

www.grantonparish.org.uk

Kirk Outlook

Granton Parish Church

June 2005

“All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own. But they shared everything they had.”

(Apostle Luke in Acts Chapter 2 verse 32)

Granton Parish Church

Minister

Norman A Smith
551 2159

norm@smith1971.fsnet.co.uk

Parish Assistant

Marilynn Steele
01875 811 497
marilynnsteele@aol.com

Session Clerk

Lesley Webster
539 5033
leswebster@blueyonder.co.uk

Clerk to the Board

Audrey Mitchell
551 1613

Organist

Sharon Parkin
551 3096
sharon@theparkins.co.uk

Treasurer

David Duncan
552 1546
david.duncan@scottish-newcastle.co.uk

Hall Convener

Irene MacPherson
552 4543
orionmac54@aol.com

Gift Aid Convener

Stewart Greig
552 4427

Church Flowers

Ilean Greig
552 4427

Magazine and Website Editor

Charles Macintosh
552 2240
ko@grantonparish.org.uk
fax: 07092 158687

Kirk 4 Kidz

Stuart Mitchell
552 6046
stuart.mitchell@scotland.gsi.gov.uk

Church phone

552 3033

“Sharing the love and knowledge of God
to create a better and fairer world for all“

The Mission Statement of Granton Parish Church



Website- www.grantonparish.org.uk

The on-line version of Kirk Outlook has web-links to many related sites, providing an opportunity to find out more about articles. Remember to pass on our web address to anyone that you know who has moved away from the area.

Kirk Outlook

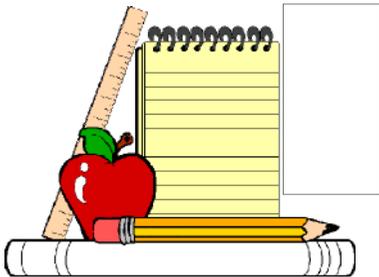
Articles and information for inclusion in Kirk Outlook should be passed to the editor, Chas Macintosh at 8 Fraser Crescent, telephoned to 552-2240, emailed to

KO@grantonparish.org.uk or faxed to 07092 158687 by the deadline dates below:

KO Deadline and issue dates for the rest of 2005

October – deadline Sunday 18 September out on Sunday 2 October

December – deadline Sunday 13 November out on Sunday 27 November



In Brief

Here at Granton Parish Church we offer a range of social and spiritual groups covering all ages where you can mix, enjoy fellowship and grow within our community. Please feel welcome to join us at any of our groups. Unless stated otherwise these groups meet here in the church/halls.

Drama Group - Meeting every Monday in the evening this group rehearses and performs regularly. Always looking for new members please contact Mrs Lesley Webster (0131 - 5395033) if you would like to go along.

The Men's Club has now stopped for the Summer Months and will start again on Tuesday 4th October.

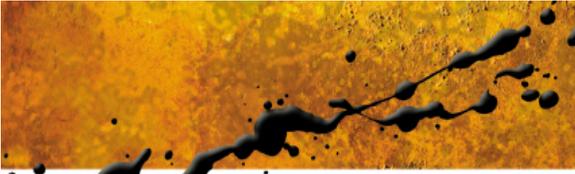
Lunch club every Wednesday from 12 noon—1.30 pm where good quality food is available at a reasonable price here in the church halls. More information can be had from Mrs Olive Lyall (0131–5525837) or Mrs Irene McPherson (0131-5524543)

Coffee Morning every week on Thursdays from 10 - 11.30 am. See Mrs Ilean Greig (0131-5524427) for details.

Quiet Time every 2nd week at 9.45 - 10.15 on Thursdays. This is a chance to take some time out during the day and spend some time reflecting on life the universe and everything! See Marilyn for more information.

On The Run
Gillian would like to pass on her thanks to everyone who sponsored her to take part in the Great Caledonian Run last month. She is delighted to report that she managed to raise over £750 for Leukemia Research

And finally
Wardie Parish Church are hosting an evening of praise on Wednesday 8th June at 7.30pm. This will be led by an African Children's Choir who travel and perform to highlight the plight of many children throughout Africa. Although there is no charge for the evening a collection to support the work of the choir and other African children will be taken. See www.africanchildrenschoir.com for more details.



