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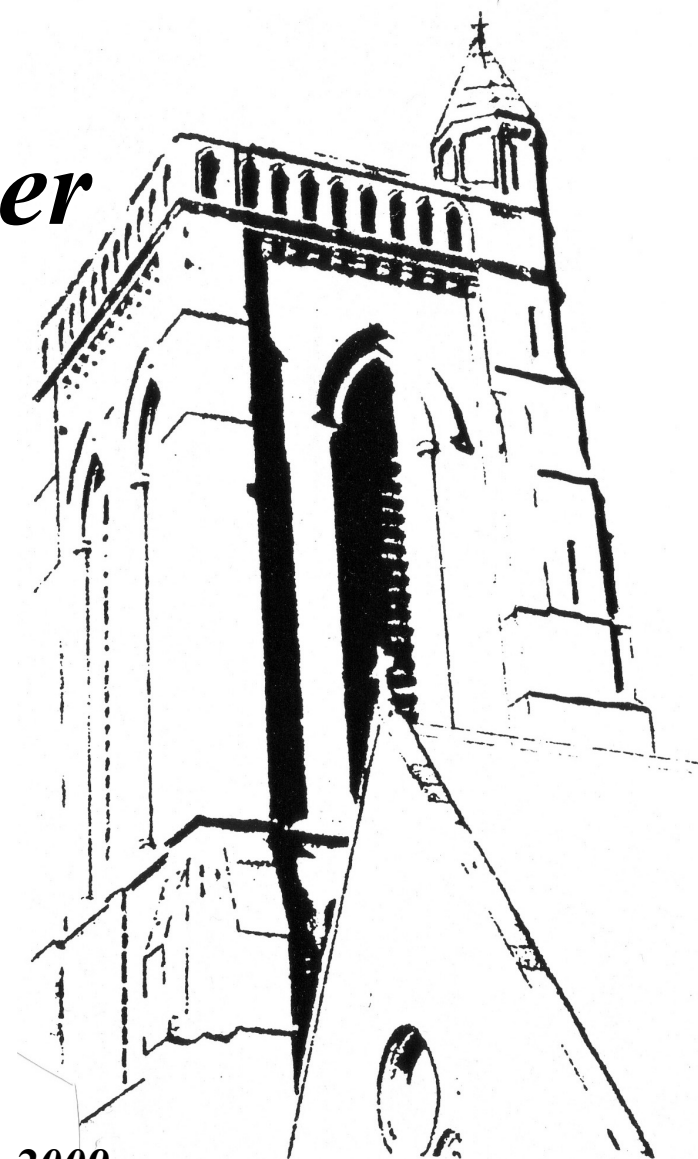
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Wednesday, Thursday) 9.15am-12.15pm (Friday)

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The Tower



November 2009

(Recommended Donation: 40p)

The magazine of St Michael's Parish Church, Edinburgh

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What's On in St Michael's

Sunday	10 am	Choir Practice
	11 am	Morning Service
	11 am	Morning Service
		and Blast Off!

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

Monday	10 am	Parents and Toddlers
	2 pm	Friendship Club
	7 pm	Yummies

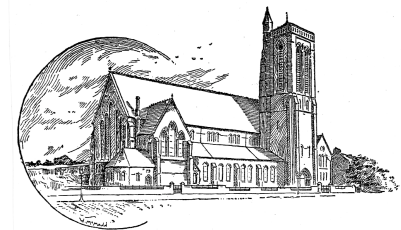
Tuesday	10 am	Parents and Toddlers
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Wednesday	10 am	Parents and Toddlers
	5 pm	Rainbows
	6.15 pm	Brownies

Thursday	10.00 am	Archives Group
	1.45 pm	I.O.M. Society

Saturday	10.30 am	Coffee Morning
	10.30 am	The Young Ones

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)
NOVEMBER 2009

SUNDAY 1st NOVEMBER

Music by H. Purcell:
Rondeau, Minuet, Air & Hornpipe
2 Hornpipes in F Major
(offering) Tune in A minor
Trumpet Tune and Air

SUNDAY 8th NOVEMBER

E. Elgar: Chanson de Matin & Nimrod
C. Franck: Panis Angelicus
(offering) A Nightingale
When the poppies bloom again (Pelosi)
Music in Worship: When I'm laid in Earth, by H. Purcell
E. Elgar; Pomp and Circumstance no. 1.

