

the LINK

March 2010



Dear Friends,

No room for me inside this month - a very busy LINK! Please read it carefully, enjoy, and look for the many chances offered here to serve our congregation and community.



John

www.morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk



This year's Fairtrade Fortnight is all about swapping and the focus this year is on swapping your usual cuppa for a Fairtrade cuppa. I'm hoping that everyone at MUC has already done this – but if you haven't, then please get swapping now! Over 15 million people in developing countries could benefit, like the people of Chamraj Tea Estate in the Nilgiri Hills of Southern India. Those growing Fairtrade tea have not only been able to provide for their families, they've been able to support their wider community too. In this tough rural area, the Fairtrade Premium has funded important educational projects and health initiatives. There is also a pension scheme now in place for those who have spent back-breaking years in the fields.

2010 could be the year you swap to some other Fairtrade products as well, month by month. The Fairtrade Foundation has suggested swaps you might like to try:

- January – Detox time:** Fairtrade green tea, Fairtrade oranges and Fairtrade yoga pants
- February – Pancake Day:** Fairtrade sugar, Fairtrade lemons and Fairtrade syrup
- March – Mother's Day:** Fairtrade chocolate, Fairtrade roses and Fairtrade mango body butter
- April – Easter Sunday:** Fairtrade chocolate eggs, Fairtrade fruit cakes and Fairtrade flowers
- May – FA Cup Final:** Fairtrade beers and ales, Fairtrade salted peanuts and Fairtrade footballs
- June – Father's Day:** Fairtrade cotton sweatshirts, Fairtrade cotton socks and Fairtrade liquorice
- July – Tennis season:** Fairtrade cotton whites, Fairtrade orange juice and Fairtrade sparkling wine
- August – summer holidays:** Fairtrade cotton beach towels, Fairtrade ice-cream, Fairtrade cotton sun-hat
- September – back at school:** Fairtrade cereal bars, Fairtrade lunchbox juices and Fairtrade cotton uniforms
- October – autumn festivals:** Fairtrade almonds, Fairtrade spices and Fairtrade basmati rice

November – Bonfire Night: Caramelised Fairtrade bananas, Fairtrade toffee apples and Fairtrade hot chocolate

December – Christmas: Fairtrade brazil nuts, Fairtrade chocolate yule log and Fairtrade spiced rum

Some of these products might not be stocked in your local supermarket or local shop so please encourage them to swap as well. There are some special cards “I’d like to swap in your shop” available to help you. Just ask Jenny Hall if you’d like one.

We can all make a difference every time we go shopping – just one little swap at a time!

Jenny Hall

500 Miles

Following our very successful year of fund raising for 500 miles (£8000 in total) we want to continue with our input into this very worthwhile charity.

There are certain areas where we can help.

500 LEGS FOR 500 MILES

It is hoped that the Guinness World record for a Multi -legged walk will be broken on 25 April at Edinburgh Academy.

A 500 person strong human chain linked by their legs will endeavour to complete a multi-legged walk without a fall. If the whole line completes a 50 metre walk then the world record will be smashed!

We are looking for a team from MUC and a team leader, so start thinking about whether you can and would be able to be part of the team. Perhaps the MUC Football team may be able to raise a team too! There are a number of specific requirements to make sure everybody is ready for the record breaking attempt. (see www.500legs.com)

ARE YOU NIFTY WITH A NEEDLE?

Olivia Giles has an idea for sewing bags for holding certificates donating prosthetic or orthotic devices. There will be a template to follow and advice given , but what we are looking for is offers of assistance to stitch the bags (see picture below) Some of your gents may be willing to help here too! The material used for the bags is Malawian and was used as runners for the tables at a Charity Ball organised by Olivia last year.

Further details on both these aspects will follow soon, but if you can offer any assistance in either way please let me know.

Carolyn Macpherson
447 7204
carojohn138@live.co.uk



Churches sign up to unique partnership



A unique partnership between the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church in Scotland and the United Reformed Church, National Synod of Scotland was sealed by Church Leaders at a special service on Saturday 23 January at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

Signing the Agreement were Rev John Humphreys, Moderator of the United Reformed Church, National Synod of Scotland, the Most Rev David Chillingworth, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and Rev Lily Twist, Chair of

the Methodist Church in Scotland.

