

Minister

Rev James Aitken
9 Merchiston Gardens EH10 5DD
james.aitken2@btinternet.com

346 1970

Church Secretary

Mrs Karen Keil,
Church Office Hours 9.15am- 2.15pm
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9.15am-12.15pm

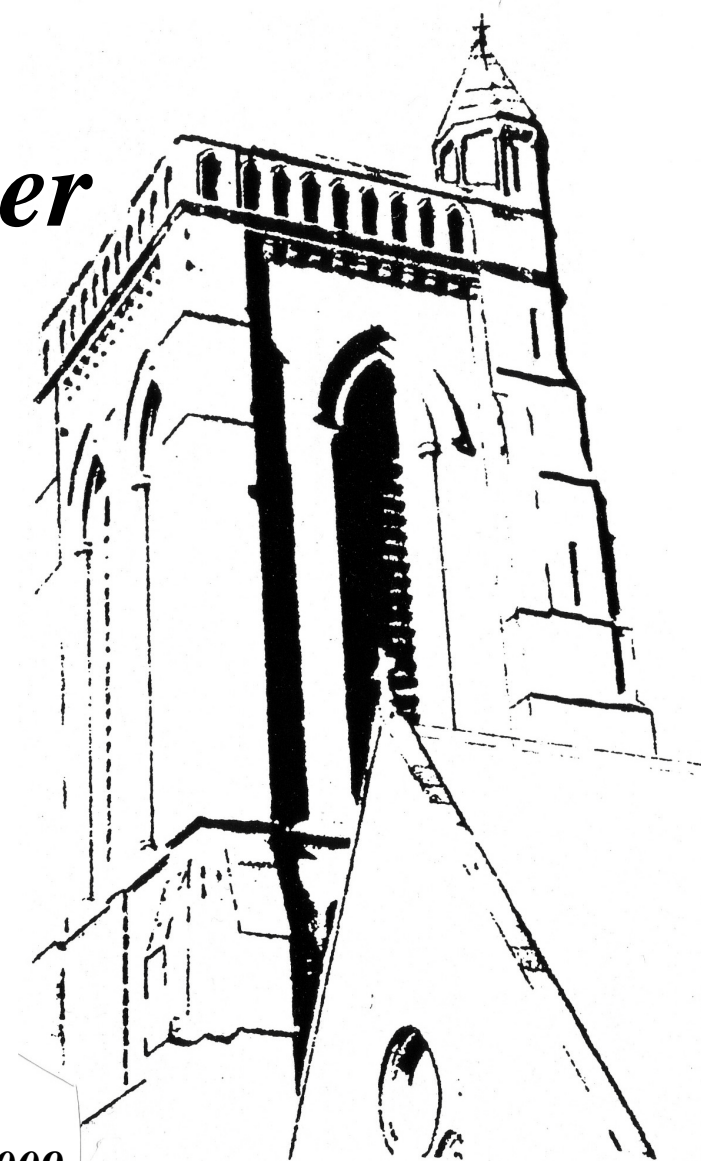
Edinburgh: St Michael's Parish Church of Scotland
1 Slateford Road, Edinburgh EH11 1NX
Telephone: 0131 478 9675

E-mail: office@stmichaels-kirk.co.uk

Website: <http://www.stmichaels-kirk.co.uk>



The Tower



October 2009

(Recommended Donation: 40p)

The magazine of St Michael's Parish Church, Edinburgh

Music at St. Michael's

for Sunday services
played by Stuart Montgomery
organ and piano

OCTOBER 2009
music by J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

SUNDAY 4th OCTOBER

Prelude and Fugue in B minor (BWV544)
Offering: Bist du bei Mir (arranged for organ by J. Preston)
Short Prelude and Fugue in B flat Major ((BWV560)

SUNDAY 11th OCTOBER

Toccat and Fugue in D minor
Offering: Chorale Prelude on LiebsterJesu, wirsindHier (BWV731)
Prelude in G Major

SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER

Adagio, from Toccata and Fugue in C Major (BWV564)
Aria in D Major (from orchestral suite in D)
Siciliano (arranged from the second sonata for flute and harpshichord)
Offering: Chorale Prelude on Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring (arranged by Myra Hess)
Fantasia in G minor

SUNDAY 25th OCTOBER

Short Prelude and Fugue in C Major (BWV553)
Chorale Prelude on AleinGott 'Durch Adams Fall istganzVerderbt'
Canzona in D minor
Offering: March in D, Prelude in F & Gavotte in G (for piano)
Prelude in G Major (from Prelude & Fugue in G)

Dear Friends,

Unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain who build it. (Psalm 127:1)

For those of you who were at the Sow the Seeds Family Meal in September you will know what a terrific event it was. We had lots of fun, we ate lots of food and we had a great presentation about St. Michael's. There's no doubt that St. Michael's has a lot to offer its members, its parish and its partner churches.

