

News from...St. Michael's

This is your weekly e-bulletin waiting for you in your inbox on a Friday keeping you in touch with your favourite church! (in a light-hearted, but nevertheless informative way)

Friday 12th October 2007.... Week 7.

[News...](#) at work!

You've been anxiously waiting, but now you know. Here at [News...](#) offices workers wishing to communicate with you, our customers, are not on strike. There are no wildcats here; we are all purring contentedly. And although it is true that [News...](#) workers love Spain; we only enjoy it for our holidays. Now you may be rejoicing at the arrival of your latest edition of [News...](#), and so you should, because here is just the excuse you've been waiting for to say to your friends and those related to you, "No post? Why not try [News...](#) They never strike." or words to that effect; use your imagination and wean people from the uncertainty of snail-mail and on to the solid sustenance of [News...](#) On the other hand if you've been grumbling all week about the near certainty that those who bring [News...](#) to your inbox will not be on strike, because "Communication workers, [News...](#) journalists? Don't make me laugh!" then send me an email with the words (and a cheque) "Please take your wild cat and go away on holiday to Spain, here, I'll even pay for your ticket."

THE POINT OF IT ALL

Keeping you up to date and in the know; this week in [News...](#) new format... party animals ... parishes grouped ... more parties ... wealth redistributed ... soup ... a very funny joke ... entries for eating ... holiday taken ...

SO WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS WEEK?

Reported; those who have been following [News...](#) for many weeks will know that St. Michael's superintended Ratho Parish Church some weeks ago. On Tuesday evening this week we presented that report in all its finery, leather bound and everything, to the Presbytery's Superintendence Committee. The [News...](#) worthy part, well in order to be there your [News...](#) reporter had to miss **The Children's Club Annual Party**. Every year after the summer has past those members from St. Michael's, St. Colm's and St. Martin's who organise and run an exceptional Children's Club during the first week in July gather to remember, reflect on and reminisce about their experience. Planning for next year is meant to take place, but [News...](#) has heard that (allegedly) it was all party, party, party well into the wee small hours. If you like a good party then why not join up to help provide the kids with a summer club during the first week in July. It is always great fun with great people and great kids. Email me with the words "I enjoy a good party and want great fun with great people and great kids" I'll sign you up for next year. Not just one party, but two; St. Michael's can't stop having fun and enjoying itself. On Saturday morning the Party Animals were out in force around the church in a truly bacchic experience ravishing the gardens clean of weeds and other unwanted debris. Have a look at the front of the church – transformed! We are back again this week; 9:30 on Saturday for as long as you like. Work hard on Saturday morning and you'll have earned your pie and pint as you sit back in front of the T.V. in the afternoon to watch Scotland play Ukraine. Last week I promised hot rolls for the Garden Party, but instead the Friendship Club gave us a coffee morning for the willing workers. It was yet another success, well done to those who created a lively atmosphere, great baking, and £280 for the church funds. I don't know if there will be hot rolls this week at the Garden party, but I hope so...

Advised; The Presbytery of Edinburgh appoints a representative to The Salvation Army's Advisory Board for their social work programs, which they run in Edinburgh. That representative is me and that is where I was on Wednesday evening. We met at the Salvation Army's Bread Street drop-in centre. They are dedicated to working with those who find life hardest in our community and it is a privilege to play even a small part.

Coordinated; The Parish Grouping Coordinating Committee met on Thursday night. Great fun was had by all and lots of work was done. In November the Kirk Sessions of St. Michael's and St. Colm's along with the Vestry of St. Martin's will meet together to discuss items of mutual interest. Just the fact that the three churches are committed to meeting in that way is hugely encouraging. The PGCC met this week to coordinate that upcoming meeting. We were joined for the first time by members of Gorgie Parish Church who sent two observers along. Success breeds success... as others here of the good news of churches working together they want to join in. Who knows maybe at some point in the future the three churches might become four.

COMING UP

Garden Party again on Saturday 9:30 onwards – fun for all the family.

Blast Off! Don't forget to come to Blast Off! next Sunday (come this Sunday too) because next Sunday Jocelyn Cunliffe, the architect, is coming to be interviewed by you in advance of the rededication service.

