your details.

It is with the support received from our contact with the churches throughout Edinburgh that we are able to place so many of the students who request hospitality each year.

Many thanks for your consideration.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Summer Student Placement - Appreciation

During May and June, Alex Stewart, a second-year student at the Free Church College, was on placement here at Buccleuch. We enjoyed the Alex's ministry and visits in the congregation. It was also great to meet Florica, Anna Maria and David. We wish them every blessing as Alex continues his studies at the Free Church College.

Congregational Directory – 2009/2010

The new congregational directory is being prepared for publication. If you are not currently in the directory and would like to be included, or if you are included in the directory and would like to be omitted, please let Bob know. If your address/phone number has changed or if you would like your e-mail address listed in our new directory, please contact Bob Akroyd by phone (664 6306) or by e-mail: bobandheather@talk21.com.

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

News of Old Friends

Many will remember Mingxiu and Jeff who worshipped with us in Buccleuch. Well, they are now proud parents of a little girl born on the 8th July.

Her name is Elizabeth LiXin Jiang. “Li” means beautiful and “Xin” means Faith. We are delighted for them and wish them every blessing.

Amplifier

Volunteers are still required for the amplifier rota. This is an

important work of the church. Please speak to Ed Forsyth if you are able to help out on a Sunday morning and evening.

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.

Maintenance Book

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

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

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

If anybody would like to fill a shoebox to support the Blythswood Shoe Box appeal please read the enclosed leaflet which will give you all the information or speak to ~~Emelda~~ Emelda Dolina.

And on the subject – here's a message from Blythswood.

As a Christian charity, based in Scotland, Blythswood Care combines the Christian message with practical help for those in need at home and abroad, regardless of their political or religious beliefs or ethnic origins.

You may be aware that our lorry calls in your area once a month so that local people can donate goods to Blythswood. I have attached the schedule for July to December 2009. Please encourage your congregation to bring clothing, foodstuffs, bric a brac, household goods, toys and small items of furniture to the lorry. We can only continue to distribute international aid and to supply our shops (which support our project work) if we receive a steady supply of goods. The attached schedule gives the collection venue, dates and time for your area. We are also once more approaching the 2009 Shoe Box Appeal. We are grateful to all the churches which support the Shoe Box Appeal enabling us to distribute over 130,000 shoeboxes in 2008 to people of all ages in Eastern European countries, India and Sri Lanka. Once more we are

reliant on all our supporters who kindly take the time to cover and fill a shoebox with items which, although largely basic, bring a lot of joy at Christmas time. The new shoebox leaflet for 2009 is now available. Please phone the Glasgow depot on 0141 882 0585 if you require leaflets; we encourage people to order as many leaflets as they plan to do shoeboxes, so that they have full instructions and a copy of the checklist to go on the top of each box.

Finally, if you would like to hear more about the work of Blythswood Care, please email jean.macsween@blythswood.org or phone 07970 863 533. We would be delighted to have the opportunity to speak to a group in the church and to update them on our work.

Thank you for supporting the work of Blythswood. Further information on Blythswood is available on www.blythswood.org.

Regards, Jean
Jean MacSween
Area Fundraising Coordinator
Blythswood Care, 35 - 37
Montrose Avenue, Hillington
Park, Glasgow G52 4LA
www.blythswood.org

BLYTHSWOOD CARE ROUND SOUTH COLLECTION**JULY TO DECEMBER 2009****Please help us to help others by donating goods to the lorry****Driver's mobile 07947 617047 Tel No 0141 882 0585**

The Round South truck accepts clothing, small items of furniture, bric a brac and foodstuffs.

All soft furnishings(eg beds, sofas, three piece suites etc) must have a fire label with the British Standards code (BS7177) attached.

The uplift of any larger items of furniture can be arranged by calling Hillington on 0141 882 0585

We regret that we cannot accept the following - books, bikes, carpets, coat hangers, gas appliances prams, televisions, small electrical appliances, exercise equipment and wall units.

Please check with the driver as to whether goods can be of use.

Thank you for supporting the Round South collection

* As these locations can be busy, the truck will be nearby. Please turn over to view all stops on schedule

TOWN	LOCATION	DAY	TIME	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
Bathgate	Iceland	WED	11.00 - 11.30	8	5	9	7	4	9
Livingston	Somerfield (Craigshill)*		12.00 - 12.30	8	5	9	7	4	9
Edinburgh	Costco (Straiton)		13.00 - 13.30	8	5	9	7	4	9
Coatbridge	Hollywood Bowl		15.30 - 16.00	8	5	9	7	4	9
Longniddry	Swing Park *	THURS	9.15 - 9.30	9	6	10	8	5	10
Gullane	Church of Scotland *		10.00 - 10.30	9	6	10	8	5	10
Dunbar	Somerfield*		12.30 - 13.15	9	6	10	8	5	10

Congratulations

Congratulations to Steven Allison who graduated this summer from Edinburgh University.

