Outlook
Granton Parish Church - October 2001

What is being asked of us?

Many tears have been shed and fears expressed about the horrific events in America on the 11th September. And as we have attempted to analyse and to come to terms with these events, many words have also been spoken - by leaders of the nations and religious communities, by journalists, and by ordinary people meeting in the streets, in houses or in pubs.

These events have raised many different issues and questions for all of us.

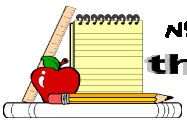
Why did they do it? Who did it? What is the best way to oppose evil? Are we still in danger? How are we to achieve a peaceful world?

In an article in *The Scotsman*, the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, the Right Revd. John Miller, said this:

"When life becomes impossible... the question a person of faith asks is 'What is being asked of me?'"

Identifying those who were responsible for such a terrible act and bringing them to justice is the responsibility of political leaders and Intelligence Services. That is what is being asked of them. But what of us as individuals and nations - what is being asked of us?

Initially I think we were being asked to comfort those



notes from the minister

(Continued on page 3)

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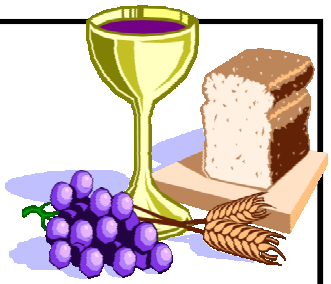
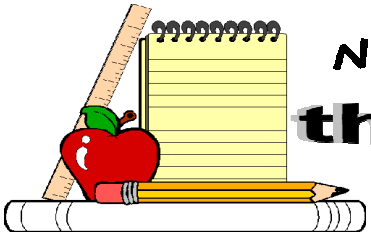
Kirk Outlook
Articles and information for inclusion in the next issue of Kirk Outlook should be passed to the editor, Chas Macintosh at 8 Fraser Crescent, telephoned to 552 2240, emailed to chas_macintosh@yahoo.com, or faxed to 07092 158687 by Sunday 30th December 2001.

"sharing the love and knowledge of God to create a better and fairer world for all"

You are invited to join in the SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION when it is celebrated on



Sunday 28th October 2001
at 11.00am



Notes from the minister

What is being asked of us?

from front page

(Continued from page 1)

who mourn. To stand in solidarity with those who lost loved ones and all who suffered directly and personally because of what happened.

Now I think we are being asked to confront the much harder and deeper issues.

What are our individual and collective attitudes to people of other countries and other religions and how are these attitudes contributing to the unrest in the world? How can we as individuals and nations change those attitudes?

Do we take seriously enough the fundamental tenet of our faith to "love our neighbour as we love ourselves"? Have we come to terms with the fact that this means that all are equal regardless of race, colour, religion or any other factor which makes us different from our neighbour? Have we the humility which opens our eyes to the belief that no individual human life is more valuable than another?

Are we making every moment of every day count because we are again reminded of how very vulnerable and precious life is and how easily it can be lost?

Are we willing to make changes in our lifestyles - lifestyles which are in many ways obtained at the expense of the poor in this and other countries?

Are we willing to close the gap between the advantaged and the disadvantaged?

These are some of the hard and the deep questions with which we are faced. There are signs of hope but things will not change significantly until individuals really begin to wrestle with these questions.

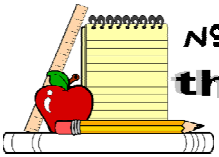
Since these horrific events occurred there has been a line of a hymn which keeps going through my head- it is the words of Laurence Housman "building proud towers which shall not reach to heaven".

It is hauntingly, painfully true. We cannot create heaven on earth, we cannot reach the love of God, with our buildings or our material possessions. We can only find God in people and

(Continued on page 4)

11 SEPTEMBER 2001

Please contact the minister, Rev. Lynne MacMurchie, for information about Church membership, Baptism, being married in church or for any other reason. Lynne's phone number is 551 2159 and email address is lynnemac@lineone.net



notes from the minister

(Continued from page 3)

in their love and respect for one another.

Things will not change until we learn to see each individual of equal worth however much we dislike them or however different they may be from us.

Peace begins with us. For those of us who did not personally know any of those who died in such appalling circumstances, changing our attitudes will be the best way to honour the dead.

