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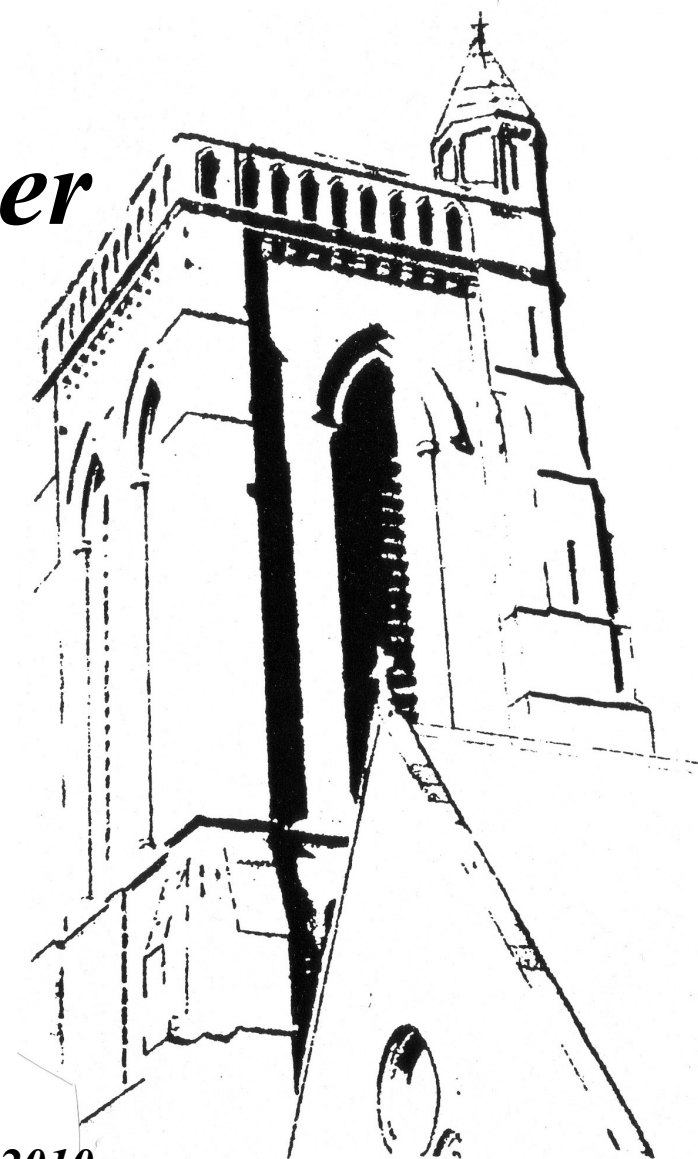
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# The Tower



*February 2010*

*(Recommended Donation: 40p)*

**The magazine of St Michael's Parish Church, Edinburgh**

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## What's On in St Michael's

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Choir Practice</b>
	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
	<b>11 am</b>	<b>Morning Service</b>
		<b>and Blast Off!</b>

**Tea is served in the hall after Morning Worship**  
**The Lord's Supper is celebrated every quarter**  
**and after the service on the last Sunday of the month**

<b>Monday</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Parents and Toddlers</b>
	<b>2 pm</b>	<b>Friendship Club</b>
	<b>7 pm</b>	<b>Yummies</b>

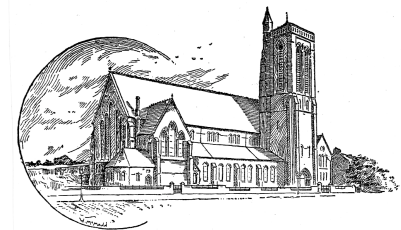
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Parents and Toddlers</b>
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<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>10 am</b>	<b>Parents and Toddlers</b>
	<b>5 pm</b>	<b>Rainbows</b>
	<b>6.15 pm</b>	<b>Brownies</b>

<b>Thursday</b>	<b>1.45 pm</b>	<b>I.O.M. Society</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>6.15 pm</b>	<b>Cubs</b>

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>Coffee Morning</b>
	<b>10.30 am</b>	<b>The Young Ones</b>

