

At Edinburgh and within Palmerston Place Church, the fourteenth day of April 2009, the Presbytery of Edinburgh met and was constituted with prayer.

Sederunt

The Reverend W P Graham, Moderator, the Reverend Dr G J Whyte, Clerk, and others, Ministers, Deacons and Elders as in the Register of Attendance.

2. ROLL OF PRESBYTERY

3. Tributes

3.1 Rev Richard A Baigrie

The Reverend Sean Swindells paid tribute to the late Mr Baigrie who died on the 22 February 2009 aged 88 years:

Richard Baigrie was a man who though small in stature, had a massive impact on the communities that he served. Richard began his ministry as assistant in Kirkcaldy Old Parish Church from 1943 to 1945. In 1946 he answered the call to serve the Church of Scotland in Aden. The charge carried with it the role of chaplain to the RAF. Two years later he set sail for India where he served at Madras St Andrews, a strong congregation who worshipped in a magnificent building. In those formative early years of his ministry Richard earned the respect of a diverse group of people, including those of other faiths. On returning home to Scotland in 1957 he was inducted to Harthill St Andrews and in 1971 moved to his final charge, the linked border charge of Kirkurd and Newlands, where he served until his retirement in 1985.

Richard possessed many gifts and talents. He also excelled at the most feared and dreaded task of parish ministry - administration. Richard was a born administrator and on his return to Scotland his talent was put to good use. From 1957 right through to 1985 he served as Presbytery Clerk, first to the Presbytery of Bathgate and later to the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles. Richard also served the General Assembly from 1970 to 2005 as Editor of Verbatim Reports. Whilst Richard was the consummate churchman, steeped in the ways and procedures of the Kirk, he was first and foremost a pastor. He had what one colleague described as a transparent approachability, an all-absorbing sense of vocation and a consuming love of people.

The congregation of Dalmeny Parish Church have been the most recent to benefit from Richard's Ministry. He served as locum from September 1993 to January 1995 and again from October 2001 to 2007. He had a great love for this ancient historic church and he loved the people. Despite being well on in years, he continued to serve the congregation and local community to the very best of his ability and Richard never lost an eye for detail. I will personally remember him for his pleasant, friendly and encouraging nature.

Richard was also a devoted family man. He was a devoted husband to Jean who passed away in 2007. They were soul mates and he really struggled after her passing, but supported by his daughters Catriona and Alison and his son Stewart, Richard continued to live life to the full albeit at a slightly gentler pace. He continued to be a regular attendee at both Dalmeny & Queensferry, often going to two consecutive morning services. Richard served his Lord and Master to the very best of his ability. He was a faithful servant to the church, a proud

father, grandfather and great grandfather. Richard passed away peacefully at the Western General Hospital, on February 12, 2009 aged 88 years. It was a privilege to have known him.

3.2 Rev John M Patterson

The Reverend William Brown paid tribute to the late Mr Patterson who died on the 11th of March 2009 aged 89 years.

John was born on 17th November, 1919, in Leith, but it seems he quickly became a 'South-sider'. From 1924 to 1931 he attended Sciennes Primary School. He finished his early education at James Clark's Secondary School. Thereafter, except for war-service in the army, John worked in Mechanical Engineering until the early seventies, a total of almost 40 years.

On 1st May 1943 John married Margaret McQueen in Buccleuch Church. They had come to know each other when Margaret was asked to play the piano for the Life Boys. Both were very active in Buccleuch, later Kirk o' Field Church, and John became an elder. He was passionate about his involvement with the Boys' Brigade. Around 1946 he was invited to become Lieutenant and later the Captain of the 9th Leith Company.

In the early 1970s John was accepted for training as a Reader in the Church of Scotland. The course was interrupted by the suggestion that he ought to consider full time ordained ministry. In 1976 he was ordained and inducted to the charge of Blackbraes and Shieldhill in Falkirk Presbytery. John was a well respected parish minister, recognised and appreciated by the whole community for his pastoral care.