Lynne

FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Bible-World!

Lesley Webster

Each year The Cockburn Association (The Edinburgh Civic Trust) raises the necessary funds to hold "Edinburgh Doors Open Day".

One of the key roles of the Civic Trust is to raise the awareness of the city's residents to the history and beauty that surrounds them. However, the main objective of the Association is to ensure that the future development of Edinburgh is of the highest standard, keeping our capital beautiful and vibrant.
Doors Open day this year took place on Saturday 29th September and a huge variety of buildings were open to the public free of charge. There were a total of 64, varying from Offices, Churches, Temples, Banks, Hotels and Schools. One of the buildings I visited was The Scottish Bible Society in Hampton Terrace just past Haymarket. The Society traces its roots back to the year 1809 and since that time has been actively involved in the fields of translation, publishing and distribution of the Scriptures. Last year the Society was a pioneer in helping to bring the Gospel to China and Korea, and also worked alongside other missionary organisations in India and Africa. Their first African Bible edition (1868) was in EFIK, one of the major languages of Nigeria.

In 1976 the Society moved into Bible House, Hampton Terrace which was originally opened in 1868 as Roseburn Free Church, a congregation set up to serve the growing community in the area. As a result of country wide unions between Christian denominations, it became successively part of the United Free Church, then the Church of Scotland. In 1962 it united with Wester Coates Church to become Wester Coates Parish Church, but, unfortunately the congregation dissolved in 1973.

The last minister of Wester Coates had pointed out (in 1968) that "particular Churches come into being and pass away with changing population distribution". Members were later able to express their pleasure that this building could have a new, and much wider, role in the service of God! The building has been transformed into modern offices and Bibleworld (a unique high tech experience, bringing religious education alive for schoolchildren and their teachers). I had

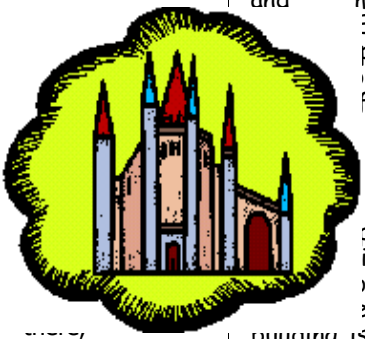
Granton Primary School

The pupils of Granton Primary School held their end of term service in the Church and managed to collect just over £50.

They have donated this to the Church and have asked that we put it towards our new toilet for the disabled. A huge thank you to them all.

Who's calling?

As the new minister in town was walking down the street, he saw a little boy straining every muscle to reach the door-bell. He realised the little boy would never make it, although he admired the kid's tenacity. So he walked up on the porch to help.



need some help?"

He lifted the tyke who rang the bell.

As he set the child down, the kid took off running and called back over his shoulder, "Run mister! Here comes the lady!"

great fun using an original printing press to print out The Lord's Prayer!!

Today's electronic technology is used to communicate worldwide, enabling Scots Christians to support Bible outreach in Malawi, Siberia, China ... as well as here in Scotland. The building houses a magnificent library of Bibles and Scriptures in an array of languages including Russian, French, German, Polish and Hungarian. We were actually shown a charred Bible which was rescued from the Great Fire of London and has a hand written inscription in it dated 1666. Plans are already in hand to construct a larger and more ambitious
EWORLD
perience (due to pen in 2002) in the former rear halls of the Church. Together with a range of other innovative projects under the itle of HomeWORD und, this ectable "old" building is set to be a vital launchpad for Christian communication well into the 21st century.

The aim of the Society is - "to provide God's Word to all people, in a language they can understand, in a format they can use, and at a price they can afford"

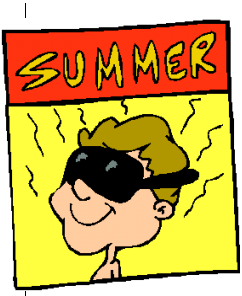
What a wonderful ethos, if you get the chance go and visit them and soak up some of their enthusiasm.

Doors Open Day next year takes place on Saturday 28th September 2002 - look out for the programme and go out and visit, I thoroughly recommend it.

