

NOVEMBER 2009 NO 169 Scottish Charity # SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



VERY REVD DR W J G MCDONALD

SESSION CONFERENCE

ANNUAL JOINT GIFT SERVICE

www.MayfieldSalisbury.Org

THE MANSE

Revd Scott S. McKenna

It is so vitally important to remember those who have given so much in order to give us life and freedom. At this time of year, we reflect on the sacrifices made during the two world wars, of those who died and those injured in body, mind or soul. I find it difficult to imagine the immense pressure, responsibility, fear and physical demands placed upon the men and women serving on the front line. Rightly, we remember conflicts of more recent times and those serving in our name in Afghanistan. The death toll keeps mounting. It seems to me vitally important that we support our armed services: it would be immoral to send our forces into action without providing them with the equipment they need in the quantity they need it and it would be immoral if we did not provide generously for the service men and women

and their families both during their time of service and upon their return to civilian life. Men and women scarred by conflict should receive the best care and support which we can reasonably provide. I commend our armed forces and their families to your concern and prayers. Without ever serving in action, in a foreign land, I wonder if we ever fully appreciate all that is done in our name. In 1940, Churchill said of the fighter pilots, 'Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few': that sentiment remains true of our country today of all who serve in the British Army, Royal Navy and Royal Air Force.

Every blessing,

Scott S McKenna



'FREEDOM'

*It is the Soldier, not the reporter
Who has given us the freedom of the press.
It is the Soldier, not the poet
Who has given us the freedom of speech.
It is the Soldier, not the peace camp organiser
Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate.
It is the Soldier, who serves beneath the Flag
whose coffin is draped by the Flag
who allows the protester to burn the Flag
It is the Soldier, not the politician
Who has given his blood
his body
his life
The Soldier, who has given these freedoms.*

Very Revd Dr W J G McDONALD

It is now fifty years since the Very Revd Dr WJG McDonald, or Bill as he is widely and affectionately known in the congregation, was inducted into what was then Mayfield and Fountainhall Parish Church. He already had wide experience behind him (his exceptional academic credentials; a time of active service as a Captain in the Royal Artillery in WWII serving in the Far East; and as a Parish Minister in Limekilns). He and his wife Pat and their family quickly settled into life at Mayfield.

Many will remember Bill as a wonderful preacher and a real shepherd. He was particularly open to new ideas and encouraging to all. Many still recall some of his sermons and were particularly touched by his words – for he is a man who understands the potency of words – particularly for those special times: Communion, baptism, weddings and funerals.

He held the congregation together at the time of the fire and had a vision for a new hall and more opportunities for fellowship. He went off occasionally (on exchange visits and study) and fitted back into whatever re-arrangements had been made in his absence. His work in the central committees of the Church was also much appreciated and it was a delight, but not a surprise, when he was appointed as Moderator of the General Assembly.



We have been blessed, and continue to be blessed, with a long line of good ministers. Times change and the challenges facing us also change and we are enormously grateful for the skills and dedication of our more recent ministers, who like Bill, have brought special gifts to a demanding post.

Bill, we salute your fifty faithful years of friendship and service, of nurture and leadership. We are delighted you choose to remain with our congregation. We wish you, Pat and the family every blessing.

The Kirk Session



Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt down before Him, and asked Him, 'Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?'

St Mark 10: 17

In the Old Testament faith narrative, Job said of God, 'Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, That I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, And fill my mouth with arguments.' Job has suffered great tragedy in his life and he desires nothing more than to confront God with his complaint: he wishes to present God with a law suit; he wishes to take a legal action against God. Job said, 'I go forward, but He is not there, And backward, but I cannot perceive Him.' He wants to meet with God, see Him face to face, complain in person if you like; Job wants to lay before God his sense of injustice at all that has happened to him in his life – the loss of his health, wealth and loved ones. Towards the end of the faith narrative, the end of the story, God confronts Job and we hear Job say to God, 'I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, But now my eye sees You.'

Job is granted his wish. Fed by an intelligent faith and an inescapable pain, with all his heart Job desired to see God face to face – and he does. How does he react when confronted with God?

myself, And repent in dust and ashes.' Seeing God face to face, Job for the first time in his life felt wholly, entirely, inadequate: he loathed himself, felt unworthy, and repented in dust and ashes. In this most ancient of faith narratives, once Job has seen God face to face, once he has understood the gulf of knowledge and wisdom between humanity and God, he felt humble and repented of his sins. And then, Job's health, wealth and the gift of family are restored to him. Is this faith narrative about the realities of this life, the trials and difficulties, the suffering, the inexplicable evils, and does this narrative promise eternity with God, dwelling with God face to face, where we will live in harmony, peace, and fulfilment, where all the injustices, mistakes, wrongs, hurts and agonies are taken away? Do you believe in eternal life, life after death? And, if so, what will it be like?