For further details of all these  
groups  
please contact the  
church office on 0131 478 9675



# **Music at St. Michael's for Sunday services played by Stuart Montgomery *Organ & Piano***

## **FEBRUARY 2010**

### **Sunday 7th February**

J.S. Bach; Prelude & Fugue in D Major (BWV 532)  
C. Delibes; Valse Lente, from 'Coppelia' (arr. for organ)  
R. Vaughan Williams; Tune for Ann  
L. Boellmann; Toccata in C minor

### **Sunday 14th February**

D. Buxtehude; Prelude & Fugue in D Major  
J.S. Bach; Chorale Prelude on 'God's Time is Best'  
S. Myers; Cavatina  
H. Mulet; Tu es Petra

### **Sunday 21st February**

E. Grieg; Sarabande and Gavotte  
H. Sumsion; Saraband & Interlude  
T.S. Dupuis; A Concerto Movement  
W. Harris; Processional

### **Sunday 28th February**

J. Haydn; Eight Musical Clocks for Organ  
J. West; Impromptu  
A. Dvorak; Humoresque  
R. Vaughan Williams; Prelude 'The New Commonwealth'

Dear friends,

*But, God has combined the various parts of the body, giving special honour to the humbler parts, so that there might be no sense of division in the body, but that all its organs might feel the same concern for one another. If one organ suffers, they all suffer together. If one flourishes, they all rejoice together. (1 Cor. 12: 25)*

Towards the end of January the local churches celebrated the week of prayer for Christian unity with a service of worship in Gorgie Parish Church. This service celebrated the commitment that individual congregations make locally to learning about one another's history; sharing one another's traditions; working together; and witnessing to the world beyond the church walls to the importance of overcoming difference in order to share a common life.

As you know four local congregations: three Church of Scotland: St. Michael's, St. Colm's and Gorgie; along with St. Martin's of Tours Episcopal Church work together in a parish grouping. The name of our parish grouping is Partners Together. To celebrate our relationship and all that we do together the Partners Together are going to sign a covenant in March. The covenant is a document that puts in to words our developing relationship. The service at which the covenant will be signed will involve all four churches and take place in St. Michael's on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March. If you would like to read the words of the covenant you can find them elsewhere in the Tower.

Sharing the Christian life together is about more than just words. During March the Partners Together will put their words into action and you can take part. Running throughout Lent, from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February for five weeks there will be a Lent Study Course on Wednesday mornings and Thursday evenings. Along with this the World Day of Prayer, which brings churches together from around the world, is marked with a service on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March at 2:00pm in St. Michael's. There is more information about both if these in this month's Tower.

To mark our spirit of unity let us pray this prayer, which was used by Duncan Forrester in his book about church unity, *The True Church and Morality*,

*Lord God, whose Son was content to die to bring new life, have mercy on your church, which will do anything you ask, anything at all, except die and be reborn.*

*Lord Christ forbid us unity, which leaves us where we are and as we are: welded into one company, but extracted from the battle: engaged to be yours, but not found at your side.*

*Holy Spirit of God - reach deeper than our inertia and fears: release us into freedom of the children of God, and lead us into the unity of love. Amen.*

## News of the Church Family

**Sheila Rei**, 2 Burnvale Avenue, Bathgate died on the 11th January. Our prayers and sympathy go out to her husband Paul, daughter Charlotte, mother Margaret and all her family.

## Fresh Start

Once again a huge thank you to those who have contributed items to Fresh Start. I am writing this on the 20 of January and have already delivered 2 carloads this year – amazing!

The item of the month for February is **small electrical** and that means items such as kettles, toasters, lamps, vacuum cleaners, irons, radios, DVD players, microwaves, clock radios, music systems. Possibly this will be our biggest challenge yet but many of these items have already been donated.

The item of the month for March will be **mugs** but as usual any items can be donated at any time. Please leave goods in either the green box which is placed on the steps on the way into the church or on the trolley which is beside the door into the lower hall.

