

Outlook

September 2006

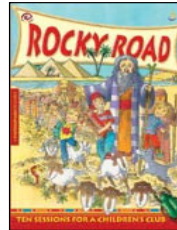
The magazine of St. Leonard's Parish Church, Dunfermline

What a great summer we've enjoyed – beautiful weather, day after day. I hope that you've been able to get out and soak in some of the sun's rays. Perhaps you were abroad and were jealously looking at the fine weather back home!

Already it is beginning to darken earlier in the evening and some of the foliage is beginning to change from the green of summer to the more golden colours of autumn. So why not get out there and enjoy what's left of this great summer God has given us!

As I write it is the day before the schools reopen for the autumn term and soon many of the activities in our church begin to restart giving young and old and those in-between an opportunity to get involved again in the life of our church family.

One exciting new development about to start on the 9th September is "Rocky Road" -- a club for children and their families in the Pitcorthie area. This will be held on the second Saturday afternoon each month and will build on the relationships begun during the great "Pyramid Rock" holiday club held in July at Pitreavie Primary. It will also give an opportunity for further contact with the children who come along to SU groups in our three primary schools, and will be a key part of our strategy to develop our life as a mission focussed congregation.



Another valuable event for every parent and grandparent is the "Drug Proof Your Kids" course which has been specially designed to offer parents a realistic plan to steer their children away from the harmful use of drugs. This short course will begin on Thursday 7th September in St. Andrew's Erskine (near the hospital). It is being run in conjunction with the church in the eastern expansion, St. Paul's East, and will be led by Chris Beattie and Elizabeth Philip.

Finally, we will be running a new "Alpha" Course on Thursday evenings over the Autumn. "Alpha" is a great way to meet other people and consider some of the basics of the Christian faith. Again, this course is a key part of our mission strategy and will be suitable for those who have no faith, those who are new to the faith and those who simply want a refresher. It's great fun and exhorts absolutely no pressure on its participants. "Alpha" will begin late September / early October.



Youth Fellowship

Starts again on Sunday 3rd
September

See Chris Beattie for details!

George Henderson would like to thank all of you who sent cards and visited him during his recent stay in hospital.

George is making a good steady recovery and we all look forward to seeing him back in church.

The next edition of OUT-LOOK newsletter will be published in time for Sunday 24th September. All articles need to be with the church office by **Sunday 17th September.**

The next full magazine will be the **Christmas** edition. All articles need to be submitted to the office for November 12th at the **latest.**

This really made it into print...

"Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping about the house. Bring your husbands."

Please remember that from September 3rd, we move back to our normal service times of 9.30am and 11.00am at Brucefield Avenue & 11.00am at Pitcorthie.

St. Leonard's—The Family Church

In Life and Work this month**THE KIRK AND THE MEDIA**

Dr Harry Reid reflects on the Bishops in the Kirk battle of almost 50 years ago which captured daily newspaper headlines and assesses today's relationship between the Church and the Press.

9/11 – FIVE YEARS ON

The Rev Dr Jon M Walton, pastor of First Presbyterian Church, New York, which lies only yards from the former twin towers of the World Trade Centre, reflects on life in New York five years on from the bombing.

PRAYING FOR PEACE

The Church of Scotland's new minister in Jerusalem, the Rev Jane Barron, formerly minister of Stobswell Church, Dundee) offers her first impressions from a land beset by a new war in the Middle East.

'TIME FOR REFLECTION'

The Liberal-Democrat MSP Donald Gorrie, who is stepping down at the next parliamentary election, is the subject of this month's profile. He describes Holyrood as "a legislative sausage machine" and claims there is insufficient time for proper scrutiny. "We need a system of revisiting bills reasonably soon after they take effect to see if they are working," he says.

PARTNERSHIP'S PLEA

As the debate on civil partnerships begins in Church of Scotland Presbyteries, Editor Lynne McNeil urges the Kirk to set aside differences and focus on the issues which truly count. Christians within the Church of Scotland have much more in common than that which divides them, she says, adding that a prophetic voice and strong and powerful leadership is more important than "a face which appears only interested in itself with damaging internal divisions".

SUPPORT FROM THE HEART

A Kirk-led group in Callander is offering support for people experiencing the difficulties of divorce and separation. Heart to Heart, is based at Callander Kirk Hall and has attracted funding from Stirling Council.

BELIEVING IN YOUTH

A new focus on the Church's youth work begins this month. The monthly page will provide contributions from young people involved in the Kirk at local and national level.

And much more – letters, reviews, news from local and national church, elders page, prayer and reflection – all for £1.60p

Make sure you get your copy—see Rosemary Annandale

Diary

- Sunday 3rd September** 9.30am / 11am (communion) services resume at St Leonard's
11am service at Pitcorthie
- Thursday 7th September** Sunday School restarts 11am at St. Leonard's
"Drug Proof Your Kids" course begins at St. Andrew's Erskine
Presbytery meeting – Abbey halls – 7pm
- Saturday 9th September** "Rocky Road" – 2nd Saturday Club – 2pm till 4pm
"Praise in the Park" at Strathclyde Park
- Sunday 10th September** 9.30am / 11am services & 11am Sunday School at St. Leonard's
11am service at Pitcorthie
- Tuesday 12th September** Kirk Session: 7pm (Prayer) for 7.30pm (Business)
- Saturday 16th September** "Christianity Explored" training event, Dundee
- Sunday 17th September** 9.30am / 11am services & 11am Sunday School at St. Leonard's
11am service at Pitcorthie
- Monday 18th September** Guild Dedication: 7.15pm
"Let's live: body, minds and soul"
- Thursday 21st September** Presbytery Committees meet at St. Leonard's
- Sunday 24th September** 9.30am / 11am (all-age) services at St. Leonard's only.
Beetle Drive at night
- Friday 29th September** Youth Fellowship weekend away at Auchingillan

**China Jim**

On Sunday morning (20th September) Graham Robertson gave us a quick update on what China Jim has been up to. 'Lots' seems about the best way to describe it. Mr & Mrs China-Jim have just recently been accepted to work in China through OMF International. They plan to head out in January next year, but in the meantime they are

asking for our support. There are several ways that we can support them-

- A through a prayer partnership and monthly newsletter
- B receive an annual newsletter
- C through e-mail
- D get an official 'prayer card'
- E learn what life in China will be like by attending a weekend conference (6-8 October 2006 in Cumbernauld)
- F invite Mr & Mrs China-Jim to speak at one of your group's meetings
- G come along to one of their commissioning services in January.

For more details—see Graham Robertson

1000 churches to visit in Scotland

Scotland's Churches Scheme, which St. Leonard's belongs to, has launched a new edition of its guidebook "1000 Churches to visit in Scotland". The book gives information about each church; features of historical and architectural interest, service and visitor opening times. Available at all good booksellers (ISBN 1-905267-00-2). Price £8.99