

Kirk Outlook

Granton Parish Church - October 1998

This month:

- *homelessness - a fresh start*
 - *the Money Man reports*
 - *on stage at last with the Drama Group*
 - *brigade bugle and other news from*
-

BERWICK MALE VOICE CHOIR CONCERT-

**Saturday 31st
October:**

**have you got your
tickets?**

If you've been looking at the church notice boards recently, you'll know all about the concert which we are presenting later this month. There is also a flyer inside this copy of Kirk Outlook.

We're pleased to welcome the Berwick Male Voice Choir, whose repertoire includes Gospel and rhythm of life music, has had a number of international appearances in Norway and France, and of course a good many in Scotland.

Of course, because this is a fund-raising event, we're keen to sell as many tickets as possible. Tickets are priced £5, including refreshments. You can get yours now by phoning Charles Macinbtosh on 552 2240 - if you don't

Child Protection: The Church's Code of Practice

by Lynne MacMurchie

The Church of Scotland has produced a Code of Practice on 'the Protection of Children and Young People in the Church'. The code is designed to protect children in two ways:

- by ensuring the screening of people who wish to work with children in a church setting
- by advising those responsible for children on what to do if a child begins to tell them about abuse

The Policy Statement - The Church's policy statement on the protection of children is displayed in the Church and on noticeboards in and about the halls. It is important that all church members are aware of it.

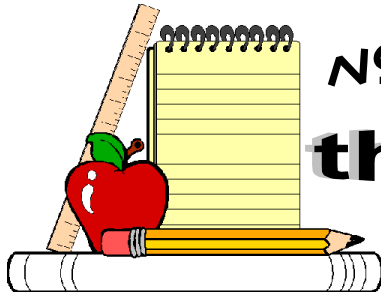
Child Protection Co-ordinator - Each Church has to appoint a Child Protection Co-ordinator and our Kirk Session has appointed **Olive Lyall (552 5837)** to this task. Olive has to keep a record of all people in positions of responsibility for children under 16 - e.g. in Sunday School, Crèche and BB's. All future volunteers for these activities will be required to complete a form, provide a reference and undertake basic training in child protection.

It is not as onerous as it might sound and although this might seem bureaucratic, it is designed to deter abusers who in the past have found it easy to have contact with children as unchecked volunteers. Our Co-ordinator is also required to make sure that all non-church organisations using our halls are aware of our policy on Child Protection.

The Church's policy arises, in part, from concerns about the tragedy at Dunblane and the events preceding it. We all like to think "it couldn't happen here" - but it could, and the Church is putting in place some simple precautions which should at the least reduce the

Kirk Outlook - The next issue of Kirk Outlook will be available in mid January. Everyone is welcome to submit material to the editor, and should try to have it with him by Sunday 27th December. The editor is Charles 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



NOTES FROM the minister

Common Ground

On Sunday 6th September at 6pm, about 90 people gathered in the East Hall to sing. We were singing from 'Common Ground' a new ecumenical songbook for the churches. It was a great evening when we sang songs from all over the world and from different religious traditions. We sang in three parts and in four part rounds, although no-one took up the offer to sing solo!

It was a good social occasion too! As the songbook is ecumenical we decided to invite people from the other denominations in the Parish to join us and also people from the Churches in the Greater Pilton area.

Why do we need a new hymnbook? The words of a hymn reflect the hymnwriter's experience of God. A hymn will be influenced by the time, place and culture in which the writer lived. There will therefore be some hymns which use images and pictures and words which mean very little, if anything, to the people of today.

If people stopped writing hymns we would be saying that we had nothing of our own and nothing new to offer to God in worship. We

(Continued on page 4)

Tide of Interest for songbook for all

Some people call it "Pebbles", others call it the amazing publishing phenomenon. "Common Ground", the ecumenical song book launched in April by church leaders in Dunblane, is selling in thousands. The first music book of its kind in Europe, it has sold 5000 in the music version and 14,000 in the words. Its distinctive

(Common Ground - Continued from page 3)

would be left with an understanding of God that is very narrow and reflective only of a particular time. We must allow our understanding and experience of God to change, develop and grow, and be reflected in our worship.

