

REVIEW and OUTLOOK



PALMERSTON
PLACE
CHURCH
EDINBURGH

October 2010

www.palmerstonplacechurch.com

Scottish Charity No SC004291

MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

A lot has been written about healthy congregations in recent years and the "Unless the Lord" process written about later in this issue deals with some of these. However, an article I read recently by a church leader who had travelled widely summarised their experience into two statements -

Healthy churches are marked by:

- Hearty congregational singing
- Obvious affection between the minister and the congregation

Let me say something about the first. This is not an issue about worships styles, traditional vs. contemporary, or hymn books vs. Power Point. It is not for or against choirs or praise bands - it is about the congregation singing wholeheartedly to the Lord.

Of course some songs are harder to sing than others, some are more familiar than others and let's be honest- some of my choices just do not work!!! But in healthy congregations, people love to sing and the sound is infectious. To see a whole congregation lift up their voice in song is a very moving experience, and is the ideal preparation for both preacher and people to hear God's word with a sense of anticipation. I believe that the depth, quality and spirit of the congregational singing are an excellent barometer of the spiritual health of the church.

When all sing it puts an end to those who are tempted to be spectators in worship, or worse, judges of others' worship. Here, all take part and are swept up into the presence of God. Such singing can be infectious, for those either lacking in confidence or needing help to sing.

One writer has said that people choose a church with their noses. They can smell the joy.

I wonder whether visitors smell the joy on a Sunday service. At our first Sunday evening in September a group joined us from a church in North Berwick- boy did they sing and we were all blessed as a result.

Let's make sure that whatever else we do, we are known for being a singing church.

Yours loudly but not always tunefully,



Colin

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Tuesday	5	7:30—9 pm	Bridging the Gap
Wednesday	6	7-9 pm 7:30 pm	Fun Games night for Chogoria Manse House Group
Thursday	7	2 pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	10	11 3 pm 6:30 pm	Harvest Thanksgiving Sutherland Street Service Ephesians 3 More love
Monday	11	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Monday House Group at Annan House Kirk Session
Wednesday	13	2:15 pm	Palmerston Place People (PPP)
Thursday	14	2 pm 7:30 pm	Friendship Club Thursday House Group at Helen Macpherson's
Sunday	17	11 am 6:30 pm	Morning Service Evening Service
Wednesday	20	7:30 pm	Evening without a name—Sightsavers with Lyndsay Brown
Thursday	21	2 pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	24	11 am 6:30 pm	Morning Service Evening Service
Monday	25	6:35 pm	Coordinating Team
Wednesday	27	12:15 pm	PPP
Thursday	28	2 pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	31	10:30 am 11 am 6:30 pm	Kirk Session (NB Clocks change today) Holy Communion Holy Communion

NOVEMBER

Tuesday	2	7:30 pm	Bridging the Gap
Wednesday	3	7:30 pm	Manse House Group
Thursday	4	2 pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	7	11 am 6:30 pm	Morning Service Fresh Start Lunch Evening Service
Monday	8	6:30 pm 7:30 pm	Monday House Group at Annan House Kirk Session
NB Sunday	14	10:50 am	Remembrance Sunday Service

The Prayer Page

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Jesus gave his disciples this 'simple' prayer as a blueprint. As we use it this month (and every Sunday), let us prayerfully reflect on what Jesus is calling us to do, and ask him to deepen our faith and our prayers.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Praise God that we can call him Father, and as such he longs to bless us. He has put us in families, in the widest sense of the word, and wants us to love and encourage each other.

Pray for family life in all its complexities, and pray that we may bless others by being sensitive to needs and situations many find themselves in. Pray for the families in our congregation.

..your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

pray for all who are working to bring reconciliation and understanding between individuals, factions and nations; for those working in our broken societies. Pray for perseverance, patience and humility.

Pray for those who faithfully share the Gospel that many will come to know the love of Jesus.

