

REVIEW and OUTLOOK



PALMERSTON
PLACE
CHURCH
EDINBURGH

February 2011

www.palmerstonplacechurch.com

Scottish Charity No SC004291

MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

December 2010 was the coldest month in the UK for a hundred years and the coldest in Edinburgh since records began, 250 years ago. After years of snow lying for only a day or so, the winter of 2009-2010 and this winter have caught us all unprepared. Like many, I did more snow clearing than I have ever done before. The snow hit our activities with events cancelled and others facing reduced attendance (especially Christmas Sunday (19th)). Yet services went ahead and the evening congregation hardly was affected at all. For those who battled through the snow, the Nativity Play and the Carols by Candlelight were both memorable services. Many thanks to all those who put in so much hard work to make them happen. Another highlight in December was our All Age Christmas Party at Stewarts Melville College. Once again a good number (approx 140) of all ages gathered for games, quizzes, dancing, a visit from Father Christmas, a buffet supper and finishing with carol singing and Auld Lang Syne.

In January, twenty eight people gathered at the Manse for our Joint House Group lunch and we had a good congregation for our joint Service with St Mary's at the Cathedral. Now we are well into 2011 and all our meetings are returning to normal. Sadly for some (perhaps many), new year's resolutions have already been abandoned. But as a congregation, we all need to look ahead to the future because congregations do not stand still. Either they move forward or else slip back.

The Presbytery has reminded us of the importance of five areas that determine the health of a congregation - worship, service, fellowship, discipleship and evangelism. It has also encouraged us to engage in these activities in the following spirit - work done in its name should be characterised by faithfulness, grace, commitment, good humour, imagination, and hopefulness. That provides a fairly searching measure.

We need to see how in this coming year we can become stronger through our worship, broader through our service, warmer through our fellowship, deeper through our discipleship and larger through our evangelism. Part of how that happens will be by the work of our Session teams (made up of Elders and members), part through those who are willing, if invited, to become elders in our congregation, and part through all of us committing ourselves to the work of being part of Palmerston Place through 2011. Of course we make mistakes, some plans do not work out and we let one another down. But God, who is gracious, still can use us and, in his mercy, does so.

Looking forward to working with you for another year.

Warmest greetings,



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FEBRUARY

Monday	7	7:30 pm	Kirk Session
Tuesday	8	7:30 pm	Bridging the Gap
Wednesday	9	2:15 pm	Palmerston Place People (PPP)
		7 pm	Mark Lowey— The Assistant Minister Christianity Explored
Thursday	10	2 pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	13	11 am	God gives the growth—1 Corinthians 3 (Student and young adult lunch at the manse)
		3 pm	Sutherland Street Service
		6:30 pm	Gideon—Strength from weakness
Monday	14	6:30 pm	Monday House Group at Annan House
Wednesday	16	7 pm	Christianity Explored
Thursday	17	2 pm	Friendship Club
		7:30 pm	Prayer meeting
Sunday	20	11 am	All things are yours—1 Corinthians 3; Sacrament of Baptism Church Lunch in aid of Bethany Christian Trust
		6:30 pm	Jephthah—a foolish vow
Monday	21	7:30 pm	Property and finance team
Wednesday	23	12:15 pm	PPP—St Columba’s Hospice
		7 pm	Christianity Explored
Thursday	24	2 pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	27	11 am	Think this way—1 Corinthians 4
		6:30 pm	Samson—strong man’s weakness
Monday	28	6:35 pm	Coordinating Team

MARCH

Wednesday	2	7:30 pm	Manse House Group
Thursday	3	2 pm	Friendship Club
		7:30 pm	Prayer meeting
Friday	4	2:30 pm	World Day of Prayer
Sunday	6	11 am	Wise or foolish journey? Matthew 11
		6:30 pm	Samson—out of control
Monday	7	7:30 pm	Kirk Session
Tuesday	8	7:30 pm	Worship & Christian Education Team
Wednesday	9	2:15 pm	PPP Quiz Time

NB Stated Annual Meeting is on Monday 21 March at 7:30 pm in the Church.

