

SCOPE

dec 09/jan 10



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Minister's Letter

Hello and hope you're all having a good Advent and are not too stressed out!

I feel it's still a bit early to be wishing you a merry Christmas. Nonetheless I hope you have a good one when it comes.

I asked you to pray for the Kirk Session away weekend in the October Scope magazine; I thanked you for your prayers in the November magazine because I thought God had really blessed us on the weekend; and in this edition I follow up on the Sunday morning service of the 15th November. I guess you can make up your own mind if God answered your prayers regarding the elders weekend away.

It seems important to put down here what the elders decided so whether you were at the service or not you will have some sense of what the Kirk Session feel is the way ahead. The document they produced off the back of that weekend is outlined below. Apologies if you've seen this already but, I'm sure you'll agree everybody needs to know what the Kirk Session agreed and how to take it forward – individually and as a church.



I recognise there's really too much in what follows to simply cover it all in one Scope magazine article – or for that matter one Sunday morning sermon! But I wanted all this information in Scope because clearly it has to form the way ahead. Plainly Advent is not the time to start preaching on the issues that are covered below. However, come 2010 and we begin to see such service themes as accountability, submission, church leadership in the New Testament and authority then you will know why. Strongholds that have blighted this congregation for a generation and more are being targeted for removal. Please join in that process – strongholds only get removed when we all join in on the process.

(cont'd p4)

Minister's Letter (cont'd)

WE RENOUNCE THE HOLD OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY OVER THE CHURCH AND PARTICULARLY ON ITS LEADERS.

WE ANNOUNCE THAT ALL OUR NEEDS – INCLUDING SEXUAL NEEDS – ARE MET IN JESUS CHRIST.

WE AFFIRM THAT THE POWER OF SIN IS COMPLETELY BROKEN IN US THROUGH CHRIST'S VICTORY AND HE GIVES US A WAY OF ESCAPE FROM EVERY TEMPTATION.

WE WILL IMPLEMENT A PRACTICAL SYSTEM OF PERSONAL ENCOURAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR EVERY MEMBER OF SESSION.

WE RENOUNCE NOT SUBMITTING TO ONE ANOTHER AND ACTING OUT OF AN INDEPENDENT AND CONTROLLING SPIRIT.

WE ANNOUNCE THAT TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY AS THE BODY OF CHRIST WE MUST BE INTERDEPENDENT AND UNITED.

WE AFFIRM THAT CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF OUR CHURCH AND CALLS US TO SERVE HIM THROUGH SERVING EACH OTHER IN UNITY THROUGH THE DIFFERENT ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES HE HAS GIVEN US.

WE WILL PUT OTHERS BEFORE OURSELVES AND ENSURE WE UNDERSTAND AND IMPLEMENT THE BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES OF SERVANT LEADERSHIP.

WE RENOUNCE ABDICATING OUR GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY ESPECIALLY REGARDING CONFLICT SITUATIONS AND LACK OF FOLLOW-THROUGH.

WE ANNOUNCE CHRIST WILL EQUIP US WITH THE NECESSARY GIFTS, WORDS, UNDERSTANDING AND STRENGTH TO DO WHAT HE HAS CALLED US TO DO.

WE AFFIRM HIS GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR US AND HIS POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS. HE WILL COMPLETE THE WORK HE'S STARTED AND SO WE CAN COMPLETE THE WORK HE HAS GIVEN US TO DO.

WE WILL SET UP A SYSTEM IN SESSION TO MAKE SURE THAT WE FOLLOW THROUGH. AS FAR AS IT DEPENDS ON US WE WILL BE AT PEACE WITH EVERYONE BUT SHOULD CONFLICT ARISE, WE WILL HANDLE IT IN A GODLY WAY.

WE RENOUNCE OUR PRIDE ARROGANCE AND SENSE OF SUPERIORITY.

WE ANNOUNCE WITHOUT CHRIST THERE REALLY IS NOTHING GOOD IN US AT ALL. THIS IS HIS CHURCH AND HIS WORK.

