

# SCOPE

dec 08/jan 09



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[www.psk.org.uk](http://www.psk.org.uk)

## Minister's Letter

Hello to you all (if it's still November).  
A Good Christmas to you all  
(if it's now December).  
And a Happy New Year to each one  
of you (if you're only getting around  
to reading this in January)!

Last month was the 'White  
Christmas' letter to hopefully help us  
all – me included - stop losing  
Christmas by failing to focus on Jesus.  
As you can see from above however,  
it's not just losing Christmas that's  
the problem – it can get hijacked as  
well!

Last year Robin Ince (who I confess I  
do quite like when I've seen him) was  
invited onto a TV programme to  
participate in a debate about atheism  
and faith at Christmas etc. Along with  
Robin Ince were Vanessa Feltz, Nick  
Ferrari and Stephen Green of  
Christian Voice (the organisation that  
demonstrated against 'Jerry Springer -  
the Musical').

Robin felt so misrepresented by the  
outcome of the programme that he  
decided to put on an event this year  
on 18 and 19 December at £20 a  
head in the Bloomsbury Theatre. It's  
got Richard Dawkins and Stewart Lee  
amongst many other comedians and  
scientists. It's a fund raiser for the  
Rationalist Association to show the



world that atheists can have a really  
fun time at Christmas without any  
god being involved: Nine Lessons and  
Carols for Godless People is the  
result.

It's billed as a celebration of the 'big  
bang' and evolution and of all things  
cerebral – as opposed to the  
mindless celebration of divine fairy  
stories. Or to quote the press  
release: "a night of music and comedy  
to celebrate the rational and the  
scientific and debunk Winterval  
myths spouted by religious and media  
ninnies." It's not aimed specifically at  
Christians, you understand – says  
Robin – just all gods generally, Jesus  
included, obviously!

I describe this to make a point. The  
season of turkey, toys and  
consumerism is the nice end of the  
spectrum. People who just join in  
with the trimmings of Christmas are  
not 'getting' Jesus' but at least they're  
not trying to do Him down – just  
ignore him.

(cont'd p4)

## Minister's Letter (cont'd)

Nick Ferrari, a London talk radio show host and Vanessa Feltz are not promoting a Jesus-focused Christmas – they just happen not to mind Christmas that much as long as you don't go too far with the Jesus-emphasis. Unlike Robin Ince! I guess you could just put it down to the first four chapters of I John; you could say I'm just coming off the back of a few months reading I John commentaries: the fact remains that I John 4:2 shows us clearly – “every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.” Did God come in flesh and visit us at the first Christmas? Does the explanation of the name Emmanuel really tell us the truth? Was God with us at that first Christmas time or am I just perpetuating a myth? Some accept; some reject; some don't care as long as you don't interfere with the party.

The point is rejecting Jesus as God is nothing new. Nine Lessons and Carols for Godless People follows in a grand history of rejecting that Jesus The Christ came in flesh. In John's time they sought to demythologise the incarnation and say Jesus wasn't God; they're doing it now. The much more significant change is the growth in the numbers of people round the

edge; the people who accept the trimmings of Christmas without the central character. Mr. Ferrari and Vanessa Feltz are much more indicative of our time than Robin Ince; they are the 'I'm-just-here-for-the-party-don't-mention-Jesus' people. You will have Christmas dinner with some. You'll give presents to some. You will work with such folk and go to the office party with them. Ignore Mr. Ince and let him get on with his atheism. This Christmas prayerfully ask God to give you the divine appointments you are meant to have with those who are just along for the Christmas party; so they can hopefully become part of the Christian family. Then Christmas will be much more like the original story – the wise men (and woman) visiting the manger.

Yours in Him,  
Ian Cathcart

P.S. And if you really need Nine Lessons and Carols then it's on at St James Episcopal Church on the 21st December.

P.P.S. On the 17th of December Cineworld are showing 'White Christmas' so if you can recall my November 'Scope' letter there will no need to let you know where Hannah will be that day!

P.P.P.S. [reviac@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:reviac@yahoo.co.uk) is the new email address.

## Notes from Deacon's Court

The Minister has asked Lindsay Swann to start taking photos of people in the Church Directory in order to build up a photo board. He will start by taking photos of office bearers.

It was decided that an evening for newcomers to the church would be arranged for February 2009, after the Hogmanay and Burns' Night events.

Gill Mackintosh has written letters and sent out cheques from the bequest tithes to the nominated charities. From the approximate £20,000 available, £12,000 has now been allocated.

The Watchnight Service offering will be given to the Broomhill Day Centre this Christmas.

A few people attending the church have experienced difficulty in hearing during services, particularly during the sermon. The Deacons' Court would like to find out how big a problem this is. If you do experience difficulty hearing what is being said during a service, please could you let Mary Darling know and a best possible solution to the problem will be sought.

Lorna Souter - Clerk to the Deacons' Court

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### Parish NEWS

Bob and Rachel Mallinson became the proud parents of Brennan on Sunday 9th November.

Congratulations!

### Flower Rota

Help is needed to ensure that flowers are put into the church and delivered during the following week. If you would be able to do this for a month at a time please speak to Maureen Hazel or telephone 673013.

There are also a number of weeks available during next year and if anyone would like to put flowers into the church or to donate money to buy flowers please let me know.

# Mid Zone

Hi there!

I thought it would be a good idea to let you all know that a new group has recently started up, as part of the overall Youth Church, for children who are between P7 and S2. We have been meeting for the past few weeks now, at the same time as S-Club. So far there are about 8 children who form part of the group, along with the leaders (if you can call us that – I think we are just bigger kids really!) who are Allison & Graeme Whitley and myself.

