

Buccleuch & Greyfriars

FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Newsletter

CONTENTS

Ministers' Updates

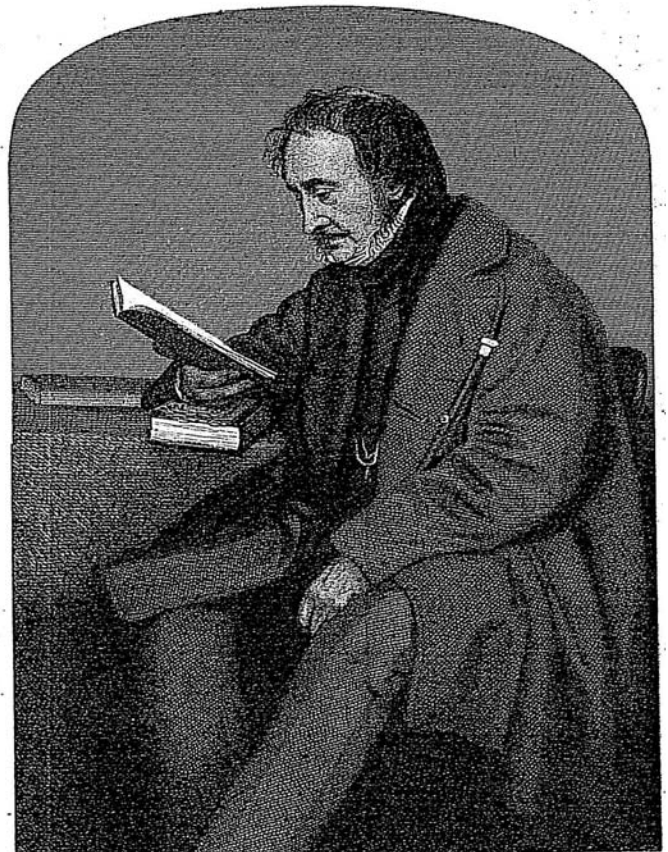
Dates for Your Diary

Congregational News

Finance Update

Buccleuch's Identity, Vision
and Mission

Rotas



James Wilson of Woodville

February/March 2010

Minister's Update

You will have no doubt noticed a leaflet about Mission in the current edition of The Monthly Record. There are also additional copies of the leaflet available on the table in the Hall. (By the way, all the literature on the tables in the Hall is free. We view it as part of our service to contributors to the finances of the congregation. However, if you do want to pay for the magazines, you can put money in the box provided or simply put it in the collection plate.)

But to get back to the Mission leaflet. This is a joint venture of the Home Missions Board (HMB) and the International Missions Board (IMB) of the Free Church. As you will perhaps be aware, the Church has recently reorganised the way we raise funds to pay for the work of the Church. In the past, congregations who had ministers paid from the central funds of the Church were expected to contribute a certain percentage of their income to those central funds, and this was supposed to provide for ministers, missionaries and all the expenses of the Church.

It became apparent there were several problems with this system, not least that it regularly failed to pay for all the work envisaged. So the system has been changed. As a congregation we are now expected to pay for the full costs of our minister(s) including National Insurance, pension etc.) plus a levy for administration. There is an allowance for local expenditure. And then what remains is contributed to Missions.

However, this is where one of the major changes has taken place. This year the central funds will pay for only 70% of the expenditure of the HMB and IMB, next year only 60% and the year after only 50%. Where is the rest of the money to come from? This is where the leaflet comes in – and where you come in too!

The Boards have to fundraise 30% this year, 40% next year and 50% the year after. We have produced the leaflet to highlight various projects we are funding or wish to fund, and are asking individuals (and Deacons' Courts) to donate directly to those projects (or to Mission in general).

The new system has the advantage that the Boards have to present to the Church at large the work they are supporting, and therefore people can see where their money is going.

Please look carefully at the leaflet and consider if you can make a donation. Please do not divert your regular giving to the congregation for this purpose but, if you can, give extra for Mission. You will find the envelope in the leaflet gives details of how to give. Fill in the form and insert it in the envelope together with your donation and post it to the Free Church Offices. (You can also put it in the collection plate, and it will be passed on unopened to the Offices.)

Bob and I will be making a presentation on the subject to the congregation soon and highlighting the various exciting projects which are part of our fulfilling of the Lord's Great Commission to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19).

Alex J MacDonald

Assistant Minister's Update

God is interested in our motives as well as our actions. Why do

you do what you do? Are you moved to act by a sense of religious duty and obligation or do you serve with joy because you know how much God loves you? Neil MacMillan began his series of HUB training events by looking at our motives for ministry. So why do you attend Buccleuch? What do you get and what do you give? Every person has gifts and skills which can be used to build up the church and reach out with the message of Jesus. Do you believe this and if so what are you doing? What are your motives and what are your goals?

What is your reaction to the Gospel? Sunday evening at the joint service at St Columba's, Kenny MacDonald preached on the most well-known verse in the Bible, "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16) In a passionate appeal, each member of the congregation was challenged and exhorted to respond to the love of God by trusting personally in Jesus. Only Jesus can forgive and only Jesus can give eternal life.

But what about you? You have heard the message, you have read the Bible and you have seen God at work in the lives of others but have you trusted in Jesus personally. Has Jesus changed your life? There is no substitution for faith in Jesus Christ. You can't substitute morality, or church attendance or good living because God requires a personal response to his personal invitation.

In 2010, let's take the opportunity to grow in our knowledge of Jesus and in so doing to become more like Jesus. Let us too pray earnestly that God would convert people through the power of the Gospel. As Paul stated with confidence, "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Romans 1:16

Yours faithfully,
Bob Akroyd

Condolences

We remember prayerfully those connected to Buccleuch who have experienced recent bereavements.