If you have items you would like to donate but cannot bring them to St Michaels please get in touch with Alasdair or Babs Webster and we can arrange to come and collect them from you. Our telephone number is 0131 441 1328 or email [babs.webster@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:babs.webster@hotmail.co.uk) Some of you may have seen the recent article in *The Edinburgh Evening News* about Fresh Start – for those who did not see it a copy is on the notice board at the back of the church.

Thank you.

## ***God made Heaven and Earth then The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it*** **Genesis Ch2 V15.**

Before the recent Climate Change Summit in Copenhagen the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland decided that all Churches had to consider the reduction of their carbon footprint by 5%. These are positive steps towards the care of planet, but it is not down to a global or national decision but to personal thoughts on how we all care for God's great gift.

A growing problem for all of us is the amount of waste we produce, and the amount being sent to landfill. Organic waste rots down in landfills to form methane which is a powerful climate change gas, the effects of which are twenty three times more potent than carbon dioxide. Luckily you can play your part in reducing waste in your own back garden.

WRAP (the Waste & Resources Action Programme) Scotland and the Scottish Government are in partnership to provide a range of subsidised home compost bins to every household in Scotland.

Composting at home diverts waste and produces a wonderful, healthy and free material that you can use all round your garden. You can feed your bin uncooked vegetable and fruit scraps including potato, carrot and sprout peelings, orange peel, banana skins, tea bags and even the contents of your vacuum cleaner. Garden weeds, grass clippings and paper items such as egg boxes, toilet roll tubes and shredded letters go in too. This will soon turn into rich, healthy compost you can use all round your garden as a mulch and soil improver.

WRAP Scotland in partnership with the Scottish Government offers compost bins for as little as £8, and this includes delivery, full instructions on how to compost and a free kitchen caddy. For more details, and to order your bin visit [www.wasteawareScotland.org.uk](http://www.wasteawareScotland.org.uk) or ring the order line on 0845 076 0223.



**A poem for Valentine's Day** or whenever love is to be expressed.  
Popular at weddings, it featured in the film *In My Shoes* with Shirley Maclaine, Cameron Diaz and Toni Collette.

(The American poet e. e. cummings defied the rules of punctuation in his poetry.)

### **i carry your heart with me**

i carry your heart with me (i carry it in  
my heart) i am never without it (anywhere  
i go you go, my dear; and whatever is done  
by only me is your doing, my darling)  
i fear  
no fate (for you are my fate, my sweet) i want  
no world for beautiful you are my world, my true)  
and it's you are whatever a moon has always meant  
and whatever a sun will always sing is you

here is the deepest secret nobody knows  
(here is the root of the root and the bud of the bud  
and the sky of the sky of a tree called life; which grows  
higher than the soul can hope or mind can hide)  
and this is the wonder that's keeping the stars apart

i carry your heart (i carry it in my heart)

**e. e. cummings**

## **ST. MICHAEL'S CONGREGATIONAL BOARD**

St. Michael's is organised and led by two bodies, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board. The Kirk Session is made up of the minister and ordained elders of the Church of Scotland. It provides overall spiritual leadership for the congregation.

The Congregational Board is made up of members and regular adherents of the congregation. It is authorised to take responsibility for the fabric of the buildings and the financing of the church. It also supervises staff; is responsible for maintaining the gardens; and arranging social events.

Membership of the Congregational Board is an opportunity for you to be involved in organising what St. Michael's does, and in running the church as an ongoing congregation. It is an opportunity for anyone who feels the call to be more involved with his or her church.

Members must be over 16, are elected at the Stated Annual Meeting (7<sup>th</sup> March 2010) and sit on the Board for a term of three years (re-election is possible).

If you feel that this might be something you would like to be involved in then contact:

The Chairperson  
James Aitken  
james.aitken2@btinternet.com  
0131 346 1970

The Clerk to the Board  
Elaine Montgomery  
elaine.montgomery1@sky.com  
0131 337 5710

## **STATED ANNUAL MEETING**

The Stated Annual Meeting will be held after the service on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> March. Everyone is welcome to stay and hear how St. Michael's has done over the past 12 months; what its vision is for the next 12 months; and vote new members on to the Congregational Board.

