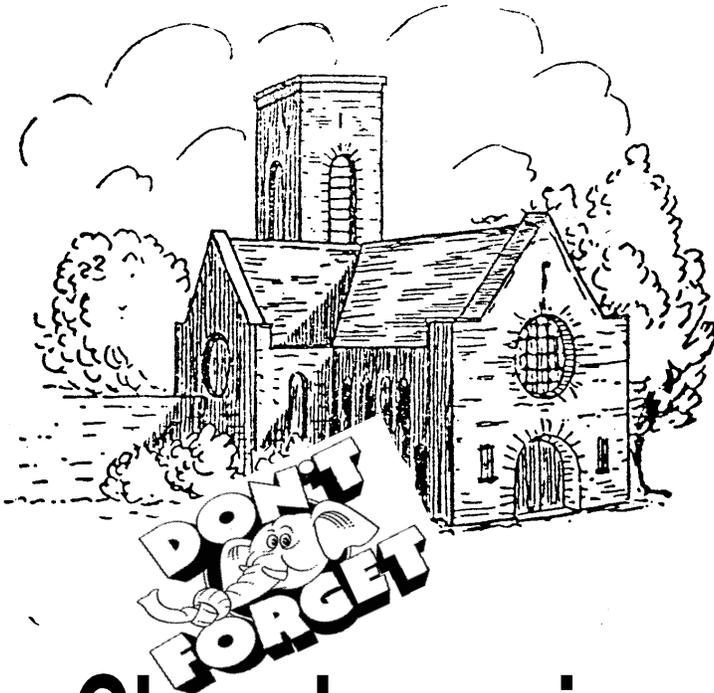

**K
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K** *Outlook*

Granton Parish Church - June 1998



**Church services
during July and August
start at 10am!**

**IN THIS
ISSUE**

**Assembly
Sketch**

FFF

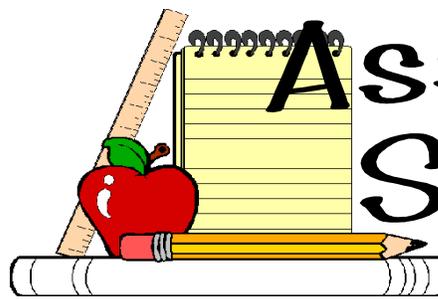
**A debt free
start?**

FFF

**Fund-
raising
Concert
and supper**

FFF

**Is there
anybody
there?**



Assembly Sketch

Alister Greig

Report from this year's General Assembly from our reporter at the Assembly Hall

This years General Assembly promised to be, as usual, a fairly lively affair and, with a few exceptions, this proved to be the case. One more fairly controversial decision in the life of the Church and another Assembly proves to be a success.

But what of the place itself ? As most people will know next year the Assembly Hall is going to be used for the new Scottish Parliament (next years General Assembly moves to the International Conference Centre) and a general upgrading of the Hall will even now, be taking place. I can't say I'll miss the old seats - they're extremely hard and very sore on the well never mind you know what I mean.

The Blue Book

To prepare for the Assembly itself requires a good amount of reading. The reports to the General Assembly (the famous 'blue' book) has some 39 reports and hundreds of deliverances to be considered. Then there's the daily papers with more motions and counter-motions. If you really want to be keen you can even read the press releases as they are published on the Internet ! Yes you can really go to town.

Things started with last years moderator, the Right Reverend Alexander McDonald handing things over to the present moderator, the Reverend Professor Alan Main. The main points I did notice this year were the introduction of some 27 youth delegates who gave a good account of themselves, often putting older delegates and convenors of committees in

their place and asking extremely good questions ... usually starting with ... why ?

Technology & The Lottery

What else ... well the Internet was hot news. New technology has finally caught up with the Church of Scotland, since they are even considering placing the Bible and future editions of the church hymnary on CDROM, progress indeed.



But what of the National lottery ? A super debate, lasting over 2 hours, allowed

the Church to reaffirm its opposition to gambling, while allowing "all agencies of the church to determine for themselves whether or not to make application for or use of lottery funding" with a number of very important caveats. What all this means is that any church can't go ahead with an application without discussing things fully at Session level. This debate has still got a long way to go and we will hear more about this again, I'm sure.

Jubilee 2000

Jubilee 2000 was also mentioned on more than one occasion. Many of you will remember the petitions that were placed at the back of the church, calling on the cancellation of the third world debt. This got very strong support from the Church.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

Also a number of delegates from abroad, from a variety of different countries and cultures, spoke in praise of the Church of Scotland and the work it did. It makes trying to pay our Mission and Aid money, to me, extremely important.