The Prayer Page

Prayer for the month – Redeem the time

Gracious God,
forgive us for those things we should have done but have left undone:
the acts of kindness we never found time for,
the thoughtful word never spoken,
the helpful deed never attempted.

Forgive us for all the opportunities we have missed:
the plans we never made,
the dreams we never brought to reality,
the possibilities we never even imagined,
the gifts we never used.

Forgive us for our failure to serve you as we promised:
the prayers we never offered,
the sacrifices we never made,
the faith we never had,
and the commitment we never gave.

Forgive us for so often having time only for self:
for being self-centred,
self-important,
self-righteous,
self-interested,
self-indulgent,
self-opinionated.

Forgive us for forgetting our friends,
our neighbours and, above all, you.

Gracious God,
save us from being people of unfulfilled intentions.
Help us to translate our thoughts into actions,
to put our preaching into practice,
and to turn our good intentions into good deeds,
to the glory of your name.
Amen

OLRD JL
hear JL
my prayer JL

Palmerston News

BETHANY CARE VAN AND CARE SHELTER

This is the last Care Van and Shelter article I will be writing for the R&O. From February, Fraser Edwards takes over as team co-ordinator and Martin Ashing will be organising the rolls etc..., and clothes and blankets. I have enjoyed the past 13 years and there are people who were there when I took over from David McColl who are still helping now. Thanks to them.



Over the years the members of the congregation have given me donations of money so I have never had to ask the Session for help. I hope that donations will still come in to the new team. You can give it to Fraser or Martin (or even give it to me and I will pass it on). It can take about £20 per month for the Van, and about £50 every time we help with the Shelter. I was given a large donation by a member of the congregation and we had enough for this winter. I would like to thank all members of the team who have helped over the years. We have no Care Van in February so Fraser will have a month to organise himself. We had a Care Shelter on Monday 24th January and have one on Tuesday 22nd February.

Good luck to Fraser and Martin in their new roles.

David Boyd

CHURCH BUILDING IN SOUTH AFRICA

I received this email from someone who has worshipped with us over the last few years before returning to South Africa. If any of you or your organisations would like to help then we would be happy to send any gifts to the church via Stanley.

Dear Colin,

Hoping that you and your congregation at Palmerston Place will have a blessed, prosperous & productive New Year!

During a recent visit to the rural area near Ladysmith, my attention was drawn to the need for replacing the ramshackle, derelict church building currently being used by the Uniting Presbyterian Church.

The pastor has requested assistance with building a new church appropriate to their needs.

Any contribution or assistance from yourselves would be most welcome.

Thanking you in anticipation,
Your brother in the Lord Jesus Christ.
Stanley Southwood.

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Colin Sinclair

Palmerston News

BITS AND PIECES

David Boyd is stepping down from coordinating our Care Van teams and **Fraser Edwards** is taking over. We thank David very much for all he has done and hope he enjoys his new home in Portobello. We wish Fraser well in his new challenge. Anyone who would like to know more about the work of the Care Van (or Care Shelter) should speak to either David or Fraser.

Mark Lowey, our assistant minister will be missing for a few weeks as he has to have an operation on his foot on 15th February. We remember him and Caroline at this time.

Angus Macpherson is stepping down at the SAM from the Property and Finance Team having served on the Board since its inception and having served both as Treasurer and Clerk to the former Board. We have greatly appreciated his wisdom and work for the Board and Property and Finance Team.

Rae Goode an elder from St Mary's Haddington, who has recently joined our congregation, has also become a member of our Kirk Session.

Congratulations to our former Probationer, **Peter Nelson**, and his wife, **Aly**, on the arrival of their baby girl Emily Elizabeth.

Colin Sinclair

CHOGORIA HOSPITAL UPDATE

We have heard from Dr Alison Wilkinson that they have £8700 so are now able to purchase the orthopaedic drill so desperately needed. Alison wanted to express their thanks to the congregation of Palmerston Place Church and the Brownies and Guides for all their support as well as their fundraising activities.



