

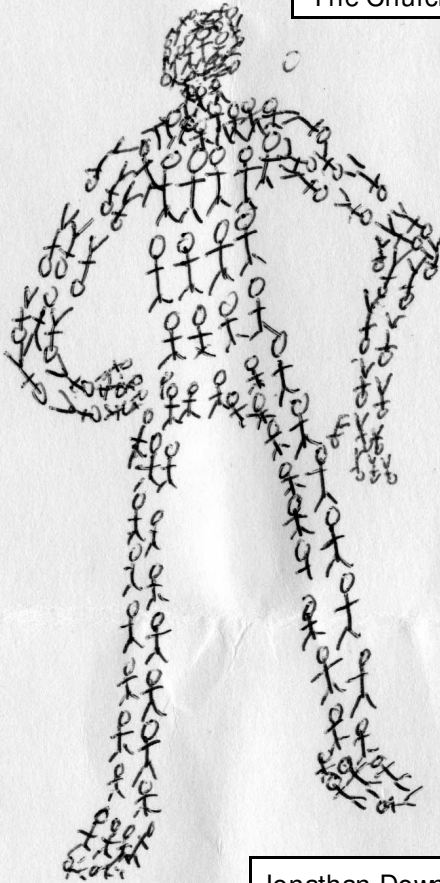


Scope

Penicuik South Church Magazine

November 2006

"The Church"



Jonathan Downey

The ‘Call’

Rev Ian Cathcart preached as sole nominee at Howgate and the South Church on Sunday October 22nd, and the result of the subsequent voting was 142 for and 0 against. The next stage in the process is the signing of the Call – this will be available for members and adherents (those on the electoral roll) to sign before and after both morning and evening services on October 29th and November 5th. The Call is worded as follows:

“We, members of the Church of Scotland and of the congregation known as Penicuik South, being without a minister, address this Call to be our minister to you, Ian Cathcart, of whose gifts and qualities we have been assured, and we warmly invite you to accept this Call, promising that we shall devote ourselves with you to worship, witness, mission and service in this parish, and also to the furtherance of these in the world, to the glory of God and for the advancement of His Kingdom.”

Regular worshippers who are not on the electoral roll may sign a ‘Paper of Concurrence’. If you are a member and unable to get to church to sign the Call, you can complete and sign a mandate form, available from me, which allows me to add your name to the Call. You can phone me on 674276, or forms will be available at church on 29th October and 5th November.

Neil Cape (Session Clerk)

Induction of Rev Ian Cathcart

A date has yet to be set for Ian’s induction, but is likely to take place some time during the second week of January, with Ian and his family moving from Anstruther around this time. Arrangements for this will be made by Presbytery, in consultation with Ian and the congregations.

Profile of Rev Ian Andrew Cathcart

Rev Ian Cathcart is married to Jackie and they have 4 children aged 12, 9, 7 and 3 years old. He was born in Glasgow and is 42 years old. Ian attended Glasgow University where he attained his B.D. He has a background in Quantity Surveying. He has been in his present charge for 12 years.

Ian has made a tremendous impact in the local Primary and Secondary schools and is involved with taking assemblies/classes. He enjoys attending New Wine and CLAN conferences.

He is involved with:

- Running 'Alpha' and 'Christianity Explored' courses.
- Training to become a 'Care for the Family—How to Drug-Proof your Kids' presenter.
- Presently in the process of becoming a non-teaching member of Her Majesty's School Inspectors.
- The Associate Workers Oversight Group, Scripture Union, Scotland.

His interests and hobbies include:

- Reading books.
- Going to the cinema and theatre.
- Planning and going on family holidays and family days out.

A Big Thank you to the Nomination Committee

On behalf of the congregations of Howgate and South Church, we want to say a 'big thank you' to the Nomination Committee for all their hard work in the past few months. To achieve a unanimous vote on the minister they put forward as sole nominee must have made it all the more worthwhile for them. Thanks go to the following people from South Church: Helen Hogg, Graham McDonald, Bill Bruce, Eileen Burns, Wilma Wilson, Gillian Mackintosh, Joyce McClean, Kate Humphrey, James McClean and Lindsay Swan and the following people from Howgate: Martin Hobbs, Cathy Thompson and Ann Watson.

