

# SCOPE

july/august09



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

## Minister's Letter

Hello again.

There has been a huge amount of debate before, during and following this years General Assembly (G.A.) mostly around one issue: the ordination of ministers who are in gay relationships. The G.A. itself decided we should not really give commentary on the decisions made. There has been, I'm sure you would agree, a fair amount of comment already! Nonetheless it seems appropriate to me to let you know what was actually decided.

Some members of Aberdeen Presbytery (A.P.) brought a case against A.P. This case was heard on Saturday 23rd of May. The substance of the case was that those who were complaining believed that A.P. acted wrongly in sustaining the 'call' to the Rev. Scott Rennie from the congregation of Queen's Cross. The focus of their complaint was that A.P. should not have decided something that the G.A. needs to decide – specifically that it's not a disciplinary matter for a gay minister to be in openly gay relationship – i.e. their partner in the manse. After both sides were heard, the G.A. debated and then voted. The G.A. decided to uphold the decision of A.P. to sustain the call from the congregation of Queen's Cross – A.P. having been judged to have followed all the required procedures. However, the record of the case shows the G.A. did not want to set a precedent.

The fact remains A.P. will now set a date for the induction of the Rev. Scott Rennie.

On Monday 25th of May the G.A. agreed to set up a Special Commission to prepare a study on the Ordination and Induction into the Ministry of the Church of Scotland. This study is to consider the particular matters of homosexual practice and ordination and induction and report in 2011. It is to consult all Presbyteries and, most significantly, all Kirk Sessions in preparing their report. The G.A. agreed an instruction to all Presbyteries to observe a moratorium on ordinations and inductions which may appear to prejudice the report of the Special Commission. The mood of the G.A. was overwhelmingly to make this last point very clear and specific.

It would be reasonable to expect the report to offer the 2011 G.A. some proposed legislation in this matter. Clearly this legislation will either seek to affirm the inclusion of ministers in openly gay relationships, or to not affirm such inclusion, or to offer some way of doing both. The important point is that the Commission will engage with the church on this issue. The Barrier Act process (the usual process of consultation within the church) only involves the approval of Presbyteries.

(cont'd p4)

## Minister's Letter (cont'd)

This consultation is clearly not the Barrier Act – it is actually a lot more. The inclusion of Kirk Sessions in the consultation is a considerable extension of what would happen under the Barrier Act. Until this Commission reports there will be no further ordinations or inductions of openly practicing homosexuals. Presbyteries are prevented from taking any decisions in these matters.

The real point is simple - this isn't over by a very long way! Does this decision concern you - then get involved in the process. We are being given the opportunity to inform and help shape the report of the Special Commission. This is a remarkable level of involvement, consulting with every Kirk Session, and represents an opportunity we must not miss. The greatest thing we can do is to commit ourselves to prayer. Pray for the members and work of the Special Commission. Pray that we as a church and as a Kirk Session would fruitfully and helpfully take our part in this consultation. Pray that God would clearly lead this denomination in His way through these days. Ignore the sound and fury that fills the newspapers. Now is the time to plan and work towards what God wants. So let's do so. Let's not give up on this denomination – there's all to play for and all to pray for.

Yours in Him,  
Ian Cathcart

## Parish News

The last month has been a sad one for several members of our church.

Our sympathies go out to Sandra Lamb on the death of her mother, Jenny Simpson. Also to Nicki Smith on the death of her husband, David, and to Mary Hunt on the death of her sister, Nell Oliver. We ask that they and their families will have the comfort and strength which comes from loving the Lord.

### Thanks

Mrs Sandra Lamb, John and family, would like to thank everyone for their support and kind expressions of sympathy following the sad loss of her mother, Jenny Simpson.

### Oliver-Hunt

Lynn & family & Mary wish to thank our many friends for the practical support & prayers shown to us, through the beautiful cards & flowers received when our beloved Nell died. Heart felt thanks to all who attended Mortonhall & Rev. Ian Cathcart for the lovely and meaningful service. The sum of £340.50 was raised for Broomhill Day Centre, all of which is gratefully appreciated.

