



Fairmilehead
Parish Church

CHURCH NEWS

August 2011

To my Fairmilehead Family

Bill and I want to thank you for all that you did to help make our wedding so special. The church ceilidh was great fun for all - including the Americans. The warmth and welcome that you extended to our visitors from overseas did not go overlooked, nor did the wonderful food, decorations and dancing!

Some of you may remember the final song of the evening, "Auld Lang Syne", when everyone gathered in a circle with Bill and me in the centre. As I looked out into the crowd of singing faces, overcome with emotion, I began to weep. The outpouring of love and support from each and every one of you was overwhelming and we are both so blessed to have a church family like you.

I also want to thank you for the incredibly generous wedding present, which I understand came from a congregational collection. This was above and beyond anything we could have ever expected and we are deeply grateful.

It is both a privilege and an honour to serve alongside you and I look forward to our next 18 months together!

Love and blessings,

Hayley

Readings for the month of August



7th August

Genesis 37.1-4, 12-28
Psalm 105.1-6, 16-22,
45b
Romans 10.5-15
Matthew 14.22-33

14th August

Genesis 45.1-15
Psalm 133
Romans 11.1-2a,29-32
Matthew 15.[10-20]
21-28

21st August

Exodus 1.8-2.10
Psalm 124
Romans 12.1-8
Matthew 16.13-20

28th August

Exodus 3.1-15
Psalm 105.1-6,
23-26,45b
Romans 12.9-21
Matthew 16.21-28



St. Catharine's News

While St Catharine's gets itself ready for the new season, our church has also not been idle. A lunch is being arranged for the 28th August, and the money raised from this event will go to St Catharines and Chipembwi, a school in Africa.

We do hope you will come and help us raise as much as possible. Tickets will be available between services and from the church office. Please also remember we will be collecting clothing and food stuffs from the start of September.

Thank you

Katherine Shaw, Moya Justice and Valerie Walke

Purves Puppets Refreshment Sales – Can you help?

Thank you to those who have kindly volunteered. We are still looking for more helpers. If you can spare an hour of your time either between 11.15am and 12.15pm or 2.15pm to 3.15pm between 8th and 20th August (inclusive) please call or Email Stewart at the Church Centre Office and let him know any day(s)/time(s) that you can help. Many thanks.

Aileen Brannan - Social Convener

Fairmilehead Fair - Saturday 1 October

A Fair, to raise money for the church both locally and nationally, is to be held in the Church Halls on Saturday 1 October from 10am until 2pm with a cake and candy stall, a garden stall, a Silent Auction, second hand children's clothes, toys and games, golf putting competition, face painting, crafts for children to try, coffees, teas, a light lunch and much, much more.

All donations of cakes, jams, chutneys, plants, books, DVDs, CDs, items for the silent auction, second hand children's clothes, toys and games, will be most gratefully received. Please bring them to the church office during office hours the week beginning 26 September or between 7 and 9pm the evenings of 28, 29 or 30 September. If you would like us to collect your donation or help with this event, please get in touch with either Pamela Black (445 1065) or Helen Grant (477 6830).

Pamela Black - Session Clerk

1a Frogston Road West, Edinburgh, EH10 7AA
Email: office@fhpc.org.uk
Minister: Rev. John R Munro BD
Assistant Minister: Rev. Hayley O'Connor M. Div

Tel: 0131 445 2374 Fax: 0131 445 7679
Website: fhpc.org.uk
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am to 3.00pm
(Closed 12.15pm to 12.45pm)

Fairmilehead Parish Church is a registered Scottish charity, No: SC015967

Social Committee - Forthcoming Events

Autumn Golf Meeting - Monday, 26th September at Melville Golf Centre (9 hole) from 4.30 pm . Names to Derek Tough or the Church Office. Supper The Laird & Dog.

Jimmie Macgregor - Saturday 8th October Illustrated talk "The West Highland Way" Tickets (£7 for adults or £5 for children) now available from Committee members or the Church Office.

Burns Supper - Saturday 14th January 2012 at Mortonhall Golf Club.

Aileen Brannan - Social Convener

"Get Re-connected" – Another Angle

Since launching our "Get Re-connected" programme we have been able to welcome back many of those who – for a variety of reasons – have drifted from active membership of the Church. A start has been made but as the 75th anniversary of our congregation, starting in 2012, draws nearer we would hope to make contact with some others who are still living in the area but have so far not responded to our invitation. With the new Church Year beginning at the end of August this would be a great time to re-connect with Fairmilehead Parish and play a part in our forthcoming celebrations.

