

DECEMBER 09 / JANUARY 10 NO 170 SC# SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCE OF AGEING

PASTORAL CARE

CHILDREN AND CHURCH

www.MayfieldSalisbury.Org

On November 16th last year, I began my work with you all as Pastoral Assistant at Mayfield Salisbury, and after a year 'in post' now, I thought it might be useful to take a brief look at the various strands of pastoral care which come together to offer love, care and support to our congregation and sometimes beyond.

It has been a wonderful year for me in many ways, not least because of the welcome and help which I have received. (No doubt, like me, you can hardly believe that it has indeed been a year now).

In addition to my own visiting of people at home, and also in hospitals and nursing homes, I liaise with two other groups which also offer extremely valuable help pastorally; communication and co-operation with them plays a pivotal role in assessing and trying to fulfil the many individual needs which arise within our parish.

One of those visiting groups consists of our elders who are divided into six teams, each with its own team leader. Rosemary Currie is their Convenor. Each team has between six and nine elders, depending on the size and number of the districts to be served. This structure has to have a degree of flexibility and requires careful monitoring as elders' circumstances can change for a variety of reasons, and every effort is made to ensure that any gaps which may arise are filled.

Our other group is a Pastoral Care Team which is co-ordinated by Elspeth Dougall.

† At present it consists of approximately



seven members who are not all elders, and they undertake to visit perhaps one or two people who may appreciate a bit of extra visiting on a relatively regular basis.

Along with our minister's and elders' visits, I know that the support of this group is much appreciated, as is the care and discretion which every one of our visitors offers.

Pastoral care, of course, takes many forms. As Children of God Christ calls each one of us to love our neighbour as ourselves. That may mean a visit, a letter, a phone call or perhaps a lift to the shops or to church itself. I have learned over the past year that a lot of this kind of care takes place within Mayfield Salisbury. May I encourage you to reach out whenever you hear that still, small, quiet Voice.

This letter is written in the chaos of quitting the manse. The renovation of the manse is about to begin and my family and I are moving into temporary accommodation. If you require to be in contact with me, then please use the usual means (tel. 0131 667 1286 or scottsmckenna@aol.com and please continue to address written correspondence to The Manse, 26 Seton Place, Edinburgh EH9 2JT)

I wish to acknowledge my personal appreciation to Angus Adams, who left his post as Director of Youth and Children's Ministry in early November. Angus is very gifted and without a doubt enriched the ministry and worship at Mayfield Salisbury. He has a keen theological mind, some of whose ideas I was more than willing to incorporate into my own thinking, without attributing them, of course! Much to his entertainment! Angus understands the changes which are required in church life and practice if churches are going to survive and flourish. I shall miss his wisdom, encouragement and support and wish him well.

Christmas is always a time of joy and happiness and, for some, a time of pain and sadness. It is wonderful beyond words to celebrate the birth of the Christ Child and to learn afresh in our heart and soul the depth of God's love revealed for us: that God comes to us, each of us, for us, is comfort beyond measure: meditate on that. It is also a pleasure to see and be with those whom



we love most: home is where we belong. Christmas, however, powerfully brings to the fore the pain of absence: a loved one who has died, a partner who has left, a love which has died or the fact that we are on our own. Whether you look forward to Christmas or not, be assured of my thoughts and prayers at this most sacred Christian feast. Let God be with you: invite Him once again into your life and heart.

Every blessing,

Scott S McKenna

EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCE OF AGEING

and reflecting on what may assist in making this a time to celebrate

An extract from a lecture given to the International Conference for Ageing and spirituality in New Zealand in September 2009 Revd Malcolm Goldsmith

I want to reflect on how we might age creatively, with a sense of wonder and contentment. How we might journey towards death not with fear and apprehension but with gratitude and a sense of mystery.

I am moved to think about these things because of the many people I meet who begrudge growing old, who complain about it and face the future with growing apprehension. How is it, I wonder, that some people grow old complaining whilst others age with a sense of grace and satisfaction? Are there ways of accepting the ageing process that are rewarding and to be welcomed? If there are – then how do we discover them?

People often remind us that we only have one life and of course that is true. But it is also true to say that we have many lives and these lives piece together like a jigsaw puzzle - childhood, student days, marriage and family or the single life, different phases of work and responsibility and, of course, retirement – which itself can be divided into several phases.

We are faced with many problems as we enter that phase when our bodies and perhaps our minds too, begin to deteriorate. It is a time when pain, suffering,



loneliness, regret and grief have to be handled in such a way that we do not lose that essential quality of being alive that reflects something of the mystery and majesty of human life.

“The problem with ageing” writes Joan Chittister *“is not age; it is petrification, rigidity of soul, inflexibility”*. When we close our minds to what is new we close our minds to our responsibility to ourselves and to others to keep on growing.

However, it is important that we don't just reflect on the problems of ageing but also acknowledge some of its blessings – and there are many. First amongst them I would want to place a **sense of wonder at the majesty and mystery of life and creation**. The older we get, the more humble we probably become as we reflect on what it is all about and our place in this majestic cosmos.



We take our personalities with us as we journey into old age, whether that is a blessing or a curse is perhaps for others to decide upon. So those who over the years have found ways to adjust to change and cope with loss will almost certainly have a less stressful time than those who have been unable to bend both their bodies and their minds. It is not a matter of coping, we always cope; we have to. The question is – **do we cope well?**

Jung wrote, eighty years or so ago, that when people are young they look for certainties, they want to know what is black and what is white, what is right and what is wrong. As we grow older, he said, we become less sure about certainties and we look for those things which can help and support us in our doubt and our unknowing.

When we are young we believe that we can change the world, when we are older we know that we have missed so many opportunities, made so many mistakes – so what we want then is some form of reassurance and acceptance –

forgiveness perhaps?

