

# Ferniehill Evangelical Church Magazine

September - October 2010



Embrace the changes God  
has in store for you.



FERNIEHILL  
EVANGELICAL  
CHURCH

[www.fernierhillchurch.org.uk](http://www.fernierhillchurch.org.uk)



## **Mission Statement**

To bring people to a living faith in Jesus Christ,  
disciplining believers to maturity through:

- worship,
- teaching and
- active membership of His Church.

## **Vision Statement**

- **Evangelism** through personal friendship and public preaching.
- **Disciplining** believers by public teaching, small group Bible study, corporate prayer and worship.
- **Serving** the body of Christ by encouraging a personal devotional life and participating in the work of the church.

# Editor's Page

Sept - Oct 2010

*EMBRACE THE CHANGES GOD HAS IN STORE FOR YOU*

- This is a short writing from an SIM Missionary (Al Peters), basically it is an expression of an ordinary person, who, in their service for Christ, experienced times of searching, fulfilment, loss, testing, joy – all the perennials of life's walk.
- I share this with you, trusting that others, too, may come to realize that, whatever life's experiences may hold, it is God himself who is the source of fullest joy.

Being a short-term missionary is....  
Renting your house, resigning your job.  
Answering multitudinous questions.  
Being told how lucky you are.  
Saying goodbye several times while  
waiting on visas.  
Packing everything up and storing it.  
Trusting God to burden hearts to support you.  
Being thrilled when He answers.

Taking only forty-four pounds along.  
Straining friendships with the passage of time.  
Sleeping and waiting in massive airports.  
Being met by strangers at your destination.  
Setting up house with the bare essentials donated by fellow missionaries.  
Sleeping behind shuttered windows and a high fence with a guard at the gate,  
Driving around goats, sheep, donkeys, taxis and people.  
Asking help of people who can't understand you.  
Taking pictures, bargaining,  
Seeing inflation wither your allowance.  
Telling your kids you can't afford it.

Writing letters.  
Getting wonderful letters and cards, especially at Christmas.  
Domestic helpers – a bane and a blessing.  
Doing much the same as you did at home.  
Adjusting to new conditions.  
Wondering at times: Is it worth it?

Is this the way God wants missions to operate?  
Seeing kids separated from their parents.  
Seeing kids mature in their love relationship with Him.  
Seeing students riot and call you a mercenary.  
Seeing people come to Christ.  
Seeing believers stand up for Jesus.  
Seeing them go to jail, turn down attractive jobs, assume church leadership

Lord what is my part in your program?  
I want to be where you want me to be

Marian Dann

Editor

*(Editorial team:- Wendy Bathgate & Marian Dann)*

[wmbathgate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wmbathgate@yahoo.co.uk) / [mqdann@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mqdann@yahoo.co.uk)

**Please remember:-**

- The Tear fund lunch on **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> Oct**
- To change your clocks on Saturday 30 Oct
- To have your shoebox ready for Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov – get started now!

# Deacons News £

The Deacons: Myra Amer, Paul Anderson, Dave Breckenridge, Wendy Bathgate, Marian Dann and Mary Summers.

## New Stationery:

You may have noticed the churches new stationery. There are four new items:

1. **Letterhead**, should anyone need to write a letter on behalf of the church please ask a deacon for a sheet of letterhead paper.
2. **Compliment slips**: these can be added to gifts or any other correspondence given out by the church, again if any of these are required please see a deacon.
3. **Church leaflet**: this is intended to pass on information about the church to friends or neighbours. They will be used in the local community as necessary. There is a supply of these leaflets in the tall cupboard in the foyer.
4. **Business cards**. These are ideal little card that can be given out to folks as they have the church service times, web address etc. Please feel free to use these as you see fit.

All stationary has the churches charity number, address and web address.

## Clock:

Look out for a new clock around the church – it has been made from one of our old church benches! (Greyfriars made it for us as a thank you gift).

## Notice board:

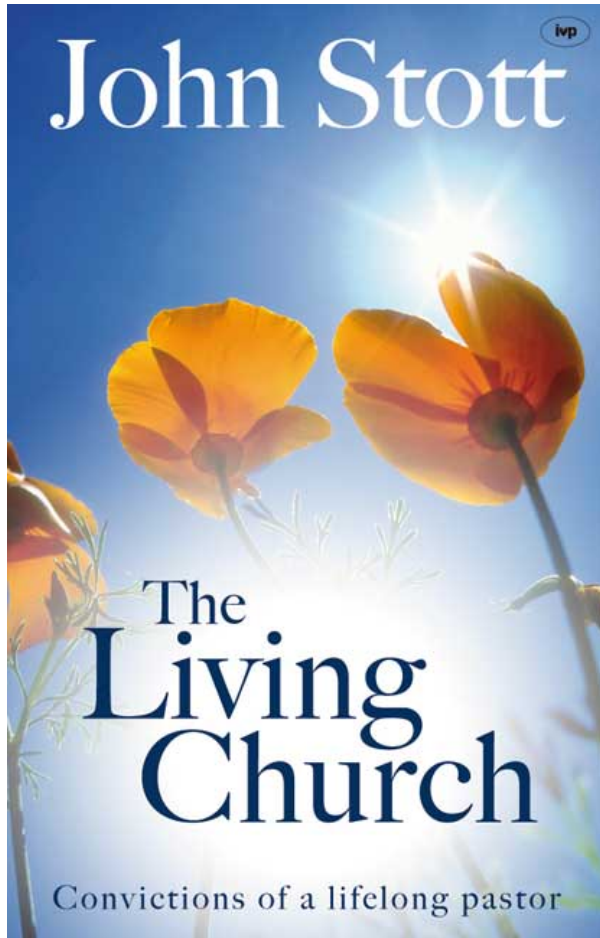
The deacons are looking into the possibility of up-dating our notice board in the grounds of the church.

The deacons try to keep on top of the repairs required to the church building, if you notice anything that needs attention or if you would like to help out with a few odd jobs please chat to a deacon.

Many thanks for your support.



# The Living Church



This is, of course, the title of our recent Sunday Evening Bible Teaching series. It is also the title of a book by one of the most outstanding UK evangelical pastors in the last 100 years, Dr John Stott. The book is subtitled, "Convictions of a Lifelong Pastor" and draws on his long experience of Christian ministry, including many years as Rector of All-Souls church in London. You can get this book from any good Christian Bookshop by quoting these details: 'The Living Church' by John Stott, IVP, 2007, ISBN 978-1-84474-183-0 (Publishers Price - £9.99).

If you are even just a little bit interested in the life and future of the church – and all Christians should be - this is a book you should try to read. If you have read one of his books before, you will recognise this as classic Stott – brilliantly written, precise and logical and hugely insightful. If you've never read any of his material, then this book is a great place to start. It's not long or difficult and is so

full of wise observations from someone who really loves God and his Word and also knows the past and current Christian scene in the UK.

Stott begins by presenting a brilliant description of God's vision for his Church suggesting that this is for a community of learning, caring, worship and evangelism. He then includes chapters on Worship, Evangelism, Ministry, Fellowship, Preaching and Giving. In each of these he backs up his ideas by clear and relevant Bible references. He has studied the teaching of God's Word on the Church in great detail so that we can benefit from his wise and scholarly analysis. As you might expect, he looks to the Scriptures for his inspiration and draws on his long Christian experience rather than trying to develop any new theories about the Church.

So, if you are looking for the latest manual on church growth, this is not the book to buy. However, if you would like to know more about what God planned His Church should be like and learn how our church could be like that and even how you could contribute, then read this book.

John Hannah

# ***J Have a Dream of a Living Church***

**I have a dream of a church which is a biblical church—**



- which is loyal in every particular to the revelation of God in Scripture,
- whose pastors expound Scripture with integrity and relevance, and so seek to present every member mature in Christ,
- whose people love the word of God, and adorn it with an obedient and Christ-like life,
- which is preserved from all unbiblical emphases,
- whose whole life manifests the health and beauty of biblical balance.

I have a dream of a *biblical* church.

