

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

# **Newsletter**

## **CONTENTS**

**Ministers' Updates**

**Dates for Your Diary**

**Congregational News**

**Finance Update**

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

**Rotas**



**December 2009 – January 2010**

## **Ministers' Updates**

2009 was an eventful year for me personally and for us as a family. First, I qualified for a bus pass in March! Then Evelyn and I became grandparents again in August when Hannah was born to Rob and Anne in Aberdeen. And at the end of September Alison and I set off for the adventure of a lifetime in New Zealand.

I won't dwell on reaching the big six-O, and if I went on about the cuteness of my latest granddaughter, I'd probably bore you all to tears! So I'll tell you a little bit about our trip to New Zealand.

Of course Alison had been there before as she spent 6 months there nursing and holidaying a couple of years ago. But it was my first visit. I'm not someone who loves to travel abroad (unlike Alison who is the most widely travelled of our family), but there was one country I always wanted to visit – and that was New Zealand (even long before my favourite book, *The Lord of the Rings*, was filmed there). So when the opportunity to attend a conference there came up, I jumped at the chance.

The conference was the four yearly meeting of the ICRC (the International Conference of Reformed Churches). We met in the beautiful city of Christchurch from 15<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> October. There were three other delegates from the Free Church – the Revs. James Maciver, Kenneth Ferguson and Iver Martin (all from the Isle of Lewis) – so yours truly was the only token mainlander there!

There were some very interesting talks given at the Conference on Individualism, the challenge of Islam, the Charismatic movement and the Asian context, and it was good to meet people from other cultures and exchange ideas with them. I think that one of the good things that can come out of the ICRC is exchange of information and cooperation in mission. The European conference of the ICRC is due to take place in Edinburgh 12<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup> April 2010, so that will be an opportunity to find out more (more details nearer the time).

However, it was the two weeks holiday with Alison before the conference that was really memorable. We hired a car and travelled round a large part of the north of South

Island. New Zealand is much bigger than Britain. South Island alone is longer than the whole of Britain. It also reminded me a lot of Scotland – mountains, rivers, lochs and the sea. Only everything is on a bigger scale. The highest mountain (Mt. Cook) is over 3700 metres (metres not feet!) – well over 12,000 feet – that’s nearly three times as high as Ben Nevis. Alison and I spent a memorable couple of days climbing in a lower range of mountains but, starting from Arthur’s Pass at around 3000 feet, we went well above the snowline and got some heavy snow showers.

But then when we went down the west coast and up round the north and back down the east to Christchurch, we got some lovely sunny weather (as well as a very wet day in Nelson). The climatic features there are that because it is an island it has a maritime climate, and so is similar to the UK, but because it is much nearer the equator (Christchurch is a similar latitude to the south of France) and because there is nothing between New Zealand and Antarctica, the climate is both hotter and colder. When

the sun is hidden and the wind is in the south it is bitterly cold, but as soon as the sun comes out, it feels really hot. So the agriculture ranges from hill sheep farming to vineyards!

In addition to the stunning scenery, the variety of birdlife was amazing (Alison is the real expert here!) Birds ranged from the imported varieties (which must have been brought by settlers) – robins, sparrows, chaffinches etc – to the unique indigenous species – silver eye, weka, kea, pukeko and the elusive kiwi (Alison caught a glimpse of the latter in the wild at night, which is very rare).

One of the most memorable highlights was being within a few metres of a sperm whale. It is the largest predator that has ever existed on the planet, and can dive down 3000 metres to feed! Luckily we didn’t need to dive down to see it (no one could!) because it comes to the surface to breathe.

What came home to me powerfully was the wonder of the Creator who has made all these creatures. He has indeed “made everything beautiful in its time” (Eccles.3:11).

It was also great to be reminded of the universality

and unity of the Church – not only at the conference, but also at the various churches where we worshipped, where we heard the gospel and were given a warm welcome.

Alex MacDonald

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

As 2009 closes, it doesn't seem possible that ten years has passed since we were preparing to welcome in the new millennium! I hope and pray that 2010 will be a year of health, joy & peace for us all.

As we come to this time of Christmas, in this post-modern material age, people still take time to remember the birth of Jesus who came not to condemn the world but to save it. Every year over 1,000 people cram into every available seat at the MacEwan Hall to sing Christmas Carols, to listen to passages from the Bible and to be reminded of the story of Jesus. In an age of secularism and scepticism, we should be grateful for every opportunity for people to hear the good news of Jesus and we should take every opportunity to share the story of Jesus' birth, life, death and resurrection.