Moving

Most of the debate this year was of an extremely high quality although I did feel that the Assembly tended to be frightened to take decisions on clear areas of debate - Northern Ireland was not mentioned (the pending Referendum on the Friday may have had something to do with that) and the Jerusalem/Palestinian question never really came up. Yes, this years Assembly will be remembered by me, through what

was **not** said. Although I do have to mention the rather moving address made by the Reverend Dan Bryant from the American Church on the Friday. He is minister in Springfield, USA, the place where the young boy shot his parents and a number of other children just a few hours earlier. His address was both a moving and humbling experience. You felt that whatever decisions had been made were really not that important.

Overall the Assembly was an interesting one and well worth attending, if not tiring. Space has not permitted me to mention all the debates and I'm sure we'll hear more in future editions of Kirk Outlook ... keep



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WELCOMES DECISION ON ASSEMBLY HALL

The Church of Scotland has welcomed the announcement that the Assembly Hall has been selected to house the new Parliament as a temporary home, when it sits for the first time in Spring 1999.

The Assembly Hall is the home of the Church of Scotland General Assembly and has been the centre for many debates on devolution, both in the General Assembly and the Scottish Constitutional Convention.

To assist Parliament to move into the building immediately after the elections in May 1999 the Church's Board of Practice and Procedure, which manages the Hall has agreed that the General Assembly of 1999 will be held at another venue, but no firm decision has been taken on which building might be used.

The Assembly Hall was one of a number of possibilities explored by the Scottish Office, and the proposals for

GIFT DAY

Along with this issue of Kirk Outlook you'll also find a letter from the Treasurer about this year's Gift Day. Each member of the congregation is being asked to collect £1 and 50p coins in film containers which are being provided. It's hoped that this novel fundraising idea will help boost our coffers so that we can meet all our responsibilities as a church over the next

fundraiser

KIRK OUTLOOK The next issue of *Kirk Outlook* will be available in mid October. Everyone is welcome to submit material to the editor, and should try to have it to him by Sunday 27th September. The editor is Chas Macintosh, 8 Fraser Crescent, EH5 2AN, 552 2240 email: cmacin@clara.net.

Weekly notices can appear on the back of each Sunday's Order of Service, and should be with the minister by the preceding Thursday. The minister is

The Sunday School

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

*By Gillian Tweedie
Sunday School Superintendent*

As many of the congregation may already be aware there have been several changes within the Sunday School throughout this session. On the positive side this includes the introduction of new teaching material, however we have lost several Sunday School teachers. In order for us to offer the best possible teaching to the children, we urgently need more people to come forward and offer their services to the Sunday School. I realise that this is a large commitment, however I would urge you to consider it. Even if you

cannot manage along every Sunday, any help would be gratefully received. Our ideal is that, if we were to obtain sufficient names, we could operate a rota system.

Our second request is to see if anybody has any toys and/or books which their children have outgrown and which you would be willing to donate to the church for use in the Sunday School.

The Sunday School will finish for the summer on Sunday 21st June and will restart on Sunday 6th September.

Last but by no means least, a huge thank you to all the Sunday School teachers for the work that they have done throughout the session.

43 YEARS SERVICE!

By Audrey Mitchel, Session Clerk
At the Family Service on Palm Sunday 6th April Alister Greig thanked on behalf of the Kirk Session and Congregation Jenny McCraw, Barabara Hudspith and Tracey Fergie, who between them had served the church and Beginners Department of the Sunday School for 43 years! He spoke of their loyal and faithful service to all the children who had passed through the Sunday School over the past 20 years or so and of how much they would be missed.

Gifts were presented by Katy Macintosh and Cara Wilson to Jenny and Tracey. Barbara was unable to be with us and her gift was passed on to her at a later date. Here, as Session Clerk, I would also like to say a big 'thank-you' for all your work for the church with the children - I'm sure they will miss you. Enjoy your retirement -

Thanks from Jennie
Dear children, teachers, parents and friends,
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the beautiful crystal vase, flowers and Caithness Glass elephant I received on leaving the Beginners' Sunday School. I remember at the beginning of 1981 when I was asked to take over as leader, saying I would do it for a year, never thinking I would still be their at the beginning of 1998! The time has passed so quickly and I have lots of happy memories of all the children over the years.
Can I also thank all the teachers who have helped me in the Sunday School, especially Barbara, Jill and



Dear friends,

I wish to thank you most sincerely for your kindness and generosity to me at the time of my retirement.

It was a day that I will long remember. I was delighted that so many of you were able to stay after worship to share the wonderful spread provided by the ladies and to share in the presentation to me of a camera and a very generous cheque.