Michael Wilson

A NOTE FROM YOUR SECRETARY

I would like to draw your attention to the enclosed letter regarding R&O distribution. If you are happy with the way in which you receive your copy, then you don't need to do anything. However, if you find there is another option listed in the letter that may suit you better, please do let us know. This will help us know of any changes we need to make to the distribution process.

Many thanks for your help!

Fiona Baker



WHAT'S ON?



Edinburgh Royal
Choral Union
choral excellence

Come and Sing
Haydn: 'Nelson' Mass
Handel: Zadok the Priest

Saturday 26th February 2011
Rehearsal 2-5pm, Concert 7.30pm
Conductor: Michael Bawtree

St George's West Church, Shandwick Place, Edinburgh

Come and join Edinburgh's longest-standing choir for a wonderful day of music-making, culminating in a public performance of Haydn's magnificent 'Nelson' Mass and Handel's famous Coronation Anthem, 'Zadok the Priest'. Led by renowned conductor Michael Bawtree, it promises to be a great day with the opportunity to sing some beautiful music with one of Edinburgh's finest choirs. Flyers with sign-up slips can be found in the Church vestibule.

Olive Kinnear

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

Friday 4th March 2011 at 2.30p.m.

Dean Parish Church, Ravelston Terrace

This year the service has been written by Christian women of Chile. In Chile bread is central to their daily life – sharing bread is also a universal sign of hospitality. They invite us to reflect on the question 'How Many Loaves have you?' If this time is not convenient for you, a notice in the vestibule lists other venues throughout the city at

different times. Please make the effort to attend a service this year.

Sheila Swanson

WOMEN WALKING WITH GOD CONFERENCE

inspired worship—dynamic teaching - practical seminars

Where: Edinburgh International Conference Centre

When: 4th—5th March 2011

Theme: 'Free'

Speaker: Amy Orr-Ewing—Training Director of RZIM Zacharias Trust & Director of Programmes for the Oxford Centre for Christian Apologetics.



Visit: <http://www.womenwalkingwithgod.co.uk/> **for more info and tickets**

Fiona Baker

WHAT'S ON?



AN EVENING WITH **ALEXANDER MCCALL SMITH** AND ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL CHOIR

An evening of discussion, wine & cake to launch his new
No.1 Ladies' Detective Agency Novel,
THE SATURDAY BIG TENT WEDDING PARTY

Friday 4th March at 7:30 pm

St. Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place

Tickets cost £10 and are available from the PPC office or after Sunday services.

PPC Office

THE CORNER STONE COFFEE HOUSE 40 YEARS ON



It was in May 1971 that The Corner Stone was set up as a late night, weekend coffee house outreach project, under the auspices of the Council of West End Churches.

The band of helpers was sizeable and though now more scattered, many still keep in touch. Arrangements are in hand to mark Cornerstone's 40th birthday with a reunion of ex-helpers. The small group planning this would like to

hear NOW from those who might like to attend, in order to get some idea of numbers. The reunion will take the form of an informal lunch on Sunday 5 June, following a Service planned for that morning.

If you helped with The Corner Stone in any way (or know of anyone who did) and have not already received details of the preliminary arrangements, please contact the link people for Palmerston Place:

David and Sandra Taylor

In order to facilitate the necessary arrangements, the deadline for reserving your place, is the end of February, but earlier applications would be appreciated.

David and Sandra Taylor

The logo for 'trypraying' features the word 'trypraying' in a lowercase, sans-serif font. 'try' is in a light blue color, and 'praying' is in a darker blue. The text is set against a dark purple rectangular background.

We will once again be joining other Edinburgh churches in the Try Praying initiative as well as encouraging members to undertake the 40 days of prayer beginning on Ash Wednesday March 9th.

Colin Sinclair



THE FAITH MISSION

I just wanted to make people aware of various resources and events at the Faith Mission Bible College at 548 Gilmerton Road.