Writing on the nature of everlasting life, the twentieth century theologian, E J Fortman, got a little carried away. Fortman wrote:

[The redeemed] will have telepathic

powers by which they will be able to communicate thoughts and desires and feelings to one another....They will have clairvoyant powers by which they will be able to perceive objects and scenes and forms that are distant in space and time....precognitive powers by which they can have advance knowledge of future occurrences...psycho-kinetic powers by which they can affect and move and most likely transform matter even at a distance.....They will be agile, able to move easily from place to place, perhaps from planet to planet and from one part of the cosmos to another – with the speed of thought.

It would be arrogant of me to categorically refute his vision of eternal life, his vision of heaven, but to me it does not feel right: Fortman's vision is all about our powers and not at all about our relationship with God and God's children of every generation.

Down the many centuries of Christian history, the saints of the Church have gifted to us treasures from their spiritual wisdom and learning. The Reformer, Martin Luther, said, 'The Holy Ghost...will raise me up and all the dead, and will grant everlasting life to me and to all who believe in Christ.' The Heidelberg Catechism of the sixteenth century states:

I shall possess, after this life, perfect blessedness, which no eye has seen nor



"Why me?" (Book of Job) by Einar Hákonarson

ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived, and thereby praise God forever.

The Roman Catholic tradition speaks of the 'beatific vision....the immediate knowledge of God which constitutes the primary felicity of Heaven. The souls of the blessed see God, directly, face to face.' In St Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians and in the Book of Revelation, there are hints, allusions and promises of seeing and knowing God

face to face. For the Orthodox tradition, life eternal is a participation in the very Being and life of God: they speak of a theosis, a deification. And to return to the Book of Revelation, the very last book in the Bible, in the penultimate chapter, we read:

God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.

In the faith narrative of Job, the central character comes face to face with God, is confronted with the Holy One, the Creator of the universe, the cosmos, and he is humbled, he abhors himself and repents of his pride and arrogance and self-importance. But once in God's presence, Job becomes richer than ever. Do you believe in life after death? And, if so, what will it be like? Will our wrongs and brokenness and pain and tears be wiped away? Will we, as Fortman suggests, be able to move from planet to planet with great agility?

Again, if I may, I want to turn to the spiritual wisdom and learning of the saints, the giants of our tradition. Besides the personal dimension to life eternal, there is also the social and cosmic dimension. Gregory of Nanzianus took up the imagery of light and spoke of heaven as a 'perpetual festival, illuminated by the brightness of the Godhead of which here we can only catch fleet-

ing glimpses, and it will be our joy to gaze on the Trinity of divine Persons.' In the Eastern Church, life eternal is more than personal, more than social: it is cosmic. The whole of nature is destined for glory.

In his book, *Why There Almost Certainly Is A God*, Keith Ward explores the source of this feeling, this intuition, this deep and mysterious sense that there is life after death. Ward writes:

Immortality is not a fiction invented to compensate for an unhappy life. It is the perception that our conscious lives are not bounded by this space and time, and that they find their fulfilment in union with a supreme spiritual reality that seems, even during this life, to take us beyond the limits of time.

Keith Ward is arguing that consciousness, my consciousness, your consciousness, is not necessarily dependent upon matter. Ward says, 'Perhaps materialism is the greater delusion.' He writes:

Consciousness is the most evident sort of existence there is, and it is not necessarily bound to matter.....The delusion is that consciousness does not exist, or that it wholly depends on matter. If we can establish affinity with God, then it is likely that such affinity can endure beyond the death of our physical bodies. It is because we have affinity with God that immortality becomes a possibility and a reasonable hope.



St. Gregory the Theologian

There's a thought to take home with you: perhaps materialism is the greater delusion. The story of the rich man who asks Jesus what he must do to

inherit eternal life is a story about what is inside a man, inside a human being, and the material world in which we live. The author of the Letter to the Hebrews says that God discerns the thoughts and intent of the heart. Jesus saw in the young man's heart the desire to purchase eternal life in much the same way he purchased everything else that he needed and wanted. If life eternal could be purchased in that way, then the heart would go on unchanged, impervious to the life and pain of others and insensitive to the Spirit of God. Perhaps materialism is the great delusion and that our consciousness is itself the evidence that we are not bound to space and time, that we are made in the image of God, made for union and communion with the Holy One, the Eternal Mind and Consciousness.

David Read the Scottish minister, who became Pastor at Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, once said:

One of the reasons I believe in the Resurrection is that my mother told me. And to this day a strong element in my belief is the number and quality of people who told me.

I believe that we are made for life with God. What will it be like after death – a house with many mansions? It is a deep-rooted feeling or sensation in the soul that the spiritual, our consciousness, is the real and that the world of matter is less real. It is also a trust in



John Donne

Jesus: he has told us that in His Father's House are many mansions and He has gone to prepare a place for us. Trust in Jesus is rarely spontaneous; it is a growing trust over years in the One who comes to us, reaches out from the pages of Scripture.

Let me close with the meditative words of John Donne, the poet and priest. Donne wrote:

I shall rise from the dead, from the darke station....and never misse the sunne, which shall then be put out, for I shall see the Sonne of God, the Sunne of glory, and shine my self, as that sunne shines. I shall rise from

the grave, and never misse this City, which shall be no where, for I shall see the City of God, the new Jerusalem. I shall looke up, and never wonder when it will be day, for, the Angell will tell me that time shall be no more, and I shall see, and see cheerefully that last day, the day of judgement, which shall have no night, never end, and be united to the Antient of dayes, to God himself, who had no morning, never began. There I shall bear witnessse for Christ.....