We extend our sympathy to Cathy Maclean's family. She is survived by one sister, four sons, eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren and two great grandchildren. She will be greatly missed to by her church family here in Buccleuch.

We also remember Neil Campbell whose mother died in December, Norma Maclean and Catherine Thomson, whose uncle Donald died and Tom Flint whose father died.

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

Communion Service – Sunday 28th February

We celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday 28th February. Alex MacDonald will conduct the Communion service at 11am. Bob Akroyd will conduct a pre-communion service on Saturday 27th February at 7.30pm. 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 on Saturday evening after the service.

Communion Dates

25th April Evening Communion

28th-30th May Preparatory service on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm and the Communion service on Sunday at 11:00am

28th/29th August Preparatory service on Saturday 7.30pm, and the Communion service on Sunday at 11:00am

26th September Evening Communion

26th-28th November Preparatory service on Friday and Saturday at 7.30pm, and the Communion service on Sunday

11:00am .

Sunday School

There will be no Sunday School on 28th February (communion); a combined class will take place for the pre-school and junior classes. During the Easter break, there will be no Sunday School on 4th April or 11th April.

Guest Service

The next in our series of guest services will be on Sunday 28th February at 6.30pm when Alex MacDonald will re-tell one of the stories from the Bible. 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>

Annual Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday 31st March at 7.30pm in the church. Everyone is warmly invited and encouraged to attend this meeting. The activities and finances of the previous year will be reviewed and the budget and plans for this year will be discussed. This is your church and this is a great opportunities to find out more about its work and to discuss its future.

Everything you wanted to know about God... but were afraid to ask

A new series of Thursday evening meetings has begun starting at 6.30pm. Usual format - meal, talk, discussion - but new subjects (based on Alex's sermon series last year, "Objections to the Christian Faith").

If you've missed the talks, materials from each talk will soon be on our Website: <http://www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk/>

Thursday 25th February – Suffering

"Two words disprove God – the Holocaust" – Why do bad things happen to good people?

Thursday 4th March – Religion and war

"Nothing to kill or die for" (John Lennon) – Doesn't religion cause wars?

Thursday 11th March – Hell

"No hell below us" (John Lennon) – How can a loving God send people to hell?

Thursday 18th March – Multi-faith

The elephant in the room – How can there be only one way to God?

Please come yourself and invite friends along to explore these questions about some of the deepest concerns we have.

Midweek Meetings

28th February Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at the church

3rd March Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at the church

10th March Home Bible Study or Prayer Meeting at church

17th March Prayer Meeting & Bible Study at the church

24th March Home Bible Study or Prayer Meeting at church

31st March Annual Congregational Meeting at the church

Home Bible Study

In March, there will be two Home Bible Studies – on 14th March and 28th March. Study sheets with the topic and venues

will be distributed nearer to the time. If you are not already part of a Home group and would like to meet to study the Bible in a small group setting, please speak to Alex or Bob.

Buccleuch & Greyfriars Hub Programme 2010

As mentioned by Bob, Neil MacMillan has begun the series of HUB training events at Buccleuch. Following are the topics he will cover over the next few months.

A – Leadership in the Local Church

1. Dynamics of Spiritual Renewal
2. Creating and Developing a Leadership Team
3. Vision and Planning
4. Small Group Leadership & Bible handling skills

B - Every Member Ministry

1. Motives for Ministry - How the gospel moves us to get involved in the ministry and mission of our church – 7th February.
2. Love One Another - How gospel community helps to form godly character – 25th April.

3. Spiritual Gifts – Identifying your Spiritual Gifts. Some people feel that they have nothing to offer, others are unsure of their gift. Here is help to try to figure out your gifts – 13th June.
4. Equipping People – Looking at how your church can train you to make the most of your gifts in work of the Kingdom – 22nd August.
5. Evangelism & Personal Witness - Building confidence to share the gospel – 10th October.
6. The Christian in the Workplace, Family & Community. How our faith can make a difference in these important part of our daily lives – 12th December.

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 Breakfasts

We continue to meet weekly at 9am on Saturday mornings for prayer, food and fellowship. All are welcome!

International Meal

The International meals for the remainder of this session will be held at 7pm on:

- Friday 19th March – Donald & Mairi Forsyth's home
- Friday 7th May – Roddy & Christine Macleod's home
- Saturday 12th June – Neil & Mary Campbell's home

Meetings of Kirk Session and Deacons' Court

Meetings of the Deacons' Court for 2010 are scheduled for:

20th April

22nd June

24th August

12th October

14th 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.

Musical evening in aid of the children's ward of the Nazareth Hospital

Bluegrass and Scottish folk/rock

The John Hardy Band
(featuring Donald Forsyth and Jonathon Green)

and

Alex MacDonald & Band

Friday 26th March 2010

Show starts 8.00pm

Doors open 7.30pm

Eric Liddell Centre

15 Morningside Road,
Edinburgh, EH10 4DP

Minimum recommended
donation £10.00 (includes
refreshments)

Entry by ticket only

Tickets available from Mairi
Forsyth or Alex MacDonald

Mairi Forsyth

Gideons

The Gideons have been invited to speak at the Prayer meeting on Wednesday 28th April.

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.

Bethany Big Sleepout – Friday 26th March, City Chambers, High St, Edinburgh

Give up your bed for the night and sleep rough to help a homeless person.

Sponsor forms and information sheets can be downloaded from www.bethanychristiantrust.com/events

To request information: txt: 'SLEEPOUT' to 07971 268955 or call 0131 625 5320 or email: sleepout@bethanychristiantrust.com

Meadows Marathon

Due to the Meadows Marathon, Crichton Street and Buccleuch Place will be closed on Sunday 7th March. In addition there will be no access to the whole George Square area. If you normally park in these areas, please come a little earlier to find alternative parking.