The Sow the Seeds campaign has focused on encouraging members and others to sow the seeds of faith hope and love by making use of our time, talents and treasure. With the success of the first part of the campaign behind us now it is time for you to complete the Response Cards that you were given (or which were posted to you) and time for you to become part (or start playing a bigger part) in St. Michael's by contributing your time, talents or some of your treasure.

The Campaign team have laboured very hard to build the Sow the Seeds house. It took a big effort of planning and organising to make the campaign the success it has been. We all would like to thank the Team for what they have done. But, now we must also put our belief in the Lord to work. For, 'unless the Lord builds the house they labour in vain who build it.' Our belief is in the values of faith, hope and love. If we worship God in praise, thanksgiving, confession and forgiveness while continuing to love people and offering them hope then there is no doubt that the Sow the Seeds campaign will be a success.

So come along and worship God. Come along and be part of loving other people. Come along and offer the parish hope in a world that is too often filled with darkness.

Best wishes,

James

NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

Jean Porteous, 52 Hollybank Terrace died in July.

Peacefully, on the 21st September **Catherine Glen** died in the care of Braeside House. Cathy was a longstanding member of St. Michael's and an elder. A full appreciation of her life will appear in next month's Tower.

Our thoughts and prayers go to the families and friends of the deceased.

.....



Gorgie / Dalry Toy Library

Planning has been progressing in our efforts to reinstate a Toy Library in our area. Once it is opened we hope that, as well as the mums & children, all who have young visitors will find the library useful. Grandparents, aunties, uncles, and everyone will be very welcome to borrow the toys for a small fee.

The library will be sited in St Martin's Episcopal Church, Dalry Road.

This will be enabled by the kindness of *Edinburgh City Council*, *Daisy Chain Trust* and *Scottish Community Foundation*, all of whom have awarded us grants and to whom we extend our grateful thanks.

Our first meeting of the Management Committee was held recently and we would welcome further members. We shall also be looking for volunteers to help with the library once it is open. In the first instance this will be one morning a week plus ½ hour after *Toddler Martians* on Monday mornings – hopefully at the start of the new year. If you are interested in being involved please contact Monika Bowker Tel: 228 3305 or Mamie Donald Tel: 346 1179

ST MICHAEL'S FILM CLUB



Autumn 2009

Sunday 4th October

The Class (U)

Sunday 8th November

Waltz with Bashir (18)

Sunday 29th November

Joyeux Noel (12)

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

The Class was Oscar-nominated and won the Palme D'or at the Cannes Film Festival in 2008. Set in an "inner-city" multi-ethnic Parisian secondary school it raises issues relevant to our schools and society as an idealistic young teacher copes with a "challenging" class of 15-year olds. Looking like a 'fly-on-the-wall' documentary it's really a superb improvised drama.

Come along to watch and discuss the film over a refreshment.

Tower

St Michael's answer to the *Sunday Post* (according to Jamie McCubbin at the Sow the Seeds presentation) will be ready for distribution on Sunday 1st November. Articles should be with the editor by Sunday 18th October.

The "new" /old cover design has met with approval and we apologise for a hitch in last month's layout.

Christmas Fair (November)

This year we would like to introduce some innovative ideas to bring further added sparkle to what is usually a Santabulous day. Any thoughts you can share with us will be most welcome. Meantime please carry on collecting, making, unearthing unwanted gifts, knitting, etc. Please note we don't have a Jumble stall at this event. More info here next month.



FOR HIGH QUALITY HAND FINISHED PICTURE FRAMING

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| PAINTINGS-PRINTS-PHOTOS | Iain Montgomery |
| NEEDLEWORK-SPORTS MEMORABILIA | 11 Baird Avenue |
| ALL FRAMING CARRIED OUT ON THE PREMISES | Edinburgh |
| WITHIN 7 DAYS | EH12 5RU |
| EMAIL : mounts-picture-framing@sky.com | tel : 0753 607 9149 |

10% discount when quoting Ref: CH001

Sow the Seeds

We do hope you enjoyed the family meal. The initial feedback has been very positive and the "Sow the Seeds" team are relieved that the evening went so well. Many of the comments commended the choice of venue while others said the food and the smooth running of the evening was "first class". A few people thought it would be great if we could do this "more often"!

