

REVIEW and OUTLOOK

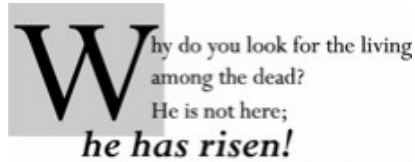


April 2010

www.palmerstonplacechurch.com

Scottish Charity No SC004291

Minister's Letter to the Congregation



Dear Friends,

Luke 24:5-6

This month we celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus in Good Friday and Easter Sunday. But how do these great events relate to us today?

Firstly they address our fears

Fear can warn us but it can also paralyse us. We have so many fears today - the list is endless. At the empty tomb the angel said to the women "Do not fear." We need to hear that message today.

We no longer have to fear for the future because Christ, by being raised from the dead, has conquered our great unspoken fear of death. There is hope for the future.

We no longer need to fear the past because Christ's death was for us, to bring forgiveness for failure, and deal with our past once and for all. The past can be wiped clean and we can be set free to live.

We can face the present with confidence because we are not alone. The risen Christ comes alongside us to travel with us on the way. Nothing will separate us from his love. We can trust in his promises.

Secondly it gives us our focus

The angel said "Go and tell" and that mandate remains with the church today as much as it ever did. Christian experience is not a matter of creed but of conviction, which we are called to share with others. We need to point people back to the evidence for our faith, and then show them the relevance of what we believe.

Finally we need to start living now in the light of the resurrection which is life-transforming good news—"If you have been raised with Christ, set your mind on the things that are above, where Christ is."

We will not escape the hard knocks but we will have a whole new perspective to face life, and heavenly resources with which to do so.

Have a wonderful Easter and live in its glow all year round.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colin".

SUNDAY SERVICES IN PALMERSTON PLACE CHURCH

**"bringing Christian worship, fellowship
and service back to the heart of everyday life"**

11.00 am Morning Worship

6.30 pm Evening Service

Crèche is available every Sunday morning.
Beginners, Seekers, ESMS Boarders and Senior Horizon
normally meet during the Morning Service.

HOLY COMMUNION

There will be a **Traditional Communion Service** on Sunday 25 April
at 11 am where the elements will be served in the pew.

KIRK SESSION

Next meeting will be held on Monday April 12 at 7:30 pm

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

Next meeting will be held on Monday April 26 at 7:30 pm

Meetings of Kirk Session and Congregational Board are held in public.
You are welcome to come along.

THE REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

All material for the May issue
should be in the hands of the Secretary
by Tuesday 20 April.

The Minister asks those who read the *Review and Outlook* to inform him and his team about ways in which they can help, such as requests for hospital and other visits, and also about changes of address. The card inserted into the cover of the congregational hymnbook is convenient for this purpose, and is also for the use of those visiting the congregation. You may wish to draw visitors' attention to it.

CARBON FOOTPRINT CHALLENGE

At the General Assembly of 2009 congregations were instructed to work to reduce their Carbon Footprint by 5% each year as a response to Global Warming. For this purpose our carbon footprint is simply measured by the amount of gas and electricity we use.

Now we do not in any sense want to restrict use of our church and halls, nor do we want people to cold or meet in the dark. However, can I please encourage all users of our building to switch off heating and lights when they have finished using any room? Sadly the radiators and lights are often left on until the Church Officers come round later to check.

In this simple way, we could reduce our gas and electricity bill and so contribute towards our target.

Thanks for your help.
Colin Sinclair



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

APRIL

Wednesday	7	7:30 am	Early Birds Prayer
Thursday	8	2 pm 7:30 pm	Friendship Club Thursday House Group at John & Helen Macpherson's
Sunday	11	11 am 3 pm 6:30 pm	Transforming faith John 20 Sutherland Street Service Do we take risks for nothing? 1 Corinthians 15
Monday	12	7:30 pm 7:30 pm	Kirk Session Monday House Group at Aaron & Jo Black's
Wednesday	14	7:30 am 7:30 pm	Early Birds Prayer Manse House Group
Thursday	15	2 pm 7:30 pm	Friendship Club Prayer meeting in Annan House
Sunday	18	11 am 6:30 am	Talking over breakfast Should we give up? 1 Corinthians 15
Wednesday	21	7:30 am	Early Birds Prayer
Thursday	22	2 pm	Friendship Club
Saturday	24	2 pm	Christian Aid Bridge Cross
Sunday	25	10:30 am 11 am 6:30 pm	Kirk Session meet in Church Hall Sacrament of Communion Dare to be a Daniel Communion in shortened form
Monday	26	7:30 pm	Congregational Board
Tuesday	27	7:30 pm	Bridging the Gap
Wednesday	28	7:30 am 7:30 pm	Early Birds Prayer Kirk Session—special meeting
Thursday	29	2 pm	Friendship Club
Friday	30	7:30 pm	PowerPoint (Destiny Church, Gorgie Road)