1. There is a large and well stocked **Christian book shop with a lovely café**. This is open 9am-5pm, Mon-Sat, and is well worth a visit. With plenty of free parking it's a good place to pick up something to read to help us grow in our faith or to meet a friend for lunch. You can also order online from The Faith Mission via <http://www.fmbookshops.com/>
 2. **Monday Night School of the Bible** – on Monday evenings during the college term time there is an opportunity to join with students for two lectures each evening. These are normally by college staff or other speakers from Edinburgh Churches. The current series is looking at 'Missional Living' & 'The Fruit of the Spirit' There is a small charge for this and more information can be found at <http://mondaynights.fmbc.ac/>
 3. If you are considering full time, part time, or distance learning study at the college then there is an **Open Day on Sat 19th February** where more information would be available.
- Finally, some early notice of the **Faith Mission Convention** in the summer when the speakers will include Alistair Begg, Rupert Bentley-Taylor, John Brand & Jeremy McQuoid. The dates for this are 28 June - 3 July 2011 and it would be well worth attending.
- If you are looking for any more information visit:
<http://www.faithmission.org/> or speak to me.

Fraser Edwards



MARRIAGE UNLOCKED

Discover the keys to a healthy relationship

Special evening event for every couple who want an even better marriage!

Friday 18th February
Faith Mission Centre, Gilmerton Road,
Edinburgh.
7:30—10 pm

Information can be found and tickets booked at:
www.careforthefamily.org.uk/marriage-unlocked Or call 029 2081 0800
Care for the Family Offices

UNLESS THE LORD

During this Session, like every congregation in our Presbytery we have been visited by a team to look at our health especially in terms of mission. This month and in March and April we want to print extracts from their report (the full copy can be obtained if you ask the minister). The theme this month is 'outreach to the parish'.

Background

In 2008 the Registrar General for Scotland estimated the resident parish population to be just under 3,000 people living in some 1,400 houses. The population structure is heavily biased towards student and young adult age groups (16 to 44 years) who comprise nearly two-thirds of the parish population compared to less than half for the city. Accordingly there are smaller proportions of children, 9% compared to 15%, and of the elderly, 8% compared to 14%.

Typical of Edinburgh's wealthier inner suburbs the main household types are single person and multi-person households with lower numbers of couple families and lone-parent households. Households with children comprise only 11% of all households compared with an average of 22% for the city.

Observations

"On our visit we were struck by many positive aspects of this congregation, they seemed to be enthusiastic and open to change and genuinely seeking to further the mission of the church. They currently sustain a wide-range of ministries and we recognize the commitment of the minister and elders and other leaders in their service to the church.

We would however recommend the leadership give considerable thought to how they can move beyond the walls of the congregation to where their parish population is at. Rather than designing programmes where the parish population can come to them we recommend they invest time and energy in discovering ways of encountering their parish out there. We make this recommendation fully recognising the difficult nature of reaching a parish with such a diverse nature that functions mostly at times and in ways normal congregational life does not. Compounding this difficulty is that Palmerston Place is predominately a gathered congregation from across the city. Yet we believe it is not an either or (congregation or parish) issue when thinking of congregation/parish but both and."



BOOK REVIEW for young school children

C. S. Lewis: The Storyteller Written by Derick Bingham

"It was a Lion. Huge, shaggy, and bright it stood facing the risen sun. It's mouth was wide open in song... and as he walked and sang the valley grew green with grass."

(C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe*)



Do you know who this lion is? If you have read or watched the blockbuster films, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, you will know that this lion is the character of Aslan.

Derick Bingham has written this short book about the man who wrote the wonderful *Chronicles of Narnia* series along with many other books – he is Clive Staples Lewis.

His friends called him Jack and if you read this book you will find out about his interesting life and how he became a Professor at an Oxford College. Read about his school days and why his Headmaster was called 'Tubbs'!

Jack was a very popular public speaker and he would regularly be heard on BBC national radio or speaking in packed out halls.

Most of all, C. S. Lewis was a tremendous storyteller and at the start of this book you will find a reply letter which he wrote to a little girl called Ann Jenkins. She wrote asking about the *Chronicles of Narnia* and what the stories all meant. Did you know that all the stories have a meaning? Read the letter which is included in Derick Bingham's book!