The first couple of meetings were used to decide what we were going to be called (Mid Zone) and also to help design a logo (watch this space,,,,,thanks Ross!). In addition we have been finding out what the children want out of the group so that we continue to develop our learning about God whilst at the same time having some fun along the way.....hopefully anyway! We've also spoken about taking part in other activities as a group, such as going to Powerpoint, Tribal Generation, SU Camp as well as 'social' things (but I refuse to go ice skating by the way!).

As we move forward, we'll build up a calendar of activity so that parents know what's happening and hopefully

we can provide regular updates in Scope as well, so that everyone sees and hears about Mid Zone.

Everyone is welcome, provided you are between P7 and S2 of course. If anyone has any queries/comments then please feel free to let me know either via email (c-mcdonald3@sky.com) or by phone (01721-721817).

In the meantime, please pray for our children, the group, and the leaders all of which are really important in making Mid Zone a success.

Finally, here is a snapshot of some of the children's comments on what they think of the show so far:-

'It is very fun because you get to make stuff, talk and listen to music'

'A big step up from S-Club, a lot more grown up but still fun all the same, learning about Jesus'

'Mid Zone is fun and interesting'

'It's fun, you learn new things, make new friends, nice leaders, entertaining, and a good laugh'

'Fun and creative and a really good way to learn about the Bible'

Thank you.

Craig, Graeme and Allison

## Rick Hayes

On the 7th and 8th of November our church was blessed by Rick Hayes and his wife Cynthia. They were responding to an invitation from the church to lead and teach about prayer ministry. Both are involved in Clan Gathering.

First of all Rick invited the Holy Spirit to come and we all stood or sat with hands and hearts held out expectantly with longing, ready to receive Him. We were not disappointed some of us received words and some received pictures, but we were all aware of God's presence.

Rick was able to interpret as much as he felt he could and we were all blessed by being there.

P.S. Rick will be returning in January.

Pearl Taylor

## Christ Empowered Living

On Saturday 15th November, I attended the 'Christ Empowered Living' course at Holy Trinity Church, Westerhales. The speaker was Jeannette Barwick, who has worked at CWR, Waverley Abbey House, Surrey, for 25 years. It was a step by step unfolding of how problems arise in the personality and God's perfect plan for overcoming them. We covered how people are physical, longing, thinking, choosing and feeling beings. We identified the need for security, self-worth and significance within us all. We learnt the 5 steps to stay on course with the Lord including:

- 1 Care for your physical wellbeing
- 2 Tune into your deep longings
- 3 Change your thinking
- 4 Understanding the energy behind the behaviour
- 5 Learn to manage your emotions

And all this conducted in an atmosphere of prayerful peace and quiet, by a sincere and very honest speaker.

Rommie MacDowell



Applying God's Word  
to everyday life and relationships

# The New Look Howgate Sanctuary

Phase I changes have now been completed. The front of the church has now been opened up (and the minister no longer feels hemmed in).

The church looks bigger than it did before; the pulpit has been moved from the middle to the side (in case it was ever needed).

If you have not been along to Howgate it would be good to see you and you could also see the new look. The service starts at 9.30am tea or coffee is served after the service. The photo's don't do it justice, come and see for yourself.

We are looking forward to being able to **see** the small ones performing their nativity at Christmas this year. I think I am right in saying that we all like it. (I have heard of no complaints). Look forward to seeing you.

Carrie Owen



Before



During



During



After

## Christmas Prayer Box (Tesco and Somerfield)

Does Christmas get you down with all its busy-ness? Are you finding it a real struggle this year because everything seems to cost so much money? Does it make you feel lonely, or remind you of things you find hard to deal with?

Throughout the month of December, there will be a "prayer box" in Penicuik's Somerfield store, and another in Tesco's. You are invited to write on a piece of paper anything you would like prayer for, and drop it into one of the boxes. A dedicated team of Christians from the local churches will ensure that the boxes are emptied every day and will pray for the things you have written down. There is no need to give your name, and everything will be treated in complete confidence.

You may make as many prayer requests as you need – and of course, if there are things for which you would like to give thanks, please ask for the team to pray for them as well! Don't miss this special December offer!

(And if you would like to help by being part of the prayer team, or by collecting prayers requests from the boxes, it's not too late – please let, Rosie, Denise or Sheila know)

## Hope 08 Carols for Christmas

Friday 19th December 7.00pm,  
Penicuik Town Hall

An hour or so of carol singing and Christmas music led by musicians and singers from the Penicuik churches: a mix of traditional carols with a few others thrown in for good measure. The exact programme depends on who is available to do what. We hope to attract people who might not come to something held in a church building – perhaps you can think of some friends to invite along.

We hope to see you there (suitable for all ages). There may be a few surprises!

We could use some singers to help with leading the carol singing as an ad hoc choir – and possibly, if you can find the time for rehearsal, to present a few less well known Christmas items. If you'd like to be involved in this way, please contact Graham McDonald, who's arranging the music 01968 670743.

## Women Walking with God

Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh. Friday 6th – Saturday 7th March 2009

This conference is for Christian women of all ages across Scotland. Through worship, teaching and seminars women will have the opportunity to be enriched and equipped in their faith. Speakers include Elaine Duncan - Chief Executive of Scottish Bible Society and Lou Fellingham, lead singer of Phatfish. Please refer to the website for further details of all the seminars on offer.  
[www.womenwalkingwithgod.co.uk](http://www.womenwalkingwithgod.co.uk)

## Tribal Generation Dates:

Next TG is a Christmas Ceilidh, 14th December at North Kirk. 7-10pm Live band, tickets can be bought from the door at £1.50. Starts with short worship time at 7pm. Bring all your mates! Will be great fun! January's TG is on the 11th of January- usual time café is open from 7 worship starts at half past until about 9 and the café will be open afterwards- they sell fab brownies etc! There will be a guest speaker and all are welcome- bring your friends along!