He retired from this charge on 31st December, 1987 – but not for long! On 1st May 1988 he took up an Assistantship at Corstorphine Old Parish. Members and minister speak fondly and appreciatively of his service and of his personal support to both minister and congregation.

His ministry at the Old Parish ended suddenly in 1999 when, on his way to conduct morning worship, he had the first of several strokes. His speech was impaired and his right side paralysed. The Pattersons then retired to a flat in Roseburn. Despite his limitations, both he and Margaret were staunch supporters of the congregation at Murrayfield, and wonderful ambassadors. They welcomed all new residents to Murrayfield View and introduced several to the church. He was a great affirmer and despite his speech difficulty he would still sing familiar hymns and recite passages of Scripture by heart.

Following Margaret's death in May, 2006 John moved to Murrayfield House. Here he was visited by former members of his B.B. Company, members of the congregations in which he served, and most faithfully by his friend and colleague, George McCaskill. John never lost his interest in people, his commonsense or his wonderful sense of humour. These characteristics shone through all he did in the service of the Church and of his Lord and we give thanks for his life and his witness.

3.3 Rev James Phillip

The Reverend Philip Hair paid tribute to the late Mr Philip who died on the 12th of March 2009 aged 88 years.

James Philip was born on the 11th of January, 1922. He died on the 12th of March, 2009.

Born in Bucksburn, Aberdeen, James Philip was educated at Robert Gordon's College, after which he went to Aberdeen University where he graduated M.A. in Arts. It was during his time at university that he heard the call of God to the ministry, but before he could begin his studies in divinity he was called up to the RAF, seeing active service in Burma before being invalided home with rheumatic fever. Recovered, he began his theological studies in Aberdeen where he was to begin a friendship with the first of the two men who were to profoundly influence his life and future ministry - the Rev William Still of Gilcomston South Church whose heart for evangelism moved him and stirred him. The second of these two men was the Rev Bill Fitch of Springburn Hill Church in Glasgow, where James served his probationary period, and under whose ministry he was introduced to the systematic exposition of the Bible.

In 1949 James was inducted to the Parish Church of Gardenstown, the fishing village in Banffshire. It was a remarkable nine years of ministry during which there was to be a time of spiritual revival with men and women suddenly flocking to the church in droves, and under James' preaching, finding faith in Christ. He rarely spoke of these days - but when he did, it was always with a sense of awe and wonder at God's amazing grace and power.

In 1958 James was inducted to Holyrood Abbey here in Edinburgh where he immediately began what was to characterise his ministry - the systematic, book-by-book and chapter-by-chapter, exposition of the Bible. This was done Sunday morning and Sunday evening, at a Mid-Week meeting, and by means of Daily Bible Reading Notes which were, in time, to become a complete commentary on the whole of the Bible. It wasn't long before what had been an emptying church was filled - not least with the gallery being packed with students.

Persuaded that lives could only be changed by the sovereign grace of God in the gospel He began a Saturday evening prayer meeting - Saturday night being the only night when the hall was free. People were converted, men were called to the ministry, and many were called to missionary service both at home and overseas. To sit under his ministry, as I did as a student, was to sense both something of the holiness of God and the height, and depth, and length and breadth of the love of God in the gospel. Preaching the cross, which was his great passion, often moved him to tears even as he pled with people to come to Christ.

Whilst not always agreeing with what it did and said, James had a heart for the Church of Scotland. He was a member of the Committee of Forty and served both as an assessor and director in the church's selection school procedure. He was a prolific writer, and was a frequent speaker at university Christian Unions and Bible conventions such as Strathpeffer and Port Stewart in Northern Ireland. Loved, honoured, and respected by his congregation, not just for his preaching but for his pastoral care of his people, he retired having completed 40 years in Holyrood. He was to remain a member of the church - and in 1999 was made its Minister Emeritus. Though becoming both physically and mentally frail, eventually being confined to a wheelchair, he was always in his place for Sunday worship - singing the praises of God, hearing the Word of God, and being with the people of God being simply everything to him.