The book is called 'Common Ground' because the Churches of all denominations share a common heritage and we can make the best of the new and the old songs also part of that heritage. For us in the Church of Scotland, 'Common Ground' does not replace our traditional hymnbook but adds to our resources for worship rather like 'Songs of God's People' has done until now.

By the time you read this, the Kirk Session will have made a decision on whether or not to buy this book for our church. I hope they decide to do so. It can only enhance our worship.

Worship is the only thing that the Church does that no other institution or organisation does. We must do it well so that the people of this Parish might have their own experience of God.

Homelessness

T

he issue of homelessness has featured in our worship recently. As you may be aware the Edinburgh Churches millenium project is tackling the problem of homelessness in our city.

The project was launched last year and since then it has made significant progress towards the goal of eliminating homelessness. The most obvious sign has been 'Fresh Start', which has been developed in partnership with the Scottish Churches Housing Agency.

'Fresh Start' offers practical support to those who have been homeless and have just recently been housed.

This is where we can help in a number of practical ways. Fresh Start is seeking help with three initiatives:

1

Starter Packs for those who have been homeless.

a) Donations of household goods which are made up into packs of crockery, cutlery, pots, pans and cleaning materials are needed.

We need a contact in our Church who could organise a collection for the Starter Packs. Anyone willing to volunteer should contact the Minister.

Look out for further information on this in the weekly notices in Church.

b) Volunteers also needed to assist in one of the packing stations in Pilton or Slateford.

(Continued on page 5)

2 Hit squads!

Individuals and groups of people who can help new tenants in this area with decorating.

3 Empty Homes Initiative

To bring empty homes in this area back into use. People experienced in the trades of Joiners, Plasterers, Painters and decorators are needed.

For more information see the noticeboard in the Church or contact the Minister on 551 2159.

As a congregation we have also been asked to raise £100 between September and Christmas.

We have already managed to raise £40 from donations on the evening of 'Common Ground'. The remainder of the money will probably be raised from our retiring offerings at Communion and on Christmas Eve. Expect to hear more about this on Sundays.

and finally..., I told this story at the morning service on 6th September and I think it's well worth printing here:

Hear our prayer, by Elizabeth O'Connor, Cry Pain, Cry Hope

[One evening] I was part of the volunteer staff of an overnight shelter for street women. It was a very cold night and the women began to arrive early in the evening. The rooms reserved for them were behind the sanctuary of the church and were used for other purposes during the day. Foam rubber mats were laid out over the entire area in one room. Many of the women chose a mat as soon as they arrived. Some had very little with them, though most of them had the bags that had given them the name of bag ladies. One carried her possessions in a child's wagon, and another, more affluent, had hers piled dangerously high in a supermarket cart. The conversation was disconnected, but the atmosphere was warm and peaceful. Each one was given a bowl of stew, bread and tea...

When morning came the peaceful

atmosphere inside the shelter turned hostile. Distraught women - some of them old and sick - could not comprehend why they were once more being 'pushed out' into the streets. We who had received them so warmly the night before were the very ones hurrying them along, benefactors so soon to become enemies.

In the narrow hall where the women were having breakfast, an old woman with a gentle face kneeled to pray. She was in the way of another woman who taunted her "Get up woman. God don't hear your prayer" The praying woman did not respond and her taunter said again, "God don't hear your prayer woman. God don't hear your prayer."

I asked myself, "Does God hear her prayer?" Then I remembered. God is in me and where I am God is. The real question was, "Did I hear her prayer?"

What would it mean to hear her prayer?



The Money Man

Alister Greig, our Treasurer, writes...

During any Summer (not that we've had one this year) the one thing that always concerns me, and any Church Treasurer, is the likely fall in Offerings due, in the main, to many people going away on holiday - to sunnier climes no doubt. This year was no different, before the Summer I was a concerned man. I couldn't, however, have been more wrong. Many of you have been keeping up to date with your offerings and filling in those envelopes regularly. Thank you. This really is the best way to help the Church - make sure, even when you can't make Church, that you put something in those envelopes. On behalf of the Congregational Board, we really do appreciate the effort many of you make. Again my thanks.

