

PARISH NEWS

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH

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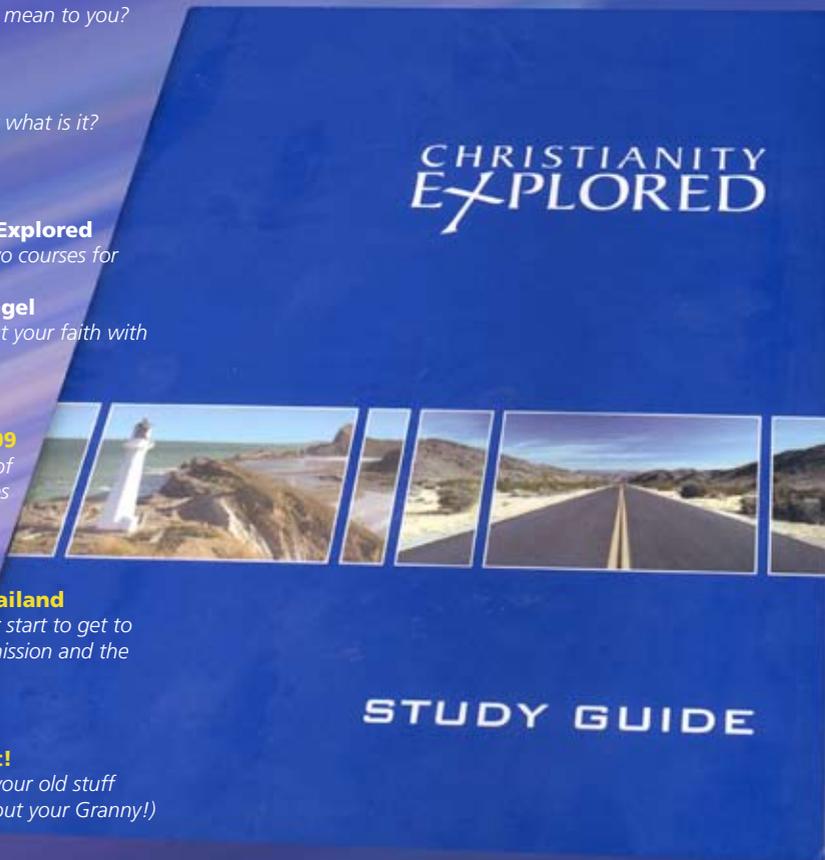
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+
**all the
regular
features**

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH
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Announcements

Baptisms

Adam, Craig and David Bennett (22 Feb)

Funerals

Mrs Gloria Lundie, South Craighall Farm (16 Dec)

Mrs Violet Lambert, Alnwick Drive (22 Dec)

Mr Craig Baird, Floors Farm (7 Jan)

Mrs Christina Henderson, Glasgow Road (20 Feb)



Musings from the Manse...

Coming Home

2009 – Scotland's first Year of Homecoming, to celebrate the 250th birthday of Robert Burns and to encourage people worldwide who have Scottish ancestry to 'come home'. (Any suggestion that it's an initiative of the tourist industry is, of course, mere cynicism!) It aims to tug at the heartstrings of expatriot Scots and their families, who are often more enthusiastic than we are about haggis, tartan, ancestors and the trappings of 'home'. It's more sentiment than reality, but it speaks of a deep need to 'belong'.

I wonder what 'home' means to you? Perhaps the house where you live, or where you grew up – adults sometimes talk about 'going home' to their parents' house, even long after they've moved away, where their earliest memories and childhood memorabilia still reside. Or maybe home is a place, like Eaglesham, where many have lived all their days and where events in history are still alive for them. Many people have moved house several times, but always within the village and sometimes within a street! Perhaps home is most of all about people, people who love and accept you for who you are. An inner-city young person once told me, 'Home is where they keep you fae the polis' – I think the theological term is 'unconditional love', but I got the message!

Home is where the heart is. St Augustine famously said, 'God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you'. My all-time favourite Bible story picks up that theme: a son estranged from his father by youthful rebellion, assuming fulfilment could never be found in his father's house, then reaching rock bottom and finding only one place to go – home to his waiting father, where he belongs.