**I have a dream of a church which is a worshipping church—**



- whose people come together to meet God and worship him,
- who know God is always in their midst and who bow down before him in great humility,
- who regularly frequent the table of the Lord Jesus, to celebrate his mighty act of redemption on the cross,
- who enrich the worship with their musical skills, who believe in prayer and lay hold of God in prayer,
- whose worship is expressed not in Sunday services and prayer gatherings only but also in their homes, their weekday work and the common things of life.

I have a dream of a *worshipping* church.

**I have a dream of a church which is a caring**



**church**

- whose congregation is drawn from many races, nations, ages and social backgrounds, and exhibits the unity and diversity of the family of God,
- whose fellowship is warm and welcoming, and never marred by anger, selfishness, jealousy or pride,
- whose members love one another with a pure heart fervently, forbearing one another, forgiving one another, and bearing one another's burdens,
- which offers friendship to the lonely, support to the weak, and acceptance to those who are despised and rejected by society, whose love spills over to the world outside, attractive, infectious, irresistible, the love of God himself.

I have a dream of a *caring* church.

**I have a dream of a church which is a serving**

**church**

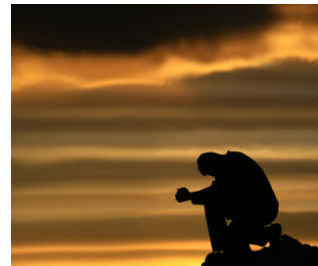


- which has seen Christ as the Servant and has heard his call to be a servant too,
- which is delivered from self-interest, turned inside out, and giving itself selflessly to the service of others,
- whose members obey Christ's command to live in the world, to permeate secular society, to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
- whose people share the good news of Jesus simply, naturally and enthusiastically with their friends,
- which diligently serves its own parish, residents and workers, families and single people, nationals and immigrants, old folk and little children,
- which is alert to the changing needs of society, sensitive and flexible enough to keep adapting its programme to serve more usefully,
- which has a global vision and is constantly challenging its young people to give their lives in service, and constantly sending its people out to serve.

I have a dream of a *serv*ing church.

**I have a dream of a church which is an expectant**  
**church** —

- whose members can never settle down in material affluence or comfort, because they remember that they are strangers and pilgrims on earth,
- which is all the more faithful and active because it is waiting and looking for its Lord to return,
- which keeps the flame of the Christian hope burning brightly in a dark, despairing world,
- which on the day of Christ will not shrink from him in shame, but rise up joyfully to greet him.



I have a dream of an *expectant* church.

Such is my dream of a living church. May all of us share this dream, and under God may the dream come true!

{John Stott with due apologies to Martin Luther King, 1974. From 'The Living Church', IVP, 2007, ISBN 978-1-84474-183-0}

# Ferniehill's Missionaries



## NEWS

January	John & Pearl Aitken	Echoes / Bristol
February	Henryk & Tonia Turkanik	Poland
March	Anne Dryburgh	Belgium
April	Ho and Laura Jane Meas	OMF / Japan
May	Walter and Elizabeth Alexander	Brazil
June	David and Maureen Wood	Thailand
July	Shena McCall	Scotland / Zambia
August	Lorna Velez	Bolivia
September	Michael Gompertz	Friends International
October	Peter & Ella McIntyre	FEBC / Philippines
November	Jim & Betty Burnett	Argentina
December	Liz Greig	Pakistan

## Missionary news

**Walter Alexander** had successful surgery on 10 August but the nature and extent of the further treatment needed has still to be determined. These are very difficult days for Walter, Elizabeth and family. Please continue to pray for them.

**Henryk and Tonia** are hoping to visit Ferniehill from 15-22 September and Henryk will be speaking at the services on Sunday 19 and Tuesday 21 September. Please continue praying for their teaching and pastoral work and for their current reorganisation of the Aereopagus Trust, which publishes Christian, books and commentaries in the Polish language.

**Jim and Betty Burnett** are currently living in the Edinburgh Missionary Flat. They visited us on Tuesday 10 August and were able to tell us about encouraging Gospel outreach through TV. Please pray for this work and for Jim and Betty as they return to Argentina in October.

Some of us were able to meet up with **Liz Greig**. on a short visit to Edinburgh – on a personal level Liz is recharging her batteries before going back to Pakistan early September – she is also preparing things for her permanent homecoming in March 2011 – Liz has been in Pakistan for an incredible 30 years and will be retiring from the mission field and looking to the Lord to bless and guide for her future in Scotland and the years ahead – Pakistan itself is ever in our news these days but the situation of the hospital means it is not directly affected by the floods – however one or two staff have relatives who are caught up in these events – Dr. Haroon is about to take up further studies which he feels will enable him in his work amongst Muslims – this, however, leaves the hospital woefully understaffed – one doctor – 25 beds – so prayer for medical staff is much needed – Liz would also like to spend much of the remaining months visiting many of the people she has befriended and worked with over her years in Pakistan – travelling can be dangerous – so it would be good to remember her – the travel issue also means that Liz is reticent about inviting family and friends out to visit her – when she is at Kunhar much of the admin work will rest on her shoulders, so again prayer would be valued – so as we watch the events in Pakistan unfold on our television screens please do remember the country and those working at Kunhar Christian hospital – particularly Liz as she returns to Pakistan on 1 September.

The Missionary Committee is sorry to lose Stuart from its number following his move to work in Dubai. Please remember Stuart and Katie as they settle into their new surroundings and please pray for Timothy King as he joins the Committee.

## **Anne Dryburgh - Belgium**

Thank you for your faithful prayers for the work here in Belgium. The summer weather with temperatures averaging around 30°C is certainly quite different than summers in the west coast of Scotland!

Life is beginning to settle down since I moved to Bruges in the spring. Bruges is in a region of Belgium that is called West Flanders. Most of the people who attend the assembly in Maldegem live in Bruges and the assembly in Kuurne is also in the same region.

It is clear that in the coming year there will be lots of opportunity for ministry. As well as meeting with individual ladies from both assemblies, there will also be two ladies Bible studies, both of which will look at how to apply the Bible practically in every day life. Since there has been so little Bible teaching in Belgium, this is a tremendous need. Often people come to the Lord from difficult backgrounds and also know

nothing of the Bible. Becoming a Christian means that their whole lives change which takes time as they discover what the Bible teaches and how to walk with the Lord. Many of these women that I meet with suffer from depression and slowly learn how to live differently.

Because of the tremendous need for teaching, I am praying about working together with a Belgian full-time worker and his wife who would be prepared to come once a month to the assemblies in the region and help people. This man is very gifted in counselling people from the Bible particularly in helping people walk with the Lord and apply Scripture to their marriages. The need for such teaching is huge. Could I ask you to please pray for the Lord's leading as we consider this work?

If this new work would go ahead, it would also involve me giving teaching to the women about what it means to be new in Christ and how to live for his glory and in his sufficiency. Please pray as I prepare for this as it will require applying this to complicated life situations. And please especially pray that we would indeed be living lives which glorify Christ.

Again my sincere thanks for your faithful prayers

Anne

### Why does the earth shake?



A lot has happened since the last update. The student who became a Christian on Good Friday had a great time at New Word Alive. Asking him before the conference how his family would respond to his new faith he thought there would be no problem. After the international student track he understood the role of ancestor worship in his family's life would have to be addressed. He is beginning his life of discipleship, which Dick Dowset, the speaker at New Word Alive, defined as a lifelong learner.



Tian Jin: 30 minutes from Beijing by train at 330km/h !

The weekend away with Chinese students from the Bible study was, like last year, a great time of friendship. The Bible studies have continued well and after covering the Christianity Explored material we looked at guidance as a practical topic, thinking through an issue of discipleship. It is useful for the students to consider what being a Christian looks like besides just making a decision of faith. How they would live as a Christian back home is a pressing question, especially as they don't spend long in this country.