## Greetings from HealthLink360 at Carberry!

We are all travelling a lot these days and need travel vaccinations and advice.

Did you know that there is a TRAVEL CLINIC at Carberry Open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9am to 4pm.

We provide immunisations, travel goods and post travel queries whether you are travelling for business or pleasure.

The Travel Clinic is run by HealthLink360. All profits from your custom go to support Care for Mission, a Christian charity that provides high quality medical and counselling care for those working overseas and full time Christian ministry in UK.

EIHC Travel Clinic  
Tel. 08453752445

We have both paid and voluntary staff. Currently we are looking for a doctor and experienced counsellors. For further details, please, write or give us a call.

Inke Milligan  
HealthLink360  
Carberry,  
Musselburgh EH21 8PW  
Tel. 01316536767

## Light of the World - Origin Choir Concert

St Cuthbert's Parish Church, 5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh  
Saturday 6 December 2008, 7.30pm  
Tickets

Tickets £8.00 (£6.00 concessions) are available online or at the door for this event.

<http://www.inexile.net/2/events/20081206.php>

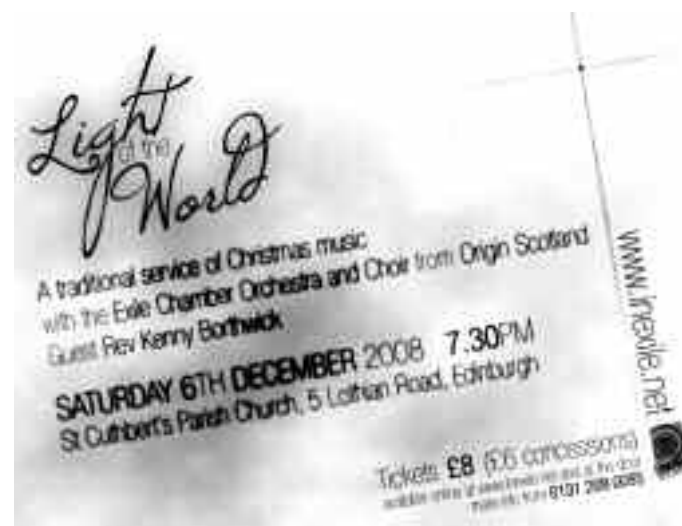
Come and take the weight off your feet during the Christmas madness, consider for a moment the reason we do all the crazy things we do at Christmas. Join in with your favourite carols and pause for a moment... There will be a retiring offering for the work of Origin South Africa at this event.

## Caring Christmas trees in Edinburgh

Homelessness is a real problem. Sleeping rough, especially during the winter, is dangerous and life threatening.

Caring Christmas Trees raises funds for Bethany's Care Shelter, giving homeless people a hot meal, a safe place to sleep and much-needed advice over the winter months. Caring Christmas Trees are fresh, needle-last, high quality and from sustainable tree farms. All the profit helps homeless people and they are around the same price as you'd pay elsewhere.

We need to sell at least 4,000 trees and recruit at least 400 volunteers. For further details visit:  
[www.caringchristmastrees.com](http://www.caringchristmastrees.com)



## **Eagerly Desire Spiritual Gifts.**

About five years ago Pearl Taylor had a dream. In the dream she saw a wall and hands were pulling bricks out of the wall. Instinctively she sensed that the wall represented the South Church. Subsequently she saw in a dream a perfectly formed baby in a womb and then a fat bud about to burst out into flower. These dreams were accompanied by the words, 'not yet, not yet!'

Troubled by what she had seen and anxious about what it could mean for the church, Pearl sought help to understand them. The person who interpreted the dreams believed that the hands could be the hands of God and that the bricks represented things in the church that He Himself had to dismantle before starting to build it up again.

Over the past years I've often thought about these pictures and that interpretation.

A few weeks ago I was up in Perth for a day of ministry and teaching. During my time there I received prayer from someone who knew nothing about me. As he was praying, this person said to me,

'I feel God is showing me a picture for you.'

It's a pile of bricks. It's not rubble, it's as though these bricks have been carefully taken down by hand, and God wants you to know that they are being built up.'

The bible says that anyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. These are most certainly the emotions that I have experienced since hearing that.

So often we allow our feelings and the circumstances around us to influence what we believe. We can look at a ploughed field or a building site and see disorder and chaos and fail to see the promise of growth and development that lies within. So it can be when the Holy Spirit is at work. God's first act in creation was to bring order from chaos. He still seems to work in that way. The bible says God's thoughts are not our thoughts and neither are our ways His ways. That's why we need people with prophetic gifts who can speak God's word of revelation into our individual lives and into the life of our church.

These words not only assure us of God's love and care for us but also keep us on track when we need it.

During the past weekend some of us have had the opportunity to receive

teaching about Spiritual gifts from Rick and Cynthia Hayes. They are called gifts because they are gifts from God to his church to enable us to do the work of Jesus in this world. We can't earn them, neither are they marks of spiritual maturity. So how do we receive them? Well, I Cor. 14 v. 1 puts it like this, 'Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.'

We need to get closer to God and tell him of our longing to receive them. As God's people we are called to do the work of Jesus and the gifts enable us to do that. We can be assured that our Heavenly Father desires to give good gifts to His children.

Anne Hamilton.

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## **Walking the Wall**

As many of you know, I took up the challenge to walk along the great Wall of China in aid of Christian Solidarity Worldwide in October. This proved to be more of a joy than a challenge, despite the thousands of steps climbed and the jet-lag on my return!