Give us today our daily bread.

Pray for wisdom to differentiate between needs and wants; to give thanks for the many blessings he has poured on us, and to share gladly what we have.

Pray for all who work tirelessly to influence those with the power to change the injustices in our world.

Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.

As we pray for God's forgiveness for our sins, pray for grace to forgive, truly forgive, those who have wronged us.

Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from the evil one.

Lord, help us to spend time with you daily so that we become sensitive to your voice. Make us aware of temptations, and strengthen our will to resist.



Palmerston News

EARLY BIRDS PRAYER

The Wednesday 7.30am prayer meeting has been postponed meantime. The prayer however continues! If there is someone or something you would like prayed about – quietly – please telephone Carol Robertson or Eileen McColl and your request will be prayed about confidentially by the small group of “early birds”. If you would like to join in our praying group, please phone us to let us know.

Eileen McColl



UNLESS THE LORD

As part of a Presbytery wide process to assess the health of congregations in terms of mission, teams from the Presbytery are meeting with about 12 people from each congregation who are involved in leadership of the congregation or in leading some of the congregation’s activities. On September 8th, 12 of our congregation met with a team led by Rev Norman Smith of Granton, and Suzie Stark who was once attached to our congregation.

In preparation, the Presbytery had produced a booklet of information about our church and its parish based on recent surveys we had completed, and the Quinquennial report on our congregation last made in 2008. Mark and I were present but I was told I couldn’t take part! At first I was surprised, but later I was so glad just to listen to members of our church talk about Palmerston Place and its vision.

Those taking part were asked to think of 5 key moments during their time in Palmerston Place and to share them in three small groups. Some of course had been part of PP for decades, others only a few years. They shared their thoughts and each group arrived at five significant moments in our history which were plotted in a time line.

Then each group had to talk together and describe as fully as possible the parish in which we are set. We had the benefit of the Government’s Statistical Information from their 10 year Census but still the outcome was very interesting. We do not have a clear parish profile at all and have a surprisingly large number of young adults living close to our church with fewer children and older people than the average for the city.

The presbytery has identified five key areas of a church’s life - worship, fellowship, service, evangelism and discipleship and each group chose one area to reflect on and then all the groups looked at evangelism both from a congregational point of view and in terms of our parish.

All the results were shared and the team will now write up a report for us and for Presbytery which, in turn, help shape the future Presbytery plan and strategy for Edinburgh. Watch this space! Thanks to all who were willing to take part in what proved to be an interesting and lively meeting.

Colin Sinclair

Palmerston News



Bethany
Christian
Trust

CAREVAN/CARE SHELTER

Our Care Van teams were out during the summer months. July and August were busy but September was quieter than usual. We have a young couple in the church who have just been given the go ahead from Disclosure Scotland and will soon be going out in the Care Van for the first time. Another young couple have just been to a meeting where they had their forms completed and are awaiting the go ahead. Both couples are related and have been on the Care Shelter with us for a number of years. The Shelter this winter is from Monday 1st November 2010 to Sunday 3rd April 2011 and we will have two or three teams out. We are awaiting confirmation of the dates. We are short of cup-a-soup and blankets as well as clothes and hats, gloves and socks. If you have any to spare please bring them and leave them in the Lothian Room in the box marked 'Care Van'. If you would like them uplifted please contact me.

David Boyd

THE HANDSEL STALL

Now that we have reached October, the Handsel Stall has completed it's season for another year. All through the summer months, beginning in early May, the Stall has been open in the Lothian Room on a Sunday before the morning service begins. Thank you to everyone who has helped to run the Stall this year and huge thanks to everyone who has so very kindly donated items for sale. Many kind folks get up early on Sunday mornings to prepare their contribution for the Stall and this is enormously appreciated. Thanks too to our regular customers who have supported us loyally, buying from our selection of garden produce, which has included lovely potted plants, seasonal vegetables and freshly picked flowers. We have had some wonderful home baking for sale and the yummy chocolate muffins and delicious, fresh 'made that morning' pancakes always sold out very quickly. Jars of homemade jam have proved to be incredibly popular again this year. Together we have raised just over £400—I will know the exact figure soon and will publish this in next month's magazine. The sum raised will be shared equally between Christian Aid and Chogoria Hospital.