In our youth we want certainty, in our old age we want understanding.

What once we knew, now we are less sure about; what once was clear now is much more complex and ambiguous. It is not the world that has changed, it is us. We stumble on into our later years, bruised by our experiences, humbled by the extent of our ignorance and only too well aware of our frailty and incompleteness. But this sense of vulnerability, this awareness of our limitations, this hesitancy about the great mysteries of

life should not be seen as weakness but as strength; not the cause for anxiety or guilt but rather as the raw material of thanksgiving, for here, as we move towards the end of our life, we face the greatest mystery of all.

One of the tasks of ageing is to prepare ourselves to face it with a sense of dignity, even perhaps, with a sense of welcome, for it is a great mystery. For everyone there is what I would call **“the spiritual journey towards our end”**.

For only a few is it a religious journey, but it is a journey that we all have to make, whether we try to ignore it or 'rage at the dying of the light' as Dylan Thomas expressed it; whether we face it with calmness, rage or stoicism. The question is, are there any ways in which we can help ourselves and others in this journey?

One of the tasks of later life is to look back at the joys and sorrows, the successes and failures, the unresolved problems and unfinished tasks of the past; to look back in order to let go. It is what has been described as 'the increased interiority of the personality' and as 'the inexpressible experiences of transformation'. These are difficult phrases but I mention them to underline the fact that we are talking about something very serious and profound.

- How do we reach this inexpressible experience of transformation when we may be starting at a place in which we are struggling with grief, or with the decline of our body or with the onset of dementia?

- How can we prepare ourselves for residential care if the 'letting go' of things that are dear to us is more related to practical considerations than with the desire to move into a more detached and quiet time of reflection?

- How do we arrive at that 'contemplative context of time', when we gratefully accept the transition from doing to being and have time to consider the wonder and mystery of life?

What in theological language might be phrased as moving into an awareness of glory or what one 95 year old friend described to me as her 'growing awareness of wonder'?

The vitality of anyone's life, at any stage, depends upon them having a sense of meaning or meanings. The challenge for older people is to make sense of life at a stage when loss and changes occur more frequently and perhaps more painfully. We need to have a sense of purpose in order to cope successfully with the erosion and diminishment that takes place in so many areas of our life. These losses are real, the question is – will they overwhelm us?

When I hear people complaining about growing older, feeling depressed about their situation and fearful for the future, I am so often aware of a lack of purpose, a loss of meaning. This illustrates Kimble's oft repeated view that more and more people today have **the means to live but no meaning to live for.** 'The crisis in ageing' he says 'appears to be a crisis of meaning'. Frankl developed Nietzsche's view that: *He who has a Why for living can survive almost any How.*

Frankl maintained that we can find meaning in three ways.

- First, by what we give – in terms of creative work and endeavour;
- second, by what we take from the world – in terms of meaningful relationships and experiences, and
- third by the stand we take towards a fate that we can no longer change – be that a bereavement, an illness or whatever.

From such a simple assessment we can discover and develop a whole approach to creative aging and if we can approach death creatively it frees us to enjoy life more fully in our later years. This does not mean having the answers, far from it, it means recognizing the nature of the journey, not denying the struggle but being open to the possibilities for growth – right to the end.

Malcolm Goldsmith
September 2009

A full copy of the lecture can be obtained from
www.faihinolderpeople.org.uk

The Web & The Word

A selection of sermons (audio or in text) preached by Scott can be found on the Web at:

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org



The Troop took part in a Hallowe'en party, with a difference, organised by the programme team at the Area Camping Ground at Bonaly. It was perfect setting on a dark but pleasant night, the tall trees providing the necessary spooky shadows set by the occasional burst of moonlight.

The traditional dooking took place in an open barn but most of the activities were out in the woods, including a wide game, doughnut munching amongst the trees and a ghost walk. Every Scout was provided with a glow necklace to ensure that no-one was lost in the inky darkness and over 120 happy Scouts were duly accounted for at the end of a fun evening.

Some of the wonders of Science and Technology were introduced to the Scouts on a themed night. These included an electric motor built in minutes from a piece of wire and a battery, some astounding balancing tricks using the power of physics and tests on food that revealed the huge amount of sugar contained in a bottle of coke. The Scouts were also faced with the Egg Bungee Jump Challenge that set them the task of recreating the thrill of the jump using a fresh egg and a pair of tights. They were judged on how far the egg could be dropped, and how close to the floor this could be achieved, without the egg being broken. Lots of Eggcitement was generated in this eggxacting test which was completed in an eggcellent fashion by all.

The month ended with a trip to the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena at Ratho where the Scouts were able to attempt climbing both the artificial rock face as well as boulder climbing. The thrill of the night was Aerial Assault Course, described as the ultimate adrenalin rush. Suspended 100 feet above the floor, the Scouts were launched on a death-defying twisted zip slide and then had to face a series of increasingly formidable obstacles before reaching firm footing again.

The evening also contained an incident that perhaps demonstrated small defining moments in the lives of two Scouts. One of them, a young Scout, found the prospect of being launched on a zip line, high above the concrete floor, to be a bit daunting. Behind him was an older Scout with one or two instances of poor behaviour in his past.

As the young Scout stood quivering at the edge, the older Scout gently encouraged him to take the initial bold move and then guided him around the remainder of the Aerial Assault Course. This meant that older Scout was unable to fully enjoy the Course himself but the young Scout completed it successfully, and then went back on it again !

In Scouts, we try to tell the boys how to be better people but it is so often more about the situations that are created where a Scout learns more by actually doing something. In this incident, a small Scout was able to overcome his fears and an older Scout found himself.

NEWS

EVERYONE will be made most welcome at the next mid-week SERVICE OF WORSHIP on FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2009.

