

Edinburgh Albany Deaf Church.

Dundee Deaf Church

Fife Deaf Church

Borders Deaf

Spring 2007



Here is my sketch of Edinburgh from Salisbury Crags- one of the best views of Edinburgh.

If you can take a walk in Holyrood Park and if you feel really energetic try climbing up the up the side of Salisbury Crags. When I did this someone even passed me cycling uphill on a mountain bike!. The reward is the view.

Perhaps I should have had a picture of snow drops, crocuses and daffodils. Spring is a lovely time of year with the renewal of Nature after the cold winter weather.

Prayer- *"Heavenly Father we thank you for the beauty of Nature around us. In Springtime may we too find new life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Beginning to think of summer holidays

by Margaret Lawrie

As we are now approaching summer time, when we take most holidays- a time when we get away from work and enjoy ourselves wherever in the country, by sea or in some foreign parts where we can bask in the sunshine and admire the scenery.

The word 'holiday' comes from 'holy day'. After people attended the morning service the rest of the day was their own.

There have been many changes since then in people's attitudes towards our churches. We know how important it is to get away from business or work for a complete change to build ourselves up. But not to let us go into our own ways forgetting how our Lord and Saviour Jesus set an excellent example for us to follow thus becoming vulnerable to unfaithfulness and selfishness.

So Almighty God we thank you for these things, which stir our conscience and make us proud of the heritage that is ours. Help us to be thankful for all that you have given and send us forth from your presence renewed in our desire to serve you faithfully for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Welcome to Edinburgh Presbytery Committee

We have a special service on Sunday 11th March 07 at 2pm, refreshments and a meeting about 3.30pm of the Kirk Session and Congregational Board with the committee. The committee's meeting with the Kirk Session and Congregational Board will be informal

The convener of the committee is Rev Sarah Nicoll from Craigmillar Park Church in Edinburgh. Sarah, who signs, is well known to us all. The other members of her committee are elders of her church. Remember they visited us 5 years ago.

The committee are visiting us on what the Presbytery calls a 'quinquennial visitation'. This simply means that the Presbytery committee come to see us every 5 years. The committee report back to the Presbytery.

Easter Carol Service in Kirkcaldy



My version of
 'Welcome Pamphlet'
 of St Andrew's Church
 KE.

Once again we have been invited by St Andrews Church in Kirkcaldy to a carol service, Last time was on Christmas Eve to a Christmas carol service. This time it is for an Easter Carol Service on Easter Day Sunday 8th April 07 at 11am.

The Deaf and hard of hearing members will come from Edinburgh, Fife and Dundee. From Edinburgh the bus leaves the Trust at 9.15am and York Place or St Andrews Square soon afterwards. We have 21 people travelling on the bus. The bus returns to Edinburgh leaving Kirkcaldy at 1pm. After the service we have refreshments in the hall.

The Christmas Carol service was a great success. We received a very warm welcome from the minister Rev Donald Thomson and his members.

Summer Outings

Fr Leo Glancy and I are hoping to arrange our summer outing to a church in St Andrews on Sunday 19th August 07. I have contacted Rev Bill Rigby of the Northumbrian Deaf Church for an outing with them on the Scottish side of the border to a church in one of the Border abbey towns perhaps sometime in September. Arrangements still have to be made. Details will appear in the Summer issue.

Scottish Deaf Choir Festival

After the festival was over in January people kept saying to me that it was the best festival ever. The choirs were great including our joint choir of Edinburgh Christian Deaf Choir and St Margaret's Catholic Deaf Choir/

led by Mary McDevitt signing 'Behold'.

St John's Renfield Church in Glasgow was a magnificent setting for the festival. When we arrived I was amazed at the number of people present Deaf, hard of hearing and hearing. I would estimate that there was about 300 people at the festival.

In our bus apart from Edinburgh Deaf we had people from the Borders, Fife and Grangemouth.

In the days before the festival on Sunday afternoon of 21st January 07 I was worried about the weather. The forecasts were not particularly good. I think we had what was called a 'weather window' and escaped from gales, rain, snow, ice etc..

* The next Scottish Deaf Choir Festival will be in Linlithgow in St Ninian's Caimailen Church on Sunday 4th November 07 at 3pm.

Last March 06 I spoke to St Ninian's Caimailen Women's Guild to talk about Deaf awareness. We all had fun practicing some basic signs and finger-spelling.

This church is close to the new building of Donaldson's College. Soon the school/ will move from Edinburgh to Linlithgow.

