

Scope

Penicuik South Church Magazine
March 2007



Minister's Letter

Moving house has to be the worst thing in life that people actually choose to do. Clearly, there are worse things in life ... but few things spring to mind that we choose, of our own accord, to embark on. I know my complaints will appear banal in their predictability – but nonetheless heart felt. I can't cope with the knowledge that the much needed thing is in a box somewhere, but will take you so long to find it that Tony Blair will no longer be Prime Minister. In fact, Gordon Brown will probably no longer be Prime Minister.

And then there's the use of the word 'home' – that's another problem. Third Friday in February, Rebekah and Joshua went back 'home' to see friends in Anstruther; yet they both come 'home' everyday after school at Mauricewood Primary. I go 'home' to see my mum in Glasgow; and Jackie's friend Elizabeth comes 'home' to Paisley to see her parents despite having lived more of her adult life in France than in Scotland.

Moving house throws lots of apparently secure things into question. It can make the most confident of individuals feel profoundly vulnerable indeed. If your job or your family has meant you move a lot, you can end up not knowing where home is. The land and the way we relate to it is something that the Bible takes very seriously. Ultimately however, we are all sojourners in a foreign land. That sense of not being sure where 'home' really is found points to a more theological reality; a more genuine reality. The best definition of home I have come across is that place where when you go there they *have* to take you in.

So how much more should we take security from these words: *'Don't let your hearts be troubled'*, Jesus continued: *Trust God - and trust me too! There is plenty of room to live in my Fathers house. If that weren't the case, I'd have told you wouldn't I? I'm going to get a place ready for you! And if I do go and get a place ready for you, I will come back and take you there with me, so that you can be there where I am. You know the way where I am going after all.'* John 14:1-4.

That vulnerability should make us lean on God and as we do so, realise the truth that he wants us to get from those instances in life that make us feel our backs are against the wall: we do *have* a home, a spiritual home. We can forget that on the property ladder and in the boom and bust issues of the property market. The 'way' to go is to trust in God; we have a home in heaven and in this world we have a spiritual home too. Thanks for making the Cathcart family feel quickly at home here in Penicuik. Let's work to make everyone feel that Biblical truth when they join with us in PSK.

Yours in Him, Ian

Advance Notice: Esther Spa Day on 19th March

Celebrate Recovery

We are now in the 43rd week of the 52 week programme and will cover the topics of Relapse, Gratitude and Give over the next few week. Testimonies of recovery will also be heard on alternate weeks.

If you have a hurt, habit or a hang-up for which you seek help, please consider coming along to the meeting on Thursday nights and experience Jesus Christ's healing power. Church hall doors open at 6:30pm and the meeting begins at 7pm. For further information or even just a chat, please contact: Billy 07982713769 or Debbie 676541 or Eileen 670174 or Ian 07749558089 or Robert 07745807336.

- Our 5th Annual Birthday will be on 3rd May 2007. Details later.
- First meeting of our 6th Year will be on 10th May 2007 (Topic "Denial")

Ladies Step Meeting

Step meetings are now underway and are on Wednesday at 7:30pm in West Street. For further information contact Debbie 676541 or Eileen

Variation on Psalm 23

In pastures green? Not always; sometimes he who knoweth best, in kindness leadeth me in weary ways where heavy shadows be: out of the sunshine into darkest night. I oft faint with sorrow and afright, only for this—I know he holds my hand. So whether in a green or desert land, I trust him, though I do not understand.

And by still waters? No, not always so; oftentimes the heavy tempests round me blow, and over my soul the waves and billows go. But when the storm beats loudest and I cry aloud for help, the Master standeth by and whispers to my soul, "Lo ! It is I". Above the tempest wild I hear him say: "Beyond this darkness lies the perfect day, in every path of thine I lead the way".