The trip to China was an encouraging time of reunions with friends and former colleagues. It helped renew my confidence in considering a future back there despite

depleted language ability. The recent earthquake in south Qinghai province is not too far from where I used to live. The consequences of this have impacted everyone I met there. The significant outcome in spiritual terms is it has created an openness among Tibetans not known before. This openness is illustrated by a conversation I had with a stranger on the street, a Tibetan man who wanted to talk. I asked him why he thought the earthquake had happened. He said because of all the mining in the mountains and stealing the mountain's gold, this has brought disaster. He asked me why I thought it had happened. I told him good things happen to bad people and bad things to good people (refuting karmic worldview) and that we will all die at some point. The question is: are we ready for death? The most important thing for our eternal safety is faith in Christ. God loves us and wants us to trust in his Son. He listened with interest.

I also spent some time in Beijing with students I have got to know in Edinburgh, most of them had studied the Bible here. While some student have left behind their experience in the UK and of Bible study too, some still reflect on it and continue to weigh up its significance.

As you read this, Edinburgh International Outreach will be underway. This four-week mission revolves around a café on Edinburgh's Royal mile staffed by 25 Christian students from around Europe (though mainly British). It is run for International students coming to Edinburgh studying English. Each night has a theme and activity. An optional Bible study allows students to consider some aspect of the gospel. This year we will for the first time have a few folks to focus on Muslim students. We don't know what to expect, but trust that as we extend friendship we will also find hearts open to discuss our Lord Jesus Christ and what the Bible says about him.

I continue to meet with some friends from Bellevue chapel to pray for future guidance. This will be the last newsletter which is Friends International headed as I will be doing a year of full time study from September.

**Summary for prayer please:**

Ongoing blessing among Tibetans  
A sense of God's leading for the future

Thanks for your prayer and interest  
Michael

## **News from Lorna – Bolivia**

Right now I am in Santa Cruz but will be returning to Trinidad on Monday. We have a team of 8 young folks from California who arrived on June 21<sup>st</sup>, six guys and 2 girls. A really nice group of young folks. This week they are at camp in the Chaco so I took advantage of returning to Santa Cruz for the week. Also last week a couple from England arrived Lorna (nee Edwards) and her husband Dave. Lorna spent a few months with us some years ago and it is great to have her back. Some of the folks in Ferniehill will have known her grandfather Jim Anderson from Annbank. Her parents Graham and Andrea have been our friends and have supported us for many years.

We have been doing a lot of work in Chaco, making it more suitable for our camps etc. and now since the school is about to go on vacation we have to change the roof

since it has many leaks. This is a very big and expensive job but has to be done.

You were asking about our church situation in Santa Cruz. We have been attending a church, which meets in a hotel reaching out to the upper class. Lucho for obvious reasons is much more involved than I and does a lot of the teaching and is part of the leadership. I on the other hand still consider La Palmera as my local church. One of the things I miss here in Santa Cruz is our daily devotional time at 7:30 am something that has gone on in La Palmera since its beginnings. Carlos Hugo takes this every morning. We read a chapter a day and it never ceases to amaze me how gifted he is and how he is able bring out a practical teaching from each chapter. A great way to start the day.

Lucho and I will be leaving for the States on July 23rd. The boys and their wives have arranged for all of us to meet in Orlando for a weeks holiday and then we will be visiting them in respective homes and a few other friends as well.

We will be getting our tri-monthly letter off soon so that will fill you in with the Project News.

Please give our love to Christine and to all the folks in Ferniehill

Blessings Lorna

Thank you to all who gave so generously to the Bethel sewing class. Shena is delighted. Although the goods will not arrive in time for Shena's visit to Zambia, she will be able to tell Josephine and the girls in the class that the goods are on the way. Please continue to pray for the work of the Bethel Centre, not only the sewing class, but also those who are presenting the gospel to the children who attend the Centre. Also remember the large number who are being educated some of which are sponsored by members in this fellowship. Jean Gaston



# **Tear Fund Day**

## **One Family** *Planting hope. Growing futures.*

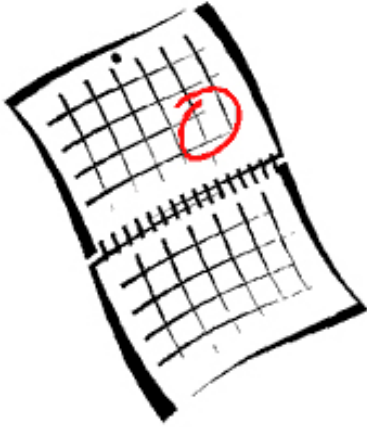
Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> October

Travel to Cambodia to meet the Tuch family as they struggle to live off their drought-stricken land. Find out how Tear Fund is helping communities ensure they have a future.

Jim Crooks will bring a message from Psalm 65:9 during the All Age service, during which a Tear Fund rep will also do a short presentation.

Lunch will be provided, after which we will have the opportunity to see the latest harvest video produced by Tear Fund.

*'The streams of God are filled with water  
to provide the people with grain.'*



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY..

## September

Sat 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Club Coffee Morning 11am – 12.30pm. **Please support this and bring some friends.**

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> Elders meeting

Tues 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Prayer Meeting 7.30pm

Tues/Wed Home bible Studies 7.30pm

Week beginning 30<sup>th</sup> Aug/1<sup>st</sup> September

14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>  
28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>

### **Saturday 11th**

**Bethany Walk by the coast for Homelessness: September Cockenzie-Gullane, East Lothian**



Bethany's sponsored walk is East Lothian's stunning coastline following part of the John Muir Way. The area boasts incredible scenery and a treasure-trove of wildlife in its natural setting.

Make a difference in the lives of homeless people and enjoy a stunning day out at the same time. To receive more info call 0131 625 5417 or email [events@bethanyct.com](mailto:events@bethanyct.com) If you can't make the walk but would like to donate to us please click here: [www.virginmoneygiving.com/bethanysponsoredwalk](http://www.virginmoneygiving.com/bethanysponsoredwalk)

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> Power Point 7.30pm Send us out. Destiny Church Gorgie.

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> Macmillan Cancer Care Coffee Morning 10am – 12 noon.

## October

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> Care Van

Mon 4<sup>th</sup> Elders Meeting

Tues 5<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Prayer Meeting 7.30pm

Tues/Wed Home Bible Studies 7.30pm

Week beginning 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup>  
26<sup>th</sup>/27<sup>th</sup>

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> Tear fund Fellowship lunch names on the sheet for catering purposes please.

Wed 27<sup>th</sup> Ladies Coffee Morning

# OUR WESTERN CALENDAR

*In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on a throne, high and exalted, and the train of his robe filled the temple (Isaiah 6:1).*

These wonderful words have been an inspiration to myriads down through the centuries, and have been just one of many sources of reference for those interested in dating events in history. The ingenuity of mankind has, for several millennia, been pitched against the challenge of making orderly sense of the measurement of time in a tangible and written form—calendars and dates.



The word 'calendar' comes from the Latin *kalendae* meaning 'calling the first day of the month', and is a system of measuring, recording, organising and monitoring time, by assigning days to weeks, months, and years. Calendar divisions are based on the movements of the Earth and the regular appearances of the Sun and the Moon. A day is the average time required for one rotation of the Earth on its axis. The measurement of a year is based on one revolution of the Earth around the Sun and is called a seasonal, tropical, or solar year. Now that we have accurate clocks, we know that a solar year contains 365 days, 5 hours 48 minutes and 45.5 seconds. A month was calculated by ancient peoples to be 29.5 days, corresponding to the time between two full moons, that is, the number of days required for the Moon to circle the Earth. This measurement, called a synodic, or lunar month, resulted in a lunar year of 354 (29.5x12) days, just over eleven days shorter than a solar year. In modern calendars, however, the number of days in a month is not based on the phases of the moon. The length of each month is about one-twelfth of a year, varying from 28 to 31 days, and structured so that the 12 months fit into a solar year. The week of seven days is derived from the Jewish tradition requiring rest from labour every seventh day. It is

Biblical (Hebrew) Months		
No	Name	Days
1	Nisan	30
2	Iyyar	29
3	Sivan	30
4	Tammuz	29
5	Av	30
6	Elul	29
7	Tishri	30
8	Heshvan	29/30
9	Kislev	29/30
10	Tevet	29
11	Shevat	30
12	<i>Adar 1 (intercalary month)</i>	<i>30</i>
13	Adar 2	29
Normal Year Total		354
Intercalary Year Total		384
Average Year Total		365

Table 1

not based on a natural phenomenon. The Romans named the days of the week in honour of the sun, moon, and various planets.