Belief in life after death, life eternal, has for me two roots: it is rooted in rational reflection on the fact of our consciousness, our spiritual consciousness; and it is rooted in trust in Jesus, the Man who comes to us in and through the pages of Scripture and the One we meet in the silence and darkness of prayer. Donne said, 'I shall rise from the dead, from the darke station....I shall rise from the grave....I shall looke up....and be united to....God himself.' It is not for nothing that the last line, the final clause, of the Apostles' Creed reads, 'I believe....in the life everlasting.' It is the purpose and climax of our faith's journey.

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 September Grapevine listed several wonderful gifts which have already contributed to the beauty of our refurbished Sanctuary, not to mention the piano (which can also sound like an organ!) for choir practice.

Three further members have contributed to the cost of the design and materials for our future communion table frontal and two members are willing to add similar gifts for future wall hangings or falls for specific occasions. Another two members have either promised or made significant gifts towards choir seating and / or screening ('modesty board'), so we are now able to move ahead confidently with initial plans for that area. These will be shared with you when the necessary research has been completed. Besides

that, several members have said they would like to donate a chair for seating in the choir or the South Transept. (The price per chair is likely to be in the region of £90.) Given that we have had a renovation fund-raising campaign and are about to embark on a vitally important appeal for general giving, these gifts are particularly generous. One other possible gift could be for appropriate candle-holders 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.

NEWS

On that day, we who have reached the older years in our lives were gathered together in Fellowship in our Church.

With our Minister leading, we shared in Worship and the Celebration of Holy Communion.

We were grateful to all for the welcome and kindness we received and following our tea we returned to our homes with joy in our hearts.

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Wednesday 14th
October 2009

Anne Mathams

Thanks to the most generous support from you, we were able to deliver several bags of clothes, foods and toiletries to the Salvation Army's REGENR8+ project at their new premises in Niddry Street. A cheque for £45 was also sent on.

The workers at the project were very grateful for our support in these early days of their new 'home' and we confirmed with them that the following types of items continue to be in demand :

- Non-perishable foods
- Clothes (for women and men)
- Toiletries (including sanitary items, razors, etc)

The Centre is open for breakfast and lunch Monday - Friday.

Possible visit. We hope to organise a visit to the new premises one afternoon - possibly in November. If anyone would be interested, could they please give their names to the helpers at the next 'Tin Sunday'.

The next 'Tin Sundays' will be:

- 8th November
- 13th December

REGENR8+



Salvation Army
Support Group



CARING FOR CHILDREN IN INDIA

‘Musicians Join Hands with the Children of SLA’

A fundraising concert in aid of Scottish Love in Action

Monday 2nd November 2009 at 7.30 pm

Greyfriars Kirk, Edinburgh

Featuring:

Members of the **Scottish Chamber Orchestra** playing
Schubert’s Quintet in C, D.956

Pupils from St. Mary’s Music School **Kilairum** Folk Fusion Group

Transgressive North’s art-pop ensemble the **Spolkestra**

Tickets £12 (unreserved) from the Queen’s Hall
(0131 668 2019) or at the door.

Complimentary refreshments will be served

TAPESTRY

Alison Harvey Wood, who died recently, had many talents, including patchwork, tapestry and embroidery. Her sister has kindly bequeathed to us a large selection of Alison’s fabrics, tapestries (some new, some started, some almost completed,), threads, trimmings and other sewing items. At the coffee morning on November 7th, these will be available for anyone who might be interested either to buy or to take away and complete and return for sale at a Christian Aid event next year.

FREEWILL ENVELOPES

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

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

The Pastoral Care Team would welcome new members. If you have a couple of hours to spare per month and think you would enjoy visiting someone elderly or house-bound I would be happy to tell you more about it. You can ring me on 0131 668 1342 or my e-mail address is elspeth.dougall@blueyonder.co.uk

Elsbeth Dougall

28th Blackford Scout Group

Scottish Charity No SC006141



JOINT COFFEE MORNING & CHARITY CHRISTMAS CARD SALE

All are warmly invited to join the Scouts
for their annual Coffee Morning
Bring your friends to enjoy home-made scones and jam,
shortbread and coffee, tea or juice

**You will also have the opportunity to buy your
Charity Christmas Cards (including a Christian Aid
Stall) in the Entrance Hall and Newington Room
10 – 12 noon.**

Bring and Buy

Home Baking, DVDs, CDs
Computer Games, Gifts

Games for all

Further information from:

SCOUTS COFFEE MORNING	CHARITY CARD SALE
Rosemary Gold, Secretary	Stewart Houston
667 1872	664 2041

Mayfield Salisbury
Church Halls
Saturday 7th
November

10.00am - 11.30am

To date no responses have been received to my appeal
for new drivers (the commitment can be one Sunday a
month or LESS). If there are no more volunteers it is
possible that the service we have been able to offer to
our less able members will be reduced.