I'm glad that so many people find Eaglesham Church to be a spiritual home – not full of perfect people (what family is?) but with a sense of God's presence and love at the heart. In a world where we're driven to frantically seek fulfilment in an endless round of buying, achieving and proving ourselves, it's a reminder that our souls find rest in God alone, and that He is where we belong.

Wishing God's blessing to you all.



Kirk Session...

Part of the duties of a Session Clerk involves maintaining Kirk Session records and providing statistics for those whose wider concern is to collate them, agonise over them, and produce further facts and figures indicating trends and for others to use such information to suggest what we should do to improve or change.

Behind those figures lie the real stories, those of the people in our congregation who have joined us, of the babies who have been baptised, the happiness of the couples who have been married or, sadly, of those in our midst who have passed on. I have no need of statistics to remind me of two of our much loved elders who, during the past year, have been lost to our Kirk Session and whose presence is still almost tangible as I look around the assembled members at our meetings. I miss them both very keenly; the warmth and energy of Peter Primrose whose connection with Eaglesham stretched back to the war years and whose interest and involvement in his adopted village never waned. Peter's support and encouragement as an elder sustained me and his legacy of courage and kindness remains an inspiration. And Craig Baird; the very epitome of the Scottish farmer; phlegmatically dependable, committed, wholly reliable and with a sense of duty which he carried with an unshakeable air of optimism and good humour. Craig also took his eldership very seriously and I will never forget his personal kindness and support to me. His courage and fortitude reflect character and spirit to which we should all aspire.

The Kirk Session has been a better place with Peter and Craig standing beside us and we are blessed to have known them; what men!

Lynn and Stuart succeeded in departing

on their annual skiing holiday in January; an uncertainty right up until almost the final moment of embarkation due to Lynn's Dad's illness, and they've come home refreshed and energated for which we are all very thankful. During the two weeks of Lynn's absence we had the pleasure of welcoming back to our pulpit our old and treasured friend, Eric Cooper and Eric's Services were enjoyable and inspiring to us all. Eric's wife, Jennifer, accompanied him on both Sundays and she was warmly welcomed by all her friends in the congregation. Eric and Jennifer joined us in the Carswell Hall after the Services on both Sundays where they enjoyed a coffee, some home-made cake and an opportunity to renew old friendships. If you have yet to join us on a Sunday morning after the Service I commend this highly to you. This is a great chance to relax over a cuppa, enjoy a biscuit or, if you're lucky, a piece of delicious home baking (not on offer every Sunday, but when it is you have to be swift, unlike the inevitably tardy Session Clerk who never seems to arrive on time). Sunday coffees are proving to be increasingly popular and our thanks go to Jean Cumming, who organises this highly successful weekly gathering, and her duty teams of helpers. The significant profit goes to charity.

The Kirk Session will descend en masse on Monkton Community Church on the 21st March for what is now our annual 'Away Day'; a bit like a Sunday School trip for oldies and just as enjoyable. We have to work for our purvey, however, as we'll be tackling a full agenda with much prayerful discussion. Perhaps I'll report on our shenanigans in the next edition of Parish News.

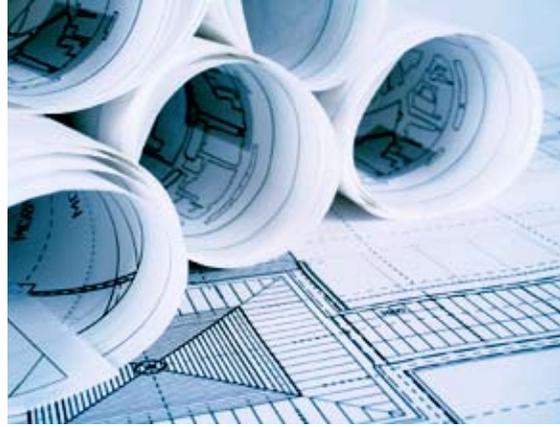
Craig Wishart

Fabric



At the manse the wooden fence has once again become the target for vandals forcing urgent repairs. The vestry door, having served us well for many years is now beginning to require much repair and a decision has been made to renew it. As it is a special size it will not be replaced overnight. The steeple door has also had attention from the joiner. An estimate of £3500 has been received for repairs to the steeple stonework at pavement level. This will go ahead when the weather improves. Repairs to the walls of the vestibule and a general touch-up of the decor continues - not an easy job due to the heights involved.