WE AFFIRM APART FROM CHRIST WE CAN DO NOTHING. HE ALONE IS OUR BOAST.

WE WILL MAKE PRAYER A PRIORITY IN KIRK SESSION. EXPRESS OUR SORROW FOR OUR PAST ATTITUDE TO OTHER CHURCHES THEN DO EVERYTHING WE CAN TO BLESS AND SERVE THEM

WE RENOUNCE GOSSIP IN ALL ITS FORMS AND THE DIVISION IT CAUSES.

WE ANNOUNCE KIND WORDS BRING LIFE BUT CRUEL WORDS DESTROY.

WE AFFIRM THAT THE WORDS WE SAY SHOULD ALWAYS BE PLEASING AND ACCEPTABLE TO GOD.

WE WILL USE OUR TONGUES TO ENCOURAGE AND BUILD UP ONE ANOTHER AND PRAISE GOD, HOLD ONE ANOTHER ACCOUNTABLE IN HOW WE SPEAK.

P.S. Remember The Advent Conspiracy message – worship fully; spend less; give more; and love all. I don't want to add to stress but Christmas this year is our responsibility. Jesus got the first one organised just perfectly. Don't whine on Boxing Day that Christmas is just all commercial nowadays. It's our job to bring Christ into Christmas and especially into Xmas!

Yours in Him
Ian Cathcart

WORSHIP FULLY
SPEND LESS
GIVE MORE
LOVE ALL

Notes from Kirk Session

1. It was decided that we need to send a letter to the other Churches to register the fact that we had changed and come to a place of recognising our previous behaviour and approach.

2. Members of Kirk Session have prayerfully sought out 'Accountability Partners' with whom to pray and share thoughts.

3. We decided to investigate possible premises for setting up 'Healing Rooms' and a Christians Against Poverty facility in the Town Centre. Helen Hogg will be setting up a meeting of those gifted for healing ministry.

4. A quote has been accepted from Destiny Productions to install 2 new screens at the front of the Church along with additional equipment such as a monitor and recording facilities.

5. Session set criteria for the hire of the Church Hall for private events. Any such hire would finish by 11.00pm and no alcohol would be permitted.

6. We had been approached by a member of the public to hire the hall for a "Fly tying" class and this was approved for a Thursday evening.

7. £1000 has been donated to Stepping Forward for the purchase of reception room toys at their new facility at Cuikenburn.

8. £1500 has been given to the Youth Church/Mid-zone to redecorate and re-carpet the two upstairs rooms in 32.

9. £500 has been given for the sending out of the Father Love letters. This matches a commitment from other local churches.

10. £1500 has been set aside to underwrite a mini 'Clan Gathering' to be held in Dalkeith. It is not expected that this money will be required as it is hoped the event will cover its own expenses.

11. Kirk Session is meeting on a separate night of the week for prayer, for developing our knowledge of one another and building our support structures.

12. As Ian mentioned last Sunday we now read the Commitment Sheets at the start of each Session meeting, embrace one another in the Lord and have a time of open prayer.

We are so thankful that the congregation is continuing to pray for us. This has been a time of reviewing where we have been and planning for the future in unity and humility and we ask that you remember us always in your prayers.

Joyce MacLean, Session Clerk

Parish News

On Sunday 1st November Ruairidh Ellis Wood, son of Ash and Leigh was baptised.

Dolly Bags

This year the 'Dolly Bags' will be handed out on Sunday, 6th December at the gift service and collected on Sunday, 13th December.

If you are wondering what 'Dolly Bags' are, they're little cloth bags which we ask you to put a coin in and we send the proceeds to a charity.

This year's charity is Vis de Copil (A Childs Dream) which is in Arad, Romania. Kenneth and Kathryn Cloke run a drop-in centre, known as the Secret Garden, for poor families, street children and homeless young people. A medical centre is in the process of being built, until then they improvise with the facilities available and use surplus medical equipment sent from Scotland.

Please pray for a good response and for the work being carried out in Romania.

Many thanks from

The Women's Group.

Buy a Tree, Save a Life Caring Christmas Trees 2009

We urge you to help homeless people this winter.