As far as we can judge, other streets will be unaffected.

Ladies' Bible Study

The next Ladies Bible study

will be on 6th March at Anne Lytle's home and on the 19th March at Sarah Lytle's home.

Congregational Lunch

The next congregational lunch will be on Sunday 14th March after the morning service. This is a bring and share lunch. All are welcome.

Ladies' Fellowship

The next Ladies' Fellowship will be on Friday 26th February at the home of Mairi Forsyth. Mairi will speak about the work of the Nazareth Hospital.

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

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*

Gaelic Camp 2010

As a result of funding we have received from Bòrd na Gàidhlig we are able to reduce the Gaelic Camp Fee to £100. Transport will be over and above. For more details contact either by email or phone ~ mhairi@freechurchofscotland.org.uk or 01463 790977.

Camps Challenge 2010!

Last year was difficult, financially, for many and Free Church Camps were no different. However we do experience God's goodness to us in many ways. As a result of a previous appeal we've been given a challenge! An anonymous donor has very generously offered to match what we can raise - £1 for £1 - up to £6000 to support the work of Camps. If you would like to help us raise this sum please put your donation in an envelope marked 'Free Church Youth

Camps' and leave it in the collection plate or send it, by post, to Free Church Youth Camps, Smithton Culloden Free Church, Murray Road, Inverness IV2 7YU. As God's word reminds us he is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us. The deadline for this challenge is Sunday 7th March. And remember – every pound you give will be matched by another.

Winter Warmer Fundraising Evening

Friday 26th February at 7:30pm at St Columba's Free Church. This is an evening of musical entertainment & auction raising funds for LEPRRA. Each year we plan to organise a big fundraising WW in order to raise funds for a charity already supported by one of our own congregation. Tickets are £5 and can be bought on the door.

Guest performers include **LOTHIAN GAELIC CHOIR** who recently performed at The Mod, and James Craig (young piper with Scottish Power - 6th best pipe band in the world)

Martha Middlemas

Buccleuch and European Conference

Buccleuch is hosting the European Conference of Reformed Churches for a service on Wednesday 17th March and Alex has been asked to preach.

The third conference of European Reformed Churches has been arranged to take place 16-19 March 2010, at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Herriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, with the theme of ROUTE (Reaching Out Unitedly To Europe), focussing on cooperation between reformed churches in evangelism and theological education. Attendance is open to any who wish to attend. The cost of attendance is as follows:
Whole conference (including accommodation on site and all meals) - £340

Day visitor (including evening dinner) - £110 per day

Day visitor (excluding evening dinner) £90 per day

Application forms for the conference are available on the conference website.

Volunteers are also being sought to help with the transport of delegates, particularly to and from the Conference Centre and

Edinburgh Airport before and after the conference. If you have a car and are willing to help in this way, especially on the 15th (afternoon and evening for delegates arriving early), 16th (morning) and 19th (morning through to lunchtime) please contact Sharon at the Free Church Offices sharon@freechurchofscotland.org.uk (0131 226 5286).

Finance update

Haiti

The collection for the Haiti appeal raised a total of £838. This will be sent to Tearfund, through the Free Church's Disaster Relief fund.

Year end financial position

The accounts for 2009 show a deficit on the general fund of £13,000. Thankfully in 2009 we also received a tax refund of £9,000 (in respect of the donation made several years ago which funded the church renovations), and £2,000 to clear the balance on the kitchen fund. Those two items were credited to the fabric fund and pulled back our overall deficit to £2,000.

Although 2009 was a difficult year financially, there

is certainly much to give thanks for, with total income (including special collections) of almost £130,000, and God's provision of the tax refund was most timely!

Budget for 2010

The Deacons' Court has considered all the costs facing the congregation over the next year. To support our regular outgoings, it is expected that we will need donations (before tax refunds) of £103,000. This represents a 12% increase on donations received in 2009.

Following the appeal made to the congregation in December about the sharp fall in regular givings during 2009 (over £600 per month between the beginning and end of the year), January's standing orders increased by £300. This is good news. However, we still face a big challenge for 2010. If January's donations are matched in each month between February and December, then total donations received would be £86,000. This would result in a shortfall on our expected outgoings of £17,000!!

We start 2010 with effectively nothing in the bank and a lot of costs coming up in

the year ahead. Please do pray that God will provide all that we need and that he will be glorified by all we bring in and all we pay out.

As always, please do get in touch if you need any further information about the church finances, or for details about supporting the church financially.

Many thanks,
Alasdair Black

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

Dear Church Family

Thank you so much for the love, prayers and support you have given us, while our son, Peter, has been improving at the Royal Infirmary's Neonatal Unit. We moved to Edinburgh from East Texas at the end of September so that Kerry could attend the University of Edinburgh for his PhD in Old Testament. We did not imagine that all our plans for settling in would be interrupted with the passing of Lara's mother in October and the unexplained early labour and delivery of Peter in November.

Through the lifts to the hospital, thoughtful gifts, and the meals, you have provided us

the ability to offer Peter every benefit we can from kangaroo care (cuddles) to having the time to express milk.

The emotional support has been irreplaceable as you have filled in where our families could not. We have watched during this time as one miracle after another has occurred. Peter should not have been saved at birth. He was too young at 23 weeks gestation. He was blue, limp and not breathing when he was born. It was up to the doctor to decide, and he chose to try to save Peter anyway.

Not only has Peter survived, but it appears that he will have no complications or lasting effects. He has steadily grown from the 1 pound 9 ounces (700 grams) at birth to now being over 4 pounds 9 ounces (2 kg). He was a tiny red infant with numerous wire surrounding him as he rested in an incubator to now being a healthy round baby finishing the last stages of development in an open cot.

