From the minister …

As I write this letter the town of Lanark is in the middle of our Lanimer Week Celebrations. The weather, thus far, has been more than a little unpredictable. Some days, we have seen three or four seasons with bright blue sunshine and then a river running down the road. However, it seems that the events up until now have gotten away with it! The rain hasn’t spoiled the party … yet.

Have you ever noticed how the weather can play a crucial part in the way in which we live our lives? In Scotland, when we go away for the day the ensure that we have suncream as well as waterproofs, sunglasses as well as an umbrella. We always seem to be well prepared for whatever Mother Nature throws at us.

It makes me wonder, how prepared are we for other things that life throws at us? We are preparing as a family to go on a big adventure to America as we swap churches with the Richardsons for the summer. We are having to be more prepared than we have ever been. I have learned new ways to be organised (mainly by watching Pauline to be honest!) and I have seen the need to make sure everything is taken care of.

Organisation is not one of my strong points and I admit that from time to time, things slip off the desk. I am not the most prepared of people except when I really, really have to be.

What about our church? How prepared are we? Prepared for what you might ask. Prepared, for whatever we encounter as we make our journey of faith together as a church family.

The Church of Scotland is currently facing one of the biggest sets of decisions it has ever had to take. The General Assembly heard that the kirk is having to cut the number of ministries (ministers, parish workers and deacons) from 1250 to 1000. This will have an effect on every corner of our land … and it will have an effect on us in Greyfriars I am certain.

Reducing the number of ministers, reducing the number of church buildings is not necessarily a bad thing in this day and age. And no, I am not trying to talk myself out of a job!

It provides us with an opportunity to use people in a new way from within the church family. Over the next few years there will be a need to reduce the necessity we have in the church to be minister-centric. We will all need to understand that as the numbers of ministers decreases, the workload for the remaining ministers will only increase. That will mean that we all, every one of us, will need to get involved in the life, ministry and mission of our church.

We can all think at times that we are not useful or that we are too busy to do anything in the church. That is simply not true! There are many ways in which we can get involved. They may be ‘up-front’ ways like helping to lead worship, or the holiday club, or the Sunday School. They may be more background roles, like making the coffee, organising the flowers in church or visiting people in the name of the church. They may be more spiritual roles, joining the prayer chain or praying for our church.

There is not one person within our church family who cannot do something to help the life and witness of Greyfriars. We all have it within us to be something of use to God. It was once said that within the membership of the church existed a hugely untapped potential of people who can advance the mission of God in our community.

Now is perhaps the time that we need to pull together, tap that potential and all use our gifts for the good of our community.

So let us support one another. Let us use our gifts. Let us support our church both physically, spiritually and financially. Let us prepare for the future with cheerfulness and joy and in the knowledge that what we do for God, we do together.

I wish you well this summer and look forward to sharing some of my experiences with you when I return from my study leave in September.

Yours,
We have a wonderful opportunity in Greyfriars Church to make a difference and support the work of the church and community. For many generations Greyfriars Church has supported the life of our community, our nation and our world as we have given money and been engaged in sharing the gospel through our worship, fellowship, mission and service.

October 2010 marks an important event in our church family as we look to continue to support life around us. We support life by the talents that we have and use for God. We support life through the work in which we are engaged as a church family. We support life through the prayers that we offer to God.

We also support life through the gifts of money we give in our regular Christian giving. None of us really likes to talk about money - what we give, how we give, how much we should give.

This is something we like to keep private - between us and God. The Bible has a very public attitude to money and possessions. Many verses are devoted to this subject. The Old Testament speaks about the tithe which should be offered to God. In the gospels Jesus has a great deal to say about selfishness and sharing - condemning those who keep all their possessions to themselves and praising those who are willing to share in a generous way. Later in the New Testament Paul encouraged the first Christians to give generously so that the better off congregations in places like Corinth could support the poor congregation in Jerusalem.

In the weeks leading up to our Congregational Gatherings in October, we should all be thinking about our attitude to money and possessions, and about our giving to God for the work of his Church.

How generous is God’s giving to us? How generous is our giving as a response to God's giving? How generous is our giving as a desire to share the good news of God’s love through the work of the Church?

So what are we asking you to do now after all October is a long way off! Over the next few months we want you to ‘Pray and Display’.

Firstly, we want you to pray. Over the summer we would like you to remember the ‘Support Life’ programme in your prayers. Towards the end of the summer we will issue every household with a prayer card with specific prayers for each day of the week in order that we can all support the initiative.

Secondly we want you to ‘display’. At the same time that you receive the prayer cards we will also issue you with a removable car window sticker (or a living room window sticker if you don’t have a car). We would like every household in Lanark that is part of Greyfriars Church to display at least one of our stickers. It is a great way of getting people talking about the church and about the programme in advance of our gatherings.