Thank You

After October's Harvest Thanksgiving service, I have received a number of cards, letters and telephone calls expressing thanks for gifts of flowers and produce received – so "Thank You" to all who brought gifts, and who helped to deliver them. It is clear that they are greatly appreciated.

Joan Cape

Thank Offering Day

The total amount raised (receipts minus payments) was £1492.23. This compares with £5364.40 from last year.

New Manse

The manse in Broomhill Avenue was inspected by the Interim Moderator and Presbytery Property Convener in September, and the Deacon's Court advised that, in their opinion, the house was not suitable as a manse. This was mainly due to the position of the study, which lies in the centre of the house – with doors to the sitting room, hall and dining room. The Deacon's Court accepted this advice and decided (unanimously) to sell the manse in Broomhill Avenue and purchase a new house – with the promise of financial support, if required, from the Board of Managers at Howgate, and a bridging loan from the General Trustees.

Following this, a suitable house in Stevenson Road has been purchased (although missives have still to be concluded.) The house in Broomhill Avenue will be put on the market within the next week. Although we would have preferred a property closer to the church, the layout of the house in Stevenson Road makes it ideal as a manse, with 4 bedrooms upstairs, lounge, study, family room, dining room and kitchen downstairs. It is envisaged that there will be no significant financial cost to the congregation in the sale and purchase – but this will not be clear until after the sale of the house in Broomhill Avenue.

The new manse should be available for the new minister and his family when they move in early January – and they have been fully consulted since Ian was appointed as sole nominee at the end of September. As a result, we know that Ian and his family are looking forward to moving into their new home in Stevenson Road, as well as settling into the church.

We firmly believe that God has guided and provided in this whole process, and give thanks to Him for this.

Graham Duffin

News from Deacons' Court

Bill Bruce is now the new fabric convener. He takes over from Neil Cape. Our thanks go to Neil for all his hard work in the past.

Philip and Joan have moved

Their new address is: 20 The Court Yard, Auchlochlan Trust, Newtrows Road, Lesmahago, M11 0GS.

Worship Workshop on 21st October

A group of about 14 of us met at the church on Saturday 21st October to explore the area of Praise & Worship. There was an open invitation for anyone who has an interest in the music worship to attend.

This was a most enjoyable and interesting time. We began with a cuppa (of course), before starting a very interesting discussion about the dilemma of the shape of the church floor sloping from top to bottom and thus making it very difficult to remove pews and have chairs. The chairs would have to be customised to fit an exact spot, so Joan and Neil had discovered when investigating this possibility. Andrew suggested bean-bags! - I digress.

To begin with, Peter gave a short talk about the technical aspect of setting up the instruments correctly. Firstly, "are we even plugged in?!" Then, tuning into the amp correctly, positioning of the microphone and the role of the sound desk operator.

Joan then led us in a discussion about worship and asked us to think and chat in groups about why we are involved in music worship. The general feeling was that we all enjoyed worshiping God through music, finding a sense of His presence through music and felt it a privilege to be able to use gifts to help others enter into a closeness with God this way.

We then looked at statements about the differences between *volunteering* and *servicing* God through the jobs we do within the church. We discussed our attitude to the time we spend 'being of service'. Most of us felt that meeting together regularly to practice, would be worthwhile.

A short time of prayer followed this after which we split into singers and instrumentalists to have separate practice sessions. Finally, we all came together (4 singers, 1 drummer and 4 guitar players) in order to work on 2 new songs which I'm sure you'll hear at some point in the future.

There will be more of these workshops in the new year so if you weren't able to come along to this one and would like to get involved or even just "have a go" with music worship I encourage you to come to the next one.

God literally inhabits the praises of His people. The Amplified Bible says "But You are holy, O You Who dwell in the praises of Israel".