MAY

Sunday	2	11 am 6:30 pm	Morning Service Evening Service
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The Prayer Page



An Easter Prayer

Sovereign God,
we don't understand how you raised Jesus from the dead,
how you breathed life into his broken body,
how you rolled the stone away from the tomb,
how he appeared unrecognized to Mary in the garden
and to disciples on the Emmaus Road;
how he walked through locked doors to be with the Apostles;
how he repeatedly appeared from nowhere
to stand among his followers.

What we do understand is this:
that he changed the lives of all who met him,
turning their sorrow into celebration,
their despair into hope, and their doubt into faith;
and that he is with us now through his life-giving Spirit,
remaking our lives in turn,
giving us joy, peace, and a sense of purpose
such as we never imagined possible before.

We do not understand, but we believe,
we rejoice
and we offer you our grateful worship
in the name of that same Jesus,
our risen Lord and Saviour,
Amen

OUR LORD
hear
my prayer

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



By the time that you read this we will be in Eastertide, and the music of Lent, Holy Week and Easter Day will have come and gone. As I write, in late March, I'd like to extend a special thanks to all those who will be taking part in and coming along to the augmented choir's performance of Olivet to Calvary on Palm Sunday evening. Thanks also to the choir for their hard work singing on Good Friday and Easter Day evenings. We enjoy the challenge of the different moods of repertoire around the Christian year.

On Easter Day we will be singing the anthem (intended for Easter Day) Blessed be the God and Father by Samuel Sebastian Wesley, the 200th anniversary of whose birth is marked later this year. Wesley was organist at Hereford Cathedral when he wrote this lovely anthem in 1835; it is encouraging to know that the challenges of choir recruitment are nothing new - only one bass and two trebles turned up for the anthem's first performance on Easter Day that year!

The music played before and after our services leaves behind the austerity of Lent. On Easter Day itself, the first voluntary is a set of variations on the mediaeval Easter hymn tune O filii et filiae ("O sons and daughters of the King") by Jeanne Demessieux (1921 - 1968), a French organist who achieved considerable fame for developing a virtuoso pedal technique while wearing her high heels! This is followed by an arrangement for organ of the chorus The heavens are telling the glory of God from Haydn's Creation. The postlude is the Final from Louis Vierne's (1870 - 1937) first organ symphony (last year it was the Final from his sixth!) In the evening the postlude is something a bit different. The English composer John Rutter is well-known for his attractive choral works, his saccharine but undeniably charming carols being particularly popular. Not many know that he has written a few organ pieces. From time to time I play his Toccata in 7 but on Easter Day I will need a little help to play his Variations on an Easter Theme: it is for organ duet! My colleague Dr Chris Johnson - organist at nearby St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church in Dalry Road and a regular Sunday evening deputy at PPC - will provide the extra hands and feet. The piece will be the postlude on Easter Day evening, and also explores the possibilities of the theme O filii et filiae. Later in April the postludes include the substantial Concert Overture No. 3 in F minor by Alfred Hollins, who played just along the road at St George's West Church from 1897 - 1942.

Many of us have been looking forward to the return of the Origin Spring Praise Night to our church on Sunday 9 May. Sadly, this event has had to be cancelled due to financial pressures on the organisation. We hope that a planned return in 2011 will come to fruition. By way of consolation, please do mark the June concert of the new Edinburgh Praise Gathering choir in your diary - 19 June in the Usher Hall. It should be a great night.

Andrew Caskie

ALL-REQUEST ORGAN RECITAL

by Andrew Caskie

Saturday 8 May 2010

7.30 pm

at Palmerston Place Church

Free admission

To mark Christian Aid week, Andrew Caskie will present an all-request programme organ recital to raise funds for the charity.

This is your chance to decide the whole programme!

Perhaps there is a piece you had at your wedding, or have heard on the radio or on a Sunday, that you would like to hear again.

Anything (and that does mean anything) goes!

The only conditions are: i) that you are able to be there; and

ii) you make a £10 donation to Christian Aid per piece requested.