We extend our sympathy to Mary his wife, and to his two children – William and Jennifer.

4. Admission to Membership

The Reverend Angus Smith, having applied for membership of Presbytery in terms of Act III 2000, section 14, and satisfactory evidence of status and good standing having been presented, the Presbytery proceeded to admit him to membership.

Mr Smith being present, he gave affirmative answer to the prescribed question and signed the Formula.

The Moderator then admitted him to membership of the Presbytery and his name was added to the Roll.

5. Welcome

The Moderator expressed a welcome to the Rev Sunwoo Hwang who was recently appointed as Senior Pastor of the Edinburgh Korean Church and a corresponding member of Presbytery.

6. MINUTES

The minutes of the meetings held on 7 March 2009 and 26 March 2009 were submitted and approved.

7. EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS

Ms Faith Liddle gave a presentation on Edinburgh's Festivals and then answered questions.

The Moderator expressed the Presbytery's thanks.

8. ORDER OF BUSINESS

The Order of Business as circulated was submitted and approved.

9. CONGREGATIONAL BUSINESS

LEAVE-TAKING

The Presbytery accepting the resignation of the Rev Dorothy Anderson as Outreach Minister of St George's and St Andrew's, Rev Russell McLarty spoke on behalf of the Congregation

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Presbytery to Mrs Anderson for her ministry in Edinburgh and assured her of their good wishes in her new appointment.

Mrs Anderson made suitable reply.

10. VACANCY PROCEDURE COMMITTEE

10.1 COLINTON

The Clerk reported that, in terms of Act VIII 2003 anent Vacancy Procedure, the Business Committee, sitting as the Vacancy Procedure Committee for Colinton, had received a Call signed by 306 members and 57 regular worshippers from the congregation in favour of the Rev Rolf Billes, Minister of St Andrew's-Lhanbryd and Urquhart in the Presbytery of Moray.

The Committee had agreed to:

1. sustain the Call to Mr Billes.
2. instruct the Clerk to send an extract minute to the Presbytery of Moray requesting the translation of Mr Billes.
3. subject to receiving such approval, agree to meet for the Induction of Mr Billes on Thursday 14 May at 6.45pm for service at 7pm in Colinton Parish Church; the Moderator to induct and give the charges, the Rt Reverend David Lunan to preach the sermon, the Rev Dr Derek Browning to act as Clerk pro tem, the Clerk to make arrangements for the leading of devotions.
4. report these decisions to the Presbytery on 14 April 2009.
5. instruct the Clerk to cite the congregation to appear at the Presbytery meeting on 14 April.

10.2 ST GEORGE'S WEST

The Clerk reported that, in terms of Act VIII 2003 anent Vacancy Procedure, when a request from the Reverend Peter J Macdonald to demit his charge of St George's West to take up an appointment as leader of the Iona Community had been received, the Business Committee had met as a Vacancy Procedure Committee for St George's West.

The Committee had agreed to:

- 1 release the Reverend Peter J Macdonald from his charge of St George's West on 5th July 2009 to enable him to take up an appointment as leader of the Iona Community;
- 2 declare that the charge of St George's West will become vacant on 5th July 2009;
- 3 appoint an Interim Moderator in the forthcoming vacancy at St George's West;
- 4 note that although the Presbytery Plan indicates that on the occurrence of a vacancy this congregation should be permitted to call a minister on a basis of Reviewable Tenure some form of readjustment is now necessary;
- 5 remit to the Deployment of Resources Committee the vacancy pending at St George's West for consideration and report;
- 6 authorise the Clerk to intimate these decisions to the congregation of St George's West.

Presbytery noted that no request had been received to consider this at a meeting of Presbytery and accordingly received the Report of the Vacancy Procedure Committee for St George's West.

The congregation will have the opportunity of expressing their appreciation of Mr Macdonald's ministry at the June meeting of Presbytery.

