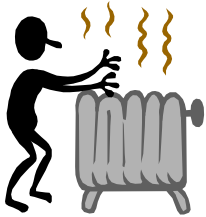


Outlook Monthly

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

October 2006



HEATING UPDATE

A major upgrade to the McLaren Hall and heating system in the hall complex is being commissioned by the Congregational Board. This will involve the removal of the stage and the laying of a new floor; the installation of a gas boiler and fan-assisted heaters in the hall with new radiators in the office and disabled toilet. New time controls will be added to the electrical heating in the rest of the complex; repairs are to be made to windows and plasterwork throughout the complex. The estimated costs are in the region of £18,000 – work will begin shortly.

All organisations are asked to remove their equipment from the stage area (otherwise it will be disposed of).



HARVEST

This year, Harvest Thanksgiving will be on the 29th of October (also the end of BST – clocks go back).

Taking part will be our own Graham Robertson's son & daughter-in-law who are off to China soon. They are our new mission prayer partners. They will also be speaking in the church hall on Monday 23rd October. Watch out for more details.

SOUP LUNCHES

Our soup lunches were so successful that we are going to start them again this session. After the 11 o'clock service on the last Sunday of every month (starting in September), we will be serving delicious hot soup through in the hall. It is a great opportunity to get to know other people in our congregation, chat to friends or just come and try out some new soups.

Alison Cook (sorry—no pun intended) is looking for volunteers both to make the soup and to help serve. We hope to be able to make up a rota with a different team each month.

If you are interested in helping, can you please give Alison a call on 880818 or place your name and telephone number on the sheet at the rear of the Church.



Alpha course

It's low key, friendly and fun and it starts on *Thursday 12th of October* here at St Leonard's.

The Alpha course consists of a series of meals and talks addressing key issues relating to the Christian faith. Listen, learn, discuss and discover and ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile. For more details, see the Minister.



Where have all the young folk gone?

"The most recent census in Scotland found that while 65 per cent of respondents described themselves as Christian, only one in 10 attend church regularly. Two-thirds of those church goers are over the age of 45. As part of a major Mission and Discipleship Council consultation into young people and the Kirk last year, 375 congregations (75 per cent of respondents) said it was time for the Church to have a strategy to provide a sense of direction and support for local churches as they seek to work out a more strategic approach to working with young people at local level. This week, wherever you are in the world, we ask how you think the Church of Scotland can encourage more young people back into its fold, or do you think that young people should not be made a 'special case' as everyone is welcomed into the Church, regardless of age?"

Why not have your say—at www.churchofscotland.org.uk

(taken from www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

The next edition of OUTLOOK newsletter will be published in time for Sunday 22nd October. All articles need to be with the church office by **Sunday 15th October**. The next full magazine will be the **Christmas** edition. All articles and notices need to be submitted to the office for November 12th at the **latest**.

St. Leonard's—The Family Church

In October's *Life & Work*

The Big Debate

In May, the General Assembly voted to send proposals about the marking of civil partnerships to Presbyteries for debate and decision under an ancient legislative process known as the Barrier Act. *Life & Work* this month offers a cross-section of the opinions likely to shape and inform the discussion.

Opening new doors

Lorna Hill meets the new chief executive of the Scottish Bible Society – the first woman and layperson to hold the post in the organisation's 197 – year history.

Reith of the BBC

John Reith was the Glasgow-born Presbyterian who became the first Director-General of the BBC. His daughter Marista Leishman offers a unique insight into the man as she publishes a book unravelling the character of 'Reith of the BBC'.

Christians in Scotland

In the second part of this series Laurence Wareing continues his insights into the main Christian denominations in Scotland with a look at the Free Church of Scotland and other 'free' churches as well as the Baptist Union of Scotland.

Ninety not out

Harry Diamond tells the story of Erskine Hospital which celebrates its 90th anniversary this month.

The gift of a lifetime

Iain Grimmond, General Treasurer of the Church of Scotland, outlines the importance of legacies and how the work of the Church can benefit from the smallest gifts.

All this and much, much more—for only £1.60. See Rosemary Annandale to reserve YOUR copy.

Diary

Sunday 24 th September	9.30am / 11am (all-age) services at St. Leonard's only 7 pm Beetle Drive
Friday 29 th September	Youth Fellowship weekend away (Auchingillan)
Tuesday 10 th October	Kirk Session -- 7pm (Prayer) for 7.30pm (Business)
Thursday 12 th October	Alpha Course Begins (1 of 10)
Saturday 14 th October	"Rocky Road" – 2 nd Saturday Club – 2pm till 4pm
Thursday 19 th October	Alpha Course (2 of 10) Presbytery Committees meet at St. Leonard's
Thursday 26 th October	Alpha Course (3 of 10) 7.30 pm Congregational Board
Sunday 29 th October	BST ends – clocks go back 1 hour 9.30am / 11am (all-age) services at St. Leonard's only
Sunday 12 th November	Remembrance Day & Youth Parade

Fellowship Groups (contributed by Alison Cook)

During the past 22 years, I have attended many house groups, both at St. Leonard's and inter-church. I can honestly say that I have learned more about a personal faith in God at these small groups than I have in the Church Services (no disrespect to our Ministers). Like many who read this, to begin with I felt very apprehensive about attending but was soon put at ease. We learn as much if not more from one another – it is indeed a very enriching experience.

Over 5 years ago, I was asked to lead a nurture group for new Christians. We started with a group of people who joined the Church together. This group meets once a month and is open to anyone who wishes to join us.

We also hold a weekly home based prayer meeting in Pitcorrhie and everyone who wishes to join in is most welcome. We would like to run yet another house group either through the day or in the evening. Dates and times have yet to be set, but if you are interested in joining any of the above groups, please speak to me in church or give me a call. My number



DRUG PROOF YOUR KIDS

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. For more details, please see Chris Beattie.