Reports will be heard regarding finance, fabric and restoration as well as a report from the minister.

**THIS IS YOUR CHURCH, COME ALONG AND BE PART OF FORMING THE FUTURE BY BUILDING ON THE PAST YEAR.**

## St Michael's /Bethany Christian Trust

St Michael's is providing the night shelter for clients of BCT on Friday 26th February.

We are also providing the catering.

You can help the Care Shelter...

While only a small team is required to set this up, we need lots of support in other ways.

You can:

- Donate money by placing an envelope in the offering plate on a Sunday (and Gift Aid if you can)
- Add your name to the list of items on the church noticeboard and provide the items suggested BY Sunday 21st February
- You can also donate packs of socks (new please!) and toothpaste, soap or flannel so we can give everyone socks and a toiletry bag (please don't give any other items - just these ones!!)
- Donate jumpers, blankets and other good quality items for people to uplift that night

See any member of Outreach if you have any questions

.....

## World Day of Prayer

This year the World Day of Prayer will be on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March in St Michael's! The service has been written by Christians in Cameroon on the theme 'Let everything that has breath praise God'. We are delighted to have a guest speaker from the Cameroon who will be with us that day. The ecumenical service starts at 2pm. Do come along – all are welcome – to join with others in our area for what will be a moving and inspirational service.

## Fabric

I'm glad to report that the Church heating has not failed since changing our boiler maintenance provider about 3 months ago.

An experiment carried out over the past year has shown that the temperature of the Church can be maintained when the Gas heating is supplemented using the portable heaters. The Congregational Board agreed that this become normal practice.

The major part of the additional cost to date has been met by a donation – would you like to contribute towards the cost of a gas canister?-about £25. If so please contact the Treasurer - Moira Gray.

## Gardens and Grounds.



Little did we know at the time of the last Tower that we wouldn't get anything winter months however compulsory break. Please remember to let us know if you would like to give a couple of hours now and then or perhaps there's a little bit of the garden you would like to be responsible for?

done in the gardens over the perhaps it was a welcome couple of hours now and then or perhaps there's a little bit of the garden you would like to be responsible for?

This spring will see the last phase of the "post restoration" garden work carried out. The Back garden is over-run with bindweed and thistles which are beyond control so it will be completely cleared using the long promised mechanical digger ie a big boy's toy. Is that the volunteers all queuing up already?

The big black wooden gate and fence at the top of the lane have collapsed and need attention.

Jim Fallon



## Amnesty International Greetings Card Campaign

Thanks to everyone who signed cards and donated cash for postage of the 295 cards sent in December to prisoners of conscience and their supporters. Please let me know if anyone receives a reply.  
Derek

## **SOWING THE SEEDS OF FAITH, HOPE and LOVE...**

...by making us more visible.

### **PUBLICITY GROUP**

The Kirk Session and Congregational Board feel that it is important that we let the world beyond our walls know about what goes on within our church. We don't do that badly at the moment, but how could we do it better? If you feel that you might have something to offer in terms of ideas or leadership in this area then let us know. This might be an opportunity for you to make an impact in St. Michael's and on the parish!

James Aitken	James.aitken2@btinternet.com	0131 346 1970
Douglas Bannatyne	douglasbannatyne@msn.com	0131 444 2935

### **WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT... ST. MICHAEL'S? THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND? CHRISTIANITY?**

Over the coming months I'll be running an introductory course to the church here at St. Michael's, the Church of Scotland and Christianity in general.

The course is for anyone who is interested in finding out more or learning more about your local church, the church nationally and the Christian faith. The course is particularly suited for anyone who might like to join St. Michael's as a member.

Membership of the church is a commitment to living the Christian life within the church community and members play a part in guiding and sustaining the church in its life and mission.

The course will be six modules each taking two hours arranged to suit the group's own timetable and other commitments.