New Issues Group; if you want to talk about issues; those in the news, those in the [News...](#) and those in services, then speak to me or Robbie Mochrie (he's a newish member, if you haven't met Robbie you might recognize him as the tall bloke who sings in the choir and isn't Bernard). The first meeting of the New Issues Group will be on Sunday November 11th following Second Sunday Soup.

Second Sunday Soup on this Sunday. It's the second Sunday of the month and therefore it is soup. Stay after the service and enjoy soup and a roll with all your friends at St. Michael's.

Film Club on the 28th October at 7:00 - it's the one with George Clooney, so you know it will be good!

St. **Michael's at 6:00** on the 21st October at 6:00 – it's the one with Stuart Montgomery, so you know it will be good!

Karen has been allowed out of the office to go on holiday. She'll be away next week and will be back on 23rd October, so if you need anything from the office, or want to tell the office anything, best tell me.

FOCUS ON FAITH

"Income only maintains consumption, but assets change the way people think and interact in the world. With assets, people begin to think in the long term and pursue long-term goals. In other words, while incomes feed people's stomachs, assets change their minds." (Michael Sherraden, *Assets and the Poor*)

Following the Chancellor's statement to the Commons you've been rejoicing all week that perhaps in the future you might be able to not just pass your millions on to your children, but also the yacht and the castle as well. Think again. After last week when our reading was Luke 12:13-21 (hoarding our wealth) some have been asking [News...](#); "What should Christians think about Inheritance Tax?" Because [News...](#) will always strive to answer your questions and can't resist a challenge we sent a journalist from [News...](#) offices to university this week with the instruction not to come back until a degree (or better) in economics had been gained. So gained, [News...](#) can report that at the moment, inheritance tax is charged at 40% on assets worth more than £300,000 that someone leaves behind when they die, unless it is left to a spouse. However, that threshold and rate could change as the Conservative Party and the Labour Party not to mention the LibDems have policies to change that. As Christians what should people do with the wealth that they accumulate throughout our lives? Should it go to their children to help them through life, or to the state to help everyone through life? It is our money after all; or is it? [News...](#) took advice from Professor Julian Le Grand, Professor of Social Policy at the London School of Economics. In his book *Motivation, Agency and Public Policy* Prof. Le Grand is interested in the redistribution of wealth. He suggests that there could be a very, very low threshold for Inheritance Tax and a very high level of tax so that indeed our wealth is not passed on to our children, but returned to the state when we die. However, in addition he proposes a Demogrant. A Demogrant is a grant from the state (he proposes £10,000) funded by Inheritance Tax given free to every member of society when they reach the age of 18. This he says is a sure fire way of redistributing wealth so that we don't maintain a proportion of our population as an inherited wealth-based elite.

You'll have many questions about that so read chapter 9 of his book

http://www.amazon.co.uk/Motivation-Agency-Public-Policy-Knights/dp/0199298912/ref=sr_1_5/026-5641664-9189236?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1192177647&sr=1-5

WORSHIP AND SOUP FOR SUNDAY

Our theme this week is Generosity and Gratitude. We'll be looking in particular at Luke 17: 11-19 and 2 Kings 5: 1-15b so read these; but we'll also we'll be using poems by Mahmud Kianush and Sri Chinmoy.

After our service there's soup, so stay for that...

COMPETITION!!

Entries so far for last week's competition (best eatery in Edinburgh);

Nicolson Square café
9 Mechiston Gardens
St Michael's soup Sunday
"Two Thin Laddies"
'My Mum's on a Thursday'

You'll get the chance to try at least one of these on Sunday, and there is one you'll definitely not have the opportunity to try on Sunday. However, keep your entries coming and give [News...](#) something to do at lunchtime; winner announced soon...

JOKES AND FUNNIES!!

Thank you to everyone who not only requested inappropriate jokes, but also took the opportunity to send them in! We were entertained all week. [News...](#) (supplemental) will go out to all those who wish it containing what we're not going to reproduce here. In the meantime hold on to your seats because this is rollickingly good...

Here's another joke for you:
Why doesn't an owl sing when it's raining?
because it's too-wet-to-woo.

Thanks again Murray, keep them coming jokemeister!

Have a good weekend,
James