

REVIEW & OUTLOOK



PALMERSTON
PLACE
CHURCH
EDINBURGH

October 2011

www.palmerstonplacechurch.com

Scottish Charity No SC004291

MINISTER'S LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Dear Friends,

We are at an exciting stage in our congregation's life. At the end of August we ordained 11 new elders. Many present at that service sensed we were beginning to see the emergence of a new generation of leadership. At the same time the Kirk Session and the Session teams have embarked on a journey, the first stage of which will take place on October 1st. As I write that conference has not taken place, but my understanding is that before we move forward we need to be clear about where we are. A full report on the conference will appear in the November issue.

However all of us, I imagine, have our own ideas about what the church should be and where it should be going. I hope that we also have a desire to make these ideas a reality. Please do pray for the Session and its teams as they begin to work through the vision for our church in the next few years. As I have travelled around many churches over the years, it has been a relief and encouragement to see how congregations can be different in almost every way and yet still be healthy.

While that process is going on I am encouraged by the feedback I am getting from those who have begun our E100 challenge. We ordered 100 books and sold all of them and need to get some more. There is still time to join in if you have not yet begun and the readings are printed each week in the order of service. It would be great if a majority of our congregation managed to complete the challenge by Easter.

October traditionally is when we have our Harvest Thanksgiving. Once again this year we will be seeking to support Christian Aid in its work among those whose harvest has been disrupted by flood or drought, by war or natural disaster. At the same time despite the worst summer since 1993 we should give thanks for the weather we do get and for the beauty of our land. God who speaks to us in his word also speaks to us through his world. We should listen to the first and look at the second, and in each case be moved to worship and to service.

Warmest greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Wednesday	5	7pm	Chogoria Fun Night with Brownies and Guides in the Church Hall
		7:30pm	Manse House Group
Thursday	6	2pm	Friendship Club
		7:30pm	Prayer meeting
Sunday	9	11am	Law and the Land—Exodus 20
			Student and young adult lunch at the Manse
		3pm	Sutherland Street Service
		6:30pm	Love - 1 John 3-4
Monday	10	6:30pm	Monday House Group, Annan House
Wednesday	12	2.15pm	Palmerston Place People (PPP)
Thursday	13	2pm	Friendship Club
		7:30pm	Thursday House Group
		7:30pm	Bridging the Gap
Sunday	16	11am	Morning Service
		6:30pm	Evening Service
Thursday	20	2pm	Friendship Club
		7:30pm	Prayer meeting
Sunday	23	11am	Round and round we go—Judges 2:8-23
		6:30pm	Faith—1 John 5
Tuesday	25	6:35pm	Coordinating Team
Wednesday	26	12.15pm	PPP
		7:30pm	Choir
Thursday	27	2pm	Friendship Club
Sunday	30	10:30am	Kirk Session
		11am	Bad king, good king
			Sacrament of Holy Communion
		6:30pm	Ready for the return—Matthew 24
			Sacrament of Holy Communion in shortened form

NOVEMBER

Wednesday	2	7:30pm	Manse House Group
Thursday	3	2pm	Friendship Club
		7:30pm	Prayer meeting
Sunday	6	11am	Decline and fall
			Fresh Start Lunch in Church Hall
		6:30pm	Faithful and wise—Matthew 24
Monday	7	7:30pm	Kirk Session

The Prayer Page

***“Be joyful always, pray continually,
give thanks in all circumstances.”
1 Thessalonians. 5 vs. 16-18***

Life can be very tough, challenging and bewildering at times, but the psalmist David, St Paul and other New Testament writers frequently exhort us to praise and thanksgiving.

Thank you Lord, that I can come freely to church; that your word is readily available; and that I can talk about my faith without fear.
Teach me to pray faithfully for Christians who live in countries where the opposite is true.

Thank you Lord, that I am free to come and go in my own country; that I do not live in fear of those who govern or who keep the peace.
I pray for those who live in fear every day, uncertain as to what new repression or injustice corrupt rulers may impose on them.

Thank you Lord, that when I was unwell, I could see a doctor and receive treatment. When I get impatient with waiting, remind me of the millions who never see a doctor.
I pray for them and for the medical workers who are trying to help and treat them.

Lord, forgive me for grumbling about the time spent waiting at school gates.
Remind me to pray for so many children who long to go to school but cannot.

Thank you Lord, for dishes to wash, and dirty clothes to launder as they remind me that I have clean water on tap, food in the cupboard and clothes in the wardrobe.

Thank you for a weather-proof home which is warm and comfortable.
I pray for people working to provide very basic housing, clean water and sanitation for those who have none.
Give them a real sense of the value of their work, and bless them.

