

Lex Slessor 1947 - 2010

Sandie, Sara and Julie would like to take this opportunity to express how overwhelmed we have been by the texts, cards and letters we have received – many containing special memories of Lex – **we** knew what a special person he was – but it is lovely to know that so many other people felt the same about him.

The nature of Lex's illness meant that he **chose** to isolate himself from most of his friends and family – so although many of you would have liked to visit him – Lex chose just to see his very nearest and dearest – so please use any happy memories **you** have to remember him by.

Lex's funeral service was truly beautiful, moving and very uplifting, and very special thanks are given to Ann and Duncan, and all our Christ Church family who were able to be there with us.

We are consoling ourselves with the thought that he is now at peace – please do the same.

THE BELL



JULY 2010

Holy Spirit, you know our frailties, but you come to transfigure our hearts, so that our very darkness itself can become light.

Brother Roger of Taizé

CHRIST CHURCH FALKIRK

Rector – Vacancy

Interim Rector – Very Revd Jim Mein

Assistant Priest Revd Dr Timothy Njuguna

Lay Representative Mrs Shirley Rose

Alt Lay Representative Mrs Dav Stables

Hon. Secretary Miss Jinty Kerr

Hon. Treasurer Mr Tom Ogilvie

VESTRY MEMBERS (plus those listed * above)

People's Warden Mr Bob Leishman

Rector's Warden Mrs Margaret Briggs

Mrs Lesley Leishman, Dr Warren Luke,

Mrs Diane Galloway Mr Alex Taylor,

Mrs Amanda Bryans, Miss Margaret Buchanan

These members, being longest serving, are also trustees.

Future developments:- In the short term to have a water supply to hand (water currently brought in by hand) and to connect to electric supply. Long term plan is to provide maternity facilities on site and to have purpose built nursing quarters. To provide home based care

Cost of future developments:-

Water connection for Health Centre –	450,000 Ush (£150)
Water connections to other building –	not costed.
Electric:- Connection to mains supply -	400,000 Ush,
wiring and fitments for Health Centre -	1,124,400 Ush,
wiring and fitments for Falkirk House (nurses accommodation)	
	808,400 Ush
Labour for above	300,000 Ush
Total	2,700,000 Ush (£900)

Maternity Unit and nurses housing:- a detailed plan will be produced in the future along with a needs assessment showing the validity of such a development.

Primary school

Electric installation:- phase one – wiring of one classroom and office 650,000 Ush (work completed) phase two – connect to main supply including meter box, main switch and inspection 388,600 Ush (£130)

This is great news from Africa; in fact we already have pledges to help them with both electricity and water connection to the clinic!

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Rev. Duncan McCosh was able to give our Greetings to our friends in Nyaknioni and to Bishop John Ntegyerezi who is retiring – he and his wife are well. Unfortunately Bishop Bernard was not installed while Duncan was there, as there were accusations made against him by a disaffected clergyman. These have since been found to be unfounded and his installation went ahead, but not until Duncan had returned!

Italics myself – Dr Tom Blyth - the rest is from Rev. Duncan McCosh

Announcement to Church Members on Sunday 13th June 2010

Visit to Kinkiizi Diocese, Uganda - May 2010 Sent by Rev. Duncan McCosh.

Duncan was visiting the Diocese for the installation of the new Bishop Bernard the new Bishop of Kinkiizi (which was unfortunately delayed). Duncan was able to visit our friends at Nyakinoni.

Nyakinoni Parish - Health Centre

We contributed some of our excess monies from last year to help with the building.

The Building

Construction:- Concrete foundation with cement rendered brick walls. Timber roof frame and corrugated iron sheeting. The building still requires some finishing off with ceiling required in some rooms and two rooms requiring completing which will be used for overnight patient use.

Accommodation:- examination room, treatment room, dispensary, lab, office and store at one end of the building with 5 rooms for overnight patient care (2 of these not in use) at the other end. The middle section is a multi-purpose space for waiting, meetings and health education.

Funding of Health Centre:- some funding from local sources, charging for drugs etc. Majority funding from Christ Church Falkirk. All funds received for either staff or building work are discussed by the management committee prior to their use. Budgets are drawn up and regularly checked as funds are used, there is a good sense of forward planning and management of the Health Centre.