Caroline Toms

Harvest Lunch

Following the Harvest Thanksgiving service, on Sunday the 8th October, many of the fellowship sat down to lunch together. We enjoyed baked potatoes with a choice of fillings including cheese, coleslaw, baked beans, tuna mayo, egg mayo and chilli. The chilli was very, very hot and only the brave survived eating it! The hall was buzzing with conversation. I think this was made easier by the way Amy and Doug had set and arranged the tables and made the hall look warm and welcoming. Thank-you Amy and Doug.

Potatoes were served to remind of us of the families in Bolivia who only have potatoes to eat. This had been the focus of the morning service. The money raised from the meal is going to the Tear Fund project helping these families improve their diet. The meal was kept simple but still seemed luxurious compared to the daily meals of these Bolivian families.

Sandra Fraser made us some poppy seed cake for afters which tasted delicious. Thank-you Sandra. Flowers to decorate the hall were provided by Bill and Gillian from their prize winning garden. Thank-you Bill and Gillian.

It was good to watch everyone enjoying their lunch and sharing fellowship, including the children. There was a lot of positive feedback. Thank-you Sandra S., Elaine, Linda, Anne J., Sandra F., Sheila A., for such a well prepared and enjoyable lunch and for persevering with the clearing up!

Kathleen Downey

Sponsored Slim

Mary Ritchie is doing a sponsored slim until 20th December to add to our Thank Offering gift for Tear Fund's Bolivia project. If you wish to support Mary, contact her direct or use the sponsor sheets in the vestibules.

Bibles for China

Thank you so much for praying for my trip to China to deliver Bibles to the Chinese church! Your prayers were wonderfully answered with 3 out of 4 of my loads getting through, including a chance to meet with Pastor Samuel Lamb who is over 80 and was 22 years in prison for practising his faith. He told us persecution is good because it makes the church grow! What a challenge to our comfortable Christian lives in the west - and half full churches!

I was stopped once and prevented from taking study Bibles for pastors into China which was disappointing but it happens to every courier at some point and we were allowed to retrieve them on the way back for a 'storage fee'. We are thankful that most gets through. This work goes on all the year long, even at Christmas and New Year, so it shows the huge need for Bibles in China.

I met a lovely Welsh couple who have been going for years (retired teachers) and we got on wonderfully well and hope to meet up again next October in Hong Kong for the work.

I had minimal problems with jetlag and have had several opportunities to share with people about how God is real to me and that's great! I was really pleased to get back and relax from the stress of it all and have a feeling of satisfaction of having done something worthwhile for God and my fellow Christians in China! It's actually better than a self indulgent holiday in the sun! Some folk said I was brave, but to be honest it would have been harder not to go as I was so sure it was what God wanted! And He watched over me so wonderfully that I felt His peace even when I was alone, especially on the long journey home! I really felt upheld by your prayers, thank you!

Oh yes, 'God is good' is my testimony! Please keep praying for the Bibles to get past customs officials as I heard last week loads of westerners were stopped, not just our own folk. God bless you all and thank you again for your partnership in this work for God!

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can." (John Wesley)

Denise Halcrow

(Please note: Denise will be speaking of her visit to China at the Praise Service on 26th November)

Advance Notice: Christmas Dates for the Diary

- **Sunday 10th December, 4.30pm:** Children's service in South Kirk. Specially designed for families with little children – come and share the message of Christmas in an atmosphere of fun, in the one service of the year where noise and nonsense are actively encouraged! Followed by “tea and buns” in the hall.
- **Sunday 17th December, 11:15am:** All age Gift service (including Christmas presentation by the youngsters) This is the service to which you are asked to bring gifts which will be given to needy children in Craigmillar.
- **Sunday 17th December, 7:00pm:** Christmas carols old and new – the Christmas story presented in words and music. A service to invite your friends and family along to, even if they go to no other service in the year!
- **Sunday 24th December, 11:15am:** all age worship for Christmas Eve. No service at 7:00pm.
- **Sunday 24th December (evening):** in Howgate Church. Family carols – time to be confirmed
- **Sunday 24th December, 11:30pm:** in South Kirk. Watchnight service
- **Monday 25th December, 11:15am:** all age Christmas celebration
- **Sunday 31st December, 11:15 am:** morning service
- **Sunday 31st December, 7:00pm:** end of year Praise service
- **New Year's Eve:** This year falls on a Sunday night. Some years in the past we have organised a New Year party in the hall – if there are people who would like to join in such an event we can easily arrange something. If you would like to come to a New Year's party in the hall this year please give your name to Joan or Neil Cape (674276) as soon as possible, and we'll see if there are enough of us to make it viable.