At this time of year, may we all share in the wonder and excitement of the words spoken by the angel to the shepherds in Luke 2, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord."

Jesus is the Saviour we worship and He is the Saviour we serve today. The great challenge and opportunity we face is how to introduce others to this Saviour who has come to bring light and life, healing and hope, and grace and truth to the world and its people.

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))

### **Buccleuch's finances**

The Deacons' Court at its recent meeting decided to inform the congregation of the financial situation facing the Court.

2009 was a hard year for many people and the congregation's income fell by £9,000 – partly due to people moving away from Edinburgh and partly because people's own income dropped. In addition, Scottish Power were overcharging us and so, although this is now sorted out, our expenditure was also higher than anticipated.

The upshot of all this is that, without more income, we are not able to meet our commitments as we would like. Last year we contributed £70,000 to Free Church central funds (which pays for our ministers and helps with the payment of other ministers, missionaries and workers). This year, without additional income before the end of the year, our contribution will be £67,000.

Also, at this time of year we always make donations to local charities such as Bethany

Christian Trust, the Scottish Bible Society etc. We have budgeted to give £1,500, but so far have given only £300, and can't give more until the money comes in. Our Fabric Fund (for building repairs etc.) is also empty, as we have tried to give as much to central funds as possible.

The Court asked me to draw this to your attention, so that those who feel able could make a donation before the end of the year. You can put your donation in the collection plate today or next Sunday. If you wish it to be Gift-Aided, you will need to identify yourself (either by cheque or some other way).

2010 is also going to be a challenging year. Our treasurer, Alasdair Black, estimates that we will need to increase our donations by 10% to meet our commitments. In addition we will face a big repair bill for the Manse roof. For many years we have been nursing it along, making all the necessary minor repairs, but we are now advised that the whole roof needs to be re-slatted. The first quotation we have is for £18,500. There is the possibility of getting loans to pay for this, but loans have to

be paid off, and so again we are appealing to the congregation.

Please consider prayerfully if you can increase your regular donations. Speak to Alasdair Black if you want more information about methods of giving, Gift Aid etc.

Although the preceding may seem daunting, remember that giving to the Lord's work is a Christian privilege. See 2 Corinthians 8 and 9: "But just as you excel in everything... see that you also excel in this grace of giving... For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich... God loves a cheerful giver... Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!"

*Alex MacDonald (on behalf of the Deacon's Court)*

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **November Communion**

#### **Weekend**

We are grateful to our visiting preachers Robin Sydserff from St Catherine's Argyle Church of Scotland and Principal Donald Macleod of the Free Church of Scotland College for

taking our communion services at the weekend. We wish them every blessing in their ministries in Edinburgh and to the wider church. The joint evening service on Sunday night was especially memorable and was a challenge and comfort to all who attended. Thank you too to everyone who helped with the catering on Sunday night

### **Guest Service**

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm when Alex MacDonald will re-tell the story of Herod under the title, "A Rival King." There are invitation cards in the hall so 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>

### **Carols By Candlelight**

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 7 – 7.45pm

Come and join us for some

carol singing and a short seasonal message, followed by mince pies, mulled wine, teas, coffees and hot chocolate.

Bring yourself, bring your family and bring your friends and enjoy the evening in Buccleuch.

### **Prayer Meetings Cancelled**

There will be no prayer meetings on the evenings of 23rd and 30th December.

### **New Year's Day Service - 2010**

There will be a service on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> January at noon. Alex MacDonald will preach and all are very warmly invited to begin the New Year at Buccleuch.

### **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.

### **Sunday School**

The last day of Sunday School

this year is Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December. A combined Sunday School class will take place on 27<sup>th</sup> December and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Sunday school will resume as normal on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January.

*Thank you to all those who have supported the Sunday School and Combined Sunday School class in this past year.*

### **Home Bible Studies**

The next home Bible study will be on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January. The theme this month is "Serving in the Community" and the study sheets will be available both in church and via e-mail.

The Hosts and Venues for the next Bible study are:

#### North West

Neil & Mary Campbell

#### East

Bob & Heather Akroyd

#### South East

Fergus & Dolina Macdonald

#### South

Willie and Anne Lytle

South West

Donald & Joan MacDonald

Buccleuch Church Hall.**Advance Notice- Joint Service at St Columba's**

At 6.30pm on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February, there will be a joint evening service for the three Edinburgh congregations at St Columba's Free Church on Johnston Terrace opposite the Hub near the top of the Royal Mile.