God's Annoying Love for Imperfect People

Notes from the Minister

Messy Spirituality

Dear friends,

When you are inducted into a church there are a number of prious nature of being a minister.

To have the privilege of entering people's homes, of spending time with them at significant moments of life and teaching them the truths of Christianity is not something to be taken lightly.

One of the promises reflects this in that as ministers we are asked to continue to improve ourselves through study and reflection so that as we go about being ministers we also continue to refresh our own souls.

It's important then to take time to read and reflect otherwise there is a real danger you run dry of things to say.

Recently I read a book called 'Messy Spirituality' by Mike Yaconelli that I found extremely helpful. In it he recognises a normal person's spirituality is a living contradiction between what we know we should be as Christians and what we usually are; which is fallible people who spend a lot of the time getting it wrong.

Far too many people think that as Christians we are always going to be good people who do the right thing but again we know that's not true. As this magazine goes out to all our church members, it's fair to say it goes to those who have already at some point professed publicly their Christianity. Yet consider the last seven days and your thoughts / actions within them. Would you claim to have lived life always at God's standard? Could you say your perfection was evident for all to see?

The reality is we all live messy lives where sometimes we succeed in practicing our Christianity and sometimes we fail.

Amazingly God is such a loving and caring God that he loves us at our worst. There is nothing you have done that will come between you and God, nothing that you will do that can separate you from God. In fact Paul the apostle himself says this in the book of Romans.

“None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us. I'm absolutely convinced that nothing - nothing living or dead, angelic or demonic, today or tomorrow, high or low, thinkable or unthinkable--

absolutely nothing can get between us and God's love because of the way that Jesus our Master has embraced us.”

(Rom 8:37-39)

This is the message of Christianity we take into our parish. God is interested in real people who come with problems, complexes, hang ups and more issues than you can count; yet God loves them all. This is the message of Christianity we live as a church that indeed says all are welcome; regardless of what anyone thinks about them.

Of course it's easy to say this; the trick is to actually do it.

“
nothing living
or dead,
angelic or
demonic,
today or
tomorrow,
high or low,
thinkable or
unthinkable
-absolutely
nothing can
get between

”

Your friend and Minister.

Norman.

Church Library

The book stand at the back of the church has several Christian books available for loan. Why not consider reading one or two and writing reviews for the church magazine?

Communion

Last Sunday of the month at morning service

Snippets

Traidcraft

Last Sunday of the month

Evening Service

6.30pm on the second Sunday of the month (except July & August

Don't Come to Church!!!.....

....at the usual time during July and August - services start instead at 10.00am.

Themes for the summer

June: God Is Faithful

July: God the Son

August: Travelling in Faith

September: Birth of a Nation



Notes from our Parish Assistant

Church Family

Our Parish Assistant, Marilyn Steele has a write-off and looks Forward to the General Assembly

Have you ever stopped to think about being a member of the Church family? And how important it is to you? A few weeks ago as some of you will have heard, I had an accident with my car going home after the Sunday service. I was ok apart from a few bumps and bruises, but the car unfortunately did not survive - it was a "write off" as they say!

During that week I had many occasions in which I found myself thanking God, firstly,

because nobody had been seriously hurt, and because you realise that life is very precious. Secondly, you realise just how much other people care about you, I had many cards, emails and phone calls as word got around.

Mostly I have to say came from "my church family" - it certainly lifts one's spirit to know that people are thinking about you and praying for you. Being part of the church's family is that we

support and care for each other, being able to show God's love and kindness through each of us is truly a blessing.

To be able to extend that love and kindness to our community is also a blessing, because that's what being Christian and member of the church is all about.

So thank you to all of you for your love and kindness when I needed it, I know you will do the same for others who are also in need.

The General Assembly

This year my turn has come around again to be Commissioner at the General Assembly, I can't believe that three years have passed

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since I was last there. I am looking forward to it as despite the fact that although there are some boring aspects! There are far more interesting ones to keep the mind alert. I shall of course report back thing of interest or concerning us in Granton.

One of the things I do like about the Assembly is catching up with old friends and seeing familiar faces again, people from my student days especially. It is

nice to catch up with people and hearing how they are doing, and of course picking up new ideas over lunch or a coffee.