11. FRESH START

The Rev Mark Foster gave a presentation on the work of Fresh Start sharing with Presbytery their recent success of securing, along with the Bethany Trust and other agencies, a three year contact with Edinburgh City Council.

12. BUSINESS COMMITTEE

The Convener, Dr Derek Browning, gave in the Report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

12.1 agree that the service of Linking for Kaimes Lockhart Memorial with Liberton should take place on Sunday 17 May at 11am in Liberton Kirk. The Moderator, Clerk and Business Convener to make arrangements.

12.2 note the appointment of the Rev Shirley Fraser as locum at Viewforth with effect from 1 March 2009 and the appointment of the Rev Bill Irving at Craigmillar Park from 18th April 2009

12.3 appoint the Rev Alistair Ridland Chaplain at Western General Hospital to be their representative on the Board of Trustees of the Calton Youth Ministry and to serve as Convener.

12.4 grant permission to the Rev John Tait to take up the post of Part-Time Chaplain at Findlay House as an employee of the NHS.

12.5 grant permission to the Rev Elizabeth Henderson to reside in Duddingston Manse following her marriage to the Rev James Jack and grant permission to the Congregational Board of Richmond Craigmillar to let the manse.

12.6 agree to concur in the decisions of the congregations of Juniper Green, Dean and Stenhouse St Aidan's to adopt the Unitary Constitution and to transmit their applications for the issue of a Unitary Constitution to the Delegation of Assembly.

12.7 agree that the report on the Children's Ministry Coordinator be withdrawn and the matter be considered at the Presbytery's meeting on 5th May 2009.

12.8 pursuant to their resolution of 3 February 2009 and in accordance with SO 10.2 and SO 10.3, the Presbytery elect as their Commissioners to the forthcoming General assembly the following:

a) In accordance with the Act anent ex Moderator of the General Assembly:
J Harkness.

b) Thirty Ministers

P H Beautyman	P MacDonald	J Patterson
G R Barr	M S MacGregor	J R Smith
D Browning	R McLarty	D M Stephen
C Clark	W A McLean-Foreman	A Swindells
B M Embleton	J K S McMahan	J M Tait
C Ford	I A McQuarrie	W R Taylor
B C Hilsley	S Marten	P Webster
J Hood	J R H Middleton	I J Wells
G D Jamieson	G A M Munro	G J Whyte
A F Kelly	A R M Paterson	J M Wilson

c) Thirty one elders, one being elected in accordance with the Act anent ex-Moderator of the General Assembly:

Mr K Archibald (Cramond)	Mr John Lowrie (FEE)
Mr P Cadell (Greenbank)	Mr J Mackie (Colinton Mains)
Mr A Calder (Duddingston)	Mrs K W F McKay (Kirkliston)
Mr E M Cameron (FEE)	Mrs J R MacKenzie (London Road)
Miss E Davidson (Albany Deaf Church)	Mr C R McLeod (Craigmillar Park)
Mr A Edington (Pilrig St Paul's)	Mrs A Orr (Dalmeny)
Dr A Elliot (FEE)	Mr J Pollard (Holyrood Abbey)
Mrs B R Findlayson (St George's west)	Miss M Samuel (St Nicholas Sighthill)
Mr C Godon (Juniper Green)	Mrs D E Short (Dean)

Mr I C Garden (Palmerston Place)	Capt R A Smith (Broughton St Mary's)
Mr A Greig (FEE)	Miss A Wanless (Holy Trinity)
Mr J S Hamilton (New Restalrig)	Mr T C Watson (Corstorphine Old)
Mrs D Henderson (Corstorphine Craigsbank)	Mrs R M Welsh (Slateford Longstone)
Mrs N Henderson (Craiglockhart)	Mr J R Wilkinson (FEE)
Miss Carole Hope (High St Giles')	Mr J H Tait (FEE)
Mrs K Keil (St Andrew's Clermiston)	

d) Four Deacons

Mrs M Gordon, Miss A Mulligan, Mrs M Steele, Miss H Thom.

and in accordance with SO 34 of the General Assembly, appoint as their Youth Representative with the status of a Corresponding Member: Miss R Vennelle, Cramond Kirk.