Joan Meikle

WHAT'S ON?

AN EVENING WITHOUT A NAME

A special date for your diary:
Wednesday October 20th 2010
At 7:30 pm in the Carlow Room

Our guest speaker will be Lyndsay Brown
And her subject will be Sightsavers.



We mostly take our sight for granted. Come and hear about the countless thousands who can not—and the work of those who take action.
Do keep that date in ~~mind~~ sight!

Margaret Moodie

P.P. STITCHERS



Many of the congregation would see our photo in Fresh Start's Spring news sheet. As a result of our efforts over the last two winters we have donated 20 quilted bedspreads to Fresh Start to be included in Starter Packs for some of their clients. They are appreciated for the splash of colour they add to their new home and for the personal efforts that have gone into their making.

Our first date for 'stitching' is Wednesday 17th November. We meet at 2 Abbotsford Park and any new volunteers will be very welcome—the only requirement is that you are fond of using a needle or sewing machine!

For more information please contact Sheila Swanson

SAVE THE DATE!

Now that Autumn has well and truly arrived, December is just around the corner! So, make sure you mark your calendars...

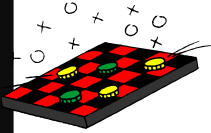
Palmerston Place All-Age Christmas Party
on Saturday December 11th 2010.

You won't want to miss it! Watch this space for more details.



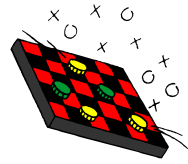
Fiona Baker

WHAT'S ON?



FUN GAMES NIGHT FOR CHOGORIA

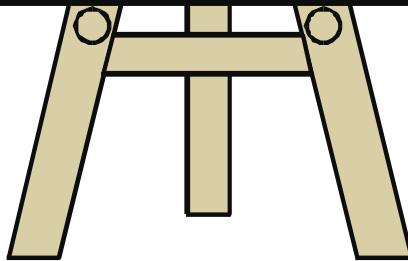
With the Brownies and Guides



Wednesday
6 October 2010

Palmerston Place Church Hall
7 - 9 pm

Admission: Adults £3, Children free



PALMERSTON PLACE PEOPLE

On Wednesday 13th October at 2:15 pm we begin our 2010/2011 Programme when Michael Wilson will speak.

On Wednesday 27th October at 12:15 pm there will be a talk and tasting by Fairtrade. Bring a packed lunch.

Please come and join us in the Carlow room!

Mary Bennett





SAMARITAN'S PURSE AND OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2010

Operation Christmas Child is an initiative of Samaritan's Purse – a Christian relief and development organization, which works through local churches overseas to proclaim and demonstrate the love of God amongst communities in need in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Since launching in 1990, over 81 million shoeboxes have been given out to children in great need around the world. This year again, as a Church and as a community, we are looking forward to taking part in the annual Shoebox Appeal and leaflets giving full details are now available in church.

It's amazing what a simple gift-filled shoebox can do for a child in need... it can put a smile on a face... it can make a child feel loved... it can even bring lasting joy into difficult circumstances. Choosing gifts to put in your shoebox is a really fun part of getting involved in Operation Christmas Child. There is something very rewarding about giving to a child you will never meet – especially when you know your simple act of kindness will be felt and appreciated in more ways than you can ever imagine. Once you have decided whether to give your shoebox to a boy or girl, you need to think carefully about gifts that would be most appropriate for the age group you have selected.