It really is that easy to get involved and be an important part of our Support Life programme. All we ask is that over the next few months, as we approach October that we all ‘Pray and Display’.

2011 Calendar on Sale

The 2011 fundraising calendar featuring 12 stunning colour photographs of the Lanark area will be on sale by the end of June in selected retailers throughout the town as well as on our church website.

The cost is only £5 and represents great value and a great idea for presents for family and friends.

Stocks are strictly limited and can be purchased from WH Smith, Lanark Post Office, Jacks the Ironmongers and New Lanark Visitor Centre and Shop.

Calendars can also be purchased from the Church Office by calling in or phoning 661510.
Greyfriars Wrigglers

Do you have, or know someone who has a baby or toddler and is looking for something to do on a Friday? Each week in the church hall our Wrigglers parent and toddler group meet for play, singing, crafts, stories and songs.

Our newly established committee will be pleased to welcome any new families who wish to come along and join the group. It meets in the church hall each Friday morning from 9:45—11:45am.

Why not encourage those you know to come along? They will be made welcome. And we guarantee that the children (and the parents) will have a fantastic time! We hope to see you very soon.

Greyfriars Printing Service

Did you know that Greyfriars Church provides a printing service for people within our community? We can copy up to A3 size in black and white or in full colour. Whether you need a picture copied, a poster or 1,000 programmes for your event ask us to help. Not only can we provide you with copying at a very reasonable cost but any money made goes straight back into church funds to help us carry out our work. For more details contact the church office on 01555 661510.
No Excuse Sunday
(By Nancy Muir)

To make it possible for everyone to attend church this Sunday, we are going to have a special “No Excuse Sunday.”

1. Cots will be placed in the foyer for those who say, “Sunday is my only day to sleep in.”
2. There will be a special section with lounge chairs for those who feel that our pews are too hard.
3. Eye drops will be available for those with tired eyes from watching TV late on Saturday night.
4. We will have steel helmets for those who say, “The roof would cave in if I ever came to church.”
5. Blankets will be furnished for those who think the church is too cold, and fans for those who say it is too hot.
6. Scorecards will be available for those who wish to list the hypocrites present.
7. Relatives and friends will be in attendance for those who can’t go to church and cook dinner too.
8. We will distribute “Stamp Out Stewardship” buttons for those that feel the church is always asking for money.
9. One section will be devoted to trees and grass for those who like to seek God in nature.
10. Doctors and nurses will be in attendance for those who plan to be sick on Sunday.
11. The sanctuary will be decorated with both Christmas poinsettias and Easter lilies for those who never have seen the church without them.
12. We will provide hearing aids for those who can’t hear the preacher and cotton balls for those who think he’s too loud.

Hope to see you there!

PASTORAL ACTION GROUP

One of the main aims of our group is to keep members of our congregation informed about what is happening at Greyfriars and we hope that you have been enjoying the new format of the Greyfriars Gazette and that it has kept you well informed about what has been happening.

We are now looking at ways to ensure that the members of the Congregation receive regular visits from a member of the Congregation as we are very aware that there are some households that have not been visited for some time.

The Kirk Session has agreed that we should change the way that the visits to the members are arranged. In the past each Elder was allocated a district and they visited the members within their district. This has not been working successfully for some time for a variety of reasons. We hope that the proposed changes will change this and that each household will be visited.

We have created 7 large districts. Each district will have a Team Leader (who is and elder) and they will have a team made up of both elders and members of the congregation. The Team Leader and the members of their team will visit the houses within their districts. Each household will receive a letter explaining the changes in detail.

Full details of the Districts, their Team Leaders and Team Members will be published in the next Greyfriars Gazette. Bryan or I will be happy to answer any questions you may have about the changes at any time.
MINISTRIES DEVELOPMENT WORKER

The Kirk Session are delighted to announce the appointment of a new Ministries Development Worker, Scott Paget who will commence work on Monday 12th July. Scott will identify fresh initiatives to develop new and different ministries amongst all age groups within and beyond the church family, paying particular attention to children and young people and new expressions of church.

Scott is currently a youthworker with the Salvation Army in Easterhouse. He is a graduate of the International Christian College in Galsgow with a BA in Youth Work and Applied Theology and has a Post Graduate Certificate in Community Education from the University of Strathclyde. He also happens to help lead our youth group on a Sunday morning!

We asked Scott a few questions about himself and his new role to help us as a church family get to know him.

Can you tell us a bit about yourself?

I am happy currently, I am involved in a process of change which is kinda unsettling and kinda fun.

Who am I? I am someone who makes mistakes, tries to live, tries to understand. I want to do better, I want to try harder, I want to believe down to the letter.

What do I do? I am a husband, father, youth worker, music lover, TV watcher, reflective, believer, hopeful, friend, thinker, reader, webperson, inactive, active and more beside.

You have been coming along to Greyfriars for about 18 months now what was it that brought you to our church ... and what is it that has made you stay?

