



Fairmilehead
Parish Church

CHURCH NEWS

November 2011

From the Session Clerk

With November comes the annual Service of Remembrance on Sunday 13 November when we remember people from the Armed Forces who have died on duty since the First World War. Many of you will have family and friends currently serving in Afghanistan.

My own parents served in the Armed Forces during the Second World War. My father was in 156 Regiment RAC, formerly the Highland Light Infantry, in Burma. My mother was in the Women's Royal Naval Service (WRNS) and was on her way through the Mediterranean, on a troop ship to India, in November 1943 when the convoy was attacked off North Africa by enemy aircraft carrying flying bombs and torpedoes. Her ship was hit and began to sink. I have her harrowing account of the realisation that the alarm was for real and not a practice, struggling up the stairways to the lifeboat station with the ship already leaning heavily to starboard. On deck, the ship came under further attack from the aircraft. Some of the lifeboats had been damaged by gun fire. By the time they were lowered into the sea, her lifeboat was so heavily overloaded it was difficult to steer and they ended up drifting away from the other lifeboats. Although the night was clear there was a heavy sea and many people were sick. They were picked up, some four hours later, by an American destroyer, before being landed at Philippeville in Algeria. There were 3,235 people on the ship – not one life was lost. Army officers on another troop ship in the same convoy gave up their cabins to make way for some of the other rescued WRNS. Many years later my mother met one of them and married him - my Dad. My parents were lucky.

Pamela

Readings for the month of November



6th November

Micah 3.5-12
Psalm 43
1 Thessalonians 2.9-13
Matthew 24.1-14

13th November

Wisdom of Solomon
6.12-16
1 Thessalonians 4.13-18
Matthew 25.1-13

20th November

Zephaniah 1.7, 12-18
Psalm 90. 1-8[9-11]12
1 Thessalonians 5.1-11
Matthew 25.14-30

27th November

Ezekiel 34.11-16,
20-24
Psalm 95.1-7
Ephesians 1.15-23
Matthew 25.31-46



Pastoral Care

We have a large and varied group of active volunteers in the Pastoral Care Group which functions under the mantle of the Kirk Session. Pastoral care of the bereaved in the congregation is led by the Minister. Those of the Care Group visit the increasing number of our housebound, elderly and vulnerable.

As an example of our activity, this beautiful card, handmade by one of our team and bearing a suitable personal message, was delivered to forty five members, during recent personal visits at Harvest time. Similarly, at Easter and at Christmas, we have delivered cards which have been made for us by the children and leaders of the Young Church. In this way, the children are sending their own message of care to the older generation.



By visiting these members several times a year, it is our hope that the visitors will be able to establish a real friendship with the recipient, bringing them a sense of "still belonging" to the Church family, although some may now be unable to attend services. The visitors themselves certainly feel privileged to form rewarding friendships with such interesting people. On some occasions, Home Communion, conducted by our Assistant Minister, Rev Hayley O'Connor, may be arranged.

We meet during the year to consider the level of support we are able to provide, and on occasions to report changes in circumstances to the Minister. This is a very personal and caring service which we offer. If anyone wishes to join us or, on the other hand, to recommend someone in need of pastoral care, do please contact us.

Audrey Cowan

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

From the Editor

Welcome to our November 2011 Church News - increased to 4 pages for the third and final time in 2011! Yes folks this is our last Church News of 2011. Our Winter Crossroads magazine is in the publication process and will hit your doorsteps at the end of this month. It will include full details of all our Christmas services. On the subject of Christmas, Claire is looking to swell the numbers in the Praise Group over the festive period - see the back page to find out how you can add some spice!

The Halls continue to be well utilised with regular Lets, Children's Parties, Training and other "one off" events. At the end of September the Friday "Mrs FitChicks" had an Abba appreciation morning to raise money for Marie Curie. Can you recognise any Agnethas or Anni-Frids below?



Finally, as this is the last chance to communicate with you, in 2011 anyway, may I, on behalf of all the Church Centre team, wish you a Merry Christmas and all the best for 2012!



Stewart Morris - Church Centre Coordinator

Can you help our Beavers!

We are presently looking for a Beaver Scout Leader and 3 Assistant Beaver Scout Leaders to join our very active Beaver Colonies. Do you have a few hours free on a Monday evening and would you enjoy working with our Beavers? We would love you to join our group. If you cannot help on a weekly basis but can join us fortnightly, please come along. We cannot offer an attractive salary but can ensure a great deal of job satisfaction.

For further details please contact **Jennifer Elder** at **445 3471**



St. Catharine's News

As the colder days and nights creep in, the visitors to St Catharine's are needing your old warm and waterproof garments — boots, shoes, coats, scarves, gloves and hats. If you have any underwear (new) or warm socks for men or ladies we would love to get them. They will be well received by the Sisters and the homeless.

Foodstuffs such as tea, sugar, dried products, tins of tuna or corned beef, margarine, rice, pasta are some suggestions of the type needed.