We have seen provision in so many areas, and we are very grateful! Thank you for taking us into your 'family' with so short a time to know us. Before we began to attend Buccleuch at

the end of October, we had hoped and prayed for a good church. We did not realize that God would provide so much more. Thank you so much for everything and please continue your prayers for Peter as he prepares to come home.

Kind Regards,
Kerry & Lara Lee

Illness

Elizabeth Mackenzie is now at home after 3 weeks in hospital. Please pray that she would receive the appropriate care and support in her home and that she would recover strength.

New Arrival

Congratulations to Stephen and Jocelyn on the arrival of their daughter, Catriona Elisabeth Hammer. She was born at 5.11am on Monday 15th February, weighing 8lbs and 11oz. Baby, mother, father and brothers are all reported to be doing well.

Congratulations

We are delighted to announce the engagement of Rebeca Topping to Mr John Urquhart (David is very pleased). They will be married on Saturday 15th May 2010 at Liberton Kirk.

John is from Arisaig, in the northwest highlands, and is a graduate candidate for the Church of Scotland ministry. We wish Rebeca and John and David every blessing for their future together.

Toys for Crèche

We would like to improve the selection of toys available to offer the children in the crèche.

If you have any good quality used or unused toys taking up space in your cupboard, loft or garage, suitable for ages 0 to 4 then we can offer them a good home and a new lease of life!

Chunky vehicles of any sort are very popular.

We cannot however make use of soft toys for hygiene reasons.

If you are able to help, please contact Jen Macleod by phone, text, email etc with details of the toys and to make arrangements for collection/delivery.

Notice to Parents

The Kirk Session wants to reiterate its concern for the safety of the children of the congregation after the service, Sunday School and Crèche are

finished (safety from hot tea, or being knocked over by other children, or from running out of the church onto the road).

Parents, please be advised that once the service is over, it is your responsibility to collect your children as soon as possible from the Crèche area and the Sunday School.

In addition to juice and biscuits being served in the Crèche area, there will be a table set up for juice and biscuits for the older children on a table at the right side of the hall leaving the church.

We appreciate the efforts of the Sunday School teachers and Crèche volunteers to teach and look after the children during the service and trust parents will relieve them of these responsibilities once the service is completed.

Congregational Website

Have you looked at our website recently (www.buccleuchfreechurch.co.uk)? Any suggestions or contributions, please contact Alex or Bob or our Webmaster, Calum Maclean, c.n.maclean@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.

"A carpet ride to Khiva"

My friend Chris Aslan Alexander has just published a book about his seven years living on the Silk Road. He writes of his experiences setting

up a carpet workshop in Uzbekistan and his various adventures along the way.

It's a fascinating read - all the more so because it's part of my story too! Chris was one of my team-mates in Khiva - in fact we arrived there at the same time. I am mentioned briefly in the first chapters, including my much-laughed-about language mistake:

“Rustam and Mukkadas were patient with our halting Uzbek and gracious about our linguistic blunders, of which there were many. Perhaps the most colourful was when Catriona attempted to describe what church was like in Scotland and how men and women weren't separated but all sat together, singing and sometimes clapping. Rustam looked horrified and it took us a while to establish that Catriona had mistakenly used the word for toilet instead of church.”

The book gives a wonderful insight into life in Central Asia and is a must-read for those of you who supported and prayed for me and my team. Get your copy from Amazon (introductory offer of £8.98 down from £14.99).

Catriona Macdonald

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.

Farewell

This month we say farewell to Rob and Mary Bonne who are moving to Mull. We wish them every blessing in their new home.

Happy Birthday

Happy birthday to Finn who has a birthday on the 24th of February, Abigail on the 22nd of February, Matthew who had a birthday on the 7th of February and Lindsey on the 9th of February.

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.

Interview with Graham Hardy

I was born within ten minutes walk of "Buccleuch" at the old

Simpson Memorial Maternity Hospital, in 1967. My immediate family roots are in the Scottish Borders, although, a lot of family history research over the last 20 years has shown that somewhere in the ancestral tree there are Gunns, MacDonalds, McLeishs, McKenzies, so my ancestors were not all Lowland teuchters. In fact the Hardys are from County Durham way back, where they pursued the honourable trade of basket-making, and one of my McLeish ancestors was a pal of Niel Gow senior, one of Scotland's outstanding fiddle music composers. Pete Clark's CD of Gow's music is a particular favourite of mine.

The first thirteen years of my life were spent in the Borders - 2 and a half in Kelso and 10 and a half in Hawick. My dad, who worked for nearly forty years with the Post Office, and mum were both active each in their own way in raising me and my three younger siblings, Gillian, Grant and Keith. The age gap between me and Keith is only 3 years and 9 months, so we are a pretty close knit bunch, although I do have some regrets about how good a son and

brother I've been and continue to be. I have never thought of myself as a particularly good bargain for a woman so I've remained single, I know women reading this are probably thinking what an arrogant ass, is any man a good bargain!

We moved to Penicuik when I was almost 13 and I currently live in the same house we moved into in 1980. I've had some periods away from this house: four years as a student at Paisley Tech in the late 1980s, a year in Scourie working on a fish farm after graduating, and a year in Aberdeen studying library practice in 1997/98.

For the past twelve years I've been employed in the Library at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh. Librarianship can be challenging to a non-techie type like me, as all current developments are geared around the electronic delivery of information and I'm more of a bookman. Still, I do see the positives of the internet in disseminating information as openly as possible for the benefit of all people. The internet has its downside but it also has many plus sides.

However, some days I'd happily retreat into the bookstack and just catalogue, if I could. My view is that folk need signposts to information, and I am happiest doing the signwriting, not thinking about making the actual signs.

When did you become a Christian and who was a big influence in your life ?

