



Fairmilehead
Parish Church

CHURCH NEWS


May 2011

From the Minister

As the "Get Re-connected" Spring Parties come to an end so it is time to look more closely at the plans for celebrating the 75th anniversary of our church that dates from February 1937. A group of elders and members has been set up by the Kirk Session to bring forward ideas for a celebration but, as the "Get Re-connected" programme made clear, it is important that as many ideas come from the grass roots as possible as to how we might appropriately celebrate this milestone in our church's life and then move forward together towards the future. If you would like to play a part or join the planning group then simply make contact with the Church Office. Alternatively contact the convenor of the planning group, Muriel Armstrong, with your thoughts and ideas - Muriel can be contacted on 445 3223 or email: murielarmstrong@blueyonder.co.uk

With this in mind it was decided some time ago that we should once again take a fresh look at the Sunday services and the Young Church which meet concurrently on a Sunday morning. There is already a Worship Committee and the Young Church hold a regular Young Church Leaders' meeting but, again, we would like to hear from you, the members of the church and the parents of our Young Church children. To this end a meeting of all those who are interested in our worship services and the Young Church is being held on Monday, 9th May, at 7.30pm. Following a short introduction and presentation the meeting will, in groups, discuss our experiences as worshippers and as parents or guardians connected to the church. The resulting feedback will then be taken up by the Worship Committee and the Young Church Leaders and a formula for the foreseeable future will be worked out to the benefit of all concerned. As I say, this meeting is open to any member of the church or parents with children at Young Church and comments are welcome in writing if you prefer or you can contact me at any time with your thoughts using my email address - revjohnmunro@hotmail.com

In a different vein, the Spring Golf Outing is being held at Mortonhall Golf Club on Friday 20th May with tee times from 4.30pm. If you would like to take part - and all are welcome - then make contact with Derek Tough as soon as possible - 445 2055.

 (Handicap 16!)

Prayer for May

Lord Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth, and the Life; let us not stray from you the Way; nor distrust you, the Truth; nor rest in any other but you, the Life; teach us by your Holy Spirit what to believe, what to do, and in what to take our rest; we ask it for your sake. Amen. (Prayer of Erasmus)

Readings



1st May

Acts 2. 14a,22-32
Psalm 16
1 Peter 1.3-9
John 20.19-31

8th May

Acts 2. 14a,36-41
Psalm 116.1-3,10-17
1 Peter 1.17-23
Luke 24.13-35

15th May

Acts 2.42-47
Psalm 23
1 Peter 2.19-25
John 10.1-10

22nd May

Acts 7.55-60
Psalm 31.1-5,15-16
1 Peter 2.2-10
John 14.1-14

29th May

Acts 17.22-31
Psalm 66.7-18
1 Peter 3.13-22
John 14.15-21



St. Catharine's News

Have you ever wondered what else goes on in St Catharine's apart from meals and clothes being given to the homeless? The Sisters have many help groups, such as helping to find accommodation for clients, giving counselling, helping the visitors to fill in forms for housing, jobs, and medical assistance. They also go with patients to clinics and help them get the proper care, wherever it is needed.

The most important of these is the providing of food and clothing so once again we ask you for dried food products, margarine, tea, bags, and sugar. The Sisters say the visitors are particularly fond of tuna and corned beef, as this is given as often as they can. Also needed are black refuse bags, cleaning products and disinfectant. The visitors also need disposable razors, toothpaste and toothbrushes, combs and small bars of soap.

If delivery of these items to the Church is during the week then please hand them to the **Church Office**. There is a small box just opposite the Welcome desk for items brought on a Sunday

Thank you

Katherine Shaw, Moya Justice and Valerie Walke

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Minister: Rev. John R Munro BD
Assistant Minister: Rev. Hayley O'Connor M. Div

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Office Hours: Mon-Fri 8.30am to 12.15pm &
12.45pm to 3.00pm

From the Editor

Welcome to our May 2011 Church News - increased to 4 pages for one month only! This reflects what a vibrant couple of months we have hopefully all enjoyed here at Fairmilehead Parish Church. The expanded edition is to accommodate certain articles that the Crossroads Editorial Board felt were better reported in this vehicle. It also allows many of our Committees and Groups to provide readers with more details of their activities and forthcoming events.

The big event of the Summer will be Bill & Hayley's wedding on Uncle Sam's birthday, 4th July, at St Giles. On page three Pamela Black provides details of the "pre-match" party the Church is organising. This will take the form of a Ceilidh and should be a night of fun and merriment for all.

