



Fairmilehead
Parish Church

CHURCH NEWS

October 2011

From the Minister

As some of you will know the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has decided that every church and congregation will now hold regular stewardship programmes designed to improve the level of giving throughout the national church. At our Kirk Session meeting held in September an analysis of our giving in Fairmilehead was presented by Dr Brian Wilson who is part of the Finance Committee and looks after Gift Aid contributions for our congregation. We were all enlightened by what Brian had to tell us not least that our 'per capita' giving as a congregation has fallen away considerably over the past ten years or more. At one time, in the 1980s, the congregation of Fairmilehead was in the top three of Edinburgh congregations in terms of the amount of per capita giving by our members. Today we are in the bottom three. The Kirk Session has therefore decided to implement a programme of stewardship almost immediately beginning in October. The details have still to be worked out but the programme will include (1) an explanation as to why we need to review our giving to the church at this time, (2) recommendations as to how we might all give to the work of the church financially and in other ways, (3) an opportunity to commit ourselves financially for the coming year at least. I have no doubt that some of our members will be surprised by this news – some may even be shocked. The important thing is that we be all shocked into doing something about it!

A significant improvement could be made almost immediately and Dr Brian Wilson tells us how:

"Approximately 200 individuals or households in our congregation of 700 members Gift Aid their offerings to the church. The amount given by a few of those households has thankfully increased over the last three years – but most have not, so the worth of their original donation effectively falls in value every year. Moreover, the Gift Aid that can be reclaimed on behalf of every tax payer is dropping this year from 28+% to 25%. For Fairmilehead Church alone, the cost is £2000+ per annum and this loss of income has to be filled. In those circumstances I am asking everyone to please review their giving, without waiting for our planned stewardship programme to begin in order to aid the work of our own and the wider Church of Scotland. Bankers' Order forms are available at the Welcome Desk as are Gift Aid declaration forms if you are a tax payer and are not yet signed up. If I can be of any assistance please call me, Dr Brian Wilson, Gift Aid Treasurer 466-1924"

Readings for the month of October



2nd October
Exodus 20.1-4,
7-9, 12-20
Psalm 19
Philippians 3.4b-14
Matthew 21.33-46

9th October
Exodus 32.1-14
Psalm 106. 1-6,
19-23
Philippians 4.1-9
Matthew 22.1-14

16th October
Exodus 33.12-23
Psalm 99
1 Thessalonians
1.1-10
Matthew 22.15-22

23rd October
Deuteronomy 34.1-12
Psalm 90.1-6,13-17
1 Thessalonians 2.1-8
Matthew 22.34-46

30th October
Nehemiah 8.1-4a
[5-6] 8-12
Psalm 119.89-104
Colossians 3.12-17
Matthew 24.30-35



St. Catharine's News

The Centre for the Homeless is now open again and as busy as always. The lunch we had at the church for St Catharine's and Chipembie raised £562 and half of this will be given to St Catharine's. Thanks to all who attended.

We are now looking for dried foods such as rice and lentils, as well as margarine, sugar and tea. Your old clothes would be welcome too especially men's. If you have any problem taking them to the church, please phone the Church Office on 445 2374 and they will get someone to collect the items.

Toothpaste and toothbrushes, shaving creams, disposable razors, soap and sanitary items for women are all welcome. Any small bars of soap and shampoo you may have brought home from your holiday would also be welcome.

Thank you, these are just a couple of ideas, which the visitors really appreciate.

Katherine Shaw, Valerie Walke and Moya Justice

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

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

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)

Volunteers Required for the Church Office

The Church Office is the hub of the Church Centre and we are looking for volunteers to help Stewart, our Church Centre Co-ordinator. Duties will include answering the telephone, taking bookings for the halls, issuing invoices and just being around to welcome and deal with enquiries from the hall users. Familiarity with computers would be useful. We are also looking for people who would be able to staff the office/halls to cover holidays or in an emergency.

If interested and willing, please contact the Session Clerk, Pamela Black at blackcamus@blueyonder.co.uk or telephone 445-1065.

Fresh Start Appeal

The Young Church supports a number of charities on an ongoing basis but each year we have a special appeal which involves the whole congregation and the community of Fairmilehead. The charity we have chosen to support in Autumn 2011 is Fresh Start.

Fresh Start is an Edinburgh charity that helps people who have been homeless get established in their new home. Through involving volunteers and organisations from a broad section of the community, they deliver a range of services that provide essential household goods and practical and social support to help people resettle successfully. Each year Fresh Start helps thousands of new tenants, ranging from families to individuals settle into their homes.

