

## Goodbye to Douglas as he enters retirement

Having always worked in new towns or new communities I knew that Dalry would be different. So it turned out! Because of that, the last 5 years have been both interesting and challenging. From the old compact community with its distinctive ethos has emerged a new area and more fluid in its nature and varied in its demography. This has presented its challenges to me and to St Colm's. It was clear to me early on that the new world raised issues about ministry and mission which would have to be dealt with in ways appropriate to an area in transition.

In this the emergence of the Parish Grouping and its work have helped us understand better the new realities and discern a way forward for the Churches working together. It is my belief that the four partner churches are now in a good position to start creating that future. I have been delighted to be a part of this process and consider myself fortunate to be able to work with James, John, Sophia and Sarah and with Peter.

I am also grateful to the people of St Colm's for the warmth of their welcome, their care of me, and their support for the Grouping process. I will miss them, their joy in worship, their kindness of spirit, their cheerfulness in the face of challenge and their continuing desire to work for the wellbeing of the district as part of their vocation to the people of Dalry and the wider district.

I offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has made my time here so interesting, worthwhile and happy. My prayer is that you all be blessed in your work together in Jesus' name in the days to come.

Douglas Paterson



## Partner Churches Insert Summer 2010



Welcome to the next Partner Churches Magazine insert. It's a bit of a bumper edition again this time, partly so that together we can remember the wonderful service we had on 21 March. Here we have asked a few people from each of the churches for what they remember of the occasion. There are a few photos as well. Each church will receive a copy of the covenant with photos in the next wee while to display.

There are a few events advertised for the summer months, and the magazine editors from all the churches would like to wish you all a Happy Summer!

### Noticeboard -Summer 2010

Sunday worship times:	St Colm's 11:00am	St Michael's 11:00am
	St Martin's 10:15am	Gorgie Parish 11:00am and 6.30pm
Mondays	9:45am Toddler Service and Group and Toy Library - St Martin's 1.30pm Women's Fellowship - Gorgie Parish 6-8pm Girls' Brigade - St Colm's - restarting in September	
Wednesdays	10am Coffee Morning - Gorgie Parish 1-2.30pm Toy Library - St Martin's 7pm The Guild restarting in September	
Thursdays	6.15pm Way In Club for primary school children - Gorgie Parish	
Fridays	10-11.30 Tynie Tots - Parent and Toddler Group - Gorgie Parish 7.15pm The Drop - Youth Alpha - Gorgie Parish	

### Other dates

- 1st Monday of the month: 10.30am Ecumenical Service for the Deafened and Hard of Hearing at St Martins
- 1st Tuesday of the month: 2pm Informal service followed by tea at St Colm's

12th June - Gorgie Dalry Festival in Murieston Park

Look out for other Partner Churches notices in all the churches

### Websites:

[www.stcolmschurch.co.uk](http://www.stcolmschurch.co.uk)

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

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

[www.stmichaels-kirk.co.uk](http://www.stmichaels-kirk.co.uk)

## Partner Churches through Lent and Easter

Lent and Easter seems to be the season when there is most opportunity to visit one another's churches within our grouping, which seems an appropriate way to mark and to celebrate this cornerstone of the faith that we share. This year, for the first time, I managed to get along to some of the Lent study meetings and a couple of joint events during Holy Week.

The Lent study group running in St Michael's was attended by 5-6 folk from the different churches – interestingly 4 of us had also been working together on preparing and leading the children's event at our joint covenant service. The study topics (from a York Course) were quite serious in nature – as befits the Lent season - covering subjects such as silence and the suffering child. A new aspect for me was listening to recorded interviews as part of the study (John Bell was particularly interesting) and the questions raised really did give us something to think about.

On the Wednesday of Holy Week I went along to the Stations of the Cross service at St Cuthbert's Catholic Church. This short service included a reading and prayer for each of the 14 pictures fixed around the Church which depicted the events of Good Friday. The service was well attended and representatives from the different churches took part in the readings. We were all made very welcome.