We came to Greyfriars because we were looking for a church where we could be comfortable. Greyfriars was quite comfortable, and we felt it would do well for us as a family. We stayed because we enjoyed the feeling of Greyfriars, the amount of light in the church and the way people have treated us. Also we have had opportunities to take part in things, and we have seen the church change since February 2008.

You have been involved in Christian youth work for a number of years, can you tell us a little of what you do as a youthworker?

Most people have a picture in their head about what youth worker does, generally this revolves around running lots of activities, cracking bad jokes, and generally being all things to all people. My understanding is that’s not youthwork. A youth worker is not someone who runs entertainment for young people, although this can be a part of the job.

A youthwork is an ethic which colours how you engage and work with young people. It is based on informal education, and seeks to through reflection and challenge to allow space for change to happen. A youthworker basically works ethically with young people. Currently some of my work includes meeting and working with young people in various locations, in schools, churches, on the street, wherever young people are. Creating space for reflection and challenge.

You are also involved in trying to help people engage with the Christian faith in new and meaningful ways can you share some of your involvement in this area?

I am involved in this currently in several ways including,

At Third Sunday, which is a small event in Glasgow. We explore faith and what that means for the young people who live in the east end of Glasgow. My particular role is in organising and pushing for the creative, new and sometimes ancient ways of exploring what is going on.

I am a director of Solas Festival. Solas which is happening the last weekend in June is an attempt on a national basis to allow people to engage with faith, arts and justice. Challenging people in what faith means and how we can engage with it, questioning how this relates to the Arts sector, and issues of Justice.

Some of the work I have done in this area, challenged some young people. They were challenged and reflected on the work I had done with them, as the reflected and prayed about stuff, God spoke to them and they were inspired to start a church in Glasgow which is engaging solely with young people who would describe themselves as punk/emo/goth, on the streets of the city centre. It is amazing to know that I played a very minor part in that story.

What do you hope to achieve in this new role at Greyfriars?

I hope to be involved in a process of change;

Changing Greyfriars church.

Growing understandings of church, and its current/possible nature

Changing how people see God.

Changing perceptions of Greyfriars as a church.

Based on the part time nature of the job and the long term aims above, I don’t think all this will happen in 12 months. But I do hope to play a part in the process which can make that change happen.

What are you hoping the congregation will do to support you in your work?

I think what is needed is support which allows me to support the church back. I am not coming into this job with a defined work plan. My aim is to find out what the church wants to do, to try and see where god is already working and how we can do things to help. Support will come with prayer, ideas, conversations (over food?), listening and challenging. All of which will be gratefully received. and when the congregation has ideas, hopefully I can support them.

Anything else you want to share!

I am a part time vegetarian.

The post of Ministries Development Worker is funded from a legacy from the late Miss Frame. This legacy was left to the church a number of years ago with the condition that it not be used for fabric (building) purposes. The Kirk Session are confident that the provision of this post would have been something Miss Frame herself would have approved of.
Wednesday 19th May

Woke up and the nerves were really rattling me! I was checking in to the hotel at 5pm, and I hadn’t got a single thing packed or anything. I was more concerned about buying chocolate for the room for Andrew and me. So, indeed, I went out and bought the chocolate, which inevitably wasted some time, and made my nerves worse rather than better. I decided it was time to get cracking with the packing. Everything got ironed, my suit was packed up nicely in the zippy-holder, and I was ready to go!

Wasn’t due to check into the Travelodge until 5pm, but managed to get in early and get rid of my luggage. The room was better than I expected – had a double bed (which I claimed) and a pull out bed which Andrew, my room-mate, slept on. We came to a deal that if I got the bed then he got 2 pillows – which I thought was fair. My room-mate was a really nice guy! Hung around for an hour and a bit until it was time for the introduction session. This is where I got my purple folder which included my invitation to Holyrood Palace and the Beating Retreat. Also included was security passes, booklets detailing free lunches, and that sort of thing.

Next was the Scottish Story Telling Centre on the Royal Mile for dinner and a preparation session for the next day’s opening ceremony and business. Browsed over certain topics in the Big Blue Book (the Big Blue Book contains all the reports for the GA, and which could kill a cat if it landed on it when put through your letter box!) to see if we all agreed/ disagreed on some of the things being discussed, and if we wanted to ask any questions.

The preparation session ended with a Review Prayer - a period of quiet in which we reflected on the past day and what moods we had felt when arriving and meeting new people, and what our emotions were on the coming week. This finished early so, naturally, it was off to the pub for some proper getting to know each other.

Thursday 20th May

Worship was at 8am, and getting up and ready at 7am in time for it while functioning on 6 hours sleep isn’t one of the easiest tasks I’ve had bestowed upon me. Never-the-less, I managed. Breakfast followed the worship, and the Scottish Storytelling Centre really knows how to rustle up a bacon roll.