So, whether on the hilltop high and fair I dwell, or in the sunless valley where the shadows lie - what matter? He is there. Yea, more than this: where'er the pathway lead, he gives to me no helpless, broken reed. But his own hand sufficient for my need. So where'er he leadeth I can safely go; and in the blest hereafter I shall know why, in his wisdom, he hath led me so.

Author unknown—submitted by Kit Strathairn

Life's full of 'Chickens'

Jack London's classic, *White Fang*, is about an animal, half dog, half wolf, who learns to live among men. *White Fang* is very fond of chickens. Once he raided a chicken-roost and killed 50 hens. His master, Weedon Scott, whom *White Fang* 'loved with a single heart', scolded him, then took him into the chicken yard. When *White Fang* saw his favourite food walking around in front of him, he obeyed his natural impulse and lunged at them. Immediately he was checked by his master's voice. He stayed in the chicken yard quite a while, and every time *White Fang* made a move toward a chicken, his master's voice would stop him. In this way he learned what his master wanted - he learned to ignore the chickens.

Weedon Scott's father argued "You couldn't cure a chicken killer" but Weedon challenged him and they agreed to lock *White Fang* in with the chickens all afternoon. Locked in the yard, *White Fang* lay down and went to sleep. Once he walked over to the trough for a drink. The chickens he calmly ignored. So far as he was concerned they did not exist. At 4 o'clock he executed a running jump and leaped to the ground outside, whence he sauntered gravely to the house. He had learned the law.

Out of love and a desire to obey his master's will, *White Fang* overcame his natural, inborn tendencies. He may not have understood the reason, but he chose to bend his will to his master's. Life's full of 'chickens'. What you have to settle is - whom will I serve.

(Taken from 'The Word For Today'. This devotional is produced by UCB free of charge)

Women's Group Meetings

- 7th Mar 7:30pm in the hall: Photography with Tony Scott
- 21st Mar 2:30pm in the hall: Old hymns and afternoon tea

Lothian Taize Group

We are an ecumenical group of Christians who meet once a month for quiet, meditative worship, prayer and reflection. You are most welcome to join us at our next meeting on Friday 30th March at 7:30pm in North Berwick Abbey Church.

Glencorse Annual Meal in memory of May Greig

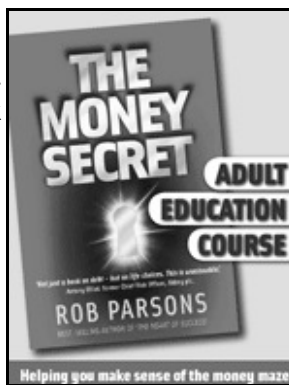
Fri 16th March at 7pm in Glencorse Golf Club

If you are interested, please contact Annette Heary (North Kirk) on 675198.

An Opportunity for Outreach?

In February, the media drew to our attention again the debt crisis in today's society. 'Care for the Family' has addressed this issue with a free-to-download course based on Rob Parsons' book "The Money Secret". The course shows how to

- Face financial fears
- Discover the secret of debt-free living
- Avoid common costly mistakes
- Retain control of finance



If you are aware of anyone in need of financial help, the 'Money Secret Adult Education Course' from www.themoneysecret.info could be the start of outreach help.

Mo Hayes

Missing Projector


At the end of November last year, the projector normally kept in West Street Hall went missing. If anyone knows of its whereabouts, please could you let one of the members of the CR team know. Thanks.

Book Reviews Invited

Have you read a good Christian book lately? Could you write a review of it to share with other Scope readers? It doesn't matter if it's an old book or a new one. We look forward to hearing from you.

Scope Deadline: 18th March. Articles to: Paul Toms (editor) (paul.toms@tiscali.co.uk, 670483) or James McClean (673635) or Mary Darling (675260) please.

