

SCOPE

november 08



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www.psk.org.uk

Minister's Letter

Hello,
I know, I know what you're probably thinking; there's enough in this secular world as it is that brings Christmas too soon. I'm not supposed to add to the unseemly commercial rush by putting the front cover of 'White Christmas' in my letter. But you see Bing and Danny are singing in the back ground as I write this (*honestly*). Hannah is a massive fan in case you are unaware! It's always *White Christmas* on a regular basis in this manse. For the cinematically-challenged amongst you, the film is about two ex-soldiers putting on a show for their old general, plus getting the girls as well, obviously! They symbolically move heaven and earth to make it all happen so the best Christmas can be had by all.

If you are reading this it means you are under attack. The enemy is out to rob you of Christmas; you know it; we all know it. Nonetheless, and this is the worse part, we are willingly complicit in the theft. Yet I can already hear the negative responses.

"It doesn't matter what pearls of wisdom you write Ian; the presents still have to get bought and wrapped and taken back when they don't fit; we still have to work out if we're going to 'his'



family or 'my' family on Christmas day; the food still has to get bought and cooked and stressed over when auntie Jessie wants parsnips; and all of that is just round one until we gear up for round two to bring in the bells."

That reaction is not only understandable; I have accepted it and sought in the past to be supportive of that attitude. I always felt any other response would just be uncaring of people who are trying to give other people a great Christmas. No longer! I'm not going to be 'supportive' in that way this year.

The 'Freedom in Christ' course helped me a lot personally and as a minister. So see if you can spot the logic that was in the FIC teaching as I apply it to Christmas.

(cont'd p4)

Minister's Letter (cont'd)

Jesus has done for us all that we need Him to do. The incarnation has forever made clear the degree to which we are loved and cared for by God. Easter wasn't just a sacrifice; it was a sacrifice by a perfect human being, as well as wholly God. The incarnation is the time when the separation of sinful humanity and holy divinity came to an end. Jesus deliberately put the glory of heaven to one side and took on the nature of a servant.

We need to live through this Advent season and the Christmas time that follows as if that actually were true – cause it is! Will the clothes fit? Will we have a nice Christmas meal? Will the 'first footer' have a piece of coal and bit of bun? None of the answers to those questions should be able to rob us of what Christmas is truly about. If you let other people dictate what Christmas should be (whither they do it subtly or deliberately) then don't be surprised if you end up failing to have a enjoyable Yule tide. Only you can stop that happening.

As a minister, for a long time I didn't feel at ease with appearing to be unsupportive of people who are, after all, seeking to do a good thing and getting stressed about it. The fact

remains it is the personal responsibility of each Christian to live as if Christmas already is perfect - because it already is! It came pre-wrapped in that fashion: perfect.

Maybe we need to move heaven and earth to stop buying into this attitude that everyone else defines this coming Christian festival. Jesus has already defined it. Will you accept his definition? *Decide now*. It's not the stuff you do or don't do – it's the attitude with which you do everything that matters. It really is your responsibility to get this right – not God's. He's already got His side of Christmas covered. Have we got ours?

Alternatively you could try the Hannah method: watch 'White Christmas' every six weeks. Either way we have to decide!

Yours in Him,
Ian Cathcart

For Your Information
I want to try and manage my emails better – because I'm very bad at it presently! So I'm going to have a 'just for ministry stuff' email. This is the one to use from now on if you want to contact me. So we'll see if I can get any better organised with this one: reviac@yahoo.co.uk is the new email from now on!

Notes from the Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on 14th October and the following items were discussed:

Ian acknowledged that the "Harvest" service had been too long with the involvement of Thank Offering and Comfort Rwanda - but our speakers from Comfort Rwanda could only attend that day.

The Church of Scotland is looking for people to serve on General Assembly Councils and Standing Committees and Session was urged to pray about this and come back to the next Session with their response.

Session is considering the need for a Finance Convener and will be approaching someone before next Session.

The Church is aware of many different policies and regulations emerging around "safeguarding" children and it is the intention to meet with Howgate Session and invite the Church of Scotland to present a half day's training on this topic.

Kirk Session has decided to donate £100 to the ongoing work of Scripture Union at Cornbank School.

Reports – a "tweenager" group is being set up for young people in the P7/ S1 age group and it is hoped this will be done before Christmas.

We are considering ways of keeping the Sunday service to 1 ¼ hours duration and it was decided to receive the offering at the entrance door as the congregation arrives.