I followed the lead of the other who’d been before, and headed up to the Assembly Hall for 9am … a whole HOUR before it was due to open. But certain people, being true Presbyterians, wanted to get their usual seats for the opening ceremony. Before entering the Hall we had to check our Pigeon Holes. I had a Pigeon Hole at the General Assembly - that made me feel important!

For my first ever General Assembly I was seated at almost the very front. Then, the message I had been waiting for came through … the text from Bryan telling me he was spying on me on the WebCast.

BANG! - Moderator!

This instruction is the banging of a gong, and the entrance of the current Moderator. His entrance is noted by the exclamation of “Moderator!” by a person who I can’t remember their title. On this note the whole assembly hall stands to receive the Moderator. He bows to each 3rd of the hall individually, and each 3rd bows in return. His Grace the Lord High Commissioner then enters and the same bowing rules apply. The General Assembly is then opened with a hymn. This was an experience which I was not expecting. It’s all very well a hymn. This was an experience which I was not expecting. It’s all very well having a touching hymn in church that moves you in such a way that you feel a presence within you or around you but let’s be honest - there’s not really that much effort from those in the congregation. Singing hymns at assembly however … it’s an experience that words can’t describe enough!

You have to be there to witness and understand the impact this has. No accompaniment; just someone keeping the timing of the hymn, and everyone sings, and when I say everyone I mean EVERYONE, and when I say sings I mean SINGS! The feeling that goes through you when you hear this is just mind blowing.

Then the boring stuff started. I did find the Queen’s letter to the Assembly interesting however. The rest of the stuff was in all fairness interesting - interesting to see what goes on in the depths of the church, but at the same time I was sitting saying to myself “Just hurry up!”

One thing I was told before going to G.A. was not how it was run, or where to go, or anything like that, but - “Try to get as many free lunches as you can.” So today was the turn of the TearFund organisation. It turned out to be interesting however! TearFund is a major group that is helping the earthquake victims in Haiti, and there was a man speaking who is Haitian, and to hear from someone directly affected in person was a different experience to hearing someone on the TV. So here’s hoping the rest of them this week will be the same. Tomorrow it’s Rural Ministries with Bryan, so that should be good.

After lunch I, along with several others, retreated to the balcony, which was a bad move! The front row of the balcony resulted in my knees being behind my
ears and my pelvis being turned to dust due to the lack of leg room. However, sitting in the balcony means you’re out of the way of the Moderator’s wandering eyes and you’re free to yawn during the boring business.

Business ended at just before 5pm, and Frankie and Benny’s took care of dinner. Myself along with 4 other Youth Reps got to know each other a bit better.

As usual our prep session went ahead, and we discussed some of the topics coming up in the following day’s business. We spoke over a few topics and gave our opinions and asked questions.

Worship commenced after the prep session. The Worship for the Youth Reps was something very different. It only lasts about 20 minutes, but they’re always very reflective and very moving. A poem was read tonight, and in between each verse this song was sung:

Don’t be afraid, my love is stronger.
My love is stronger than your fear.
And I have promised to be always near.

Also, we got the chance to light a candle in memory of someone or something during the singing, and use the time to reflect upon what we had dedicated the memory of. It was a very moving and touching experience.

Something to consider:

“God, whom I serve with my whole heart in preaching the gospel of his Son, is my witness how constantly I remember you in my prayers at all times; and I pray that now at last by God’s will the way may be opened for me to come to you.”

Romans 1: 8-10

If you’re ever stuck in a situation, remember this:

Know that God is good
Know that God is good
Know that God is good
God is good, God is good!

Friday 21st May

Assembly began today with a silent Communion service, and this is an experience that I have never ever experienced before. The common format to you in church would be everyone getting a small glass of wine and a small cube of bread, but at assembly everyone gets to break their own piece of bread off, and everyone gets to drink out of a goblet. The hymns during this service as well were extremely uplifting. There’s just also something about sharing the Sacrament with so many people. It made me feel at ease and a real sense of presence with God.

The Assembly broke to give time for the Hall to be returned to business format. Business today was very busy, as the World Mission Council gave their report, as did the Special Commission on the Third Article Declaratory. All deliverances were passed, but there were a few commissioners who decided to add an “Addendum” which means they wish to add something to an individual item in the deliverance. It occurred to me that you need to know church politics inside-out, so I thought it best to remain seated at this point.

Today’s lucky host on which I descended for a free lunch was the Rural Ministries Lunch, of which Bryan was convener, so it seemed appropriate. I also met with other ministers from the Lanark presbytery, including the minister from Douglas. I was introduced by Bryan as the Youth Representative from the Presbytery. And I have to say, the sandwiches at the Story Telling Centre for this lunch actually topped the lunch at Augustine’s Church yesterday at the TearFund Lunch. I therefore decided that, although I am taking this General Assembly seriously and am actually getting involved, I would keep a tally of who gave the best lunch. But then again, most things are better when their free, so maybe they were all equally good. And what kind of Convener only arranges sandwiches for lunch? Even the TearFund had cakes AS WELL AS sandwiches. I mean come on!