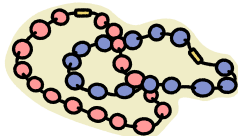
This year we would like to be sure that each of our boxes contain the following items which we consider essential...

- a **face cloth**
- a **wrapped bar of soap**
- a **toothbrush**
- a **tube of toothpaste**

... and, even if you are making up a box for an older boy or girl, a **soft toy** to love.

Other things which are good to include are "educational supplies" which could be a selection of items – e.g. felt pens, pencils, pens, pencil sharpener, eraser, colouring book, notepad, picture book (*remember, the child will not be able to read or understand English*), chalk, pencil case, stickers etc.

Toys could be a tennis ball, finger puppets, jigsaw, yo-yo, building blocks, or a small musical instrument. Boys would like trucks and cars and girls will be delighted with clip-on earrings, necklaces and bangles. Please don't include hand knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark. You might also like to include some sweets (with a sell-by date of at least March 2011) *but not chocolate*.



Our boxes are again going to be sent to Belarus where the climate features cold winters, with average January temperatures at -6°C so warm scarves, hats and gloves for all age groups are a particularly good addition to all our boxes. Please don't include any clothing apart from these items.



Remember, all gifts should be new and need not be expensive but must be age-appropriate. It is a lovely idea to include a postcard of Edinburgh or Scotland, to let the child know where their gift has come from.

Before you spend all your money on great shoebox gifts, don't forget to put £2.50 aside for the shoebox donation. Please complete the donation envelope from the leaflet and enclose the envelope in your shoebox on top of the contents. Then secure the lid with a rubber band. Or please donate online at: <https://occ.samaritans-purse.org.uk/donate> if at all possible. Your £2.50 donation covers UK transportation, shipping, distribution and promotion, with any surplus or additional value to the donation going to the work of Samaritans Purse with children and families in need.

In 2009, 264,012 shoeboxes were distributed in Belarus and our shoeboxes will be going there again this year. Some of the shoeboxes will go to the capital city, Minsk, to orphanages, street children and to children who go to social centres for families in crisis. Others will go to Mogilev, about 200km east of the capital, where they will go to boys and girls in what are called prisons but are more like our list D schools used to be. The children may have only committed what we would consider to be a small-scale crime but sentences can be harsh.



There's still plenty of time to find a shoebox, wrap it and the lid with pretty paper and fill it with inexpensive gifts for a child who has nothing.



Please bring your completed shoebox to Church any Sunday from **7th November** until the day of the Shoebox Sunday Service on 21st November - we look forward to receiving a record number again this year!

Joan Meikle and Norma Rolls



BOOK REVIEW by Jo Black

'Real Life Jesus' by Mike Cain

'John's big claim is that Jesus has come to restore us to the reason we were put on this planet. He has come to give us the life that we were created for – the life that we long for. Real life...'

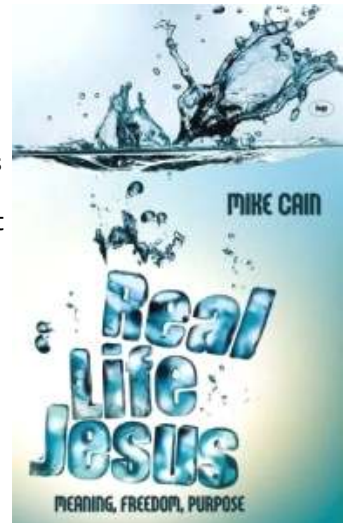
So ends the first chapter of Bristol minister, Mike Cain's book 'Real Life Jesus' which leaves him with a lot of ground to cover in the proceeding pages of this short book!

Cain's book takes the reader on a journey through the Gospel of John addressing the claims that Jesus makes about himself and pointing out that these "I am" statements are ones that can't be ignored even 2000 years later. Cain believes that who Jesus claimed to be affects us personally today, offering us meaning, freedom and purpose.