**There will be no service at Buccleuch that evening.**

**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 – 6<sup>th</sup> January - 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.

**International Meal**

The next International meal will be a Burns Supper on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> January at Alex and Evelyn's home, 14 Gilmour Road.

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

Meetings of the Deacons' Court for 2009 are scheduled for:

9<sup>th</sup> February

20<sup>th</sup> April

22<sup>nd</sup> June

24<sup>th</sup> August

12<sup>th</sup> October

14<sup>th</sup> December

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

**Care Van**

Care Van Dates for the rest of the year are as follows:

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> December

Volunteers are needed for this date. If you have never volunteered before you would be very welcome. All you need to volunteer is free time between about 8pm and midnight, warm clothes and a friendly smile (and the ability to

make a cuppa soup).

To volunteer or for some more information about the work of Care Van please speak to Christopher Somerville.

Care Van have started a regular newsletter called 'Care Van News' to keep you up to date with what is happening and give you information about volunteering. There are a small number of these on the vestibule table for you to read.

**Night Shelter**

The remaining Night Shelter date for this session is:

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> January

Volunteers are needed for this vital ministry. If you are able to volunteer, the following on each date is needed:

Saturday afternoon -  
Move all the stuff out of the Church Hall.

Sunday Morning - Make sure the hall is clean and then move the stuff back in to the hall before the morning service.

For more information please contact Christopher Somerville (*who is both the church contact for Night Shelter and a new project worker with the Night Shelter Team*)

Chris Somerville

**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.

**Ladies' Bible Study**

The next Ladies Bible study will be on 9<sup>th</sup> January at Jocelyn Hammer's home and then 5<sup>th</sup> February at Esther Black's home, 6<sup>th</sup> March at Anne Lytle's home and on the 19<sup>th</sup> March at Sarah Lytle's home.

**Congregational Lunch**

The next congregational lunch will be on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> of January

**Ladies' Fellowship**

The next Ladies' Fellowship will be on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January.

**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

**Edinburgh and Perth Free Church Presbytery Gaelic Services 2010**

*7th February* Mr Alasdair Macaulay, student, at St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh

*11th April* Rev Murdo Macleod, Kirriemuir, at St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh

*13th June* Principal Donald Macleod at St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh

*5th September* Rev Duncan Macleod at Perth Free Church

*12th December* Rev Iain Thomson, East Kilbride at St Columba's Free Church, Edinburgh

All services begin at 3pm\*

**Christmas Day Brunch**

There will be a Christmas day Brunch from 10am – 12 noon in Buccleuch hall for any one on their own. If you are able to help or provide small gifts such as socks, hats shower gel etc please speak to Jenny Somerville or Shanana.

## **CONGREGATIONAL NEWS**

### **New Arrival – Peter Lee**

On Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November, Peter Kerry Lee was born weighing in at 1 pound and 9 ounces (700grams)! His original due date was 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2010. His parents, Kerry & Lara, visit him every day in the neo-natal unit at Simpson's Maternity Hospital in the New Royal Infirmary.

Kerry & Lara are grateful for the prayerful and practical support of many in the congregation. Peter continues to do well. Please continue to pray for the whole Lee family in the coming weeks.

### **Congregational Website**

Have you looked at our website recently

([www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk](http://www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk))? Any suggestions or contributions, please contact Alex or Bob or our Webmaster, Calum Maclean, [c.n.macleam@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:c.n.macleam@blueyonder.co.uk)

We want the website to be as informative and helpful as possible so please use it and keep sending in new information.

### **Facebook**

Are you on facebook? If so join the new Buccleuch group! It is a useful tool for sharing information about Buccleuch and also lets people who might want to, come see a bit more about us as a congregation. Please feel free to post relevant information on the wall. You can also use the discussion pages to have a chat to the other members - perhaps you might like to continue a Forum discussion or a topic that is in the news. So far we have 48 members and some excellent photos!

Sarah Lytle

### **Congregational Directory – 2009/2010**

The new congregational directory is now available. Check the table in the hall or see Alex and Bob for your own copy.

### **Thank you**

Thank you to all who took part (and that means turning up to listen as well!) to the Lessons and Carols on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> December in Buccleuch. This event would not have taken place without the talent, commitment and enthusiasm of

Jonathan and Rebecca Green. It was encouraging to see so many people from the congregation taking part:

Musicians - Kerry, Steven, Kevin, Lindsey, Kenny and Jon.