The new partnership will enable closer working at all levels of the churches, sharing of resources and education and development opportunities for clergy and congregations. It will continue to strengthen the way Christian churches work with one another across Scotland.



LETTER FROM LINDNER IN LEBANON (or Christine's latest...)

I woke up early this morning. I had a meeting scheduled for 9. Got up and headed out the door by 7. I was just not even a mile from my house when I passed this man who lives in the house just at the edge of town (I met him and his family the other week and they invited me over for coffee. they are teachers and their children are teenagers studying at the local school so they practiced their English with me. it was fun-normal country Lebanese family). so I saw him with a wheel barrel. I asked him what was in there? and discovered a little puppy!! He said that he was going to dump it in the forest. My look of disgust and confusion prompted him to ask 'do you want it?' so without hesitation I took the puppy in my arms and walked back to my flat. i gave it a quick bath and called my friend. She came down and we played with the dog a bit. I went to my meeting and then rescheduled my day (went food shopping to get some flea shampoo and some dog food)



So the dog is currently sleeping in a box in my living room. He's been washed twice now-has loads of fur .We don't really know what kind of dog it is-I just hope its not some sort of jackal!! I've named him Caleb but call him Coco.....

The Statement

We, the General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the Synod of the Scotland District of the Methodist Church and the National Synod of Scotland of the United Reformed Church, in recognition of our developing relationships, instigate this statement of partnership. We solemnly declare that we will work for ever closer co-operation in serving Christ. We are glad of the partnerships that have already been established between us and commit ourselves to strengthening these relationships and building new ones. By regular meetings between our various officers, and encouragement to our congregations, we shall work to identify, explore and develop opportunities to share in mission and ministry by continuing to forge stronger ties between us. Specifically we shall explore together ways of:

Being Church and serving God together;

- Increasing the confidence of our members to speak of God and faith in ways that make sense to others;
- Cooperating in teaching and learning about Jesus Christ, and our mission together;
- Cooperating on Church and Society issues, supporting community development and taking action together for justice, especially among the most deprived and poor in Scotland;
- Sharing in the provision and deployment of both lay and ordained ministries of all the people of God;
- Sharing our resources across Scotland to fulfil our shared Christian mission to spread the Gospel

We shall seek to widen our Ecumenical engagement within this Partnership and with other denominations, wherever possible, so that our working together may be as wide as possible and our diversity not hindered by ongoing dis-union and rivalry. Progress in this partnership will be formally reviewed on a 5 yearly basis from the date of signature.

In signing this statement we affirm our commitment to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and trust in God's power for the implementation of this partnership.

MAUNDY THURSDAY - Coming for a walk?

It has become a sort of tradition. On the morning of Maundy Thursday we set off in cars to drive down into East Lothian. Our destination is Nunraw Abbey - the Cistercian foundation set in the lovely hills above Garvald. The Stations of the Cross are a special way of following the events of the Passion Story. And there is a set of the stations wending through the woods of the Abbey.

We walk the path and share in short devotions at each Station, and then go to the Garvald Inn for lunch. Look out for the details and a chance to sign up. You will find it a great thing to do!



celebrating the bi-Centenary of the birth of

FREDERYK CHOPIN

(1810 - 1849)

Piano Recital

by

Andrew Johnston

Morningside United Church

Monday 1st March at 7.30 pm

Admission by Programme £10.00

including refreshments

Saughtonhall Drama
Presents a Double Comedy Bill

Bloomin' Disgrace & Housekeeper Wanted



Wednesday to Friday at 7.30 p.m.

Saturday at 2.30 p.m.