SUNDAY 15th NOVEMBER

D. Buxtehude; Prelude & Fugue in D Major
J. Massenet; Meditation (from Thais)
(offering) E. Morricone; Gabriel's oboe
L. Boellmann; Toccata

SUNDAY 22nd NOVEMBER

H. Howells: Prelude 'Sine Nomine'
R. Vaughan Williams: Romanza 'The White Rock'
(offering) J. Macabe: Pastorale Sostenuto
R. Vaughan Williams: Prelude 'The New Commonwealth'

SUNDAY 29th NOVEMBER

A Scottish Medley of Burns and other Scots songs (arr. sm)
(offering) My Love is like a red Rose
Highland Cathedral

Dear friends,

This month we give thanks for the 50th Edinburgh (St. Michael's) Company of the Boys Brigade. The 50th was formed in 1909 so this is its centenary year and on Sunday 15th of November we are taking the opportunity to remember the 50th and to say thank you for all that it has meant to so many people over the years. You may be an ex-member or a parent or a leader or a friend of the 50th and you are invited to come along and be present at a service that is a celebration of the work the Boys Brigade has done in this part of Edinburgh for 100 years. Unfortunately the 50th has come to the end of its life, but that doesn't mean that the work and witness of the 50th over the past century has been in vain. I have been at St. Michael's for over four years now and the more time I spend in the parish and amongst the congregation the more I learn that being part of the Boys Brigade, the Girls Guildry and the Girls Brigade has been a significant experience for many local people, not just church members. The Gospel message has been spread far and wide by the dedication of those who have worked hard in the past to make the 50th the meaningful experience that it has been for so many. So come along on the 15th of November and help us give thanks and celebrate a final reunion.

While we give thanks for those who have encouraged the lives of our young men and women, in November we also remember those men and women, particularly young men and women, of our communities who over the years have served in the armed forces and have lost their lives in warfare. It is a tragic, but a very real part of our national life that while preaching the Gospel of peace we are too often embroiled in war. On Remembrance Sunday (8th November) and on Remembrance Day (Wednesday 11th November) we will take time and silence to remember those who have lost their lives as a consequence of national violence and we'll recommit ourselves to finding peaceful ways to resolve our differences.

Recommitting ourselves to proclaiming the Gospel of peace on earth is what Christmas means to Christians. In November we anticipate our celebration of the birth of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, at our Christmas fair (Saturday, November 14th). Christmas comes around quickly and so has the past five years of ministry at St. Michael's. During 2010 the Presbytery of Edinburgh will carry out its five-year review of St. Michael's and the elders and Board members will prepare themselves for during November. At the end of the month the Kirk Session and Board are taking a Saturday to spend time together to reflect on how St. Michael's can proclaim the Gospel as effectively in the future as it has done in the past. Before the Presbytery comes to review our congregation there will be opportunities for you to have your say about what you think the future should look like.

Best wishes,

James

CATHERINE FERGUSSON GLEN

6th June 1914 - 21st September 2009

St. Michael's was Catherine Glen's home. In 2008 during the celebrations to mark 125 years of the congregation in its present building Cath recounted her memory of sitting in the balcony and watching the elders and the minister process down the aisle to dedicate the war memorial in the vestibule. Cath worshipped under four ministers at St. Michael's: J. E. Hamilton, Adrian Watt, Margaret Forrester and myself. One of the proudest moments of her young life was when she formed part of the Girls Guildry guard of honour at the wedding of the Rev. J. E. Hamilton. If St. Michael's was Catherine's home then the Girls Guildry was her family. As a member of the Guildry Cath rose to the rank of Guardian, but the true value of her involvement can only be measured in the number and depth of the relationships she made with others that lasted a lifetime. Cath said herself that it was as a member of the Guildry that she discovered her own voice, and few will forget Cath's voice. Her voice articulated her inquiring and meticulous mind, a mind that made her, in her working life, a very successful personal assistant: first to a Brigadier during the Second World War and then afterwards to Professor Donald, the Director of the Animal Breeding and Research Organisation. Cath commanded respect not just because she had an ordered mind and was a very capable and independent woman, but because she always made time for others: T for O she would call it. In this way she expressed her love for other people and received great joy from her relationships with others. She always took an interest in how people were and in what they were doing. Her comprehensive memory meant that she could always pay particular attention to other people. In a similar way Cath experienced joy in the natural beauty of the world around her. She loved gardening and took exceptional pleasure in the gardens of St. Michael's and of her home in Greenbank Grove. In Cath's later years as her eyesight failed her prodigious memory could still guide anyone around the gardens that she loved pointing out where the individual flowers and shrubs were and recounting a story about each of them. Cath was ordained an elder of St. Michael's in 1982. She was diligent and loving in her duties and took part in many of the groups and organisations of St. Michael's. When I arrived a little over four years ago Cath was into her ninetieth year and was still actively involved in the church. Everyone who knew her will miss her greatly.

'Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.'

(Matthew 25:23)

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



**WEDNESDAY
11TH NOVEMBER**

10:45 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

For anyone of any faith, or none;
a service of remembrance to mark, the

11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month.