We have become very familiar with our calendar, called the Gregorian calendar, and may not give much thought as to how it developed and evolved. It was introduced by Pope Gregory XIII, after whom the calendar was named, in a decree (a papal bull) signed on 24 February 1582. It was adopted later that year by a few countries, with other countries adopting it over the following centuries. This article is an attempt to simplify the main events in the process of its evolution. The Bible infers that the Hebrews kept a record of the passage of time, and it actually names some months and identifies some years. Scholars have deduced that in the Hebrew calendar year there were twelve sequentially numbered months, each with a defined number of days, and an

extra (intercalary) month inserted every few years. It is lunisolar, that is, based on lunar months alternately of 29 and 30 days, but also taking account of the longer

solar year. The months, Heshvan and Kislev, appear to have been given 29 or 30 days as and when required, and an extra month was intercalated every 3 years, to make the average year 365 days (see *table 1*):

The Jewish calendar is derived from the ancient Hebrew calendar, and was probably last revised about AD 900. Years are numbered from the calculated date of The Creation of the world, thought to be in 3761 BC, as described in the Old Testament, that is, approximately 5771 years ago at the present date of AD 2010. It is the official calendar of the modern state of Israel and is used by Jewish people throughout the world as a religious calendar. Dates of the Jewish calendar are designated AM (Latin *anno mundi* 'the year of the world') and BCE (Before the Common Era).

Calendars have also been in use from antiquity by Egyptians, Babylonians and others, and there is little doubt that the Romans used these documents on which to base their own calendar. The story of how the Romans developed their calendar, and adapted it as more accurate observations came to light, makes complex but fascinating reading in itself, and in regard to our Western Gregorian calendar, it forms the most important part of the account.



The original Roman calendar is believed to have been a lunar calendar, which may have been based on one of the Greek lunar calendars. As the time between new moons averages 29.5 days, months were allocated days to be either *hollow* (29) or *full* (30). Full months were considered powerful, and hollow months were unlucky. Unlike currently used dates, which are numbered sequentially from the beginning of the month, the Romans used three designated points in the lunar cycle: the three reference dates were declared publicly when the crescent of the new moon was observed in the west after sunset. After the reforms of Numa Pompilius, they became fixed days:

- Kalends (Latin *Kalendae*, 'to call out')—first day of the month, from which the word 'calendar' is derived; thought to have originally been the day of the new

moon.

- Nones (Latin *Nonae*, 'nine')—thought to have originally been the day of the half moon (first quarter of lunar cycle)—originally intended to express the expected number of days between first quarter and full moons
- Ides (Latin *Idūs* 'half division')—probably the day of the full moon. Ides was assigned as the 15th day in all months given 31 days in length—March, May, July and October. It was designated as the 13th day in all other months.

Romans claimed that their calendar was invented by Romulus, the founder of Rome, around 753 BC (see *Table 2*). His version contained ten months with the vernal (Spring) equinox in the first month. However, his months were not lunar, as the months had either 30 or 31 days. The calendar year lasted 304 days and there were about 61

Calendar of Romulus		
No	Month	Days
1	Martius	31
2	Aprilis	30
3	Maius	31
4	Iunius	30
5	Quintilis	31
6	Sextilis	30
7	Septem ber	30
8	October	31
9	November	30
10	December	30
Total		304

*Table 2*

days of winter in the Northern Hemisphere, which were not assigned to any month. Before January and February were added, *Martius* (March) was the first month, named after Mars the Roman god of war. The etymology for the second month, April, is uncertain. May, originally the third month, has either been named after the Greek goddess Maia, or *maiores* (elders). The Roman poet Ovid says that May is named for the *maiores*, and that the following month (June) is named for the *iuniores* (young people or juniors). The later months were named according to their position in the calendar: *Quintilis* (*five*), *Sextilis* (*six*), *September* (*seven*), *October* (*eight*), *November* (*nine*) and *December* (*ten*).

Numa Pompilius, the second of the seven traditional kings of Rome, reformed the calendar of Romulus by adding January (probably a god or goddess) and February (Latin *februum* 'purification') around 713 BC to the original ten months, and the titles Quintilis, Sextilis, September, October, November and December no longer agreed with their position in his calendar. The Romans had apparently developed a superstition about even numbers, so he added 51 days to the 304 days in the calendar of Romulus and took one day from each of the six 30-day months giving a total of 57 days to share between January and February. January was given 29 days leaving February with the unlucky number of 28 days. The other eleven months now had an odd number of days—four had 31 and seven had 29. To conform to superstition, February was split into two parts, each with an odd number of days. The first part ended on the 23rd, which was considered to be the end of the religious year; the five remaining days formed the second part. This made the Roman year 355 days long. To make the calendar correspond approximately to the solar year, he also ordered the addition of a month every second year. This month (Mercedinus) was inserted after 23<sup>rd</sup> or 24<sup>th</sup> of February, and the last days of February were moved to the end of Mercedinus. In years when it was inserted, it added 22 or 23 days to the year.

In 45 BC, on the advice of the Greek astronomer Sosigenes, Julius Caesar revised the calendar based on a solar year of 365¼ days, by observing 365 days for three years, and the accumulated quarter-days were dealt with every four years by a leap year of 366 days. This so-called Julian calendar determined the order of the months and the days of the week, which form the basis of our modern western calendar. A leap year is so named because the extra day (February 29) causes any date after that to 'leap' over one day and to occur two days later in the week than it did in the previous year. He renamed Quintilis July after himself. Further reforms were made in 8 BC during the reign of his successor Augustus (revered one), and Sextilis was renamed Augustus (August) in his honour. The months, September, October, November and December retained their names, but are now misnomers in our Gregorian calendar.

In the early Roman Republic, the years were not counted. Instead they were named after the consuls who were in power at the beginning of the year. This led to abuse of power and eventually total confusion, as a consul had the authority to postpone the date of the new year and hence to extend his term of office. In the later Republic, historians and scholars began to count years from the founding of the city of Rome. Different scholars used different dates for this event, causing further confusion. The date most widely used today is 753 BC, calculated by Varro. Dates given by this method are numbered *ab urbe condita* (meaning *from the founding of the city*, and abbreviated AUC). Scholars and researchers reading ancient works using AUC dates, have to



exercise care to determine the epoch used by the author before translating the date into a Julian or Gregorian Calendar year. The first day of the consular term, which was effectively the first day of the year, changed several times during Roman history. It became 1 January in 153 BC. Before then it was 15 March. Earlier changes are a little less certain. There is good reason to believe it was 1 May for most of the 3rd century BC, till 222 BC. Livy mentions consulates starting on 1 July, and arguments exist for other dates at earlier times.

Much of the knowledge we now have about early Roman calendars came from Ovid, a Roman born in 43 BC, and from Plutarch, a Greek biographer who wrote between AD 105 and 115. Both of them had access to historical documents that no longer exist. Ovid claimed that his information was 'dug up in archaic calendars,' so it was already ancient over two thousand years ago. Plutarch said that months at the time of Rome's founding were of varying lengths, some as short as twenty days and others with thirty-five or more in what early Romans believed was a year of three hundred and sixty days.