Helen Hogg reported that another House group had formed on a Wednesday evening. People had joined in order to participate in Freedom in Christ and have remained in the group.

Presbytery is carrying out a revaluation of all Church buildings and set a target of 2010 for completion.

Hope for Penicuik 2008 is an initiative for Penicuik Churches to work together in reaching out to the community. Some of the events being planned include a joint Carol Service and holding a Prayer meeting at Tesco to take prayer requests. Sheila Anderson is heading up this initiative.

Our next meeting is in December.

Parish NEWS

Sadly baby Iona Fraser died on 30th September. Our thoughts and prayers are with Susan and Johnny, and the Fraser and Dunsire families. Ann and Andrew thank you for all your prayers and support.

Penicuik Churches Christmas Hampers

I know it's early to be thinking about Christmas, but I need to know the number of hampers South Church can make up for needy people in our area. If you, your family or friends, or your housegroup would like to make up a hamper, large or small, as they are needed for senior citizens, single mums, small and large families, please let me know by 20th November. Circumstances change from year to year, so I can't assume you will do one, if you did one last year. Please ask if you want to know more about the project.

Mary Darling 01968 675260

Operation Christmas Child

If you would like to take part in the above project by filling a shoe box with gifts for a child abroad, please pick up a leaflet from the church vestibule.

This act of generosity gives hope to children caught in the midst of wars, natural disasters and extreme poverty and shows them they have not been forgotten. By doing so, you share the good news of Jesus Christ.

Completed boxes may be handed in to Eleanor, Hairdresser, High St between 1st and 18th November.

If you require further information, contact Bill Bruce 01968 678527



Comfort Rwanda

There will be a meeting on Sunday 9th November in the church hall after the morning service when Calum Henderson will talk about a proposed trip to Rwanda in the middle of 2009.

This talk will include the cost, dates, the duration and the itinerary. There will be a light lunch provided and anyone who is interested, is encouraged to come and bring his/her spouse/parents etc (i.e. those who would not be going.)

Please let Sharon McKenzie 670649 know, (for catering purposes) if you intend to come.

Thank you, Paul...

The Scope team loses a valuable member in Paul Toms but would like to thank him, on behalf of the team and the South Church, for his time and dedication in the production of the magazine. Paul has been editing Scope for the last four years and his "shoes" may not be easy to fill. We pray the Lord be with Paul in whatever he is led to do in the future, blessing others through his talents.

Penicuik South Church Social Committee 2009

The social committee are gearing up again for another eventful and exciting year. And what a better way to welcome in the new year than with a Hogmanay bash of fun and entertainment. This event promises to include something for both the young and old and will mean no one will have an excuse to stay at home in front of the telly for another year!

The social committee is made up of a motivated and dynamic team. If anyone would like to come on board and be a part of this team we would welcome any creative and enthusiastic people to join us.

For further info please contact Sharon Mckenzie - 01968 670649

Paul had also been responsible for hospitality (tea's & coffee's) and therefore we welcome Natasha & Julian House who have kindly taken over from Paul in overseeing the after church hospitality arrangements.

Scope Team

Scope Gets a Fresh Look

The Scope team are please to welcome aboard Ross Hadwen, John Kasiera and Sharon McKenzie.

Over the next few months the team will be working on producing a more modern and up to date look for our church magazine in terms of design and layout. One of the changes we can look forward to is that Scope will become more eco-friendly by being available electronically (acrobat pdf), as this will reduce the number of paper copies and in turn will have a more positive effect on the environment. For those who prefer the paper copy it will soon be available on recycled paper through the same channels.

The other change will be the magazine's new family approach, encouraging all groups and ministry teams within the church to submit regular articles, keeping the church informed and updated on how God is working in our church.

The aim of the magazine is to extend God's Kingdom, to support the church and one another through articles of interest and encouragement.

We think of those in our community who cannot attend church as much as they would like and we would urge you to let us know of anyone who would benefit from receiving a copy of Scope as we will begin to update the distribution list.

All articles are to get to Mary Darling by the end of the Monday before the last Sunday of every month. (Monday November 24th)

Anyone interested in receiving next months scope in pdf format please email the Scope Team.



Unity Youth Choir

The Unity Youth Choir is based in one of the poorer areas of Kigali, the capital of Rwanda. Reaching out with a message of good news to their city and country they have attracted the attention of many visitors to Rwanda, who have been urging the choir to visit Scotland for several years. Now we have the opportunity to bring their wonderful music into our church and community. They are full of African rhythm and life, their music incorporating a modern feel into its African roots. The music is augmented by traditional Rwandan dancing and stories of their journey through much hardship to the place of hope.