Thereafter it will be moved:

Commission of Assembly

The Presbytery, in accordance with the procedure set out in the schedule to Act VI 1997, designate as their Commissioners to the Commission of Assembly:

D Browning, J Hood, G J Whyte Ministers; Mr C Godon, Mr A Greig, Miss C Hope, Elders.

13. DEPLOYMENT OF RESOURCES

The Vice-Convener, Mr Sandy Gemmill, gave in the Report.

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

13.1 agree to a request from the City Centre Trust that Ministries Council funding should be sought for the post of Director of Creative Space on the understanding that such an appointment would be limited to twelve months.

13.2 agree that the appointment of the Rev Sean Swindells as Associate Minister at Dalmeny with Queensferry should be extended by twelve months.

14. SUPERINTENDENCE

The Convener, Mr Charles Godon, gave in the report on Stockbridge.

(see Appendix 1)

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery:

14.1 note the congregation's respect for, and appreciation of, their minister, her conduct of worship, the strong emphasis on church as a family and the enjoyment of their shared fellowship.

14.2 share the congregation's concern as they seek to determine the future for the St Stephen's Centre and assure them of their support as they discuss, explore options and engage with others including Presbytery's Property Committee and the General Trustees.

14.3 commend the congregation on their stewardship of significant legacy income used 33% for overseas mission (Jamaica and Malawi); 33% for national mission (CURBS and the Sunflower Project); 33% for local missionary purposes.

14.4 note the falling income from offerings over the quinquennium and encourage the office bearers to consider a Stewardship Campaign aimed at increasing congregational offerings and increasing the percentage (presently less than 20%) of members using Gift Aid.

14.5 commend the congregation's care and maintenance of sanctuary, halls and manse and note the planned work on accessibility and heating.

14.6 commend the 'Celebrating Age Project' ministering to over 1,100 elderly people and 4 Sheltered Housing complexes, encourage the considerations being given to mission, ministry and worship targeted at the many young professionals in the parish and note the possible employment of additional ministry support.

Mr Godon gave in the report on Carrick Knowe.

It was moved, seconded and agreed

The Presbytery:

14.7 note the congregation's appreciation of their minister's enabling leadership and conduct of traditional and novel forms of worship said to be interesting, relevant and topical.

14.8 commend the congregation on its strong community links, its productive contacts with the local school, the extensive community use of church buildings, and the parish wide distribution of Christmas and Easter cards and church magazines.

14.9 note the flatness of congregational offerings throughout the quinquennium, the 28% fall in numbers using Gift Aid and encourage the office bearers in planning and executing a Stewardship Campaign.

14.10 note the congregation's care and maintenance of church, halls and manse and encourage the implementation of a structured repair and maintenance programme for its premises.

14.11 are heartened by the development of youth work and the growing participation of young people in congregational life.

14.12 commend the harmonious, productive and close working relationships with Corstorphine old and Corstorphine St Anne's as well as constructive relationships with the other Corstorphine churches.

14.13 commend the congregation on its provision of the Jubilee Hall for the Dementia Project and the assistance and support given by Carrick Knowe members working with many other non-member volunteers.

Mr Godon gave in the report on Corstorphine St Anne's.

It was moved, seconded and agreed

The Presbytery:

14.14 note minister's enthusiastic and buoyant leadership fostering openness and willingness in the office bearers and congregation to try new things within an inclusive church family.

14.15 congratulate the congregation on its recent Stewardship Campaign and are encouraged by the benefits this has brought in terms of talents as well as money.

14.16 are heartened by the all age inclusiveness of the church family evidenced by events such as a production of "Joseph" involving members from 8 to 86 years of age.