The Julian year was 11 minutes and 14.5 seconds longer than the solar year. This discrepancy accumulated until, in 1582 the vernal equinox occurred 10 days early and Church holidays did not occur in the appropriate seasons. To make the vernal equinox occur on or around March 21<sup>st</sup>, as it had been agreed in AD 325, at the First Council of Nicaea—a council of Christian bishops convened in Nicaea in Bithynia (present-day İznik in Turkey) by the Roman Emperor Constantine—Pope Gregory XIII issued a decree (a papal bull, signed on 24 February 1582) dropping 10 days from the calendar. The Spring equinox was by then occurring on March 11<sup>th</sup> and moving steadily earlier in the calendar. Since the equinox was tied to the celebration of Easter, the reform in the calendar was undertaken by the Roman Catholic Church. To prevent further displacement he also stipulated that century years divisible exactly by 400 should be leap years, and that all other century years should be normal years. Thus, 1600 was a leap year, but 1700, 1800 and 1900 were normal years, and 2000 was a leap year. It has become known as the Gregorian calendar.



The Gregorian calendar, or New Style calendar, was slowly adopted throughout Europe. It is used today throughout most of the Western world and in parts of Asia. When the Gregorian calendar was adopted in Great Britain in 1752, a correction of 11 days was again necessary; the day after September 2<sup>nd</sup> 1752, became September 14<sup>th</sup>. Britain also adopted January 1<sup>st</sup> as the day when a new year begins, rather than 1<sup>st</sup> March. The Soviet Union adopted the Gregorian calendar in 1918, and Greece adopted it in 1923 for civil purposes, but many countries affiliated with the Greek Church retain the Julian, or Old Style, calendar for the celebration of Church feasts. The Gregorian calendar is also called the Christian calendar because it uses the birth of Jesus Christ as the starting date. Dates of the Christian era are often designated AD (Latin *anno domini* 'in the year of our Lord') and BC (before Christ). The birth of Christ appears to have been agreed as December 25, 1 BC, but modern scholars now place it five years earlier at about 4 BC.

Because the Gregorian calendar is still made up of months of unequal length, and therefore dates and days of the week vary through time, numerous proposals have been made for a more practical, reformed calendar. Such proposals include a fixed calendar of 13 equal months and a universal calendar of four identical quarterly periods. To date, none has been adopted.

On every occasion that we use a date such as AD 2010, we remind ourselves that our Lord Jesus Christ was born approximately two thousand and fifteen years ago. He lived and died so that we might have eternal life, and have it more abundantly.

D G



Thanks to everyone who has provided information for this prayer guide. If you would like anything added for the next edition please just let me know.

Thanks  
Wendy

## September

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pray for the Home Bible study groups that meet, that they would be challenged and blessed as they study God's word together.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the work of Care. Pray for the Christian interns working at the Scottish parliament.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Pray for the Sunday Club Coffee Morning tomorrow, pray that folks may have a good time of fellowship together.
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pray for Christian marriages.
- 5<sup>th</sup> **Pray for the youth Fellowship as they meet this evening at Drew and Helen Macraes house.**
- 6<sup>th</sup> Pray for the elders as they meet tonight. Pray God would bless them.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pray for Michael Gompertz as he seeks God's will for his future.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for the ladies bible study that meets at Glady's home. Pray these ladies would be blessed and challenged as they read God's word together.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Pray for the team that ministers to the old folks at Drum Court. Pray for them as they plan for the future.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Pray for those starting new courses this year. Pray for them as they settle in and make new friends.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Pray for the new students starting at the Faith Mission.
- 12<sup>th</sup> **Pray for the Mamaug family as they celebrate with friends and family at Joab's dedication.**
- 13<sup>th</sup> Pray for those in our fellowship that have children who are not living close to the Lord. Pray they would be encouraged this week.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Pray for Bill and Ruth Staig as they go to South Africa to visit family. Pray they would have a wonderful time.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for the missionary committee as they meet to plan and follow up missionary opportunities.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Pray for the work of the Gideons. Pray especially for the Staigs, the Murdochs and the Youngs as they serve God in this way.
- 17<sup>th</sup> Pray for those with loved ones in hospital. Pray God would strengthen them at this time.
- 18<sup>th</sup> Pray for Henryk and Tonia as they spend time with us and especially as Henryk speaks twice tomorrow.
- 19<sup>th</sup> **Pray for the Sunday club teachers as they share God word with the children today.**

- 20<sup>th</sup> Praise God for the babies and toddlers in the crèche. Pray God would bless their parents as they seek to bring them up knowing God.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Pray for those in the fellowship that you know are struggling with their health.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the SU group starting at Pentland Primary today. Pray for Wendy and Sarah Sutton as they lead this group.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Pray for the young mum's bible study that meets at Susan Thomson's home tomorrow. Pray they would have the opportunity to share and encourage one another as they discuss a passage from the Bible together.
- 24<sup>th</sup> Pray for the young folks as they attend PowerPoint tonight. Pray they would be blessed as they listen to Karl Martin.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Pray for the deacons as they meet together today. Pray for guidance.
- 26<sup>th</sup> **Pray for those involved in leading the worship. Pray they would be blessed as we praise God together.**
- 27<sup>th</sup> Pray for those in our church family who are elderly and perhaps finding life a little more difficult. Pray for opportunities to serve them.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Pray for those you know whose jobs are uncertain at this time. Pray for guidance and peace as they seek God for their future.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Pray for the coffee morning as they meet together today. Pray God would move the hearts of those who attend.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Continue to pray for the pastor situation. Really spend the day praying about this, perhaps meet up with a friend to pray for our church and its leadership.

## October

# Pray

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pray for those on the planning group as they ask speakers and decide on the best topics to be considered.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the YF as they share together in a social event this evening.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> **Pray for those helping out on the Care Van tonight. Pray for opportunities to share God with the folks on our cities streets.**
- 4<sup>th</sup> Pray for the Elders as they meet tonight.
- 5<sup>th</sup> Pray for those you know who are carers. Pray they would know what a wonderful job they are doing. Pray for God's blessing on them.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Pray for those single parents in our church family and those who live alone. Pray they would know God's love. Ask God to show you how you could encourage someone this week.
- 7<sup>th</sup> Pray for the work of the Torch trust for the Blind. Pray for Gladys, Jennifer and the Youngs as they support this work.
- 8<sup>th</sup> Pray for Jim Crooks as he prepares to speak on Sunday. Pray that the Holy Spirit would work in the lives of all who attend.
- 9<sup>th</sup> Pray for the work of Tearfund. There will be a lunch on Sunday and an opportunity to share together and learn more about Tearfund.
- 10<sup>th</sup> **Pray for John and Irene Hannah as they take on a monthly commitment with the youth fellowship. Pray they would be blessed as they serve God in this way.**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Pray for Elsie in Guthrie Court. Pray she would know God's blessing and presence.
- 12<sup>th</sup> Pray for the work of Scripture Union across the city.
- 13<sup>th</sup> Pray for Christine Matthews as she writes up her dissertation in Leicester. Pray



- God would bless her as she seeks Him for her future.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Pray for Paul Graham as he speaks on Sunday. Pray especially for him and the family after their recent loss.
- 15<sup>th</sup> Pray for Harvey Stalker as he takes on a series looking at things that Christians do, bible study etc. Pray God would use him.
- 16<sup>th</sup> Pray for those in our fellowship who are considering baptism. Pray that God would guide them and bless them.
- 17<sup>th</sup> **Pray for Stephen and Jenny as they lead the bible class. Pray they would spend challenging times in God's word.**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Pray for those on holiday this week that they would have a relaxing time.
- 19<sup>th</sup> Continue to pray for Katie and Stuart in Dubai.
- 20<sup>th</sup> Pray for Peter and Ella McIntyre as our missionaries for the month.
- 21<sup>st</sup> Pray for those in our fellowship who are married to non-Christians. Pray God would continue to work in their lives.
- 22<sup>nd</sup> Pray for the country of Zimbabwe after the information Nick Blair left with us a few weeks ago.
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Pray for those in our church family who we haven't seen at church for a while. Pray the Holy Spirit would prompt them to come on a Sunday – perhaps you could be used by God in this!
- 24<sup>th</sup> **Pray for Dave Russell as he speaks today. Pray for him in his role in Liberton High School. Pray too for the witness of Christian teachers.**
- 25<sup>th</sup> Pray that God would use you today to reach out to a friend today.
- 26<sup>th</sup> Pray for the TryPraying campaign. Pray that God would place on your heart someone you could give a copy of the booklet to.
- 27<sup>th</sup> Pray for Marian as she introduces the subject of Christmas and it's meaning demonstrates Christmas crafts etc. Pray the Holy Spirit would move in the lives of those present.
- 28<sup>th</sup> Pray for the staff at the Faith Mission as they seek to serve and teach the students.
- 29<sup>th</sup> Pray for Harvey and Helen Stalker as they lead bible studies with the youth fellowship on a monthly basis. Pray they would be blessed and that the young folks would be challenged in God's word.
- 30<sup>th</sup> Pray for the deacons as they meet today. Pray they would be blessed.
- 31<sup>st</sup> **Pray for the fellowship lunch today, that as people spend time together the conversations would centre on God.**



Please forward any prayer point for the Nov/Dec magazine to Wendy by the 13<sup>th</sup> Oct.