To be perfectly honest, I struggle with reading Christian books more times than not (if it's the choice at the end of a busy week to pick up an Ian Rankin mystery or a theological tome, Rebus wins every time). However, this book has been hugely significant for me over the last 18 months and I would recommend it wholeheartedly to anyone, even if like me this usually isn't your cup of tea.

Firstly, its very easy to read. Cain fills his book with timely but everyday illustrations which I have used shamelessly in schools and Christianity Explored this year as they really open up his arguments to what 'real life' is and how to find it. The pages get turned very quickly as a result and you find yourself left wanting to read more. This reader friendly approach has allowed me to gift this book on numerous occasions to friends, confused teens and explorers of all ages without any worries that they will find it stodgy or burdensome to work through on their own.

Secondly, he writes with the enthusiasm and love of a man whose life has been changed by the Lord he writes of. He knows this Jesus he is talking about personally and the conviction he shares his passion with is both likeable and something to be envied. However, unlike a self-help book, he does not use this conviction to patronise, make assumptions of or emotionally blackmail the reader. He just carefully lays out the evidence he has found in John's gospel for a God who can give us life to the fullest and leaves you to ponder it and draw your own conclusions.



Publisher IVP
ISBN 9781844742189
Price £6.99

BOOK REVIEW Cont.

Finally, he writes with integrity and truthfulness, choosing to use the Bible as his key source rather than personal indignation, flighty religious trends or hanging arguments on popular culture references that often can leave readers confused or feeling out of sync - there is no age limit on this one!

So whether you are looking to work systematically through John or just want something gently thought provoking to read on the bus, why not pick up this book this month. It's memorable, fun and will hopefully leave you feeling much more in touch with a Saviour who is as 'real life' as they get.

You can get a copy of *Real Life Jesus* online at www.amazon.co.uk or the publisher's website www.ivpbooks.com. If you don't have access to the internet please visit the new Living Oasis Bookshop at 119 George Street where Wesley Owen previously was. There is also the Faith Mission Bookshop at 548 Gilmerton Road or the Free Church Bookshop at the top of the Mound. If it's not on any of these shelves please ask the shop staff who will be happy to order a copy for you.

Jo Black

KIRK SESSION DISCUSSION

There has been a growing sense of the need for the Kirk Session to spend time discussing issues that affect our church and the wider church. At our last Session meeting we brainstormed ideas about some of the topics we might give time to discussing. There are too many ideas for me to outline them all here but a flavour of the subjects raised would include: -

- ◆ How do we encourage, train and support new leaders and make a good transition between established leaders and emerging ones?
- ◆ How can we more effectively work among young people and how can we get young adults more involved in the activities of the church?
- ◆ How can we use our finances and especially our reserves?
- ◆ How can we hold together very divergent views about worship so that all can feel free to praise and none feel excluded?
- ◆ How can we best use our buildings?
- ◆ How can we best welcome outsiders and in what ways can we effectively reach out to our community?

We hope to deal with some of the issues discussed at our meetings over the year and as always welcome any contributions from members on any ways we can strengthen the life of our congregation.

Colin Sinclair



THE EASTER PLAY TAKES A BREAK

The Easter Play Trustees have very much valued your continued interest in the Princes Street Easter Play over the past six years it has run for.

The Trustees want to let everyone know that there isn't going to be an Easter Play in Princes Street Gardens next year, 2011.

The reason for this is quite simple, not to say brutal—there isn't the money to enable us to stage it. The 2010 production ended with a shortfall of £6,000, out of a total budget of around £25,000. For the first time we had to call on the help of Sir Tom Farmer, and thanks to him the shortfall has been cleared. There has been an increasing shortfall for several years, but there has always been enough money in the bank to cover the deficits. That is no longer the case, so the Trustees took the difficult but inevitable decision to pause the production of the Easter Play for the time being.