My predecessor, Charlie Greenslade, reminds us below of the importance of giving to those less fortunate and hopefully we can all give in some way to Christian Aid this year. Our Church Officer also shares with us an interesting article arising from his passion, metal detecting.

Claire Currie, who has been spicing up the notes since taking over from Philip at the ivories, again invites you to come and be part of the Praise Group. If you can sing a little please get in contact with Claire.

On our back page Aileen Brannan alerts us to what's happening to promote fellowship in the community and hopefully there will be something there that interests you. Clearly from the Minister's lead article John is throwing down the gauntlet to all to "dust down" the "mashie niblicks" for the Spring Golf challenge at Mortonhall on Friday 20th May. Unfortunately the Editor won't be able to showcase his new found form as I will (hopefully) be midway along the West Highland Way. Shame Jimmie Macgregor couldn't have been persuaded to appear earlier!

For those who enjoy the outdoors Donald Lane updates us on the exploits of the Walking Group with the Summer programme now under way.

Although many of our own organisations are in the Summer recess there is still plenty going on daily at the Church Centre. Please take a look at the back page of **Crossroads** and come along and join the Zumba Party or anything else that takes your fancy. Hugh and I hope to see you soon.

Stewart Morris - Church Centre Coordinator

Lost Sheep - CAN YOU HELP ?

Can you help find our lost Sheep?

The following members have moved away but we do not have their current addresses. If you know their whereabouts please

notify myself, Ian Cuthbertson, on 0131 447 4557 or email: IanCuthbertson@sky.com



Aileen Boags formerly Caiyside

Paul Bruce - Milton Bridge

Paul/Fiona Buchanan - Livingston

Carolyn Cameron - Buckstone Road

Ian Campbell - Caiystane Gdns

Iain Clark - Buckstone Gdns

Douglas/Janet Crombie - Tryst Park

Mr /Mrs Dudgeon - Buckstone Crescent

James/Victoria Fraser - Caiyside

Fiona Gemmell - Swanston Ave

Lillian/Lorraine Gormley - Buckstone Drive

Andrea Hutson - Mortonhall Gate

Catherine Louch - Swanston Avenue

Lesley McWhirter - Buckstone Crescent

Karen Robson - Mortonhall Park Gdns

Elizabeth Tolland - W Caiystane Rd

Gillian Wallace - Hainburn Park.



Any assistance you can provide would be much appreciated. Many thanks.

Ian Cuthbertson (Roll Keeper)

Christian Aid Week 15th-21st May 2011: Fairmilehead can make a difference!

Christian Aid Week 2011 takes place between Sunday 15th May and Saturday 21st May. Last year a grand total of £5,408.82 was raised in our area by collectors representing Fairmilehead and St Fillan's churches. This significant sum made a difference when used to better the lives of some of those less fortunate individuals whose lot is simply to survive to see the dawn of tomorrow in their 3rd world country.

What can you do to help make a difference in 2011? Well you can give generously of your wealth so that Fairmilehead continues to play a part in bridging the widening gap between the "haves" in the northern hemisphere and "have nots" amongst our southern brethren.

You could also give just one hour of your time this Christian Aid Week and become a collector. Without sufficient collectors we cannot garner the harvest of willing givers in our area. We are currently well short of the number we need to cover every house in the district. If you are both physically and spiritually enabled then please help. Please volunteer your name and phone number to the church office as soon as possible. Together we can make **poverty** history.

Charlie Greenslade

A "token" of interest

In the 75th year of the Church at the Crossroads at Fairmilehead it is a bit ironic that I have come across a communion token from the year 1938 belonging to the Church of Fairmilehead.

Most of the early tokens were made from lead or lead/tin or pewter although some exist in brass and even leather. Later tokens were machine cast and would have sayings like "Let a Man Examine Himself" on them or "This do in remembrance of me". Such later issues could have depictions on them such as the burning bush or other religious symbols. Strangely enough, the cross or crucifix is rarely seen.



A person would have to be of good character as defined by the ministers or elders to be given a token which he or she would present when receiving communion. In those days, the Scottish Presbyterians would take communion as well as the Catholic churches.

The tokens were used during one of the most turbulent times in Scottish history. When the Presbyterian Church was banned by the state in an effort to convert the Scots to the Episcopalian religion, dissenters signed the National Covenant in Edinburgh. Ministers who would not conform to what they saw as a Papist religion were forced out of their parishes and became outlaws. These ministers would travel throughout the countryside holding services in the open air in hidden "Conventicles". Since this was an illegal activity, the communion token was given to only trusted people.

The one from Fairmilehead Parish Church wasn't used as the old ones were used but as a token to say you had been to communion.