My mum took me and the rest of the gang to Sunday School from a young age. She was active in the Women's Guild and used to attend Sunday morning worship at Wilton Parish Church in Hawick. Dad used to go until they made the mistake of suggesting he might consider the eldership. Looking back I enjoyed Sunday School and church, I felt safe and able to be me there, something I never really felt at school. In my experience the world judges much more than the kirk. We sang "Jesus Loves Me" and "I will make you fishers of men" every Sunday morning for years - I'm sure secularists would say I was indoctrinated - but Maimie Hall and Maimie Scott (all Hawick women of a certain age are called Maimie or Nan or

Peggie!!) were hardly what you'd call brain-washers. I confess I still have difficulty learning the lessons of those two Sunday school songs.

When we moved to Penicuik, the family attended the North Kirk. Me and my brothers were all in the BB - in fact I got the length of being awarded the Queen's Badge - as this involved achievement in sport - I'm not really a great team games guy - as well as Scripture, drill and more cerebral skills it's quite surprising really. I remember studying Mark and Acts with Gordon Mathew and his successor minister, John Fraser (he's still there after nearly thirty years) in BB Scripture Class. The message of John 1 opened to me a bit at this time. I professed faith in March 1983, but looking back I may have only been seeking and not been found by Christ then, I've always had assurance issues. I certainly heard the gospel at that time, and looking back had the example of Christians in the church: David Christie, Captain of the BB Company, for one. I even thought I had a call to the ministry at that time, but with hindsight I don't think it was

tested correctly. At the end of my third year at Paisley Tech I went through Church of Scotland selection school; when my application to be considered as a candidate for ministry in the C of S was deferred. The post selection school counselling had an effect on my confidence and I took a poor honours degree. I had yet to learn to walk as a Christian, so how could I expect to lead, and lead in humility. Too proud, much too proud, and not looking in the right direction. All this time, I knew I was a sinner, my sin was a present reality and I wanted to be quit of it, but on my terms, and that's no a good place to be. It's perhaps better than some, but it's certainly no the best. I needed to learn that it's not about trying to sweep your own heart clean.

How long have you been a member in Buccleuch ?

I started to attend Buccleuch in early 1991 after attending the Free Church (on the spiritual rebound from the C of S in hindsight) in Scourie during 1990. I joined by transfer (no quite Premier League material) in March 1991

and remember the few months I sat under the ministry of Douglas MacMillan as a time of spiritual feeding. David Wilkie (Assistant Minister) and his wife Anne, often fed me physically after church on a Sunday morning. My abiding memory is that all the folks seemed to be so clued up about Christian living and I was platching away feeling a phoney. Nevertheless I took the Lord's Supper because it was for sinners and I knew that I was a sinner who needed the mercy of God, and I always felt (and yet feel) the hairs stand up on the back of my neck when we sing Psalm 72 17-19 to the tune "Orlinton" before the benediction is pronounced, but then there was the feeling of going out into the world thinking that I'm without Christ and that is a sair dooncome. Peace where there's no peace. At this period I think that I was resting on a sentimental faith not the reality of Christ and his life and work. But I was still seeking. Clearing up last week I came across some notebooks from that time in which I'd copied out chunks from the Bible (minor prophets and Paul's letters) and an odd mix

of stuff from books in the stacks in the Edinburgh Public Library. (Scottish history, poetry and theology mainly). Who knows about William Crawford's "Dying Thoughts" these days (he was minister for a short time in the early eighteenth century in Wilton Parish (it's a wee world); or has read Tait's "Two Centuries of Border Church Life", a two volume canter through the history of the Secession Church in the Borders. One of these days I might get to Gateshaw Brae. The Secession Fathers started a lifelong interest in church history and this has been an influence in my seeking and finding and continuing in the Christian life.

I could go on, but it's no very edifying. I have learnt much over the years and yet I return again and again to the prayer "Lord be merciful to me a sinner" and to the breathtaking wonder of "But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)"

Your favourite book and film?

Asking a librarian to pick a favourite book is probably no a good idea. My brother Grant jokingly says that I'm "just a spine-reader." In other words, I never really get inside books only take in the title and the dust-cover information.

At the Botanic Garden there are many fine botanical books with highly executed examples of botanical art, which I am privileged to handle on occasion. Some of these are over five hundred years old. However I also have a sneaking admiration for cheap and cheery mass produced colour plates in late nineteenth and early twentieth century gardening magazines and seed catalogues.

My own collection of books has been built up over thirty years. It's an addiction if I'm honest, and some days I wonder if it's an idol. Books need to be opened and read not admired as objects. Some need to be dissected and pondered on and savoured. Others are read simply because they are telling a good fast paced story. They also need to be passed on sometimes and I'm not so good at doing this.

I like the approach to

books of John Cairns, a nineteenth century Scottish UP minister I admire. Aged 40 he was quietly offered the Principalship of the University of Edinburgh, an offer he declined, preferring to pastor a congregation in Berwick: his family did not know about this until after his death. Cairns approach was if he needed to read a particular book he bought a copy with no thought to its binding; and if someone gave him a book he didn't need or expect he gave it space on his bookshelves to honour the giver.

So after all that waffle, here are some personal book recommendations. Anything by Sinclair Ferguson, who I came into contact with when I worked with the Banner of Truth Trust. I'm currently re-reading the fairly short books he wrote on big themes which were published by the Banner of Truth. At present "Grow in Grace" and "Children of the Living God" are moving between my bedside table and my commuting rucksack. Strange to say I enjoy reading sermons.

I tend to go through spurts of reading particular authors.