If you think you might be interested contact me,

Rev. James Aitken

## **KIRK SESSION/CONGREGATIONAL BOARD CONFERENCE**

In November last year the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board met together for a day's conference to make decisions about how St. Michael's should approach its mission to its parish in 2010. The Session and Board reflected on what they thought made St. Michael's a church to be proud of, and on what they felt St. Michael's could do better.

There was a lot to talk about, and the outcome of the conference was very positive. The group prioritised work that it thought we should do as a congregation throughout the coming year. The first priority was to give our kitchen a deep clean; you may have noticed the work that has been going on recently.

The group also felt that there is much that goes on in St. Michael's that is good, but too often we hide our light under a bushel. We could do better at letting the world beyond our walls know about what goes on within. So the group thought that a Publicity Group could take on the responsibility of making us more visible to the parish.

Recently Edinburgh Presbytery identified that of all the age groups in the city, throughout the Presbytery there are few 20 - 40 year olds worshipping in our churches. The Kirk Session and the Congregation Board has noticed this about St. Michael's as well. So, in an effort to respond it proposed to set up a group to develop the way by which we welcome people from that age group into our congregational life. It hasn't a name yet, but let's call it the 20/40 Group for the moment!

For many years the Congregational Board has believed that it would be possible to market St. Michael's as a venue during the Fringe at festival time in Edinburgh. Doing this might encourage people to take more notice of our church and it would offer a service to the city by making one more venue available at such a busy time. Over the coming year the Board will look in to developing the possibility of St. Michael's becoming a Fringe venue.

With its long aisle and beautiful music everyone knows that being married in St. Michael's is something special. The service that we provide, not just as a wedding venue, but as a worshipping community of celebration, love and encouragement, is attractive for couples starting out in life. The Session and Board felt that this was something we could make more of and will look into ways by which we can let couples know that here in St. Michael's true meaning can be found in the

celebration of their love for one another.

I hope you are encouraged by the work that the Session and the Board has been doing. This isn't just the work of the Kirk Session of course; it is all of our work. If you feel you might have something to offer or would like to be involved in any of these projects then contact me or the Session Clerk, Douglas Bannatyne, and we'll find a way of including you.

James

James Aitken James.aitken2@btinternet.com 0131 346 1970  
Douglas Bannatyne douglasbannatyne@msn.com 0131 444 2935

## Friendship Club

St Michael's Friendship Club is a happy, well-attended club open on Monday afternoons between 2pm and 4pm from September to April – anyone wishing to join us please come along at 1.45 pm on any Monday from 28<sup>th</sup> September. Admission £1, (includes tea and biscuits)

February 1	Springwell Golden Voices Choir – Mrs Margaret Anderson
February 8	The Thistle Chapel (slides) – Mr A Dawson
February 15	The Ingle Neuk Singers – Mrs G O Goudie
February 22	Fisherrow – a little bit of its story – Mr Simon Fairnie
March 1	Life and Times of Robert Wilson – Mr John Rennie
March 8	Songs Old and New – Anne Barrett & Friends
March 15	Laurel & Hardy Film Show – Mr Ian Rintoul
March 22	Senior Southern Light singers
March 29	The Four Seasons – Mr Stuart Montgomery
April 5	Live Music Now! RAFFLE
April 12	AGM and Easter Tea
May 17	Coach Trip to be arranged



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## Do you enjoy writing or taking videos?

After the success of the *Sow the Seeds* videos and presentations, some of us would like to set up a group to continue this into the future. Possibly making videos of future plays used during the services, such as the asylum seekers role-play that was so successful last month. We are also looking for people who enjoy writing and if you don't have computer experience please do not worry. This is to help us explore the possibility of extending our "social networking" and our "blog". St Michael's has an online "blog" however we need writers to make this more interesting.

If you would like to take part, please contact Nicholas Fallon Tel: 337 2364 or Mamie Donald Tel: 346 1179

## Tower

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February is the deadline for news and articles for the next magazine though it stretches to Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> for emailed material.**

## LENT STUDY GROUPS

### ...with Partners Together

Lent is the period of 40 days that comes before Easter in the Christian calendar. Beginning on Ash Wednesday, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Jesus Christ's sacrifice and withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Traditionally Lent has been marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

Whereas Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus after his death on the cross, Lent recalls the events leading up to and including Jesus' crucifixion by Rome. The Christian churches that observe Lent use it as a time for prayer and penance. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular vice such as favourite foods or smoking. Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Jesus' deprivation in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline.