March 24th - 27th 2010

Saughtonhall Church, 87 Saughtonhall Drive

Tickets: £6.00 (concessions £5.00)

From : 0131 476 2415

Web: www.saughtonhall.com

©Saughtonhall Drama Group 2010, amateur production

Saughtonhall Drama Group is a member of
The Scottish Community Drama Association

Edinburgh Chamber Orchestra

Musical Director: Mo Alberto Massimo

Andrew Johnston plays:

Chopin Piano Concerto No 1 in E minor

The Programme includes: Glazumov's
arrangement of the Polonaise in A maj by
Chopin, and Robert Schumann (1810-1856)
Symphony No 3 "The Rhenish"

Morningside United Church

Wednesday 10th March at 7.30pm

Admission by Programme £8 (£6)

Morlich House Coffee Morning



Saturday 24th April

10a.m.-12.00am

in MUC Hall

Stalls- baking, gift and plants.

ANTI TRIDENT CAMPAIGN

On the tables in the church corridor you can find postcards designed to be sent to prospective candidates for the General Election asking them their views about the proposed renewal of Trident.



These form part of a campaign developed from the CoS General Assembly 2009 deliverance urging "congregations to participate in non-violent campaign activities against the renewal of Trident and in particular, to meet with or write to their MP to urge them to vote against its renewal".

The campaign is supported by the Catholic Church, the Quakers, The United Free Church, the United Reformed Church and the Methodist Church.

It will also include material in support of hustling events held by congregations, discussion starters, template letters for writing to the press and a joint Easter message from Church leaders on the issue. All this material can be found on the CoS Church and Society website at

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/councils/churchsociety/csworldissues.htm>.

You can order more cards for distribution (we will even pay the postage and packing!) by speaking to Anikó Schuetz here at MUC or from Irene Crosthwaite (0131 240 2276; icrosthwaite@cofscotland.org.uk).

TIME FOR PEACE

Time for Peace is a new venture dreamed up by ten MUC members who want to explore different ways of spirituality.

On a Wednesday evening, initially through Lent, the Church is open from 5.30 till 7.00 pm. Come in and you will experience music, stillness, pictures, poetry, an opportunity to pray, meditate - whatever you like. And the important thing is, you can do as much or as little as you like, and you can come and go as you please.

Would you like more information? You could speak to Jenny Williams or John Smith or e-mail timeforpeace@morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk



UTOPIA LIMITED

PRESENTED BY THE EDINBURGH GILBERT & SULLIVAN SOCIETY

Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Utopia Limited' is the story of an idyllic south sea island whose inhabitants lie around drinking nectar and picking flowers. Their monarch, King Paramount, so admires Great Britain that he is determined to remodel his land on British principles. Just imagine the islanders' surprise when their peace is shattered by the "Best of British" culture! Don't miss this unspoiled delight from the world of Gilbert and Sullivan.

The Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society, featuring MUC' Anikó Schuetz, is presenting this show on **16 – 20 March** (7.30pm + 2.30pm on Saturday) in the **King's Theatre**. Tickets range from £12 to £17 before discounts.

For more information or to book tickets speak to Anikó, see the EDGAS web site at <http://www.edgas.org/show/> or the Edinburgh Festival Theatres web site at <http://www.eft.co.uk> or phone the booking line on 0131 529 6000.

We really hope to see you there for what is shaping up to be a really fabulous show with some gorgeous music.

Presbytery of Edinburgh - February meeting by Judith Aitken

There was a change afoot when the Presbytery of Edinburgh met on Tuesday evening the 2nd February. The Rev. Peter Graham was succeeded by the Rev. Alistair Kiel as Moderator for the coming year. The Rev. Kiel is Minister of St. Andrew's Church, Clermiston. Alistair paid tribute to the wisdom and commitment that Peter had brought to the role of Moderator. Rings were exchanged and the business of Presbytery got underway.

We heard reports, deliverances, comments and questions on subjects as far ranging as appointments, buildings, tenures, revues, and superintendence, along with updates and action plans. A full evening from which I will endeavour to bring you some flavour and some interest.

Under Ecumenical Relations we heard from the Rev. Mitchell Bunting of Edinburgh Churches Together about the Conference to celebrate "Edinburgh 2010". This is the centenary anniversary of the Edinburgh World Mission Conference 1910. 250 delegates from all over the world will meet in Edinburgh this year from 2nd to 6th June. The final event will be held as a Celebration in the Assembly Hall at 3pm. on the final day.