Lesley

THE BOYS BRIGADE

Brigade Bugle



Malcolm Burton, Captain 19th Leith

Both Junior section and Company section are back up and running on Wednesday nights after an all too short Summer break.
Activities and competitions for Junior and Company boys at Battalion level have also recommenced and on Sunday 30th September, the Junior boys enjoyed a Funday which was held at Letham Park. Up and coming competitions include a seven-a-side football competition for the Junior Section and table tennis and badminton for the Company Section

By way of interest, the current numbers attending are 12 at JS level and 18 at CS. We are almost at our maximum level for CS numbers wise, but would welcome a few more JS boys.

The JS camp which was held at Grantshouse near Dunbar from 1st - 3rd June was a great success. The weather was kind to us for most of the weekend and therefore the boys were able to participate in a full programme of events. The boys particularly enjoyed their food and on behalf of them and grateful officers, I should like to thank Sandra Summers and her team for looking after us so well.

A camp for the CS took place from the 7th - 9th September at Whithaugh Outdoor Centre near Newcastleton in the Borders region. The boys enjoyed the novelty of staying in log cabins and particularly enjoyed the many fine facilities that the centre had to offer. Their efforts at orienteering and archery ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous though it must be said a great time was had by all. Please see the notice-board at the back of the church for a pictorial record of our adventures.

Football is due to restart for both sections and the boys are looking forward to their regular Saturday morning competition (the staff are slightly less enthusiastic given that standing on a freezing cold touchline at Letham Park is not one of the more pleasurable experiences in life!!)

In finishing, I should like to as always reiterate my earlier message in extending an invitation to all members of the congregation to continue to support the Company in any way possible during this new session (particularly in our fund raising efforts). In doing so you will help towards ensuring our continued presence and in assisting us in furthering our aims of providing a valuable service to the boys in our area.

Malcolm can be contacted on 552 5790 if you wish to discuss ways in which you could help.

FROM OUR PARISH ASSISTANT

Avoid the Christmas Rush!

Marilynn Steele

Church library
Over the summer there have been some new books added which we hope you will find interesting and enjoy reading. The library is situated at the back of the church and is available to all.

Summer has, as you will have noticed, been and gone! Our attentions are now focused on autumn and our winter activities. Yet autumn is perhaps the most colourful of the four seasons, with its rich and rustic shades of brown and copper which are pleasing to the eye. We perhaps see God's creation in all its glory.

Autumn brings with it a time when we start preparing for the winter and of course - dare I say it - Christmas! The shops now seem to have all their displays out and are urging us to shop early to avoid disappointment.

TRAIDCRAFT
Traidcraft is no different in that respect. Traidcraft have a wide selection of gifts to suit everyone's purse as well as their food products. Although we have our stall on the last Sunday of every month (remember there are only 2 normal shopping Sundays before Christmas) it is also possible to order gifts and cards through their catalogue.

You will find copies of the catalogue at the back of the church along with order forms. I have been advised by the organisers of the 'small world shop' that it would be advisable to place your orders as quickly as possible to avoid disappointment. You can do this by giving your orders to Jennifer Webster or myself any time up to the end of November.

Quiet time
Quiet time is a short service held fortnightly in the church on Thursday mornings at 9.45am. the service usually takes the form of prayers and reflections. All are welcome.

As I have said before, shopping with Traidcraft may be slightly more expensive, but as Christians we are committed to helping our brothers and sisters in poorer countries to have a better standard of living through selling their products - at a fair price - something we all take for granted. If you encounter any problems please let Jennifer or myself know.

It looks as if it going to be a busy autumn and winter for all of us in one way or another, so take care of yourselves and God bless.

Marilynn

PS - Tia the pup we acquired is now settling down very nicely, thank goodness! I seem to recall having said something about seeing things through 'fresh eyes' in the last edition of Kirk Outlook. I think seeing things through

'fresh wallpaper' might have been nearer the mark!

Men's Club

The Men's club meet in the west hall on Thursday afternoons at 2.00pm and warmly invite new members. Tom Claperton is secretary and he can be contacted on 552 8880.

On the subject of dogs

Some of you will know that the Mac household lost our much loved Rosie dog over the summer. Those who have ever had and lost a dog will appreciate how sad a time it can be, while those who have never had a dog enriching their lives might say "well it was only a dog".