14.17 commend the development of Children's ministry beyond Sundays, the imaginative October Holiday Club and the strength of toddlers to teens young people's activities including uniformed organisations.

14.18 recommend the harmonious, productive and close working relationships with Carrick Knowe and Corstorphine old as well as constructive relationships with the other Corstorphine churches.

14.19 note with interest the development of Fellowship Teams using elders and non-elders in pastoral care visiting allowing targeted support of members when they are in times of greater need.

15. RECORDS

The Convener, Mr Norman Jamieson, gave in the Report

It was taken as read, moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery

15.1 note that records have been submitted by nearly every congregation within the district and that these have been examined and attested in the name of the Presbytery,

15.2 note that the general standard of record keeping continues to improve and is very satisfactory.

15.3 direct the attention of those responsible for maintaining the records to the comments made by the examiners and trusts that these will be assimilated in the records for 2009.

15.4 record its thanks to those responsible for the keeping of all the records of congregations and to the congregations at Holyrood Abbey, Morningside, Murrayfield and Palmerston Place, who provided accommodation and hospitality for the purposes of the examination.

16 HOME MISSION

The Convener, Mr William Farrell, gave in the Report

It was taken as read, moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery

16.1 receive the Reports from Richmond Craigmillar, St David's Broomhouse and The Old Kirk and congratulate all involved in the harmonious and innovative relationships in these congregations and transmit the Reports to the Ministries Council

16.2 note with regret the cancellation of the planned Conference of Chaplains and Congregational Representatives on 25 April and encourage the Committee to provide material to help congregations in their ministry to students.

16.3 note with interest the planned enterprise to set up teams of Street Pastors in Edinburgh involving the Churches, Council and Police and encourage interested congregations to learn more of the scheme. (see Appendix 2)

16.4 approve the allocation of the money available from the Wester Coates Fund as follows: £8,500 to assist with the cost of parish assistants to be shared between Bristo Memorial, Granton, Holy Trinity, Leith St Andrew's, South Leith, St David's Broomhouse.

16.5 approve the allocation of the money available from the Parish Mission Fund as follows:

Colinton Mains	£200	Holiday club for primary school children
Holy Trinity	£850	CLAN gathering for teenagers
Muirhouse St Andrews	£200	Holiday Club for primary school children
The Old Kirk	£1000	Easter and Christmas cards for parish

Ratho	£250	Holiday Club
St Martin's	£66.75	Easter advertising
Asian Concern	£1,000	Upgrading outreach material

17 REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk gave in his report

It was moved, seconded and agreed:

The Presbytery

17.1 note that the Rev Dr Ewan Kelly has taken up a new appointment as Programme Co-ordinator for Healthcare Chaplaincy and Spiritual Care in Scotland from 23 March 2009 and agree that Dr Kelly will retain his seat in Presbytery

17.2 grant permission to the congregation of St George's West to let the manse at 6 Wardie Avenue during the forthcoming vacancy.

17.3 note receipt of the Vacancy Schedule for Colinton and instruct the Clerk to transmit this to the Ministries Council.

18 ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery, having appointed to meet at Kirkliston Church at 6.45pm on Thursday 16th April 2009 for the Ordination and Induction of Mrs Margaret R Lane, adjourned to meet for ordinary business until Tuesday 5 May 2009 at 6.45pm in Palmerston Place Church.

Closed with prayer

Moderator

Clerk

Appendix 1 – Superintendence Reports

Stockbridge

Moderator, Stockbridge Parish Church and associated halls are in good order with work planned on accessibility, heating and kitchen upgrades. The premises are used extensively by local groups such as the Stockbridge Community orchestra; Edinburgh Academy, and Playgroups. The balance of outward and inward looking activities favours the former. This 'looking out' involves parish and community initiatives locally and further a field such as their Malawi and Jamaica projects. As well as money, individuals from Stockbridge have gone to Malawi.