Alison Fleming from the "Sow the Seeds" team commented on the feedback she had received. "During the presentation the children were entertained by one of our members John Whealan. They had great fun making balloon swords, hats, parrots and poodles." "Magic John" also made knots disappear and best of all produced chocolate coins from an empty paper bag."

Once again we thank all those people who helped in many ways on the evening and most importantly to you for coming. It was overwhelming to see many old faces as well as some new people too. We also thank you in particular for your attention during the presentation.

To ensure the complete success of the evening it is important that you return the response card which was enclosed with your "Sow the Seeds" brochure. You may want to tell us something or find out more. Remember, there is nothing too small or big, St Michael's is here to listen and act! I can assure you that this will be dealt with in the strictest confidence and in an efficient way.

If you could not attend the family meal you still have the chance to get involved and tell us what you think! By now your visitor should have given you a brochure and response card. Please give it some thought and pass back your completed card as soon as you can. If you have not received this then please do get in touch and we can arrange for one to be sent to you.

We look forward to the "harvest" and hope in many ways we can continue to "Sow the Seeds" here at St Michael's in many different ways.

We reap what we sow!
Keith Heaney

SHOE BOX APPEAL

St. Michael's would, again this year, like to take part in 'Operation Christmas Child's' shoe box appeal.

Operation Christmas Child brings joy and hope to children in desperate situations around the world, through gift filled shoe boxes and the Good News of God's Love. This programme provides an opportunity for people of all ages to be involved in a simple hands-on mission project while focusing on the true meaning of Christmas- Jesus Christ. Your shoe box will help a child feel valued, and let them know that you care about them. Choosing gifts and then wrapping and filling a shoe box is a fun and rewarding activity- especially when it may be the only gift received.

This year, with your help we are hoping to send boxes to even more children in need.

The leaflet inside this 'Tower' provides all the information on how to fill and label your boxes. The boxes can then be left on the table at the back of the church on any of the 4 Sundays in October

Last year we sent 80 boxes off at the beginning of November and they were distributed to children in Eastern Europe by Christmas! It would be great to beat that number this year. Perhaps we could all encourage family, friends and colleagues to fill a box too. There are lots of spare leaflets at the back of the church so help yourselves and take as many as you need.

Again this year there has also been a special request for **knitted glove puppets**. (Playing with a glove puppet has been found to be therapeutic for a child suffering from trauma or isolation.) So if you have scraps of wool at home and are a knitting fan, your time and talents would be hugely appreciated. I have left a number of patterns at the back of the church. The clowns were very popular last year.

If you need any further info please contact anyone on the Outreach Group. Thanks again for taking the time to participate in this worthwhile campaign.
Judith Merten

LIFE & WORK

OCTOBER

Saving Lives on the Streets

Jackie Macadam is allowed exclusive access to the work of the Bethany Care Shelter; and looks at the work of Cale House, a CrossReach project for the homeless.

“The Angels Have Arrived!”

The outgoing regional manager of Tearfund Peter Chirnside, reflects on 30 years with the organisation.

An Oasis of Calm

Continuing the series of special reports from Malawi, Thomas Baldwin meets Helen Scott, deputy head of Ekwendeni Girls' Secondary School.

‘Mr Europe’

Profile of Iain Majcher, a young Scottish son of the manse who works with the homeless in Amsterdam.

Turning Full Circle

Philip Halford-MacLeod marks the 300th anniversary and relaunch of The Society in Scotland for Propagating Christian Knowledge. Plus anniversary competition – write a hymn or a prayer on the theme of the Parable of the Sower.

Seeds of Change

Donald Smith reflects on the social changes which have swept Scotland over the last year.

A Hidden Treasure

John Hume visits the remarkable Durisdeer Parish Church.

‘As Christ Has Loved Us’

The Moderator reflects on his recent trip to South Africa.

Plus: Another winning Parable for Today, Moray Presbytery, all the regular columnists, news, letters, reviews and crosswords – all for just £1.60. To subscribe, contact Derek Wilson or Karen Keil or see the magazine for postal subscriptions.

It's Come Tae a Sorry Pass: I've seen too much sorry passing at football matches recently but, sadly, it doesn't shock me as it once did; a football team is always a 'work in progress'...like the trams.

However when famous footballers die, why do journalists and commentators always "regret the passing of..." for example, last month, Sir Bobby Robson? I never saw him play but I'm sure he passed the ball rather well. Jim Baxter and Johnny Haynes for example passed the ball brilliantly. "Regretting the death of..." would avoid the ambiguity. Mind you there are some players whose passing really is to be regretted.