Whatever your theological views might be on a canine here-after, the Mac kids found some comfort in this poem:-

Have you a dog in heaven, Lord?
And do You pat its head?
Does she sit up and beg each night
Before she goes to bed?
Does she look up with shining eyes?
When she sees Your smiling face
Does she wag her stubby little tail
When she wants to run a race?

just one more?
Cause my little dog died today,
She'll be waiting at Your door.

Please take her into Heaven, Lord,
And keep her there for me.
Just feed her, pet her, love her, Lord,
That's all she''ll ask of Thee.

Author Unknown

Mabel is with us now - our bouncy 15 week old boxer pup. Her favourite pastime is to jump on the bed in the morning encouraging us to "come on - get up - the world needs you and it's worth getting up for!"

Gillian & Chas Macintosh

Answering Machines!

1. "Hi! Now you say something."

2. "Hi! John's answering machine is broken. This is his refrigerator. Please speak very slowly, and I'll stick your message to myself with one of these magnets."

3. "Hi. I am probably home. I'm just avoiding someone I don't like. Leave me a message, and if I don't call back, it's you."

4. "Hello, you are talking to a machine. I am capable of receiving messages. My owners do not need paving, windows, a new bathroom, or any subscriptions and their carpets are clean. They give to charity through direct debit. If you are still with me, leave your name and number and they will get back to you."

LADIES FELLOWSHIP

Elizabeth Jones, Secretary

On alternate Tuesday evenings during the summer months we have enjoyed meeting together, having coffee and keeping in touch with one another. These evenings finished on 28 August.

On Tuesday, 4th September, 53 of us went on our Autumn Coach Outing. Our first stop was in Luss, then on to Inverary via Loch Long and Loch Fyne. The scenery was beautiful as was the weather. We were indeed fortunate.

Our Opening Social took place on Tuesday, 2 October at which we were entertained by the Southern Light Concert Party.

We meet every Tuesday at 7.30pm in the West Hall. Our syllabus is quite varied as you can see from the opposite page - serious subjects and fun subjects.

A date for your diary - our Autumn Fair takes place on Saturday, 10 November at 2pm in the West Hall.

A very warm and friendly invitation is extended to all ladies to join us on Tuesday evenings. Do please come.

Brigade Bugle *- continued from page 7*

LADIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMME FOR 2001/2002

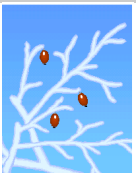
OCTOBER
16TH **National Mission**
- MISS JESSIE DOUGLAS PLUS Bring & Buy Stall
23RD **Recitations**
- MRS CATHIE BROWN
30TH **Mrs Marilynn Steele**

NOVEMBER
6TH **Maggie's Centre**
- MS BEVERLEY NAPIER
13TH **Flowers Of Israel**
- MR BILL TAIT
20TH **Teapots**
- MR DAVE HALBERT
27TH **A Trip On The Highland Line**
- MR BILL KING

DECEMBER
4TH **The Union Canal And The Millenium Link**
- MR W.SHANNON
11TH **Christmas Social**

JANUARY 2002
8TH **Edinburgh - Lost And Found**
-MR ARCHIE BLYTH
15TH **Rev.Lynne Macmurchie**
22 **Scots Night**
- CEILIDHOKE
29TH **A Trip To Japan**
- MR A. CHIMSIDE

FEBRUARY
5TH **Social Responsibility**
PLUS MYSTERY PARCELS
12TH **Bringing Up A Family In South Africa**
- MRS EISIE MOIR
19TH **Ingathering**
- THE SANGSTERS
26TH **World Mission**
- RAINY HOSPITAL NURSING SCHOOL
- MISS MADON CONACHER



MARCH
5TH **The Bethany Trust**
- MISS FIONA WEIR
12TH **Hats**
- MS HAZEL M KETTLES
19TH ***AGM***
26TH **Holy Week**

APRIL
2ND **Closing Social**

SPECIAL DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

HOLY WEEK SERVICES
24 - 29 March
AUTUMN FAIR
Saturday 10th November 2.00pm
COFFEE MORNING
Saturday 9th March 10am - 12 noon