The views from the Wall were absolutely breathtaking and the summer's weather extremely pleasant, which certainly intensified the whole experience of the trek. I really enjoyed going up and down the steps on the Wall and the sight of it snaking across the landscape for as far as the eye could see! I thought of how hard the builders had worked constructing the Great Wall at such a

height and thousands dying from exhaustion, yet now it was a place where people came together to enjoy the walk and to raise money for charitable causes! How much can change with the passage of time!

I'm happy to report that I succeeded in raising £3,000 thanks to over 80 generous sponsors, and that this money will be used to fight for justice for Christians in China who suffer for living out their faith under an atheistic regime. I thank God above all for watching over me on the mountains, for keeping me and my fellow travellers safe and well and for giving us the most amazing experience of a life time!

Denise Halcrow

pull it out! **Whats On?** pin it up!

|                         |  |                             |              |
|-------------------------|--|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Wednesday 3rd December  | Women's Group Christmas Meal                                 | West St Chuch Hall          | 7.30pm       |
| Saturday 6th December   | Family Breakfast   | West St Chuch Hall          | 9.00am Sharp |
| Saturday 6th December   | Light of the World Origin Concert (£8)                       | St Cuthbert's Parish Church | 7.30pm       |
| Sunday 7th December     | Morning Service - Gift Service & Communion (Matthew 2: 1-12) | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 7th December     | Evening service (James 5: 18-19)                             | South Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Tuesday 9th December    | Kirk Session   | South Church                | 7.15am       |
| Saturday 13th December  | Puppet Show  | Town Hall                   | TBC          |
| Sunday 14th December    | Morning Service (Luke 2: 8-20)                               | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 14th December    | Traditional Carol Service                                    | South Church                | 3.00pm       |
| Sunday 14th December    | Evening Service (James Review)                               | South Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Sunday 14th December    | Tribal Generation Christmas Ceilidh (£1.50)                  | North Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Wednesday 17th December | Womens Group Carols & Tea                                    | West St Church Hall         | 2.30pm       |
| Friday 19th December    | Hope 08 Carols for Christmas                                 | Town Hall                   | 7.00pm       |
| Sunday 21st December    | Morning Service - All age Nativity Service                   | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 21st December    | Children's Afternoon Service with Tea in the Hall            | South Church                | 4.00pm       |
| Sunday 21st December    | Nine Lessons & Carols  | St James the Less Church    | 7.00pm       |
| Wednesday 24th December | Family Christmas Eve Service                                 | Howgate Church              | 6.30pm       |
| Wednesday 24th December | Watchnight Service   | South Church                | 11.30pm      |
| Thursday 25th December  | Christmas Day Family Service                                 | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 28th December    | Morning Service - Lessons from 2008                          | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 28th December    | Evening Service - Testimony Night                            | South Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Sunday 4th January      | Morning Service (1John 5: 1-5)                               | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 4th January      | Evening Service (Luke 2: 22-38)                              | South Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Wednesday 7th January   | Women's Group Bible Study with Jennifer Ruddick              | West St Church Hall         | 7.30pm       |
| Saturday 10th January   | The Destiny of Britain DVD                                   | Town Hall - Lesser Hall     | 7.15pm       |
| Sunday 11th January     | Morning Service (1John 5: 6-12)                              | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 11th January     | Traditional Service  | South Church                | 3.00pm       |
| Sunday 11th January     | Evening Service (Matthew 2: 13-15)                           | South Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Sunday 11th January     | Tribal Generation  | North Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Tuesday 13th January    | Deacon's Court Meeting                                       | South Church                | 7.30pm       |
| Sunday 18th January     | Morning Service (1John 5: 13-17)                             | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 18th January     | Evening Service (Matthew 5-7)                                | South Church                | 7.00pm       |
| Wednesday 21st January  | Women's Group with Community Police Officer Dereck Frizzell  | West St Church Hall         | 2.30pm       |
| Sunday 25th January     | Morning Service (1John 5: 18-21)                             | South Church                | 11.15am      |
| Sunday 25th January     | Evening Service - Christians Against Poverty                 | South Church                | 7.00pm       |

**Father's Love Letter, an intimate message from God to you.**

**My Child**

You may not know me,  
but I know everything about you.  
Psalm 139:1

I know when you sit down  
and when you rise up.  
Psalm 139:2

I am familiar with all your ways.  
Psalm 139:3

Even the very hairs on your  
head are numbered.  
Matthew 10:29-31

For you were made in my image.  
Genesis 1:27

In me you live and move and  
have your being.  
Acts 17:28

For you are my offspring.  
Acts 17:28

I knew you even before you  
were conceived.  
Jeremiah 1:4-5

I chose you when I planned creation.  
Ephesians 1:11-12

You were not a mistake,  
for all your days are written in my book.  
Psalm 139:15-16

I determined the exact time of your birth  
and where you would live.  
Acts 17:26

You are fearfully and wonderfully made.  
Psalm 139:14

I knit you together in your  
mother's womb.  
Psalm 139:13

And brought you forth on the day  
you were born.  
Psalm 71:6

I have been misrepresented  
by those who don't know me.  
John 8:41-44

I am not distant and angry,  
but am the complete  
expression of love.  
1 John 4:16

And it is my desire to lavish  
my love on you.  
1 John 3:1

Simply because you are my child  
and I am your Father.  
1 John 3:1

I offer you more than your earthly  
father ever could.  
Matthew 7:11

For I am the perfect father.  
Matthew 5:48

Every good gift that you receive comes  
from my hand.  
James 1:17

For I am your provider and I meet all  
your needs.  
Matthew 6:31-33

My plan for your future has always been  
filled with hope.  
Jeremiah 29:11

Because I love you with an  
everlasting love.  
Jeremiah 31:3

My thoughts toward you are countless as  
the sand on the seashore.  
Psalms 139:17-18