Continued ...

Just so that none of you feel left out, the following is the text of the notice read out by our **Interim Vestry Chair, Mrs Lesley Leishman**, when making the announcement of the selection of a new Rector for our church:

I'm here on behalf of the Vestry.

We promised to let you know the result of the Stewardship Campaign at the beginning of June and I'm pleased to report that we have had an excellent response. The increase will be over six and a half thousand pounds per annum, which will mean that Gift Aid should bring the total to in excess of seven and a half thousand. In addition, we have received donations of two and a half thousand pounds or over three thousand with Gift Aid. We would like to say a very special thank you for your generosity.

As you know, we needed to satisfy Bishop Brian that we could afford a full time stipendiary priest and, thanks to the splendid response, we have been able to show that our finances are now strong enough to do so. Therefore the Vestry is very pleased to announce that, with the approval and blessing of the Bishop, we have appointed a new Rector.

*She is the **Reverend Ruth Innes** who is at present the Rector of St. Mark's Portobello. I'm sure that some of you will already know her from her time at Bathgate and Linlithgow. There are some formalities to be completed but we are very happy that Ruth will be joining us - hopefully before Advent - to begin the next chapter of Christ Church life.*

APRIL 2010 – STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

When we embarked on the Stewardship Campaign at the beginning of April, we undertook to let you know the outcome in June.

We have had an excellent response. It is difficult to give you precise figures for the total increase in giving which we have been promised because I don't always know what every individual was giving before the campaign started. Nevertheless, I estimate that the increase will be over £6,500 pounds which, with Gift Aid, will bring in a total of well over £7,500 in a full year. This is an increase of about 20% and is a tremendous effort.

I should also tell you that during the Stewardship Campaign, in addition to the increased regular giving, we have received £2,550 in donations (just over £3,000 when we recover the Gift Aid). This will make our accounts look much better this year.

The Vestry would like to thank you all for your great generosity.

And now for the *really* good news. Before the Stewardship Campaign we simply could not afford to have a full time Rector. As a result of the campaign our finances are now strong enough, and the Bishop has given us his approval, to recruit a full time stipendiary priest as our Rector.

NOTE: Just in case anyone has forgotten, may I remind you that if you are giving by Standing Order or BACS, **you** have to advise **your** bank of the new amount? If you would like any help or guidance in this regard, please ask me.

Tom Ogilvie
Treasurer
13th June 2010

MORE GOOD NEWS

A few weeks ago, after a number of meetings with the Warden of Lay Readers, Shirley Rose met with the Vocational Review Group and was recommended by them to the Bishop for training as a Lay Reader. On 31st May Bishop Brian wrote to her accepting the recommendation.

Shirley starts her training in September at the Theological Institute of the Scottish Episcopal Church (TISEC). After 2 years she will gain a certificate in Theology for Ministry and a Diploma after 3. This training is paid for by the Diocese.

This is a serious part-time course requiring a great deal of study, including a placement in another church, several weekends and a Summer School each year.

I know Shirley is looking forward to the challenge and we all wish her well. Our love and prayers are with you Shirley. Well done and CONGRATULATIONS.

Lesley Leishman
Vestry Chairman

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Christ Church Accounts – 2008/9

In my report to the Annual General Meeting of the congregation of Christ Church, Falkirk, on 22nd November 2009, I told you that the full report and accounts for the year ending 30th September 2009 were about to be “independently reviewed” before submission to the Office of the Scottish Charities Register (OSCR). They were duly passed by the Reviewer and submitted to OCSR.

Our accounts are in the Receipts and Expenditure format which is allowed for accounts which are less than £100,000 in total. It was my understanding that the inclusion of accruals in such accounts was permissible. Unfortunately, OSCR has determined that this is not so.

I have therefore adjusted the report and accounts by the removal of the accruals. They have been independently reviewed and are about to be resubmitted to OSCR.

The original accounts showed an overall surplus of £11,171.02 for the year ending 30th September 2009, with a surplus in the running costs of £3,000.25.

The revised accounts show an overall surplus of £12,619.94 for the year ending 30th September 2009, with a surplus in the running costs of £4,118.21.