Parish Register

Baptisms

June 10th
Lewis McGill
son of May and David
46 Boswall Drive

June 17th
Michael Iain Wilson
son of Karen and Alan
86 West Pilton Terrace

August 26th
Megan Elizabeth Wright
daughter of Lynne and Graeme
25 Pilton Avenue

Weddings

July 7th
Dawn Roger and George Cameron
7/3 Royston Mains Gardens

August 17th
Richard Day and Gail McGillivray
59 Saughton Mains Drive

August 18th
Colette Palmer and Garry Sanderson
1F3 7 Robertson Avenue

Funerals

June 14th
James Grant
99 Crewe Road West

June 21st
Robert Mackie
27/6 Pilton Drive North

June 25th
Yvonne McCue
13/3 Wardieburn Place West

June 28th
Ellen Miller
54/5 Royston Mains Crescent

July 9th
Lydia Taitt
6/12 Royston Mains Close

July 11th
Thomas Smith
8/3 Royston Mains Crescent

July 12th
Bunty Kay
39 Grierson Crescent

July 14th
Alexander Boocher
28/1 Wardieburn Road

July 26th
Catherine Lindsay
15/1 Wardieburn Drive

July 27th
Monica Frost
6/18 Royston Mains Close

July 30th
Elizabeth Wright
8 Crewe Road West

August 1st
William Houston
33/1 Grierson Crescent

August 3rd
Jeanette Reid
Annandale Street

James Taylor
Muirhouse Loan

August 8th
Florence Stringer
189/4 Commercial Street

August 17th
Dora Cemery
Crewe Terrace

August 18th
Sandy Somerville
34 Boswall Green

August 20th
Robert Laing
16/3 Wardieburn Place East

August 27th
Sonny Willis
241/1 West Granton Road

33/2 Granton Crescent

September 4th
Betty Cormack
277 Pilton Avenue

September 7th
Catherine Learmonth
50/6 Granton Crescent

September 8th
Florence Faichen
27 Boswall Loan

September 13th
Christina Harris

September 21st
Frederick Kirkwood
100 Boswall Parkway

Eric Watson
2/4 Wardieburn Road

Thomas Mckenzie
4/6 Royston Mains Avenue

October 1st
Maxwell Kinnell 5/1 Wardieburn Road

LIFE & WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

A good read
The October issue of Life & Work offers a lively read from regular columnists, Moderator's letter, readers' letters, reviews and news - all for under £1!

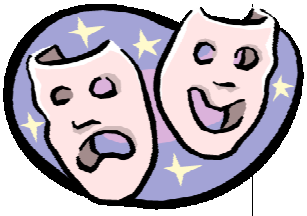
Contact Norah Stephen for your copy - tel 552 2108.

Church leadership under review
The Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, the Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald, dismisses suggestions that the role of Moderator should be changed to help the Kirk gain a higher media profile.

Eldership "a sleeping giant"
The Church of Scotland eldership is a sleeping giant awaiting the kiss of life, according to the Rev Dr Donald Macaskill.

A 'Whispering Church'
The reforming 'Church without Walls' report could release the Kirk from imprisonment, according **to** Steve MaRon,, National Youth Adviser.

Property obsession "destroying lives"
The current obsession with property and its artificially high price is destroying lives, marriages and families'. according to Antonia Swinson in her regular 'Mammon' column



DRAMA GROUP

"At last it's on with the show"

Stuart Mitchell (Drama Group Secretary)

The Drama Group

will be performing from the 22nd to the 24th of November and hope that these dates will help us to avoid the pre-Christmas rush.

Rehearsals for **"The Farnsdale Avenue Township Women's Guild Dramatic Society production of "Macbeth"** have now resumed and the large cast are getting to grips with their lines and moves (of which there are many!!!)

The play is suitable for all with the exception perhaps of younger children who may find it difficult to follow. It is well worth buying a ticket for and for bringing friends and family to. Having seen a sneak preview of the Winter TV schedules, I can assure you that we will be better value than a night in front of the box . Not a great boast I know, but, it's the best I can think of. Your support will as ever, be greatly appreciated not simply in financial terms but more importantly in your contribution of laughter and response.