Cleaning products and toiletries are needed such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, combs and disinfectants, cleaning products, black bags, disposable gloves to name a few. Some shops have packs of toothbrushes for under £1, and soap for under 50p. All would be most welcome.

If you are unable to bring items to the church, then please phone the Church Office, and they will arrange for someone to call and collect. We do ask that you don't give items for children as they cannot be used and might be better for Fresh Start.

Thank you.

Katherine Shaw, Moya Justice and Valerie Walke

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.

Tracy Robertson - formerly Galachlawside

Lawrence Findlay - Buckstone Road

Graeme & Donelle Lawson - Caiyside

Helen Cook - Howe Park

Hugh & Rosamond Mackay - Caiystane Terrace

Helen Thompson - E Caiystane Place

Iris Dugan - Oxcgangs Road



If you know their whereabouts please notify myself, Ian Cuthbertson, on 0131 447 4557 or email: IanCuthbertson@sky.com

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

Ian Cuthbertson (Roll Keeper)

Scottish Water Update

Alan Masson has kindly alerted me to the link below providing an update on the disruption at the Fairmilehead Crossroads:

<http://www.fairmileheadcc.org.uk/Scottish%20Water/ENews%20letters/Pipeline%20Update%20Sept%202011.pdf>



Here's hoping they finish soon!

Fairmilehead Fair

Helen Grant and I wanted to say a huge thank you to all those who were involved in any way at all with the Fair on Saturday 1 October 2011. What a wonderful effort everyone made - it was superb to see so many different people pulling together, sharing fellowship and showing so much commitment to raising money for the work of the Church, both locally and nationally. Thanks too, to Allingham's, Tusitala, the Bank of Scotland, Buckstone Post Office, Boots and Purves Puppets for their various donations, they were much appreciated. We raised the marvellous total of £3,600, which was beyond our wildest expectations! So, THANK YOU for all your help and support. I would particularly like to thank Helen. Without her help, efficient planning and work behind the scenes, the Fair would not have run so smoothly. Well done Helen!



Pamela Black

Where in the world has Rev. O'Connor been?

If you've been at the church in the last couple of months you may have been asking yourself this very question. At the beginning of September my husband, Bill, and I returned to the United States for what turned out to be a six-week visit! And while we managed to enjoy part of our time there as holiday, this is not what prompted our trip.

As you know, the church has decided to extend my contract, which in turn requires me to obtain a new work visa. Bill also needed a new visa as he has been hired by Greenbank Church. Per the UK Border Agency's counsel, we applied for these visas from Edinburgh, only to later receive letters of refusal. After much investigation we were told we had been given bad advice and needed to return home (to our country of origin) to submit fresh applications.

We flew into Pennsylvania, where Bill's family lives, and spent the first few days of our trip reapplying for our visas (completing various paperwork, getting fingerprinted, having our pictures taken, etc.) Once the applications were submitted the only thing left to do was wait, so we decided to take a 'Great American Road Trip'.

First we drove to Washington D.C., a visit which happened to overlap with the ten-year anniversary of 9/11. The weekend was packed with interfaith prayer vigils and speakers, but the highlight of our time there was a concert at The Kennedy Center where the keynote speaker was President Obama.

From D.C. we headed south where we hopped around from State to State visiting friends and family. First Florida, where the average temperature was in the mid 30s! Then onto Charleston, South Carolina, a beautiful and historic city where the Civil War began. From there we moved on to Tennessee, visiting my family and enjoying the Southern home cooking I grew up with.

On 5 October we received our new visas in the mail and a week later were on a plane to our last destination: Edinburgh. Our trip to the States was epic and made the first couple of months of our marriage interesting. You'll hear more about our time in America in sermons to come, but for now, suffice it to say, it's good to be home!

Hayley

Pentland Walking Group

The Group is now well into its programme of Winter walks on Sunday afternoons. Our walk on 9th October took us to the Kinneil Estate at Bo'ness which was completely new to most of us. Johan guided us as we visited a number of places of historical interest near Kinneil House and along the Antonine Wall before some of us finished with tea in the new café at the Railway Station in Bo'ness.

A list of the walks to the end of the year appears in the Diary of this edition.

Following our now well established practice, our first walk in January, on the 8th, will include a New Year celebration, with a walk in the Mortonhall area followed by tea in Frogston Hall.

Donald Lane (Secretary)



Young Church update

The Autumn session of the Young Church is already well underway. The following groups meet during the Worship Now! Service which starts at 9.45am:-

Creche – babies and toddlers from birth to 3 years;

Sunbeams – pre-school nursery and Primary 1

Stepping Stones - Primaries 2, 3 and 4

Explorers – Primaries 5, 6 and 7

All groups are well staffed by a dedicated team of leaders and there are spaces for more children in all the groups.

Pathfinders, our Youth Group for teenagers in S1-6 meet at 11am during the more traditional Morning Worship service which also starts at 11am.

More information and contact details can be obtained from the website (www.fhpc.org.uk) but please feel free to come and join us any Sunday.

Dorothy Smith

Let's Get Down To It!