My biggest problem at the moment is what shall I wear to the Garden Party, and will it be a fine day, as every one that I have attended in the past has been wet or cold, but I live in hope!!!

As we are now officially into "Summer-time", many of you will be looking forward and preparing for holidays, as always, enjoy yourselves whether at home or away. I hope the weather is kind to you and you are able to enjoy 'God's wonderful world' wherever you may find yourselves.

Take care and may God bless
God bless you



FILM CONTAINERS

Once again with the summer edition of Kirk Outlook you will find a film container. Over the last few years your saving in your film containers has been a valuable source of income for the church.

In common with many other local churches and the wider church it is becoming increasingly difficult to meet our financial commitments.

So as in previous years.....

1. Fill up the container with as many pound & £2 coins as you can manage
2. Return to church by 2nd October
3. If you pay tax fill in a Gift Aid form (there should be one with this magazine)

I recently heard this wonderful poem written by a gentleman from Musselburgh called W. J. Thomson who believed that God was everywhere. He wrote poems for "people who don't like poetry". I would like to share it with you.

Session Clerk

Poem For People who Don't like Poetry!

MY CHURCH

*Come with me, come to
my Church
Where the pews are the
green riverside*

*Come with me, come to
my Church
Come and wander the wild
countryside*

*Where the pillars are Birch
trees, Douglas and Spruce
And the roof beams are
nailed across the stars*

*Where the aisle is my
stream that wanders foot-
loose
Through my Church
without windows or bars.*

*Come with me, come to
my Church
My Church has ten
thousand green spires*

*Come with me, come to
my Church
Come and satisfy all your
desires*

*My wardens the west wind
from over the hills*

*My font is the lake among
the trees
My Cathedral's the forest,
so come when you will
And put all your worries at
ease.*

*Come with me, come to
my Church*

*Where the altar's the
spread of the land
And the food stores are
open to folks of the world
With friendship and love
hand in hand*

*Come with me, come to
our Church
Let's make sure that it all
will come to be
That our Church will
strengthen and last for all
time*

*And let people for ever live
free.*

As you can see the Church is not always seen by people to be just a building. It is all around us in the beauty and splendour of the land. Why not stop and set aside a little time each day to think about this and appreciate God's goodness?

God Bless

Lesley

News From Kirk 4 Kidz

Stuart Mitchell - K4K Co-ordinator

Kirk 4 Kidz have been very busy over the last little while, working on a theme of "Caring and Sharing" which has seen us explore various bible stories and produce artwork to illustrate the themes explored. Much of the work has centred on the issue of poverty throughout the world and the difference we can all make if we lend a hand to support those less fortunate than ourselves. The artwork produced is excellent and can be seen in the Church – please take time to have a look as the Kidz really do appreciate the congregation taking an interest in what they do.

The K4K teachers recently met with Norman to discuss a future programme using some new materials. I will keep readers posted on how this goes but I think it is safe to say that the Kidz will find the new material both challenging and enjoyable.

We are also hoping to put the stage room to good use through using the computer facilities for the older Kidz – this is vital if we are to retain their interest and will mean

having to look at staffing resources to allow us to successfully split the Kidz into three groups. We intend to start and finish worship together but move as in the past into different age groups for the teaching and activity based part of the programme. This will mean calling on (on an ad-hoc basis), members of the congregation, who have completed or are willing to undertake child protection training. If you are interested in helping, please speak to myself or Norman, we'd love to hear from you.

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The artwork produced is excellent and can be seen in the Church – please take time to have a look

”

It is pleasing to note that numbers have remained steady throughout the session to date and that we are attracting new Kidz (hence the need for additional help). This is very encouraging and I would like to thank all the teachers for their hard work in making this the case. We are however always keen to welcome even more Kidz and look forward to doing so as we move towards the summer months and beyond.

Finally in relation to "giving others a helping hand", you may be surprised to note that K4K has raised over £500 for various charities since August 2000 with our latest donation going to the victims of the Tsunami. I am sure that you will join me in congratulating the Kidz on this tremendous effort.

Until next time – take care

God Bless.

If you would like to know more about helping out in K4K please speak to Stuart on 552 6046 or the minister on 551 2159

The BB Session is now completed for another year.