Congratulations to Karen Hales who also graduated and has now returned to America to work, having worshipped in Buccleuch for a number of years.

Let us also remember those who have started school this year and those who have left to begin college or university.

Rob and Anne MacDonald have a baby daughter, and Alex and Evelyn a new granddaughter. Hannah Rachel was born on 21st August and weighed in at 7 lbs 13oz. Both mother and baby are well,

and Rob is recovering too!

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Jessica who has a birthday on the 29th of September, to Iain on the 20th of September, to Calum on the 23rd of September, to Josh on the 30th of September, and finally to David on the 25th of September.

Hammer & Scythe

Neil first learned how to use a scythe from his Granddad when he was about six or seven years old (Neil that is – not his granddad). He hasn't forgotten how to use it at all.



He very speedily cut my

grass to the quick, and put my efforts to shame at the same time. I've still got a lot to learn...

I bought my scythe last year after learning about how much energy lawnmowers use. I leave my grass to grow long and then scythe it.



I then leave the grass to dry and use it for hay, which is useful as a mulch and for keeping strawberries and courgettes clean as they grow.

Stephen Hammer

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.

Africa Inland Mission

Africa Inland Mission has always endeavoured to become involved in every area of African life, regardless of what country our workers are in. It's part of our ethos, which is especially evident in our two-year Timor programme.

I've recently been encouraged by our Acting International Director's desire to petition the UK Government into action following the Lord's Resistance Army's (LRA) massacres. Ian Campbell has set up the online petition asking for aid to be delivered to those suffering as a result of the attacks. It reads:

Rebel forces have for the past months been active in the north east of DRC and the east of CAR operating in areas far from strong national military forces. They have taken advantage of the defenceless population and have killed hundreds, kidnapped men women and children, destroyed villages, burnt crops and created havoc among the populations of those areas.

Thousands are displaced as a result of these attacks and are in need of immediate help and support. We petition the UK government to help provide relief and support for the suffering population without delay and to take such action as is necessary to stop the activities of the rebels in these areas.

As a gospel-centred organisation, we know that all life is precious and we want to do our part to fight-injustice. This is an opportunity to proactively engage the UK Government and let the wider world know that we are serious about living out our faith.

The online petition can be found at: www.aimint.org/eu/lra

We'd greatly appreciate it if you could take a minute to sign it. Please encourage others to sign up.

Regards
Jason Boyd
Media Director

FINANCE UPDATE

General fund

The main concern for the church finances is that we are expecting a shortfall in general fund income of around £10,000

this year. This is assuming that the same levels of givings continue until the end of the year. Please do give as much as you can, as we have a lot to pay for!

Fabric fund

Several years ago we received a special donation which paid for the renovation of the church. Recently we were given the go ahead to claim gift aid on the donation. This has provided a boost of £8,700 to our (badly

depleted!) fabric fund, and has been greatly appreciated. Hopefully the general fund will not require to be bailed out too much by this money, as that would cause more problems for the fabric fund...

Colegio san Andres

Donations for the Colegio San Andres appeal have reached £1,807 so far.

Alasdair Black

San Andres Student Scholarship - Sponsored by Buccleuch & Greyfriars - status in September 2009

FOR SCHOOL YEAR:	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Total
Scholarship						
Total required (inc 3% inflation p.a.)	£1,500	£1,545	£1,591	£1,639	£1,688	£7,964
Amount sent to San Andres	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0	£0
Promises received						
Committed	£1,329	£1,329	£1,329	£1,329	£1,329	£6,647
% of total required committed	89%	86%	84%	81%	79%	83%
Still to be committed	£171	£216	£262	£310	£359	£1,317
Donations received						
Raised so far	£1,149	£239	£139	£139	£139	£1,807
% of total required raised so far	77%	15%	9%	9%	8%	23%
Still to be raised	£351	£1,306	£1,452	£1,500	£1,549	£6,157

Summary: 89% of total for 2010 committed
 77% of total for 2010 raised so far
 83% of total for 5 years committed
 23% of total for 5 years raised so far

Wonderfully Made

Equinoxes, Solstices and Seasons

September is the month when summer ends and autumn begins. It is the month of the Autumn equinox as March is the month of the Spring equinox. These are months when the centre of the sun is directly over the equator. The night hours are equal to the hours of daylight – equinox is derived from Latin and means equal night. The time from the end of the spring or vernal equinox to the beginning of the autumn equinox is longer than the interval between the autumn equinox and the following spring equinox, the difference being seven days each year except in a leap year when it is six. The earth's path round the sun is not circular, but elliptical, and the sun is not centrally placed within the ellipse. When the earth is nearest the sun (perihelion), it is our winter and the earth is 91½ million miles from the sun. When the earth is farthest from the sun (aphelion), it is our summer and the earth is 94½ million miles from the sun.