At the mid hall the lights have been repaired and are now all functioning. However considerable expense was required to repair the kitchen radiator in the Carswell Hall and we would remind



all organisations of the need to report any damages or failures. The thirty year old heating system in the hall continues to give trouble and quotes are currently being sought for its replacement this summer.

All fire extinguishers have been serviced and certified

Fabric Mole

The Telemann Ensemble playing baroque instruments.

Music by Telemann, Handel & Bach

Carswell Hall Sat March 21 at 7.30pm.

Details from Heather MacIntyre

0141 337 6967

Tickets (£6 & £4 concession) from

Heather or Duncan MacIntyre 302884

Proceeds to Church funds

Work of a Youth Ministry Student

Plans are definitely under way in my work. I've been here for roughly five months now and through getting involved in the Youth Strategy Team and regular meetings with Lynn I have been able to see a lot of background work as well as being directly involved with the young people. The first couple of months were spent getting to know the young people, working out which name matches which face. Recently I have had more involvement with groups and with organising a new group for the young people, which we provisionally call 'The Blob'.

Getting involved in Second Sitting has been great. Lynn has been giving great feedback and helping me develop various skills in delivering an evening. She has also taken a step back from 'Afters' and letting me step forward to encourage the young people in discussions.

The Guides and BB have been encouraging me in similar ways.

I attended the Guides and helped in badge work. The BB has been covering the Life of Jesus during their evening meetings and I have been run through this with a group of 12 lads.

Also, I have been helping with the junior badminton on Saturdays and with the organisation of the club - writing a 'to do' list we have been able to progress a lot of our plans.

In schools work I have been getting involved with the assemblies and class work with Lynn at the village School and have been going to a lunch club for Mearns Castle students, at Maxwell Mearns church helping their youth worker. I'm hoping to be getting a lot more involvement with the High School and to develop stronger links with Maxwell Mearns church over the next few months because I think there are a lot of ways to support and encourage each other in the ministry we have.

The Blob!

Now I'm sure many of you are thinking, 'What on earth is the Blob?' Well... the Blob is a Sunday evening group that will be running throughout the month of March. It is for young people in P7 to S6 and it will run from 7pm until 8.30pm in the Mid Halls, with something possibly going on for the older young people after 8.30, we'll let you all know in due course.

We wanted to get a regular group that will bring the young people from the BB, Guides, Youth Group and anywhere to talk about faith and life topics and to have a laugh at the same time.

Really we have no idea what shape this group will take, hence the name, but we want to find out. Stuart and I are taking leadership roles with some brilliant volunteers to assist and we are currently planning the programme.

The first meeting will be on the 1st of March at 7pm and will continue each Sunday in March apart from the 8th when Second Sitting and Afters takes place.

Hope to see you there!!

Russell



Child Protection Work in Thailand

The Muir family – Alastair, Chrissie and their children – are our missionary partners in Thailand. Alastair is involved in child protection work in an area where children, often from displaced migrant communities, are at considerable risk of abuse. Much of this work takes place in fairly remote northern regions bordering on Burma and Laos. Awareness training courses are run for local community groups using material developed by Save the Children, UNICEF and ECPAT (end child prostitution and trafficking). A northern office is being opened in Chaing Mai to facilitate the work – previously co-ordinated from Bangkok. However, another major need is for a reliable vehicle able to cope with unpaved roads in hilly jungle terrain. Alastair has contacted us asking for help towards the £10,000 required to purchase a suitable vehicle. As a church congregation we have committed ourselves to contributing to this essential part of his work. If you would like to help individually, please send any contribution to Rev Lynn McChlery, Eaglesham Manse (cheques payable to Eaglesham Church)

(see the Muirs Newsletter on pages 11 and 12 — Ed)