In addition there have been a number of changes at trustee level. Rachel Wood, who has been Producer plus Chairperson of the Trustees almost continuously since beginning six years ago, has understandably decided it's time to draw to a close these multiple roles. We are hugely in her debt; the Play has been inspired by her vision, drive, enthusiasm and ability. Another Trustee, David Wilson, has also had to resign for work and health reasons. David's experience and skills in charity law were invaluable and are greatly missed.

This means that there are just three Trustees left—Brian Sibbald, Jamie Stewart and Mike Frew the Chairman. Their role is to have legal and financial oversight of the whole Easter Play project. They are more than ably assisted by Patricia Cripps as administrator and Jim Robertson as Treasurer, but they advise they are a small relatively inexperienced group so far as the Play is concerned. They expect to be looking for more Trustees in the near future.

Please be patient with them as they plan, and pray for us as we try to sense what would be best to do next Easter-time, then in 2012 and beyond.

Thank you for all who have contributed up till now and for what we hope you will contribute in the future.

Susan Kidston

The Easter Play

SALTMINE THEATRE COMPANY

It was great fun. It was hard work. It was worthwhile.



When the church was altered almost 20 years ago, one of the reasons for doing so was to allow us to use the sanctuary in different and new ways. Turning it into a theatre for a week and putting on two Christian productions fulfilled that vision.

The desire to open our church for such events had been made clearly at our "Compassion beyond a Tear" conference a few years ago. At that time little could be done, until money was spent on necessary fire prevention improvements which are now in place. The satisfactory inspection by the Council allowed us to obtain a Theatrical Entertainment licence for the period of the Fringe and to fulfil that vision.

Finally, we have long desired to make a distinctively Christian contribution to the Edinburgh International Festival and Fringe, and by hosting Saltmine Theatre Company we were able to do just that

The small team organising the visit had planned well and a team of hosts, stewards and caterers were ready to lend a hand. The visitors from Saltmine were very easy to have to stay and worked hard throughout the week. It was great to see familiar faces, faces from the past, and complete strangers arrive during the week for performances which attracted an average attendance of 56.

After an initial sound problem on the first evening the shows ran without a hitch and both productions drew warm comments of appreciation for their powerful messages. Behind the scenes there was great camaraderie among the stewards and they often managed to slip in and catch the shows.

Although final figures are not yet all in, it seems likely that all our costs will have been covered and a contribution made to a small outreach fund for the future. Thanks for all your help and support and watch this space for next year.

Colin Sinclair

HYGIENE IN OUR KITCHENS

Please remember to wash your hands before touching anything in any of the Church Kitchens. After the Morning or Evening Service, before you make or serve tea or coffee, remember to wash your hands. Please check the sell by date on any food before bringing it into the kitchen.

If you find something missing in the kitchen please let me or the Church Officers (Eileen and David McColl) know. PPP found only 2 sugar bowls in the Carlow Kitchen for one of the summer Coffee Mornings!



Mary Bennett

A black and white illustration of musical notes and a treble clef, with some notes appearing to be in motion or floating. The notes are scattered around the clef, and some are larger than others, creating a sense of rhythm and melody.

NOTES FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

I wonder if you saw any of the services broadcast on television during the visit of Pope Benedict XVI the other week. On the Saturday morning I caught some of the Mass being held at Westminster Cathedral.

To mark the Pope's processional entrance, a new piece, *Tu es Petra* by Glaswegian composer James Macmillan, was played/sung. The sound of the extraordinary music together with the grandeur and solemn ceremony on the screen combined to give an intense emotional impact.

Christians have long discussed the role of emotions in worship. On the one hand, there are those who urge that the senses are to be overwhelmed – think of Anglo-Catholic worship where the eyes, ears and nose are assaulted by glorious buildings, beautiful music and incense. In such an ascetic context, beauty of all things in worship is the aspiration. Others might make the criticism that such sensory stimulation can take the place of a mind and intellect engaged in worship and examination of the Word being preached. The logical opposite is of course a service devoid of any sensory impact – a plain building, unremarkable music, etc – with an emphasis on trying to ensure that any beauty is the “beauty of holiness” and that those present worship with mind and will in thoughtful response to consideration of who God is and the message in his Word. But there can perhaps be a danger here that our God-given sense of emotion is left at the door when we arrive – is this meant to be so?