The Easter event that I found most helpful was sitting in St Martin's Church on Good Friday afternoon to take part in a service of reflections including silence and responses and prayers. And then to be able to move around the church to different prayer stations, with a visual image, reading and idea for reflection at each and to have the freedom to sit, stand or kneel and pray or reflect. For example, the bowl of water and a towel left for us to reflect on Pilate's role (with an invitation to wash our own hands) and a tray of soil with seeds to plant to symbolise death and resurrection.

Taking part in these different services helped make Easter a more meaningful time for me, and as I start to get to know people in our different congregations it's good to see familiar faces popping up at the different events. I'd like to say thank you to all who helped to prepare these services and also the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday evening services and I look forward to taking part again next year.

Caroline Longley (Gorgie Parish Church)

The Partner Churches' Covenant Service on Sunday 21st March impressed me greatly by the way in which it was conducted by Clergy and lay people alike. The prayers, hymns and the Bible readings were so appropriate for the occasion and it was good to see Session Clerks from the Church of Scotland Churches along with the Team Priest from St. Martin 's read from Isaiah, Philippians and John. It was also a privilege to see and hear from the Bishop of Edinburgh and the Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery. Members of each Church bringing their special symbols gave me treasured memories of days gone by. If pressed to give my most favoured moments it would have to be the music and Peter Neilson's inspirational Sermon.

The music before worship certainly set the tone as St. Michael's great organ, played superbly by Stuart Montgomery, gave us Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B Minor and Greig's "Last Spring". The choir made up of singers from the Partner Churches sang "Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring" – a delight to hear. During the signing ceremony Greig's "To the Spring" was played. Given that the weekend was the Spring equinox this was an excellent choice. We went out on a high with Walton's "Crown Imperial"! The hymns too were all a "good sing" especially the hymn "Welcome Everybody" where many, especially those who work with children, were able to do the actions.

Peter Neilson whose work in the beginning helped to lead us to where we are today preached on our Covenant reminding us not to forget the spiritual part of the Covenant whilst we are perhaps busy carrying out the Statement of Intentions. I particularly found this of great help as sometimes we need to stop in the midst of activity to remember why we are doing things together, to remind oneself of our commitment to pray and seek for that deepening of faith, hope and love into which the Spirit calls each individual.

For me the Service and the fellowship afterwards was a rewarding uplifting experience giving hope for the future.

Fay Anderson – St. Colm's



I found a charming second hand book recently called *Bluff your way in Music*, by Peter Gammond. Nobody in the professional or amateur world of music escapes this man's wit and he says conductors "more often than not have their names printed much larger on programmes, posters and order of services than the names of the composers or performers"!

For our special service St. Michael's four choirs would come together to sing beautifully. My choir was joined by St. Martin's, St. Colme's and Gorgie and I asked them to assemble for 9.40 to rehearse the most revered *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring* by J.S. Bach. It was the 21st of March - Bach's birthday and so this was entirely appropriate.

I had expected that some might be late, disorganised and a bit excited by the sense of occasion. None of it! Everyone was ready to warm up with vocal exercises at exactly 9.40. We worked for 50 minutes on the Bach and we were delighted to have Charles Dodds to play an oboe obligato between the episodes and recent winner of Edinburgh University's *Donald Tovey* prize (for composition no less) Lewis Forbes accompanied on the piano which allowed me to conduct.

The performance was a joy and everyone sang the four part anthem superbly. Oh if we could all be together like this every week wouldn't it be marvellous!

Stuart Montgomery, St Michael's



Sunday 21st March was a memorable day for all four Churches in the Parish Grouping when we signed a Covenant pledging to work together in Christian unity. The Service was attended by the Bishop of Edinburgh, the Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh, our Parish Ministers and Rector and the Rev. Peter Neilson where each of them contributed to the day's proceedings.

The younger members from each Church brought forward to the chancel symbols of unity. The congregation, along with the choir, were all in good voice, enough to shake the rafters.

A bountiful buffet lunch followed the Service, with much chatter and laughter and we can only hope and pray that this will be a forerunner to the pattern of the partner churches sharing together.