Sheila Wallace, Pastoral Assistant, will lead a short SERVICE OF WORSHIP IN ADVENT (hymns are sung seated) followed by Fellowship with Festive Tea (until approx. 4 pm)

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Friday 11th December

2.30 pm
in the Upper Hall

Despite the general appeal, the recession and the proximity of Christmas shopping, members continue generously to make specific gifts, usually in memory of someone or in thankfulness for service given. Six more chairs have been paid for or promised. The chairs, forty in all, are now ordered and should be with us before long. They will be made of solid oak, well-upholstered in our own pew fabric, and will provide seating in the South Transept and for the choir in the apse.

One other possible gift could be for appropriate candleholders – perhaps matching the beautiful lectern candle stand – for our refurbished communion tables: the present ones sometimes allow wax to spill over.

If anyone would like to discuss gifting further, do please get in touch with the Minister or Christine De Luca (Session clerk). And do remember Gift Aid adds 25% to the value of your gift, whether for the general appeal or in relation to a special gift.

Freewill offering envelopes for the year to 31 December 2010 will be available for collection after the morning services on 6 and 13 December.

GIFTING OUR FUTURE UPDATE



FREEWILL ENVELOPES



Well here we are in December already, another quick year I am sure you will agree.

Many apologies for not having had any articles in the last two months. We have however been very busy in producing the special shows we have lined up for the Christmas period. Over the festive period, Mayfield Radio will be broadcasting extra programmes to keep you entertained in addition to our usual schedules.

We are always looking for people willing to join us, either for presenting or engineering, and if this appeals to you please call us on 0131 667 7742.

Whatever you are doing over the festive period, I and everyone at Mayfield Radio would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Gordon Burrows

INCREASING OUR GIVING

John Graham
Appeal Convener

Christine De Luca
Session Clerk

Angus McIntyre
*Convener of the Business
Committee*

All members of Mayfield Salisbury should have received a letter from us inviting them to consider increasing their giving to the Church. This is an appeal which we make every 4-5 years in order to sustain all aspects of our work and to support the wider work of the Church of Scotland. We are very grateful to all those who have already responded. If you have not received a letter from us, or have any questions about the appeal, please speak to your elder or contact John Graham, the Appeal Convener, on 667-6331 or at culkein@btinternet.com.



Rosemary Gold
Group Secretary
28th Blackford Scouts

On behalf of the 28th Blackford Scout Group I should like to thank the Congregation for their wonderful support for our Annual Coffee Morning.

We really appreciate your continuing loyalty and are delighted with the amount raised which was an all-time record of £1500. These funds will be put to good use to help maintain the high quality of Scouting for which the 28th is known.

SC006141

A small group has recently started up as a support system for the 9.30 congregation. The group is currently meeting every 6 weeks and high on the agenda just now is promoting the existence of the 9.30 service - letting everyone know what it is all about! If you attend the 9.30 service & would like to come along to the next meeting please contact Liz Shand liz@littlejohns.ltd.uk , you will be very welcome. The group are also looking to start up House/Book clubs, more information to follow in the new year.

9.30 DEVELOP- MENT GROUP



CHRISTMAS EVENING

in
Mayfield Salisbury Church

Monday 14th December

at 7.30 pm

Music ancient and modern played on recorders from
sopranino to great bass.

Free entry with refreshments at the interval

SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS

We shall continue the practice of having diced bread at communion for the foreseeable future. This is an opportunity to serve each other as we pass the bread and wine along and to share with and help our neighbours in the pews.

The next morning communion is on 13 December.

LORD'S SUPPER



The November Grapevine listed the names of five well-known senior elders who, between them, have clocked up more than 250 years of service. To this must be added the names of **Bill Moncur** and **Peter Williamson**, elders since 1953. We are grateful for such dedicated service.

SENIOR SERVICE

Kirk Session

CHRISTMAS EVENING

Douglas Currie
0131 - 667 6494

Email
Douglascurrie@
btinternet.com

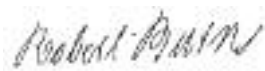
The Annual Christmas Celebration is taking place in the Church on Sunday evening 20th December at 7-00 p.m.

Please come along, fill the Church and let the (newly painted) rafters ring with your singing of some of our favourite carols,

PLUS stories, readings AND (in the Lower Hall afterwards) Mayfield Mince-Pies, Salisbury Shortbread and "Mull"!

Anyone keen to take part should contact me ASAP

BURNS SUPPER



On Saturday 30 January, at 7pm in the Lower Hall, we are holding a Burns Supper as a fellowship event with the Chinese congregation at Mayfield-Salisbury. We offer you a four-course meal followed by a varied programme of entertainment based on Burns' life and works, including speeches, songs and recitals from a talented cast! Tickets at £10 will be on sale following morning services in January. Numbers have to be limited to 80 for catering reasons, and we are expecting our Chinese friends to make up half the audience, so be sure to get your tickets early! This will be a Burns Supper with a difference – what's the difference? Come and find out!

FLOWERS

Jane Main
667 1711



During November the Sanctuary flowers were donated by Frances Ritchie and Helen Telfer and arranged by Christina Somerville, Alison Keir, Rosemary Currie and Jane Main.

As we look forward to the Christmas Tree and the Advent Ring, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and to thank all the donors, arrangers and distributors for providing such pleasure during the past year.