Most of the choir are orphaned of at least one parent but live with passion and hope and a deep love for God



82 Arden Grove, Kilsyth, G65 9NU, Scotland 01236 827251
comfortrwanda.org.uk enquiry@comfortrwanda.org.uk
Comfort Rwanda is a Scottish Charity SC 030369

that overflows into their music, singing and dancing. Aged mainly from 16-26 they combine youth with rich musical talent and have been working together as a choir for seven years, using their music to spread a gospel of love and healing and hope. The pastor, Paul Ndahigwa, who will bring the choir to Scotland, is responsible for the Healing and Reconciliation Ministry in Rwanda which is instrumental in hundreds of miracles of reconciliation between those involved in the genocide and the survivors. It promises to be an inspiring evening!

We are currently applying for visa's for each member of the choir and would ask for all your prayers in making this event possible.

The Unity Youth Choir will be performing in Penicuik.

Date: 9th December 2008

Time: 7.30pm

Venue: Penicuik South Church

Tickets: £5 per person

£12 per family

for any further info please contact Sharon Mckenzie :

Tel: 01968 670649 Mob: 07768157935

email: gizmum@hotmail.com

Whats On?

Friday 31st October	Hallelujah Party	West St Church Hall	6.30pm - 8.00pm
Sunday 2nd November	Morning Service (1 John 3:11-18)	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 2nd November	Evening service & Communion (James 5: 7-12)	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 5th November	Women's group Life Style with Rhona McGlashon	West St Church Hall	7.30pm
Sunday 9th November	Morning service - Remembrance Sunday (1 John 3:19-24)	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 9th November	Calum Henderson talks about a proposed Rwanda Trip	West St Church Hall	After morning service
Sunday 9th November	Traditional Remembrance Afternoon Service	South Church	3.00pm
Sunday 9th November	Evening service (James 5:13-15)	South Church	7.00pm
Saturday 15th November	Christ Empowered Living (£12)	Holy Trinity Wester Hailes	10.00am - 4.45pm
Sunday 16th November	Morning Service - Focus on the Gideons	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 16th November	Evening Service - Denise Halcrow talks about her China trip	South Church	7.00pm
Wednesday 19th November	Women's group Recycling with David Barnes, Midlothian Council	West St Church Hall	2.30pm
Sunday 23rd November	Morning service (1 John 4:1-6)	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 23rd November	Evening service (James 5: 16-17)	South Church	7.00pm
Tuesday 25th November	Deacon's Court Meeting	South Church	7.30pm
Wednesday 26th November	Quiz Night	West St Church Hall	7.30pm for 8.00pm start
Sunday 30th November	Morning Service (1 John 4: 7-21)	South Church	11.15am
Sunday 30th November	Praise Service	South Church	7.00pm
Tuesday 9th December	Rwandan Unity Youth Choir (£5)	South Church	7.30pm

Hallelujah Party!

Friday 31st October
West Street Church Hall

If you're primary school age, come along for lots of fun and games. Fancy Dress (optional)
Snack provided. Bring a friend

Please contact Lynne 679964 for more information.

Quiz Night!

Wednesday 26th November
West Street Church Hall

Please arrive at 7.30pm to register then we'll start at 8pm. Enter as a team of 6 or come along and we can sort out teams on the night.

Please contact Katrina 670743 for more information.

Christ Empowered Living

with Jeannette Barwick from CWR.
Saturday 15th November
10.00am - 4.45pm.
Holy Trinity Church, Westerhailes, Edinburgh.

This life-changing seminar will look at some of the major issues that block the flow of Christ's power in our lives such as how to stay on track in your Christian life no matter what

happens, how God designed our personalities to function and how to deepen our dependence on God.

Tickets cost £12 including refreshments, please bring own packed lunch. For tickets & info contact Janet Thomson, 0131 442 3304.

www.holytrinity-westerhailes.org.uk

S Club's Dynamic Trip

Tuscany Mc Kenzie Age 10, S Club member reports on the trip to Dynamic Earth

A group of young people from S Club, enjoyed a fantastic Sunday at Dynamic Earth Edinburgh on the 5th October 2008.