We were able to celebrate all the effort by the Boys over the year at our Parents Night on Wednesday 18 May, when we welcomed the Minister, the Rev Norman Smith as our Guest of Honour. While all the Boys were presented with their Badges for the year, I would like to highlight some of the awards that were made.

In the Junior Section, we were delighted to be able to present Gold Badges to Andrew Dickson and Billy Robertson. This represents the successful completion of 55 different achievements over a 3 year period.

The Arnott Award for endeavour was presented to Andrew as well. Andrew, Billy and Liam Garson were presented with their Promotion Certificates and we look forward to seeing them in the Company Section next year.

For the Company Section, the Morrison Trophy for Best Squad was presented to 'D' Squad, led by Mitchell Rennie. Mitchell was also presented with his President's Badge, which is the Brigade's second highest award. In recognition of this, Mitchell was also awarded the Houston Bible for endeavour.

The Company were also successful in defending the P7-S3 Football 7's League, in a joint Team with the 1st Leith (North Leith Parish Church), when they ended the Season undefeated. Kevin Boyd picked up the Trophy on behalf of the team, along with Kevin Callender and Jamie Forsyth. At the time of writing, the Senior team (also joint with the 1st Leith) have one game to play against the 20th Leith from Newhaven in a winner-takes- all match for

with the weekend based on 'Space' activities.

The Company Section are Camping on their own, with a return to the Pilton Retreat at Ratho due on the first weekend in June, with visits to the Adventure Centre at Ratho and Beecraigs Country Park scheduled.

It just remains for me to thank the Boys and their parents for their support over the past year; to thank Malcolm Burton and

Boys Brigade

Brigade Bugle

Alan Summers - Company Captain winds up the current session with a run-down of sporting and company achievements.

the League Trophy. The Session officially ends with Camp and the Junior Section was back at Grantshouse at the end of May in a joint Camp with the 1st and 12th Leith (Pilrig St Paul's) Junior Sections,

Stuart Mitchell for all their hard work over the Session; and to thank the Church and the congregation for their support and interest in the Company.

Alan Summers
Company Captain.



Ladies Fellowship

Thunderbolts & Lightning

...very very frightening!

**Fellowship Secretary Jessie Macdonald
Recounts the final activities of the session**

Our winter session came to a close with a visit from Miss Norah Henderson, who gave an illustrated talk on Islands of the Forth, making us aware of the interest there is just on our doorstep. Our Closing Social welcomed Corstorphine Concert Band as our entertainers, who gave a rousing performance -- their programme encouraged foot tapping and "community" singing as we

remembered favourite songs.

At our AGM we were delighted to welcome back Margaret Macintosh as our new President - together with a mix of old and new members on the committee. At the AGM Elsie Moir stood down following her two year stint as President, with the warm thanks of members for her contribution towards the work of the Fellowship.

Our fortnightly Coffee Evenings began on 19th April - an opportunity to have a chat, a cup of coffee (or tea) and to buy some of the "goodies" from our Bring and Buy stall. The Coffee Evenings will continue to the end of August - a warm, friendly atmosphere will welcome all those who would like to join us.

On 3rd May our spring drive took us to Callendar - a pleasant run through the countryside, with sunshine promising a good day. However, thunder and lightning followed us during the afternoon, which posed some problems. Nevertheless, the company was good and those present enjoyed their "day away".

Looking forward, we shall start our new Session on Tuesday 4th October, having our communion and Dedication Service the previous Tuesday. It will be a pleasure to welcome old and new members to our Group - if you haven't visited us yet please think about it.

Jessie Macdonald

If you would like to know more about the Ladies Fellowship speak to Jessie on 552 2200



Thank you from the bottom of our Tombs

by *Stuart Mitchell* Drama Group Secretary

A big thank you to the many members of the congregation who supported the Drama Group during our recent run of "Tip toe through the tombstones" by Norman Robbins.

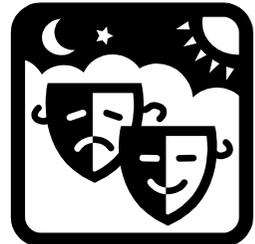
We all had a lot of fun putting on this particular play and judging from the laughter generated during the performances and the feedback received, it would appear that many of you had as much fun as we did. Plays of course do not just happen and therefore I would like to record our thanks to our willing backroom staff (you know

who you are!!) and to the organisations that kindly vacated the halls for the week.