And I rejoice over you with singing.  
Zephaniah 3:17

I will never stop doing good to you.  
Jeremiah 32:40

For you are my treasured possession.  
Exodus 19:5

I desire to establish you  
with all my heart and all my soul.  
Jeremiah 32:41

And I want to show you great and  
marvelous things.  
Jeremiah 33:3

If you seek me with all your heart,  
you will find me.  
Deuteronomy 4:29

Delight in me and I will give you  
the desires of your heart.  
Psalm 37:4

For it is I who gave you those desires.  
Philippians 2:13

I am able to do more for you  
than you could possibly imagine.  
Ephesians 3:20

For I am your greatest encourager.  
2 Thessalonians 2:16-17

I am also the Father who comforts you  
in all your troubles.  
2 Corinthians 1:3-4

When you are brokenhearted,  
I am close to you.  
Psalm 34:18

As a shepherd carries a lamb,  
I have carried you close to my heart.  
Isaiah 40:11

One day I will wipe away  
every tear from your eyes.  
Revelation 21:3-4

And I'll take away all the pain  
you have suffered on this earth.  
Revelation 21:3-4

I am your Father, and I love you  
even as I love my son, Jesus.  
John 17:23

For in Jesus, my love for  
you is revealed.  
John 17:26

He is the exact representation  
of my being.  
Hebrews 1:3

He came to demonstrate that I am for  
you, not against you.  
Romans 8:31

And to tell you that I am not  
counting your sins.  
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Jesus died so that you and  
I could be reconciled.  
2 Corinthians 5:18-19

His death was the ultimate expression  
of my love for you.  
1 John 4:10

I gave up everything I loved  
that I might gain your love.  
Romans 8:31-32

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus,  
you receive me.  
1 John 2:23

And nothing will ever separate you  
from my love again.  
Romans 8:38-39

Come home and I'll throw the biggest  
party heaven has ever seen.  
Luke 15:7

I have always been Father,  
and will always be Father.  
Ephesians 3:14-15

My question is... Will you be my child?  
John 1:12-13

I am waiting for you.  
Luke 15:11-32

**Love, your Dad Almighty God**

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## Major Isabell Huggins

The Scope Team will be introducing Christians, both from within and outside the congregation, in this and future editions. Our aim is to let them humbly tell you a little about themselves, what they do, what Christ means to them, and any impact that their duty of service to God may bring.

I first met Isabell in 2002, when she and her husband ran The Salvation Army Balvonie Training Centre in Upper Skelmorlie, west of Glasgow, and was surprised to learn that they ran The Pleasance hostel in the 1980s. When it was time for them to be replaced at Balvonie, they chose to come back to Edinburgh. Isabell joined me and Lynda, our then Unit manager at The Pleasance, working on the same shifts until her retirement.

John Kasiera

### Interview

My name is Isabell Huggins and I am a Major in the Salvation Army. I was born in October, 1943 in the middle of WW2 in North Shields. My maiden name is Smith. At the age of 11 years, the Salvation Army Band came onto the council housing estate to play. Along with my friends, we followed them to their hall.

I attended Sunday School and accepted Jesus into my heart. At the age of 18 I felt God calling me to full time service in the Salvation Army.

I entered the training college in 1963 for 2 years. The name of the 2 year session was 'Proclaimers of the Faith'.

I was commissioned in the Royal Albert Hall in 1965 as a 'Lieutenant'.

I was married in 1966 to Robert and together we served in Hostels for the homeless. We have had 14 appointments, serving in cities, like Hull, Plymouth, London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. We had 2 sons, and as a family, moving around was exciting for them. However, when they reached the ages of 8 and 10, leaving school and their friends was becoming a very painful experience. At the age of 15 and 18, they both decided to stay in Edinburgh and as parents we spent the next five years coping with a number of emotional feelings including our guilt.

At present I have retired from full time service and serve 20 hours as a Chaplin. My appointments are at the Pleasance Hostel, the Drop-in Centre and the Prison Visitor Centre all in Edinburgh.

Over the years, I have seen quite a change in attitudes and work practice today compared with the past. For example, Service users were always used to work in the Kitchens, i.e. cook, kitchen porter, domestics. The service users were given a small wage and free board and bed. This meant that they gained work experience and could then apply for other jobs with other companies. Government legislation, Health and Safety regulations, Insurance regulations prevent this being done today.

God is at the centre of all I do. The fruits of my ministry are not clearly visible, but I do believe if I am a faithful 'sower' of the 'Word', God will honour my ministry.

The Salvation Army is a church as well as a charitable organisation. Among other things, it has charity shops, day centres and provides shelter for homeless adults as well as families.

Isabell Huggins



**Deadline for articles  
for next issue of Scope:  
Monday 19th January 2009**

**Love Divine Worship Conference  
Eastbourne  
Friday 14th to Sunday 16th  
November 08**

Ken and I had the privilege to attend this weekend conference run by Kingsway. I was so glad I went and grateful to Ian for his suggestion. It was very inspiring and encouraging and such a refreshing experience. It consisted of teaching about worship, sharing of practical skills, learning a few new songs and encouragement and challenging of the heart as well as many times of wonderful worship together.

The conference was arranged in blocks of celebration and teaching times where everyone (about 1400) got together for about two hours on Friday evening, Saturday morning and evening and Sunday morning. In between these gatherings there were various seminars that we could choose from to attend - each lasting an hour. There were so many different exciting titles to choose from, it was like picking from a menu where I just wanted some of everything!

The theme of this year's event was the old Wesley songs hence the title 'Love Divine'. Many of Charles Wesley's old hymns had been re-arranged into modern versions and we learnt a new one at each of the main gatherings.

As so much happened, it's hard to know where to start to write about it so I will lay it out in diary format.