## Walking Group - do join us!

May 15th	Berwick Upon Tweed and Mindrum House
June 26th	Gartmorn Dam and BBQ
July 17th	John Muir Country Park
August 7th	West Lomond Hill
September 4th	Bavelaw to Flotterstone
October 2th	River Almond & Cammo Park
November 6th	Glasgow

A friendly walking group ... With a range of walks, for all abilities.  
For further details of times and how to get there (and for sharing lifts)  
contact Liz Moir (337 1795)

## 'Celebrate!' Concert

Join choirs from Balgreen and Craiglockhart schools and local musicians at Gorgie Parish Church on Friday 11th June at 7.30pm for a major community event.

The hundred strong children's choir and lively and varied programme are not to be missed.

## For Christian Aid Week

St. Colm's is holding a Christian Aid lunch on Sunday 9th May after Morning Worship - all welcome to come and support

## Calling all artists and crafts-people

Gorgie and Dalry are bursting with artists and craftsmen: this is our discovery every year during St Martin's Art Exhibition. Paintings, photography, drawings, woodwork, needlework, tapestry, silverwork .... It's a wonderful mixture of all different forms of art and crafts and is always a celebration of the community's skills and vision.

This year's exhibition is **16-21 August**. Please start thinking if you would like to exhibit anything - we'll need to know by the end of June!

The theme this year picks up the life of the Partner Churches - 'Journeying Together'. This picks up the Covenant joy and commitment to work and grow together, but also reflects many parts of life in our communities and our world, and mirrors the growing concern for unity between peoples, nations, families and in partnership with the world around us. As in previous years, the theme is there for those who like to work to a theme, but it can be interpreted in any way that appeals to you.

## Partner Churches Covenant Service: Our memories

I was asked to coordinate the Children's activity – after several e-mails I managed to get the leaders together one Sunday three weeks prior to the event and we devised a plan – but would it work, would we have enough time for a name game, make a banner and have the Parachute Game.



I wasn't part of the fun in the upper hall but was greatly relieved to see one of the four banners being processed to the front after the Signing. The Banners will be a lasting reminder of a great day.

Douglas Bannatyne St Michael's

We'd written to Presbytery asking permission to cancel our principal service of worship, given the congregation lots of notice that there would be a joint service that day, arranged transport for those who needed it to get "up the hill", and now, amid growing excitement, the day had finally arrived and Gorgie Parish was on the move!

Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2010 dawned bright and sunny with even the parking easier than anticipated. The entrance to St. Michael's was awash with familiar faces offering a warm welcome, and an explanation that more Orders of Service were being copied since the number of people attending had been underestimated – all very positive signs and the service itself lived up to expectations too.

The words of praise, the readings and prayers were all carefully chosen with this special occasion in mind. The combined choir of the four congregations sang *Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring* beautifully and the words of Rev. Peter Neilson were everything we could hope for – inspiring, challenging, encouraging, and forward-looking.

The children played their part perfectly; in their time together away from the service producing a commemorative banner for each of the congregations.

Following the signing of the Covenant and the close of worship, in traditional church fellowship, we all adjourned to the hall for tea and goodies!

Tricia Kingston, Gorgie

We arrived early, well not really, it was 9.30am for a joint choir practice which went really well, probably because we had previously had two very good practices at Gorgie who warmly welcomed us. We were however very apprehensive about how the service would go. Obviously we wanted it to be a success, but inwardly we were not convinced it would be, and, to be honest, we weren't looking forward to it.

Our misgivings were however completely unfounded. From the enthusiastic singing of the first hymn to the final dismissal we were all truly together, not as four but as one large body of Christ. There were many highlights in the service, especially the very positive mission statement from each Church, the beautiful banners created in the Sunday School and Peter Neilson's sermon – WOW! – he encouraged us to be passionate about our involvement with each other, a passion which was very noticeable at the bring and share lunch afterwards, throughout which there was a real buzz.

We got home with very positive feelings about our future involvement with the partner Churches, so, come on folks, let us jointly get involved in the communities of Dalry, Gorgie and Slateford. We can start by attending each others "social activities" such as St Michael's film club, St Martin's walking group, Gorgie's Women's Fellowship or the monthly Tuesday afternoon service at St Colm's, or even attending each others services occasionally. Perhaps, by getting to know each other better, we can move on to being jointly involved in running community projects such as the Toy Library which has already started as a joint venture.

For us the covenant service was a massive "kick start", so please, let's recognise that and plan to move forward together.

Bob & Penny Allen, St Martins