S Club Leader News

After many years of leading S Club, Bill and Jenny Jacobs have decided that it's time to look into different areas of service in the Church and will no longer be running S Club. I'm sure you will agree that the kids had a great time with Bill and Jenny and are going to miss them both very much. We thank them for all the hard work and effort they put into S Club.

Charles Tulloch will now be leading S Club as well as teaching the 9-11 age group. Denise Halcrow is continuing to teach the 6-8 age group and Lorna Souter and Sheila Anderson are teaching the 3-5 age group. We also have a new rota of helpers mostly made up parents, so if you feel that you could help out occasionally please speak to Gill Mackintosh (674394).

Crèche Helpers Needed

If you would like to help out in the crèche on Sunday mornings, please contact Vicki Nicolson (670596).

Concert with Andrew Mitchell and the Praise Singers


Sat 25th November 7pm, St Catherine's Argyle Church, Edinburgh

Tickets £3 waged. Free Concessions. See: www.stcatherines-argyle.org.uk for details.

The Coffee Rota

Yes, you've guessed it, there are gaps in the rota again! Serving tea and coffee at the end of a service is actually a great way to get to know people. You can talk to people and then if/when one of those awkward silences comes along, or you just get fed up of the conversation, you can make your apologies and do some tea and coffee business instead. It's great! Please consider signing up for one 'slot' a month if you can or just every now and then if that suits you better. There is a rota sheet hanging by the counter in the fellowship area. Please speak to Paul or Caroline (670483) if you're interested and need 'showing the ropes'.

Getting to know our Scope editor: Paul Toms

Age	43	
Children	Heidi (18) Jamie (15)	
How long at SK	17 years	
What I love about SK	The people	
Favourite praise songs	"You are the King of Glory, You are the Prince of Peace". This is an old-ish song (1978) and the first one I remember ever raising my hands to God for.	
Favourite food	Liver and onions	
Favourite holiday destination	The river. Last year we took a boat up the River Thames from Reading to Oxford and back again. I've also been on the Norfolk Broads and enjoyed that. I like the fact that you're in the countryside for the most part, that the pace is slow (4mph is the speed limit) and that you can move from place to place and moor for the night wherever you want.	
Favourite pastime	It varies.	
Favourite book	"Ever Increasing Faith" by Smith Wigglesworth. It's a collection of 18 sermons covering divine healing, spiritual gifts and baptism in the Holy Spirit. I've read this many times over now. For me, it's one of those books that as you get near the end, you start slowing down because you don't ever want to finish it.	
Favourite film	"Erin Brockovich". Based on a true story of a single mother (Julia Roberts) who investigates a large company which is suspected of contaminating a local water supply causing devastating illness in the community.	