**Friday evening:**

Arrived at Conference centre at 4:30pm and was greeted by Sheila and Joan who were stewarding at the event and by the

time I got there had already attended the stewards briefing, organised by overly strict leader, and purchased half the shop including a giant nativity scene. The first seminar I attended was led by Geraldine Latty on 'Practical skills for a worship leader' all about communicating with the congregation and other musicians re. choosing and delivering sung worship. She referenced Ex 33:12 where Moses insisted that God would go with them. We need God's presence to move forward. I felt at the end of this that our worship leading had a long way to go. At 7:30pm we then attended the first of the main celebrations. Worship started the evening led by Tim Hughes and Mark Beswick. If you can imagine 1400 people all singing together who are all involved in leading sung worship, the sound was amazing. After this, Stephen Mansfield gave his first talk: He is at present a New York Times best-selling author after having been a pastor for 20 years. He has just written a book called 'The Faith of Barack Obama' which gave him opportunity to describe true Christianity before the nation. He opened with a verse from Habbakuk's prayer 'Lord I have heard of your fame, I stand in awe of your deeds, Oh Lord renew them in our day in our time make them known, In wrath remember mercy'.

Worship is communication with the living God that has a purpose. He called us to remember the times when the Wesley brothers made themselves available for God to use them, along with George Whitefield to lead revival. This was an awful time in history which led to many conversions. The times we are living in now are becoming worse, people have nothing to put their trust in. This is a time when people again cling to the

Gospel. We have forgotten the awesomeness of our God, he is in charge and only he will determine the hearts of kings and rulers.

**Saturday morning:**

We began at 9:45am with worship celebration led by Lou Fellingham and Stuart Townend followed by another talk from Stephen Mansfield: He took a passage from Jonah 1:9. At the point when Jonah made the claim of the greatness of his God, he was sent deliverance in the form of the whale! When the profession is proclaimed then God will hear. Stephen said we tend to have a diminished vision of who our God is. We understand him to be our saviour, restorer, healer but we tend to put him into categories based on our own understanding and experience. We have to grasp he is so much more. Ruler of the universe, King of all kings. He spoke the word into being, El Shaddai, Mighty God. Putting our trust in a new ruler (such as Obama) is futile. Our confidence should be in the Lord of the universe. The translation of the word 'faint-hearted' in such passages as Deuteronomy 20:8 is 'small-souled', in other words a small concept of God. At this time of a world in upheaval, we need to be people who know God first-hand, our worship an encounter with the living God, an offering to him. Read Ephesians 1:17 - Paul's prayer that we may be given wisdom and revelation to know him better. Read scriptures that blow our minds and give us a fresh revelation of possibilities of what God can do. God of the infinite and intimate. Isaiah 40:21-24. This is the God we are giving our praises to. For inspiration in our worship we can look at passages such as Revelation 1:12 - John's vision of the risen Christ and

also 4:12 the throne room. We can only truly worship once we have grasped the greatness of our God. This finished at 12 noon and then from 1:30pm there was a chance to attend 3 different seminars.

**Saturday afternoon:**

I attended a vocal master class for 1 hour then a guitar workshop, both run by 'Musicademy' which were both useful. Then I went to a seminar on arranging songs for worship led by Lou Fellingham and Phatfish. They pointed out that worship leaders are providing a service to the congregation to help them glorify and meet with God and not just to play a few nice songs! They provided a lot of practical advice about the delivery and flow of songs and how to reinforce lyrics by altering the music. The band played a song then "unpacked" it going into detail of what each instrument was doing and how the song was built up.

Ken attended seminars titled 'The place of thankfulness in worship' by Doug Williams, 'Prophetic worship workshop' by Godfrey Birtill and one on 'Improvised worship' by Lou Fellingham. After speaking to him I wished I had been to those! All the seminars are available to be downloaded so I will get a chance to hear them. If anyone else is interested let me know. We then had a 2 hour break until the evening session.

**Saturday evening:**

I bumped into Joan and Sheila on the door, both looking very official in their bright yellow steward tabards and Sheila was clutching a walkie-talkie which she admitted 'hadn't got a clue how to use'. I offered to get them a cup of tea but they

(cont'd p22)

## Love Devine (cont'd)

confessed they had become rebellious to the strict rules laid down by the leader and had taken it in turns to nip off for refreshments, having been told never to leave their posts!

The evening celebration started with worship leader Aaron Keyes who led the worship with such passion and sincerity and his love of the Lord was so infectious. He began by quoting Psalm 24 'Who is this king of glory, the Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle'. Then we sang 'Praise is rising'. He then sang a version of Psalm 62 he had written. He talked about Isaiah 30:29-32. Praise is our battle weapon. God moves in our praises. 'Every stroke the Lord lays on them with his punishing rod will be to the music of tambourines and harps'. After this there was a presentation by the 'Ray of Hope' charity working in Brazil building schools for the children of the Amazon river and sharing the Gospel there.

The final evening worship celebration was led by Godfrey Birtill. This was to put it mildly - wild! His style included a few rock and roll type songs and the whole place was rocking and dancing in the aisles. Real joyful celebration. One of his songs included the line 'Glory in the dentist checking out your teeth' (which I felt would depend on what you were getting done!) from the album Ru Ready? He also included an impromptu version of the 'Sesame Street' song, changing a line to 'Can you tell me how to witness down in England's streets'. After that we went to a late night worship hour with Joanne Hogg who had been in a Band called Iona. She played piano and sang

contemplative worship with prayers in between.

### Sunday morning:

At 9:30am I chose to attend a seminar by Aaron Keyes 'Using the Bible in worship'. He started by reciting Psalm 103 'Praise the Lord Oh my soul, all my inmost being praise his holy name'. He pointed out an important truth that God the Father seeks worshippers not worship. He mentioned the passage in John 4:23 when Jesus speaks to the Samaritan woman at the well 'Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth for they are the kind of worshippers the Father seeks'. Be ourselves in worship, bring our real selves before him in spirit. By reading of psalms and scriptures we remind ourselves of what he has done for us. Psalm 33. Aaron talked about the way British people behave when watching their team play a football match and the exuberant praises and outward expressions of joy and gladness that are exhibited. Why shouldn't our praise to God be the same!