THANK YOU

Heartfelt thanks are due to Sheena Macdonald for making our Advent frontal, and to Burry Baxter, not just for helping with that, but also for re-sizing, sanding and varnishing our arches for the Christmas candlelight service.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

With orchestra

Conductor Neil Mantle
Leader Claire Taylor

Vivaldi Gloria
J.S.Bach Christmas Oratorio (excerpts from Part 2)
Christmas Carols

Saturday 12 December 2009 7.30pm
St Cuthbert's Parish Church

Soloists
Jessica Broad (Soprano)
Catriona Morison (Alto)
Morley Whitehead (Organ)

Edinburgh
Bach
Choir

Tickets £12 (£10)

Elspeth Dougall

MAYFIELD MILERS PROGRAMME OF WALKS

All walks start promptly at 10am from Mayfield Salisbury Church unless stated

DECEMBER 2009

Mon 7	10.00	Peebles walk Lunch Tontine Hotel 12.30 for 1pm £15 in tip Transport	up to 3mls	J Steven 662 1707 I Lunn 667 7966
Thur 17	10.00 by bus	Portobello/ Ocean Terminal	up to 5mls	I Smith 667 6336

JANUARY 2010

Fri 8	10.00	N. Berwick shore	up to 5mls	P Wilson 667 7145
Mon 18	10.00 by bus	Wester Hailes/ Balgreen	3.5 - 4mls	I Smith 667 6336

Wed 20 19.30 AGM & Planning Meeting - Church House

If anyone has ideas for walks but is unable to be present, please send ideas to Isabel Smith

GIFT AID

Donald Fortune

GIFT AID is worth £226,000 to our church over the last five years - are YOU participating?

Around 50% of our membership make their church contributions under the Gift Aid scheme. This means that the church currently receives from the government a further 28p. for every £1 donated by tax-paying members. (This includes all those who have tax deducted at source from dividends or interest).

Whilst it is understood that many of our old age pensioners do not pay income tax and therefore should not pay under Gift Aid it is also true that quite a number of members could increase the level of their giving to this appeal without paying out any more cash and some, paying higher rate tax, could actually benefit if they would only consider Gift Aid.

...

I have enjoyed collecting tax back for the church over the past 16 years and I have made many friends over this period but have now decided that the time has come for a younger person to take over.

Before you decide on your response to this appeal why not discuss its implementation with Hugh Somerville – 0131 667 9797.

In this respect would all members who sent their offerings to me by cheque in the past, please send them in future to:-

HUGH SOMERVILLE, MAYFIELD SALISBURY CHURCH, 18 WEST MAYFIELD, EDINBURGH, EH9 1TQ

I trust that all our responses to the current appeal will be gift aided where possible – we desperately need every penny.



giftaid it



The Christian Aid Committee is immensely grateful to Mayfield Salisbury for all its support for Christian Aid but we are increasingly aware that there is little feedback as to what Christian Aid does with our money. To change this, we are planning to try to raise awareness over the coming year.

Our first event is to hold a strong and cheerful show of support to demonstrate Christian Aid's urgent action on climate change issues and to help Gordon Brown's stand at Copenhagen on the morning of Friday, December 11th from 8 – 10 a.m. at the corner of Mayfield Road and West Mayfield. Blue is the colour of the day!

Due to the unprecedented demand for marmalade at the Jam and Jelly Sale in September, we plan to hold a Marmalade Sale on the last Sunday of February, the 28th, at the Traidcraft stall. If you happen to be making marmalade before then, please make a little

extra and we will sell it to help those less fortunate than ourselves. We will collect jars from the previous Sunday, the 21st. Please label the top as usual.

During the year, there will be a topical report from Christian Aid in Grapevine each month along with a monthly prayer which will also be displayed on the CA notice-board at the top of the stairs to the kitchen. We would also hope to have a speaker from Christian Aid at an evening service to detail where our money goes.

By the end of the year, everyone will, we hope, feel happier that the money raised at Mayfield Salisbury (around £10,000 this year) goes to a good cause. If you would like further details the Christian Aid website www.christianaid.org is an excellent source. Thank you for all your support.

Hilary Watkinson

Christian Aid Convener, 667 6360

PRAYERS FOR THE WORK OF CHRISTIAN AID

We all know that Christian Aid seeks our financial support. It also seeks our prayers for the work it carries out both through its partners worldwide and through its advocacy. Christian Aid tells us about these matters in a quarterly Prayer Diary which contains weekly topics for prayer, and for thanks.

Below is an excerpt from the Diary for December:

The UN climate summit in Copenhagen takes place this month and will shape the way the world combats climate change. It is vital to achieve an effective deal for the sake of the planet and the millions in the poorest countries already suffering the effects of climate change. Please pray for a fairer deal for the world's poor.

Please pray for

- commitment among rich countries to support poorer ones in adapting to climate change
- technology to be made available to poorer countries to help cut their omissions
- Christian Aid partners around the world helping local people to press their own governments into urgent action.

An online version of this diary can be found at:

www.christianaid.org.uk/prayer

FUNDRAISING

Over the past few fundraising activities the following amounts have been deposited into the Christian Aid Fund:-

- Just World - from Fair Trade £34.77
- Jam & Jelly Sale £535.26
- Christmas Charities Sale £527.68



The Session met in the upper hall at 7.30 pm on 10th November, and elders as they travelled to church were pleased to find that although the nights are now dark this one was actually calm and dry!

Scott opened the meeting with prayers for the congregation and the parish. Business then started with Christine De Luca, Session Clerk, going over correspondence that had been received.

Retiral – Donald Fortune had written to say that he had decided that the time had come after 45 years as an elder for him to retire. Very warm appreciation was expressed by everyone for all that Donald has done over so many years. His oversight of Gift Aid in particular has been of huge benefit. The Clerk was asked to write to Donald to thank him for his long years of dedicated service.

Letters of thanks – Many letters of thanks had been received following our Rededication Service on September 6th. Several of these, not only from the trades people involved with the work but also from many friends, expressed how pleased people were to be given the opportunity to join us on this special day. The organisers of the Riding of the Marches had also written saying how much our enthusiastic welcome had meant to them as they rode by.