This change in accounting process does not alter the reality of our financial position at the year end. It is merely a different way of defining the year end cut off point.

A full copy of the revised report and accounts as submitted to OSCR is available at the back of the Church.

If you require a personal copy, please do not hesitate to ask me.

The Vestry accepted my proposal to appoint Donald Paterson, Deputy Treasurer of Erskine Church, to act as our Reviewer for the revised accounts. I am grateful to him for doing so.

Tom Ogilvie

Treasurer

13th June 2010

International Committee Newsletter

This is for everyone who has spent time in other parts of the world working, doing a GAP year, travelling, visiting Have you encountered interesting people, heard great stories, been surprised by what you have experienced across the world?

We want to gather stories into a newsletter for "The Edge" and would love to have your contributions.

We are looking for a human perspective on events, for the stories which make the rest of the world come alive. For example, what happened when you took a trip to another country? Why did it happen? What has happened since?

All contributions are welcome, and if you have a great story but can't write, you can phone us - Elayne 01620 870373, Anne 0131 467 2929, .and we will be very pleased to help. Our deadline is the end of July.

All contributions (email or Word.doc format please!) to

e l a y n e b u r l e y 2 @ l i v e . c o . u k o r
international@dioceseofedinburgh.org



On Top of the World!

In 1954, one year after the event, I was taken to the cinema to see "The Ascent of Everest". As one who had already done a little hill walking, I was absolutely fascinated and I resolved there and then that, sometime, I would climb Everest. That particular aspiration stayed with me until 1996 when it became apparent that the commercialisation of the climb was taking over from the true spirit of adventure. Twelve people died in the attempt that year and the mountain is now strewn with dead bodies and discarded rubbish. Sadly, few people are prepared to retrieve either.

My fascination for the mountain has, however, never diminished and this year I went trekking in Nepal, visiting Everest Base Camp and crossing passes at an even higher altitude. This was a kind of pilgrimage for me and my seven fellow trekkers. They were all Australians and although the party ranged in age from 26 (a dentist called Katie, from Perth, Western Australia) to 67 (a retired Civil Engineer from Falkirk!), we were bound together with a common objective.

The mountainous part of Nepal is rugged but beautiful with snow-capped mountains on all sides. The lower reaches reminded me of the Lake District or the Trossachs but are surrounded by higher mountains. We walked along wooded paths and, on spectacular cable bridges, criss-crossed the narrow ravines etched out of the valleys by the creamy water of the glacier melt over millions of years. The upper reaches took us through boulder fields and glaciers. It looked not unlike the Scottish Highlands but on an even grander scale.

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3. We were delighted to return to Christ Church hall for our coffee morning in May. Many thanks to all the helpers in the preparation of the event - in the hall on the day, and in the church which we opened to the public for the first time. Also, we made a respectable sum of money for church funds, so our thanks go to **you**, the congregation, who gave us such magnificent support by turning out and spending your precious cash.

4. It may be that by the time you read this, the new website will be up and running. It is almost complete, but identified people need to be trained in the regular updating of the site with topical information;

5. Now that we have identified a new Rector, we will be steaming ahead with repairs/renovations to the Rectory. Sadly, we had to give the Revd Tim Njuguna notice to leave the Curate's flat, as the space will be required by Ruth. The Vestry will be helping where we can with that.

Although not strictly *church* news, we are delighted that our interim Rector Jim Mein won the Primus' Invitation golf trophy at the annual competition just before the General Synod. Congratulations, Jim; when are you bringing it along for inspection?

Lastly, and as usual, copies of our minutes are displayed in the hall and also in the church. If you have any queries, details of all Vestry members are on the inside cover of this magazine to enable contact to be made.

Jinty Kerr
Vestry Secretary

VESTRY UPDATE

Of course, now that the announcement has been made of the appointment of the selection of the Rev Ruth Innes to be our new Rector, you will realise that the Vestry has not been sitting on its hands in the past few months. Since the interregnum started on 1st October last year, we have had meetings with the Bishop, held a stewardship campaign, produced a new parish profile, had a planning meeting with the Dean of the Diocese, conducted an interview and had another meeting to decide on the appointment. It has been a very busy time, and I am glad that the writing of all those extra minutes is at an end! You should be reassured that the decision by the Vestry was unanimous, and we are greatly looking forward to the next phase in the life of our church.