There are many translations of the word 'praise' which in different passages mean ... 'to be clamorously foolish, to commend with outstretched hands, to shout or commend loudly, to twirl like a top!' Therefore all these are acceptable. Our Father loves it when we bless him with our adoration just like we love it when our children bless us when they show their love to us (probably not so much when they reach 12-ish!). Anyway, Aaron gave an example of his 2 year old son, when wanting his father's attention, nudges his leg and holds up his hands to

him as if to say 'I am here and I want you'.

The worship of God always brings life. It is helpful to meditate on verses in our worship. It is not the sound and light systems and the quality of the instruments and vocalists that brings fruit but our hearts in a place of thankfulness and wonder from hearing the word of God. Aaron then quoted from Isaiah 1:16 and talked about the situations when God will not bless our worship: If we are not looking after those in need. He then quoted Hebrews 13:15, 16: 'We also need each other, to love each other. His final quote was 1 Peter 2:9 'But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.'

The final celebration and teaching started with worship led by Kelly Hunter then followed by a final talk from Stephen Mansfield.

Stephen came back to the theme of the Wesley brothers and how at their time, they made themselves available so God could use them. They were not in any way special people in fact John Wesley had a terrible marriage, but they were willing to be used. He then quoted Isaiah 6:8 'Whom shall I send?' and Isaiah said 'here I am, send me'. Read Ezekial 22:30. God needs people to stand in the gap, to heal our land, to restore. He then left us with 5 points to consider: (1) God will use people who make themselves available and he will strengthen those who look to him. 2 Chronicles 16:9. In the days to come, more and more people will say 'who can lead us?'. Take up the

vision. Jeremiah 29:10. (2) Psalm 133. We need the body of Christ. Love the Church. We cannot do it alone! For there the Lord bestows his blessing. Actively fellowship. Stand firm in one spirit. Phillipians 1:27. (3) God is seeking worshippers in spirit and truth. Worship at a personal level. Stephen pointed out that in our generation of Ipods and such like, if we are not willing to worship personally we will surely get smacked in heaven for that! Develop an attitude of personal worship. (4) As in Daniel 9 he gets a revelation that the captivity is going to last 70 years but the people of God are not going to be ready, cry to God not to forget his promises, ask him to move in our land.

I hope, if you have made it to the end of reading all this I have managed to share a little of the weekend. I think the highlight of the whole weekend for me was on the Saturday morning worship time with Stuart Townend. He was leading 'And can it be' and at the final lines 'Amazing love how can it be', all the instruments stopped playing and all 1400 people ... were singing unaccompanied with different harmonies which then led to spontaneous singing in the Spirit. Wonderful. I really hope our experiences of the weekend will help encourage us with worship here and add to our worship experience. I enjoyed every minute of the weekend and only wished everyone could have been there. Although, unfortunately, it's not transformed me into Darlene Zschech or such like, I hope that I can use what I experienced to work on improving and inspiring our worship.

Caroline Toms

# The Destiny of Britain

We are showing this DVD from the Hatikvah Film Trust in the Penicuik Town Hall – Lesser Hall on Saturday 10th January 2009 at 19.15. Early in 2008 Mo and I responded to an offer of giving our MP a copy of 'The Forsaken Promise' sequel to this DVD. We checked it out before we gave it out and were so impressed we decided to follow it up and obtain and watch this the 'Destiny of Britain' prequel.

We thought because of our background that we knew the history of the Jews and Britain but we did not realise how deep and prophetically intimate this history was.

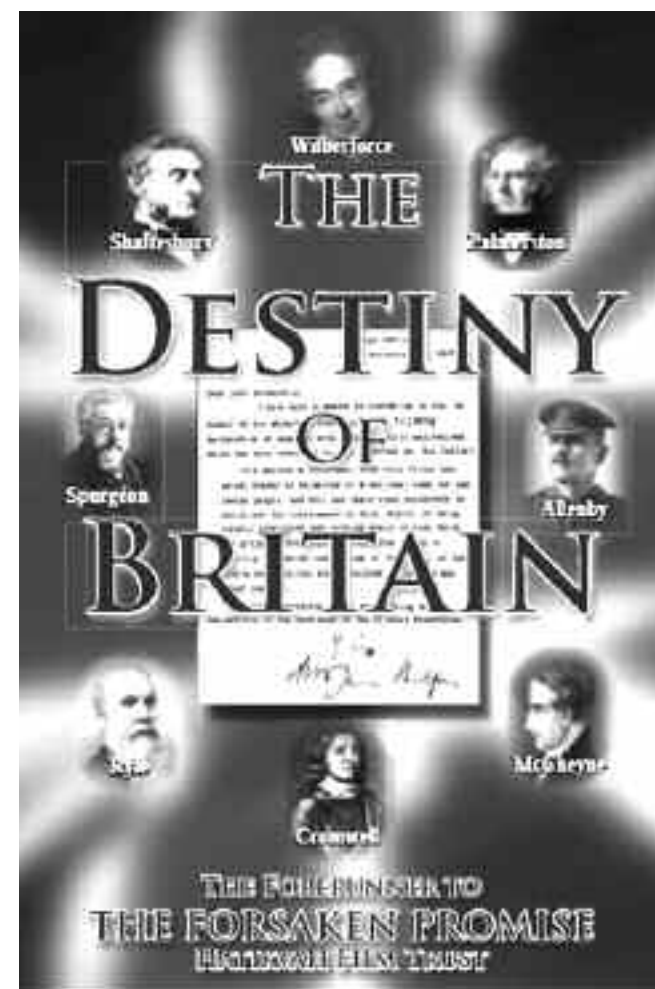
This DVD covers the contribution of many significant men of God of the last and previous centuries including the Reverend Murray McCheyne that resulted in the virtually complete support that the Church in Britain gave to the Balfour Declaration in 1917 that then led to the British Mandate over Palestine and in 1948 to the founding of the State of Israel. We have taken on this October 2008 the role of area representatives with Christian Friends of Israel because we believe in the need to share the importance to our salvation of the restoration of the Jews to the land and to the centre of salvation in Jesus by Him at His return.