Funding our mission partners – There had also been letters of thanks from our missionary partners overseas: the Stegens and the Fucellas, expressing their gratitude for the extra help they have received from us from the funds raised for the renovation project. After discussion, Session decided to continue the current arrangements for the annual support of their vital work, The Stegens receive £2000 annually, and the Fucellas are supported by individuals through the Salisbury Fund (minimum £4000 annually). Both couples communicate with us frequently, sending details of their current work. This is then displayed on the notice boards which adjoin the upper hall.

Mission in the 21st Century - Niall Finlayson introduced a paper on behalf of the Research Committee which followed on from the talks and discussion at the recent Session Conference in October. While it was thought unlikely that we could transplant the mission initiatives outlined in the talks directly to Mayfield Salisbury, the principles underpinning them of the interplay between culture and mission were thought provoking. In particular Niaill highlighted how important it is for us to recognise that in today's world our church culture frequently gets in the way of communicating Christ to the un-churched.

It was agreed that an enlarged group, with the Research Committee as its core, should take forward this important initiative. It is proposed that it will involve representatives from specific areas such as the 9.30 Service, the House Groups and the Fellowship Committee. In fact an ad hoc 9.30 working group has already been set up, its purpose being to explore the ideas of those who attend this service and use these as a basis for further development. In practical terms it will be essential for the success of our 'mission in the 21st century' initiative for there to be good avenues of communication, particularly between the Research Committee and the Session, so that Session not only receive regular updates but also have opportunities to feed into the process.

Prayer – Sheila Wallace spoke to Session on prayer, expressing her own feeling of having a particular calling to encourage us in prayer, especially at this time of reflection and planning for the future. She reminded us of how the early apostles had fellowship, broke bread and prayed together and that God expects no less of us. Session was then led by Sheila in a short meditation. Afterwards three ideas were put forward: a prayer group led by Sheila to meet after the 10.45 service perhaps monthly initially; those who teach the Sunday School to meet with Sheila for prayer to support their work; the place of prayer to be

given high priority in all plans for the 'mission in the 21st century' initiative.

Evening Service – The future of the evening service was discussed, both as a workload issue for the minister in the short term and, in the longer term, as part of our thinking about mission. Many felt that having three different types of worship at different times on a Sunday was a very positive aspect of what we offer at Mayfield Salisbury. It was also noted that, although the numbers attending on Sunday evenings are small, the meditative nature of this short service was particularly valued by those who came. It was thus decided that, although it might not seem very cost effective, the evening services should continue for the present, and that some extra ministerial help should be sought to ease the minister's workload. It was also decided to see if advertising the distinctive quality of the evening service more widely, and exploring whether help with transport might be a possibility, would increase the numbers attending. In six months time the issue will be looked at again as part of our wider deliberations on mission.

Appeal – John Graham, as Appeal Convener, thanked elders for their willingness to increase their own personal giving wherever possible, and for the willingness of district elders to deliver the appeal letters. Responses to date

were reported to be encouraging. There is a notice elsewhere in Grapevine about the appeal

Business Committee - Angus McIntyre reported on the work of the Business Committee, highlighting a number of points.

The renovation tasks planned for the Sanctuary and the lower hall are now almost complete. The Stannah wheel chair lift has been installed on the steps which lead from the sanctuary corridor to the lower hall, and the upgrading of the loop system to include both the north and south transepts will be finished shortly. The Technical Task Group, led by Burry Baxter, has thus now been wound up. Grateful thanks were recorded for their hard work and efficiency. An article on the gifting for specific items to enhance our newly renovated sanctuary appears elsewhere in Grapevine.

The manse renovation part of the project is now about to begin. It will be overseen by a small committee led by Angus McIntyre with Burry Baxter as 'clerk of works'. Tenders are at present being received for the work which is planned to start in early January. As the work includes removing internal walls to open up the kitchen, complete renovation of the kitchen, shower room and bathroom, as well as whole house re-wiring and decorating, the minister and his family will be moving elsewhere

while the work is being carried out. For all practical purposes, however, their address and telephone number will remain as at present. There is still a deficit of £24,000 on the renovation appeal, but it is hoped that this may be reduced by reclaiming some VAT and continuing with fund raising activities once the appeal for general funds is concluded.

As already announced, Hugh Pollock, with help from Senga Andrews as cashier, is our new treasurer, and Hugh tells us that he is now very busy getting to grips with all that this entails. An appeal to Presbytery has been submitted in respect of the proposed levy to the Ministries and Mission Fund, which came in as just under £140,000. A new financial software programme has been purchased, and Anne Dobson has been appointed as Independent Examiner for our accounts.

The fabric convener, John Holborn, has dealt with a number of issues recently. These have included a mice infestation in the kitchen, the refurbishment of the Den, the provision of new cupboards, and the installation of security cameras at the front door of Church House to increase the security of the church manager and his family.

Web site – Jim Ross outlined the importance of the web site as our main means of communication in the modern world both with each other and externally

with the wider community. He particularly drew Session's attention to the secure area for Office Bearers. This is password protected as it contains personal information, but is very useful for consulting such things as duty lists. Scott thanked Jim and the website team for all their hard work in keeping the web site up to date, and told of the many favourable comments he had received on its new design.

Sub-committees – Members of Session were very pleased to hear that Hugh Somerville, while continuing as Roll Keeper, has agreed to work with Donald Fortune as Gift Aid Convener with a view to taking over from Donald in the near future, and that Catherine Booth hopes to take on the post of Librarian in the spring. Also at the meeting Jane Main volunteered to be our link with Craigmillar Park Church. The Standing Orders for Session Sub-committees will be placed on the Office Bearers' area of the web site, where the annex to the paper which shows who does which jobs will be kept updated.