Pastoral Care

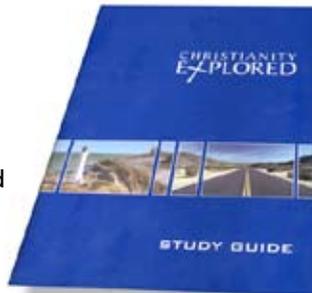
Two important messages from our Kirk Carers. We would like to thank all of our drivers who donate their time to help those members of the community who require transport for hospital or doctor appointments. To support our service, we require a number of volunteer drivers and if you would like to offer your services, please call me. *Fay Lyons*

Another part of Kirk Carers is our voluntary visiting. There are a number of people who are willing to visit, on a reasonably regular basis, people who are housebound. At present we have not had many requests from people in the parish for such visits. If you would like a visit call me on 0141 639 3787. *Olive Reid*

Please be aware of these services. It is also important to remember that home visits are available from the minister and/or the elder for your district. Please speak to either or if you wish, you can complete a 'blue card' which can be found at the end of each pew. Complete this card with your contact details, hand it to a member of the duty team at the door and you will be contacted shortly after that.

Pastoral Care Team

Christianity Explored



This is a ten week course that allows an introduction to and exploration of the Christian faith through a series of weekly discussions based on

the Gospel of Mark. The Outreach Team would like it to be available on a regular basis within Eaglesham. This would not be done through large structured meetings but rather in small groups of around six or eight folk meeting with a host over a simple meal. Our immediate plan is to run a programme starting immediately after Easter and then another in September / October. If you would like to join one of these groups, or know of someone else who would be interested please get in touch with Lynn, Duncan MacIntyre, or Helen Maclean.

Duncan MacIntyre

Holy Week Services in Eaglesham & Newton Mearns Churches:

Sun 5 April Palm Sunday Evening Service, Mearns Kirk Church 7pm

Thurs 9 April Maundy Thursday Communion, Eaglesham Church 7pm

Friday 10 April Good Friday Vigil, Eaglesham Church noon-3pm
Evening Service Broom Parish Church 7pm

Sun 12th April Easter Sunday Dawn Service, starting at Broom Church car park followed by breakfast at Maxwell Mearns Castle (6.30am)

Family Service Eaglesham Church 11am
Evening Celebration Newton Mearns Baptist Church (6.30pm)

Sunday Coffee

Donations made at the after church coffee sessions were originally intended to simply defray expenses but, thanks to the generosity of an ever increasing number of supporters, we were able to give a total of over £1427 to good causes over the past year. Those benefiting at home were – **Lodging House Mission, Scottish Bible Society, Angel Tree (Prison Fellowship), Church Orchestra and Monday Group.**

Abroad we gave to – **Muir Family in Thailand, Christian Blind Mission, Leprosy Mission and Mary's Meals.**

Details of these gifts can be seen in the kitchen of the Carswell Halls. Sincere thanks alike to the faithful duty teams and to our supporters.

Jean Cumming

Junior Badminton

Junior Badminton had already been going for half an hour when Elaine and I arrived to visit the Club on behalf of the Kirk Session. Shuttles flew gently across the net as the 7–

10 year olds developed their skills through fun level competition and one-to-one coaching for the novices.

The mood changed however when, at 10am, the session for the 11–16s started - this was serious! "Killer", an appropriately named mutation of the game was played by everyone just to warm up. The shuttle was transformed into a projectile flying end to end without mercy until the victor stood alone on the court while the vanquished caught their breath before the start of the individual matches. With so many enthusiastic youngsters court time is at a premium but each player gets at least two games and two rounds of "killer" in a Saturday morning session. Techniques and skills are honed through the encouraging input and participation of Ian, Russell, David and helpers, all of whom have a hard time keeping up with the energy levels of the thirty eight youngsters who regularly attend.

Junior Badminton is not just somewhere for parents to park their kids on a Saturday morning, it is a full-on, high energy event run by enthusiastic and committed leaders who have developed a terrific relationship with the youngsters and who have earned their full respect.

It is highly encouraging to see a club with real growth in numbers especially as many of the youngsters have no other Church connection.

Thank you for all your hard work and enthusiasm.

Doug Lamont & Elaine Paterson

Summer Holiday Club

Summer seems a long way off, but time passes very quickly and plans for summer holidays are being made. We hope that many of the team and lots of P1s to P7s will be able to participate in this year's Holiday Club. Please note in your diaries the date of this exciting event. It is week beginning 3rd August. Russell is joining the team and we would love others to join us. Pat Wishart would be pleased to hear from you and answer any questions.

