

August 2008

Dear Friends,

As I made my way to the office today tourists were again trudging round Melrose with umbrellas and wearing cagoules in what has been a second successive wet summer. While all of us may find it depressing we should be particularly mindful of the farmers in our community struggling to bring in the harvest from fields, many of which are now so wet that it is difficult to get machinery into them. Our celebrations of Harvest Thanksgiving are planned for 28<sup>th</sup> September in Melrose and 5<sup>th</sup> October in Bowden and we can only hope the weather has improved long before then.

On behalf of the many visitors to Melrose, as well as residents, thanks are due to "Melrose in Bloom" for all their hard work in making the town so attractive despite the weather. We should also thank all those involved in providing coffee and home baking in the church hall on Wednesday mornings over the summer months, as well as those on duty for the lunches over that period, for the friendly welcome offered to visitors and locals alike. Thanks also to all those involved in organising and helping with a very successful Summer Fete in Bowden Village Hall in July, which attracted many visitors.

Looking ahead we will be receiving the scheduled visit from Presbytery during the autumn when it is a time to reflect together on the life and work of the congregation over the last five years as well as looking to the future, and the challenges and opportunities we face. These will certainly include our work with children and younger people as well as the implications of a growing parish population, particularly in Tweedbank.

Finally, as well as the Services of Remembrance listed in the Calendar of Events, there will be, as last year, a wreath-laying service conducted by the Rev. Bruce McNicol at Gattonside War Memorial at 9.15a.m. on Sunday, 9<sup>th</sup> November.

Yours sincerely,

*An Invitation to Holy Communion*

*Last Sunday September, October and November  
9.30a.m.  
Bowden Kirk*

*Sunday 23rd November  
11.00a.m.  
Melrose Parish Church  
(Individual Glasses)*

## **Mid-Week Lunch**

Future dates:

Wednesday, 24 <sup>th</sup> September	Margaret's team
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	Pat's team
Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> November	Kath's Team
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> December (Xmas Lunch)	Pat's Team

12.15 – 1.30pm – Price £2.50

There is a short Ecumenical Service in the Chapel, prior to the lunch at 11.45am..

**Pat Mackenzie**

### **GUILD NEWS**

As Eileen intimated in the last church magazine we are going to job share the President's duties. Three of us are trying this new system – Cathie McCulloch, Grace MacKinnon and Greta Leitch. We are able to do this because we have a really efficient hard working secretary in Isa Scott. We are being supported by an experienced Committee and Betty Pattison is looking after our finances. We have arranged an interesting programme using mainly local speakers, we have some known favourites in Oliver Eade and Haisley Moore, new to us will be Anna Walker, Robert Johnston, Jenni Young and Liz Fraser. I'm sure there will be something for everyone.

We do need new members if we want our Guild to survive, do please consider joining us every second Thursday starting 9<sup>th</sup> October at 2.30pm when our Dedication Service will be held. Don't make the Weirhill your excuse for not coming because lifts can be arranged to get you there. After our meeting we enjoy afternoon tea and of course a 'chat', you will be made very welcome.

I would like to remind you that we will be making up the Christmas Shoe Boxes again this year for collection by **MONDAY 3<sup>rd</sup> NOVEMBER**. There will be leaflets available in the church porches giving guidance and suggestions as to what items could be put into the boxes. We had a very good response last year and I want to thank everyone who supported this worthwhile appeal.

Finally, we would like to send Jenny Lindsay our best wishes and hope she has a speedy recovery after herby nasty fall. Jenny has been President and our Treasurer for many years.

It will be great to meet all old members after the summer break and hope we will welcome lots of new ones.

**Greta Leitch, Cathie McCulloch and Grace MacKinnon  
Joint - Presidents**

## **Ministries and Mission Allocation**

Every year, in common with all Church of Scotland congregations, we are given an allocation to be contributed to the above fund. In 2008 the amount is £83,046 and the total sum nationally is £42,970,000 plus stipend endowments. The allocation for each congregation is based on income in 2004,2005 and 2006. 85% of each congregation's 2008 allocation goes to the **Parish Ministries Fund** and 15% goes to the **Mission and Renewal Fund**. The Parish Ministries Fund pays the stipends and related costs of all parish ministers. It also pays the salaries and related costs of all other parish posts included in approved Presbytery plans. In addition it supports the recruitment, training and development of all parish ministries. The Mission and Renewal Fund supports the wider work of the Church including the World Mission Council, the Social Care Council (Crossreach), and with the biggest contribution to the Support and Services Council which provides legal, financial, stewardship and safeguarding services to congregations.