Worldwide Deaf Church

Founded in 1832 we claim to be the oldest Deaf Church in the world. Now Deaf churches exist around the world.

1. We are looking forward to the visit of evangelist Joanes Owino Sianga of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in May 07. Joanes works in the Deaf church in Mombassa, Kenya, travels throughout Kenya and has visited Deaf churches in Rwanda and the Congo. He will be visiting Deaf churches in Scotland.

EADC sent money out to assist Joanes in purchase of video camera to video some of his work among the deaf. Later we sent out more money to assist in tackling the problem of HIV/Aids affecting some Deaf church members. It is likely to be used in preventative work relating to HIV/Aids awareness to make people aware of how to avoid the illness.

2. Last April 06 Rev. Isaac Sutherson and his wife Florence science teacher in a local Deaf school came to visit us. Isaac is hearing a minister in the Church of South India to the Deaf church in a place called Chittenden near the Southern tip of India. Isaac runs a Deaf centre and founded a residential home for elderly Deaf, who otherwise would be begging in the streets. A Fife Deaf Church in Kirkcaldy member arranged for a local woman's group to send money to help the Deaf Scholl in Chittenden, where Florence teaches.

3. Jill Dunlop told us about her work with 'street children' in Peru through the charity 'Amazon Hope'. During 2 summer holidays when she was a student at Edinburgh university Jill went out to Peru to help . Deaf people at their annual conference in Dunblane took up a collection to help Peruvian street children..

4. A few years ago a young Russian journalist/



attended one of our services at the Trust. She told us about the Russian Orthodox Deaf Church in Moscow. The Deaf church in Moscow meets in an old monastery in the city where their services last a couple of hours. In communist times the monastery was used as a cinema.

5. For a while I sent our Newsletter to the Deaf Church in Montenegro the capital of Uruguay. I always wrote a paragraph in Spanish in our Newsletter for the Deaf in Uruguay I lost contact because the Church of England priest returned home due to illness. She was also a nurse in a school in Montenegro.

Joanes Owino Sianga's Visit to Deaf Churches in Scotland

Joanes arrives in Edinburgh on Saturday morning 12th May. On Sunday 13th May he will take services at Edinburgh Albany and Dundee Deaf Churches at 11am and 3pm, Joanes will stay in Dundee until the Wednesday morning of 16th May when he will travel to Aberdeen. He will be in Aberdeen on Thursday 17th May. On Friday 18th May he will travel from Aberdeen to Dunblane where he will attend until Sunday 20th May and speak/sign at the conference of the Scottish Deaf Churches' Council.

On Monday 21st May he will be at the General Assembly officially invited as a 'visitor'. From Monday evening 21st to Thursday morning 24th May he will be in Glasgow.

Later on Thursday 24th May 07 he departs from Edinburgh I hope with many happy memories of his visit to Deaf Churches in Scotland

Jehovah's Witnesses

Jehovah's Witnesses go round the doors visiting homes. Their intention is to persuade people to convert to their beliefs. In the next issue I will tell you about their beliefs. Jehovah's Witnesses train some of their members in BSL in order to persuade Deaf people to join Jehovah's Witnesses.

7 years ago when I attended a BSL class in Forfar- for me on a 'refresher course'. We were all asked why we were learning BSL. One young lady replied that she was a member of Jehovah's Witnesses and wanted to learn BSL in order to do 'missionary work'.

My advice is that if a Jehovah's Witness missionary comes to your door say, for example, "Thanks for coming but I'm a member of the Deaf Church".

Tributes

Lord God may Jesus' death and resurrection bring them the peace of your eternal home. Amen.

Jim McGregor

by Robert Burnett

Jim McGregor died aged 91. He was born in Arbroath where his father was a railway signalman. The family later moved to Monifieth.

Jim became Deaf at the age of 8. He was sent to Donaldson's College which he attended until he was aged 16.

After leaving school he worked in Logan Engineering Works in Lochee in Dundee where he worked for 44 years as a precision engineer including the last 12 years as a charge hand.

Jim was a staunch campaigner on behalf of Deaf people throughout Scotland. His work was recognised when he was awarded the MBE in 1994. He was chairman of the Dundee Deaf Sports and Social Club and for many years chairman of the Dundee branch of the BDA. From 1990 until he retired in 2001 he was on the Board of Governors of Donaldson's College.