Inspiring scripture	John 10:10 “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full”. About 5 years ago I remember going through a dark period of depression for several weeks when all of a sudden this verse ‘came’ to me. There was a power in it that I had not known before and <i>immediately</i> I found that I was released from the depression. The truth does indeed set us free. Amen!
Favourite sermon	I can’t put my finger on a favourite sermon but I have a favourite preacher, John Bevere. I have watched his 10-part series on “Intimacy with the Holy Spirit” twice now.
Being Scope editor means	<i>... my wife becomes a Scope widow in the last week of every month!</i> I try to maintain a balance in Scope between ‘home-grown’ and ‘outside’ news/articles. Mary Darling and James McClean are also part of the ‘team’. Often, we lack stories from the congregation and so I would urge anyone who has never written for Scope to consider doing so. If you don’t then sooner or later we’ll be round to your door anyway, doing a ‘getting to know you’! Now we’ve run out of elders to do, anyone is fair game—including me it would seem!
Other church activities	On the last Friday of every month, I (together with my wife, Caroline and also Stephen Elson) arrange a ‘Revival Meeting’. We’ve been doing this for almost a year now. The aim of the meeting is to encourage a freedom in worship and prayer that is sometimes difficult to achieve in a regular church service. And we hope that in such an atmosphere, the Holy Spirit will move amongst us in a powerful way to bring revival, both personally and corporately.
Prayer for SK	That the unity that we have at the moment in the church (142 to 0) will continue and strengthen. Also that Ian Cathcart and his family will settle in Penicuik and the church easily. And finally, that God will be pleased to send revival upon His people in Penicuik.



Quiz Night

Wed 22nd November 7:30pm, West Street Hall

Come along and join a team or why not come along with some friends or with your house group. We look forward to seeing you there! Refreshments will be available for a small charge. Contact Gill Mackintosh (674394) or Alison Herd (672589) if you want to come along.

The Leprosy Mission

It is with great joy in my heart that I, on behalf of the Penicuik Committee, thank everyone once again who contributed in any way to the success of the Coffee Evening held on Thursday 12 October 2006 in the North Church.

Mr Stanley Bonthram (Fund Raiser) who lives in Dalkeith came along on the evening and presented a short and interesting presentation on the ongoing work at the present moment of The Leprosy Mission.

We raised a magnificent sum of £435.00 on the night. This means that we have superseded our aim of £1,950.00 for this year's fundraising that we pledged to allocate for the purchase of one motorcycle and 20 bicycles for areas in Africa.

Thanking you one and all and God Bless.

Liz Murray



Revival Meeting

Fri 24th November at 7:30pm, West St Hall

Are you hungry for more of God. Are you thirsty for the 'living waters'? So are we.

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. More details from Paul Toms (670483).



Seeing the Miracle

Mary Hunt's article in September's Scope encouraged us to share our experience in August this year. Normally our elder daughter, Elspeth holidays approximately 8 miles from New Ross, County Wexford in Ireland during August. This year, she and her partner, Gerard and their son, Michael aged 3½ went instead to France via Plymouth and into Spain arriving at their French destination on 6th August. During that first week, a pregnancy was confirmed. On 7th August, Elspeth was in great pain and a doctor had to be called urgently. The doctor came within 6 minutes and an air ambulance flew her to a hospital in Auxerre. Within 5 minutes of her arrival, she was operated on for an ectopic pregnancy where the fallopian tube had also ruptured, resulting in her losing half of her body's blood internally.

The first we knew of this was a phone call from Gerard at the hospital at 5:15pm saying that Elspeth was on the operating table, critically ill. We immediately prayed and then contacted our church's prayer chain and a few other praying friends. Mercifully, Gerard phoned again within the hour to say that they were still operating but that she was out of danger. Later on that night at about 9pm, we were able to actually speak to her ourselves. She is now fully recovered.

For us, the miracle was in the timing of the events. The day before, it would have been almost impossible to have received medical help in time and even had they been at their normal holiday venue, it is very unlikely in rural Ireland that action could have been taken so quickly. Most of us, we know, pray daily for the protection of our families but we wonder just how often we recognise the many times we experience that protection, on the road, in the home, in the daily incidents of our lives.

We are just so thankful that Elspeth is still with us and that Michael still has his Mummy.

Paul and Mo Hayes

Operation Christmas Child

It's time again to start filling Christmas shoe boxes. See Bill or Maisie Bruce for more information. Filled boxes should be handed in to Eleanor's (Hairdresser) in the High Street between 4th and 20th November.

'Resourcing Worship' Workshop

Sat 4th November 9:15am to 1pm, Ormiston Church

This will cover various aspects of worship – songs, drama, children's and all age worship, using technology in worship. Cost £5 including coffee (if 5 book together, one goes free). If interested, speak to Joan.