Pat Wishart

1st Eaglesham Guides

What have we been up to since December? Lots of things.

The girls sat their Communicator Badge as a unit where they had to learn a bit of sign language (ably assisted by Russell who helped us out that evening), they had to make up letters, decipher a secret code to name but a few, the girls who were there all passed. Burns night was then celebrated with a Scottish Quiz, each patrol had to recite or act out a Burns poem, which was very entertaining and then irnbru and short bread was thoroughly enjoyed. Unfortunately, guides was cancelled due to the snow, but the girls took part in the Caterpillar Patrol's activities which they organised for each patrol the following week.

On 16 March the girls will be going to Neilston Swimming Pool to do a singathon and have some fun in aid of our charity 'Wateraid', watch this space and we'll let you know how we did.

Louise Lightbody

Thursday Group

We started 2009 with Linda Lamond who showed us exercises for relaxation. De-stressing with Tai Chi and Yoga moves was most enjoyable. Louise Lightbody addressed the haggis at our Burns Lunch and Fiona Kettlewell and Marion MacDonald entertained us with music and poetry. This was our busiest meeting so far, what can I say - we love our food!

We then welcomed Lee Kayne from Freemans Homeopathic Pharmacy in Busby and we all learned something new about homeopathy.

With three meetings to go we have two of our charities RHET and CLIC Sergeant and our AGM. The session seems to have flown in and has been very enjoyable.

My thanks go to the aunts for their continued support and also to the committee and the Guild for their able advice throughout the year.

Mhairi Baird

3rd Eaglesham Brownies

We have a very healthy Brownie unit at present with 37 girls between the ages of 7 and 10. Our session started using the sports equipment received from the Active Kids vouchers from Sainsbury's. The girls had great fun playing with the bats, balls and parachutes.

We then started the Agility Badge work. One of our Brownie's mum, Lorna Cunningham came along to do some aerobics and circuit training which tired out all the girls (and leaders!). We finished the badge the following week with lots of skipping and ball throwing. Our trip to Mearns Castle Golf Academy was a great success. There are many good golfers in the pack - watch out the Masters!

We have now started on a new resource called Aim Hi. It is all to do with having a 'whole body' approach to being healthy and is split into three sections - head, body and legs. This was covered over three weeks and the girls all gained a badge at the end. The activities included drawing the organs of the body on to a picture of a person, a race pushing tomatoes with your nose and a friendship hand where the girls have to write kind comments about each other.

Elaine Wallace (Brownie Guide Guider)



BB Company Section

The company section has had a busy time as usual this session. All our badge work camping and safety went well and we are implementing our new badge programmer called 'Discover' which will start fully at the beginning of next session. The recruits started the new compass award and have done exceptionally well. The rest of the the boys are now doing their Christian faith awards which will run for the next month.

We are moving into a very busy spell with lots of sports competitions with the district and battalion over the next couple of months.

The P&F committee are busy organizing the disco and jumble sale. Any parents or friends wishing to help out please contact myself and I will pass on your details to the committee.

Below are dates of forthcoming events.

Mon 2 March District sports
Tues 3 March Battalion Badminton
Sat 14 March BB Jumble Sale
Mon 30 March Battalion sports
Sat 16 May BB Display
17 - 26 July Camp

Richard Burt OIC

Junior Section

This session continues to run smoothly and the months of February and March are extremely busy for our Junior Section.

The Boys continue to complete achievements, work in teams and take part in a variety of games that go towards their end of year badges. We are well through our annual programme and set to start our Display (14 May) programme in March. We recently enjoyed a night out to Pro Lane Bowling in EK where the Boys and staff competed both individually and in squads. The impressive top three scores were 3rd Sean Roberts 91, 2nd Tom Pound 101, 1st Grant Black 127!

Newton Stewart Camp is booked for 5-7 June for the P5s & P6s and a Fire Station visit for the P4s (26th Mar).

Football teams continue to do well. B team performances have improved significantly hopefully we will see an upturn in their fortunes. Our A team is at the top of the league with a two point lead! Finally, I am delighted to say that we are the five-a-side District Champions following a dramatic penalty shoot-out victory over the 231.