Please get your requests to Andrew Caskie as soon as possible to ensure inclusion!

Andrew Caskie

ORGAN RECITAL

by Andrew Caskie

Tuesday 13 April 2010

7.30pm

at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh

Free admission (refreshments served afterwards)

Programme of British organ music from 1901-1950: music by Hollins, Parry, Stanford, Harris, Howells, Bairstow, Jackson, Bridge, Cocker, Lemare and Whitlock.

Andrew Caskie

TRY PRAYING

trypraying.

We would love to know any stories of what happened when you shared your Try Praying booklet. Please speak to Dorothy Steel, Fiona Edwards or one of the Ministers. Please pray on for those to whom you gave your booklet.

Colin Sinclair

ORIGIN PRAISE NIGHT

The Origin Praise night scheduled to take place at Palmerston Place on Sunday May 9th has sadly to be postponed until 2011 as Origin are facing financial pressures at this time. There will be no evening service on May 9th as the service will take place at Peebles Hydro after high tea, as part of the Peebles Outing.

Colin Sinclair

EVENING SERVICES

Our evening services run until the end of June (except for May 9th). For the rest of this session we will be looking at two short series.

First we will spend the three weeks from Easter Sunday looking at 1 Corinthians 15 with the question being asked each week—"If Christ had not been raised...?".

Then we will look at the dramatic and well-loved stories that make up the first half of the book of Daniel—familiar from childhood but perhaps seen differently through adult eyes.

All are welcome each Sunday from 6:30 pm.

Colin Sinclair



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



This year's World Day of Prayer Service, written by Christian women of Cameroon, had the theme 'Let Everything That Has Breath Praise God'. It was the turn of Palmerston Place to host the service and about 70 men and women including our own members and others from St. George's West, Dean Parish, St. Mary's

Cathedral and St. Andrew's RC Churches met for worship on the afternoon of Friday 5th March.

With one or two minor omissions from the printed Order of Service we enjoyed a service of prayer and praise, singing some well known hymns. Through our prayers and readings we gave thought to the problems faced by many Cameroonians in their daily lives.

A short, informative and interesting presentation was given by Professor Leakey, a retired Professor of Agroecology and Sustainable Development. He spoke about how improving indigenous vegetation, rather than introducing cash crops which destroyed the environment, was resulting in increased yield in quantity and quality. This is giving better nutrition for the villagers and sufficient produce to be able to market some and gain an income at the same time. Ultimately this improves the quality of life for the whole village.

Sheila Swanson



WHAT'S ON?

CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Week begins on Sunday 9th May. We shall, as usual, mark the week with a fund-raising lunch on Sunday 16th May. For some this will be a distant date but it needs to go into diaries NOW.

A number of our members will be helping at the annual book sale at St. Andrews and St. Georges on George Street. There is always a need for more helpers and I shall be glad to put volunteers in touch. In the meantime, the annual Forth Road Bridge Cross takes place on 24th April. I have an ample supply of sponsor sheets so please don't be shy about requesting one.

John Macpherson

PEEBLES OUTING SUNDAY MAY 9th

The Peebles Outing takes place annually for our older members and those who are housebound. If you would like to come on the Peebles outing please speak to your Elder or sign up on the list in the Lothian Room. If you are willing to offer to help drive some of our congregation to Peebles and enjoy our day out then please add your name to one of the lists in the Lothian Room.

Colin Sinclair

ORGAN RECITAL

By Andrew Caskie

Saturday 15 May
12 Noon

Pilrig St Paul's Church, Leith Walk by Pilrig Street

Free admission with café before and after. The recital is part of the Pilrig Arts Festival. Andrew was organist here from 1998-2000.

Andrew Caskie

WHAT'S ON?

AN EVENING WITHOUT A NAME

Our speaker at the next meeting will be Richard Loudon W.S. whose work is principally in the Property Department of a prominent firm of solicitors.

The title of his talk is: -
To Buy or Not to Buy?

Perhaps you can find the answers to some of your queries by coming to Annan House on Wednesday 21st April at 7:30 pm.

See you there!

Margaret Moodie



BETHANY CELEBRATION

Bethany Christian Trust invite everyone to their annual celebration of the work they do for the homeless in Edinburgh. It takes place on Wednesday 21st April at 7:30 pm. The venue is Morningside Baptist Church at Holy Corner in Morningside.