Most of us have made a resolution at some time to read the Bible for ourselves only to see the project abandoned as our perseverance falters and other priorities intrude. This common experience owes much to the fact that, taken as a whole, the Bible is not an easy read. Unsurprisingly, the meandering history of an ancient Semitic people does not immediately ignite interest in 21st century minds even when its link with Christianity is acknowledged.

A remedy for such a forsaken quest may lie in the daily Bible notes provided by the International Bible Reading Association. Bible newcomers might try 'Light for our Path' while those journeying on should welcome 'Words for Today'. The former prints all key Bible verses while the latter provides a more adventurous approach to the text. Both offer reflections and prayers. They cover a full year from January 2012 and each costs £8.75.

To obtain either copy contact Jim Moffat (445 2155).

Jim Moffat - Education Convener

Social Committee

A group of members and friends took part in the annual Autumn golf event at Melville Centre, followed by supper at the Laird & Dog. The golf and weather was of high standard and Margaret Jack achieved the top Ladies score and Murray Fell the best Gents'.

On 8th October over 130 people took a "walk on the wild side" with the 81 year old legend Jimmie Macgregor up "The West Highland Way". This included slides and many amusing anecdotes. After this "experience" Buckstone Hall provided a "bothy" for refreshments and the opportunity to talk with Jimmie.

The New Year starts with the biennial Burns Supper which will be held in Mortonhall Golf Club House on Saturday, 14th January at 7.30 pm. Tickets, priced at £22 each, will be available shortly. While individual or couples tickets will still be available, complete tables of 8 can be reserved. Full details of speakers and entertainers are being confirmed and we can promise a very enjoyable evening for all ages.

Other musical events and a family and friends Beetle Drive are also in planning. Our aim is to interest as many people as possible particularly as we are approaching the 75th Anniversary and will be working with that committee in the staging of a number of not to be missed events!

Donald Lane Secretary

Christmas Melodies!

Plans are coming together for the various Christmas services this year. We are likely to be having a 9 Lessons and Carols service on the evening of 18 December, the usual Family and Midnight Watchnight services on 24 December, and Morning Worship on 25 December and 1 January.

These services will combine traditional carols with more modern Christmas songs. I propose to hold additional rehearsals on Thursday evenings from 7pm to 7.30pm on 1, 8 and 15 December to prepare for these various Christmas services.

If you would like to help to lead the singing at any (or all) of these services, please just turn up at those rehearsals. It would be great to have some new faces and voices or instruments for these services over Christmas.

Claire Currie 0131 477 1151 - email: claire_currie@btinternet.com

Guild

In our first November meeting Scott Irving is going to talk on "Glass Fusion" which he has made his career. He will be displaying samples of his work. Then, on 16th November we host the annual Joint Meeting of the neighbourhood churches and Mike Gray will talk on "Family Life in Leith" in days gone by. November 20th heralds the start of Guild Week and our Service of Dedication. On Wednesday 23rd November we are again hosting our FREE afternoon tea when we would like members to bring along a non-Guild friend.

Finally, many thanks to all who supported our stall at the October Fair. The Cake & Candy raised over £400 – a great effort!

Renee Barton Secretary

Women's Forum

Fairmilehead Women's Forum Charity Lunch is on

Sunday 20th November 12 noon to 2.00pm

Child - £1.50 Adult - £3.50 Family - £9.00

Our two chosen charities are:-

The Redhall Garden Trust - it offers training and life skills for people with mental health problems.

Olivia Giles' - 500 miles - it supports amputees and other disabled people in Malawi and Zambia in Africa.

Johan Mackenzie Secretary

Church Register

Farewell to
Christine Mackenzie
27 Caiystane Crescent (10/3)
to Perth

Alexander McCall Smith
7:30 pm, Tuesday 29th November 2011
Greenbank Parish Church, Braidburn Terrace
Tickets £7.00 available from the Church Office

All proceeds/profits will go to Christian Aid
charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525
Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998

Christian Aid logo

Morningside - Fairmilehead Christian Aid



November Diary

Tue 1	1900	Community Council
Wed 2	1430	Guild
Sun 6	0945	Worship Now! Baptism & 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	Uniformed 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	Morning Worship & Quarterly Communion
	1340	Walking Group -Midmar/ Hermitage Circular

December Diary

Sat 3	1500	Young Church Play Rehearsal
Sun 4	0945	Worship Now! & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship
Tue 6	1900	Community Council
Wed 7	1430	Guild
Sun 11	0945	Worship Now! & Young Church
	1100	Morning Worship
	1340	Walking Group - Brunstane & Newhailes
Tue 13	1930	Business Committee
Wed 14	1945	Forum Christmas Party
Fri 16	1900	Uniformed Organisations' Carol Service
Sat 17	1500	Young Church Play Rehearsal
Sun 18	0945	Young Church Play & Christmas Celebration
	1100	Morning Worship
	1930	Nine Lessons & Carols Service
Wed 21	1430	Guild
Sat 24	1900	Christmas Eve Family Service
	2300	Community Carol Singing
	2330	Christmas Eve Watchnight Service
Sun 25	1030	Christmas Day Family Service

Merry Christmas