Hugh McCreadie - Church Officer & Metal Detector

New Member Coffee Hour

Do you want to learn more about the church? Do you know a neighbour or friend who might be interested in becoming a member of Fairmilehead?

Then come along and meet with Rev. Hayley O'Connor during the Sunday coffee hour where we'll explore together what it means to be a Christian. We'll meet in Caerketton Hall from 10:45 to 11:30 on the following dates:

- 1 May - Introduction**
- 8 May – Believing in God**
- 15 May – The life and ministry of Jesus**
- 22 May –The Holy Spirit**
- 29 May – Next Steps**

All are welcome!

Please contact Hayley for more information on 623 6661 or email: : occonnorhe@gmail.com

Crossroads Feedback

Please encourage your neighbours and friends who receive **Crossroads** but may not attend Church to take 5 minutes to tell us what they think? Feedback forms are available at the Church Centre or can be downloaded from our website www.fhpc.org.uk These can then be Emailed to office@fhpc.org.uk or placed in the "Feedback Box" on the Welcome Desk. Thank You

Pentland Walking Group

At our Annual General Meeting in February, our Chairman, Jim Moffat, stood down after 4 years in office. We thank him for all the work which he has put in arranging walks, encouraging Committee Members and hosting meetings. In his place we elected Isobel Cameron as Chairman.

Our summer programme of walks on alternate Tuesday evenings, with some all day picnic walks, has now started. Details are shown in Orders of Service and on the Church Centre Notice Board. For all the walks we meet in the Church Car Park to fill cars to avoid taking too many vehicles to the start points. New members are always welcome – just turn up suitably dressed shortly before the departure time and introduce yourself to the walkers you will find there.

Our annual High-Tea walk, On Saturday, 6th August, will be from Philiphaugh Estate, near Selkirk to The Three Brethren. High Tea will be at 5.00pm in the Waterwheel Café on the Philliphaugh Estate. The charge, including gratuities, will be £12. As usual we hope to be joined for the Tea by former walkers and friends who may not wish to do the walk.

The Summer Programme and High-Tea booking forms are available from Isobel Cameron (477 9351); Donald Lane (445 3375) or from the Church Office.

Donald Lane

Guild

The GUILD have now completed an enjoyable and well attended 2010/11 Session although it has been suggested we meet for tea and a chat on 29th June and sometime in August. Sadly we have had to cancel our outing to Glasgow due to lack of numbers. Another "institution" that will not take place this Autumn is the Charity Christmas Card Sale. This required a great deal of organisation and was not as well attended last year – neither by stall holders nor visitors – as we had hoped. This drop in attendance is attributed to competition from Charity shops, Christian Aid, and other local churches who hold similar events around the same time.

On a more positive note, our two theatre outings were very much enjoyed. Members may wish to attend the Morlich House Coffee Morning on 30th April (tickets £2 available from Betty Moffat) and the Christian Aid Spring Fair in Morningside Parish Church on 28th May.

The Committee would like to wish all Guild members, especially those who through ill health have not been able to join us recently, a happy and relaxing holiday.

Renee Barton - Guild Secretary

Hayley and Bill

I'm delighted to announce that Hayley O'Connor, our American Assistant Minister and her fiancé, Bill Stone are to be married in Edinburgh on Monday, 4 July.



So that we can help make this a memorable weekend for Hayley and Bill and their families and friends who are coming over from the United States, we will be holding a Ceilidh in the Buckstone Hall on Saturday, 2 July. Tickets will be available for sale from mid May (cash only) from the Church Office, Helen Grant or myself.



The Kirk Session also agreed, at their meeting in March, that the congregation should be given the opportunity to donate money towards a wedding gift from Fairmilehead Parish Church. If you would like to contribute, please put a cheque, payable to Fairmilehead Parish Church, in an envelope marked "for the attention of the Treasurer, Stan Marek", with 'Hayley' written on the back of the envelope and hand it in to the Church Office by Sunday 26th June.

Pamela Black (Session Clerk)

RE-CONNECT NOW!

FAIRMILEHEAD PARISH CHURCH



www.fhpc.org.uk

The Social Committee - Here for You!

The Social Committee arrange a variety of events to interest the whole Fairmilehead community. We started this year with a production of "Aladdin" by the Purves Puppets. It was a great success and enjoyed by many - the happy excited atmosphere being proof of the enjoyment experienced by all. Many of you will have noticed from **Crossroads** that Purves Puppets have hired our Buckstone Hall for two weeks this August during the Edinburgh Fringe.

In March we had our annual Church Quiz at which teams from many organisations and representatives from other congregations took part. It has been decided this will be the last for the time being in this format but we shall arrange something different to replace it next year. Later in the month the Church was filled for a very lively concert by Penicuik Silver Band and their talented Junior Band.