The Partners Together churches are offering **Lent Study Groups** over the 40 days of Lent. This is an opportunity for you to prepare for Easter by meditating on our faith with others from neighbouring churches. The groups will run on two cycles: on Wednesday mornings at St. Colm's (February 24<sup>th</sup>; March 3<sup>rd</sup>; 10<sup>th</sup>; 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>), and on Thursday evenings (February 25<sup>th</sup>; March 4<sup>th</sup>; 11<sup>th</sup>; 17<sup>th</sup>; and 25<sup>th</sup>). Feel free to come to either cycle or mix them as suits you best.

For more information and details contact:

**James Aitken**

### Jesuit Refugee Service

To date over £1200 worth of vouchers have been bought by the congregation. This simple scheme allows the JSR to assist refugees who, having fled persecution, find they have to live on £35 a week of supermarket vouchers with no access to cash. The JSR exchanges the vouchers for cash. We can buy cards (to use in our own shopping) for Tesco, Asda or Sainsbury's at the Fairtrade stall each Sunday. It costs us nothing yet helps others down the line to have a bit more say in their lives.

## Partner Churches Insert - January 2010

Happy New Year!

The Christmas period saw lots of interesting activities - including a Christmas and Advent Craft and Quiet Day (wonderful advent candles, cookies and wrapping paper made by lots of children and grown ups), carol singing in Gorgie and Dalry (many thanks to those who braved the snow for this) and the advent discussion groups. In this insert we look back a little, but we also look forward to exciting new ventures in Partner Churches, including the signing of our covenant which will take place on Sunday 21 March at 11am at St Michael's. It will be wonderful to be together, along with our Moderator and Bishop to celebrate the journey we're on.

### Noticeboard -Spring 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 - St Martin's  
1.30pm Women's Fellowship - Gorgie Parish  
2-4pm Friendship Club at St Michael's  
6-8pm Girls' Brigade - St Colm's

Wednesdays 10am Coffee Morning - Gorgie Parish  
7pm The Guild - alternative Wednesdays from 27th January - St Colm's

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 February, 1st March)

1st Tuesday of the month: 2pm Informal service followed by tea at St Colm's (2nd February and 2nd March)

17th February **Ash Wednesday** - 7.30pm Communion Service at St Martin's

20th February Walking Group: Musselburgh (contact Liz Moir 337 1795 for more details - lifts often shared).

5th March 2pm, Service for the **World Day of Prayer** at St Michael's

12th March 7.30pm Social Evening at St Colm's

20th March Walking Group: Corstorphine Hill

***Look out for other Partner Churches notices in all the churches***

**Gorgie / Dalry Toy Library**  
Opens **Wednesday 3 February 2010 at 1pm.**  
**Mondays 10.45am – 11.30am and Wednesdays**  
**1pm – 2.30pm**  
[www.gdtoylibrary.org.uk](http://www.gdtoylibrary.org.uk)



The original toy library closed in October 2008. By the time the *Partner Churches* heard about this, it was too late to save it. We eventually decided that we should do our best to reinstate it and chose St. Martin's for our base as it could provide the most secure accommodation.

Grants were sought and we received a total of **£4,852** from:

*Daisy Chain Trust* awarded us £1,000 to provide toys.

*City of Edinburgh Council* gave £2,200 for secure cupboards, laptop and other items.

*Scottish Community Foundation* provided £1,652 to cover insurance, rental and toys. *John Lewis* have promised a donation. *Tesco* supplied a number of batteries and antibacterial wipes to clean the toys.

The membership fee will be £5 annually (£20 for nurseries). Toys will be loaned out for 2 weeks for a small charge of either 30p or 50p depending on the size of the toy. Everyone is very welcome - please pop in and visit - with or without a child.