Gary Rushworth

Joint OIC Junior Section



The winning team (from left to right): Jack Crawford, Lewis Dawson, Lewis Gibb, Noah Paterson (c), Alexander Greenlaw

Anchor Boys

Our numbers continue to rise with the roll now standing at 24. The more the merrier! The boys are all working hard in their own teams and having lots of fun at the same time.

On January 27th all year groups paid a visit to Buckaro Jax at East Killbride. The boys enjoyed all the soft play activities on offer and still had energy to spare.

We always welcome new faces and any boys in P1-3 are welcome to join us.

Alistair Todd

Music and Choirs

It was a busy Christmas for our Choirs! Firstly, we had the Christmas Concert which raised over £300 for Yorkhill Children's Foundation. This event showed the music in our Church at its best, with Choirs and Orchestra giving performances of which they should be very proud. We also welcomed Eaglesham Primary School Choir, who gave a wonderful contribution. The Church Choir also led the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on 28 January, which was greatly enjoyed by those who came along.

Looking forward, Musical Mayhem are rehearsing 'Oh Happy Day' and a two-part arrangement of Cesar Franck's 'Panis Angelicus' as well as other shorter songs to use in worship. Over the coming months they will be taking part many of our family services.

We welcome a new member to the Church Choir, Beverly Millar has come along to sing soprano - we hope she enjoys her time with us. By the time you read this, the Choir will have visited Eaglesham Guild to give a concert that included some Scottish Songs, an Irish Blessing, and a number of piano solos. The Choir will take part in the Maundy Thursday Communion Service, when we will sing a piece called 'After Giving Thanks, Remember Me' as well as John Stainer's 'Cross of Jesus' from The Crucifixion.

It is only two months until the Church Choir finishes for the season (Musical Mayhem continues until June) which means that it's almost time for the annual Choir Coffee Morning. This will be held on Saturday 18th April from 10am – 12 noon in the Carswell Hall. Homebaking, Tea and Coffee plus various stalls with lots of bargains will be available, and the Choir will enjoy the one time of year when I let them tell me what to do!

Peter Howard

Guild

It has been described as woolly and it hasn't changed in thirty years but the Guild must be doing something right. The average attendance is 66, in spite of the heating problems and bucking the national trend for falling numbers.

In the past few weeks we have listened to the Cardonald Ladies' Choir, learned more about Maggie's Centres, hosted a Burns Night for seventy six people and have been uplifted by Stuart McChlery's 'Search for Spirituality'. We look forward to 'Jewellery Through the Ages' and a visit from our own Church Choir this month.

Our annual charity Coffee Morning raised upwards of £704 in aid of Erskine Hospital, Maggie's Centres and Radio Lollipop. If you would like to be part of this intellectually stimulated and charitable group of women, join us in the Carswell Hall at 7.30pm each Wednesday.

Janette Macindeor & Joan Douglas

Christmas Stamps

I would like to thank everyone who gave their stamps. This year the proceeds go to 'Dream Flights' a charity who take terminally ill children to DisneyWorld in Florida. I will continue to collect stamps throughout the year.

Nan Stirling



WWF'S EARTH HOUR

It's as simple as a flick of the switch

What began as a campaign to get Sydney Bay residents to turn their lights off, has grown to become one of the world's biggest climate change initiatives. In 2009, at 8.30pm on March 28, people around the world will turn their lights off for one hour – Earth Hour. We're aiming to reach one billion people, more than 1000 cities, all joining together in a global effort to show that its possible to take action on global warming.

Earth Hour started in 2007 in Sydney, Australia with 2.2 million homes and businesses turning their lights off for one hour. Only a year later and this event had become a global sustainability movement with up to 50 million people across 35 countries participating. Global landmarks such as the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, Rome's Colosseum and the Coca Cola billboard in Times Square, all stood in darkness, as symbols of hope for a cause that grows more urgent by the hour.

Earth Hour 2009 is a global call to action to every individual, every business and every community. A call to stand up, to take responsibility and to get involved in working towards a sustainable future. Iconic buildings

and landmarks from Europe to The Americas will stand in darkness. People across the world will turn off their lights and join together in creating the vital conversation about the future of our precious planet.