The Rev. Carolyn Lockerbie gave us the latest on the initiative, "Unless the Lord Builds the House" It appears all is going to plan with the twelve trial congregations, of which we were one, all reporting very positively.

The Rev. Russell Barr gave an encouraging report about "Fresh Start" and the part played by the Rev. Mark Foster in his ministry there. Mark is employed very imaginatively as 80% of his time at Dean Parish Church and 20% with "Fresh Start", which as you know is the Presbytery's resource for housing homeless people in Edinburgh.

We received a report about the always controversial New Charge 'experiment' at Gilmerton. The conclusions deemed that the ministry at Gilmerton had been valuable, but that the intention of church planting had not been realised. Now it remains for Gilmerton and Tron Moredun to be united at a suitable point probably when a new Minister is called.

Importantly, we had to hand a document which was an edited version of a paper by the Ministries Council of the General Assembly which after revision will be brought to this year's General Assembly. The document entitled "2020 Vision: Building for the Future through Presbytery Planning" sets out a process that addresses how we might overcome the difficulties the Church is experiencing at this present time and looking with some apprehension at what it all means if we are to have a future. Radical reforms are necessary and these are very much based on how we plan our way forward in the next ten years. Edinburgh Presbytery's initiative with "Less the Lord..." is all part of this and features in our contribution to the wider discussions. A large part of the report revolves as always around money and the fact that we will just not be able to maintain the number of ministers we have for much longer. Ironical really, as we have more now in training than for some time in the past! The Rev. Mitchell Bunting spoke to this report assuring us that we were not the only church having these dilemmas, and that the URC is going through the same process. The outcome and the final report will be of interest. I feel that the time has come for a much more radical approach. So often over the years I have read these kinds of reports. It seems a generational thing. There was even one called 2020Vision before but that was referring to clear and well balanced vision for the future of the church!

Finally, it was the turn of the Social and Communities Interest Committee to report. The Rev. Bill Taylor clearly outlined the Deliverances for Presbytery to approve:

* Minimum Pricing of Alcohol Bill, which we support.

* After Copenhagen, we welcomed the letter sent by the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rev. Bill Hewitt to the “Herald” in which he described climate change as not only an environmental, political, and economic but a moral issue, and invite Kirk Sessions and congregations to consider how they can rally around this call to faith groups to give a lead in ‘changing the way the world lives on earth’

* End of Life Issues: A Christian Perspective, commending to Pastoral Care Groups, Kirk Sessions and congregations this discussion paper produced by the Church and Society Council which is based on the report to the 2009 General Assembly entitled, “Living and Dying Well”

* Scotland’s Choice – the Report of the Scottish Prison Commission. Awareness of the proposals to introduce a presumption against custodial sentences for six months or less and meaningful Community Payback sentences with robust support and supervision services in the community, sharing the view that they will make a positive difference for many.

Other notices included:

· a request for stewards at the General Assembly this year – May 19th to 26th. Contact David McColl on 220 1690 or email: mccoll@palmerstonplace.plus.com

· Rev Lezley Kennedy is leading a ten day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Her contact details are, 0131 449 4719 or lezleykennedy@btinternet.com

All this and some more and we were done and dusted by 9pm. Pretty slick proceedings and I was home in time to walk the dog.



Peter Bailey has recently been appointed as the new Chief Executive Officer of CrossReach.

After many and sometimes difficult and painful changes over the past year, Peter says, “we now need to move forward together to create an organisation which will be fit for purpose in the modern social care environment.” He continued, “you only need to look at some of the gradings we receive from the Care Commission to find that we are still doing an excellent job for a wide range of service users throughout Scotland. We need to focus particularly on areas of innovation and look at the wider opportunities of working in partnership, not only with other organisations but also with local churches and presbyteries.” Observing that there may be difficult times ahead in the current financial situation, Peter Bailey is confident that the Organisation is in a good position to continue, in Christ’s name, to serve the people who use and desperately need the service. He said that they greatly benefit from the prayers of people throughout the Church and asks for that to be continued as they move forward.

Tam Baillie is Scotland’s Commissioner for Children and Young People. At a recent meeting he addressed the Social Care Council of CrossReach highlighting his priorities for Scotland’s children which include reducing inequality and poverty, raising awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and improving early years services. He commented positively on the huge value of CrossReach’s intergenerational linkages.