Novelists I have read with pleasure and thought include, Willa Cather, R. K. Narayan, William Trevor, Honore de Balzac, Halldor Laxness, Karel Capek. I made a point of visiting Capek's grave when I was in Prague last year, and smiled when I found a cat drinking from a waterbowl placed on the plot. The funniest short story I know is "The Bell Jar" by Luigi Pirandello. It is not only funny it's got a vein of deeper thought in it, which all the best humorous writing has. Poetry also gives me pleasure. Well crafted natural history writing also appeals, for example work by Henry Williamson, Richard Jefferies, W. H. Hudson, and Richard Mabey, and I can combine this with poetry by reading John Clare or William Barnes.

I'm also a public library enthusiast. Along with the NHS they are probably the last truly democratic institution we have left. Freely available to all.

I'm also fond of my grub and Favourite Recipes and Favourite Recipes 2 are books I hold in high regard. I have to watch making a god of my belly as well.

Cinema is not really my

thing, you need friends to enjoy a film I think, and I always wait for folk to ask rather than doing the asking. Maybe I'll learn one day. I like the Shrek films for the humour and their message of love being deeper than the surface. Picking a non-animated film I'd say "Night of the Hunter" is a great piece of cinematography. Evil and goodness, false profession and unthinking profession and practical faith, all in a suspense filled plot.

Your favourite Bible passage ?

Years after my profession of faith I adopted a way of reading the Bible which tried to "trap Christ in his words." By this I mean I was reading the Bible on my own terms trying to fit my experience to the word rather than looking at the word as the means of shaping and changing my experience. The base of this was asking Jesus, are you really the Son of God ? whilst in my heart thinking, I'm not sure you are. I know much better than to do that now, I was really backslidden at the time, and it took years to shake off this mindset. And it amazes me that the Lord bore with me

through this period.

Now I often worry that when I read Scripture the seed is falling on the path and amongst thorns, and I really need to pray that the Lord of the Harvest bury it deep in my heart. Perhaps it doesn't settle because I am not praying that I am enabled to share the seed. This is a long way round of saying that I need to constantly ask God that the word meets me where I am at and draws me up to Him and His Son through His Spirit. Christian life as I understand it is the interaction of the word, the Spirit and the believer in fellowship with other believers, all bound in union with Christ, through His death and resurrection. We can't have any of the blessings of the Christian life without the suffering of Christ, and this means that our hearts have to be opened to our need of Christ. We also must beware of appropriating the gift without loving the giver. I often ponder on the words "Sir we would see Jesus" and ask myself do I pray this enough, and also why do I want to see Jesus, and do I want to let others see Jesus.

The teaching in the Bible can be an ice bath as well as a

warm bath, it can burn (coldness can burn) as well as soothe, so a favourite verse is not necessarily a favourite because it gives a warm fuzzy feeling. Sometimes I am close to the experience of Psalm 13 or 43 or 51 or 74, at other times I am closer to the experience of Psalm 34 or 23 or 46 or 87 or 121. I am not sure I've sunk to the experience of Psalm 88. I am particularly appreciative of Lamentations 3, the outpouring of a acutely depressed man, who yet can utter that wonderful doxology, "the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases his mercies never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

I am also especially grateful for Paul's Letter to the Colossians for the deep insights about the work of Christ it contains and the instruction that flows from this knowledge of Christ into teachings about the practical walk of the Christian believer united to Christ, "the image of the invisible God.", "In (Him) all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell whom the fullness of deity

dwells” and he “he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death” the children of God. “If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things which are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God... Put on then, as God’s chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassion, kindness, lowliness, meekness, and patience... And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

One verse that gives especial comfort to me is the promise in 1 Corinthians 10:13 “No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and he will not let you be tempted beyond your strength, but with the temptation will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.” This I link in my mind with Hebrews 4:15 “For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to

help in time of need.”

Finally in case you were wondering given my place of work, I do have certain flowers that are favourites. Thomas Chalmers liked the snowdrop and my favourite British wildflower is the windflower or wood anemone. I’ve just put together a display of books at work entitled “Spring Bouquet” and the wood anemone features. The following comment about the exhibition made me smile, someone has written “I love this x x.” Sometimes encouragements come quietly.



Graham works very quietly at maintaining our Buccleuch CD library and supplies many who

are unable to get to church with sermon CDs. Let us remember Graham in this very important work.

Some Thoughts On Congregational Histories

“I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth”
1 Timothy 4:14-15

What are the reasons for writing histories of Christian congregations? Perhaps there are as many reasons as there are church history writers? Why does a person want to spend hours with ledgers and minute books, old volumes of published sermons and biographies of long-forgotten office bearers and ministers? The question is asked in the awareness that it can draw forth both polite and glib answers. However, for the Christian all answers must be Christ-centred answers, as the Lord gives grace.

As I attempt a short (how long is a piece of string) series of articles drawn from events

and people in the history of Free Buccleuch and Greyfriars I’ve tried to look at my motives for doing so. Some of the human centred motives are. Just to tell a story. To say look at all the research I’ve done, aren’t I clever. To say what a great congregation we belong to. None of these are acceptable motives.

All of these human motives leave Christ at the door, and the Christian that does not lay all he does before Christ is injuring themselves spiritually. Cast all on Christ: all sin, all service, all suffering.

The Church is not a body of perfection, but Christ the Head of the Church is all righteousness. He is the sinless sin-bearer. “Christ has loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her... and present the church to himself in splendour.” (Ephesians 5: 25-27). And the crucified love of Christ is a deep mystery, at which all Christians silently marvel. Christ’s death and suffering on the cross is the most awful and wonderful point in the entire history of the world. But the cross is not the final stage of the story. For Christ who was

pierced and became sin for all who believe on him, past, present and to come, rose from the grave, and reigns that all may have true life in Him. So that is why we write church history because “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, ” (1 Timothy 1:15b) and God the Father “raised him from the dead and made him sit at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but in that which is to come; and he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.” (Ephesians 1: 20b-23)

Looking at incidents in the history of Free Buccleuch and Greyfriars is a way of trying to unfold ever so carefully and reverently parts of the story of Christ’s redeeming love active in Edinburgh, amongst fallen, sinful men and women.