Actors - Sarah, Dani, Alex Miller, Bob, Eric, Ed, Roddy, Alison and Sam

Readers - Alex, John, Fergus

Costume Design/Makers for 3 Kings - Evelyn, Dolina and Mairi

Lighting - Finlay

Sound - Stephen

Visuals - Lara and Jon

Set - Neil, Neil M

Singers - Alex Miller, Cailean, Shanana, Rebecca G, Jon and Rachel.

Men's Choir - Calum, Willie, Roddy, Neil, Steve W and Cailean

Kid's Choir - Children from the Sunday School

Providing Food - Christine Macleod, Norma, Anne Macrae, Stacia, Kirsty C, Anne G, Rebecca G, Mary C.

Kitchen - Anne G, Anna, Heather, Moira, Christine (gaelic), Flora, Norma, Christine F, Mary Mac and Catherine.

Ushers/Handymen - Tom and Johnnie

Cleaners - Kirsty, Katie,

Catherine, Alison, Rebecca G and Moira

Above all, we thank God for sending such a wonderful Saviour - what a cause for celebration!

Neil and Mary Campbell  
Thanks to Jenny for the photos.

*Thanks go to Mary for co-ordinating the entire event.*

### **Ladies Fellowship**

On the evening of Friday 14<sup>th</sup> December the Ladies Fellowship met for a talk on 'So you think you know what Bethany does'. Over mince pies and coffee Jenny Somerville led the meeting speaking about the Christian based charity and her work. Bethany's mission is to relieve the suffering and meet the long term needs of homeless and vulnerable people.

Let us remember Jenny and her husband, Chris in our prayers in the hard work they both do for Bethany.

Lindsey Mackay

### **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, etc. so the deacons know what to fix. Please make use of this.

### **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.

### **Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal**

Thank you to the eleven people who responded to the Blythswood shoe box appeal. Twenty boxes were handed in as well as two generous donations.

Dolina Macdonald

### **Congratulations**

Congratulations to Jenny Somerville who has been awarded a 2:1 BA Hons in Social Work.

### **Happy Birthday**

Happy birthday to James who had a birthday on the 1<sup>st</sup>

December, to Amy on the 17<sup>th</sup> December to Ben on the 28<sup>th</sup> January, to Eva on the 29<sup>th</sup> January and to Alexander who was eighteen on the 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### **A note from an old friend of Buccleuch**

Dearest Buccleuch Friends,  
I am very happy to report that I am engaged! My fiancé Mason Stewart and I will be married on 19<sup>th</sup> December of this year. We met in passing years ago, but first really got to know each other in the fall of last year. I had begun attending a church called The Journey ([www.explorethejourney.org](http://www.explorethejourney.org) if you care to have a look), and we became friends there. Friendship progressed quickly to love and we were engaged on 3<sup>rd</sup> October.

Mason is a graphic designer for a company here in Jackson, and he is also completing his degree in Philosophy at Belhaven College. He spent over 3 years as a missionary to Japan, teaching English, working at an orphanage, and leading worship.

We have found a little flat here in Jackson. Mason will

continue with his classes and work, and I will continue my teaching. You are all more than welcome to visit us here. I have told Mason so much about my wonderful Buccleuch church family, and we hope to visit Edinburgh together someday soon.

With much love,  
Katie Shelt (not for long!)  
Katie and Mason Stewart

### **Anyone for Tennis?**

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

### **Free will Envelopes**

These envelopes are now available in the hall for collection.

### **Interview with Anna Macdonald**

Anna kindly agreed to answer a few questions from the editor

### *Tell us a little about yourself*

I grew up on a farm in the Black Isle, the youngest of five children. It was a great place to grow up in. Our neighbours were our friends and we had freedom to enjoy the “great outdoors”. There are several Black Islers in the congregation.

As regards a career there was never any doubt in my mind that it was to be nursing. After training in Inverness and London most of this has been as a midwife in Edinburgh. It is a very interesting and varied job where I was privileged to meet, look after or work with many fantastic people and make lasting friendships. I retired five years ago and what stands out most in my mind is the camaraderie between colleagues - without that it would have been a very different story.

In answer to the hypothetical question ...would you do it over again....yes, definitely. Having said that, there are some things I do not miss!