We need you and all your friends to buy a Caring Christmas tree to help raise funds to run Bethany's Care Shelter for rough sleepers.

You can buy your tree online at www.caringchristmastrees.com or by phone on 0845 111 8733.

Love Russia

Love Russia Fundraising Burns' Supper Saturday 30 January 2010 at 7 pm Navaar Hotel, Penicuik
Tickets £20 each
(£11 for meal + tea/coffee and £9 donation from each ticket to Love Russia)

Contact Ann Dunsire for tickets
01968 673206
ann1010@btinternet.com.

Light of the World

Origin's annual Christmas celebration with a full choir and orchestra takes place on Saturday 5th December at 7.30pm in the Usher Hall Edinburgh.

Tickets start at £6 available from the Usher Hall box office 0131 228 1155

pull it out! **What's On?** pin it up!

Wednesday 2nd December	Women's Group Christmas Meal	West St. Hall	7.30pm
Saturday 5th December	Penicuik Christmas Lights - Switch On	Penicuik Town Centre	4.15pm
Saturday 5th December	Light of the World - Origin Concert	Usher Hall, Edinburgh	7.30pm
Sunday 6th December	Morning Service - Gift Service & Communion	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 6th December	Evening Service - 1 Peter 2:13-25	South Church	7.00pm
Thursday 10th December	Kirk Session	South Church	7.00pm
Thursday 10th December	Thanksgiving Service	St Mungos Church	7.30pm
Sunday 13th December	Morning Service - Lesson from the Magi	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 13th December	Traditional Christmas Carol Service	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 13th December	Christmas Praise Night	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 16th December	Women's Group Christmas Carols & Tea	West St. Hall	2.30pm
Friday 18th December	Carol Evening	Penicuik Town Hall	7.00pm
Sunday 20th December	Morning Service - All age Nativity Service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 20th December	Children's Afternoon Service followed by refreshments in the hall	South Church	4.00pm
Sunday 20th December	Nine Lessons & Carols Service (No Service at South Church)	St James Church	7.00pm
Tuesday 24th December	Family Christmas Eve Service at Howgate	Howgate Church	6.30pm
Tuesday 24th December	Watchnight Service	South Church	11.30pm
Wednesday 25th December	Christmas Day Family Service led by Ian Cathcart	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 27th December	Morning Service - Turn of the year service	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 27th December	Evening Service - Testimony Evening	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 3rd January	Morning Service - Hosea 11:1-12:1	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 3rd January	Evening Service - Communion - 1 Peter 2:13-25	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 10th January	Morning Service - Galatians 3:23 - 4:7	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 10th January	Traditional Service & Communion	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 10th January	Evening Service - 1 Peter 3:8-17	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 13th January	Women's Group - Bible study with Jackie Ringan	West St. Hall	7.30pm
Thursday 14th January	Kirk Session	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 17th January	Morning Service - Ephesians 1:1-14	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 17th January	Evening Service - 1 Peter 3:18-22	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 20th January	Women's Group - Penicuik and beyond with John Allan	West St. Hall	2.30pm
Sunday 24th January	Morning Service - Try Praying - David Hill	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 24th January	Evening Service - 1 Peter 4:1-11	South Church	7.00pm
Saturday 30th January	Love Russia Fund Raising Burns' Supper	Navaar Hotel, Penicuik	7.00pm
Sunday 31st January	Morning Service - Mark 1:1-20	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 31st January	Evening Service	South Church	7.00pm

Worship Team Expedition

Friday 13th November saw 10 of Penicuik South Worship Team hanging around Edinburgh airport trying our best to make sense of the self-service check in machine. One of our number had decided the plane was not for them and was already en route for London by train. When we waited almost an hour for our luggage at Gatwick we thought Caroline maybe had chosen the more sensible route! We left Edinburgh in glorious sunshine, arrived at very wet Gatwick and arrived to sunshine at Eastbourne. That was short-lived and we encountered a mild but very very wet weekend.

