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# *The Tower*



*September 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

SEPTEMBER 2009

music by G. F. HANDEL (1685-1759)

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## **SUNDAY 6th SEPTEMBER**

The Fireworks Suite

'I know my Redeemer liveth' (Messiah)

The Arrival of The Queen of Sheba

## **SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER**

Concerto for Organ in B flat Major (Opus 4 no. 6)

Where e'er you walk

Fanfare, from The Water Music Suite

## **SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER**

Concerto for Organ in F Major (Opus 4 no. 5)

Air, from The Water Music Suite

Finale, from Organ Concerto in G minor (Opus 4 no. 1)

## **SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER**

Concerto for Organ in D minor (opus 7 no. 4)

Largo in G Major

March in D Major

Dear Friends,

We call to mind, before our God and Father, how your faith has shown itself in action, your love in labour and your hope of our Lord Jesus Christ in fortitude.

This month St. Michael's is going to show how much it means to people to feel hope when everything seems hopeless; to know love even when other people walk by on the other side of the street; and to have faith that together we can imagine the reality of a God who can make this happen. This month St. Michael's is going to Sow the Seeds of hope, love and faith within its own congregation so that by using our time, talents and treasure we can go on to offer that same hope, love and faith to the people living in our community.

The story of Jesus Christ, whose message did not die when he was crucified, but which lives on, is hope for those who experience moments in life that leave them feeling broken. The story of Jesus Christ, whose message did not die when he was crucified, but which lives on, is an act of love towards those who experience moments in life when no one wants to know them. The story of Jesus Christ, whose message did not die when he was crucified, but which lives on, is the basis of our faith that even though the evil in the world seems triumphant nevertheless goodness is a more powerful force –ultimately a victorious one.

Jesus Christ is good news for the world. Let us join together on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September at the Bainfield Bowling Club (Hutchison Crossway) at 7:00 pm to celebrate that good news with a meal and a presentation about St. Michael's. Everyone is invited – especially you! I know you will be inspired by the message of hope, faith and love in Jesus Christ that we proclaim here at St. Michael's and you will want to become more involved if you already are involved or you will want to start being involved if you find that you have drifted away – come and be part of the good news!

Best wishes,

James

## NEWS OF THE CHURCH FAMILY

This summer we were delighted to welcome new members:

**Grant Alexander**, 27/11 Wardlaw Place,  
**Clive Foster**, 32 Mansfield Road, Balerno,  
**Richard Given**, Flat 13, 1 Heron Place  
**Rowan McIlhager**, 3 Harrison Road  
who joined by profession of faith  
and

**Cynthia Brimson**, 10 Cowan Road  
who joined by certificate.

We also welcomed **Tillie Ruby Froude**, 1/3 Appin Lane who was baptised  
on 16th August

Over the summer we saddened by the deaths of four faithful members of our  
congregation.

**Mrs Catherine Macnicol**, 34 Robertson Avenue on 2nd June  
**Mr Sandy Webster**, 10/1 Grays Loan on 30th June  
**Mrs Margaret Calder**, Ferryfield House on 30th July  
**Mrs Carol Bunce**, 11 Moat Terrace on 7th August.

Our thoughts and prayers go to their families and friends.

Congratulations to **Peggy Gill** who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on 9<sup>th</sup> August

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SHOE BOX APPEAL

For the seventh year in a row we hope to collect gift-  
filled shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child appeal.

Please look out for the leaflet and more info  
in next month's Tower.

## LIFE & WORK

## SEPTEMBER ISSUE

### The Warm Heart of Africa

Thomas Baldwin joins a group of children from the Church of Scotland on a  
groundbreaking trip to Malawi.

### Cathedral of Green

Colin MacDonald reflects on the links between golf and spirituality.

### Missing Malawian Millions

Una Bartley explains the background to Christian Aid's tax campaign for Africa

### A Wise Monk

Ron Ferguson reflects on the life of Father Joe and the importance of genuine  
listening.

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## Soup Recipes

Having really enjoyed the soup on a second Sunday of the month, has anyone else thought they would like the recipe? If you have then this could be your chance!!

Alasdair and I would like to create a recipe book full of your wonderful soup recipes. This could then be sold in aid of church funds.

To help us make this possible please let us have a copy of your favourite soup recipes – whether or not they have been served on soup Sunday – so that we can compile a recipe book.