The Starter Packs Service provides new tenants who have been homeless with essential items to set up their home. The Starter Packs include crockery and cutlery, pots and pans, cleaning materials, towels, curtains, bedding and linen, electrical goods and toiletries. The Young Church hopes that everyone in our church and community will feel able to contribute to the appeal. It could be a wooden spoon, a can opener, toilet rolls, rubbish bags, dinner plates, cutlery, a frying pan, a duvet cover, curtains, a kettle ... the list goes on. Not all items need to be new – but they do need to be in a reasonable condition. Posters will be on display detailing the items required to make up the Starter Packs. Donations can be handed in at the church. We hope you will support this very good cause.

Dorothy Smith

Church Register

Baptisms

Murrin Antonia daughter of Anthony and Fiona Johnstone (2/4)

Change of Address

James & Carole Tilston 12 Craigerne Drive, Peebles (0/1) to 9 Netherbank View, Liberton (2/5)

Graeme Duncan 75/13 Stenhouse Drive (0/1) to 40 Greenlaw Rigg (12/3)

Amanda Meldrum 44 Colinton Mains Crescent Drive (12/3) to 8 Oxfangs Farm Grove (12/3)

Social Committee

There is still time to get your tickets for the illustrated talk on the West Highland Way by the broadcaster and entertainer, Jimmie Macgregor, on Saturday, 8th October. After the talk which will start at 7.30 pm in the Church we shall move to the Halls for refreshments and chat with Jimmie. Tickets (£7 for adults or £5 for children) can be obtained from the Church Office or any member of the Social Committee.

In our next edition you will find details of our biennial Burns Supper which will be on Saturday, 14th January in Mortonhall Golf Clubhouse, as well as other events which we are planning for the early part of 2012.

Donald Lane - Secretary

The Pentland Walking Group

We are now into our Winter programme of Sunday afternoon walks for which we meet in the Church Car Park ready to leave at 1.40 pm for the start of each walk.

The Winter walks are fortnightly, except for occasions when we have to avoid clashes with other Church activities. Programmes are available from the Church Office, Isobel Cameron (477 9311) or Donald Lane (445 3375) and they can be seen on the Church web-site.

Donald Lane - Secretary

Guild

Welcome back! New members and visitors are always welcome. The new session starts on October 5th at 2.30pm when Noel Fojut will speak on "A Career in Ruins" – intriguing title!. On October 19th. Kay MacKay will address on "Fine Cell Embroidery" in which many Guild members are interested. You may recall this meeting had to be cancelled last year due to the Arctic weather.

On Thursday, October 6th the Presbyterial Council's new convener, Brenda Graham, has invited Guild members to a Service of Dedication and Communion in Carrick Knowe Church at 7.30pm. Guild members are all invited. The guest speaker is Rev. Elizabeth Henderson of Richmond Craigmillar Church.

We are all looking forward to an interesting and enjoyable session.

Renee Barton - Secretary

Alexander McCall Smith
7:30 pm, Tuesday 29th November 2011
Greenbank Parish Church, Braidburn Terrace
£7.00 (includes refreshments)
All proceeds/profits will go to Christian Aid
charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525
Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998

October Diary

Sun 2	0945	Worship Now! & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship
Tue 4	1900	Community Council
Wed 5	1430	Guild
Sat 8	1930	Jimmie Macgregor "The West Highland Way"
Sun 9	0945	Worship Now! & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship
	1340	Walking Group - Kinneil Estate, Bo'ness
Tue 11	1930	Business Committee
Wed 12	1945	Forum - Flute Fancies, Marc Spencer-Bowles
Sun 16	0945	Worship Now! & Fun Zone
	1100	Morning Worship
Wed 19	1430	Guild
Sun 23	0945	Worship Now! & Fun Zone
	1100	Morning Worship
	1340	Walking Group - Cadmuir Forest
Wed 26	1900	Social Committee
	1945	Forum - Redhall Garden Trust, Jan Cameron
Sat 29	1000	Christian Aid Coffee Morning - Morningside Parish Church
Sun 30	0945	Worship Now!
	1100	Communion & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship Communion & Admission of New Members
	1930	All Saints Service

November Diary

Tue 1	1900	Community Council
Wed 2	1430	Guild
Sun 6	0945	Worship Now! & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship
	1340	Walking Group - Legerwood Farm Trail, Lauder
Tue 8	1930	Finance Committee
Wed 9	1945	Forum - Experiences in Africa
Fri 11	1900	Uniform Organisations Remembrance Service
Sun 13	0945	Remembrance Sunday Service
	1055	Remembrance Sunday Service
Tue 15	1930	Kirk Session
Wed 16	1430	Guild
Sun 20	0945	Worship Now! & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship
	1200	Forum Charity Lunch
	1340	Walking Group - Corstorphine
Sun 20 to Sun 27 - Guild Week		
Wed 23	1430	Guild - Afternoon Tea
Wed 23	1945	Forum - Edinburgh to Hollywood
Sun 27	0945	Advent Sunday Worship Now!
		Quarterly Communion & Young Church
	1100	Advent Sunday Morning Worship & Quarterly Communion