Men and women just like us.

In the events of their lives they felt loss, fear, and joy, despair, pain, sadness and anger, bewilderment, and

confusion. They experienced joy and abasement the Lord’s Table. Perhaps they silently intoned “The Lord bless you and keep you: The Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace” (Numbers 6: 24-26) at baptisms and the ordination of office-bearers. They examined their hearts and wept over sins and confessed all to Christ who bears sins and intercedes with God the Father for all who come in true repentance to Him. They did not know what to say in certain situations. They prayed at all times and in all ways. Knowing that it is not their prayer that God accepts, but the Christ in whose name they pray. They forgot to give thanks when things went well. They were proud in their achievements. Circumstances almost broke them. Temptations almost broke them. Their fellow believers exasperated them. Their fellow believers misunderstood them. They misunderstood themselves. They were overly deferential to authority. They were not reverential enough to authority. They thought their

fellow believers were better Christians than they could ever be, forgetting that other Christians are not the pattern for Christian living, nor the power. Thanks be to God. They fell asleep in church sometimes, exhausted by the darg of the week. They got angry in kirk session meetings. They tried to speak of Christ to those around them. They tried to serve all around them looking to Christ and the Holy Spirit to strengthen and enable them in all good works. They prayed that Christ would be seen in their lives. They tried to honour all men. They sought not to quench or grieve the Spirit of God. They feared God.

Introducing James Wilson of Woodville

And thus because Christ and his love for the saints is the key to all history, that is where we begin, not in a committee meeting or on a building site, not even in the Tanfield Hall at the Disruption Assembly of 1843. No, we begin with a man in the study of his suburban cottage villa in Morningside, examining his soul prior to a celebration of the Lord's Supper, trying to put down in

words what words cannot fully tell, what Jesus Christ has done for him. The man's name is James Wilson, his house is called Woodville, and although he has been with Christ for more than 150 years, what he wrote on that occasion has given me comfort, and I hope it gives comfort to some others, not because he wrote it, but because of the Saviour he tries to write about.

Testimony of James Wilson of Woodville (1795-1856)

“When a person is actuated by the love of God as well as man, when he applies the Saviour's gracious words ‘do this in remembrance of me,’ not solely to the partaking of the sacrament of the Supper, but to the performance of whatever he may be called upon to do, however destructive to himself - when he has respect to the recompense of reward, and remembers that the eye of the all-seeing God, for ever sleepless and undimmed, is upon him by night and day, then is he truly steadfast and not afraid, then shall not his youth be joyless, nor his manhood useless, but even his old age, so often desolate, ‘shall be clearer

than the noon-day.' I shall not say that I lived without God in the world, but I often felt God-forsaken, which I surely would not have done had I simply laid myself and all my sins and sorrows at the foot of the Cross, trusting to 'the blood of sprinkling, which speaketh better things than that of Abel.' I thought, in truth, far more of my sufferings than of my sins, and looked not, at least confidingly, 'on Him whom I had pierced.' Had I acknowledged the Lord in all my ways, He would have directed my paths, and made my darkness light. O God, may I now say, 'The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life, of whom shall I be afraid?' May that faithful saying be accepted and deeply engraven on my heart, 'that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners,' to 'blot out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us,' to reconcile the world to God, 'not imputing to them their trespasses,' so that I who was some time 'afar off,' may be made nigh by the shedding of the Saviour's blood, while I confess with my tongue and

believe with my heart that Jesus is the Son of God, who raised Him from the dead. O holy Father, may it come to pass that in the place where it was said unto us, 'Ye are my people,' there shall we be called 'the children of the living God.'

The test, as it seems to me, of a person acting up, or being actuated by the highest principles, is this, that under similar circumstances we would again follow precisely the same course, altogether irrespective of results. But as I myself would, if I could throw myself back into former times and circumstances, in all probability follow an entirely opposite course from that which I have actually pursued, I conceive there must have formerly been (and may still exist), as great a mixture of pride and follow in the feelings by which I have been regulated, as of true humility and Christian wisdom.

Most people in early life are fond of building castles in the air, and are constitutionally careless at that period of their own interests; and my poor castles, however fair and glittering to my own fancy, certainly far brighter and more beautiful than anything I can

now conjure up, were in no way founded on filthy lucre Alas! for 'gorgeous cloudland,' and the 'world of dreams!' Alas! for the difference now greater than that of light and darkness, between the confiding imaginations of youth and the actual knowledge of after-years! Romance and reality! the peaceful repose of early and undoubting affection, and then - the battle of life. Who can relieve us from the body of sin and death? vain is the help of man; may we look evermore to that Rock which is sure and steadfast, and which, in its serene brightness, overlooks and illumines the darkness even of the valley of the shadow of death (making death itself a shadow), and which the waters of Jordan cannot overflow... Yet in reading the Word of God, although my views of God's providence and scheme of redemption were very dark, I was not without consolation, and I often dwelt with pleasure on such passages as the following:- 'The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart, and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.' 'The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O

God, thou wilt not despise.' 'He healeth the broken in heart and bindeth up their wounds.' 'Sorrow is better than laughter, for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.' 'To this man I will look, even to him that is of a poor and contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.' I fear I trembled not at the 'word,' though my soul was disquieted within me; though broken down by my sorrows, the burden of sin was not grievous, and I lightly esteemed the God of my salvation. Though weary and heavy laden, I went not to the fountain of living water, I sought not the bread of life (Lord, evermore give us that bread), but endeavoured (a vain endeavour) by a dogged resolution, an obstinate endurance of great discomforts of mind and body, to withstand adversities of whatever kind, instead of looking to Him who redeemeth the soul of His servants, so that 'none of those that trust in Him shall be desolate.' For we have not an high priest who 'cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities'..... I had great consolation then from all promises to the downcast and

disconsolate, such as 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven;' 'Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted;' and so far this was well. But did I not put my sufferings in front of my faith, and my patient endurance almost in place of it, as if I merited the compassionate love of God simply because I suffered, instead of seeking to be justified (solely as well as freely) by his grace, 'through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus?'