Thanks

[wmbathgate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wmbathgate@yahoo.co.uk)

## Mums Bible Study

Finding it difficult to get out to a Bible Study, why not meet together with you're baby/toddler for a time of sharing around God's word on Friday mornings:-

24<sup>th</sup> September at 10am

29<sup>th</sup> October at 10am

26<sup>th</sup> November at 10am

If you would like to attend  
please see Susan Thomson.



There is often little time to spend with each other in the busyness of life. We hope that meeting regularly together over lunch following the All-Age service will offer an opportunity to get to know each other better and encourage one another.

The present plan will be to meet on the last Sunday of alternate months.

Dates for your diaries:

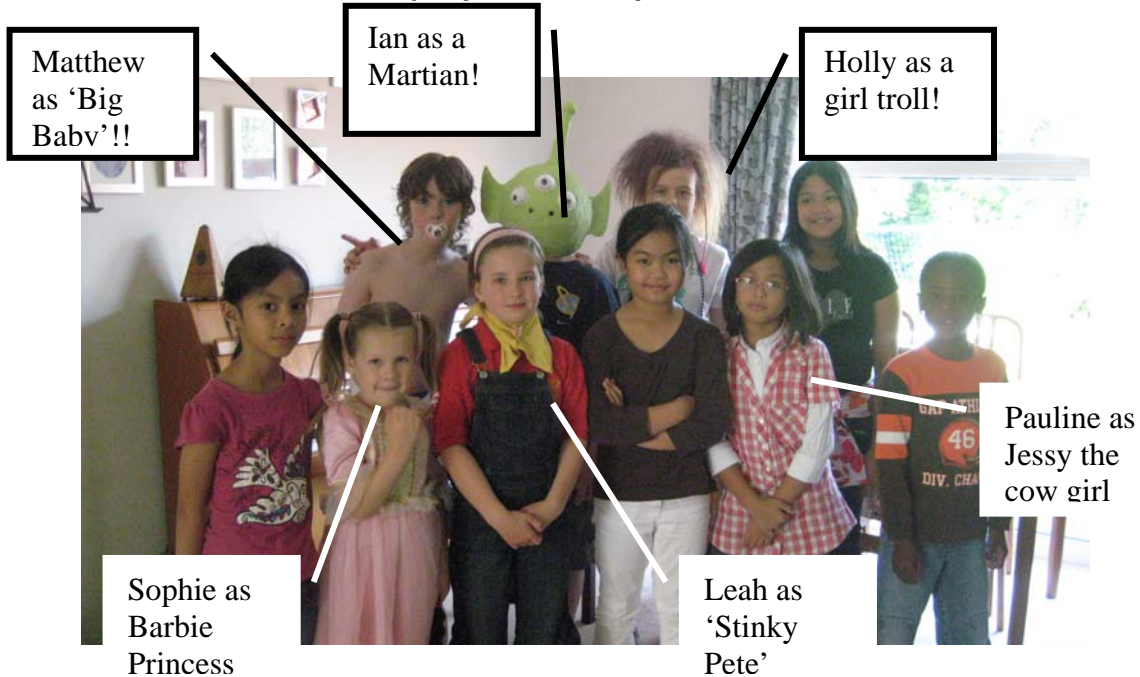
September 12<sup>th</sup> - Lunch together following Joab's dedication

October 10<sup>th</sup> - Lunch provided for the Tear fund lunch

(not the 31<sup>st</sup> as previously indicated) Please add your name to the sheet on the noticeboard as this is helpful for catering purposes.

# Sunday Club

We had a great summer Sunday club, and ended with a Toy Story party. Some came dressed as toys (see below).



The Sunday Club has re-started and we have three classes this year.



The Maltesers is a new class for the pre-schoolers. This will be led by Joan Young and Wendy Bathgate. We will be looking at bible stories in a fun and interactive way.(Could get quite messy!!)

Smarties is for the P1 – P4 ages and is led by Elaine Liddle and Irene Hannah (Aileen King is on maternity leave until Christmas at least).



M&Ms is for P5-P7 and is led by Marian Dann and Mandy Johnston. New challenges await the class!!



It is great to see new children coming along and we would ask that you pray for the teachers and the children as they meet week by week.

Susan will continue to lead a time of Kids Praise when the children get an opportunity to learn some new songs.

## FAITH MISSION CAMP

Some of our young folks (Iain & Holly) went to the junior Adventure Camp from 26th - 30th July at Newton Stewart. Then, Joshua, Cameron, Miriam and Megan headed to the Teen Camp from the 2<sup>nd</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> August.

**Activities included:-**

Forrest rambles, football, table tennis, various games, crafts, fantastic quiet times, prayer times and bible studies.

**Holly said:** "The activities were fun and I had a good time. We went to a farm and a turkey bit me!

**Ian said:** "I really liked the readings in the evenings, they were about Eric Liddle – I never even knew he existed."



**Miriam said:-** "It was great meeting new Christian friends. We had a different speaker every day and I really enjoyed the outdoor activities. Our theme for the weeks talks was Jesus and Joseph."

**Cameron said:-** "We were taught from the book of Luke. I was reminded of what it meant to be a Christian and I decided to try to live what I have learned. The theme park was great fun – the roller coaster rocked!"

**Joshua said:-** "It was a really great week. I had a very good time and look forward to going again next year. I also made lots of new friends."

**Megan said:-** "It was really good to meet other young Christians and get to know them and have fun with them."

***WE WOULD RECOMMEND FAITH MISSION  
CAMP TO ALL***

**A parents comment (Gwen):-** "Its wonderful that our young folks enjoy spending time with Christians and finding out more about Christ. It was also good not having to wash and iron for a week!"

# Christmas Shoebox

## Appeal 2010



When:

**All filled shoeboxes to be handed into the church by Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> November for delivery to the depot.**

What to do:

- Find an empty medium-size shoebox, approximately 18 x 30 x 13cm, (Samaritan's Purse reserve the right to split boxes which are too large). Wrap the lid and box separately in wrapping paper.
- Decide if your gift is for a boy or girl. Tick the appropriate age box on the boy or girl sticker. Then stick the label onto the top right of the outside of the lid. Make sure the label is secure.
- Fill your shoebox full with gifts listed on the [Gift Ideas](#) page. **PLEASE DO NOT** wrap any items individually.
- Make your donation online if possible. If you are paying by cheque or cash, fill your details on the donation form and enclose £2.50 with the form in an envelope and seal it. Place your donation envelope or online donation slip on top of the contents so that it will be clearly visible when the box is opened. **IMPORTANT** Please enclose £2.50 or more towards distribution, transport, processing and promotion.
- Please secure the lid with an elastic band, and **DO NOT** seal the box as it will need to be checked to ensure it meets Customs requirements.



Thank you for your continued support with this. It is a wonderful way to share with children who are less fortunate.

If you would like to encourage work colleagues or friends to take part please help yourself to a handful of leaflets. Leaflets can be found on the table in the foyer.

**Sunday 7th Nov**



## Report on the Big idea Events 2009-10

### Prayer Strategy

The Prayer Walk on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September at Liberton Northfield received positive feedback and it was agreed to do another event and build upon it. It was planned to meet 4 times a year and that Tuesday nights were a suitable night for this event.