Of course, much remains to be done. All the usual checks for new staff have to be carried out, and at the moment the Child Protection check is taking months rather than weeks. Ruth has given her church the requisite 3 months notice (Canon Law 13.11), so no institution is possible before mid September - probably October, in reality. That gives her a lovely long time to get to know her new congregation before the AGM towards the end of November!

In the mean time, we have found time to discuss church business, the main items of which are:

1. Our usual away-day was devoted solely to considering our requirements in the appointment of a new Rector, and it will be the autumn before we consult with the Rev Dean Fostekew about Continuous Congregational Development, so no progress on that front;

2. Following a long gestation period, the Vestry approved the Business Risk Register for the church, but the property risk register has still to be addressed;

The people of Nepal are very generous and polite. They are small but that did not prevent our porters carrying loads of 40Kg – twice the weight of the suitcase which you are allowed to take on a holiday flight – over exactly the same challenging routes as us. There is a misconception that “Sherpa” is a term for an Himalayan porter. In fact Sherpas are an ethnic group who have fled from neighbouring Tibet since the nineteenth century. Many, but not all of them, are porters. They tend to have rosy cheeks because of their high blood count which is the characteristic which renders them able to work at high altitudes.

We flew into Lukla from Kathmandu and walked from there to Everest Base Camp, going on to cross a glacier and scale two high passes before returning to Lukla. It was a great thrill to know that we were walking in the footsteps of every single mountaineer who has ever climbed Everest from the South, including Hilary and Tensing!

We walked for seventeen days and reached an altitude of 5,520m (18,000ft). Everest then still towered 3,300m (two vertical miles!) above us. At 5,000m, I am told, the amount of oxygen in the air is only 40% of that to which we are accustomed. We did not carry extra oxygen and we therefore walked very slowly. In the trekking seasons (about March to May and September to November) many people embark on Himalayan treks and a proportion of them succumb to altitude sickness. Indeed almost daily we saw helicopters flying in to evacuate the casualties. Although our trek was said to be the toughest of all the commercial treks, I am proud to say that none of us needed this service.

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Depending on how long our walk for the day was to be, we would get up at 5 or 6am, set off at 7 or 8am and reach our destination anytime between 3pm and 6pm – always exhausted! Our diet was vegetarian. There was a plentiful supply of meat but our guides recommended avoiding it because its condition was, at best, suspect! I enjoyed the local staple meal of Daal Bhat (rice with lentil sauce).

Base Camp itself is an uninspiring place and those who climb Everest have to spend up to three months there while they acclimatise. It is very cold because, although the thin air means that it can be very hot and sunburn is a real hazard, there is a significant wind chill in the afternoon and the sun takes a long time to rise above the surrounding high mountains. The result is that it is very cold for all but about three hours in twenty four!

There is a saying among mountaineers that to reach your objective is important, to return safely is essential. I am pleased to have achieved both!

In the short space available in The Bell, I can only scratch the surface of the story of my adventure but I have lots of pictures to show if enough people are interested!

Tom Ogilvie



HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, FUNCHAL, MADERIA

We visited Holy Trinity, the “English Church”, in Funchal. The service was very similar to our own, right down to the “Gloria” sung to Cwm Rhondda; it was in English as opposed to the Church of Scotland service in Portuguese!

Holy Trinity, like ourselves, aspire to ecumenism and the sermon was given by a local Methodist preacher; the sermon focussed on the General Election and lasted 20 minutes!

The grounds round Holy Trinity were under renovation and flourishing in the damp, warm climate. A reception was held after the service, and Madeira wine and cake were served (coffee rota – please note!). The congregation was a large one and very friendly.

More details are available at www.holytrinity-madeira.org.

You would feel very much at home.

Warren & Kate Luke

THANK YOU

Mildred Grounds wishes to thank all her friends in Christ Church for all the cards, gifts and good wishes on her recent 90th birthday, and for the celebrations in the hall after the 10.30 service.

If you have access to the internet, articles for the next issue of the magazine can be sent to Diane Galloway at [Diane 144@hotmail.com](mailto:Diane144@hotmail.com)