'Men Makers' Conference

Sat 4th November 9:30am to 6pm, Destiny Church, Leith

For men of any age. £10 including lunch and dinner. Speakers include Tony Anthony, author of 'Taming the Tiger'. If interested speak to Alistair Mackintosh or Andrew Dunsire.

Worship Workshop led by Bryn Haworth

Sat 11th November 10.30 to 4.30pm, Falkirk Baptist Church

Tea and coffee will be provided but lunch should be taken with you. No charge to attend but you must register if you would like to go. Bryn will also be doing a concert the same evening at the above venue. Tickets for this are £5.

If you would like more info speak to Andrew Dunsire or would like to book please email Falkirk Baptist Church at: dttrinity@hotmail.com

'The Armed Man'

Sun 12th November 7pm, South Church

This is a special remembrance service featuring Carl Jenkins' choral work, 'The Armed Man', accompanied by the organ and other instruments. The choir of St James will be augmented by any singers from the South Church who would like to take part. Please speak to Graham MacDonald or Joan if you are interested.

Rehearsals are on Thursday evenings (2nd Nov, 9th Nov) and Sunday afternoon (12th Nov). There is also an opportunity to join St James' choir at their rehearsals on Wednesday evenings.

Conference: ‘Creating Life Changing Churches’

Wed 15th November 10am to 4pm, Loanhead Parish Church

Over 2005-06, a group of Scottish Church leaders have been working in partnership with Nick Spencer, a researcher based with LICC (London Institute for Contemporary Christianity), investigating why people become Christians today. Following in the footsteps of research conducted by the Bible Society in 1991, over 40 in-depth interviews with people in Scotland of all ages and denominations were conducted.

The conference will look at the findings of the research. There is much for the church and individual Christians to learn from the stories. The conference will explore the implications the stories reveal for the church in Scotland.

For details and bookings, please go to: www.run.org.uk/envision/futureC/CLCC.aspx.

Care for the Family Event: “It Takes Two”

Wed 29th November 7:30pm to 10pm, Faith Mission Centre, Edinburgh

A new event celebrating positive aspects of marriage, with real life stories and practical tips; hosted by Dianne Parsons and held at the Faith Mission Centre, 548 Gilmerton Road, Edinburgh. Call 01506 846476 for more information or to book tickets (£6).

Fischy Music Concert

Sat 2nd December 2pm to 4pm, St Bride’s Centre, Edinburgh

Fischy Music are holding this concert in order to launch the new album “Why”. Tickets from the Fischy Office (0131 551 1005). Adults £6, children aged 3 to 6 £4, under 3’s free.

Diary	
Wed 1st Nov 7:30pm	Women's Group in the Church Hall. 'Making Christmas cards'.
Sat 4th Nov 9:15am	'Resourcing Worship' Workshop at Ormiston Church
Sat 4th Nov 9:30am	'Men Makers' Conference at Destiny Church, Leith
Sat 11th Nov 10:30am	Worship Workshop led by Bryn Haworth at Falkirk Baptist Church
Sun 12th Nov 7pm	'The Armed Man' in South Church
Tues 14th Nov 7:15pm	Kirk Session in the Church
Wed 15th Nov 10am	Conference: 'Creating Life Changing Churches' at Loanhead Parish Church
Wed 15th Nov 2:30pm	Women's Group in the Church Hall
Wed 22nd Nov 7pm	Quiz Night in the Church Hall
Fri 24th Nov 7:30pm	Revival Meeting in the Church Hall
Sat 25th Nov 7:30pm	Concert by Andrew Mitchell at St Catherine's Argyle Church, Edinburgh
Wed 29th Nov 7:30pm	Care for the Family Event: "It Takes Two" at the Faith Mission Centre, Edinburgh

Scope Deadline: 19th November. Articles to: Paul Toms (editor) (paul.toms@tiscali.co.uk, 670483) or James McClean (673635) or Mary Darling (675260) please.