#### **Future plans**

##### ***Mums & Toddler Groups***

We would much like to be able to take the toys out to Parent & Toddler groups, as well as offering the service at St Martin's. The idea would be that the carers would complete a booking form one week and receive the toy the following week. We would need someone with a car who would be willing to transport the toys.

Insurance is provided to cover loss while travelling.

##### ***Online Bookings***

We have a web site and it would be possible in future to enable toys to be booked online. Our catalogue is already available on the site and can be downloaded.

##### ***Special Events***

We hope to be able to use the Wednesdays to run special events such as "Parenting" "Music & Rhythm" etc.

##### ***Involvement***

Anyone who would like to be involved would be welcome especially for:

1. Management Committee – meets every six weeks. We particularly need representatives from St Michael's and Gorgie.
2. Rota for Wednesday afternoons
  - to fetch required toys from cupboards.
  - booking toys in and out of database.
  - wiping toys clean after use.
  - providing a welcome cuppa.

# **ST MICHAEL'S FILM CLUB**



**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> February 7:00 p.m.**

## ***Il Postino***

A romantic film for St Valentine's Day When a shy postman finds the power to express what's in his heart, he finds the love of a lifetime.

**7:00pm in the Church Hall. Entrance free (donations).**

Come along to watch the films and discuss the issues.

---

### **LOONY DOOKER**

**Sponsorship for Alex Anderson's cold bath in the River Forth at South Queensferry on New Year's Day raised a fantastic £769 for the Asda Tickled Pink Breast Cancer Research Campaign**

## ADVENT – READY AND WAITING

The Partner Churches ran a four- week study group during Advent. Each session was taken by one of the Ministers/Rector of the Partnership. The theme was all about waiting - starting with – wait a bit – the need for patience, then – happy to wait, continuing to trust, week 3 – ready and waiting and week 4 – wait and see – expecting the best.

We discussed how waiting seems to have gone out of fashion. Everyone wants instant results and quick fixes – Christmas seems to start immediately after the summer holidays and Easter eggs are on sale just as we are putting the Christmas decorations away. Waiting involves patience – a gift or a virtue – which many of us in the groups wished we had more of. However the Advent sessions helped us to focus on Christmas with its message of Hope , of good over evil and ultimately for life beyond death.

Members of all four partner churches attended the sessions and it was a real pleasure to meet together and share our spiritual thoughts and insights with each other rather than everyday business which many of our meetings entail – Nick Fawcett– the author of the advent group study course says “The beauty of Advent is that it covers past, present, future, speaking through what God has done, will do and is doing here and now.”

A fitting epithet for us in the Partner Churches.

Fay Anderson – St Colm’s

### 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!

## Websites:

[www.stcolmschurch.co.uk](http://www.stcolmschurch.co.uk) [www.gorgieparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.gorgieparishchurch.org.uk)  
[www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk](http://www.stmartinsedinburgh.org.uk) [www.stmichaels-kirk.co.uk](http://www.stmichaels-kirk.co.uk)

3. Drivers with car to collect booked toys from library for distribution to other local groups.

**Good second-hand toys** would also be welcome, preferably plastic or wood - also games, jigsaws and books.

Contacts: Mamie Donald, Tel: 346 1179 (St. Michael's); Monika Bowker, Tel: 228 3305 (St. Martin's); Jean McEdward, Tel: 332 2819 (St. Colm's) or email: [info@gdtoylibrary.org.uk](mailto:info@gdtoylibrary.org.uk)

A catalogue showing the toys is on our website at: [www.gdtoylibrary.org.uk](http://www.gdtoylibrary.org.uk)

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## The Wave

On Saturday 5th of December my husband and I joined 7000 people from across Scotland in Glasgow to march in support of Action against Climate Change in the run up to the Copenhagen summit.

I was particularly pleased to be able to attend a church service at the start of the march organised by Eco-Congregation Scotland. This was lead by Cardinal O'Brien, Most Rev David Chillingworth, Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and Right Rev. Bill Hewitt, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The 300 or so in the Congregation then joined many other charitable groups, campaigning organisations and individuals to walk from Bellahouston Park to Kelvingrove. The atmosphere of the walk was very positive and we enjoyed the Samba bands which accompanied us and waving to people along the route.