Might it be that a rightful priority given to the need for our minds and intellect to be occupied in worship need not lead us to a discomfort with, or fear of, the emotional impact of the music we have in church? We come to church not to be entertained or have our ears tickled, but to hear God's word and to worship Him – this ought to be a joyful and moving experience of itself. Yet if we bear the relative priorities in mind, we should not be afraid of being moved in our worship through the music played and sung – there is nothing wrong with this if in context. All in the choir and praise band are conscious that our role is to help lead us all as a family towards God in worship. If you're interested in this debate on worship, a very good discussion can be found in *The Great Giveaway* by David Fitch (Baker Books, 2005).

On Sunday 10 October we mark Harvest Thanksgiving, when we will sing familiar hymns such as *We plough the fields and scatter, Come, ye thankful people come*, and *For the fruits of all creation*. I've sought to match this theme in the organ music for the day. In the morning service one of the preludes will be *Lied to the Flowers* ('lied' in the sense of it being German for 'song') from the Belgian organist Flor Peeters' *Lied Symphony*. Peeters played at Palmerston Place Church in 1962 to open the final incarnation of the previous organ. After the service the postlude will be Sigfrid Karg-Elert's well-known *Choral-Improvisation on 'Nun Danket alle Gott'* (the hymn-tune for *Now thank we all our God*). A splendid piece, although I have yet to meet anyone who can detect the hymn-tune in it.... The tune will be much more obvious in the postlude after the evening service, which will be an arrangement of the stirring setting of that melody found in Johann Sebastian Bach's 192nd cantata. I hope that you enjoy these pieces and the other music to be heard in October.

Andrew Caskie

ORGAN RECITAL

By Andrew Caskie

New St. Andrews Parish Church
Church Street, Coatbridge

Saturday 9th October, 2010
2:30 pm

Free admission

**Music by Handel, Franck, Tambling, Cholley,
Schumann, Hollins and Mozart**

One way of giving:

Not what I can spare but what I can share,
Not what is left but what is right.



Dorothy Steel

tearfund

Created



SEE THE NEW CHRISTMAS SEASON FROM
TEARFUND'S 'CREATED' GIFT RANGE

Wed 6th Oct 2pm-9pm

Faith Mission Centre
548 Gilmerton Road
Edinburgh EH17 7JD

Thurs 7th Oct 2pm-9pm

The Lot
4-6 Grassmarket
Edinburgh EH1 2JU

Refreshments

Bargains

An opportunity to buy or order at both events

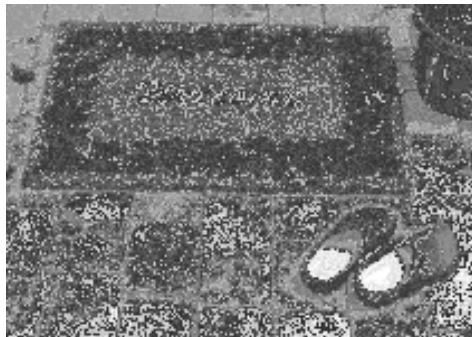
More details on facebook ([CreatedgiftsEdinburgh](#)) OR



A WORD ON WELCOME

My Grandpa Black tells the story of how, in the summer of 1927, he decided he was grown up. To prove his new-found maturity, he confidently walked up to a boy much older than he was, looked the boy in the eye, and in the most gruff voice a six year old boy could manage, said "Hiya Sunshine!" The details of what happened next are hazy in Grandpa's recollection, though he does remember regaining consciousness while lodged in the branches of a large bush, demonstrating that how you greet people can make all the difference.