They say:

"This event is an important opportunity for staff, volunteers and supporters to gather together and give thanks to God for the many life transformations we have seen through Bethany over the past year, and to look ahead to consider our challenges, hopes and plans for the future. We are looking forward to a lively and engaging event with guest speaker Rev. Karl Martin of Morningside Baptist Church".

David Boyd

REJOICE!


SALTMINE THEATRE COMPANY

23-28 August 2010

Saltmine Trust .org.uk

When we held our congregational conference "Compassion beyond a Tear" a few years ago, a number of ideas and suggestions emerged, a good many of which we have managed to put into practice.

However one idea that was strongly suggested, was that we might use our Church Building more, for concerts, plays etc. The idea had to be put on hold whilst we examined how fit our buildings were for wider use. We have had to improve our fire alarm system, change some doors and re-examine our whole procedure in event of any emergency.

Then we had to undergo outside scrutiny to see if our building would qualify for a Temporary Entertainment Licence and what changes we would have to make to be accepted by the local authorities. All this has taken time but at last we are ready to see if the vision of those days can be realized. We are going to be taking the first step at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe this summer.

In recent years our Director of Music has organized a series of Fringe Recitals spread over the three weeks of the Fringe. This year these will happen over the first two weeks on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings, and there will be more details in due course. For the third week we have agreed to play host to the well known Christian Drama Group, Saltmine Theatre Company, who have often performed at the Fringe in recent years. They were looking for a venue for week 3 of the Festival and through personal friendship approached us. We have agreed that they can come to Palmerston Place from 23-28 August and will be putting on evening performances, with perhaps one or two matinees. They hope to present two plays "Faustus" (which sold out last year) and a new play "Secret Believers" (based on the ongoing work of Brother Andrew who wrote God's Smuggler).

We are very excited about this project and are sure that many of you and your friends will come and see the production(s). However, to put on such a show requires a lot of help from within the congregation.

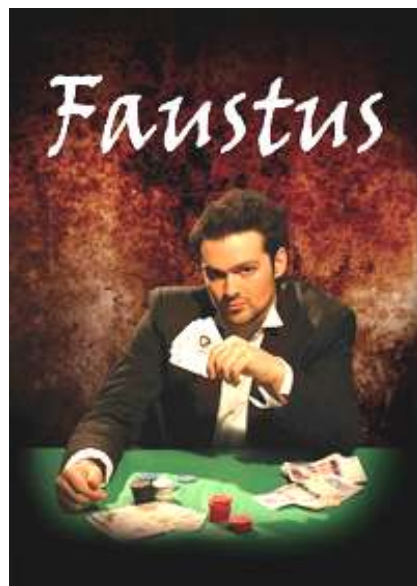
We are looking for:-

- ◆ People who will provide bed and breakfast. We need to provide free accommodation for up to 10 people.
- ◆ People who will be willing to be stewards and who will be on door duty during that week.
- ◆ People who will help with any catering we decide to provide.

I know, from experience of this Group, that this will be a very exciting venture and I am sure we will rise to the challenge.

If you would like to know more, or are willing to help in any way, would you let me know either by phoning the manse/office, emailing me at colins.ppc@virgin.net, or putting a note in the pigeon hole marked "s" and I will get back to you.

Colin Sinclair



COLIN'S PREACHING THROUGH THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Did you miss the Revelation series on Sunday evenings over the winter, and have heard how good the teaching is?

Would you like to be able to hear the sermons now; or hear them again?

Would you like friends and relations to be able to hear them too?

Two of the Session teams have combined their talents and resources to make this possible!

All the sermons were recorded and made available on our website each week, and will continue to be available there for some time yet. However, many people find it easier to work through a series using CD's, and so we have put together a boxed set of 12 CD's covering the teaching by Colin, and also the two sermons by Peter Nelson, through the complete Book of Revelation.



The box is attractively presented, with an introduction by Colin on the cover, and each CD is clearly labelled. A sample will be on show in the vestibule during the month of April.

The set is available now for the incredibly reasonable **charge of £10** to members of the congregation. To get your copies, please see one of the team in the vestibule on any Sunday in April, and put your name on the Order List. We would like cash with the order, and cheques should be made payable to Palmerston Place Church. The final date they will be available will be 2nd May.

The ordered sets will be copied in early May, and made available for collection before the end of May.

It is necessary to point out that this current offer depends on making all the copies at once, so this is the time to obtain a set of this great teaching on the Book of Revelation. We are looking at the production of CD's in the longer term, but this will be some months away.

So don't miss out - order during April!

Ron Steel