## Love Russia Summer Camp 2009

This year the theme for the camp that George & Helen and Ann & Andrew are going to is 'Russia's Got Talent' and they need lots of bits and pieces to do the activities with the children. Here is a list of what's required and if you are able to donate any of these things that would be great. There will be a box in the vestibules for you to put your items in. Many thanks.

Things based on celebrities/fame/super stars to decorate sports hall.

-things to decorate the secret garden as a celebrity dressing room (eg mirror foil, stars, tons of fairy lights, sparkly cloth, posters of celebrities, netting, tinsel, artificial flowers). hip hop music cds, large pieces of fabric and scrap fabric of all types (especially sparkly!)  
percussion instruments, balloons, stickers (tons!), colouring books, beads, scubby threads, ribbon & wool, felt fabric, cross stitch kits, knitting needles, things to make puppets with, silver foil, french knitting kits, pegs/pipe cleaners, glitter wool, large sheets to paint on, magnets, sporting equipment (bats, balls, frisbees, skipping ropes, stick ball etc), general cds, items of fancy dress, face paints, bracelet threads, bin bags of various colours, quiet games/puzzles.

## Shark Encounter

Thank you to everyone who sponsored our daughter, Alice for her dive among the sharks on 14th June. She was underwater for 25 mins and had a close encounter with the sharks, as seen in the photo. She flies out to Australia for the month of July to help nurse injured wallabies and joeys so we are very grateful for the support given. Please will you also pray for her while she is in Australia.

Charles and Mairi Tulloch



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

Sunday 5th July	Morning Service - Gifting Focus - Your Personality, Your Passion and Your Promise of Ministry.	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 5th July	Evening Service & Communion - 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 12th July	Morning Service - Gifting Focus	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 12th July	Traditional Service	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 12th July	Evening Service - 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 19th July	Morning Service - King Solomon: 1 Kings 3. Bob Mallinson preaching	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 19th July	Evening service - 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:5 - Rev John Fraser preaching	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 26th July	Morning Service - King Hezekiah 2 Kings 20:1-11 - Angus Bayne preaching	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 26th July	Praise Service	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 2nd August	Morning service & Communion - King Manasseh 2 Kings 21:1-17 - Angus Bayne preaching	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 2nd August	Evening Service - 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13 - Jackie Ringan preaching	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 9th August	Morning service - King Josiah 2 Kings 23:29-30 - Alistair Cowper preaching	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 9th August	Traditional Service - Led by Joyce Maclean	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 9th August	Evening Service - 1 Thessalonians 4:1-12 - Rosie Townsley preaching	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 16th August	Morning service - Psalm 139. Dedication of Anna Fombo & Sion Smith.	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 16th August	Evening Service - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-5:11	South Church	7.00pm
Sunday 23rd August	All Age Service - 'Back to School with God Service'	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 23rd August	Evening Service - 1 Thessalonians 5:12-28	South Church	7.00pm
Saturday 29th August	Comfort Rwanda Ceilidh	West St. Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 30th August	Morning Service - Thank Offering Sunday for Comfort Rwanda	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 30th August	Evening Service	South Church	7.00pm

**The Comfort Rwanda Ceilidh**

Come and support Comfort Rwanda, enjoy a night out with your friends, and get to know others in the congregation. Families welcome.

Venue: South Church Hall - West St

Date: 29th August

Time: 7.30pm till late

Cost: Donations

BYO: Bottle

Caller & music: Mary Ritchie

**Deadline for articles  
for next issue of Scope:  
Monday 24th August 2009**



We aim to provide this course in Penicuik starting late August 2009 and running it monthly currently on a Friday evening but are open to suggestions on the suitability of the evening.

The course looks at issues important to our Christian Faith. Christians and Jews – blood brothers or separated brethren? Israel – political accident or covenant people? And where does the Church fit in?

These and other questions are explored in the Course's 10 main teaching sessions (approx. 50 minutes each) showing the connection between Judaism and Christianity, Israel and the Church.

Additionally, each programme includes a 10–15 minute study on important Hebrew words: Keshar, Yeshua, Mashiach, Torah, YHVH, Halleluyah, Chesed, Kadosh, Shalom, Amen. These are designed to enrich our understanding of the Bible.