To all who were responsible for the planning, providing and presenting on that day I send my warmest thanks and appreciation.

The last 9 years have passed very quickly for me as I have shared in the life of Granton Church and its parish as your deaconess. I have appreciated your help and support and your friendship to both Ian and myself during this time.

I look forward to continuing with that friendship and take this opportunity of wishing you every blessing in the years ahead with Lynn.

Maureen

Hello - the purpose of this article is twofold. 1. An introduction. 2. A very sincere THANK YOU.

Isla, Mary and I, Liza, recently joined your church when we moved from Mayfield to the Cheshire Wardieburn unit. Mary attends the Lunch Club weekly, we all attend morning service as regularly as we can, and we all intend joining the Ladies Fellowship in October. I should like, on behalf of us all to say how welcome we've been made to feel among you. I was invited to your (fellowship) closing social and could not have felt more at home and relaxed. We feel the reassuring warmth of friendship every Sunday from our faithful escorts to our page-finding pew buddies: so much so, that we forget we're

Kirsty's coffee morning

We all need a wee break from the daily routine. We can provide just that – a wee chat with friends. News of what's happening and a cup of tea or coffee. Doesn't that sound good? Why not come along and join our regulars and find out for yourself. Every Thursday 10am-11.30am. Go on – give yourself a treat. Hope to see you soon.

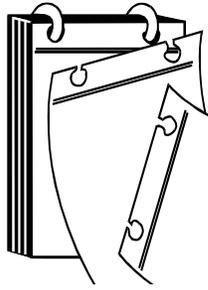
Ilean Greig

The Berwick Male Voice Choir

As you'll see from the advert on the back page, we are to be hosting a concert by the Berwick Male Voice Choir in the church on Saturday 31st October.

Tickets are likely to be priced around £5 each, including buffet supper and wine, representing excellent value. The concert, which will take place in the sanctuary - benefiting from the superb acoustics and the wonderful organ, will be performed by all 40 members of the Berwick based choir and will last about 2 hours.

As well as offering the chance to hear live, good quality music, the evening is also being run as means of raising funds for the church. Please do try to come along and put a note in your diaries now.



A Good Send-off

GOODBYES AND THANKS TO MAUREEN HUTCHISON.

On Sunday, 8th March, we were able as a congregation to meet together after morning worship to say our "goodbyes and thanks" to Maureen for her years with us here in Granton. It was most encouraging to have such a large gathering at the buffet lunch and this was much appreciated by Maureen and Ian.

Appreciated

Lynne, our minister, spoke of the short time she had worked with Maureen, thanking her for helping her to settle in during these first few weeks with us. She then invited Liz Henderson to say a few words. Liz recalled for us the years Maureen had spent here in Granton. She spoke of how much her work had been appreciated by all those with whom she came into contact - whether in their own homes, in hospital, residential care or around the church and in the wider work of the parish and community.

Ian McPherson thanked Maureen too and presented her with a camera (something which Maureen wanted) and a handsome cheque from members of the congregation.

This was a sad occasion in the sense that Maureen was leaving us, but nevertheless a very happy get-together for those who were able to be present. Happy also for those from other churches in the area who had been able to join us.

Not getting rid!

Maureen in her reply of thanks assured us we were not getting rid of her - she would still be around - at the Lunch Club with Ian, Coffee Mornings and other special events. I'm sure we are delighted that we are not to lose contact with them.

Retiral Dinner

On Friday, 13th March members of the Kirk Session organised a Retiral Dinner for Maureen in the King's Manor Hotel. Some 60 people attended - members of the Session and other colleagues of Maureen's from the 4 churches in which she had previously served as Deaconess before coming to Granton. This was a very happy and relaxed evening for all of us. Lynne was in the Chair and kept things moving along smoothly. The Rev. Dr. Denis Duncan and the Rev. Colin Anderson were the main after-dinner speakers giving us an insight into Maureen's earlier years and activities. The Rev. Tom Gordon and his wife Mary entertained us in song and guitar playing. Maureen cut her retiral cake and was given a floral arrangement and photograph albums to go along with the camera she had already received on the Sunday.

Presbytery

At their meeting on 14th April, Edinburgh Presbytery were saying their thanks to Maureen for her years of service to the Church and, as Session Clerk I was invited to speak for 3 minutes! Following

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

this the Moderator of the Presbytery thanked Maureen for her service to the Church and wished her well in her

retirement.

And so, Maureen, a big thank-you for everything. It's not really goodbye, as we

MODERATOR.....