The big report and also positioned at the end of the agenda today was, as already mentioned, the World Mission Council report. This report is basically a report on how the Church of Scotland is getting on with our partner countries. One thing that humbled me about this report was the number of delegates from other countries and regions around the world who stood up and gave their sincere thanks for the work the Church of Scotland puts into helping other countries which may not be as advanced as Scotland is.

Business finished at around 5:10, and it was then off to a nice little pub round the corner from the hotel. We all had burgers, and what a burger this was! The chips came in a wee cup thing and everything! Very tasty indeed!

After dinner, several of us attended the beginning of the service in which the retiring moderator the Right Reverend William C. Hewitt. He spoke very well on his year as moderator, and even included Lanark and Carstairs in his speech. He mentioned he was touched by the reception he received when he came to the Presbytery, and commented the meal in which we hosted in his honour. Unfortunately, we departed after his speech due to preparation session for tomorrow’s business.

Tonight’s preparation session was quite hard going, in the sense that we had a lot to take in for the coming day’s business. 2 of the reports we discussed were the Ministries Council Report, and the Social Care Council Report. There was quite a heated discussion about the proposal of the C.o.S. cutting the number of ministers by 11% by 2014, and introducing part-time ministers, pulpit supply, or readers. A part-time minister would be on 10 hours a week, and there is just no possible way of getting anything constructive done in 2 hours a day. The fact they would also need part-time jobs as well to supplement their wage from the church would mean there is a possibility on shifts and that wouldn’t be good if something severe is planned, like a wedding on funeral.

Preparation session ended at 10pm, and, while most people attended NiteKirk at Greyfriars, I felt it wise to retire to my room, since this diary is taking up most of my time and far better than any essay I’ve ever written for college! The Assembly Hall is lit for television purposes, so there are very powerful lights on the ceiling which does make the place extremely hot. That, combined with the weather this week, makes the heat unbearable. So far I have counted two times in which a previous moderator had to step in for John Christie while he tones down his robes to a much lighter option.

Saturday 22nd May

Breakfast and worship were as usual at 8am in the Scottish Story Telling Centre, and we then proceeded to the Assembly Hall for 9:30am for a full day’s business. Today was a big day...
in terms of business. The Ministries Council and the Social Care Council were giving their reports, and the big one there being the Ministries Council, with 25 items in the deliverance. The most I had seen up until this point was only 12, and I thought that took ages!

The day opened, as usual, with worship and a reflection. One of my very favourite hymns was sung - Lord, Have you come to the seashore. This inspired me for the day, and relaxed me just that little bit more.

The first item on the agenda was the report on the Church Hymnary. This debate I stayed for then left for a while until Ministries begun. Kenny and I decided that it would a genius idea to go and buy some shorts, since we were officially baking with the combined heat of the Assembly Hall and outside which was around, oh I don’t know, I guessed about a million degrees at least! At least today was a dry heat outside, the past few days had been really clammy. Ah the humidity – don’t get me started!! Unfortunately, while walking down Princes Street we got a text says “Ministries has started, hurry up!!!” So we abandoned the shorts hunt, and ran back to the hall.

The debate broke for lunch after having only covered about 4 items of the deliverance, and there was still the supplementary report before it could be approved. Never-the-less, Bryan was in the ‘burgh, and so myself, Bryan, and a few others descended on Jimmy Chung’s all you can eat for £8 lunchtime buffet, which was rather tasty.

Back to the Assembly Hall it was, and to carry on. It went on, and on, and on …… and on again. Ministries Report was FINALLY approved at 5pm(ish) after beginning at 11am. Someone worked it took 70 minutes to get through 4 items in the middle. And it was official - I was melting.

A table had been booked at “The Filling Station” for dinner, and 11 of us turned out for a time of Fellowship. It also turned out to be a fellow youth representative’s birthday as well, so we used that as a reason for celebration.

Sunday 23rd May

This morning called for the dawning of some smarter clothes than I would usually wear to church, as I was attending a service at St. Giles’ Cathedral. What a place this is! Words cannot describe what feelings were rushing through me as I simply entered the building. The architecture, sculpture, and theological references are all somehow different that you get in a regular church. The service then began, and the first item on the Order of Service was an introit service then began, and the first item that you get in a regular church. The references are all somehow different.

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a service at St. Giles’ Cathedral. What

usually wear to church, as I was attending

This morning called for the dawning

Sunday 23rd May

This morning was tough – I think I got too much sun yesterday. Woke up feeling dizzy and had a headache, so too much sun yesterday. Woke up feeling dizzy and had a headache, so

the humidity!! Unfortunately, while

walking down Princes Street we got a
text says “Ministries has started, hurry

up!!!” So we abandoned the shorts hunt,

and ran back to the hall.