How are all these containers going?

We've also received, over the last few months, many special donations. I don't want to finger anybody/any organisation out, but to you all, my heart felt thanks. While on the donation front - how are all those containers going? We've received a few already and look forward to receiving more over the next few weeks. By the time you read this we'll have had our event on the 10th / 11th October and should have an idea of how much we have raised. I'm sure it will be a fantastic effort and will greatly help to keep Granton alive. Although the containers very nicely hold 50p and £1 coins, I'm told that the new £2 coin also fits - if you don't like the size of the new coins why not donate them to the Church, I think I've got the odd container

To you all who have helped to make my job easier thank you.

Alister Greig

Not too seriously!

Floral deliverers

- can they really be trusted?

A new business was opening, and one of the owner's friends wanted to send flowers for the occasion. They arrived at the new business site and the owner read the card. It said, "Rest in Peace." The owner was angry and called the florist to complain. After he told the florist of the obvious mistake and how angry he was, the florist said, "Sir, I'm really sorry for the mistake, but rather than getting angry you should imagine this: somewhere there is a funeral taking place today, and they have flowers with a note saying, 'Congratulations on your new location.'"

NEWS from the organisations:

EDINBURGH EGYPTIAN DANCERS

We are pleased to welcome these dancers to our church halls. Here they are to introduce themselves.

Salaam" from a group of dancing women called The Edinburgh Egyptian Dancers

We have recently begun to use your East Hall and would like to express our appreciation for the wonderful floor which is so kind to our bare feet, and also to tell you a bit about ourselves since you may find that you too are an Edinburgh Egyptian Dancer.

We are a non-profit making organisation set up to help all those Egyptian dance fanatics in and around Edinburgh to pursue their obsession to the ultimate in the company of other enthusiasts.

We are a group of women with a common passion for Egyptian dancing. We are not professional dancers. We are students, teachers, children's workers, architects, wives, mothers, and grandmothers. ranging in age from 20's to 60's.

As our enthusiasm for the dance grew, attending classes was not enough, so, we formed a practice group and hired space

where we could dance together and develop performance pieces to present publicly. We make most of our own costumes and a large part of the enjoyment is dressing up and expressing our femininity in a way that is not possible in our "real" lives.

We formed a group in 1994 and began to dance at local events, private parties and restaurants. We presented regular weekend performances at Cafe Graffiti during the Edinburgh Festivals of 1994 & 1995 and in 1996 & 1997 we hosted Haflas (Egyptian Ceilidhs) in conjunction with 'Assembly Alive'. We have been invited by them to organise a similar event on Friday 20th November this year. Preparations for this Hafla are well under way so you should book now through the Assembly Rooms Box Office if you want to secure a ticket!

We also run a bi-monthly Training Group for those who want to give it a go. These classes are taught by Juliana Brustik from the School of Raqs Sharqui in London. Our workshops are open to non-members and we should be pleased to see any members of Granton Parish Church who would like to join us.

As a consequence of our charitable status our self-led group collaborates in Community Education projects and fundraising events whenever possible so we may be able to help you with your work.

If you want to find out more about the workshops and the Hafla contact, the Training Group Organiser - SARANNAH Tel: 551-3000 or our Treasurer, ANNE

CAIRNS Tel: 553-2770

Best wishes to all

On stage at last

by Stuart Mitchell

After a long absence due to circumstances outwith our control (where have I heard that before I hear you cry!!) the Drama Group will once again be treading the boards from the 12th - 14th of November.

Wanted One Body

- no not a plea for new members although more about that later. *Wanted One Body* by Charles Dyer is our choice of play and one which will appeal to a wide audience.