Remind us Lord, to count our blessings, and to give you thanks and praise for who you are and what you have done for us.
Amen.



Adapted from a prayer in a parish church in Yorkshire

Dorothy Steel

PALMERSTON PLACE NEWS

NEEDED: DONATIONS FOR CARE VAN

With winter fast approaching, the Care Van is in need of donations of various items. In particular, the following:

- ◆ **Trousers**
- ◆ **Boxer shorts**
- ◆ **Socks**

If you can help with anything listed above, please leave them in the Care Van box in the Lothian Room. Thank you!



Martin Ashing

THE PRESBYTERY MEALS TEAM was delighted to receive this letter from a regular customer and would like to share it:

On retiring from Presbytery after an uncommonly long spell I must thank all the Ladies of Presbytery Meals—from the hot-soupers to the bacon and egggers, the fish pie-ers to the macaronies and cookies, not forgetting the cheerful cashiers, for all their ministrations over the years to dozens of happy customers like myself.

Presbytery Meals started in the days when the Presbytery met in the Highland-Tolbooth Church and when it moved to Palmerston Place in 1981 our ladies immediately took on the task and greatly increased the menu.

What a blessing the meals were for those members whose parish duties or office hours left them little time to go home for a meal before Presbytery meetings started. In recent years many of the customers had no such time pressures but enjoyed a tasty high tea with the opportunity to chat (and maybe plot?) with their fellow ministers or elders.

Food preparation regulations put a damper on the exercising of the PM's skills, but they still managed to provide a varied, cheerful, fast service (Palmerston Place's version of Prêt à Manger). Long may that continue regardless of Disruptions, Unions and Readjustments, restricted ministries and other devilish works.

Floreat Alimenta Presbytera (more or less!) A.S.

It may interest you to know that, while we do not aim to make a profit, and our charges are very reasonable, we are able to donate £200 to the church to help with fuel costs AND a similar sum to charity. And we really enjoy working together. Why don't you consider joining the team? Two of our cashiers have resigned and we need replacements—you would be asked to help on only two afternoons a year.

Ruth Sinclair

WHAT'S ON?

FUN GAMES NIGHT FOR CHOGORIA

Wednesday 5 October 2010

Palmerston Place Church Hall, 7 - 9pm

Admission: Adults £3, Children free

Join the Brownies and the Guides!

**HELP SPONSOR A
STUDENT NURSE IN
CHOGORIA!**

Michael Wilson

PALMERSTON PLACE PEOPLE

The PPP 2011/12 programme starts this month:

Wednesday 12th October at 2:15 pm—Rev Willie-John Macdonald

Wednesday 26th October at 12:15pm—Ross Anderson (bring a packed lunch)

Please come and join us in the Carlow Room. If you would like to know more, please ask me.

Mary Bennett

INVITATION TO LUNCH Sunday 6th November

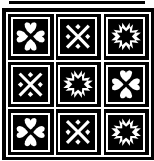
You are warmly invited for a lunch of delicious home made soup with French bread, cheese, and tea and coffee served by smiling waiters in the Church Hall after the morning service. You can enjoy the company and conversation of friends, and you will not even have to wash the dishes!



There is a catch – we would like you to 'pay' for your meal with a generous donation to FRESH START! This is the Edinburgh charity which helps establish homeless people in their first home by providing the basics to turn a flat into a home. Volunteers also help with some decorating; and others may become befrienders. The charity works with the Housing Dept. and has a better success rate in maintaining occupancy.

Please come along. It is a family occasion, so folk of all ages are welcome. If you have never come to a Soup and Bread lunch, make this your first, and we are sure it will not be your last. See you on November 6th.

Dorothy Steel



P.P. STITCHERS

Since we started as a small group three years ago more than 30 quilts have been created for Fresh Start, either to be included in Starter Packs for clients moving in to their first home of their own, or auctioned on the Internet to raise funds for the organisation which are then used to purchase duvets.

No serious sewing skills are required and new volunteers will be very welcome. The first meetings of this session are on Wednesdays 19 October, 16 November and 14 December. Meeting place is at 3 Abbotsford Park. For more information please contact me: Sheila Swanson.