Jim was predeceased by his wife Winnie, son Robbie, daughter Catherine and granddaughter Catherine. He is survived by his sister Mrs Cox, who is resident in a nursing home in England.

by Alistair

I knew Jim on visiting his home in Monifieth and later at Camus House Nursing Home in Carnoustie. Always I found Jim to be friendly and welcoming interested to hear about others he knew. In Camus House Nursing Home I could see he was very popular among staff and other patients. He is very sadly missed by us all.

Margaret (Libby) Robertson

by Joanna Taylor her grand-daughter

We would like to celebrate the life of a very special lady Margaret Anderson Robertson. She was a loving and devoted wife, a kind and attentive mother, a warm hearted grandmother and a wonderful friend to all who knew her.

Margaret was born Margaret Anderson Libberton on 25th June 1915. She attended Henderson Row Royal Deaf School and it was there that she was nicknamed Libby so as to save confusion from all the other Margarets! She enjoyed swimming and games and received many medals and trophies.

Upon leaving school she started work as a housemaid and cook for Deaf children during the 2nd world war.

She was introduced to Tom Robertson at 16, who courted her for 9 years. She finally agreed to marry him. They lived at Thistle Place and had 3 children Tommy, John and Rosemary, who all have fond memories of the love shown by their mother.

One memory Tommy will carry with him is the care his mother took to pass on her cookery skills. She was a woman of great patience and never lost her temper with her children. John recalls coming home to the smell of pastry baked biscuits and cakes and go hunting for them. But Mum would have to hide them from him so as not to/

spoil his dinner!

Rosemary was the last to fly the nest. Every Saturday they would have a ladies' lunch date where they would gossip and chat up the waiters.

So with all the memories past Tommy, John and Rosemary would like everybody to join them to remember their mother a truly loved and admired woman who will be sadly missed by us all..

by Maisie Baillie

Margaret (Libby) Robertson had been a good support for the Deaf church women's guild, for senior citizens' lunch, the deaf committee and the management committee at the Deaf Club.

She had a happy home with her husband Tom and family. She had not been well for a few years and due to her health unable to get out to meet her friends at the Deaf club.

Anne Paterson

By a relative

ANNE MILLER was born on 12th March 1918 in Tarbolton near Ayr. Anne became Deaf due to childhood illness. She went to school at Donaldson's Hospital.

She married John Fyfe who was Deaf, whom she had first met at school. They had 2 sons Robert and John. She was a loving and caring mother for her 2 hearing sons, who had a happy time as children.

The family lived in KILBIRNIE in Ayrshire. Anne and her husband John both worked in the local thread factory. Her husband JOHN died.

Later Anne remarried. Her second husband was Andrew Paterson, who was Deaf.. They lived in Edinburgh. She outlived Andrew.

She was a loving & caring mother, grandmother & great-grandmother. She was very happy when STUART, NICKI & JAKE visited her.

She was very friendly, liked meeting people and enjoyed the Deaf club.

By Alistair

I first knew Anne 7 years ago when I visited her in her flat at 3 Portobello Road.. She was welcoming and friendly. I remember speaking to a hearing neighbour, who told me that Anne was always a good neighbour. There she helped others when she could and in return they helped her.

About 2 years ago she came to live at the Trust Housing Association. She looked forward to staying at the Trust. Life was easier for Ann. Signing was the means of communication. Some of her friends lived at the Trust. She knew them since school days at Donaldson's College.

Anne was quiet, kind and caring lady. She attended church every Sunday other than when she was ill. We will all miss Anne very much. May she rest in peace.

Tribute to Adam Davies died 2nd February 07

by Maisie Baillie

I knew Adam since we were at Donaldson's school when he came to the school from Henderson Row Deaf School in the 1939.

Adam was a nice gentleman when he came to the Deaf Chub and the Deaf Church.

Adam was a very good chess player often going in for competition matches.

Adam was a very good hard worker He would shift baths on a fork lift to carry into/

new houses at Oklit Construction firm in Sighthill for a few years and he went into Miller Construction building yard near Granton to work the fork lifter with wood planks until he retired at 65 years of age.

Adam married Jane Sarah Thomson. He was a good friend to his parents-in-law. Adam lived in a flat at High Street opposite the Tron Church. When they married, Jane came to live with him in the flat. Later Jane's eyesight went dim. They decided to move to Stenhouse.

At one time both he and Jane were patients in 2 different hospitals- Adam in the Royal Victoria Hospital and Jane in the Royal Infirmary. Jane's right leg became infected with ulcers. At that time Maisie took care of the couple. She continued to help them for 18 years. They were very good friends.