The day kicked off with a selection of Fishy songs led by two energetic adults, Suzanne and Sandy, who had all the kids up on their feet jiving in no time. Suzanne and Sandy also taught us the art of origami – and we learnt to make a whale.

“It was challenging yet fun” expressed one of the young people on the trip.

The rest of the day was filled with laughter, excitement and interest.

After lunch our group, the ‘Butterfly Fish’ had an hour of playing outside and talking with friends, old and new!

After our free time we went on the Dynamic Earth tour, this was when we found out how the earth is made, what is polluting the earth and what we can do to save the planet. I am sure we all learnt something new on the tour!

Next we had an arts and crafts hour, where we had a choice of 6 different projects to make such as a world map made of scrunched up tissue paper, a windmill and a collage of our choice.

We were also treated to a talk on the world's oceans and what is in them including animals and plants, we found this very useful.

The day ended on a high note with all of us having had a day filled with fun and so a big thank you to all the S Club leaders and helpers that made this day happen.

The day, especially the Dynamic Earth tour left me thinking about Creation Vs the Big Bang.

What does the bible tell us?

What do we believe?



Wonderful World

On Sunday the 5th of October S-club went to Wonderful World at Dynamic Earth to learn about God's Wonderful World. We did lots of activities. We were called the Butterfly Fish. First we were with Fischy Music and sang lots of songs. Then we had lunch and after lunch we had free time which we went outside and explored Dynamic Earth. After free time we went on the Dynamic Tour. There were different things on the tour. There was a room with a fake volcano. The floor shook and the volcano made noises.

There was a cold room and we saw the ice age. Lastly there was a rainforest room with a pretend rainforest; there were lots of other rooms as well. We did lots of crafts after that. We could make a jigsaw, a windmill, a stain glass window and lots more. Finally we went to an Ocean Workshop and learned about the five oceans and what lived in them. We had a great day out and we went back on the minibus home.

Callum Whittle



The Phyllis Wilson Bequest

As a congregation, and as a leadership, in Penicuik South Parish Church we are attempting to seek God's guidance as to how to spend £180,000 gifted to this church by Mrs. Phyllis Wilson following her death in 2006. Our first decision at the Deacon's Court was to tithe this gift i.e. set aside a sum of at least £18,000 to invest in the Kingdom of God; into ministries which are out with what we would view as our normal parish activities. God has blessed us; we are seeking to be a blessing back to others in the Kingdom. That was the concept of the Tithe Barn in the Middle Ages – see below. They took their financial ethics from the Bible – we are seeking to do the same. We have started – but not finished this process of tithing.

Over the following 3 pages you will see our initial list of twelve charities that we are giving £1000 to further their work. Some are 'Matthew 25 charities' doing relief work in the name of Jesus; some are 'Matthew 28 charities' doing proclamation work in the name of Jesus. All are advancing the Kingdom in a crucial and often unique way.

If you don't see your suggested charity then we may still use it in how we spend the 90% of the bequest.

But also remember we can't support everything and even in the decisions made thus far hard choices were made about what we didn't support as well as what we would support. It is the harsh reality that we would like to support lots of things but can't support everything!



Amazon Hope

Many of the remote communities in the Amazon basin have little or no access to healthcare provision. Amazon Hope provides 2 shallow draught ships which are able to deliver a comprehensive medical and dental health service. The Project also plans to install clean water and sanitation facilities in the villages. Managed by The Vine Trust, an international interdenominational charity with a vision to see communities transformed by building sustainable solutions bringing long term social change and greater global stability. Efforts are targeted around children and healthcare putting volunteers in situations where their gifts, vision and resources can change lives and transform communities.

Doulos

Doulos an ocean-going passenger ship owned and operated by Gute Bücher für Alle e.V. (Good Books for All) – a charitable trust, registered in Germany, visits ports throughout the world, supplying vital literature resources, encouraging inter-cultural understanding, training young people for more effective life and service, promoting greater global awareness, providing practical aid and sharing a message of hope in God. The crew share their experiences and understanding of needs around the world from the perspective of their faith. Visits, take many forms, including medical aid, construction projects, major donations of literature, as well as spontaneous gifts of food and clothing. The ship community desires to share this message of hope in a restored relationship with God.

MAF

Mission Aviation Fellowship is a Christian agency that for over 50 years have been flying planes to the remotest of areas acting as a lifeline to far flung communities. It operates over 130 planes from bases in over 30 countries. MAF enables the work of aid and development agencies by carrying their teams of staff and volunteers so that they can provide medical care, emergency food and Christian hope to those in need. MAF is increasingly struggling with the rising cost of fuel and the shortage of Avgas, which fuels many of their aircraft.

