

Outlook

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

JUNE 2006

Please remember that from June 11th, we move on to our summer service times of 10:00am at Brucefield Avenue & 11:00am at Pitcorthie

ASSEMBLY 2006—Rev Andrew Philip

Well, the media did not get the big walkout they were hoping for at the General Assembly this year. However, amid the very important and commendable reports of the Kirk's engagement with the people of Scotland, the government and the wider world, as expected there did come several very serious challenges to the authority of the Word of God as we find it in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments.

Some of the debate at the Assembly will be rehearsed at Presbytery (and probably Kirk Session) level, as one of the more serious issues for the Kirk was sent down as an Overture under the Barrier Act. This comes about whenever there is a proposal for serious innovation in the Kirk's doctrine, worship, discipline or government.

Although I was not a commissioner at this year's Assembly, and was greatly frustrated at not being able to take part in any of the debates, I did have the interesting experience of having a "Press Pass" for the debates on Tuesday and then taking part in a BBC Radio programme that evening.

I am certain that the chief reason the Kirk held together this year – narrowly avoiding a very damaging split – was down to the enormous volume of prayer that surrounded the Assembly.

The hymn writer James Montgomery (1771-1854) put it like this:

*Prayer is the soul's supreme desire
expressed in thought or word;
the burning of a hidden fire,
a longing for the Lord.*

*Prayer is the secret battleground
where victories are won;
by prayer the will of God is found
and work for him begun.*

*Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
the Christian's native air,
our watchword at the gates of death;
we enter heaven with prayer.*

*Jesus, by whom we come to God,
the true and living way,
the humble path of prayer you trod,
Lord, teach us how to pray.*

Lord, teach us how to pray!



Thanks to the congregation, the Fairtrade stall has been very well supported. In the first 4 Sundays the sales were **£229.95** Well done everyone.

The next Fairtrade Sundays are 18th June 9th July and 20th Aug

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5 and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw an opportunity for a moral lesson.

If Jesus was sitting here, he would say; "Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait". Kevin turned to his younger brother and said "Ryan, you can be Jesus!"

The next edition of OUTLOOK will be the full magazine edition in time for the holiday club which starts on July 10th 2006.

All articles need to be with the church office by **June 16th LATEST!**



St. Leonard's—The Family Church

In Life and Work this month**'Treated like criminals'**

Lorna Hill investigates the issues surrounding asylum seekers in Scotland, and their constant fear of dawn raids.

Behind the lens

Award winning film-maker Norman Stone is the subject of this month's profile. He speaks openly about his Christian faith being at the centre of all he does.

Keeping Church buildings open

John R Hume explains why the fear of closure of church buildings is demoralising many congregations in the Church of Scotland.

Windows on the world

Lynsae Tulloch, editor of the Kirk's website, gives an overview of the revamped site and extranet facilities.

Going global

Albert Bogle describes a project which uses technology to link communities in Scotland with the wider world.

Assembly 2006

Some summaries of a selection of some of the reports to come before this year's General Assembly.

Kist o'Karaoke

Alan Taylor examines the latest trend in church music – the digitally-enhanced church organ that doesn't require an organist!

Complex Cash

Finance writer Simon Bain highlights a new breed for 'hole in the wall' fraudsters.

Celtic connections

Muriel Armstrong reflects on the delights of Northumberland – an area with strong links to Iona.

Death – enemy or friend

Tom Cuthell tackles the 'one, great unavoidable reality in this life'.

The Last Word

Muriel Armstrong considers the Kirk's relationship to the Westminster Confession of Faith and a 21st-century Church

To order your copy, see Rosemary Annandale

June Services**JUNE 4th**

Pentecost People



Fordell Firs

Acts 2: 1-21

Psalm 104: 24-34, 35b

Romans 8: 22-27

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

**FAMILY PICNIC AT
FORDELL FIRS**

JUNE 11th

Presence and Call

Isaiah 6: 1-8

Psalm 29

Romans 8: 12-17

John 3: 1-17

JUNE 18th

Anointed One

1 Samuel 15: 34-16:13

Psalm 20

2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 4:26-34

JUNE 25th

Faithful Courage

1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4-11, 19-23), 32-49

Psalm 9: 9-20

2 Corinthians 6: 1-13

Mark 4: 35-41



Denotes that we celebrate Communion at this service

The **highlighted** readings are the focus reading for that Sunday.

Remember: 10:00am at Brucefield Avenue and 11:00am at Pitcorthie

Deaths

March 10th **Andrew Crawford**, 14 Glenfruin Grove

April 1st **John Aitken**, 6 Wardlaw Crescent
6th † **Betty Menzies** (85), 2 Walnut Grove

May 22nd **Philip Lai** (32), 1 Overton Court
29th † **Peggy Watson** (80), 12 Tollgate

† Denotes church member

**Weddings**

June 2nd **Elizabeth Craig to George Ritchie**