Adam used to take Jane for walks and to the Deaf Club. Before she became blind Jane loved to be in the dramatic club.

For a few years before her death Jane was a patient in Corstorphine Hospital. Adam missed her so much. To pass the time Adam loved watching television.

Adam was a very nice man. He loved football and was a great Hearts supporter. May he rest in peace.

GEORGE BAIN

by a one of his sons

On 3rd November 1941 George Bain was born in Gilmerton in Edinburgh. His father & mother were John and Bridget. He was the youngest of the family. He had 2 brothers Edward and John and sister Anne. He was baptised in Gilnerton Parish Church.

George was the only member of the family who was Deaf. GEORGE as a child went to Donaldson's College. He had a great love of sport especially football and basketball. In both sports he represented Scotland for the Deaf. He gained many trophies to show his successes in sport.

After leaving school GEORGE went to work as a green keeper at Craigmillar Golf Club. Later he worked as green keeper in Monktonhall and Uphall. He was green keeper of Uphall Golf Club for most of his working life. Naturally he was interested in golf and was a very good golfer. He travelled throughout the UK with Deaf golfers & again won many trophies.

George was a great supporter of Hearts and went to as many matches as he could.

George met his wife Maureen in 1971. Maureen and George became engaged in St Valentine's day and later married on 21st August of the same year. They were married for over 35 years. For George- his wife & family came first. He loved his wife, children and his grandchildren.

Unfortunately GEORGE had a stroke in 1999. He became housebound but he bore his illness bravely.

We will all miss him. May he rest in peace.

*Extracts from my report to the Support Group for Deaf
Ministries meeting in Edinburgh on 23rd March 07
'My Deaf parish' If Edinburgh Albany Deaf Church were to be considered in/*

isolation I would have to say that I work only part time. My parish is 1/3 of Scotland stretching in an arc from North to South from Montrose to the English Border and at its widest point from East to West from Edinburgh to Stirling.

Visiting schools- Deaf children

Deaf children are obviously the future both of the Deaf community and church. The schools I visit are Craigie High and Claypotts Castle Primary Schools in Dundee and Donaldson's College in Edinburgh.

On 16th January I attended BSL class in Craigie High School and will visit on 13 March 07. Later I will visit Claypotts Castle Primary School and Donaldson's College for Easter.

Deaf children teach me so much and share with me their experiences. In return I talk about the Deaf Church and the Faith principally through story telling.

Outings

Outings for Deaf church members and others is an important feature of our church life. I see Deaf people I would not normally see in church. The outing is enjoyable in itself but unobtrusively gives the opportunity to spread the Faith.

On Sunday 19th August 07 we have our annual joint outing with St Margaret's Catholic Church to St Andrews.

Later in the year possibly in September or October 07 I hope to arrange a pilgrimage of Edinburgh & Borders Deaf with Northumbrian Deaf Church possibly in a church in Melrose, Kelso or Dryburgh associated with one of the Border Abbeys. Last September we were invited to join with the Northumbrian Deaf Church based in Newcastle on a pilgrimage to Holy Island or Lindisfarne.

Visit of Joanes Owino Sianga of Kenya 12th -24th May 07

We are looking forward to the visit of evangelist Joanes Owino Sianga of the Presbyterian Church of East Africa in May 07. Joanes works in the Deaf church in Mombassa, Kenya, travels throughout Kenya and has visited Deaf churches in Rwanda and the Congo. He will visit Deaf churches in Scotland.

I am organizing his visit. I am grateful to World Mission, who made the arrangements for his travel between Kenya and Edinburgh and paid for it.

Edinburgh Albany Deaf Church sent money out to assist Joanes in purchase of video camera to video some of his work among the Deaf. Later we sent out more money to assist in tackling the problem of HIV/Aids affecting some Deaf church members

Future through the internet

Edinburgh Albany Deaf Church features in the website of Greenside Parish Church as well as that of the Church of Scotland. This Newsletter will go on the Greenside Parish Church website. I would like to explore the possibilities of further use of the internet to try to reach a younger generation of computer literate Deaf

I know some of you as well as lots of the young Deaf are into computers? What do you think of the idea? The ideal solution would be someday and somehow to have a website for the Deaf church for our 1/3 of Scotland- Edinburgh Albany, Dundee & Fife Deaf churches & Borders Deaf church members! To begin with we could start raising funds to get and maintain a website.

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