A booking has been made for a three course lunch on Tuesday, 3rd May at "EH15", the restaurant run by catering students at Jewel & Esk College. The charge, including coffee will be £9.50 – excellent value for a meal with friends in very pleasant surroundings. To book, please pass your names to Marilyn Aithie (445 1939) or the Church Office by 30th April.



Our annual Spring Golf meeting, followed by supper, will be held at Mortonhall on Friday 20th May, with tee-off times from 4.30pm. For further details please contact Derek Tough (445 2055). Look out for details of our Autumn outing later.

A walk down the Royal Mile is being arranged for a Tuesday evening or Sunday afternoon in late June or early July. It will be led by fully qualified Guides from our own congregation. Look out for details in Orders of Service and in the June edition of this Newsletter.

We have invited the well known broadcaster, long distance walker and folk singer, Jimmie Macgregor to visit us again on Saturday, 8th October when we hope that he will give an illustrated talk on the West Highland Way. Again, watch this space for further details.



We are already planning some events for 2012. Please note in your diary that our very popular bi-annual Burns Supper will be held on Saturday 14th January in Mortonhall Golf Club House. In March we hope to run a Beetle Drive and later in the year a Ceilidh will be arranged.

Aileen Brannan (Convener)

Church Register

Deaths

Florence Spowart
24 Swanston Road
Edinburgh (7/9)

Died 21st March 2011

Baptisms

Yazmin Louise Dow
daughter of Douglas and Nicola Dow

Farewell to

Helen Black
4 Trench Knowe (8/3/6)
to Linlithgow

Change of address

Kathleen Strachan
from 30 Comiston Springs Ave (11/7)
to 23 Caiystane Court,
Oxgangs Rd Nth (0/1)

Help Make a "Joyful Noise" on a Sunday!

The Praise Group are still looking for singers and musicians to join their happy throng. They lead the Praise at the Worship Now! Service each week. Practice is on Thursdays at 7.30pm and again before the service at 9.15am on Sundays. Volunteers do not require to participate every week. Interested? Please speak to Claire Currie after the Service or by telephone 477 1151 - email: claire.currie@blueyonder.co.uk

The Forum

The Forum ended the session with the AGM. We would like to thank everyone for their continuing support, especially of the Charity Lunch. We were able to give £230 to the Vine Trust (which was made up to £524.40 with the 'Big Give' and Gift Aid), £400 to Braidburn School and £450 to the Church.

The Outing is on 22nd June at 6.30pm. We meet at St Mary's Cathedral to see the Prestonpans Tapestry and then return to Fairmilehead for a meal at Hunter's Tryst. If anyone has not yet put their name down please contact me as soon as possible.

Our new session starts again on 28th September.

Johan MacKenzie (Secretary)

May Diary

- Sun 1 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church
1045 New Member Coffee Hour
1100 Morning Worship
- Tue 3 1200 EH15
- Tue 3 1900 Community Council
- Tue 3 1930 Business Committee
- Wed 4 1930 New Atheism/New Christianity
- Sun 8 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church
1045 New Member Coffee Hour
1100 Morning Worship
- Mon 9 1930 Worship Meeting
- Mon 9 1930 Finance Committee
- Tue 10 1840 Walking Group - Allermuir
- Tue 10 1930 Publicity Committee
- Wed 11 1930 New Atheism/New Christianity
- Sun 15 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church
1045 New Member Coffee Hour
1100 Morning Worship
- Tue 17 1930 Kirk Session
- Wed 18 1930 New Atheism/New Christianity
- Fri 20 1630 Golf Outing - Mortonhall
- Sun 22 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church
1045 New Member Coffee Hour
1100 Morning Worship
- Tue 24 1840 Walking Group - Gowkley Moss
- Wed 25 1930 New Atheism/New Christianity
- Sun 29 0945 Worship Now! Young Church & Quarterly Communion
1045 New Member Coffee Hour
1100 Morning Worship & Quarterly Communion

June Diary

- Wed 1 1930 Social Committee
- Sun 5 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church
1100 Morning Worship
- Tue 7 1840 Walking Group - Corstorphine
- Tue 7 1900 Community Council
- Sun 12 1030 Pentecost Celebration
- Tue 14 1930 Business Committee
- Sun 19 0945 Worship Now! & Young Church
1100 Morning Worship
- Tue 24 1000 Walking Group - Picnic Walk
- Sun 26 0945 Worship Now! Young Church & Monthly Communion
1100 Morning Worship & Monthly Communion