Seriously we set off for the Kingsway Worship conference in Eastbourne. An opportunity for most of the team to be together in the context of a training weekend where we were able to think, worship, share fellowship and generally just “chill” a little with each other. How do you choose seminars when there are many you would like to go to? At least there was no choice in the main celebrations – just thousands of people worshipping the Lord together. A feast of worship would be one way of describing the main celebrations as we experienced extended times of worship on either side of either

some teaching or a presentation about the work Kingsway is doing in Brazil.

Each of the worship leaders sang some of their own songs and many wove verses from Scripture into the worship. Aaron Keyes, Eoghin Hislip, Lou Fellingham and Phatfish and Godfrey Birtill were just some of those who led us in worship. Our teaching on the Friday evening focused on the role the ark of the covenant played in Old Testament worship of God; Saturday morning brought Mike Pilivachi; a presentation of work in villages along the Amazon in Brazil focussed our attention on Saturday evening and our conference host, Doug Williams led our thoughts on Sunday morning.

Many of us were very challenged by Mike Pilivachi, who with great humour and yet reverence caused us to stop and think about worship in fresh ways. We were reminded that as God’s people we are called to worship and the need for God to be the only One we worship. Worship is our expression of love to God and in our relationship with him it is the most natural thing to tell Him that we love Him. However, Mike also helped us to reflect on God’s heart that people should worship only Him and have a concern for the poor. He

clearly helped us to see the link between worship and justice.

New song seminars, using Scripture in worship, use of Microphones, understanding your sound system.....the list was large and between us we managed to cover quite a number of seminars. New songs were learned and there are some that we plan to teach the congregation over the next few months.

Ishmael (a long standing expert of children’s ministry and worship) led a seminar where the encouragement was to allow children to be children, to let them move and to pay attention to the kind of music they like and identify with. A number of us long to be able to include the children more meaningfully in worship and look forward to some fresh songs with them over the next while.

A weekend passes very quickly. Sunday morning finished with Graham Kendrick leading the thousands gathered in worship. It was obvious that he is perceived by many of the younger musicians as the “father” of them all and hugely respected. He had the amazing ability to lead us all clearly into the Lord’s presence using very simple lyrics and encouraging involvement of

both sung worship, quietness before the Lord and heart response.

All too soon, we were braving the torrential rain again and making our way to the station for the train.....or so we thought. Our journey ended on the top deck of a double decker being bumped along a country road to the station which was used on a Sunday. More awaited.....our train journey was brief because of an incident on the line and we ended up in taxis to the airport as we seriously risked failing to make our flight!!! However, all was good and coffee with muffins in Costa ahead of the flight finished the weekend off in style.

We were grateful to be able to go as a group and benefit from deepening our own fellowship as well as learning from the variety of expertise available at the conference. We’ve returned with a fresh vision of the need to practice more as a group together as well as just enjoy fellowship with each other as we seek the Lord and allow Him to lead us in worship over the months ahead.

Jackie Ringan

Jesus dit: Oui, je viens Bientot

Have you ever listened to reports from Love Russia? Or the suggestions that there will be a bigger team from South Church going to Rwanda in 2010 and you know that you won't be part of that, whether from financial, family, health or other considerations? It's very easy for there to be an 'in' crowd and an 'out' crowd! This is for you.

Some of you will have heard of WEC (World Evangelisation Crusade). WEC has a subsidiary ministry called SOON which has many forms of outreach. One of these is a gospel paper, two sides of foolscap, in a number of different languages, despatched overseas for the recipients to hand out. The one I handle is in French, called BIENTOT. (Hence the title above!)

It's a very simple document of testimonies sent in by readers from receiving countries - Chad, Benin, Togo - and so on, together with a gospel message such as an answer to: 'How can I know God?' (in French of course.) Most of us, seeing this paper for the first time from our sophisticated, media rich background might wonder how it would achieve much but it's obvious that it's very precious to the readers. Volunteers in U.K. and elsewhere, deal with the sending of these, four times a year, in smallish bundles. The number each person despatches is set by the

amount of postage the volunteer is willing to pay. The task involves counting the papers out into the stipulated bundles, rolling them in brown paper (as surface mail), sticking on the label provided and taking them to the post office. Sounds simple: should be simple, but in the time I've been doing it, I don't think I've ever managed to count bundles of 95 sheets and not ended up short, or with one or two over! The point of packaging them in separate bundles, even though several will go to the same person, is, I guess, because the smaller packages are more likely to get through. These are not addressed to houses and streets but to P.O. boxes in the nearest big towns.

