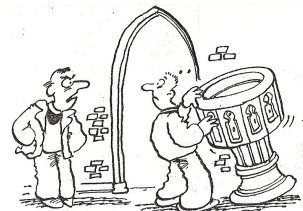


Outlook

The magazine of St. Leonard's Parish Church,
Dunfermline

MAY 2006



I don't care how much it's worth on ebay.
You're still not going to auction it for church funds!!

General Assembly 2006 Rev Andrew Philip

The meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is the church events which dominates May. This year's "blue book" which contains all the reports from the new Councils is a much slimmed down version compared to previous years, however the substance of the reports are no less important for our church and will provide opportunity for vigorous debate throughout the week. If I was to draw attention to any particular contentious debates these would be:

Saturday

– when the Council of Assembly will report on the formation and working practices of the new Councils over the past months.

Tuesday

– when the Legal Questions report will include:

- the question of civil partnerships:
- the provision of religious services for those entering such civil partnerships (the law is very explicit that such partnerships are not 'marriages' and there should not be religious ceremonies marking such partnerships – currently ministers should NOT provide religious services recognising gay and lesbian partnerships, but the report suggests that this should be changed and that ministers so doing can do so in any parish, regardless of the position of the local minister & Kirk Session).
- the provision of pensions for civil partners of gay and lesbian minis-

ters (I expect debate about whether ministers in our church should have such partners).

- the review of the Westminster Confession of Faith (one of the foundational documents of the Church of Scotland – agreed to by every minister, deacon and elder since its adoption in 1647).
 - when the Church & Society report will include:
 - a call for commitment to Religious Observance in schools and for Scottish Executive resourcing for such.
 - a call for the Trident missile system not to be replaced with a new generation of weapons of mass destruction
 - concerns about human rights and 'extraordinary rendition' (transporting prisoners to foreign countries for interrogation)
 - concerns about investment in Israel / Palestine
 - the Kirk's controversial positive response to the prospect of Adoption by gay & lesbian couples
 - concerns about the production of human/animal hybrid embryos for research purposes
 - another controversial endorsement of stem cell research resulting in the killing of human Embryo's
- Please be in prayer for the commissioners at the General Assembly that the decisions they make will be grounded in the Word of God and honouring to Christ and his Church.

The Rev Bob Thomas, Moderator General of the Presbyterian Church of Australia will be preaching at both services in St. Leonard's on Sunday 28th May. Rev Thomas is one of the overseas delegates at this year's General Assembly.

Forward Together is the only group for evangelical members of the Church of Scotland, allowing a Biblical voice to be heard from within the Kirk. Already several hundred members, elders, deacons, youth workers and ministers have joined – you can too. Speak to the minister or go to www.forwardtogether.org.uk for details. Last year's Assembly lunch meeting was described by the Herald newspaper as the best free lunch of the Assembly – it takes place this year in the Quaker Meeting house just across the High Street from the back of the Assembly building, on Wednesday 24th May around 12.30pm – anyone is welcome.

Welcome to the first edition of the new-look monthly OUTLOOK! I can hear you asking "Why have they changed OUTLOOK? It was fine as it was!" And you would be right. But St. Leonard's is such a busy place and there is so much that we want to tell you about. So, instead of a quarterly magazine, OUTLOOK has become a monthly newsletter so that you can keep up to date with what's happening and find out about the many events and activities in the couple of months ahead! We will still publish a magazine at special times of the year such as Christmas, Easter and Summer Holiday Club time and your contributions to that—as well as to the newsletter—will always be most welcome. We hope that you enjoy this new look 'newsletter' style OUTLOOK and please—take an extra copy home for a friend or neighbour. **BM**

St. Leonard's—The Family Church

In Life and Work this month

Beyond the Walls

Church without Walls, the movement to re-energise the local Kirk – is five years old this month. The Rev Peter Neilson, one of the leading architects of the report, reflects on its impact and progress.

Making a Difference

Lorna Hill meets the Moderator-Designate, the Rev Alan McDonald and hears of his passion for social justice – and the Beatles!

A Hidden Inheritance

John R Hume, Convener of the Church of Scotland's Committee on Church Art and Architecture highlights the importance of church furnishings.

Human Trafficking

A report on the recent conference organised by the Kirk's World Mission Council and the Guild, which highlighted "Today's slavery and our response".

Netherbow re-opening

After an 18-month closure and a £3.5million rebuild, the Scottish Storytelling Centre housed at the Kirk's Netherbow Centre in Edinburgh's Royal Mile, reopens this month. Lynne McNeil offers a preview of the new facilities.

Assembly 2006

A preview of some of the reports to come before this year's General Assembly, along with a draft timetable for Assembly business and a list of some fringe events.

Healing

In the fourth part of an analysis of the healing ministry, the Rev Tom Cuthell highlights the importance of listening.

A Place of Vision

Alan Taylor reflects on the life and faith of Orcadian writer and poet George Mackay Brown.

AND MORE... finance, readers' letters, news, reviews, comment and competitions ... all for £1.60

To order a copy, see
Rosemary Annandale

Sunday May 7th

The Good Shepherd

(following Jesus)

Communion at 9.30am

Acts 4:5-12

Psalm 23

1 John 3:16-24

John 10:11-18

Sunday May 14th

Partners in ministry

(spreading the good news)

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

Sunday May 21st

Jesus calls us friends

(living and acting as friends of

Jesus)

Acts 10:44-48

Psalm 98

1 John 5:1-6

John 15:9-17

Sunday May 28th

All age family service

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

Psalm 1

1 John 5:9-13

John 17:6-19



Family Outings

We have two great family days coming up within the next few weeks. The first is a visit to **Rosslyn Chapel** on Saturday 20th May 2006. Tickets are priced £8 (conc £6) and include transport and a tour of the chapel. Book now to avoid disappointment on the form at the back of the church.

The second is our **Family Picnic** at Fordell Firs on Sunday 4th June 2006. Tickets are available from the Sunday School teachers.

The next church walk will be on Sunday 7th May 2006 from Dollar to Tillicoultry—a gentle four and a half miles or so. Meet at the church car park for 2pm.



Communion

The next **Communion** services will be at 9.30am in St. Leonard's on 7th May 4th of June at Fordell Firs as part of our open air worship.

Congratulations!



Catherine and David Stihler on the birth of their son Alexander.

Stuart and Fiona Caffyn who were married on 29th April.



Christian Aid Week: 14th – 21st May 2006

Volunteers from local churches will be dropping off envelopes and collecting for Christian Aid during the 14th-21st May. Our congregation has been asked to

cover a few streets in our parish, so a few volunteers will be needed. In addition there will be a collection point at TESCO on Thursday 18th May – volunteers

are needed – please contact Rev Ann Alison on 734657