We had lots of incredulous head-shaking this month at **cheating in sport**. That phrase sounds like an oxymoron; it's not sporting to cheat, in sport or anywhere else. "You'll get found out," as granny used to say and "cheats never win" which I seem to remember being chanted to try to secure some kind of moral victory when the actual losers felt they had been hard done by. Although the terminology is newish we've been used to 'simulating' footballers for a long time. There was a joke many years ago when Hibs' chairman Tom Hart died. It was said that, although many footballers were there, Rangers' John McDonald wasn't invited to make sure he didn't dive in the box.

Although some footballers, like McDonald, are skilled at 'inviting at a foul', most simulations, like most foul tackles, happen spontaneously; premeditated cheating is of another order. Faking blood injuries on the rugby pitch and deliberately crashing F1 racing cars belong in fiction – in *The Rover* or *Hotspur* of my boyhood -as should those who spring to the defence of the culprits or claim their punishment as too harsh. As ever commercial interests seem to outweigh moral ones.

But it's no a bad old world

That's what I thought at the Sow the Seeds Family Meal last month. We had a good buffet supper with plenty of 'seconds' available. There was a good crowd, over 150 on a Thursday evening which was cheering in itself. We saw a presentation about St Michael's which was skillfully put-together and expertly introduced by Jamie McCubbin. It all did seem to say that St Michael's is a good place to be or to belong as we chatted with friends old and new. The sharing of the meal and the company made it an important night in the life of our church.

DW

RETURN OF SOUP SUNDAY

Every second Sunday of the month? It's "Soup and a Roll Sunday"

From Sunday 13th September 2009 until 9th May 2010 we plan to have Soup Sunday. A chance to share fellowship and enjoy a bowl of tasty soup with a roll after the service and raise a little cash with voluntary contributions.

Dates for Soup Sunday to put in your diary are:

11th October 2009

8th November 2009

13th December 2009

10th January 2010

14th February 2010

14th March 2010

11th April 2010

9th May 2010

Please come along and take part!

If you are willing to donate a big pot of soup once a year or are willing to help serve now and again, we would love to hear from you. As usual volunteers are always needed and very much appreciated.

Please contact Debbie Baxter or Sarah Aitken.

Fresh Start

First of all – a big thank you to everyone for your annual Harvest Festival gifts for Fresh Start. We have been contributing to Fresh Start at Harvest, and occasionally at other times, for some years now. To remind you, Fresh Start is an Edinburgh-based charity which provides services to support the resettlement of homeless people in the community.

The Just Church group – which has been looking for practical ways to take action to promote social justice – thought that it would be a good idea to take support for Fresh Start forward as an ongoing project, throughout the year. With this in mind we would envision doing ‘Item(s) of the Month’ collections, targeted on those things that are most needed to help people settling into a new home. This would focus on the second Sunday of the month – so come along with your pots and pans in November and have some Second Sunday Soup as well. (Please do not think that you can *only* bring the featured items. If you have any donations of any kind at any time, please leave them in the First Start collection box.)

Fresh Start Year Plan

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| October | Harvest Festival |
| November | Pots and Pans |
| December | Cleaning Things |
| January | Bedding and Towels |
| February | Electrical Items |
| March | Mugs |
| April | Dishes and Cutlery |
| May | Cleaning Things |

Dishes & Cutlery

dinner plates side plates bowls cutlery mugs glass tumblers tea-towels

Pots & Pans

soup pots **frying pans** milk pans **tupperware** can openers **potato peelers** wooden spoons **cooking utensils**

Cleaning Things

washing-up basins **washing-up liquid** toilet cleaner **toothbrushes** dust pans & brushes **pedal bin liners** rubbish bags **all-purpose cleaner** laundry tablets **hand soap** toilet rolls **toothpaste**

Bed Linen and Towels

single flat sheets **double flat sheets** single duvet covers **double duvet covers** curtains **blankets** duvets **pillow cases** towels **face cloths** bath mats

Electrical Items

small household electrical items e.g: kettles, toasters, lamps, vacuum cleaners, irons, radios, DVD players, microwaves, clock radios, music systems

.....
Can't get to the service...?

If you can't make it to St. Michael's on a Sunday morning for the service of worship then perhaps you would like the service to come to you.

Some people have expressed an interest in receiving a recording of the service on CD. If you too would like copies of the service then contact the office or the minister and tell us if you would like:

The sermon;
Prayers;
Hymns; or
The whole service.