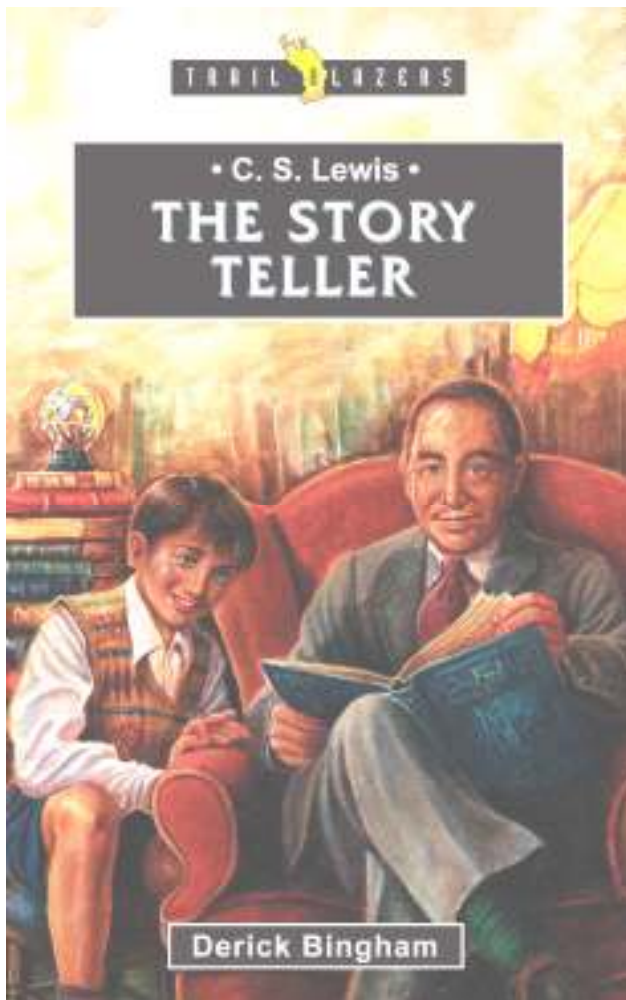
Discover how important Jack found being a Christian was, especially during hard times in his life. He became a Christian while travelling to Whipsnade Zoo!

He was not married long as his wife became seriously ill and eventually died.

BOOK REVIEW Cont.

I hope you are able to read about an extraordinary man who thought it important to share his faith in Jesus to others and influence many thinking people. Derick Bingham's book is an easy read and most enjoyable.

Gregor Innes



Published by Christian Focus. An imprint of CF4Kids

Price: £5.99

ISBN: 9781857924879

CHILDREN IN OUR CHURCH

Do you know that we have over 100 children and young people associated with the weekly life of our church? Some come along to the Toddler Group on a Monday morning and some to the Brownies or Guides on a Wednesday evening and you will learn more about them in a future edition of R&O.

We run a variety of groups on a Sunday morning and if everyone attended together we would have almost 90 children in church. We are pleased to welcome the boarders from Mary Erskine and Stewart's Melville during term time. Pupils from P7 to S4, who are in residence at the weekend, are expected to attend Palmerston Place, unless they have a specific association with another church. Becky Coalter and Peter and Mairi Smith put in a great deal of effort to provide an enjoyable yet informative programme for them in the Carlow Room.

Our Senior Horizon Group meets in the Lounge and includes a group from St Mary's Music School who choose to worship with us. The girls make a tremendous impact when they are able to join in our Praise Band. This group is led by Mairi and Ian Graham at present and they have just embarked on the junior version of Christianity Explored.

The leadership is shared with Fiona Edwards and Ruth Cameron who provide stimulating discussion topics geared to teenage interests.

Do you know that we have over 100 children and young people associated with the weekly life of our church?