National Gathering

The National Gathering was an event at Ingleston planned by the Church Without Walls group, to bring together all God's people to celebrate their common faith in Jesus Christ. Tents were bought by churches (including ours) to show the work being done to reach out into local communities. These were sent for distribution to refugees after the event was finished. It was a wonderful weekend of uplifting praise and inspiring talks, encouraging us to reach out to bring more people to Christ. If another event is being planned for next year, then some of the tithe money would help their funds to make it happen.



Care for the Family

Care for the Family is a national charity which aims to promote strong family life and to help those hurting because of family breakdown. Care for the Family work is motivated by Christian compassion, and its resources and support are available to everyone, of any faith or none. Through the generosity of Care supporters, marriages are strengthened, parents are supported and bereaved families are helped.

Find out more at www.careforthefamily.org.uk

CAP

Christians Against Poverty is a national debt counselling charity. CAP aims to show God's love in action by providing debt counselling, advice and practical help to those who need it. The charity operates through a growing network of UK centres all opened in partnership with a local church. The charity's vision is to answer the nation's debt problem by having at least one CAP centre in every town in the UK by 2021. Find out more at www.capuk.org

BibleLands

BibleLands is a Christian Agency which supports and resources Christians in the lands of the Bible as they serve the needs of the poor, vulnerable and disadvantaged, through education, health care and community development. BibleLands works in partnership with local Christians to respond strategically and effectively to the changing needs of th region and its people, regardless of their faith and nationality

Barnabus Fund

Barnabus Fund – practical aid for the persecuted church.

The main ministry of Barnabus Fund is to send financial support to projects which help Christians where they suffer discrimination, oppression and persecution as a consequence of their faith. The projects aim to strength Christian individuals, churches and their communities by providing material and spiritual support in response to needs identified by local Christian leaders. Other ministries – encouraging prayer, raising awareness and advocacy on behalf of the persecute Church, particularly in the Muslim world.

New Wine Scotland

Over the last two decades CLAN Gathering has grown from small beginnings to be the biggest Christian conference of any kind in Scotland – and one of the biggest in Europe. It has been proven to be the chief way in which churches – and crucially church leaderships in this denomination – can examine the work of the Spirit in church life safely. Money given to New Wine Scotland grows the kingdom and people committed to growing the kingdom more.

Invest

Invest fills a much needed and unique gap in the Scottish church scene. It is a small charity that trains church planters (not ministers) who are called to lead the next generation of churches (and pre-church groups). Church planters mix with experienced practitioners in an environment of encouragement. Invest is a part-time training course lasting two years with diverse and challenging content. The practical focus is very helpful, but well-balanced by times of reflection and discussion. The teaching is high quality, with input from Peter Neilson and other church plant practitioners.

SU Holidays

Scripture Union Scotland is well known to many. What may be less well-known is that when Christians die, (cheery thought I know), at whatever age, over 90% became Christians under the age of 21. Statistically money given to children's and youth ministry wins more souls for Jesus than any other ministry. Moreover, taking children on holiday is crucial part of Christian ministry. Residential work with children is consistently amongst the most profoundly spiritual experiences many such children will ever have. Yet many children who want to go on SU camps can't afford to go. The money given to SU will be for their fund to financially assist children go on their life-changing camps.

Freedom in Christ

Clearly, Alpha has been the course that has been used by God to bring tens of thousands people into the kingdom. Increasingly the choice of churches to ground their new converts in the ways of discipleship is the Freedom In Christ course. To invest not only in evangelism but in discipleship is vital for the sake of the kingdom and for the health of churches throughout Britain and Europe. The money will help with that process as well as aid the production of the new youth version of the Freedom in Christ course.

Ishmael

ISHMAEL has a ministry to children by way of his many praise albums and concerts throughout Britain and Europe. On the 7th of April of this year he was diagnosed with acute myeloid leukaemia. He has been faithful to the body of Christ for more than three decades and now literally has no income because he is unable to do any concerts etc. The 'tithe' group felt there needed to be 'room' for this kind of gift as well as the 'big stuff.' (The gift to Ishmael will be £500).



Since a dull axe requires
great strength,
sharpen the blade.

ecclesiastes10:10 nlt

SCOPE

Penicuik South Parish Church
Scottish Charity SCO11871