As I write this I am listening again to a recording of Bishop NT Wright speaking about his book 'Surprised by Hope'. Tom Wright is emphatic on the importance of centring our hope in Jesus beyond death to the resurrection and the establishment of God's Kingdom of Heaven here on this earth. He calls this 'Life after Life after Death'. He is emphatic that this biblical emphasis on resurrection is so important because we need to be aware of God's redemption of this creation and live in readiness for the day of the Lord's return. The resurrection will come at His return and be followed by the drawing aside of the curtain that separates earth from heaven and will bring their perfect union.

The return of the Jews to Israel is a sign of the nearness of the Lord's return that was deeply significant to many significant men of God of recent generations and centuries past.

We invite you to consider this sober record of firm belief of our predecessor in the plain word of God concerning the return of the Lord Jesus and the place of the Destiny of Britain in being instrumental in that return which is presented in this DVD.

Paul and Mo Hayes



**Penicuik Town Hall—Lesser Hall**  
**Saturday 10th Jan 2009**  
**19.15**

A collection will be taken for the work of Hatikvah Film Trust  
For further information contact Paul and Mo Hayes Tel 01968 673968  
area representatives for Christian Friends of Israel

## May Nicolson

From the Church Times 24 October 2008, an extract from an interview with May Nicolson, founder of the Preshal Trust, Govan.

I founded Preshal out of nothing five years ago, and I worked by faith – that is, I didn't tell anyone when I needed anything, like the rent. I just told God. Now after five years, I have six full time workers and six part time workers and four sessional workers, and we bought the premises.

“Preshal” is a Gaelic word, which means “precious.” And it's good because no matter what you are, or how you pray, you're precious to God...

We work with all kinds of people: drug addicts, alcoholics, people with mental health problems. I'm even told we work with “normal” people – but I wouldn't know, because I've never met one...

We teach family first aid, computing, literacy and numeracy, and life skills – like teaching one parent mothers how to heat a pot of soup. You see, they've never been taught...

My life, you wouldna have put it on a shovel, it was that stinking and filthy. I didn't know Christ. My mum was a Catholic and my dad was a Protestant; so I didn't go to church anyway: neither church would baptise me because it was a mixed marriage – this was years ago....

I was an alcoholic, on drugs, self-harming...I lay in a coma. I hated it, but I didn't know what to do. I took my family to hell and back. I took myself to hell and back.

Then I went to a meeting. I was filthy – not just my clothes or my hair...but all the filth I had in my life. And that man said: “You believe in Jesus. Do you believe in God?” I did. I used to lie in prison and shout: “God help me!” But I thought “God doesn't want anything to do with me.” Then the man said to me: “May, God didn't send his Son for good people, he sent him for sinners. Are you a sinner?” I started to cry, and when I got home I prayed: “Jesus, don't just be my Lord – be my Master.”

I hadna read the bible – and I didn't know what locusts were – but the words came into my head: “The years the locusts have eaten will be

restored to you.” So I slept and washed, and the next day the wee guy came to my house to bring me a Bible. He took me to the book of Job and showed me those words. He didn't know they had (already) been given to me.

And Jesus gave me this wee picture of the sea of forgetfulness. I'd had psychiatrists and mental hospitals and tablets, and I was stoned out of my mind, but still woken up with all the filth and guilt. But he showed me that big load of guilt going into the sea, and he put up a wee sign: “NO FISHING” – and I walked away, a completely new person.

When we were praying at that meeting, the man asked us to ask for a gift; so we knelt down. I wanted hundreds and millions of God's love to spill through me on the unwanted and unloved...

Prayer is my staying in tune with God. When I'm speaking to my Father, I don't use fancy words. If I feel rubbish, I tell him. I use my ain language I was brought up with – Glasgow language. Like a father he loves me, and sometimes he answers

my prayers. Sometimes he doesn't, because he knows what's best for me...

We have a fellowship in Govan. Churches aren't ready to take a lot of folk in: they'd get up halfway through to light a cigarette and people would be horrified. So I asked the minister, is it OK to start a wee fellowship on Sunday nights?...

If I wasn't doing this work, I'd be dead. If I hadna become a Christian, I'd be dead...

Miracles from Mayhem: the story of May Nicolson by Irene Howat is published by Christian Focus Publications.

[prescaltrust@hotmail.com](mailto:prescaltrust@hotmail.com)

Contributed by Sarah and Alistair Cowper

**I used to lie in prison and shout: “God help me!”**

# Always Say A Prayer (A.S.A.P)

There`s work to do, deadlines to meet.  
You`ve got no time to spare.  
But as you hurry and scurry,  
*Always say a prayer.*

In the midst of family chaos,  
“Quality time” is rare.  
Do your best; Let God do the rest:  
*Always say a prayer.*

It may seem like your worries  
are more than you can bear.  
Slow down and take a breather –  
*Always say a prayer.*

God knows how stressful life is;  
He wants to ease our cares,  
And He`ll respond A.S.A.P.-  
*Always say a prayer.*

Contributed by Denise Halcrow

SCOPE

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