Help?

Please contact Stuart on 552 6046 (home) or 07769968756 (mobile) and he will pass your details on to the stage manager.

Alternatively, please feel free to join the group on Monday evening's in the small hall. You will be made very welcome.

Get your tickets

Tickets prices will remain at £ 3.50 for Adults and £2 for concessions (a definite bargain!! so please buy in quantity) and will be available through any member of the Drama Group. They will also be on sale after church on the three Sundays prior to the week of the play.

Can you help?

As the play requires a lot of backstage effort (I should say even more effort than usual) any offers of help will be gratefully accepted. The majority of the work will centre round set and prop construction and a crew will be needed during the run of the play to shift scenery etc.

To finish, they say that "all good things in life are worth waiting for" so we hope that after all our delays, you will find that this maxim applies to **"The Farnsdale Avenue Township Women's Guild Dramatic Society production of "Macbeth"**.

PROPERTY REPORT FOR 2001

Chris Hansen, Property Committee

A brief report on the work carried out on our church buildings, so far this year.

February

- One elm tree felled at a cost of £282.
- West hall broken into, the office and vestry doors were damaged and the kitchen cupboard broken into.
- The external light and PIR unit were smashed. Costs were covered by insurance.

March

- Church kitchen - walls and ceiling were painted.

April

- Wardieburn Drive gate was refurbished by a blacksmith at a cost of £130.
- Lexan screen protecting the lower part of the apse window was damaged by vandals and had to be replaced.

May

- 30 stacking chairs were gifted to the Church by Wardie Bowling Club (they were surplus to their requirements).
- Re-pointing of the church boundary wall was started - a lengthy exercise and still ongoing.

August

- Roof inspection of the church and halls. Repair of slate damage due to vandalism - cost £246.

September

- Manse windows painted externally - cost £162
- External security lights fitted to protect west hall door - cost £270
- West Hall broken into - see February report

The committee would also thank all those helpers who regularly maintain the church grounds and borders - very well done!

Can You Help?

The Property Committee is looking for a new Property Convenor, the previous convenor having retired in March at the end of his 3 year appointment.

If you, or anyone that you know, might be interested, please speak to any member of the Property Committee or Chris Hansen on 336 3048.

Dear Children:

I know you're mad at me right now. That's all right. People have been mad at me before and will be again. Being mad is part of being human.

My son got mad, too. It's right to be mad: at injustice, for example, or at the lack of charity. You probably think that I am unjust and uncharitable when an airplane goes down like that. All those people lost. The children, gone.

It doesn't seem right; it can't be loving. You ask, "Where was God? Why would He allow that to happen? "I allow it to happen because I allow you freedom. I could have kept you on a string and made you dance all day without getting tired. I could have moved your mouth for you and made you sing all night without growing hoarse. I could have pulled a wire that would have let you soar skyward and never fall. I could have but I didn't because I love you too much.

I want you to be free to decide when to dance and sing. Free to determine when you will come to me in faith and hope. Because you are free, some of you choose not to dance or sing. Some of you select hatred over love, revenge over forgiveness, bombs over a helping hand. As you choose, I watch. I do not disappear. I listen for both the songs and the bombs. And I remember.

"Where was God?" you wonder. I was there. I whispered in the ear of a little girl, "Don't be afraid, I am with you." I held the hand of a businesswoman as tightly as she clutched mine. I cradled a pilot against my shoulder as if he were a baby again. Amid the paralyzing fear I was there, as I was with my son in the garden. Amid the unbearable pain, I was there, as I was with him when he was whipped. Amid the terrible realization that life was ending too soon, I was there, as I was when he was hung on the cross and asked, like you,"My God, why have you forsaken me?" I had not forsaken him. I did not forsake those on the plane. I was there as they fell - and as they arose to eternal joy. I listened to their anger, answered their questions and showed them why they had been created. Not to end that way, but to live forever with me.

In an instant, they came into existence. As you did. In an instant, they left this world. As you will. But beyond that last instant, I kept my promise: a little girl dances... a businesswoman sings...and a pilot keeps his wings.

Forever.

Love always, God

Attributed to Craig Henrichsen, pilot for Southwest Airlines