The Drama Group will be taking to the Boards once again later in the year and as ever I will keep readers posted regarding developments.

We look forward to seeing you at one or even more of our performances and please feel free to bring a friend. As they say "when you're smiling the whole world smiles with you" therefore sharing a laugh must be even better.

We are as ever on the look out for new members. For more information contact either Lesley Webster – Drama Group President or myself (details can be found on the inside cover of the magazine)





Gift Aid Annual Report

Something For Nothing

We all know that money matters in church life - and it always feels good when we get something for free. Stewart Greig writes about our successes With Gift Aid over the past year

The fiscal year 2004/5 has proved to be difficult due to the loss of three members and although 6 new members were recruited they mostly started on the last quarter of the fiscal year.

In addition the last two weeks co-incided with the Easter Holidays - this meant that we did not increase our giving – and consequently our tax recoveries - by as much as we had hoped.

However we did increase our tax recoveries by £200 more than last year to £4,300. This is very

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Giving by Standing Order is very easy to set up

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commendable and I congratulate all members who took part and thank them for their commitment.

Total Gift Aid freewill offering amounted to £15,900 which was

approximately 66% of total Sunday offering and was achieved by 66 covenants covering 84 members.

At present there are 20 standing orders contributing to 27% of the above total and amounts to some £4,400 per annum.

This method of giving has the advantage of being independent of holidays, weather conditions and illness. It is very simple to instigate only requiring an instruction to your bank manager to make a monthly payment direct to our bank account and means that you are not involved in a weekly transaction.

A copy of the form (in duplicate) is included in this magazine.

Making a standing order will not preclude you from using your envelopes if you desire.

If you do not wish to use your envelopes please do not feel guilty or awkward about passing the plate – you will not be alone in doing so!

Finally can I thank members who responded to my plea last year to review their giving. We are most grateful for your co-operation.

There is a Standing Order form for you to use if you wish on page 15

Giving Financially As a Christian



Norman Smith

From the earliest times of Christianity, giving money to help the Church's work has been happening.

When Christians first joined together after Jesus' death they lived in community sharing all their possessions. However, as the church spread this became impractical and congregations then began to look after their own finances, always remembering to help others as they needed..

Your Church (Church of Scotland) continues to spend the money you give to it on many and varied projects from year to year. Without your giving lots of people who are benefited by what you give would find their lives even more difficult than they are already. Here are some of the things money is spent on:

Mission and Aid Fund

Self-supporting congregations contribute

to the Mission and Aid Fund to provide some of the funds required by the Boards and Committees of the General Assembly to carry out their work.

Presbytery

We also contribute a set amount each year to Presbytery funds. Through a congregational levy, each church is required to pay per member for the ongoing work of Presbytery.

This includes Conferences, Committee Work, Salaries, Parish Reappraisal, Preaching Expenses, Local Missions among others.

As you can see there are many ways in which your contributions to Granton are used than many imagine. The lives which your giving has a direct impact on cannot be estimated. Nor does this cover the local situation.

Now about the collection for God's people: Do what I told the Galatian churches to do. On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum of money in keeping with his income...

(Apostle Paul speaking in 1 Corinthians Chapter 16 verses 1 –2)

This copy to your bank

BANKER'S ORDER

To : _____
Name of bank

Bank Address _____

Please pay to: **Bank of Scotland PLC**
Goldenacre Branch
5 Montague Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 5QX
(code: 809-02-33)

For the Credit of: Granton Parish Church of Scotland
(account : 00426914)

The sum of: _____ (£ _____)

On the _____ day of _____ and a like
sum on the same day each month until advised otherwise by
me.

Date : _____ Account No: _____

Signed: _____

Name : _____
Block capitals

Address: _____

This copy to the Treasurer, Granton Parish Church

BANKER'S ORDER

To : _____
Name of bank

Bank Address _____

Please pay to: **Bank of Scotland PLC**
Goldenacre Branch
5 Montague Terrace, Edinburgh, EH3 5QX
(code: 809-02-33)

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Date : _____ Account No: _____

Signed: _____

Name : _____
Block capitals

Address: _____



Summer Services

during July and August

Are at

10.00am