Subjects covered in the main sessions:

1. The Jewishness of Jesus
2. Jesus the Rabbi
3. Jesus the Messiah
4. The Jewishness of the Scriptures
5. Salvation is from the Jews
6. The Great Divide
7. Anti-Semitism
8. Physical Restoration and Rebirth of Israel
9. Israel: Prophecy Fulfilled
10. Israel Today and Tomorrow

For more information and / or sample clips you can visit [www.keshercourse.co.uk](http://www.keshercourse.co.uk)

We would love to hear from you if you would like to join us in exploring this course and you can contact us on 01968 673968 or by email on [paul.hayes@basilicon.com](mailto:paul.hayes@basilicon.com) or [paul.hayes.basilicon@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.hayes.basilicon@btinternet.com)

Love, In Jesus

Paul and Mo Hayes

## The Leprosy Mission

On behalf of the Penicuik Local Committee made up of representatives from all the churches in Penicuik we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks once again to all our many faithful supporters over the years and to many new supporters of the Leprosy Mission.

Our grateful thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the huge success of the pancake Coffee Morning that was held in St Mungo's Church Hall on Saturday 06 June 2009.

The weather was fair on the Saturday which always helps to bring out the crowds. Good fellowship was enjoyed by all over their coffee or tea and their freshly baked pancake.

We raised £1,230.40 - a magnificent sum given the current economic climate. This remarkable sum helps us well on our way to meeting our target fundraising pledge for the year. Our chosen project this year is to support the Leprosy Mission of Zimbabwe where the need of leprosy sufferers is so pressing.

We are also intending to hold a soup and filled roll event at the North Church Hall on Saturday 10 October 2009 (to be confirmed). This will be our final event of the year. It is great to see all our many friends at both events from all our churches.

Thanking you all once again for the continued support of our own church fellowship.

God Bless.

Liz Murray and Wilma Wilson

## Lesson From a Hedgehog

The other morning at school the children called me over to see a hedgehog which had fallen down the drain outside the nursery building. It was so sweet with its pointed snout and beady eyes! How hard it tried to pull itself up out of the drain, without success! I decided to call on the janitor to give it a hand whilst the children thronged round to have a closer look at the cute little fellow!

Out comes the janitor in his gardening gloves and roars at the kiddies to “go away, you’re terrifying the poor creature” and bends down to try and lift him out – but of course, the hedgehog curled into a tight prickly ball and proved impossible to shift! Not frightened of the gawping children, but terrified of the huge hands reaching down to rescue him from his plight!

Next on the scene is the Nursery Teacher with a pretty frock who kneels down hoping her smaller hands can encircle the prickly ball, but again it proves impossible to get a hold of the taut hedgehog, who must be half terrified to death with all the poking and grabbing from well meaning hands!

Eventually the school cook is prevailed upon to lend two serving spoons with which the janitor finally can grip the prickly fellow and haul him out of the drain and set him free to go on his way!

It made me think of how God wants to help us, but cannot when we frantically try to manage on our own, rather than allow Him to scoop us up into His loving arms and free us from our troubles! Or how resistant people can be to God’s efforts to reach out to them in their need because they want to do it themselves or think He is going to harm them rather than give them the best life they could have, if they would only trust Him!

O you hapless hedgehog, what a sublime lesson I learned from watching you, much more profound than a simple nature lesson that morning! May we let God have His way in our lives, rather than trying so hard to manage on our own. He knows what He is doing, so may we rest in Him instead of wearing ourselves out; let us pray and wait patiently for Him to act!

Denise Halcrow

## Beautiful Christian Sister

By Maya Angelou

'A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ  
That a man should have to seek Him first to find her.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not shouting 'I'm clean living,'  
I'm whispering 'I was lost, Now I'm found and forgiven.'

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I don't speak of this with pride.  
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not trying to be strong.  
I'm professing that I'm weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say.. 'I am a Christian' I'm not bragging of success.  
I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not claiming to be perfect,  
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I still feel the sting of pain...  
I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say... 'I am a Christian' I'm not holier than thou,  
I'm just a simple sinner Who received God's good grace, somehow!

**The world will know Christ  
because it knows you!**

SCOPE

Penicuik South Parish Church  
Scottish Charity SCO11871