ALL WELCOME

WE WILL REMEMBER THEM

VOLUNTEERING : MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

Are you healthy and would you like to help out?

We are looking for healthy volunteers (m/f) who would like to participate in a large Scottish research study on Motor Neurone Disease.

We are interested in healthy people who are:

- Between the ages of 30 and 80 years, and we would particularly like to encourage people of 50 years or older to join the study.

About the study:

- You will be asked to do several tasks of language, thinking and behaviour.
- There will be two interviews of approximately 2-3 hours duration.
- Any personal information you provide as part of the study will be treated as confidential.
- Volunteers will be paid £15 for the first interview and again £15 for the second interview.

If you would like to help out or you would like to request some more information, please contact:

Dina van der Hulst

E-mail: dina.jozefa@ed.ac.uk /

Telephone : 0131 - 651 5019

ANDRE BOISSIERE

Andre Boissiere was a member of St. Michael's and an elder of the Church of Scotland serving on this Kirk Session. He died on the 3rd of August 2009 aged 78. Andre Boissierre attended at St. Michael's regularly between 1950 when he moved to Edinburgh and 1974 when he returned to England to live in South London. By all accounts he was an exceptionally nice man and a very faithful Christian. During his time as a member of St Michael's he was superintendent of St Michael's Sunday schools, led prayer meetings before morning worship, Bible studies after morning worship and always returned every Sunday in the evening for evening worship.

In his own words, he was,

‘Convinced that God has a divine purpose and plan. I have complete confidence in Jesus Christ and I know that I can trust his word. My greatest wish is that those who are near and dear to me should come to know for themselves the wonder of this knowledge and that the world to, may turn to him. Although I am not likely to see is a vein in my present lifetime, I can nevertheless, look forward in the eager expectation to the establishment of his kingdom.’

PRAYERS & POSTCARDS

A few months ago I asked members of the congregation to pray and if possible send a postcard to my friend's grandson in Kentucky who was receiving chemotherapy after a tumour was removed from one of his kidneys.

I am pleased to say that Ruairidh has now completed his course of chemotherapy and his latest blood tests and scan are clear. He will have blood tests again next month and after that every three months.

A big thank you to all who sent postcards to him - he received over 100 - and to all who have prayed for him over these past few months.

His family is very grateful for all the concern shown to Ruairidh.

Lyn Adamson

Fresh Start

The 'item of the month' we are collecting for Fresh Start this month is 'pots and pans'. This can be any size of saucepan from a milk pan to a soup pot and the cooking utensils to use with the pans would also be very welcome. These may include wooden spoons, potato peelers, can openers etc.

For December we will be asking for cleaning things such as washing up liquid and bowls, toilet cleaner, toothbrushes, laundry tablets, all purpose cleaner, toilet rolls etc.

Please don't think you can only bring the above-mentioned items. If you have any donations at any time please leave them in the Fresh Start collection box. By keeping the donations coming for Fresh Start we are not only helping homeless people move into accommodation but we are also helping Fresh Start to meet their targets for starter packs which in turn means they will continue to receive the funding they need to continue to support homelessness.

Thank you.

Alasdair and Babs Webster



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LIFE & WORK

NOVEMBER ISSUE

Hope for the Future

Exploring the work of the Church of Scotland in Scottish prisons and with young offenders.

A Questioning Faith

Profile of Alex Fergusson MSP, Presiding Officer of the Scottish Parliament and a Son of the Manse.

Living in Humanity

The Moderator reflects on the month of saints and Remembrance.

A Life in Service of Country

Donal McGlip reflects on Remembrance Sunday.

What Does the Lord Require of You?

Lynne McNeil reports from the annual meeting of the Guild.

Field of Dreams

Two first-timers and an old hand look back on this year's National Youth Assembly.

Allowing Children to Flourish

The work of the Office of Child Protection in Thailand, which is headed by Scots Mike Fucella and Alistair Muir.

A Privilege to Care

Dr Murdo Macdonald offers a focus on end of life issues.

Mrs Knox's packing

Jane Dawson discovers the roots of a 'start-up' kit for the Reformation in Scotland.

Scottish Weather?

Thomas Baldwin's latest reports from Malawi focus on the work of the Livingstonia Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian.

Plus Presbytery of Europe, St Nicholas Uniting Kirk in Aberdeen, all the regular columnists, news, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £1.60.

ST MICHAEL'S FILM CLUB



Sunday 8th November

***Waltz with Bashir* (18)**

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

Waltz with Bashir, an animated documentary made in Israel, is an emotionally-charged and powerful depiction of a dreadful event in the Lebanon War in 1982. Based on the personal experience of the director, Ari Folman, it also concerns the effects of war on the conscripts, the trauma and memory loss that plagues those who were there.