BOOK REVIEW

Enough by Helen Roseveare

Published by Christian Focus Publications
with 10ofthose.com (2011) £2.99

While at Week 1 of this year's Keswick Convention in July, I was privileged to have sat with around 3000 other people listening to the remarkably inspiring Dr Helen Roseveare. Born in England in September 1925, she then accepted Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord of her life as a first year medical student in Cambridge University in 1945. She joined *WEC International missionary society* in 1952, sailing for the then Belgian Congo in 1953 where as a single medical missionary she served others and pioneered vital medical work in the rainforests of what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo. The courage of this faithful Christian lady is remarkable as she experienced deeply difficult

trials of life including being taken hostage, being falsely accused, loneliness away from family and UK friends, excessive weariness, being misunderstood (e.g. language barriers), being raped, feeling physically weak and experiencing frequent illness around her as a medical doctor. But despite all of this she still has a strong and pulsating love for Jesus Christ and this was very clear as she spoke (aged 85) from the main platform at the Keswick Convention and also to individuals

"The courage of this faithful Christian lady is remarkable as she experienced deeply difficult trials of life..."

"...when she is asked if it was all worth it... a resounding "yes!" is exclaimed every time!"

throughout the week of the Convention. Since returning to the UK in 1973, she has served on the UK home-end of WEC, challenging young people, university students, Church youth groups, and women's groups, to consider God's claims on their lives for full-time missionary service in the UK or wherever God calls people.

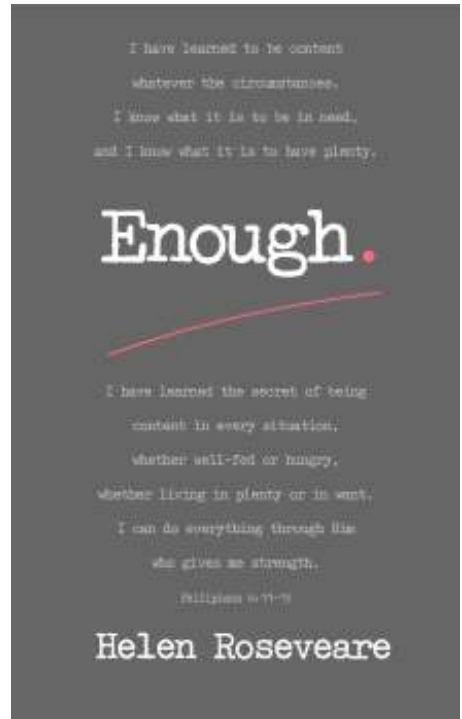
Helen Roseveare has a library of stories that cause the hairs to stick up at the back of your neck and when she is asked if it was all worth it... a resounding "yes!" is exclaimed every time! Many of us may likely say "enough's enough!" We perhaps say this in our minds or out loud during everyday life in our homes and workplaces when difficult situations present themselves to us.

I heartily recommend Helen Roseveare's latest book entitled "**Enough**", which also has the biblical words from **Philippians 4: 11-13** revealed on the front cover. I recommend you look up and read these verses now in a Bible – please use the contents page if unsure where the book of Philippians features in the New Testament of the Bible.

The word "enough" has several different English nuances but Helen Roseveare believes that all the different words and phrases used can be summed up in the one word: "**sufficiency**". With this, there are many different ways of understanding "sufficiency" as Christians, or as someone who may be reading this article while exploring what it means to put one's trust in God through Jesus Christ in a confusing and riotous twenty-first century world.

Helen Roseveare reveals and reminds us, with reference to Paul's letter to the Galatians, that wealth, health and worldly prosperity do not bring us ultimate satisfaction towards a life well lived. But instead to have fullness in Jesus Christ is to know that **God is really enough**. In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians chapter 12 and verse 9 he says that's **God's grace is sufficient**. God's Grace is the wonderful truth of Christianity and without it we are nothing and don't have any firm belief foundation to stand on or progress in life with purpose. Indeed, Helen Roseveare recalls the well-known John Newton hymn "Amazing Grace!" She says that while alive on earth we can wholeheartedly sing the first three verses of this hymn. She then goes on to say: "But *then*, when we arrive in glory (Heaven), we will truly experience that of which we sing in verse 4, the glorious freedom of worship – the enough-ness of time!"

God is enough. He is enough for our salvation, assurance, emotional support, happiness and contentment. Our sufficiency is of God and Helen Roseveare's short book (80 pages) is a must read for anyone and everyone, whether facing frightening attacks in a place where one is trying to help others, whether facing a painful illness, whether finding it difficult to fit in to a community, whether struggling to know which career path to take, whether struggling to understand why bad things happen in your and your friends' lives, whether trying to understand why life is good for you and not so for other loved ones... the list is endless but in the end, enough is enough with God – not just reading or saying it but believing this truth in faith. If you do read this book please share your thoughts with others and pass the book on.



Gregor Innes

CHURCH BOOKSTALL

*A church bookstall is now opening every Sunday after the morning service.
Books can also be ordered direct through a link on our website.*



SAMARITAN'S PURSE AND OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2011

When we see or read about needy children overseas, we often think that we cannot do anything to help them, but we can. Giving a child a gift at Christmas time, not only brings joy to them and their parents, it also demonstrates

God's love in sending Jesus Christ as a baby, born in Bethlehem.