There is another aspect to this matter of connecting with the church. Recently representatives of the presbytery made us aware that they expected more from us as a church and congregation. In these straightened times for the church in Scotland, almost 2/3rds of the congregations are supported by the 1/3rd of congregations that are considered to be 'self-supporting', that is, they enjoy an income in excess of what it costs to maintain a ministry and to operate a set of church buildings. Fairmilehead has long been one of those congregations. However, our giving to the national church has been declining and the standard of measurement used by the presbytery to determine this - known as 'per capita' giving - suggests that the giving of our church is considerably lower than the average for the presbytery as a whole.

No doubt there are compelling reasons for this, not least the effects of the recession on some hard-pressed members. At the same time we have to ask ourselves why it does not seem to affect other congregations in much the same way? Thinking about this in terms of 'per capita' giving it has been suggested that Fairmilehead does not have as many active members as appears on our Roll of Membership. Do we really enjoy a membership of nearly 700 or is it the case that many of our members are not active and do not support the church in terms of their time, talents and money, as once they said they would?

To address this situation the Minister, with the help of the Roll Keeper and Session Clerk, is intending to visit all those members of the congregation who still appear on the Church Roll but, as far as we can make out, do not actually play a part in the life of our church.

Recently, in the United States Presbyterian Church, the decision was taken to only class people as members of the church if they were 'active'; everyone else will be kept on a Baptismal Roll. There is no suggestion of this happening yet in the Church of Scotland but we do need to know how strong our membership really is and what we can expect from each and every one.

Rev John Munro

Sustainable Volunteer Wanted

Our church is a recognised Eco-Congregation with the recently registered charity Eco-Congregation Scotland. This exists to promote green and sustainable living in churches across a wide range of issues from recycling and composting to carbon capture and energy saving. To date we have had fairly casual links with Eco-Congregation Scotland but they have now asked if can appoint a member to represent the congregation in a formal way. This would need to be someone with a real interest in environmental matters, prepared to attend meetings of the Eco-Congregation Scotland network, able to communicate by email and willing too to maintain contact with Transition Edinburgh Pentlands, our local eco-group.

If you are really interested please contact Jim Moffat (445 2155) for more information as the issues are of growing importance both locally and nationally.

Jim Moffat - Education Convener

Church Flowers

The flower committee is very grateful for the contributions made by members and friends of the congregation. There are some dates without donors if you would like to make a "one off" donation. The dates are 30 October 2011, 29 January 2012, 29 April 2012, 29 July 2012.

If you would like to donate annually, these are the available dates 14 August 2011, 4 September 2011, 11 September 2011, 22 July 2012.

Guild

There will be another Guild "TEA & CHAT" afternoon on Wednesday, 7th September from 2.30pm. All members invited.

Betty Moffat



Pentland Walking Group

Donald thought it would be a good idea if I wrote this month's article in my new role as leader of the walking group. So far this Summer we have had a mixed bag of weather. When it was good it was very very good, when it was bad it was awful - we live in hope! Despite this we have had some super walks.

On 6th August we are scheduled to go on a hike walk to the Three Brethren near Selkirk, culminating with high tea at the Waterwheel Cafe, Philiphaugh. For those who may not wish to go to the top there is an option to do a shorter walk. Don't forget your picnic. Booking Forms for High Tea are available from Donald Lane, myself or the Church Office. As with previous years we welcome past members, former walkers and friends who would like to join us for tea. Bowhill and other country houses nearby are worth a visit!

Following on the next walk will be on 16th August, this to the Pencaitland Railway, with the last August walk being the Penicuik Heritage Walk on the 30th.

On 11th September we have a picnic walk to Aberdour and Silversands - a great place for the children!

If you have not joined us before and would like a walk - usually 3-4miles - do please come along shortly before the "departure" time and introduce yourself. We look forward to seeing you.

Isobel Cameron - Chairman

August Diary

- Sat 6 1000 Walking Group - Three Brethren from Philiphaugh
Sat 6 1700 Walking Group - High Tea at Waterwheel Cafe
Sun 7 1030 One Service & Fun Zone
Mon 8 to Fri 12 Holiday Club
Sun 14 1030 Holiday Club Celebration
Tue 16 1840 Walking Group - Pencaitland Railway Walk
Sun 21 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church 1100 Morning Worship
Tue 23 1930 Business Committee
Sun 28 0945 Worship Now! Young Church & Quarterly Communion 1100 Morning Worship & Quarterly Communion
Tue 30 1840 Walking Group - Penicuik Heritage Walk

September Diary

- Sun 4 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church 1100 Morning Worship
Wed 7 1430 Guild "Tea & Chat"
Sun 11 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church 1100 Morning Worship 1200 Walking Group - Picnic Walk Aberdour & Silversands
Tue 13 1930 Kirk Session
Sun 18 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church 1100 Morning Worship
Sun 25 1030 Harvest Celebration 1340 Walking Group - Kirkliston 1900 Harvest Songs of Praise
Mon 26 1630 Autumn Golf Meeting