The Solstices occur in June and December. In the

Northern Hemisphere the summer solstice is in June and the winter solstice in December. On June 21 the sun is directly overhead at 23½ degrees north, the Tropic of Cancer, before appearing to travel back towards the equator for the time of the autumn equinox, and then about December 22 being overhead at 23½ degrees south, the Tropic of Capricorn, before appearing to travel northwards again. In the Southern Hemisphere, the winter solstice occurs in June and the summer solstice in December. In southern South America, southern South Africa, Australia and New Zealand summer occurs in December, January and February, followed by the other seasons in order. The word solstice indicates that the sun seems to stand still in its movement northwards or southwards, and then to reverse its direction.

The Seasons are marked by changes of temperature and changes in the length of the days and nights. Spring is an Anglo-Saxon word that means rising; summer comes from a Sanskrit (an Indian language) word for season; autumn is a form of the Latin word for

maturing or ripening; and winter is an Anglo-Saxon word for wet season. Seasonal differences are related to the fact that the polar axis from north to south poles is at an angle of $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees to the vertical bringing the northern hemisphere closer to the sun between the March and September equinoxes and the southern hemisphere close to the sun between the September and March equinoxes. Without this angle and the rotation of the earth round the sun, the sun would always be overhead at the equator and there would no variation in the length of days throughout the year and no seasonal variations. Put in an engineering context, it is a remarkably simple solution to provide variation of climate and seasons, and of length of daylight.

The apparent power of the sun has led to the worship of it. In South America, special sites were built where priests performed rites that were supposed to bring the sun back to its southerly traverse from its most northerly position. Priests, knowing when the winter solstice in the southern hemisphere would occur in

June, held special rites and offered sacrifices to persuade the sun to return and bring its warmth to the earth.

In the northern hemisphere, pagan nations regarded the winter solstice as the turning-point of the year – the beginning of renewed life and activity of the powers of nature, and of the gods that personified these. From the earliest times the Celts and Germans celebrated with great festivities; the Norsemen held their great Yule feast in commemoration of the fiery sun-wheel. Beliefs and usages of the Germanic peoples and also of the Romans passed over from heathenism to Christianity and some have survived to the present day. The celebration of Christmas in December has more to do with the solstice celebrations than with any direct connection with the date of the birth of Christ.

What is very worthwhile considering is the remarkable arrangement of sun, moon and earth in the cosmos and the wisdom that has brought them together as they are.

“In these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things,

and through whom he made the
universe.” Hebrews 1:2

WMM

Gardener's World

Oops – poor wee, sleekit, cowrin, tim'rous beastie!

Thy wee-bit housie, too, in ruin!
It's silly wa's the win's are strewin!
An' naething, now, to big a new ane,
O' foggage green!
An' bleak December's win's ensuin,
Baith snell an' keen!

Thou saw the fields laid bare an' waste,
An' weary winter comin fast,
An' cozie here, beneath the blast,
Thou thought to dwell,
Till crash! the cruel scythe past
Out thro' thy cell.



by Carys Lytle (still aged five years)

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**

13 th Sept	Evelyn MacDonald	Mairi Forsyth	Anne Macrae
20 th Sept	Kenny Macleod	Norma Maclean	Jennifer Macleod
27 th Sept	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie	Jocelyn Hammer
4 th Oct	Neil Campbell	David Ferrier	Flora MacPhail

Amplifier

13 th Sept	Ed
20 th Sept	Graham
27 th Sept	Shanana
4 th Oct	Ken

Cleaning

12 th Sept	Kenny MacLeod	Flora MacPhail
19 th Sept	Stephen Allison	
26 th Sept	Rob/Mary Bonne	Steve Willis
3 rd Oct	Rebecca Topping	Mairi Forsyth
10 th Oct	Rebecca Green	YF

Door Duty

13 th Sept	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Allison
20 th Sept	Donald Forsyth	Dolina Macdonald
	Mairi Forsyth	Willie Lytle
27 th Sept	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Rob MacDonald	Kenneth Macleod
4 th Oct	John Macrae	Ken Mackenzie
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
11 th Oct	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Neil Macrae	Rebecca Copty

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

Sunday	11:00am	6:30pm
13 th Sept	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
20 th Sept	Bob Akroyd (guest service)	Alex MacDonald
27 th Sept	Alex MacDonald	Bob Akroyd (Communion)
4 th Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
11 th Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
18 th Oct	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd

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