Last year 1.12 million gift-filled shoeboxes were wrapped and packed by children and adults in the UK and sent to children in parts of the world where Christmas presents are a luxury they cannot afford. Making a gift-filled shoebox is exciting for everyone taking part, young or old, but for those who receive them, it is like a MIRACLE.

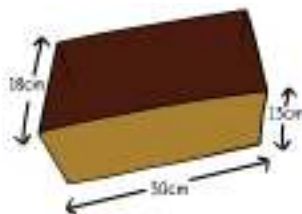


This year again our shoeboxes will be sent to Belarus where last Christmas, 293,735 children received the gift of a shoebox. Your shoe box will be hand delivered to a child in need, asking nothing from them in return, All boxes are given to the neediest children regardless of nationality, political background or religious beliefs. Operation Christmas Child empowers local overseas partners to ensure that your shoeboxes are delivered with the highest levels of integrity and respect.

One shoebox from Selby travelled approximately 6,500 miles to nine year old Nastya, who lives in a children's home in the village of Asarevichi, Belarus. She lives, plays and studies in a drafty, 99 year old, converted church building along with thirty other children including Kardia, her seven year old sister. As she received her gift filled shoebox, the grey tones of her pale skin faded as her sparkling eyes and enormous smile shone through. *"I loved my exercise book the best because it has a shiny cover,"* she said.



We are looking forward to taking part in the annual Shoebox Appeal again to bring the joy of Christmas to children like Nastya and Kardia. Leaflets giving full details and the boy/girl labels needed for each shoebox, are now available in church. 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.



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

Remember, when choosing your gifts that all items in your shoebox **must be new.**

Other things which are good to include are “educational supplies” which could be a selection of items—e.g. felt pens, pens, pencils, 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.



You might also like to include some sweets (with a sell-by date of at least March 2012) *but not chocolate.*

Warm scarves, hats and gloves for all age groups are a particularly good addition to our boxes as Belarus has cold winters, with average January temperatures at -6°C . These can be handmade and we have several simple knitting/crochet patterns, which have been approved by Samaritan’s Purse. Please don’t include any clothing apart from these items and please don’t include hand knitted stuffed toys without a CE mark.

We suggest a minimum of £2.50 donation per shoebox—which helps ensure your shoebox gets to where it needs to go. Please donate online if at all possible. Otherwise, please complete the donation slip from the leaflet, enclose cash or cheque donation and then place the payment slip in your shoebox on top of the contents.

Ensure your shoebox is secured with a rubber band around the outside then bring it to Church any Sunday from the beginning of November until the day of the Shoebox Sunday Service on 20th November. We look forward to receiving a record number again this year!

Joan Meikle
Normal Rolls

ACTORS WANTED (NO EXPERIENCE NEEDED)

EDINBURGH NATIVITY PLAY

Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together and Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland are delighted to present The Edinburgh Nativity Play 2011

Staged on Festival Square, Lothian Road on 1st December from 6 to 7pm by kind permission of City of Edinburgh Council, the play will present the traditional story of the birth of Jesus Christ with a modern twist.

We hold rehearsals on Thursday evenings at 7pm in St Cuthbert's Church, 5 Lothian Road, starting on Thursday 29th September (you can still join in after this date).

We welcome all who wish to join the cast, with acting experience or none, aged from 16 upwards!

Please come along and enjoy an uplifting and exciting experience.

If you have any queries, please feel free to contact me, Susan Kidston.



GOD MADE US A little girl was sitting on her grandfather's lap as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up to touch his wrinkled cheek. She was alternately stroking her own cheek, then his again. Finally she spoke up, "Grandpa, did God make you?" "Yes, sweetheart," he answered, "God made me a long time ago." "Oh," she paused, "Grandpa, did God make me too?"

"Yes, indeed, honey," he said, "God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she observed, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

Anonymous

SUNDAY SERVICES IN PALMERSTON PLACE CHURCH

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

11.00am Morning Worship
6.30pm 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 30 October
where the elements will be served in the pew.

KIRK SESSION

Next meetings will be held on Monday 7 November at 7:30pm
in Annan House.

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 14 November at 7:30pm
in Annan House.

THE REVIEW AND OUTLOOK

All material for the **November** issue
should be in the hands of the Secretary
by **Sunday 23 October**.

Rev Colin Sinclair asks those who read the *Review and Outlook* to please
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 in
the cover of the congregational hymnbook can be used for this and for the
use of those visiting the congregation. You may wish to draw visitors'
attention to it.