Things that go bump in the night

Set in the lounge of the mansion *Geenacres*, *Wanted One Body* is a classic old creepy house mystery of disappearing bodies, sliding panels and things that go bump in the night. Ghostly, beastly howls only add to the fun!! It is a whodunnit and a thriller with lots of laughs along the way. The large cast of varied and somewhat eccentric characters bring the play to life and each has a vital role to play. There is no butler, but could it be the cook, the maid or even the solicitor at the back of all the foul deeds?? The only way to find out is to come along, play detective and unravel the sometimes tricky clues for yourself. If you enjoy a challenge as well as the thrill of live theatre then look no further than your very own Drama Group - we look forward to seeing you.

Tickets priced £3.50 for adults and £2 for

concessions will be available shortly from any member of the Group. Tickets will also be sold on the 1st and the 8th of November immediately after Church.

Finally, a plea for new members. Anyone wishing to join the Drama Group should simply come along to one of our rehearsals on Monday 8pm - 10pm where they will be made very welcome, alternatively phone me, the Drama Group Secretary, on 552 6046 for more details

12th - 14th Nov

about the Group. We are a small but very enthusiastic group who put the accent firmly on fun and laughter during rehearsals whilst aiming to stage as professional a performance as possible.

The Lunch Club

Now that the days are getting shorter and colder, remember that on Wednesdays after 12 noon in the West Hall you can tuck in to all your old favourites. You don't have to cook, you don't have to wash up - all you have to do is enjoy the food and the company. See you on Wednesday!.

Kirsty's Coffee Morning



The Ladies Fellowship

BY JESSIE MACDONALD,
SECRETARY

It seems no time since we finished our last Session and were looking forward to holidays, summer (!) coffee evenings and the like! We're not sure what happened to the summer weather, but thy enjoyment at the coffee evenings we obvious, as we caught up with all the news of our "other " activities during the break.

Now we are looking forward to our session which started earlier this month. As always we have a varied syllabus planned, with two fairs and several Social Evenings to anticipate. This year we have an extra activity, our silent auction on 24th October at 2pm.

We are always happy to welcome new members - young and not-so-young, so don't just think about it - come along and join us on Tuesday evenings in the West Hall at 7.30pm.

Summer Drives

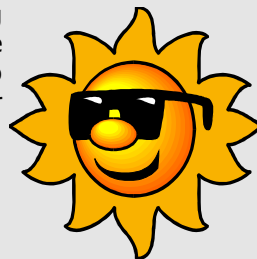
During the summer the Ladies Fellowship enjoyed two drives.

In May we travelled to Moffat - the weather was overcast as we left Granton, but as we drove south west the sun did break through and we reached Moffat in good time. We very much enjoyed wandering round this picturesque town, combined with the usual cuppa - and possibly ice creams too - before meeting up at the Moffat House Hotel for high tea. We came home by a different route to give us the opportunity of seeing the Grey Mare's Tail, and enjoyed a short stop in Peebles to stretch our legs before the final part of the journey home.

In September our Mystery Drive took us northwards to Callander on a day of

bright crisp sunshine. the scenery was beautiful as we travelled through small Perthshire towns and villages - Doune had superb hanging baskets from all the lamp-posts - and we enjoyed a short tea break in Callendar before travelling to Loch Earn and St Fillans, where we stopped for our meal. The Four Seasons Hotel is set at the farthest end of Loch Earn and we enjoyed our meal while gazing down the Loch. We came home by way of Comrie and Crieff, enjoying the sunset and even a sing-song - how many green bottles was it?"!!

On both occasions the company was good and enhanced our feeling of wellbeing at getting out of the town and into some of our lovely scenery.



The Brigade Bugle!

Make a friend, meet a friend, treat a friend.

Every Thursday morning from 10.00am - 11.30am at Kirsty's Coffee Morning in the West Hall.

"Go on, come along" - we'll be so pleased to see you.

by Malcolm Burton

Leith and Edinburgh Battalions merged

The 1998/99 BB Session started on 26th

August, both sections, Junior and Company, are doing well. The numbers in both sections have increased since the start of the new session - Juniors have gone up from 9 to 14 and the Company section has increased from 4 to 8.