Getting to know our new minister: Ian Cathcart

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|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| Age | 42 – 43 this April. |  |
| Children | Four - Ross is in 2 nd year at Beeslack; Joshua will be (D.V.) 10 at the end of this month; Rebekah had 'Happy Birthday' sung to her last month for her 8 th birthday; and Hannah was 3 last November. | |
| How long at SK | Since 18 th January this year! <i>(Do all new members get asked to do this after six weeks?)</i> | |
| Favourite praise songs | Indescribable by Chris Tomlins or Psalm 124 by Ian White – hard to pick between; Ian White is my favourite artist. | |
| Favourite food | Two cheese and tomato rolls with a plate of chips. | |
| Favourite holiday destination | Usually the one I'm planning for that year's summer break – Chester or perhaps Canterbury; haven't decided yet! | |
| Favourite pastime | Reading the magazine 'The Week' (UK) and the online version of the American version (both are weekly compendiums of newspapers). The odd visit to the cinema should be mentioned too! | |
| Favourite book | 'Empowered Christians'; let me envisage a Biblically honest Christianity that was filled with the Holy Spirit. | |
| Favourite film | I like 'Leon', directed by Luc Besson, 'The Shawshank Redemption', directed by Frank Darabont and 'The Rock' starring Sean Connery - my favourite would depend on what mood I'm in at that particular time. I'm also a big 'Jason Bourne' fan – patiently waiting for part three this year. | |

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Inspiring scripture | John 10:10 - <i>I have come that you might have life and have it in all its fullness</i> – the only verse that the Good News translation beats all other translations in translating. It was the verse I was given by my minister when I joined the church. |
| Favourite sermon | I don't hear enough sermons! I could listen to R.T. Kendall for days on end. Despite the intervening years, Jonathan Edwards is still 'dead on the money' on most things. |
| Being minister means | I have to stop looking at other ministers and other people's ideas of what being a minister is and instead just be the minister God wants <i>me</i> to be. |
| Prayer for SK | That God leads all of us in our own individual 'next steps' so that together we might become more and more a functioning New Testament church. |
| Finally ... | I'd like to pray for myself that I can be sufficiently open to the Spirit that I would become what God intended me to be, as a person, as a husband, as a father and as a minister in this congregation as well as in Howgate Parish Church. |



Annual Business Meeting

Tuesday March 27th in the Church Hall, West Street.

Full details in the next edition of Scope – but there will be an opportunity to eat/relax together as well as deal with the business. Note the date in your diary now!



Revival Meeting

Fri 30th March at 7:30pm, West St Hall



Come and join us as we seek the Lord's presence and revival. Tea and coffee will be served at the beginning and the end. Details from Paul Toms (670483).

South Church Congregation Questionnaire

It would be very helpful if you could complete and return this questionnaire to the boxes in the vestibules or hand to anyone on the Social Committee.

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|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|-----|
| Age – please tick | 18 - 30 | 31 - 45 | 46 - 60 | 60+ |
| Gender | Male | Female | | |

Please indicate by ticking which of these activities you, or your children, have attended, enjoyed or would like to see the Social Committee plan more of -

| | Attended | Enjoyed | More please! |
|--|----------|---------|--------------|
| Peebles Hydro Swim lunch | | | |
| Film Night in hall | | | |
| Easter/Christmas Activity afternoon (kids) | | | |
| Summer Walk | | | |
| Hallelujah Party (October) | | | |
| Quiz Night in hall | | | |
| Scavenger Hunt (Penicuik) and tea in hall | | | |
| Esther Spa Day | | | |
| Burn's Night and Ceilidh | | | |

Have you any suggestions for events you would like to attend _____

Would you like to see more events that you could invite non-Christian friends and family along to? Yes/ No _____

If we were to organise a church picnic in August to Yellowcraigs (Beach in East Lothian) would you be interested in being part of this day? Yes/ No. If **yes** would you (tick as appropriate) - like to come on a large bus ____ or arrange your own transport?_____.

Would you like to be involved with the Social Committee to help us plan and organise events this year? If so please include your name _____ and contact number _____.

Thanks for your time. Alison Herd, Katrina McDonald, Gill MacKintosh, Vicki Middleton, Mary Ritchie, Lynne Turnbull (South Church Social Committee)