Alison's Library - The minster has agreed that the generous gift of children's books from Alison Harvey Wood's estate should form the core of a children's library, to be called 'Alison's Library' in her memory, a decision which was received very warmly by Session.

held on Monday, November 30th, and will be designed in particularly for anyone who has been bereaved recently. Sheila Wallace and Scott will send invitations to the families of those whose funerals they have conducted during the past year, and the liturgy will encourage active remembering of individuals by the symbolic use of flowers or candles. It is also hoped to serve tea and coffee afterwards. The service will be well advertised as others may also wish to come to support bereaved families, or to remember their own recent loss. Elders expressed considerable support for this initiative, attesting to its value, many having experience of similar services in other churches.

Archive material – The recent exhibition of our memorabilia was very much enjoyed by members and visitors alike, and our Church manager came in for special praise and thanks on this. The long term storage of our heritage items, however, needs to be rationalised. Hugh Hagan, a professional archivist, has kindly offered to be our archivist, and will be looking for several members to assist him at an appropriate stage in the process. He will arrange deposit of our older or more valuable records with the National Archives of Scotland. For the items we retain, suitable storage needs to be purchased which will help the cataloguing task and aid future retrieval. It is also planned to discuss with the Boys' Brigade what should be done with the BB memorabilia.

CHILDREN AND CHURCH Kirstine Baxter



Aileen Nimmo with Alison Macloed and Shelagh Laird

Many readers will remember their own experience of Sunday School. Perhaps you were ‘sent’ on a Sunday afternoon, or was it more a case of going out half way through an adult service, the rest of which you were expected to sit through being quiet and bored? But many too will remember with affection and gratitude a favourite Sunday School teacher who nurtured their faith and to whom they still feel they owe so much. So what is church like for today’s children who come to Mayfield Salisbury at 9.30 each Sunday morning?

A few weeks ago I asked some of the younger children what they liked best about coming. Here are some of their answers: ‘Writing my own name label with the coloured pens’; ‘Singing: the words are up on a screen which Boyd controls from a lap top, Catriona plays the piano and Miles plays the guitar’; ‘The prayer we say when Scott says a bit first and we say what he has just said, but we are not saying it to him we are saying it to God’; ‘Showing what we

have made when we go back in’; ‘The collection: four of us are picked to do it’; and, of course, ‘Running through at the end for biscuits and juice!’. But by far the most common answer was ‘The stuff we do when we go to different rooms’

So what is this ‘stuff’? To find out I joined the children one Sunday and asked the leaders of the three junior groups, Aileen Nimmo (0-3s), Shelagh Laird (4-6s), and Alison Macleod (7-8s), for their comments on the work they and the other teachers do, because each group has several teachers who work on a rota system.

The 0-3s meet in the upper hall, where I found them sitting happily round low tables. At this age an adult accompanies each child. This is beneficial not just for the children but also for the adults as it gives a chance to chat and swap stories of the joys and problems of parenting this age group. Aileen explained that although many still do call it Sunday



School, it is no longer thought of as a separate entity but as an integral part of the 9.30 service. Each week there is a Bible story with plenty of pictures, a craft activity, and a song to sing, all from an activity book from the 'Tot Zone' series by David C Cook. When I was there the focus was on 'love' and pictures of hearts, previously drawn in wax, were being made to appear on the paper by wetting them with paint: a gloriously messy procedure! The main aim is to get these very young children used to coming into the church building and to help them feel that they are part of a loving caring community. Some have friends at church already, known from their nursery schools, but all make new church friends. It is all about learning to do things together, to share and to listen. As for the teachers, they often feel they get more out of this time they spend with the children than all that they do the rest of the week. As Aileen said, it helps so much to make one feel grounded, to get a wider perspective on life.

The 4-6s meet in the lower hall. When I joined them they were all sitting on small chairs in a circle round Shelagh (also on a small chair!) who was telling

them the story of Jesus calling the fishermen, Simon Peter, Andrew, James and John, to become 'fishers of people'. Interestingly the first response was to the humour in the idea that you could 'fish' for people, a point often lost once one is adult. The names also caused particular interest as many had family members similarly named! Later there was a vigorous team game where the children raced to 'fish' for cardboard faces which had magnets attached. Shelagh explained that all the groups, except the very youngest, use books from the Searchlights series by David Adams, a lectionary based programme which offers many Biblical reference points through stories, prayers, work sheets, games and craft. The work sheets are usually taken away to be finished later, a useful way of encouraging children to discuss what they have been learning with people at home. So I asked Shelagh what she hopes she achieves with this age group. She explained that there are several interrelated aims, of which teaching basic Bible stories is certainly one. Many schools today do very little of this sort of thing, so providing a context for teaching about spirituality is very important. Children of this age may not



remember the details of the stories, but what they will remember are the feelings: Church is a nice place to come; I enjoy it; I have friends at church. It is also important that it starts a habit of Church going for the child, this is the thing the family does on Sunday mornings. Unlike school, it does not happen only in term time but all year round, and this particular service is designed so that families can come without worry, knowing it does not matter if children are restive or cry.

The 7-8s meet in the Newington Room. When I joined them they were in the middle of a question and answer session with Alison on what it means when we speak of 'Christ the King'. How do we recognize a King? What do Kings usually do? Is Jesus this sort of King? Alison explained that this group usually start by reading a passage from the Good News Bible together, with the more confident readers keen to read aloud to the group. This is followed by a discussion of the story and a time of prayer for their families and the week

ahead, and then a work sheet, a game or craft work. A favourite had been a few weeks ago when they learnt about the camel which could not pass through the eye of a needle. This had been followed by a hilarious game in which chairs had been set out with a small gap beneath them, and each child in turn, with a large carrier bag stuffed with coats on their back, tried to see how narrow a gap they could crawl under! When I asked Alison what she sees as the main aims of what she does with the children, she replied that for her it was to allow the children to gain the knowledge, at a level appropriate to their age, of what makes up our faith: to know about God, to know about Jesus, to know about the Holy Spirit, to understand the events of the New Testament and their significance, and to feel that they have a personal relationship with God. Her own Sunday School memories are so positive and so precious to her, that she is constantly aware of their importance.