“This evening I am delighted on behalf of the congregation of Granton Parish Church to express our sincere thanks in a few words to Mrs. Maureen Hutchison, Deaconess. Maureen and I go back a long way - in fact to her student days at St. Colm's College. Since her commissioning in 1960 Maureen has served in the following Churches. From 1960-66 she worked with the Rev. Bill Cant in St. Thomas' Leith. In 1966 she moved on to St. Mungo's, Cumbernauld where she worked with the Rev. Alan Swinton and the Rev. Ken Lawson.

In 1972 Maureen and Ian were married and came to live in the Pilton area – and so she and I met up again and were able to continue our friendship which began in the late 1950's. And so from 1972 until 1989 Maureen served in the Greater Pilton area in The Old Kirk of Edinburgh - and over this 17 year period worked with the Revs. Colin Anderson, Erik Cramb, Tom Gordon and Ian Moir.

In December 1989 Maureen arrived to be with us in Granton Parish -

leaving only a few weeks ago - and already she is greatly missed by us all. At Granton Maureen worked with the Rev. Elizabeth Henderson for just over seven and a half years, and for these last few weeks with the Rev. Lynne MacMurchie.

All of Maureen's time with us was greatly appreciated and valued immensely - and especially in the last year all her help and guidance as we worked together during the months of Vacancy. She kept us on the right track and was always there for us, guiding where necessary and encouraging us at all times. Here I would like to express my own thanks to you Maureen for all the help you were to me as Session Clerk and for the words of encouragement you gave especially these last few months. Now you go knowing you have left us in good hands as together Lynne and the congregation go forward in faith into a new ministry at Granton.

But what of Maureen's years in Granton? The children of the Sunday School loved her - the sick and the elderly looked forward to her visits whether in their own

homes, in hospital, residential care - these visits always helped to cheer. The young people with families appreciated her care and concern for them too, and bereaved families very much appreciated her follow-up visits.

Those attending the weekly Lunch Club - set-up in Maureen's time with us - and the Thursday Coffee Mornings always looked forward to her arrival. Dare I say it, the hall and occupants really wakened up and became alive then - Maureen always managed to have a smile and a word for everyone.

I could go on and on, but I'm sure my 3 minutes are about up, and so I would say in closing Maureen you are greatly missed and you will be a very hard act to follow. We in Granton have already shown just how much we love you and have appreciated all that you have been and have done for us over these 9 years. It now gives me great pleasure here in Presbytery to thank you, Maureen, from all your friends at Granton for these years. You will not be forgotten and we all look forward to seeing you around from time to time,

A DEBT FREE START FOR A BILLION PEOPLE

According to a United Nations Human Development report "More than 21 million children could die unnecessarily between 1997 and 2000 as a result of the debt crisis.

Jubilee 2000

Jubilee 2000 is a call to the richer nations, banks and international lenders to allow the World's poorest countries to begin the new millennium free from the burden of unsustainable debt.

Why Jubilee

According to the book of Leviticus 25:4-55, God's people were to celebrate Jubilee every 50 years. The Jubilee was not just an excuse for a party. It was about changing the relationship between rich and poor by requiring large landholders to restore their lands and homes to people who had lost them. The Jubilee Year went one step further than the Sabbatical Year when creditors were required to forgive their debts and when slaveholders were required to let their slaves go free.

What better spirit in which to approach the next millennium when our suffering world so desperately needs a new start.

Who is behind Jubilee 2000?

Jubilee 2000 was launched in April 1996 by Christian Aid, Tear Fund and CAFOD.

It has since received endorsement from dozens of Christian organisations - and we're not alone!

It is not just Christians who are calling for richer countries and international lending institutions to do something about international debt. The Reform

Synagogues of Great Britain have also lent their support and similar campaigns have taken off in more than 20 countries.

Is Jubilee 2000 asking the impossible?

The Jubilee 2000 campaign is not asking that all debt be cancelled by the year 2000. It is asking for:

- complete cancellation of debt only for those countries whose income per person is less than \$700 per year.

- partial cancellation of debt for those countries whose income per person is between \$700 and \$2,000 per year.

The real irresponsibility has so far been with the lenders.

Western governments made huge loans to prop up often corrupt allies and to fund military expenditure. And, private lenders took advantage of the "moral hazard" arising from the fact that they couldn't lose because even if borrowers defaulted, multilateral governmental bodies would step in to make up the difference.

Jubilee 2000 seeks to ensure that debt relief will benefit the poor and will not be used to support corruption, inefficiency or systematic violations of human rights.