The congregation have responsibility for the St Stephen's Centre – a magnificent New Town, Playfair building. The centre is staffed by a FT Development Officer; PT Administrator; 2 x PT cleaners. Recent plans to form a limited company to

develop the Centre's work fell through. A group with appropriate skills realised the difficulty of the challenges particularly the significant sums required for accessibility. The group produced a business plan but realise they have reached their limitations.

Church leaders recognise that per capita giving is static and have experienced the difficulties of attempting to address this when members are aware of the significant reserves from legacies. Stockbridge sees the danger of becoming 'an investment fund with a church attached.' The congregation's stewardship of its legacy funds is commended in Deliverance c) and Deliverance d) addresses ongoing givings and Gift Aid.

A variety of worship services are offered and the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere has encouraged mums and young children; birthday and baptismal parties have been held after services, involving the whole congregation. There is an active Girls' Brigade that participates in worship. The evening group has experimented with multi-sensory worship, Celtic and Taize Prayers; the Youth Group run services once or twice a year. There are Wed lunchtime prayers in St Stephen's. Holy Week and Easter offer a Labyrinth; Maundy Thursday Meal; Good Friday walk carrying the Cross and an early service in the Botanic Garden. Church music is supported by a talented choir and an enthusiastic musical director.

The closure of their Community Shop 'Bridging the Gap' made a difference to their outreach – effectively it was used as a community drop-in centre. In seeking new ways to develop their mission Stockbridge are partaking in a 'Celebrating Age' project, looking at activities for the "fit elderly" and actively trying to celebrate and value senior members of the community.

Stockbridge has challenges ahead: its falling roll; its per capita giving; the St Stephen's Centre and its future; the future retirement of its minister. However, the people of Stockbridge enjoy each other's company, they feel part of a church family, they enjoy worshipping together, and they have great respect and appreciation for their minister. Stockbridge is a church in good spirits with a healthy awareness of its strengths, weaknesses and opportunities and a willingness to engage with challenges.

Carrick Knowe

Moderator, Carrick Knowe, a church extension charge, was established in 1936. The office bearers are sensitive to the demographics of the parish and take their community links seriously. The buildings, Church, halls, cloister and Jubilee Hall are used extensively by congregation and community; even the vestry is used by a community group during the working week. The many and varied users of the buildings bring many and varied contacts. Church publicity is good with

external banners for major events; Christmas cards, Easter cards and the Church Magazine are distributed around the parish.

The Jubilee Hall has been extensively upgraded, other accommodation repainted and some parts of the manse have been upgraded. This is a congregation where people are willing to offer practical skills; we commend all that has been done and encourage an ongoing programme of maintenance and refurbishment. Whilst money is never in abundance, the congregation respond well to particular appeals. However, Deliverance c) encourages increased ongoing givings. Income from the halls continues to rise and is a valuable source of congregational revenue.

Youth Work is strong. There is a sizeable Sunday Club and a Dynamos Club for those of secondary school age. Other groups include: under 30's; Mothers and Toddlers; Rainbows; Brownies; Guides and Dance Groups. The Youth Orchestra and the choir are areas of strength. Along with the minister of St Anne's, Mrs Mathieson is chaplain to Carrick Knowe Primary; along with Rev Joanne Hood, Mrs Mathieson has embarked on a trial period as chaplain to the Scottish Women's Rugby National Squad!

The recently formed 'World Issues Group' is developing awareness within the congregation. There are Bible Study groups, Advent and Lenten groups. Discussion slots appear regularly on the Kirk Session's agenda and elder training is offered. The division of 'Corstorphine Churches' into two subgroups (three male ministers and three female ministers) works well and the congregation are positive about their inter-church links.

The Office bearers identified their successes as including: the minister's interesting, relevant and topical worship; enthusiastic Sunday Club and youth involvement; Fair-trade Status; active organisations and community use of buildings; growing involvement with the Dementia Project; a World Issues Group; Youth Orchestra and choir. They note their challenges as being: encouraging new members; sustaining organisational leadership; encouraging parental involvement; maintaining income and buildings; retaining young people; improving disabled facilities; increasing opportunities for adult education.