### International Evening

International members of our churches participated by either providing a home made dish from their home country or sing a song. This had a wonderful atmosphere and would be well worth repeating. There was a good mix of people, a well balanced programme and you left feeling very uplifted. Christine and Mark brought friends from Jamaica and their item was truly inspirational.

### Area Group Conference

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2009 at the Faith Mission Auditorium. Theme: 'Hope in the Community'. The event was well attended as usual and the speaker left you with lots to think about.

### Advent Service

Well attended with a nice atmosphere.

### Café Broma

This was a very successful event building on the success of previous years. Andy Chittick organised it well and he with a former member of The Honey Thieves led the evening in inspirational music. There was a good atmosphere to the evening and a good opportunity to bring non-Christian friends to an evangelistic event.

### Women's Evening

'Colour me beautiful' Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> March at Bristo Craigmillar Church – 7.30pm. We encouraged anyone wishing to attend to encourage a non-Christian to come along. Numbers were limited to 25. This was well attended and had a very good relaxing atmosphere that allowed the Gospel to be shared in a natural way.

### Men's Curry Evening

Liberton Kirk Anderson Hall on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. Unfortunately the event had to be cancelled due to poor uptake. It was agreed that the church based venue for the meal rather than a restaurant as well as poor publicity could have been responsible for the poor response and will have to be looked at for next year.

### Fischy Music Concert

The Big Idea sponsored a concert for all the local primary kids (850) in Liberton Kirk and as in previous years the concert was well received by all the youngsters and by the Primary staff. This continues to have impact in the community.

### **Palm Sunday Service**

Bristo Church was responsible for the event on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> March from 6.30pm at the Faith Mission. A collection was taken up to cover the cost of using the Faith Mission and surplus was added to the Big Idea funds. Again this was a well attended event with a sense of worship shared by all the churches.

### **Five-a-side football**

This went ahead but on a limited scale due to a problem with venue and a last minute change in how the tournament was run.

### **Stage and Slam**

A weeklong youth event (19-23<sup>rd</sup> July) run by Young Life and the Big Idea churches held at Gracemount High School and The Hub was very successful and was attended by 66 young people. On the last night 20 youngsters committed their life to Jesus.

### **The Future:**

Most of the events proved as successful this year as they had in previous years and where they did not, it appears that it was organisational difficulties rather than the events themselves that were the problem.

The Big Idea Committee initially discussed the advantages and disadvantages of a programme spread throughout the year instead of the concentrated programme of previous years. There was no clear consensus at that meeting.

We met again in August to plan for next year and the view at that meeting was that we should revert to a concentrated programme for next year to help the focus for evangelism.

**The programme for Big Idea 5 will run from 27/3/11 until 9/4/11 with support for an Advent Service, Fischy Concert, Palm Service, Stage and Slam and the Creation Tour out with that concentrated slot.**

The views of the church evangelism committee as well as anyone else in the church will be helpful as to the events in the programme to ensure that community evangelism is more focused and effective.

A Macrae

# THE WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING

## MACMILLAN CANCER CARE

### WEDNESDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> SEPT.

#### 10A.M. – 12NOON



Once again the opening coffee morning will take the form of the very successful Macmillan Cancer Care open morning.

On previous years this has brought a number of people along who have never been inside our building and has given opportunities to welcome new faces.

*Can you help?*

As helpers are few for this day with Ruth and Mary being away, the coffee morning committee would welcome some "one off " help for that morning.

We would also welcome home baking which could be marked "Coffee Morning", and left in the freezer.



Thank you so much for past help given, which has been so valuable. Most of all, we would be grateful if you could attend and bring friends.

Please give names to Helen Littlewood, Jennifer Merrilees or Irene Hannah.

# biblefresh



**Why does the Church need another new initiative? Surely Christians know and understand the Bible? These questions might easily be asked by many in the Church today. So why are we launching this new initiative?**

In early 2006 some research was conducted by the Evangelical Alliance which revealed that low levels of biblical knowledge and understanding was becoming a significant and worrying issue in the Church. Anecdotally, we had received evidence from some of the Bible colleges and theological institutions that new students were increasingly bible illiterate. More time needed to be spent giving students a basic grounding before they could tackle other subjects.

In March 2007 the Evangelical Alliance Council meeting approved the concept of a 'biblicising the church' campaign. Following this, various consultations were held with some of our current partner organisations and the outline of the Biblefresh initiative was formed.

Bible Society along with the Evangelical Alliance commissioned some research to explore levels of biblical literacy in the UK Church. 1731 church leaders and 1929 church attendees were surveyed. The findings underlined the anecdotal evidence: that the church as well as our culture has very low levels of biblical understanding and it is not only church members that struggle to read the Bible but church leaders also. In short, many are not familiar with the Bible; find it difficult to engage with it regularly and there is a real need for training and encouragement in how to do this. For the detailed summary report of the 'Taking the Pulse' survey, you can access it on the biblefresh website.

It was decided that the Biblefresh initiative, as it was styled, would be focussed on the year 2011, which was also the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary since the publication of the King James Version of the Bible. We would ask churches to join the movement by agreeing to increase their church's level of biblical engagement in four ways: **reading, training, translation and experience**. Centrally we would encourage our partner organisations to respond to the need by providing access to relevant reading, audio, video, and training resources.

By asking churches to re-focus on the Bible for the year, we hoped that the fruit in the UK Church would be an increased hunger and desire for the Word of God which would result in more lives saved and transformed.

That we would become 'with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord... transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.' (2 Cor. 3.18 NKJV)

Whether you are a preacher in need of refreshment, a house group leader wanting to sharpen your skills, a youth worker who wants to help young people gain passion for the Scriptures or a regular member of the congregation wanting to go deeper in your understanding of the Bible, there is something for you!



READ THE  
BIBLE TOGETHER  
AS A CHURCH

Research has shown that Christians struggle to read the Bible regularly, so this is a good starting point for Biblefresh.

By 'reading' we don't just mean looking at the words on the page, but whatever it takes for you to ingest the Word of God, whether that's listening to a podcast or watching a dramatic reading.

Whilst we want to encourage personal Bible reading, we recognise that the Bible was written to be read in community. When we study the Bible together rather than alone, we are less likely to skew the message, as each person brings a different perspective.

Why not make 2011 a year to read through the whole Bible as a church? There are plenty of schemes to help you, several with online commentary and forums. Or you could focus in on some books that you've never really read before. Have a look at some of these resources to help you decide.



INVEST IN  
TRAINING THE  
WHOLE CHURCH  
TO UNDERSTAND  
AND APPLY  
THE BIBLE

During 2011, you could take part in one of the Christian festivals where the Bible is being taught; listen or watch some of the seminars online; attend an evening or weekend of training in your church; or commit to some academic study.



RAISE MONEY  
TO **TRANSLATE**  
THE BIBLE FOR  
BURKINA FASO

There are still over 300 million people around the world, speaking two thousand different languages that don't have access to the Bible.

To help you make a difference to this statistic, Bible Society and Wycliffe Bible Translators are jointly facilitating a translation for

the Bissa people in Burkina Faso. As you personally grow from engaging more with God's Word in 2011, you can extend the blessing by fundraising to give the Scriptures to men and women in one of the poorest nations in Africa.



HELP PEOPLE  
**EXPERIENCE**  
THE BIBLE IN  
NEW AND  
CREATIVE WAYS

God's Word is not a dry dusty book, but living and active. It contains the most amazing story ever told, full of the most fantastic characters, exploring every kind of human emotion in all kinds of different genres.

So let's take the opportunity to share the overall message or one of the stories through

the creative arts. It might just help someone to see the Bible from a whole different perspective.

## **Now it's over to you.**

We look forward to hearing the creative and exciting things that your churches will be doing to help Christians engage more deeply with God's Word.