Over 64 countries and territories are participating in Earth Hour 2009. This number grows every day as people realise how such a simple act, can have such a profound result in affecting change.

Earth Hour is a message of hope and a message of action. Everyone can make a difference.

Join us for Earth Hour 2009, turn off your lights at 8.30pm Saturday 28 March and sign-up here to be counted

Marilees Maclean

www.earthhour.org



News from Thailand

It is now February and we can hardly believe we've been in Bangkok for six months already- so much change in such a short space of time. We are thankful for all your prayers which have carried us through when our energy has been low and the changes have seemed enormous. We moved into an apartment nearer to school in January and it has made life a lot easier as we no longer have to battle rush hour traffic every morning.

Alastair is settling well into the challenge of his new role. He recently spent time with the Child Protection team as they delivered training in a small community called Suan Peung near the Burmese border. Below is a flavour of what they are doing.....

About four hours drive from Bangkok and only twenty kilometers from the Burmese border lies the small town of Suan Peung. Surrounded by jungle a little further on is a newly built church which serves the outlying 'Karen' community. The 'Karen' people are poor by pretty much anyone's standards. Originating in Burma but persecuted by the Burmese government many have fled into Thailand. Successive Thai governments have refused to recognize them and consequently they are legally not allowed to work or access health care and have difficulty funding education. Daily agricultural labour sometimes provides a minimum flow of funds to these families but life is a struggle at the best of times. Both poverty and lack of status make children in such communities particularly vulnerable.

Karen bamboo house in Suan Peung

The Child Protection team arrived in mid January for a two day session on developing child protection policies, having delivered awareness raising training the previous year. The majority of the 40 attendees were Karen people representing their churches, but also included some professionals from a local hospital and Non Governmental organizations (NGOs). The area has a high military presence, and we were surprised to be joined by two soldiers for the initial hour's session. The senior officer even

stood up to give a strong endorsement of the importance of looking after the local children. Not sure what the locals made of that. Mistrust of those in authority is a real issue.

There was good participation and discussions amongst the audience, but this session only provided the tools and learning for the churches and organisations to prepare their own policies. It was stressed that these completed documents were not for sitting on shelves, rather to influence the organizations culture in all areas to reduce risk and potential abuse to kids under their care.

During the early evening we hosted around 40 kids from the Karen community in an energetic, fun packed two hours with dancing, painting and singing. The time focused upon informing the kids of how special they and their bodies are, and how to protect both themselves and their friends from potential harmful abuse. The need of such training to both adults and kids was enforced when at the end of the visit, a woman revealed some systematic abuse of children in her village prior to the children being sold into an unknown future....The work goes on !

Home Life

Whilst Al has been working I have been continuing with language school as well as chasing after Isla. She is just at that fearless stage where you aren't look away for a second or you'll be fishing her fingers out of an electrical socket! In between averting disasters I try and do my homework which is mainly focused on reading at the moment. Today's story was about a donkey who got lost in the woods. Its great reading picture books for six year olds. I hope we never graduate to newspapers!

The kids at Suan Peung

One of the interesting things about struggling to grasp a new language is that I find myself most comfortable with the ordinary people out on the street, taxi drivers, food vendors, cleaners, children or the general fix it man are far less intimidating to speak with than the well heeled in posh shopping malls. They

don't seem to care when I say a sentence back to front and they explain with great animation when I say a rude word by accident because I used the wrong tone!

Due to my floundering attempts to practice conversational Thai I now know everything about the life of the ever smiling cleaning lady who works our block of apartments six days a week. Her husband abandoned her more than ten years ago and like many Thai women she is left with no financial support trying to bring up three kids. She makes enough to rent one room and considers herself lucky because she's cleaned these blocks for nearly twenty years, a steady and dignified job which she always does with a smile.

Bom, who helps us out part time (allowing me to study) has a similar story. She is bringing up her daughter Fang alone. The financial crisis has meant that jobs are hard to find. With a part time wage from us and the support of a kind hearted Christian family from Holland she is just about able to tread water but she really needs extra work. She has asked her friend to move in with her so that they can share the rent of her one room apartment with a small kitchen area. There is a corner by some cupboards where her friend can sleep. Eleven year old Fang keeps the place clean and tidy when she gets herself home from school. She has invited me and Isla there for tea. When there's no school Fang sometimes comes with Bom to our place and plays with the girls.