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which drew the Youth Representatives attention were Mental Health, Suicide Amongst Young Men, Synthetic Biology, Military Chaplains, and International Affairs including the war in Afghanistan. Many of the Youth Reps participates in these sections, with a few giving very humbling comments and stories. The report was finally passed after two and a half hours of debating. Today, therefore, was my first full day in which I stayed in for every piece of business.

Jane McCarthy (one of our leaders) was very kind to buy us all dinner in the hotel restaurant tonight. After that, it was a prep session at the Story Telling Centre as Mission and Discipleship Report is tomorrow, which is a very big report. Also, the National Youth Assembly is reporting tomorrow as well, which is a big thing for us. Worship afterwards was extremely relaxing. We were told to lie on the floor and relax our body one part at a time, working from our head, moving down the arms, and into the lower body. We had to imagine ourselves floating ever so slightly off the ground, and getting higher and higher, until we were on a cloud, and talking to a presence. We then came back to ground and sang a calm song to bring us back:

Over my head, I hear music in the air
Over my head, I hear music in the air
There must be a god somewhere.

Tuesday 25th May

Today was the final full day of business, with the last of the big topics being brought to the Table. Topics included the Report from the Committee of Her Majesty’s Chaplains to the Forces, Mission and Discipleship Council Report, and not forgetting the report from the National Youth Assembly. However, before business we had the usual worship. This worship session including singing one of my personal favourite hymns: “And can it be, that I should gain …” Business then commenced.

The Youth Representatives left early today, as we had a busy afternoon schedule. We met with the Moderator at 5pm, and although he arrived late and left early, most of us still managed to have a few words with him about how we were feeling and what our views on the General Assembly were.

After that, we made our way down to the Palace of Holyroodhouse for the Beating Retreat. This was at the invitation of the Lord High Commissioner. The Beating Retreat included modern and traditional piping songs, and some highland dancing as well. The Lord High Commissioner then addressed the leaders of the bands. After the Retreat we were invited into the Palace for wine and canapes. I must say - food and wine at the Queen’s expense does taste that little bit better. I managed to get a decent conversation with many commissioners who all gave very positive comments about the Youth Representatives and their presence at the General Assembly. I also managed to speak to the Moderator’s wife, Annette. She was very polite, and our conversation included things like her up and coming journeys abroad with her husband. Visits include Shetland, Taiwan, and other Scottish presbyteries. She also told us all about her talent of Scottish Indoor Bowling and her passion for it. Annette, I think, is going to make the Moderator’s year this year just that little bit easier. She also told of her strong feelings for her beloved cat, which has had to be put into the Cattery.

One of the startling things about the Palace is the way in which you are asked to leave. You’re basically thrown out, but it’s done so subtly that one minute you’re chatting to someone then the next thing you find yourself outside. The waiters stand in a line along the door so that you don’t go beyond the door, and then the Queen’s Guards (or whatever they’re called ... men in suits with sticks, basically) slowly walk towards you from the other end of the room, one step every so many minutes. It’s a natural reaction just to walk away from them, and the means you move towards the door, and all of a sudden you’re outside. It’s very clever!

After the Palace Reception it was on to the Hard Rock Cafe for a celebration and thanksgiving for the week we just had. We had our meal, and even sang happy birthday to Jane McCarthy. Jane is the one who is responsible for the faultless arrangements of the General Assembly Youth Representatives. Sadly, she is leaving the group responsible for this part - Mission and Discipleship. Some of the regular youth reps told some stories of Jane, and we clapped her off. Then, it was back to the hotel for some fellowship on our last night.

Wednesday 26th May

Today was the last day, with some small items of business being taken care of in the morning. The main highlight of today though was the closing ceremony. It was very inspiring, with the Lord High Commissioner and the Moderator addressing the Assembly. The humbling thing was the address that retired moderator Right Reverend Bill Hewitt gave regarding the deceased ministers, missionaries, and deacons.

The worship included another one of my favourite hymns: “O for a thousand tongues, to sing ...” I also appeared on the big screen as a close up of me when the cameras were doing a sweep of the hall. Perhaps it was my yellow t-shirt that attracted them, I don’t know.

An emotional goodbye between the youth reps then happened, and we wished each other well until September when we meet at the National Youth Assembly at Stirling University. This is another thing which has been praised all week so I am very much looking forward to going there as well, accompanied by Andrew Mathieson, my co-technician at church.