The recipes can be either handed to Alasdair or myself, placed in the ‘pot’ at the back of the church or e-mailed to [babs.webster@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:babs.webster@hotmail.co.uk) by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2009. If you are happy for your name to appear in the list of contributors, which will be included in the book, then please include your name along with your recipe.

Thank you in anticipation, Babs Webster

## Fabric and the Gardens

It’s hard to believe the summer is passing so quickly and, as they say, the nights are creeping in. However, putting all that aside, the positive side is that instead of sitting at home watching TV we have more time to do those indoor jobs that we couldn’t do in all that glorious summer heat! Beginning October the Working Parties usually get together - in the evenings for the Fabric and - Saturday mornings to help Bernard with the larger tasks in the gardens. I am delighted to say that this coming year there are a number of challenges eagerly awaiting attention (its really the jokes/ tea/ bacon rolls I go for, and of course to boss people about).

The vestry is now ready for decoration having dried out following all the restoration work. The Lower Hall desperately needs a new look and many will remember the good fun we shared last time.

Other Matters - We will be looking at the adequacy of the kitchen and asking the Board for advice on improvements. A group are looking at signage - Indoor (for information, directional) and outdoor (how we portray what we are about). With the impending Church boiler examination and maintenance programme, we should

have confidence in arriving to a nicely preheated building on Sunday mornings.

Jim Fallon

## Diary Dates - Garden Parties Saturdays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October 9am

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## Tower

The next edition of the magazine will be ready for distribution on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October. Articles should be with the editor by Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September.

What do people think of the cover design? We’ve reverted to an old familiar graphic this month. Please let me know.

DW

Sow the Seeds

**This** is a final reminder that the “Sow the Seeds” family meal will be held at 7pm on **Thursday 10 September 2009** at the Bainfield Bowling Club. If you have not received your initiation then you should receive this shortly. Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you there.

All the final details were included in the August “Sow the Seeds” newsletter. If you have not received a copy please contact one of the “Sow the Seeds” team.

Please note that the Bainfield Bowling Club is only accessible by foot from Slateford Road and if you are driving it can be accessed from Gorgie Road.

As part of the “Sow the Seeds” campaign we will be holding an open weekend at the Church, which will be centred on an exhibition of our work. There will be a play area for children while you can spend time finding out more about all our different activities. The Church will be open on **Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th**

**September from 10am until 2pm** each day. Why not come along on the Sunday and join us for the service too?

We reap what we sow!

Keith Heaney

### **THANK YOU!**

A huge thank you to everyone who kindly washed and ironed the pew clothes following the June Communion. The response was quite overwhelming, within 5 minutes of the service finishing every pew was bare and some people who had volunteered earlier were left without a cloth to wash. Hopefully we won't have to repeat the exercise for a couple of years - but we know where to turn to when we do.

If you haven't yet returned your clothes please do so in the box at the back of the church.

Many thanks once again.

Douglas

### **It's come to a sorry pass**

As preparation for becoming a grumpy old man (no comment please on the use of 'becoming' or we'll really get annoyed) observations of the foibles, idiosyncrasies and sheer daftness of humankind will be made from time to time in this column. Catching our attention last month was the \$4.6 million winning bid placed on a burial tomb in a cemetery in Los Angeles, in an auction on eBay. What makes the tomb 'special' is that it's the one above that of Marilyn Monroe. The present incumbent is what is left of one Richard Poncher (by his request placed on his front) whose widow, Elsie, auctioned his resting place in order to pay off her mortgage. Richard's bones will be moved to a nearby crypt, which was to contain his widow who has solved that logistical problem by opting for cremation.

Apparently the winning bid has been cancelled – was this all a bit of fun? But others who bid around that figure are hoping to pay a similarly obscene amount (four **million** dollars plus!) to win... what? Do they really think their ghost will be meeting Marilyn's?

One of Monroe's finest performances said that gentlemen prefer blondes; gate-crashing a party, or even a tomb, is hardly the mark of a gentleman.