"Animation was the only way to tell this story; I was sure of that," the director says.

Come along to watch and discuss the film over refreshment.

Notes from the Session – September 2009

- The **Kirk Session** meeting on 2nd September included some interesting debate which no doubt will continue into the next meeting. As a start however, the following issues were discussed:
- **Summer Services** – In general the services had gone well and the visiting preachers were thanked for their efforts. As usual Euan Aitken gained a good response. There was no noted drop in attendance although it was thought that the services had been too long since none of them had completed within the original 45 minutes defined. The suggestion was to either maintain the 45 minutes or not to suggest that they would be any shorter than normal.
- **Presbytery Visit** – every congregation in Edinburgh will be visited by presbytery. Date still to be confirmed.
- **Reviewable Tenure** – James was inducted to St. Michael's on the basis of a five-year reviewable tenure and that means that five years following his induction the Presbytery will review the work and witness of St. Michael's congregation and decide whether we still need a minister. The five years are almost up and so the review process will begin in January 2010 and carry on until April 2010. In advance of this, the Kirk Session and the Congregational Board will meet together for an **Away Day on Saturday 28th November** to talk about what they want to say to Presbytery about the work and witness of St. Michael's.
- **Blast-Off** – concerns raised regarding the fact that publication of the current teaching literature had stopped. Alternatives are being sourced and discussed.
- **World Day of Prayer** – written by the people of Cameroon was due to be hosted by St Michael's in 2011 but we have now taken up the baton from St Cuthbert's for **5th March 2010**. More info will follow.
- **Bethany Trust** – we have offered 2 dates, possibly in October and December. Catering Team to start planning and donations of clothes, blankets and any non-perishable items will be welcome.
- **Parish Grouping Covenant** – major discussion took place regarding the draft **Covenant** between St. Michael's, St. Colm's, Gorgie and St. Martin's, brought to the meeting by the Traveling Together Team. The Covenant presents what these four churches (the Partners Together) mean by parish grouping. It is each congregation's individual commitment to the other congregations. James described it as the difference between "getting

- married” and “living together”. If all the necessary approvals and amendments go to plan then on **Sunday the 21st March** the Partners Together will come together at a joint service in St. Michael’s to sign the Covent document. History in the making.

Jamie Baxter

Notes from the Session – October

Much of the business is reported elsewhere in the *Tower*; new business included:

- in light of the ‘flu threat it was decided to use individual cups rather than the common cup at the October Communion
- the elders will be organizing the Nativity Service on the 20th December

St Michael’s and the Jesuit Refugee Service

Arising from the Just Church programme and fitting into the Sow the Seeds Campaign is the latest effort at St Michael’s to minister to those in need. Just as Amnesty reaches out to protect those persecuted and tortured in their homelands, there is a need to help those who have fled in fear of that persecution and torture. There are many such who have reached this country and are seeking asylum here. The process of deciding on the validity of their claims can take many years; apart from the inevitable delays in any such system, there are the problems of obtaining reliable information from countries where torture is rife. While they await the outcome of their application, they are forbidden to work or earn money. They receive £35 a week in supermarket vouchers, leaving them with no access to money to pursue their claim. The Jesuit Refugee Service exchanges these vouchers at full face value so that they regain some measure of control over their life. St Michael’s is supporting that service by providing means for us to purchase these vouchers for our own use and hence providing the funds to exchange them in the first place. This has just started and the scheme operates through the Fair Trade Stall. In the first day, £105 was taken. Remember that this costs you nothing as you can use these for your own shopping. The project will also keep the congregation in touch with the reality of Asylum Seekers situation. Look out for further items in the *Tower*.

Robert Donald

CHRISTMAS FAIR



SATURDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2009
10.30am

Come along and enjoy all the "fun of the Fair" including Hot rolls and Christmas Pies, gateaux and other mouth-watering delights.

Buy your Christmas Gifts, try your luck at the Tombola and there's St Michael's not-to-be-beaten home baking as well.

For the children (and the young at heart) win a teddy or paint your own Christmas ceramic figure.

Tickets for our fantastic Christmas Raffle are always much sought after so don't miss out. Many, many prizes, First prize is a Deluxe Christmas Hamper.

A big thank you for all donations so far - please keep them coming including: - Bottles for the Tombola, plants, jewellery, books, items for Christmas stall and of course Home Baking.

Gardens

Following two successful Garden Parties (thank you) when we cleared both sides of the steps up to Harrison Road, a further date has been set for Saturday 7th November when we will be spreading the bark over the above areas. Please come along, help us to complete the work by 11am. If you have a wheelbarrow, bring it along. Enjoy a bacon roll and cup of tea - supplied.

Jim Fallon