Last session we set up the Seekers Group which meets at the very top of Annan House. The group has been growing in numbers across the 5 to 10 years old age range. We follow the Splash and Extreme materials and always provide a 'take home sheet' to reinforce the lesson. While the number of children has been increasing we have just lost two of the leaders; our thanks go to Fiona Chapman and Caroline Lowey for helping to establish this group. Emily-Jane and Daniel Laidlaw take the group on a number of weeks each term and always ensure that a lively time is had, often with work to display on the walls as a reminder of the story for the week.

We really do need more help with this group – volunteers will be made very welcome.

Our Beginners group meets in the Church Hall every Sunday, including the Sundays when we have All Age services. This is the biggest group at present and the rising 3s to 5 year olds enjoy singing, games, craft work and Bible stories based on the Bubbles materials. Judith Thomas and Jennifer Macdonald take turns in leading with Margaret Alexander and Gavin Chapman assisting.

Children & Young People @ R&O

Children & Young People @ PPC Cont.

We should not forget the welcome provided in the Crèche by Carol Robertson and her band of helpers. Babies and toddlers can be looked after during the service to allow parents to relax and enjoy our worship.



Please do speak to our minister, Colin Sinclair or myself, Norma Rolls if you would like to know more or can offer to help with any of these activities.

Norma Rolls

ROLL AWAY THE STONE

What's ROLL AWAY THE STONE all about?

On General Assembly Sunday, 22 May 2011 from 1pm till 6pm, the Church will take over a large area of Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh for a time of *Celebration, Inspiration and Discovery*.

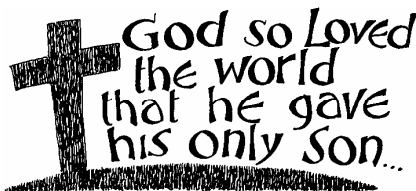
Significance comes from the Cross and resurrection life flows from the Tomb. So our celebration, inspiration and discovery will begin with reflections around a huge cross in the garden area near the Ross Bandstand. Meantime at the Bandstand itself, in the picturesque avenue and fountain areas, and in St Cuthbert's Church at the west end of the Gardens there will be space for worship, praise and singing; there will be children's and youth areas, picnic space, places to eat and chat, displays and stalls representing the whole breadth of the Church's life and witness.

Who should come?

Entry to the event will be completely free. Clearly commissioners, delegates and visitors to the General Assembly will be there. But there's also a fantastic opportunity to have lots of people from every congregation across the country; more than that, there's a chance to interact with the local community and visitors to Edinburgh who are simply walking through this beautiful public space. Imagine Prince's Street Gardens on 22 May with thousands of people milling around celebrating, being inspired, discovering...

Watch this space...

Colin Sinclair



FAIRTRADE NEWS: Fairtrade Stall



The next Fairtrade stall at Palmerston Place Church will be on Sunday the 13th February after the morning service. Robert and I are off to Australia for 3 months from the beginning of March as Robert will be on sabbatical leave, so after February's stall the next one will be on Sunday 12th June.

All the products we stock can be bought at The One World Shop which is part of the crypt under St John's Church, at the foot of Lothian Road adjacent to Princes Street. It's a great shop and has a lovely selection of fairly traded goods including jewellery, toys, unique craft products, cards etc as well as foodstuffs.

One World Shop opening hours:

Mon – Sat: 10am – 5.30pm

Thursdays: 10am – 7pm

A big thank you to all our Palmerston Place customers! From March 2010 to January 2011 you have purchased £2031.67. The profit of £216.43 (includes donations), i.e. 10% of our sales of foodstuffs and 5% of non-food products, goes as usual to Palmerston Place Church. Every product purchased goes towards making a positive difference in someone's life, helping people to work to care for themselves and their families and importantly helping people to be productive and self sufficient within a fairer system of trading.

It is a real step forward that many fairly traded products are available in most supermarkets too so we can make the choice to buy them in our day to day shopping.

We look forward to serving you all again in a few months time.

Robert and Sheila McCabe



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 February 7th at 7:30 pm

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

PROPERTY AND FINANCE TEAM

Next meeting will be held on Monday February 21st at 7:30 pm.

THE REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

All material for the March issue
should be in the hands of the Secretary
by **Sunday 20th February**

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.