The results from the Copenhagen summit itself have unfortunately been disappointing. In a letter to the Herald Newspaper on the 23rd December Rev Bill Hewitt spoke about the failure of our politicians and the moral imperative to take action on Climate Change. He says: “If governments cannot lead, then faith groups and others must step forward to do so. We cannot change the world but we can show, community by community, that where politicians have failed the people can succeed. Having been let down by our political leaders, it is in our hands to change the way we treat our planet. We need to use our power as consumers, as activists, as members of global organisations, as digital citizens, as believers in hope over adversity to change the way the world lives on Earth. We now need to lead our leaders to show them the way.”

I hope that this will encourage each of the Gorgie and Dalry Churches to keep working with Eco-congregation, to make changes to reduce our carbon footprints and encourage others to do the same.

Caroline Longley (Gorgie Parish Church Eco-Congregation Coordinator).  
George South (St Martin’s Eco-Congregation Coordinator).

## Covenant Signing Service

On **Sunday 21st March**, the four churches of Partner Churches will join together for a celebration of our partnership, at which we will sign the following covenant. The Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and the Bishop of Edinburgh will join us for our celebrations. The service is at **11am** at **St Michael's Church**. The preacher will be **Rev Peter Neilson** who has accompanied us on our journey.  
Please do come and be part of the signing!

### St Colm's, Gorgie, and St Michael's Church of Scotland and St Martin's Scottish Episcopal Church

#### Partner Churches Relationship of Trust: Our Covenant Preface

*Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many.*  
1 Corinthians 12.12-14

As Partner Churches in Gorgie, Dalry and Slateford we are journeying into trust and co-operation with the help of the Spirit that each person received at their baptism into Christ. That common baptism expresses the faith that we are the Body of Christ: as local congregations; as Partner Churches seeking to serve the Gospel in and for our locality; as denominations that together are part of the universal church. This covenant affirms our desire to seek ways to express ever more truthfully that common life in our discipleship. We learn what it means to be the Body of Christ as we grow in our relationships of love and trust, honest and faithful conversation, and the practice of compassionate service. Through our co-operation as Partner Churches, as part of the universal church in this place, we commit ourselves to pray and seek for that deepening of faith, hope and love into which the Spirit calls each individual, and each local congregation.

*Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.*  
Ephesians 4.1-3

## The Origins of the Parish Grouping

The origins of the Parish Grouping lie in the Presbytery Plan of 2004. The conversation was taken up initially by St Colm's and St Michael's following the induction of their ministers in 2005. In God's grace, the Grouping embraced St Martin's Episcopal Church in 2006 followed by Gorgie Parish Church in 2009. Our life together, thus far, has centred on worship, study, prayer and co-operation strengthening the bonds between us, deepening our understanding of each other's life, drawing us closer together as we continue to explore the nature of our district and our calling to serve in Christ's name.

We recognise that we have much work to do together as we honour our calling to worship, ministry and service in this place and at this time. On the basis of conversation, trust and respect we now formalise our relationship in this covenant.

### The Covenant Statement

- *While celebrating the creativity and spontaneity of purpose within each individual*
- *congregation the Partner Churches will:*
- *foster good communication between congregations,*
- *encourage active engagement between each congregation and their local community.*
- *offer enthusiastic support for the ventures of individual congregations*
- *develop a flexible approach to mission and worship opportunities that are too large for any one congregation to undertake on its own.*

### Statement of Intentions

- As Partner Churches we commit ourselves to work together to:
- Celebrate our diversity of church tradition, affirm our unity and create new opportunities for worship and mission.
- Create opportunity for life long learning for everyone.
- Serve the needs of the local communities
- Collaborate in our use of people, gifts, buildings and finance.
- Continue in trust and mutual recognition through regular review of how the vision expressed in this covenant is being realised.

*To be signed by the people of St Colm's, Gorgie Parish, St Martin's, and St Michael's Churches on Sunday 21st March 2010.*