Like many Thai children she had lived up country with an aunt from the age of two whilst mum worked in the city and sent money home. Her aunt whom she loved was killed in a motorcycle accident last year so she had to come to Bangkok: neither Fang nor her mum are adjusting easily to that!

These people are by no means the bottom of the heap in Bangkok. When the money runs out there is no welfare system to cushion the blow. The kids with no shoes who offer to clean car windscreens with a dirty cloth know all about what it is to live with no money. We just hope and pray that those who are just about making it like Bom and the cleaning lady aren't pushed into that kind of world.

Prayer Points

- Al and the team are travelling frequently over the coming weeks (west and south Thai borders with Burma), please pray for safe travel.
- That we'll keep our energy levels up particularly as the hot season approaches.
- Pray that Bom will find the extra work she needs. She often asks me to pray for her, she says that when the Dutch family pray for her God moves. Perhaps she will find the courage to pray herself.

Prayers answered

- Isla's rash disappeared overnight and has never returned.
- Last newsletter we mentioned Tuk, our previous landlady who sought Christian tenants for our old house: she now has a young team of Missionary workers in the house.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued support. God Bless

*Chrissy, Alastair, Rhain, Kirsty & Isla Muir
February 2009*

A Robertson family **Wedding**...



Louise Stepek married Craig, son of Marilyn and Tom Robertson, in St John's Church on 20 December. The service was conducted by Father Stephen Baillie.

You're An Angel

As many of you will have heard Lynn mention from the pulpit recently and following a most successful taster evening last year, Eaglesham Church is hosting the short You're an Angel course on four successive Wednesdays between 22nd April and 13th May. The course is open to everyone from late teens upwards and is aimed at helping us all to feel more comfortable talking about Christianity with our friends, colleagues and acquaintances.

This is something most people feel awkward about – we don't know enough, we don't want to get "attacked", we don't "do" that sort of thing. Well, the good news is that there is an Angel within everybody just waiting to get out! This course shows us how to overcome our anxieties and how to respond to opportunities to share what we believe. Don't be a Jonah! Come along and join what promises to be a friendly yet informative series of evenings. Please come to the Carswell Hall between 7.00 & 7.30pm for tea, coffee & biscuits. Numbers are limited so please put your name on the list in the Church vestibule or telephone Stuart or Mary on 0141-638-3537 before Sunday 22nd March to ensure you don't miss out. If there is sufficient interest we may repeat the course next session.

Stuart W MacGill

a Taste of local history

Bill Niven

I wish to chronicle the story of Montgomery Street in our Village. The street was laid out after the foundation of the Earl of Eglinton's Planned Village in 1769. Its original name was South Street. Noon Street was originally North Street. With Mid Road between them the three roads formed the letter A to signify the Christian name of the founder – Alexander Montgomery, 10th Earl of Eglinton.

The Montgomeries were of French origin, deriving their name from Montgomery Castle in Lisieux near Rouen in Normandy. Their home was named Castle of the Holy Faith. They travelled with William the Conqueror in 1066 and a later generation came north to Scotland to join David I around 1140. As a result they were granted the lands of Eaglesham.

For their services to James IV the Montgomeries were created Earls of Eglinton. The spelling of the surname of Montgomery or Montgomerie is optional.

The interesting image of Montgomery Street's first traffic jam in 1912 below is clearly posed – showing an Alfa car on the right with a pony and trap adjacent. A gaggle of ducks and geese separates the vehicle from the second pony and trap which appear to be outside our home at number 34.

The second image is a pencil sketch of Montgomery Street dated 28 May 1912. The Church, the Cross Keys and Andrew Johnston's butchers shop are depicted on the right. The artist, Andrew Wilson Beaton (1867-1944) was a Glasgow architect practising in West George Street. He produced many fine pencil drawings of Scottish scenes and this delightful study was obtained from Ewan Mundy Fine Art, 211 West George Street, Glasgow.