CAR POOL



Please could you consider whether you could offer even
just a little help?

Diana Tudhope
669 4819

Would subscribers to Life and Work who wish to contin-
ue for 2010 please give cheques (£16, payable to Mayfield
Salisbury Church) personally to Peter Grant or send them
to 9 Grange Road before Sunday 15th November. The
additional charge for postal delivery is £12. Late orders,
received after 15th November, will have to be charged at
the full cover price of £20.

LIFE & WORK MAGAZINES

ST. COLM'S 1909 - 2009

St. Colm's, a lovely, listed building in Inverleith Terrace, with a jewel of a chapel, celebrated its centenary on October 18th.



It began its life as the Women's Missionary College of the United Free Church of Scotland, with a wonderful far-seeing Principal, Annie H. Small, herself a missionary in India, the first in a line of splendid visionary Principals.

St. Colm's trained many hundreds of women, at first for missions abroad, then also at home. In the 1950's men also came forward, often newly married, with their wives for service in mission abroad.

Those of us who had the great privilege and joy of two years' residential training learnt to know the world church, for there were many students from overseas, and also from Northern Ireland.

Residential training stopped fifteen years ago, but St. Colm's continues its life as the International House, a residence and centre for overseas students.

At the centenary celebrations there was a great gathering from near and far of former staff and students and friends of the college to give thanks for its existence.

Kay Ramsay &
Rhoda Drummond

** The stained glass window in St. Colm's chapel shows Christ the Light of the world pointing the way from the United Kingdom, symbolised by thistle, rose, daffodil and shamrock, to the mission continents of India, China and Africa.*

FLOWERS

Jane Main
667 1711



Flowers during October were donated and arranged by Pat Small and Jane Main. As ever, I am appealing for more people to join the small band of regular flower arrangers. Don't be scared off by the thought of yet another 'rota' - there isn't one - just a begging phone call now and again.

Our regular arrangers would be happy to take a novice under their wing so do please get in touch if you fancy having a go.



New laundry at Embangweni

On the 8th September, I flew into Lilongwe Airport twelve years after my last visit. The heat hit me as I disembarked to be met by Esther Lupafya, HIV/AIDs coordinator, who carried me off in one of the hospital vehicles to Ekwendeni. You will remember that Esther spoke to us at M-S last September. We arrived in the dark and the following day, I was introduced at chapel and then went to “handover” where all the people in charge of the different wards give their reports. Ekwendeni is suffering as they are 33 million kwacha (226 kwacha = £1) in the red. This is not helped by reduced income from the Church of Scotland and other charities due to the recession. There is only one doctor at the hospital, a part-time Dutch girl with two small children, and most of the work is being done by the clinical assistants. The new Maternity Ward is partly finished and rounds involve crossing a building site to the wards.

However, Esther took me out to see some of their community work and I met a small family where the father and first wife died of AIDs and the second wife and all seven children are building a new home using resources provided by the hospital. For a mere £4000 they can build a small semi-detached house with two rooms on each side and a combined verandah so that

the two step-families can live apart. The money that we donated has been used in this way.

The following day I travelled to Embangweni, where I had worked for a year, in the hope that I would see a huge improvement in facilities there. There is now mains electricity and the Rotary Club of Mzuzu have been involved in improving the water supply to the hospital so that there is now running water in theatre and the new laundry that Jean and Alastair cycled for is almost complete but...! Embangweni is also in the red despite support from the States.

I had hoped to see that the quality of life had improved dramatically for Malawians since my previous visit with all the resources, especially from Scotland, being sent but it really has not changed much. There has not been a famine for 5 years and certainly I did not see the malnourishment of the last time and the animals are not quite as skinny but there are very few fat Malawians and they still need all the help we can give them especially with HIV/AIDs an ever present shadow. Malawians are still as friendly as ever and Malawi is still the “warm Heart of Africa” but the life expectancy is 43.5 years. Pray for them.

LUNCHEON LECTURES

Dick Scott

On Saturday 17 October, in our own Church Halls, we hosted the second of the current series of lectures arranged by our neighbours at St Columba's, Upper Gray Street, and ourselves. There was an encouraging turn-out to hear Elspeth McPheat, a Church of Scotland Deacon, speak about caring for people with dementia. Those present were privileged to hear a most entertaining, informative and illuminating talk. Some of us were surprised to learn that there are many forms of dementia, generally requiring expert diagnosis. Some treatments were specific to a particular form of dementia. For carers and others, though, the important thing was to see past the dementia to the person, easier if you knew the person well. Most of us failed to appreciate the importance of body language as opposed to verbal communication. People with dementia could read body language very well. It was worthwhile spending time with people with dementia, e.g. taking them out. Even if sometimes they appeared later not to know where they had been, they would retain the feeling of the event. People with dementia were

often anxious about things they need not be anxious about. To re-assure them, it was more important to identify the feeling than to try to reason with them about facts. Communication was often helped by imaginative use of objects and things, which could trigger recollection and emotion.