Since the end of last session there have been changes in the structure of the Boys Brigade in the area, which indirectly has had an effect on us. The Leith and Edinburgh Battalions have merged to form a new battalion - the Edinburgh, Leith and Distract Battalion. This has no effect on how we run as a company and we are still called the 19th Leith (Granton Parish Church) Company. However, the merger has resulted in more competitions for the boys to take part in. Indeed the Juniors won the pre-league football tournament at the end of September, conceding only one goal. We still meet in the East (big) hall on Wednesdays. The Junior Section is for boys in P4-P6 and meet from 6.30pm-7.45pm. Company Section is for boys in P7-S6 and meets from 8pm.

**ALL I REALLY
NEED TO
KNOW I LEARNED
FROM MY KIDS!
(source unknown)**

- ☺ No matter how hard you try, you can't baptize cats.
- ☺ When your Mom is mad at your dad, don't let her brush your hair.
- ☺ If your sister hits you, don't hit her back. They always catch the second person.
- ☺ Never ask your 3-year-old brother to hold a tomato.
- ☺ You can't trust dogs to watch your food.
- ☺ Reading what people write on desks can teach you a lot.
- ☺ Don't sneeze when someone is cutting your hair.

Not too seriously!



Parish Register

BAPTISMS

On the 5th July 1998

Jamie Paul Lusted and Fraser Andrew Lusted,
- sons of Anne and Paul, 89 Granton Place

On the 19th July 1998

Ben Alexander Robertson
- son of Morag and Greig, 15 Pilton Park

On the 27th September 1998

Bradley Fergie
- son of Tracy and Paul, 6/5 Wardieburn Place West
Ailsa Jane Pollock,
- daughter of Jane and Will, 6 Sutherland Way, Livingston

WEDDINGS

On the 1 st August 1998

Marianne Stott and Neil Campbell, both of 2 Royston Mains Green

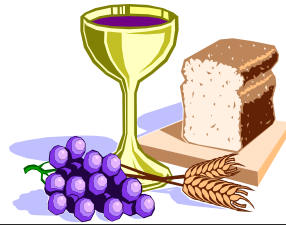
FUNERALS

June	13th	Mrs. Janet Manson of 17/3 Wardieburn Place East
	18th	Mr. George Cook of 49/1 Granton Place
	24th	Mrs. Maggie Menzies of 8 Royston Mains Crescent
July	1 st	Mrs Margaret Burton of 15 Boswall Quadrant
	7th	Mr. Hugh Watson of 6/8 Royston Mains Close.
	10th	Mr. James Fairgrieve of 51 Grierson Crescent
	21st	Mr. Tom Rowland of 42 Boswall Drive
August		Mrs. Helen Mackay of 229 West Granton Road
	23rd	Mrs. Margaret Burgess of 5 Royston Mains Street
		Mr. George Fairbairn of 5/2 Wardieburn Place East
	3rd	Mrs Mary Sullivan of Chamberlane Nursing Home
	11th	Mrs. Morag Banks of 79 Crewe Road West
	13th	Mr. James McCrindle of 26 Boswall Drive
September	20th	Mrs Maria Lipscombe of 1 Royston Mains Place
	25th	Mr. Alec Grant of 17/1 Wardieburn Road
	26th	Mr. James Proffitt of 23 Granton Place
	1st	Mr. William Reynolds 245/2 West Granton Road
	4th	Mrs. Jessie Main of 209 Pilton Avenue
		Mr. William Walker 14 Wardieburn Street East
	18th	Mr. George Dickie 53 Pilton Crescent
28th	Mrs. Elizabeth Mckenzie of 1/3 Royston Mains Road	

COMMUNION

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION WILL
BE CELEBRATED ON

Sunday 25th October
at 9.30am and 11.00am




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	Alister 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



Granton Parish Church



**BERWICK
MALE VOICE
CHOIR**

Saturday 31st October

tickets £5 each including refreshments

in aid of Church funds

tel: 552 2240

tickets from Elders and Board members or phone above