Like many bodies attempts are being made to reduce central costs and the total 2008 allocation is £1,000,000 less than the total allocated in 2007. Furthermore at this year's General Assembly it was agreed that the allocation method should be reviewed to allow congregations which attempt to increase their income to retain a larger proportion of any increase for work locally (at present less than 50% is retained on average which is increasingly been perceived as a disincentive). A report will be received in 2009.

## **Social Care Council (Crossreach)**

With a staff of over 2,000 in over 80 services across Scotland the Church's Social Care Council, known as Crossreach, is one of the biggest providers of social care in the voluntary sector in Scotland. In 2007 it had an annual operating budget of £46,160,000 of which only £450,000 was provided from the Church's Mission and Renewal Fund. Crossreach is involved in Children's Services giving support to children and families as well as services to older people where with six specialist Services it is a leader in the provision of high quality specialist Dementia Care. In Adult Services it is involved in the fields of Learning Disabilities, Counselling and Support, Mental Health, Criminal Justice, Homelessness and Substance Misuse. A key target for the years ahead is equipping staff to meet the demands of the changing aspects of social care. A continual challenge is seeking to alleviate funding problems currently associated with voluntary organisations and in this Crossreach receives significant support through legacies, trusts and grants which in 2007 amounted to £2,743,000.

## **Traidcraft**

### **Traidcraft has unveiled its new winter 2008 catalogue – and it's bigger than ever!**

This latest range is both fair trade and environmentally friendly, boasting the widest range of recycled and organic products yet.

The new collection includes an array of handmade products – from beautiful jewellery and striking homeware to colourful gifts for children and stylish clothing. All this plus the usual extensive selection of quality, fair trade foods, coffees, teas and wine.

With more than 400 products to choose from there's something for everyone. Highlights include:

- Delicately embossed, snowflake design ceramics from Thailand, beautiful handmade nativity sets from Indonesia and Vietnam, and our Christmas foods, including a bumper hamper full of seasonal goodies.
- Our new Red Wine Gift Set, specially packaged in a handmade rattan basket from Vietnam and containing South African Cabernet Sauvignon Merlot, two recycled wine glasses from Bolivia and a Raja bottle stopper from India.
- Great jewellery including recycled pieces such as the eye-catching, black foil pendant necklace from India made with recycled glass and silver foil decoration.
- New styles in the popular, organic T-shirt range – which are not only made with 100% Fairtrade-certified, organic cotton but tailored under fair trade conditions too, bringing benefits to two producer groups.
- Unique magazine paper pots from Vietnam. Each one is handmade from recycled magazine paper – a definite talking point and thoughtful gift.

Traidcraft works with farmers and craftworkers across Africa, Asia and South America. When buying Traidcraft products you are helping people in some of the poorest parts of the world to build a better future for themselves and their families.

To order a catalogue contact Traidcraft, Kingsway, Gateshead NE11 0NE  
Tel: 0191 491 0591

Traidcraft food products are available after morning service in Melrose on the first Sunday of the month or from Jenni Young 01896 822439

Forward Notice: Traidcraft Christmas Sale 7/8<sup>th</sup> November

## **SUMMER COFFEE MORNINGS**

For the sixth year running - during June, July and August - the Wednesday Summer Coffee Morning has continued in the Church Hall (although Summer has rarely been evident, so far, this year!) Numbers grew as June wore on, and we have had many new visitors, as well as return friends and our congregational members. These occasions are very dependent on volunteer helpers and they, with all the goodies they have supplied, have certainly not failed. We have also had some new helpers, and to all of them we say a big 'Thank you'. Let's hope that this occasion has been useful for catching up on the week's news, making new friends and generally having a pleasant morning together.

The Country Dancing Group had their Summer 'get together' on one of the July Wednesdays, and that was a very jolly morning. Thank you, Eleanor, for organizing all the members.

As always, thanks are due to Ian Douglas for sweeping up the crumbs and seeing to tables and chairs.

Perhaps it's time for a new organizer with fresh ideas and energy ! [Is that possible? /Ed] Think about it! If you have any suggestions about improving the morning, please come forward with them.

### **Jean Thomson**

[We raise our cups in a toast to Jean for all she has done, with her helpers, in keeping this midweek break going for so long. Ed]

## **WANTED**

If you were parents of young children in the 1960s and 70s you may have what is wanted viz copies of books in the ANT and BEE series.

Also has anyone an old card table our existing one used for the lunches is virtually on its last legs.

If so please telephone 01896 823112.

## **Al-Shurooq School for Blind Children, Bethlehem**

Construction on the site is going quite smoothly now, after a short period of uncertainty. After extensive deliberations, they decided to put forward the date of the inauguration of the new purpose built Al-Shurooq School for Blind Children's building towards the last week of November.

A highlight of the school's year was their annual excursion and this is an extract from their recent Newsletter.