After Elspeth's talk, and a number of questions, Mayfield Salisbury's Alison Glen provided some information about Alzheimers Scotland (Edinburgh branch). Any one who may be interested in their work should speak to Alison.

This series of lectures aims to look at some specific areas of need and ways of helping. The next lecture in the series will be on Saturday 28 November in St Columba's Halls, Upper Gray Street, at 12 noon. There will a soup and roll lunch after the lecture. The speaker will be Elaine Stalker, Support & Development Manager with Families Outside, a charity concerned with the needs of families affected by imprisonment in Scotland.

THE GREEN TEAM

Now that Mayfield Salisbury is officially an ecocongregation, it is time we set realistic goals for working together on "green" issues. To do this, there will be a meeting for everyone who is interested on Monday 16th November at 7.30pm in the Newington Room. Please come along – the more we share ideas the more effective we will be.

marjorygrant2001@yahoo.co.uk

Marjory Grant

Our Annual Parents Night attracted over 100 people who were entertained with a mixture of music and sketches followed by the video of our fun and adventure at our Summer Camp at Glen Tanar, near Aboyne. The Summer Camp DVD is always eagerly anticipated and this year was no exception as it captured so much of the essence of our camp.

We were pleased to welcome Christine De Luca, Session Clerk, as our special guest and she very graciously presented the various awards gained by the Scouts for their hard work at both Summer Camp and over the whole of last session. The winners were :

Summer Camp

Best Patrol	Kestrels
Camp Photographer	Lachlan Mavor Williams
Best Scout	Tony Low-Macrae
Best Ass. Patrol Leader	Ethan Gillies-Denning
Best Patrol Leader	Calum Barker

Session

Patrol of the Year	Curlews
Challenge Shield	Calum Hayes
John Wood Smith Cup	Ethan Gillies-Denning
N R Bruce Cup	Calum Barker

In addition, all 20 Scouts who attended Summer Camp were presented with a certificate for completion of the John Muir Award. The Award gave the Scouts the opportunity to learn about the fragile plants and wildlife in the Cairngorms, carry out an Environmental Impact Study on the effects of our camp and take part in a Conservation project -recovering a Victorian Well from decades of growth from trees and bushes. They also took part in a night walk through the forest to help appreciate the different atmosphere and sounds in the darkness.

28th Blackford Scout Group
 SC006141

THE MAYFIELD SALISBURY MUG

Hurry, hurry, hurry! There are only 38 M-S mugs left so if you want one for that last Christmas present or indeed to sponsor one for the Church then you must be quick! They will be on sale throughout November after both services and also at the Christian Aid stall at the Scout Coffee Morning on November 7th while stocks last. Only £6.00 each, £5.50 each for bulk purchases or £5.00 to sponsor one. Boxes still available.

Hilary Watkinson
 667 6360

NEWS FROM OUR PARTNERS

We were delighted to hear recently from our partners in both East Africa and Thailand, who have each received donations from us. A proportion of the money we raised during our renovation was set aside to support these worthwhile projects.

Oliver Stegen, who works as a linguistics consultant with SIL International in Northern Tanzania, passed on this letter from the Mara project:

'Thank you very much for your generous support of Bible translation in the Mara region of Tanzania. With your donation of £4,000, received in July, we were able to make significant upgrades to our IT infrastructure for both of our offices. We purchased two new Windows 2008 servers, two new server cabinets, two large UPS's (which are crucial in this country's unreliable power situation), gigabit network switches and enough network cable to wire our future translation office, currently being built. Now our eighteen Tanzanian translators, who have just been trained in the relevant Bible translation software and computer skills, can all work simultaneously on a centralized database that is on the new network.

Your gift makes it possible for us to be efficient in our work today and will continue to aid Bible translation in the Mara region of Tanzania for many years to come. Thank you very much from the whole Mara Translation team!'

From Thailand, where Mike develops training programmes for church leaders

and Jane is a nurse working with HIV projects, the Fucellas write:

'We want to express our heartfelt gratitude for your financial generosity, both in terms of what you as a church and many individuals give towards our support, and also for the amazing gift you gave us for the AIDS project. We hope the service went well as you returned to your sanctuary.

We were very much encouraged by the number of people who came to our three day conferences and the interest shown. Sadly we were not able to see as many people as we had hoped during our stay. If we missed you on this trip please accept our apologies and we hope we will see you next time we are back.

Once again thank you for all your love and support over the years. Please remember us as we return to a very busy schedule in Bangkok.'

Since then it has been good to learn that the Fucella family have arrived back in Thailand feeling 'well and truly refreshed' and ready for the many challenges ahead. These have already included the IS conference, which Jane was involved in organising, and a retreat for CCT missionaries which both Mike and Jane helped to plan. Mike recently travelled to Chiang Mai to open the new Northern child protection office, and hopes shortly to begin teaching a Master's course on social ethics.

These links offer us an invaluable perspective and we look forward to hearing more from our partners and following the progress of their important work.