It's a mark of Palmerston Place Church that we work to make people feel warmly welcomed, whether they have been coming for years or come through the doors for the first time. I believe that it is an important part of how we reach out to the community and how we maintain and build our relationships with one another as the membership of the church. So, I'd firstly like to thank everyone who has taken part in welcome teams this year for their part in this work.



In addition to this, though, I'd like to issue a plea for help. 2010 has been a busy year in the Welcome Team, and there is now a need for volunteers in teams throughout the year. If you aren't already a part of a welcome team, I'd like to ask you to consider joining us in this important aspect of church life. At a basic level, as a part of a Welcome Team you have a set month every year during which you would:

- ◆ Arrive for Worship by 10:20 am on that month's Sundays to welcome people as they arrive and give them an order of service.
- ◆ Take part in gathering the collection during the service.
- ◆ Assist the team leader in counting the collection after the service (this usually takes c.15 minutes).

If this is something you feel you can help with, or if you would like more information, please get in touch with me.

Aaron Black, Welcome Co-ordinator



GREAT NORTH RUN FOR CANCER RESEARCH (UK)

As many in the congregation will know my Dad, Brian Chapman, was diagnosed with cancer over four years ago. Despite a number of setbacks, he has continued on treatment and is still doing well today. Whilst a cancer diagnosis can be devastating, Dad has taken it in his stride, carried on working whenever possible, and is determined to continue living a normal life for as long as possible. Cancer is such a common medical condition affecting many others in the Congregation, both young and old, that I decided to challenge myself to raise money for Cancer Research (UK). Cancer research and treatments are both so expensive that more money is needed, especially in these times.

I have just completed the BUPA Great North Run in Newcastle. This is the largest half marathon in the world, and I knew I would have to train hard if I was going to be successful. On Sunday 19th September, I finished the race in just over 2 hours, ending up about 16,000th out of 54,000! Whilst I was aiming for 1 hour 50 minutes, I had placed myself in a slow group prior to starting training, and found myself held up by other runners! So, despite my currently aching legs, I will probably run again next year!

To this date, I have raised over £2500 for Cancer Research UK. This would not have been possible without the generosity of all who sponsored me, and I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone from Palmerston Place Church who has donated. It means a great deal both to me, and the whole family. Of course if you have not donated but still wish to do so, it is not too late! Please see my website at www.runningsponsorme.org/andrewchapman or speak to my Mum.

Thank you very much, Andrew Chapman

THE TORCH HAS BEEN PASSED ON ...

This month two members step down from faithfully serving the church behind the scenes. Throughout my ministry and before, Elizabeth Somerville has taken responsibility for the effective distribution of Review and Outlook. Elizabeth took great care in ensuring that the magazine was available to all members (and to others also) and organised a very good team of deliverers. As she knew the congregation very well through this ministry, she also had a real pastoral concern especially for the elderly vulnerable, often making visits herself to see members. She also often helpfully informed the Ministry team of those who would benefit from a visit. Margaret Richardson has kindly agreed to take over this role.

At the same time Ian Meikle, who has quietly operated as our Gift Aid Treasurer, is stepping down after seven years. Ian's quiet, gentle manner has helped many members to master the intricacies of gift aid forms so that, along with their gifts, an additional sum can be claimed back from the Inland Revenue. Alone in the congregation only Ian knew what members were giving. However that information was never shared with others, not even his fellow treasurers. Ian Garden has agreed to take on that role in future. We thank both Elizabeth and Ian for their service and thank Margaret and Ian for taking on these tasks.

Colin Sinclair

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.

KIRK SESSION

Next meeting will be held on Monday October 11th at 7:30 pm.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY TEAM

Next meeting will be held on Monday November 15th at 7:30 pm.

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

THE REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

All material for the November issue
should be in the hands of the Secretary
by **Tuesday 26th October**

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.