I have very much enjoyed my experience at the General Assembly for the Church of Scotland over the past week, and I want to thank Presbytery for accepting my nomination and sending me, and pass on my wish to return next year as well. It was genuinely a good experience, and although the fellowship side of it with members of the same age, I learned a lot about church law, politics, and order as well. I plan to address Presbytery and the congregation at some point in the near future, and I hope and pray you come along to hear my stories and experiences.
WELCOMING & OFFERING
at the church door are:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>CHORUS &amp; SIDE OFFERING</th>
<th>COUNT &amp; OFFERING</th>
<th>DOOR &amp; OFFERING</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| JUNE 6th | Christine Bradford | Graham Chapman | Senga Hamilton  
Ken Hutchison  
Louise Gemmell |
| 13th | Anne White | Ian Ivison | Margaret Wallace  
Anna Lumsden  
Robert McMillan |
| 20th | May Dickman | Anne Gibson | Agnes Gold  
Marcella McLellan  
Willie McAlpine |
| 27th | Jim Wallace | Dale Robb | Catherine Chapman  
Susan Morris  
Miller Thomson |
| JULY 4th | Irene Watson | Jack Lumsden | June McGregor  
Lilias Tennant  
Vacancy |
| 11th | Elma Barr | Bill Tennant | Anne Thompson  
David Gemmell  
Carolyn Graham |
| 18th | Alastair Stewart | Karen Brown | Diane Sloan  
David Thompson  
Thelma Boertien |
| 25th | Gershom Walker | Pamela Small | Helen Plenderleith  
Marlene Waugh  
Scott Ledingham |
| AUG 1st | Leslie Reid | Lesley Paton | Dorothy Barclay  
Liz Ivison  
Vacancy |
| 8th | Christine Bradford | Graham Chapman | Senga Hamilton  
Ken Hutchison  
Louise Gemmell |
| 15th | Anne White | Ian Ivison | Margaret Wallace  
Anna Lumsden  
Robert McMillan |
| 22nd | May Dickman | Anne Gibson | Agnes Gold  
Marcella McLellan  
Willie McAlpine |
| 29th | Jim Wallace | Dale Robb | Catherine Chapman  
Susan Morris  
Miller Thomson |
| SEPT 5th | Irene Watson | Jack Lumsden | June McGregor  
Lilias Tennant  
Vacancy |
| 12th | Elma Barr | Bill Tennant | Anne Thompson  
David Gemmell  
Carolyn Graham |
| 19th | Alastair Stewart | Karen Brown | Diane Sloan  
David Thompson  
Thelma Boertien |
| 26th | Gershom Walker | Pamela Small | Helen Plenderleith  
Marlene Waugh  
Scott Ledingham |

If you are unable to attend on the above date, please arrange a swap with someone else.

READERS ROTA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>NAME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>JUNE 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Liz Ivison</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Anne White</td>
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</table>
| 20th | Eve Robb (1st)  
Diane Sloan (2nd & 3rd) |
| 27th | May Dickman |
| JULY 2010 | |
| 4th | Lilias Tennan |
| 11th | Lesley Paton |
| 18th | Amy Sloan (1st reading)  
Elspeth Riddet (2nd & 3rd reading) |
| 25th | Carolyn Graham |
| AUGUST 2010 | |
| 1st | Scott Pagent |
| 8th | Anna Lumsden |
| 15th | Ian Ivison |
| 22nd | Emily Booth (1st reading)  
Lorraine Swan (2nd & 3rd reading) |
| 29th | Jim Wallace |
| SEPTEMBER 2010 | |
| 5th | Margaret Wallace |
| 12th | Catherine Chapman |
| 19th | Freya Mathieson (1st reading)  
Ruth McCallum (2nd & 3rd reading) |
| 26th | Karen Brown |

TEA/COFFEE DUTY

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<th>DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>JUNE</td>
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<tr>
<td>6th</td>
<td>Bill &amp; Lilias Tennant</td>
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<tr>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Thelma Boertien</td>
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<td>20th</td>
<td>Jessie Wallace &amp; Joan Thomson</td>
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<td>27th</td>
<td>Jessie Holmes</td>
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<td>JULY</td>
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<td>4th</td>
<td>Liz &amp; Ian Ivison</td>
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<td>11th</td>
<td>Avril Mitchell &amp; Moira Logan</td>
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<tr>
<td>18th</td>
<td>Leslie W Reid &amp; Helen McCall</td>
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</table>
| 25th | Helen Plenderleith &  
Ellidh Forrest |
| AUGUST | |
| 1st | June MacGregor & Grace Steel |
| 8th | Anna & Jack Lumsden |
| 15th | Anne Gibson & Anne White |
| 22nd | Karen Brown, Vicki Stephen &  
Linda Chapman |
| 29th | Dale Robb & Elma Barr |
| SEPTEMBER | |
| 5th | Bill & Lilias Tennant  
Thelma Boertien |
| 12th | Liz & Ian Ivison |
| 19th | |
| 26th | Jessie Holmes |
FLOWER ROTA