*When did you become a Christian and who was a big influence in your life when you were growing up?*

I became a Christian in

my early twenties - it was a gradual understanding of the truth. My parents were both Christians and I was always aware that they had something which I didn't have but needed. My mother was the best example one could have and one of my best friends.

*How long have you been a member in Buccleuch?*

I joined Buccleuch in 1976 when the minister was Rev Billy Graham. He and the congregation were very warm and welcoming and a newcomer was quickly made to feel at home. That friendly atmosphere lives on. A cameo of what it was like then:

Before the start of the morning service the church officer, followed by the minister, walked up the aisle carrying the large pulpit Bible. He placed it on the lectern and showed the minister into the pulpit, closing the little door after him. It was a dignified ceremony, all the more so because the aisle was much longer then. The area that is now the hall was originally part of the main church until it was divided. Looking through the directory there are about twelve

people in Buccleuch today who were here when I came.

*Your favourite book and film*

The Robe by Lloyd C Douglas springs from the account of the crucifixion in which the Roman soldiers gambled for Jesus' blood-stained robe. The main character is Marcellus, the soldier who won the robe. It is a brilliant story of courage, love and loyalty set in brutal times. For many years Douglas was a Lutheran minister until he took up a literary career following the success of his first novel. He had many fans who wrote to him, one of whom wrote asking him what he thought had happened to the robe after the crucifixion. This gave him the inspiration for the book and he dedicated it to the lady who had written asking this imaginative question.

To my mind some of the best books are those written for children. I just love Anne of Green Gables and the others in the Anne series. They are classics with an appeal for all ages and are just as readable now as when first published 100 years ago.

My favourite film, based

on the children's novel of the same title is Goodnight Mr Tom. During the Second World War a little boy from London is evacuated to the country and is reluctantly accepted by a grumpy old man (John Thaw). It's a great story of how life changes for the better for both of them (with some setbacks of course). A charming film, it is sad, funny, heart-warming and absorbing. You may need your tissues - I usually do.

*Your favourite psalm or passage in the Bible?*

It depends on the circumstances, but one choice would be Phil Ch 4:4-7. This little poem is based on these well known verses:

### **Peace**

Peace that comes from God  
alone

Beyond our understanding  
Garrisons our hearts and minds  
In measure that's abounding  
As an army circling round us  
As a sentry at our door  
He has promised us protection  
And Peace for evermore.

### **Some information about**

#### **Forum**

What is forum?

Forum meets every Sunday evening (that there aren't other things on) after the evening service. It meets in different people's homes each week and combines supper and discussion, based mainly around the evening sermon.

#### Where did forum come from?

Forum started as a place for those who felt they were too old for Youth Fellowship but didn't want to go home to go for fellowship. Since its start it has expanded and developed and is for anyone who wants to discuss things concerning their Christian faith.

#### Who is forum for?

Forum is for everyone – and that includes you! The only things you need to come to forum is a desire for discussion and a love of supper.

#### How can you get involved?

There are a number of ways that you can get involved in forum.

**Come.** Forum would love new people to join in our fellowship and discussion, please come along. You can come every week or once in a while, whatever suits you.

**Pray.** Please pray for

forum, that we would continue to have good discussions that would build each other up and would be to the glory of God. Please pray that forum would provide a place of growth in faith and knowledge for the people coming along.

**Give.** There are three things (other than your presence!) that you could give to forum:

1. Your home. We are always looking for places to meet. All you need is a space for us to meet and to provide some supper (tea and a biscuit is all that is required).

2. Your car. If you can help us get people to and from forum (even if you aren't coming yourself) then we would love to hear from you.

3. Your facilitation skills. To keep forum running in a timely and (relatively) orderly manner we have someone to facilitate the discussion each week. If you would be willing to do this once in a while please get in touch.

#### For more information

Please contact Jenny Somerville for more information/to volunteer/to offer suggestions etc.

### **Mission News from Peru**

Lima News December 2009

Dear Friends,

‘Therefore,..... let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus.....’

Two years have almost passed since we came to Colegio San Andrés, and we feel as if we are still on the first lap of a long race, and we must run it with perseverance. We are reminded to ‘fix our eyes on Jesus’ in every aspect of our lives, and to throw aside all else. How difficult that can be! Thank you all for your constant prayers for the work of the Lord here, who has been blessing us abundantly! Allow us to give you a brief update and to ask for prayer for specific items.