' For the children's annual excursion, we decided to take them to Jericho on April the 16<sup>th</sup>. We had high hopes of the children being able to visit the Dead Sea and experience floating on its waters. But this was not to be. We were shocked and

disappointed to know that all Palestinians are recently banned from reaching the shores of the Dead Sea, again, this emphasises our feelings of despair and anger. Nevertheless, we spent most part of the day in a new park called 'Banana Land' that had two large swimming pools, and artificial river with boats to hire, a vast area for bike rides, an area for horseback riding, a children's play area with swings, slides and seesaws, and a few large non-poisonous snakes to hold and pause for a souvenir picture.

After lunch, we paid a visit to 'Hisham's Palace', an historic palace located 3km north of Jericho, built by the Umayyad Caliph Hisham bin AbdulMalek (724-743AD), who ruled the empire stretching from India to the Pyrenees.

We are extremely grateful to St Andrew's Church Jerusalem and the Royal Danish Representative Office, Ramallah and Maersk Line for kindly covering the cost of the trip.'

### **Malawi – Partnership with Zomba Presbytery**

In a move away from the centralisation of the Church's work overseas the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles has entered into a partnership with the Presbytery of Zomba in Malawi. Representatives from Zomba visited our Presbytery on 2007 and this year a group from Presbytery visited Zomba. Arising from that visit our own congregation has been linked with Chiminwali Parish, which was visited by the Rev. Jim Campbell from Selkirk and Mr. Graeme Henderson, an elder from Peebles and then Moderator of the Presbytery. The initial aim is to build up these linkages through regular communication and we would be very interested to hear from any in the congregation or parish with knowledge of the area, who could join Jim or Graeme in a presentation at an initial meeting.

### **ROTAS- ROTAS-AND MORE ROTAS**

To enable all church facilities to run smoothly we need a band of volunteers to give their energy and time to carry out various duties. For a number of reasons these numbers are in decline and in particular the crèche on a Sunday morning. The following is a list of areas where willing hands will be made most welcome, the more people on a rota the less often a duty is required. If you would like to join a rota then please contact Joyce at the office on 823339 who will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Creche Rota on Sundays

Coffee Rota on Sunday

Cleaning Rota, part of a team of 2/3 ideally 3

Door Duty on Sundays welcoming people to church and taking up the offering

Delivering the quarterly church magazine

Counting the Offering with Joyce at the office on Monday mornings

Flower Rota helping with flowers in church

Mid-Week Lunch helping every three months

## **A MEDICAL FABLE**

In the beginning God covered the earth with broccoli, cauliflower and spinach, with green, yellow and red vegetables of all kinds so that Man and Woman would live long and healthy lives.

Then, using God's bountiful gifts, Satan created Dairy Ice Cream and Magnums. And Satan said 'You want hot fudge with that?' And Man said 'Yes', and Woman said 'I'll have one too, with chocolate chips'.

And lo! They gained ten pounds.

And God created the healthy yoghurt that Woman might keep the figure that Man found so fair.

And Satan brought forth white flour from the wheat and sugar from the cane, and combined them. And Woman went from size 12 to size 14.

So God said 'Try my fresh green salad'. And Satan presented Blue Cheese dressing and garlic croutons on the side. And Man and Woman ate, and unfastened their belts.

God then said 'I have sent you healthy vegetables and olive oil in which to cook them'.

And Satan brought forth deep fried coconut king prawns, butter-dipped lobster chunks and chicken fried steak, so big it needed its own platter, and Man's cholesterol went through the roof.

Then God brought forth the potato; naturally low in fat and brimming with potassium and good nutrition.

Then Satan peeled off the healthy skin and sliced the starchy centre into chips and deep-fried them in animal fats, adding copious quantities of salt. And Man put on more pounds. God then brought forth running shoes so that his Children might lose those extra pounds.

And Satan came forth with cable TV with remote control so that Man would not have to toil, changing the channels. And Man and Woman laughed and cried before the flickering light, and started wearing stretch jogging suits.

Then God gave lean beef so that Man might consume fewer calories and still satisfy his appetite.

And Satan created McDonalds and the 99p double cheeseburger. Then Satan said 'You want fries with that?' And Man replied 'Yes, and super-size 'em' And Satan said 'It is good' And Man and Woman went into cardiac arrest.

God sighed....and created the NHS and quadruple-bypass surgery.

**A SLIP OF THE TYPEWRITER or  
Church Newsletter 'BLOOPERS'**

The suggestion that our Secretary, Joyce, refused to type/type up this contribution (about mistakes which have, allegedly, appeared in other Church Newsletters) is quite correct/incorrect. As if it could happen here...

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24th in the Church. So ends a friendship that began in their schooldays

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?'  
Come early and listen to our choir practice.

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