That the love of God was upon me I do not doubt, because we know that He 'first loved us,' and this only shews how great and abounding is the compassionate goodness of Him who calleth sinners to repentance. But that I loved God in return, or that the cross which I took up and bore, was the cross of Christ, I can scarcely believe, when I call to remembrance my anxious dissatisfied condition, my unmanly depression and discontent, and my entire want of anything that could be called Christian cheerfulness, or actual heartfelt resignation to the will of God. In fact, I brooded over my own sufferings and

distresses, instead of rejoicing in that 'one offering by which He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified - the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the world.' What marvel, then, that I was so often disconsolate, that I felt so seldom and so slightly the 'joy of believing?' I laboured and was heavy laden and was sore oppressed, with a painful constitution of body and a feeble constitution of mind; I was hedged in by difficulties on every side and surrounded by thick darkness; and yet I refused the call of the Divine Redeemer's love, - 'Come unto me, and I will give you rest.' Had I accepted of that invitation fully and without reserve, then assuredly I might have been 'troubled on every side, yet not distressed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed.'

I therefore come to the conclusion that my sufferings have been greatly imbittered by my sins, and chiefly by my disobedience in not recognising, in almost any of my misfortunes, the chastening hand of a loving Father. But 'if, when we were enemies, we

were reconciled unto God, how much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life!”

From; Hamilton, James. *Memoirs of the Life of James Wilson Esq., FRSE, MWS, of Woodville.* London: James Nisbet & Co. (1859) pages 323-328.

Wilson was one of two elders from New Greyfriars Church of Scotland who joined the Free Church at the Disruption of 1843, and the only one of that pair who served the Lord as an elder in the congregation of Free Greyfriars, Edinburgh. His co-elder Dr. David Clark of Lothian Street, died very shortly after the events of May 1843.

*NEXT INSTALMENT:
More on James Wilson of Woodville, his niece Henrietta, and his cousin and minister, Rev. John Sym of Free Greyfriars.*

We are Here to Help

The Session of the congregation, i.e. the Ministers and Elders who are responsible for the spiritual leadership of the congregation, wanted to remind the congregation that they should feel free to contact them with any questions, concerns or problems because we are here to help. Please let one of us know if you would appreciate a visit from one of the ministers or elders.

The contact details of our two ministers are:

Rev Alex J MacDonald, 14
Gilmour Road EH16 5NT
Home phone: 667 4651,
Mobile: 07751 298046
Email:
alex.macdonald@freechurch.org

Rev Dr Bob Akroyd, 275
Guardwell Crescent EH17 7SL
Home phone: 664 6306
Email:
bobandheather@talk21.com

The congregation is divided into geographic districts: central, northwest, east, southeast and southwest with specific elders connected to

each district.

The contact details of our elders are:

District
CE Donald Forsyth,

NW John MacRae,
& Neil Campbell,

E Iain Gill,
& Rev William Mackay,

SE Roddy Macleod, (Session
Clerk)
**& Rev Dr Fergus
Macdonald,**

**SW Rev Prof Donald M
MacDonald,**
& Dr Eric Mackay,

| 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**

| | | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| 28 th Feb | Norma Maclean | Jennifer Macleod | Sarah Lytle |
| 7 th March | Evelyn MacDonald | David Ferrier | Flora MacPhail |
| 14 th March | Rebecca Macleod | Mairi Forsyth | Anne Macrae |
| 21 st March | Jennifer Macleod | Kenny Macleod | Norma MacLean |
| 28 th March | Jocelyn Hammer | Sarah Lytle | Kirsty Clunie |

Amplifier

| | |
|------------------------|--------|
| 28 th Feb | Steven |
| 7 th March | Neil |
| 14 th March | Graham |
| 21 st March | Ed |

Cleaning

| | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| 27 th Feb | Rebeca Topping | Johnnie Macleod |
| 6 th March | Mairi Forsyth | Kerry/Lara Lee |
| 13 th March | Stacia /Rachel Greenwood | David Ferrier |
| 20 th March | Cailean Morrison | Hannah Toope |

Door Duty

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 28 th Feb | Roddy Macleod | Neil Campbell |
| | Ruth Macrae | Neil Macrae |
| 7 th March | Eric Mackay | Graham Hardy |
| | Steve Willis | Stephen Allison |
| 14 th March | Donald Forsyth | Mairi Forsyth |
| | Dolina Macdonald | Willie Lytle |
| 21 st March | Willie Mackay | Calum Maclean |
| | Kenneth Macleod | Iain Gill |
| 28 th March | John Macrae | Ken Mackenzie |
| | Chris Somerville | Jenny Somerville |

ACTIVITIES (in church building unless marked by *)

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Sunday | 11:00am | 6:30pm |
| 27 th Feb(Sat) | Bob Akroyd Preparatory service at 7:30pm | |
| 28 th Feb | Alex MacDonald Communion | Alex MacDonald Guest Service |
| 7 th March | Alex MacDonald | Alex MacDonald |
| 14 th March | Bob Akroyd | Bob Akroyd |
| 21 st March | Alex MacDonald | Alex MacDonald |

Crèche and Junior Sunday School during morning service.

Praise Time at 5:30pm before the evening 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 |
|------------------|-----|

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