SESSION CONFERENCE



The Session Conference – Mission in the 21st Century

There was no Kirk Session meeting this month, but on Saturday 10th October elders gathered at the Faith Mission building on the Gilmerton Road for the annual Kirk Session Conference on 'Mission in the 21st Century'. It was good to meet somewhere different, have time to relax together and think and talk about things in depth. The facilities at the Centre were first-rate with large light rooms for meeting, comfortable chairs, and an excellent soup and sandwich lunch as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea. We felt quite spoilt!

In the morning we listened to two presentations by our visiting speakers, Professor John Drane, head of practical theology at Aberdeen University and his wife Olive, both of whom work extensively in Britain and elsewhere leading courses and seminars encouraging fresh thinking on mission. The day focussed particularly on the fact that the vast majority of churches, although doing much which is of value, are not growing. How do we successfully reach out to the large number of people who these days have no church connection and often no real knowledge of Christianity? Society has changed. Day to day lives are now radically different from even twenty years ago, 2010 is not 1990.



Olive Drane

In the first presentation, 'Ministry and Mission in a Changing Culture', John and Olive stressed the importance of esteeming and honouring our past and the good people who had brought each of us here today, but went on to take a close look at where and how we, as committed church-going Christians, are now failing in our mission. The rapid changes which have occurred in society were highlighted by focussing on their own family which stretches from John's father, still active and independent in his nineties but a widower for more than twenty years, through their own generation where most work full time and many, like themselves, travel extensively, to their adult children and their partners, all of whom also work full time and are widely scattered.

Life styles are now very different and we need to think about the issues this raises. What about time, especially for the large numbers who work extended hours and travel long distances? Many

move house and job quite often, where do they feel they belong? What do relationships look like today? How are children being cared for, from whom are they getting their ideas? How do people today nurture their friendships? Where and when do they meet? What do they do together? What does the future look like for them, secure or insecure? Many work from a very specialist and narrow knowledge base, what issues engage their minds? People like and need challenges. Where are these coming from today?

After coffee, the second presentation, 'New Challenges for Old Churches', asked us 'How best can we be faithful missionary Christians in a largely post Christian world?'. First we were asked to consider the traditional model which churches have tended to use when considering mission. This starts with Ecclesiology, what the Church is. Does it need to change and if so, how? It goes on to Missiology or mission. What should we as Christ's disciples within the church be doing? It then finally arrives at Christology, the person of Jesus, and the question of how we bring others to Him. We were then asked to consider what would happen to our thinking and planning if we reversed this thought process. What happens if we start with Jesus, move on to how He might become known to those outside the church, and finishing with what sort of church these people might then

want. To start from where people are and allow what they need to evolve from them.

Some interesting initiatives which are being tried using this model were then described. Two were in England and one in the USA. All were funded by mainstream churches, and in each case the focus was on a particular group whose lives did not include any kind of link with a Christian Church, although many still experienced a spiritual hunger.

One such initiative was taking place in Bracknell in Berkshire. Here, remembering that the very words 'Church' and 'Christian' are bad news for many people today, the initiative started with an invitation on a notice board in a gym to sign up for a free meal at a Thai restaurant. About 40 people came and about ten of these, only two of whom were Christian, then formed a core group to arrange further meetings for fellowship and discussion, at first doing things like reading the Sunday papers together. Gradually various issues were explored including eventually God, Bible reading and worship. The type of worship wanted then grew from the wishes of the group.

Another initiative was in Los Angeles, where one of the emerging churches there reaches people through providing a meal and a therapeutic session of



Discussion group with Prof. Drane (centre)

drumming. This brought some smiles, and John agreed that although he supported the idea that sharing food was of great value he was at the start very sceptical about the drumming and chose the smallest most insignificant drum for himself! He quickly, however, became a convert to the experience of being part of a large rhythmical group as a way of forming a sense of community from which worship groups and Bible study groups could spring.

The third initiative, and the one we heard most about, is named 'Sanctus One', in which Olive Drane has a special interest as it was the subject of her recent dissertation. It is taking place in central Manchester where there has been a very rapid increase in the number of single people and young couples living in the many new flats which have been built there. The local Parish churches, although doing excellent work with other groups, were not connecting

with these new people at all. The Church of England thus funded a programme of evangelism outwith the parish structure. This started with the provision of a young evangelist who worked freelance in the area. Interestingly he spent the first six months doing nothing concrete at all, but just getting to know the place and the lives of those who lived there, 'networking' in fact. Gradually a group of like-minded young people formed round him and started spending time together in prayer seeking a way forward. The initiative is still in its infancy, but already there is a thriving Wednesday night meeting which is attracting significant numbers of the young city centre population. The ideas are coming from them and a variety of groups have been set up. Some are purely social, chatting, discussing, having food together, some are focussed on a particular interest like a choir or other form of music, but some have started

d to study the Bible and have a time of worship, reflection and prayer.

In all new initiatives John and Olive stressed the importance of not trying to implement every idea but to take time to examine the profile of one's own area and then concentrate on what one feels one could do successfully. Central to success they felt was imaginative leadership, the courage to start from where people actually are, and an acceptance that it was all right to make mistakes!