The office bearers speak of enjoying an open and friendly fellowship where everyone 'mucks in'. They offer a warm, lively and welcoming face to the local community. Whilst there are challenges ahead, minister and office bearers are realistic, enthusiastic and have a 'can do' attitude.

Corstorphine St Anne's

Moderator, Corstorphine St Anne's has a parish with 2,500 homes and a few interesting places of work such as the Forestry Commission, Edinburgh Zoo, Corstorphine Hospital and Murrayfield Hospital. The church has two sets of buildings – the church and halls at the junction of St John's Road and Kaimes Road and the Belgrave Hall; all the buildings are well used by Church and Community with profits from commercial lets going to the Fabric Fund. Mrs Rennie works closely with her local colleagues particularly with Corstorphine Old, and with Carrick Knowe in a shared Chaplaincy at Carrick Knowe Primary School

As with the other churches tonight, St Anne's places a high priority on engaging with its community, being open to visitors, being welcoming to all. They have recently conducted a Stewardship Campaign which has successfully increased financial givings and encouraged people to use their talents. The Stewardship campaign was followed with an open weekend in the sanctuary allowing the community to learn more about St Anne's, and St Anne's to learn more about its community.

St Anne's operates using groups of Elders and members. Groups include: Fellowship; Education; Service; Outreach; Worship; Fabric; Business; and Social. Group life is healthy; for instance, the Education Group uses creative ideas for children and adults alike including Bible Studies, Book Clubs, and an 'Upside Down Sunday' when the Sunday School became the Church, and Church became Sunday School. A wide variety of worship opportunities are offered including events such as a Christingle Service with an attendance of around 300 last year. The congregation are led by an able choir and Young Choristers occasionally take part in worship.

Children's Work is encouraged by the Sunday School, the Education Group and through Uniformed Organisations; and there is a good pool of leaders who think creatively. Some Sunday School type events are held outwith Sundays; the October Holiday Club has an imaginative programme. Adult Education is encouraged through the Book Group, Bible Study, Sunday Night speakers, etc. There is also an active Guild and a Mother and Toddler group serves the community. Recently a production of "Joseph" was staged by the congregation and that involved members from age 8 to 86 which highlights the inclusive nature of the Church family.

Many successes but there are challenges – concern for ongoing finances; an ageing membership profile; building maintenance on separate sites; attracting the young and that challenge is being pursued creatively. The congregation is in good spirits, there is openness to trying new things and an active engagement with all that is happening. This congregation gives change a chance. The visiting team were encouraged by Mrs Rennie's enthusiasm and care and by the atmosphere which reflected the "happy bunch of folk" described by its Minister. St. Anne's faces the same challenges as many Church of Scotland congregations

in a changing society, and it faces these challenges with enthusiasm and creativity.

Appendix 2 – Street Pastors

Street Pastors is an Interdenominational Church response to neighbourhood problems; engaging with people on the streets and in night time venues to care, listen, dialogue and offer practical help. The enterprise came into existence in response to the question What can the Church do about crime on our streets? Street Pastors are already in some cities in Scotland but are about to work in Edinburgh. Through discussions with the Police and the Council it was decided that Greenside should be the first area in Edinburgh. A group of seven local churches are working together to achieve this. They have formed a management Team with someone representing each of the seven churches. At the moment they have twenty volunteers: volunteers have to have a live church connection. Volunteers have to put up £300 to cover training, uniform and their equipment. Street Pastors will be easily identified and will carry a rucksack with first aid supplies, protective gloves, space blankets, flip flops, dustpan and brush and information packs. They are expected to do twelve days of training and to work twelve days on the street 8pm-4am

Where Street Pastors are present the crime figures have been reduced.

-note with interest the planned enterprise to set up teams of Street Pastors in Edinburgh involving the Churches, Council and Police and encourage interested congregations to learn more of the scheme.