Visit our [Get Involved](#) pages where you can [submit your ideas](#) to let us know what you are doing (alternatively you can email us at [info@biblefresh.com](mailto:info@biblefresh.com)). You can also [upload your photos](#) so we can all be inspired by the events you're holding. There is also a [Biblefresh Calendar](#), you can [download our logos](#) or view our [Facebook and Twitter feeds](#). Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) and sign up for our monthly e-letter (above) so we can keep in touch with you.

We want this to be a truly interactive site. Throughout the year this site will provide more media, events and ideas to help your church make the most of 2011 as a year of the Bible.



## **Jonathan Aitken to speak at two taster events – do bring your unchurched friends.**

In September we (Business Alpha) will be holding two identical taster events – for our two Business Alpha courses 2010. Yes, having had a rest from running Business Alpha we are returning to the marketplace with redoubled energy and enthusiasm and offering the course in two parts of the city. We will be running at our 'home' the Roxburgh Hotel on Thursdays at lunchtime. New this year we will also be running the course in Holyrood. This will be on Wednesdays straight after work.

We are delighted that Jonathan Aitken will speak at both of the Taster events.

Subject: Christianity: Boring, Untrue and Irrelevant?

Holyrood: Wednesday 15 September  
Macdonald Holyrood Hotel, 81 Holyrood Road  
5.45 for 6.15 ending 7.15  
Fare: hot supper  
Cost: a donation only

West End: Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> September  
The Roxburgh Hotel, Charlotte Square  
12.45 for 1pm ending 1.50  
Fare: Soup and sandwiches  
Cost: a donation only.

If you cannot join us please pray for us.

**Listen out for Ruth Aird interviewing Jonathan Aitken on Heart of the Matter -- Black Diamond Radio.**



## *People News*

Congratulations to Alan and Elspeth who celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Congratulations to Bill and Ruth Staig on becoming grandparents. Colin and Norma had a baby boy – Andrew. Pray for them in South Africa especially as Colin's mother is unwell.

Congratulations to David and Sarah Ballantine on the safe arrival of Matthew. Please pray for them as they settle into family life.



Pray for Stuart and Katie as they settle together into life in Dubai. You can e-mail them at [Katie.waddell@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:Katie.waddell@hotmail.co.uk)

Stuart has joined a baptist church called 'Fellowship of the Emirates'. It's a young and growing church with new people from different cultures and backgrounds attending every week. The pastor, Jim, is excellent and Stuart is really enjoying his time there. He now goes early every week to set up the room for the service, which is in a hotel conference room, and has led one of the bible studies for the last two weeks. As a growing church, Stuart is meeting new Christians every week who are looking for support and guidance in their faith. Stuart asked if you can pray for the church and that he is able to grow in faith and maturity over the coming months to support new members.

As I am sure many of you know, Stuart and I are expecting a baby, due 12th Feb next year. This is a huge blessing to us, and we had the scan last week, which showed a healthy little BOY! Stuart is delighted as you can imagine at the prospect of a wee boy. Due to problems with health insurance, I am coming home in between Christmas and New Year in time to have the baby in Scotland. I will be living with my parents again in Strathaven and will have the baby at Wishaw General. Please pray for the rest of the pregnancy and that somehow, Stuart will make it home in February for the arrival of our son.

Thank you to everyone for the lovely welcome last Sunday. It was great to see so many of you and I enjoyed being back at Ferniehill

Pray for Tracy Liddle as she settles into her new job as a nursery nurse at Stockbridge Nursery.

Pray for Lydia Herrod Taylor as she looks for a job, she would be keen to return to Edinburgh.

Pray for Christine Matthews as she heads off to Leicester for a few months to work on her thesis. Pray for her as she settles into her new accommodation and finds a local church.

# Sunday Services

## September - October 2010

During the All Age services in September will look at Jesus through the book of Mark. The evening series will end the series looking at the living church.

### September

Date/Service	Speaker	Visiting from:	Topic
5 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	David Campbell	Maddiston	The beginning of His story. Mark 1:1-20
Bible Teaching	David Campbell		The need for fellowship
12 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	John Matthews	FEC	Who Jesus was. Mark 2:1-12, 4:35-41
Bible Teaching	Mark Davies	Motherwell	Making an impact – Salt and Light
19 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	Henryk Turkanik	Poland	What Jesus did Mark 5:21-43
Bible teaching	Henryk Turkanik		Jesus second coming
26 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	Derek Malcolm		What Jesus taught Mark 6:1-6 & 7:1-23
Bible Teaching	Derek Malcolm		Report on Turkey

# October

In October the **All Age services** will continue in the series looking at Jesus in the book of Mark. Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> is Tear Fund Sunday (see separate notice). We will then have a series on "Things that Christian do".

Date/Service	Speaker	Visiting from:	Topic
3 <sup>rd</sup> All-Age	Andy Dalrymple	Musselburgh	Why Jesus came Mark 8:27-38 & 9:30-37
Bible Teaching	Willie Hutchison	Strathaven	Own subject
10 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	Jim Crookes	Dundee	Tear Fund Sunday
Bible Teaching	No service		
17 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	Paul Graham	Bellevue	How Jesus was received Mark 11:27-12:12
Bible teaching	Harvey Stalker	FEC	Things that Christians do
24 <sup>th</sup> All-Age	Dave Russell	North Berwick	His betrayal and trial Mark 14:43-65 & 15:1-15
Bible Teaching	Harvey Stalker	FEC	Things that Christians do
31 <sup>st</sup> All-Age	Mark Fyfe	Abernethy	His death and resurrection Mark 15:25-47 & 16:1-11
Bible Teaching	Harvey Stalker	FEC	Things that Christians do

If  
you

have any suggestions about the topics studied at the All Age services or the Teaching services then please speak to a member of the planning group:

Jocelyn Anderson, Andrew Bathgate, Val Cameron, Irene Hannah, Norman Liddle and John Matthews.

All the services are recorded on CD and are available from Charles Summers, Ben Thomson or Ross Macrae.

# Rotas for Sept-Oct

Date	Duty Elder	Flowers	Welcome Duty	All-age crèche
September 5 <sup>th</sup>	Drew Macrae	Helen Stalker	June Shepherd & Donald Gaston	Tim, Aileen & Pearl
12 <sup>th</sup>	Norman Liddle	Val Cameron	Carol Brodie & Helen Stalker	Gwen & Susan
19 <sup>th</sup>	John Matthews	Val Cameron	Pearl Liddle & John Murdoch	Tracy & June
26 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Bathgate	Jean Gaston	Gwen Anderson & Liz Breckenridge	Myra & Liz
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Norman Liddle	Jean Gaston	Alan & Elspeth Jack	Mary & Helen M
10 <sup>th</sup>	John Matthews	Hazel Matthews	Mary Summers & Donald Gaston	Tim, Aileen & Pearl
17 <sup>th</sup>	Drew Macrae	Hazel Matthews	Denise Abbott & John Young	Gwen & Susan
24 <sup>th</sup>	Andrew Bathgate	Jocelyn Anderson	Susan Thomson & Bill Staig	Tracy & June
31 <sup>st</sup>	Norman Liddle	Jocelyn Anderson	Pearl Liddle & John Murdoch	Myra & Liz

If you are unable to fulfil your duties please try to swap with someone else.  
Thank you.

Duty Elder Rota – Andrew Bathgate  
 Flower Rota – Marian Dann  
 Welcome Duty Rota – Marian Dann  
 Crèche Rota – Susan Thomson

If you would like to join any of these rotas please speak to the relevant person.

## The Elders

Andrew Bathgate

Norman Liddle

John Matthews

## The Deacons

Myra Amer

Paul Anderson

Wendy Bathgate

David Breckenridge Marian Dann

Marv Summers

## Writing an article for the magazine.

Please follow the guidelines below: -

- Each article should be either hand-written or typed on a computer.
- Please keep your article brief and to the point.
- On completion please pass your article to any of the editorial team or e-mail Wendy on : - [wmbathgate@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:wmbathgate@yahoo.co.uk)

Please note the editorial team may edit each article accordingly. If you are unsure about any of the above, please do not hesitate to speak to us.

Please let us have your articles for the November -  
December edition by

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Thank You.