I don't pay much attention to the labels. Previously, my bundles have gone to West African countries: the Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone and so on, which takes me back to my first paragraph. The bundles this time are going to two people: to Marc at the University of Goma, Democratic Republic of Congo: Goma is one of the towns troubled by rebels, so the set goes via the same town where Maurice picks up his, namely Gisenyi. Gisenyi is in Rwanda. God only asks that we do what He sets us to do.

'Who hath despised the day of small things? For they shall rejoice'
Zechariah 4:10

Jennifer Ruddick

(www.soon.org.uk)



Hope 4 Penicuik

This Christmas there will be a number of joint church events which will come under the Hope4Penicuik banner. Some will be recognised from last year.

Prayer post boxes will be placed in community settings such as supermarkets and the Penicuik Centre as well as the North Church cafe.

Last year's popular Christmas Carol event will again take place in the Town Hall. Nativity scenes will be placed in the town centre and also in the Penicuik Centre.

Puppets of Penicuik will again put on a show portraying the Christian version of the Christmas story.

Most exciting will be a Christian message going into every home in Penicuik. We're going to be busy!

Sheila Anerson

**Deadline for articles
for next issue of Scope:
Monday 25th January 2010**

The Power of Prayer

In 2008 when my husband and I were given confirmation that he had bowel cancer the first thing I thought to do was to get prayer and now thanks to both prayer and the medical profession we have been given the news that he is cancer free. We do have to face at least two years of check ups but, as they say, that's small potatoes. I would like to thank you all for your prayers and support during what has been a difficult and trying time for us and am thankful that I handed this problem over to God leaving it in his safe hands. The right people were put in the right place to deal with the medical side of things and I am so thankful to each of them.

However, more importantly, to me, is the fact that the RIGHT PEOPLE

were put in the RIGHT PLACES to pray for us. These prayers have been answered in the most positive of ways and there are a number of people who are astounded at the way my husband has come through this situation. According to what we have been told the Oncology Unit are amazed at the fact that despite an initial course of chemotherapy and one of radiation he was not off work at all and when a second course was required after surgery he was able to work part-time from home. I've told them repeatedly that this was down to the Power of Prayer but I just kept receiving the most peculiar of looks – I know that prayer is responsible.

Thank you for all the prayers, support and love, I couldn't have done it without you.

Sandra Fraser

Penicuik Christmas Lights - Switch On

A table has been booked to serve tea, coffee and mince pies. Donations of boxed, shop bought only, mince pies would be greatly appreciated, as would any offer of help on the day.

Contact:
Mary 672707
Carol 674086

Saturday 5th December
Penicuik Town Centre

Table setup 2.00 - 2.30pm
Open to public 2.30pm
Switch on 4.15pm

S Club

The children at S Club have been learning who their neighbours are with the help of Operation Mobilisation. We used some of their resources to find out about Roma Gypsies and a project run in Albania.

Along the way we heard about the parables of the good Samaritan and the lost sheep. We also learned that Jesus sees people differently.

He would not turn his back on the leper and in the same way OM support Roma Gypsy children, like Ana Marie who we met each week.

We are about to start practising for the Fischy Music Nativity "The Angry Hotel Man". It looks like a good fun way of telling the Christmas story.

Sheila Anerson

Howgate Session Clerk Joyce Smith Retires

Joyce Smith retired from being Session Clerk after over 13 years service. In the photo... Martin, Ian, George, Rosemary, Joyce, Irene and Carrie





**ADVENT
CONSPIRACY
FREELYGIVEN
FREELYGIVE**

SCOPE

Penicuik South Parish Church
Scottish Charity SCO11871