But these are not the only things that the younger children do when they come to Mayfield Salisbury.

Sometimes Sunday School takes a different form. For example, in Advent Eilie Blackwood will lead a special type of teaching called 'Godly Play'. This is an approach to children's ministry based on a particular understanding of a child's spiritual awareness. A story is told using simple figures, symbols and settings which stir the child's creative imagination through visual impact. This is then followed, for example, by a play session with the figures which reinforces their understanding of what lies

behind the Bible stories and faith narratives. There is an excellent website about this approach at www.godlyplay.org.uk

And this is not all! There is the Christmas party, this year on December 12th from 2.00-4.00 pm, with games and food and carol singing, and the parents come too towards the end to enjoy mince pies and coffee. And one must not forget the very popular Christingle Service, this year on December 23rd, with all the thrill of processing round the church with that orange with a real candle in it!

Over the last few years there has been a steady growth in the number of families who are coming to the 9.30 service, so that there are now over eighty children on the role. My visits to the service and to the groups were wonderful experiences, full of joy, fun and laughter. At this time of year it seems appropriate to



acknowledge how much we owe to all the teachers who manage to fit teaching our young people's groups into their already busy lives, say a big thank you for their dedication and hard work, and wish them all a very happy Christmas!

MAYFIELD SALISBURY THURSDAY CLUB

DECEMBER 2009

10th Christmas Party
Southside Singers

JANUARY 2010

14th Travels in Argentinian Patagonia
Kathleen Hendry

21st Musical Afternoon
Margo & Iain Dunn

28th Tanzania from North to South
Kathleen Hendry

FEBRUARY 2010

4th Fisherwomen
Simon Fairnie

11th Breaking the Artic Ice
Duncan Currie

18th The Show Stoppers
Walter Thomson and friends

25th Quartermile, the Next Chapter
Laura Downie

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER 2009

- Sun 6 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SSM)
10.45am Morning Service: Second Sunday of Advent (SSM)
7.00pm LECTURE: AIDS and the Christian Faith
- Tues 8 7.30pm Kirk Session
- Wed 9 2.30pm Camilla N H (SW)
- Fri 11 2.30pm Afternoon Service in the Upper Hall (SW)
- Sun 13 9.30am Service of Worship, Education & Holy Communion (SSM)
10.45am Morning Service: Third Sunday of Advent & Holy
Communion (SSM)
7.00pm Evening Service (SW)
- Wed 16 2.30pm Belleville Lodge N H (SW)
- Sun 20 9.30am NO EARLY SERVICE
10.45am Morning Service: Fourth Sunday of Advent (SSM)
7.00pm Christmas Celebration with Douglas Currie et al
- Wed 23 6.30pm Christingle Service (SSM)
- Thur 24 11.30pm Watchnight Service (SSM) *Carol singing from 11.15pm*
- Fri 25 10.45am Christmas Day Service (SSM)
- Sun 27 9.30am NO EARLY SERVICE
10.45am Morning Service: Nine Lessons & Carols (SSM)
7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)

JANUARY 2010

- Sun 3 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SSM)
10.45am Morning Service: Second Sunday after Christmas (SSM)
7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)
- Sun 10 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SSM)
10.45am Morning Service: Epiphany (SSM)
7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)
- Wed 13 2.30pm Camilla N H (SW)

-
- Sun 17 9.30am Service of Worship & Education
 10.45am Morning Service: Epiphany 2
*(Guest Preacher: Revd Charles Robertson, Minister Emeritus
 Kirk of the Canongate)*
 7.00pm Evening Service (SW)
- Wed 20 2.30pm Belleville Lodge N H (SW)
- Sun 24 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SY)
 10.45am Morning Service: Third Sunday of Epiphany
(Guest Preacher: Revd Sandy Young, RIE, Chaplain)
 7.00pm Communion round the Table (Revd Robert Lawrie)
- Tues 26 7.30pm Kirk Session
- Sun 31 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SW)
 10.45am Morning Service: Fourth Sunday of Epiphany (SW)
 7.00pm Communion round the Table (Revd Robert Lawrie)

FEBRUARY 2010

- Sun 7 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SSM)
 10.45am Morning Service: Fifth Sunday of Epiphany (SSM)
 7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)
- Wed 10 2.30pm Camilla N H (SW)
- Sun 14 9.30am Service of Worship & Education (SSM)
 10.45am Morning Service: Sixth Sunday of Epiphany (SSM)
 7.00pm Communion round the Table (SSM)

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

- 1/11/09 Edward Rafael Garland, 28 Blacket Place (307)
 15/11/09 Zoe Jane Mearns, 18 West Mayfield

DEATHS

- 5/5/09 Mr Eric Miller, 16 Moredun Park Gardens (506)
 16/10/09 Mr John Murphy, 18/5 Langton Road
 22/11/09 Mr Andrew White, 14 Melville Terrace (302)
 28/10/09 Mrs Sheila Millar, 4 St Leonards Bank (305)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- Mrs Jennifer Gray to 31/6 Salisbury Road (204)
 Tom Turnbull to The Elms, 148 Whitehouse Loan (407)
 Mrs Margaret Simmons to Davidson House, 266 Colinton Road (201)
 Bill and Joan Nicol to 95 Candlemaker's Park (506)
 Mrs Helen McGlynn to 35 Duddingston Park South (603)