There is the opportunity to pick up a Prayer Letter on the back table and a copy of “Circle of Care” to find out more news.

Again this year you are urged to order your seeds and plants from the Sutton catalogue where money raised will go to CrossReach.

CrossReach Counselling: Lothians will be holding their annual fundraising ceilidh on Saturday, 5th June in a marquee in the grounds of St. Andrew’s Centre in Dunbar. For ticket information call: 01368865218.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – A WAY WE CHANGE THE WORLD

Ever wondered why we do Christian Aid Week?
Here are seven good reasons why we're involved...

- 1** We are joining with more than **20,000 churches** in an unparalleled act of Christian witness to our communities – showing them we care about justice and poor people.
- 2** Christian Aid has a vision – an **end to poverty**. By being part of this week we're not only funding life-changing projects, we're helping tackle the root causes of poverty – helping to change the world for good.
- 3** The church has an **amazing heritage** of working for justice. Christian Aid Week has run every year since soon after the Second World War – demonstrating the church's faithfulness to helping the poor.
- 4** In these **difficult financial times**, the world's poorest people need our time, prayers and financial support more than ever. Christian Aid Week helps us give people the opportunity to be generous.
- 5** Around **300,000 volunteers** give their time to deliver envelopes door to door and put on events. We are part of this movement for change.
- 6** We get **money for nothing!** Every taxpayer who signs a Gift Aid declaration on an envelope is giving Christian Aid 28 per cent extra – making even more development work possible in the world's poorest countries.
- 7** Christian Aid has successfully campaigned on dropping the debt, carbon-declaration reform and trade justice. Christian Aid Week helps world-wide **structural change** to take place.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 9–15 May 2010

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that we can really do something about it.

To find out more about how you can get involved, just ask your Christian Aid Week representative or go to www.caweek.org

POVERTY – LET'S END IT



POVERTY

CHRISTIAN AID 2010 BOOK SALE

the week AFTER Christian Aid Week

15th – 22nd May

in Morningside United Church

We need –

VOLUNTEERS

To help sort books, prepare the halls, and serve the public

**BOOKS, CD's, DVD's,
stamps, etc**

contact:

christianaid@morningsideunitedchurch.org.uk

www.caweek.org

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UK registered charity number 1105851 Company number 5171525 Scotland charity number SC039150
Northern Ireland charity number XR94639 Company number NI059154 Republic of Ireland charity number CHY 6998 Company number 426928

Lists and Notes.... for March



FLOWERS

- 7 Miss J Braithwaite
- 14 Mrs Sheila Cadger
- 21 Mrs Mary Henderson
- 28 Mrs Helen Rowbotham

SOUND

- 7 Bill McLeish
- 14 Mike Hall
- 21 Max Allan
- 28 Jim Armstrong

CRECHE

- | | | |
|----|--------------------|-----------------|
| 7 | Christine Farish | Rebecca Jones |
| 14 | Carolyn Macpherson | Yvonne Burnett |
| 21 | Sarah Scott | Jenny Hall |
| 28 | Alison Stephen | Helen Rowbotham |

COFFEE

KIRK SESSION and

Congregational Meeting will
be on 24 March at 7.30 pm

District 6
Jennifer Gruber

DOOR AND OFFERING

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 7 | Max Allan 332 3857 | Mrs M Aitken 447 2698 |
| 14 | Max Allan 332 3857 | Mrs M Aitken 447 2698 |
| 21 | Miss C Macpherson 447 7204 | Mrs M Henderson 446 9389 |
| 28 | Miss C Macpherson 447 7204 | Mrs M Henderson 446 9389 |

We received a warm letter of thanks for our Christmas Gifts to **WOMEN'S AID** which were again very welcome. Thanks to all!

We raised £1000 for the Haiti Emergency Appeal through **CHRISTIAN AID**

We record with deep regret the passing of **MRS MARY NICHOLSON**. Mary and Donald have become much loved members of MUC since moving here four years ago. We shall miss her greatly, and extend our loving sympathy to Donald and all the family.