In the afternoon we divided into four discussion groups in order to reflect on what we had been hearing and think about what sort of initiatives we might implement over say the next five years at Mayfield Salisbury. The subsequent plenary session showed that the groups had discussed a wide range of options. Some had concentrated on thinking carefully about the things we do now with a view to making improvements and building on our current successes

like the House Groups initiative and the 9.30 service. Others, aware that it is distinctiveness which often makes one church succeed where another fails, concentrated more on what we could do that was a bit different. What could we offer particular groups such as singles, or parents of adolescents, for example? Could we provide a context for addressing particular issues, perhaps through sharing a meal or in short 4-6 week courses? There was a strong awareness, however, that we are just at the ideas stage, that we need to reflect on what we have heard, to pray about it and wait on God. Action is certainly required but not before reflection on who we are, what we can offer, and how we play to our strengths.

Scott then thanked John and Olive Drane warmly for leading us in a most interesting and thought provoking day, and closed the meeting with a time of prayer.

SENIOR SERVICE

2009 is the year which marks fifty years service as an elder by Kenneth Palmer. Kenneth diligently served the congregation as Treasurer for many years and is still 'on active service'. Robbie Bartholomew, who pips Kenneth by one year (ordained in 1958), has only very recently retired from the eldership. He served as Session Clerk. And Tom Turnbull, who retired a few years ago but still joins us when he can, became an elder in 1950. He was Treasurer before Kenneth. Two more elders with long and distinguished service are Alf Hannay (ordained 1962) and Donald Fortune (1964).

We are grateful for such dedicated service.

Kirk Session

ANNUAL JOINT GIFT SERVICE

Sunday 29th November '09 at 10.45am.

JOY AND WONDER

SANTA'S HELPERS LTD again seek contributions of children's toys and games, gifts suitable for young adults and toiletries for all ages and both sexes.

Our decorated boxes go out to, among others, Gilmerton Children's Centre, ages 0-5 years; Women's Aid; Stopover Hostel for teenagers, ages around 14-18 years; the children of clients of Simpson House, ages 5-12 years; the Salvation Army; and the children of prisoners held in HMP Edinburgh.

A staff member at Simpson House where drug users attend for counselling services, helped to deliver the parcels to their final destinations last year. She told me how deeply moved she was by the joy and wonder of the children receiving a gift.

If you are able to help create Joy and Wonder please bring your unwrapped gifts to the service on the morning of Sunday 29th November. High Street Gift tokens or cash donations are also welcome as are wrapping paper and gift tags.

With thanks, but alcohol and second hand items are not usable.

The donations of children's toys and gifts are so very, very welcome but if you are



stuck for an idea, why not buy a gent's toiletry gift set (useful for Stopover and the teenage boys who go with mum into a women's aid hostel) or footballs (useful for the boxes going to five of the recipients as organisers often say how difficult it is to source gifts for older primary age boys)?

Any car drivers able to help with one of two deliveries, please give me a ring.

If you are unable to attend the Gift Service on the 29th please feel free to hand your gift in at 55 Grange Loan during the week before the Service or on Tuesday 1st or Wednesday 2nd.

Anne Graham, 667 6331.

THE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Sheila Porrer



Back row left to right: Anne Aithie, Colin MacKenzie, David Booth
Front row left to right: Chrystine Paterson, Jan Melvin, Melanie Grier

While worship must always be at the heart of Mayfield Salisbury, it's good to have the chance of getting together and getting to know one another in ways which are not possible in a structured service. The Fellowship Group's job is to provide us with opportunities to enjoy ourselves, while nurturing friendship and companionship within our Church community, and making the Church a more interesting place for those outside.

Events arranged by the group in recent

years have included visits to the National Library of Scotland, the Botanic Gardens, and exhibitions at the National Gallery; a family Ceilidh; picnics with our partner Churches, Reid Memorial and Craigmillar Park; a Beetle Drive and a Burns Supper – a heroic feat, successfully serving piping hot haggis, neeps and tatties from the Church kitchen to close to 100 people. They also provide the after-service breakfasts in Easter week, with the hot bacon rolls a highlight on Easter Day, and organise the Inchcolm pilgrimage

too (though not in 2009, which has been such a busy year).

The Fellowship group also see themselves as an enabling team for other Church groups, helping them to run their events. Refreshments are provided and served for the Mayfield Salisbury players' Christmas celebration, and after the conclusion of business at the Church's AGM. They assist with soup and roll lunches for the current Peace and Justice events with St. Columba's, and help with Feasts, sometimes with the Chinese Church. Have you sampled the mince pies, shortbread and the famous 'Mayfield Mull' punch after the pre-Christmas evening carol service, as well as the hot chocolate and marshmallows which warm everyone up after the Christingle service? Now you know whose work is behind them!

In any community things change, and Mayfield Salisbury has certainly evolved over the last few years. There are now two morning services, and social events provide a good opportunity for the two congregations to meet and mingle – a Beetle Drive or a Ceilidh for all ages for example. Over the last year of course, the fund-raising events have had a high profile, but the Fellowship group will soon revert to creating mainly fun rather than funds (though any profits do get ploughed back to fund further events, or given as donations – the last Burns Supper made a surplus of no less than £200, which was offered for charitable donation).