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Dec. 7	Joel 3 / Revelation 5	Jan. 9	Genesis 18,19 / Matthew 7
Dec. 8	Amos 1,2 / Revelation 6	Jan. 10	Genesis 20,21 / Matthew 8
Dec. 9	Amos 3,4 / Psalms 140,141	Jan. 11	Genesis 22,23 / Psalms 5,6
Dec. 10	Amos 5,6 / Revelation 7	Jan. 12	Genesis 24,25 / Matthew 9
Dec. 11	Amos 7,8 / Revelation 8	Jan. 13	Genesis 26,27 / Matthew 10
Dec. 12	Amos 9 / Revelation 9	Jan. 14	Genesis 28,29 / Psalms 7,8
Dec. 13	Obadiah / Psalms 142,143	Jan. 15	Genesis 30,31 / Matthew 11
Dec. 14	Jonah 1,2 / Revelation 10	Jan. 16	Genesis 32,33 / Matthew 12
Dec. 15	Jonah 3,4 / Revelation 11	Jan. 17	Genesis 34-36 / Matthew 13
Dec. 16	Micah 1-3 / Psalm 144	Jan. 18	Genesis 37,38 / Psalm 9
Dec. 17	Micah 4,5 / Revelation 12	Jan. 19	Genesis 39,40 / Matthew 14
Dec. 18	Micah 6,7 / Revelation 13	Jan. 20	Genesis 41,42 / Matthew 15
Dec. 19	Nahum 1-3 / Revelation 14	Jan. 21	Genesis 43,44 / Psalm 10
Dec. 20	Habakkuk 1-3 / Psalm 145	Jan. 22	Genesis 45,46 / Matthew 16
Dec. 21	Zephaniah 1-3 / Revelation 15	Jan. 23	Genesis 47,48 / Matthew 17
Dec. 22	Haggai 1,2 / Revelation 16	Jan. 24	Genesis 49,50 / Matthew 18
Dec. 23	Zechariah 1,2 / Psalms 146,147	Jan. 25	Exodus 1,2 / Psalms 11,12
Dec. 24	Zechariah 3,4 / Revelation 17	Jan. 26	Exodus 3,4 / Matthew 19
Dec. 25	Zechariah 5,6 / Revelation 18	Jan. 27	Exodus 5,6 / Matthew 20
Dec. 26	Zechariah 7,8 / Revelation 19	Jan. 28	Exodus 7,8 / Psalms 13,14
Dec. 27	Zechariah 9,10 / Psalm 148	Jan. 29	Exodus 9,10 / Matthew 21
Dec. 28	Zechariah 11,12 / Revelation 20	Jan. 30	Exodus 11,12 / Matthew 22
Dec. 29	Zechariah 13,14 / Revelation 21	Jan. 31	Exodus 13,14 / Matthew 23
Dec. 30	Malachi 1,2 / Psalms 149,150	Feb. 1	Exodus 15,16 / Psalms 15,16
Dec. 31	Malachi 3,4 / Revelation 22	Feb. 2	Exodus 17,18 / Matthew 24
Jan. 1	Genesis 1,2 / Matthew 1	Feb. 3	Exodus 19,20 / Matthew 25
Jan. 2	Genesis 3,4 / Matthew 2	Feb. 4	Exodus 21,22 / Psalm 17
Jan. 3	Genesis 5,6 / Matthew 3	Feb. 5	Exodus 23,24 / Matthew 26
Jan. 4	Genesis 7,8 / Psalms 1,2	Feb. 6	Exodus 25,26 / Matthew 27
Jan. 5	Genesis 9-11 / Matthew 4	Feb. 7	Exodus 27,28 / Matthew 28
Jan. 6	Genesis 12,13 / Matthew 5	Feb. 8	Exodus 29, 30 / Psalm 18
Jan. 7	Genesis 14,15 / Psalms 3,4	Feb. 9	Exodus 31,32 / Acts 1
Jan. 8	Genesis 16,17 / Matthew 6	Feb. 10	Exodus 33,34 / Acts 2

MORNINGSIDE JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

Meetings Wednesday 10.30 - 11.30 at Open Door Cafe, 420 Morningside Road

DECEMBER

9th Balancing the World's Ecology: a unique spiritual approach.
Cameron Pirie, Campaigner and Member of the Radicals

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Minister

Rev'd Scott S McKenna 26 Seton Place EH9 2JT 667 1286
scottsmckenna@aol.com

Pastoral Assistant

Sheila Wallace c/o 18 West Mayfield EH9 1TQ 0773 324 3046
sheilad.wallace@virgin.net

Church Manager

William Mearns 18 West Mayfield EH9 1TQ 07595 302 255
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Organist

Dr John Willmetts c/o 18 West Mayfield EH9 1TQ 539 0341
s9810477@sms.ed.ac.uk

Musician

Catriona MacKenzie c/o 18 West Mayfield EH9 1TQ 07810 828 124
catrionalmackenzie@googlemail.com

Session Clerk

Christine De Luca 17A Seton Place EH9 2JT 667 9090
deluca.c@gmail.com

Treasurer

Hugh Pollock c/o 18 West Mayfield EH9 1TQ 662 8388
pollock@ukonline.co.uk

Gift Aid Donations

Hugh Somerville 111 St. Alban's Road EH9 2PQ 667 9797
hs.somerville@btinternet.com

Roll Keeper

Hugh Somerville 111 St. Alban's Road EH9 2PQ 667 9797
hs.somerville@btinternet.com

Church Address:

18 West Mayfield Edinburgh EH9 1TQ

Church Telephones:

Office 667 1522
 Mayfield Radio 667 7742

Grapevine

Editor: Sheila Porrer - 620 0338
sheilaporrer@blueyonder.co.uk

Distribution: Mrs Janet Moncur - 664 3918
williammoncur@btinternet.com

Pastoral Assistant

For Home or Hospital visits, please contact
 Sheila on 0773 324 3046

Church Office

Office Hours: by Appointment
 07595 302 255
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Staff Days Off

Minister: Mondays (generally)
 Church Manager: Monday AM & Friday