The school year 2009 is almost over, and the school is in good heart. We are completing year 2 of our forward plan, which has 3 main aims: to develop further the Christian testimony of the school; to raise

academic standards, and to become financially self-sustaining. In all three areas we have seen major strides forward. Aspects of the pupils' personal development and service are being re-organized under the leadership of the chaplain (Pastor Juan José Otero), bringing together guidance, learning support and Christian service. Academic standards have risen, thanks to the involvement of each department in formulating its own targets for improvement. And the increase in the student roll has given us much greater financial stability, easing Maria Rodriguez' burdens!

Over the summer break we will be busy in interviews with new pupils and their parents, and the maintenance staff have their busiest time. This year they will be exceptionally busy, since a recent inspection by Health & Safety has meant that we must relocate several classrooms. Plus our plans for further expansion involve the creation of at least two extra classrooms. We are pleased to have reached an agreement with the Session of San Andrés church to use the two classrooms on the ground

floor of that church (which the school used to use many decades ago!).

In the closing graduation ceremony, due to take place on 28<sup>th</sup> December, the 5th year leavers are presented with a Bible. Several of them are Christians, but others have resisted the teaching given over many years. We know that the seed falls on stony and weed-choked ground in many cases, although it is encouraging that there is also the good, fertile ground, and we are privileged to see it bearing fruit in young lives transformed by His grace. This is why we are here.

It has been heartening to see our pupils visiting the sick in the nearby Children's Hospital, sometimes returning in tears at what they have seen; mentoring deaf children in very basic skills to help them in their school work, and taking donations and gifts to very poor children in Pachacutec. Many of the pupils have grown up in Lima, yet have never seen the shanty-towns which surround the city: on their first visit the impact can be overwhelming, yet they learn more in a single day than in many months in class. Praise God for these

opportunities.

The moves toward local governance here are on schedule: we now have ready here a group of men and women who are prepared to serve as local governors of the school, and the General Assembly has approved the new constitution. The long-running legal case against the school (following the death of two pupils in Scotland in 2006) has not yet been resolved.

We are both well, enjoying the company of our youngest daughter Catriona, who is doing voluntary work in English and Music, and of Matt Girvan from Northern Ireland, who is helping in English and P.E.

Finally, we want to thank all the different groups who have helped, are helping and hopefully will help the school: the PCEA and the congregation of Hastings River for pupil bursaries; the congregation of Buccleuch for a further pupil bursary; the Southern Support Group for its help with expansion of the Nursery; the WFM for its help with the Kitchen project; the Lewis Support Group for its help in next year's projects; the

members of the IMB for their unfailing support, and many other individuals. Thank you all so much!

Please pray for:

- The Christian testimony of the staff, and all the opportunities for service involving the pupils
- Heads of Departments in maintaining and improving academic standards
- The school's finances
- School maintenance staff in a very busy schedule over the summer break
- 5th year leavers
- Pupil ministries to the sick, the deaf and the poor
- A further increase of 40 pupils in the school roll for March 2010
- The transfer of the school to local governance
- The legal case against the school

We hope you all enjoy a blessed Christmastime, and wish you a good New Year.

With love  
Clive and Ruth





<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**

27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie	Neil Campbell
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Jocelyn Hammer	David Ferrier	Flora MacPhail
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Rebecca Macleod	Anne Macrae	Kenny Macleod
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Evelyn MacDonald	Kenny Macleod	Norma MacLean
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Jen MacLeod	Sarah Lytle	Kirsty Clunie

**Amplifier**

27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Steven
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Neil
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Graham
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Ed

**Cleaning**

26 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Heather Akroyd	Alison MacDonald
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jan	Kenny Macleod	Flora MacPhail
9 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Stephen Allison	
16 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Steve Willis	

**Door Duty**

27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Eric Mackay	Alasdair Black
	Esther Black	Stephen Allison
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Donald Forsyth	Mairi Forsyth
	Dolina Macdonald	Willie Lytle
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Willie Mackay	Calum Maclean
	Kenneth Macleod	
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	John Macrae	Ken Mackenzie
	Chris Somerville	Jenny Somerville
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Roddy Macleod	Neil Campbell
	Rebecca Green	Neil Macrae

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

<b>Sunday</b>	11:00am	6:30pm
27 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
1 <sup>st</sup> Jan	NOON Alex MacDonald	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Jan	Bob Akroyd	Bob Akroyd
10 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
17 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Alex MacDonald	Alex MacDonald
24 <sup>th</sup> Jan	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 <sup>nd</sup> 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
------------------	-----

**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