### **It's not a bad old world**

In order to balance this we will also look for signs of hope; the good, inspiring, news. The outstanding one in recent times is the reasoning behind the decision by Scotland's Justice Secretary to release Mr Al Megrahi. Whatever any individual's opinion, we believe it was good to see the churches giving a view and a fine moment in the life of the country to be reminded of the values that underpin our government

*"In Scotland, we are a people who pride ourselves on our humanity.*

*It is viewed as a defining characteristic of Scotland and the Scottish people.*

*The perpetration of an atrocity and outrage cannot and should not be a basis for losing sight of who we are, the values we seek to uphold, and the faith and beliefs by which we seek to live.*

*Mr Al Megrahi did not show his victims any comfort or compassion. They were not allowed to return to the bosom of their families to see out their lives, let alone their dying days. No compassion was shown by him to them.*

*But that alone is not a reason for us to deny compassion to him and his family in his final days.*

*Our justice system demands that judgment be imposed but compassion be available.*

*Our beliefs dictate that justice be served, but mercy be shown.*

*Compassion and mercy are about upholding the beliefs that we seek to live by, remaining true to our values as a people. No matter the severity of the provocation or the atrocity perpetrated."*

K.MacAskill, 20<sup>th</sup> August 2009

You could find much evidence of hatred, bigotry and cruelty in our land to make clear that this is an aspiration rather than a description of the everyday Scotland. But it's some aspiration. DW

## Success

To laugh often and much,  
To win the respect of intelligent people  
And the affection of children,  
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure  
The betrayal of friends.  
To appreciate beauty,  
To find the best in others,  
To leave the world a bit better  
Whether by a healthy child,  
A garden patch, or a redeemed social condition.  
To know even one life has  
Breathed easier because you lived.  
This is to have succeeded

Ralph Waldo Emerson

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THIS OUGHT TO MAKE ALL GRANDPAS FEEL WARM & FUZZY... ?

A six year old goes to the hospital with her grandmother to visit her Grandpa.

When they get to the hospital, she runs ahead of her Grandma and bursts into her Grandpa's room...

"Grandpa, Grandpa," she says excitedly, "As soon as Grandma comes into the room, make a noise like a frog!"

"What?" said her Grandpa.

"Make a noise like a frog - because Grandma said that as soon as you croak, we're all going to Disneyland!"

## FRIENDSHIP CLUB 2009-2010

St Michael's Friendship Club is a happy, well-attended club open on Monday afternoons, between 2 pm and 4 pm 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 is £1 (includes tea and biscuits)

28<sup>th</sup> September Opening Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> October Morag and Jim MacDonald Entertain  
12<sup>th</sup> October Chicago to New Orleans (slides) – Mrs Morna Fergusson  
19<sup>th</sup> October Leith Senior Citizens' Choir  
26<sup>th</sup> October Glenn Miller: The Man and His Music (Tape/talk) – John Ramsay

2<sup>nd</sup> November Live Music Now! Raffle  
9<sup>th</sup> November 'Remember When' – Storyteller Donnie H Shedlarz  
16<sup>th</sup> November Jeanette MacDonald & Nelson Eddy – Mr John Rennie  
23<sup>rd</sup> November Senior Southern Light Singers  
30<sup>th</sup> November The Tall Ships Adventure (Poerepoint) – Mrs Lynda Anderson

7<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Tea with Margaret McKie  
14<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Lunch – to be arranged

11<sup>th</sup> January Singing – Health & Happiness – Jerry Gregson, Leader  
18<sup>th</sup> January The Sunshine Band – John Verth  
25<sup>th</sup> January Live Music Now! Raffle

## 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.

Heather Fallon

P.S. you can start handing in bottles etc for Bottle Stand now.

# ST MICHAEL'S FILM CLUB



SUNDAY 6<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER, 7:00 p.m.

## 'Hunger' (Cert: 15)

Hunger is about the 1981 Irish hunger strike and hunger striker Bobby Sands.

Directed by Turner prize winning artist Steve McQueen it won the Caméra d'Or award for first-time filmmakers at the 2008 Cannes Film Festival; the Sydney Film Prize at the Sydney Film Festival; best picture at the Evening Standard British Film Awards, and a BAFTA award.

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

Come along to watch the films and discuss the issues.

For more information call/email: 0131 346  
1970/james.aitken2@btinternet.com

# RETURN OF SOUP SUNDAY

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



From Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2009 until 9<sup>th</sup> 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:

**13<sup>th</sup> September 2009 11<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

**8<sup>th</sup> November 2009 13<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**10<sup>th</sup> January 2010 14<sup>th</sup> February 2010**

**14<sup>th</sup> March 2010 11<sup>th</sup> April 2010 9<sup>th</sup> 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.