The Fellowship Group is currently working with the fund-raising group to run the “swishing” parties you'll have read about already - the next one is scheduled for 19th November, details from Jan Melvin (667 7772) or Melanie Grier (667 9724) - but the Fellowship Group would welcome any ideas you have for future outings, tours, or social events. Are there places you think would be good for a visit? (Not too far away – the group doesn't have ambitions to become a travel agency!) Have you come across social events elsewhere you think would work well at Mayfield Salisbury? Is there something you've always fancied doing which you think might interest others? And, very important, would you be willing to help by joining this lively group? They meet about four times a year, and have a convivial and productive evening together. New members are always welcome, along with new ideas!

David Booth is the Convenor of the Fellowship Group, and he would be delighted to hear from you, by e-mail (booth378@btinternet.com), phone (667 0582), a note in the B pigeonhole, or a personal hello on a Sunday morning. Or you could talk to any of the members of the Group pictured here. Without the work of the Fellowship group, Church life would be much poorer – we thank them for all their efforts, and look forward to more social events to come.

MAYFIELD SALISBURY THURSDAY CLUB

NOVEMBER

- 5th Ethical Foods and Scottish-Jamaican History
Prof Geoff Palmer
- 12th Bring and Buy Sale
- 19th Scottish Islands
John Graham
- 26th The Spiti Tibetan Knitting Project
Madeleine Thomas

DECEMBER

- 3rd Making Christmas Arrangements
Alison Glen

MORNINGSIDE JUSTICE & PEACE GROUP

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

NOVEMBER

- 4th Influence of Confucianism on China and the modern world
Professor Natascha Gentz, University O Edinburgh & Director of the Confucius Institute
- 11th Tackling exploitation in the UK - GLA approach to protecting migrant workers
David Nix, Head of Policy, Gangmaster Licensing Authority
- 18th Accommodation and care for older people.
Jim Thomson, CEO, Bield Housing Association
- 25th Degenerative eye conditions: their prevention, treatment and rehabilitation
Professor Bal Dhillon, Consultant, ERI Eye Pavilion

DECEMBER

- 2nd Afghanistan after a million bullets
James Fergusson, writer and Journalist

MAYFIELD MILERS PROGRAMME OF WALKS

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

NOVEMBER

Wed 11	10.30	Gullane circular via by bus Salcosts Farm & Luffness <i>*W side St Andrews Square. Check near bus stop nearer time.</i>	4mls	R Williamson	667 3249
Sat 21	10.00	Calton Hill / Cameron Toll by bus	6mls	B McNie	667 9391
Tue 24	10.19	Granton Promenade 24 bus Blackford Station	3-4 mls	B Davidson	667 1416

PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

October 9 Mrs. Christina Mitchell, 2 Maurice Place, EH9 3EP

BAPTISMS

October 11 Layla Clyde, 18 Ness Place, Tranent

October 18 Abby Louise Blackstock, 3, The Maltings, Athelstaneford.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Colin Dunsmore 12/3 Southhouse Crossway (507)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Alastair and Melanie Grier to 22 West Mayfield (402)

Dr Kate Henriksen to 5b/1 Granby Road (402)

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Nov. 2	Ezekiel 4,5 / James 1	Nov. 17	Ezekiel 34,35 / II Peter 2
Nov. 3	Ezekiel 6,7 / James 2	Nov. 18	Ezekiel 36,37 / Psalms 126-128
Nov. 4	Ezekiel 8,9 / Psalm 119: 121-144	Nov. 19	Ezekiel 38,39 / II Peter 3
Nov. 5	Ezekiel 10,11 / James 3	Nov. 20	Ezekiel 40,41 / I John 1
Nov. 6	Ezekiel 12,13 / James 4	Nov. 21	Ezekiel 42,43 / I John 2
Nov. 7	Ezekiel 14,15 / James 5	Nov. 22	Ezekiel 44,45 / Psalms 129-131
Nov. 8	Ezekiel 16,17 / Psalms 119:145-176	Nov. 23	Ezekiel 46,47 / I John 3
Nov. 9	Ezekiel 18,19 / I Peter 1	Nov. 24	Ezekiel 48 / I John 4
Nov. 10	Ezekiel 20,21 / I Peter 2	Nov. 25	Daniel 1-3 / Psalms 132-134
Nov. 11	Ezekiel 22,23 / Psalms 120-122	Nov. 26	Daniel 4,5 / I John 5
Nov. 12	Ezekiel 24,25 / I Peter 3	Nov. 27	Daniel 6,7 / II John
Nov. 13	Ezekiel 26,27 / I Peter 4	Nov. 28	Daniel 8,9 / III John
Nov. 14	Ezekiel 28,29 / I Peter 5	Nov. 29	Daniel 10-12 / Psalms 135,136
Nov. 15	Ezekiel 30,31 / Psalms 123-125	Nov. 30	Hosea 1,2 / Jude 1
Nov. 16	Ezekiel 32,33 / II Peter 1	Dec. 1	Hosea 3-6 / Revelation 1

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