We have now completed our first year as "ladies fellowship" and hope that our members have enjoyed our times together. Our closing social was well attended and much enjoyed, our entertainers being the James Farrar Singers. These ladies were formerly the singers at Dalhousie castle and have lost none of their ability to pass on their own delight in singing to their audience - a good finish to the session! Our fortnightly summer coffee evenings began on Tuesday 21st April - we meet at 7.30pm in the West Hall. We have a small bring and

buy stall at each coffee evening and, for those of you who haven't managed to come yet, please do pop in some Tuesday. We continue to the end of August..

Our first summer drive took place on 31st May - destination Moffat. More news in the next bulletin.

We are now in the throes of planning next year's syllabus. It promises to be varied and, we hope, of interest to our members. We'll restart the winter session on Tuesday 6th October at 7.30pm -make a

The Brigade Bugle!

Malcolm Burton

The B.B. year has come to an end for the session 97/98. Since the start of the session at the end of August 97, the number of boys coming along to the East (Big) Hall at 6.30pm on Wednesday nights has increased to 14.

Since the last issue of Kirk Outlook the

traditional hectic end of the session has seen the boys being presented with their Annual Awards Certificates. Ten White (First), 12 Green (Second) and 4 Purple (Third) Badges. Four received Perfect Attendance's awards and 12 attended camp at Innerwick outdoor Centre. Four boys were promoted to the Company Section. All this in a hectic two weeks!

Invitations to the boys in Primary 3 of Granton, Royston and Wardie Schools to come along for the last night brought in 4

Bringing hope to the 'peace'

Christians are urged to be "bringers of hope" following strong endorsement of the Good Friday Agreement in Northern Ireland. The Evangelical Alliance in the Province is also encouraging Christians to work closely with other groups as part of the new opportunities and challenges now on offer. Rev David McCarthy, general secretary of EA Northern Ireland, said that believers should be seen to love their neighbours, no matter how they voted in the referenda.

GRANTON PARISH CHURCH

Boswall Parkway, Edinburgh

Minister.....	Rev. Lynne MacMurchie.....	551 2159
Session Clerk	Audrey Mitchell.....	551 1613
Clerk to the Board.....	Jessie Macdonald.....	552 2200
Treasurer.....	Alistair Greig	552 2427
Property Convenor	Chris Hansen.....	336 3048
Organist.....	Sharon Parkin.....	551 3096
Hall Convenor.....	Irene MacPherson	552 4543
Magazine editor.....	Charles Macintosh.....	552 2240
Roll Keeper.....	Lesley Webster.....	539 5033
Deed of Covenant Convenor	Stewart Greig	552 4427
Church Flowers	Ilean Greig.....	552 4427

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advert to
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Parish Register

BAPTISMS

On the 15th March 1998

Kirsten McMurray, infant daughter of Julia and David, c/o 10 Grierson Crescent

On the 3rd May 1998

Holly Michelle Eunson, infant daughter of Lynn and Eric, 82 Whitehall Gardens,
Musselburgh

India May Reilly, infant daughter of Gillian and Derek, 31 Boswall Crescent

“The promise is to you and your children” Acts Ch 2 Vs 39

WEDDINGS

ON THE 28TH MARCH 1998

Donna Rose Patterson and Andrew Thomson, both of 9/3 Boswall Parkway

FUNERALS

MARCH	5 th	Mr Tam Cowan of 45 Granton Crescent
	23 rd	Mrs Betty Gorman of Canaan Lodge Nursing Home
APRIL	3 rd	Mrs Ella Hansen of 7/3 Wardiefield
	14 th	Mrs Marjorie Methven of 31/1 Pilton Drive North
	24 th	Mrs Williamina Reilly of 252/2 Crewe Road North
	25 th	Mr Stanley Maddison of 87 Crewe Terrace
MAY	1 st	Mr William McGerr of 9 Royston Mains Green
	5 th	Mrs Mary Steer of 6 Royston Mains Place
	7 th	Mr George Blackie of 37/2 Boswall Loan
	13 th	Mr George Sutherland of 6/5 Caroline Park Grove

***“Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength
They shall rise up on wings like eagles.
They shall run and not grow weary
They shall walk and not faint”***

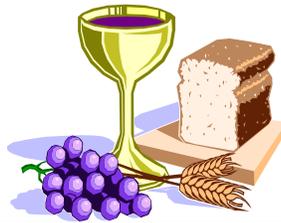
Betty, Bill and Elizabeth wish to thank all their friends in the church for their prayers, kindness and support during David's illness. Your sympathy will help us through this sad

COMMUNION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL
BE CELEBRATED ON

Sunday 28th June

at 9.30am and 11.00am



Granton Parish Church

BERWICK MALE VOICE CHOIR

Saturday 31st October

tickets £5 each including buffet supper
in aid of Church funds

tel: 552 2240