Thank you to Helen Dewson, Flora Bennie and Jessie Dewson for their kind donations to the flower fund.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Donor</th>
<th>Arranger</th>
<th>Distributor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th June</td>
<td>May Stalker</td>
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<td>13th June</td>
<td>Anna Lumsden</td>
<td>Agnes Gold</td>
<td>Anna Lumsden</td>
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<td>20th June</td>
<td>Keith Prentice</td>
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<td>27th June</td>
<td>Vianne Black/</td>
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<td>Georgie Stonebanks</td>
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<td>4th July</td>
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<td>11th July</td>
<td>Senga Hamilton</td>
<td>Margaret Jones</td>
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<td>18th July</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<td>25th July</td>
<td>Margaret Jones</td>
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<td>1st August</td>
<td>Bethene McMillan</td>
<td>Bethene McMillan</td>
<td>Bethene McMillan</td>
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<td>8th August</td>
<td>Lesley Paton</td>
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<td>15th August</td>
<td>Marlene Waugh</td>
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<td>22nd August</td>
<td>Linda Tennant</td>
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<td>29th August</td>
<td>Vacancy</td>
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<td>5th Sept</td>
<td>May Law</td>
<td>Jessie Holmes</td>
<td>Jessie Holmes</td>
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<tr>
<td>12th Sept</td>
<td>Thelma Boertein</td>
<td>Thelma Boertein</td>
<td>Thelma Boertein</td>
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<tr>
<td>19th Sept</td>
<td>Loris Ledingham</td>
<td>Ellen Wylie</td>
<td>Ellen Wylie</td>
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<tr>
<td>26th Sept</td>
<td>Kate Stewart</td>
<td>Kate Stewart</td>
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As you will note above there are some weeks in the flower calendar that are vacant. If you would like to add your name to the list and donate flowers for the sanctuary on a Sunday morning please speak to Helen MCrindle in the Church Office Know (661510).

We are still looking for a new flower convenor to take over from the excellent work that Jessie Holmes undertook. The weekly duties are undertaken by the Church Office and we are looking for someone who can help organise our bigger displays for Christmas, Harvest, Easter etc. If you think you can help (there is a great team willing to help out as well!) please speak to Lillas Tennant.

Parish Register

Funerals

I am the resurrection and the life.

March 2010

3rd  * Mr Thomas Muat, 5 Shields Loan, Lanark
5th  * Mr John Shade, 178 St Leonards Street, Lanark

April 2010

8th  * Mr John Morton, 12 Nempflathill, Lanark
28th * Mrs Nettie Parker, Beechgrove Care Home, Lanark

May 2010

8th  Mr Thomas McLellan, 156 St Leonards Street, Lanark
11th Mr Matthew Gray, 38 Waterloo Road, Lanark

June 2010

5th  * Mr Robert Crosbie, 2 Hardacres, Lanark
9th  * Mr Gavin Pollock, 3 Bells Wynd, Lanark
14th * Mrs Agnes Martin, 19 Bonnington Avenue, Lanark

* denotes member of Greyfriars Parish Church, Lanark

PANTO JUNIOR AUDITIONS

Junior Auditions will be held on:

Sunday 20th June
1:00 - 4:00pm (P1-P4)
5:00 - 8:00pm (P5-P7)

Audition Song

Consider Yourself from Oliver

Senior Panto Auditions for anyone from S1 upwards to ANY age contact Karen Brown lpc1962@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Do you have any old stamps that could be put to good use?
Do you have the time to keep the stamps from the mail you receive to help other people?
The Church of Scotland is looking for people to collect stamps that they can put to good use to raise funds to help people across the world.

We would be very grateful if you could keep your stamps and bring them to church with you on a Sunday and place them in the stamp box which is situated next to the balcony stairs.

We can assure you that all your work will be appreciated. Please start saving your stamps today!
SUMMER ARRANGEMENTS

Every minister in the Church of Scotland has the opportunity to take two weeks of Study leave each year but can save them up for a maximum of seven years. As you will be aware, over the summer months our minister, Bryan, will be on Study Leave and as part of that process will be exchanging pulpits with Rev Dr Roger Richardson from the Church of the Palms in Delray Beach, Florida. Roger, his wife Deborah and daughter Sarah will be in Greyfriars from 30th June until 7th August. The Kirk Session felt it was important that the congregation were able to benefit from Roger’s preaching while he was here. As a result the joint summer services with St. Nicholas have been suspended for this year meaning that the services over the summer will take place in Greyfriars at 10am (note the earlier start time!).

Please come along and support Roger and his family in order that they feel welcome in Lanark and in our church. This is a wonderful opportunity to hear from someone with different experiences of ministry in another country.

Bryan will be away from the parish from 29th June until 5th September 2010 and I am certain we will all be interested in hearing about his experiences when he returns from his study leave. Whilst Bryan is away, Rev Aileen Robson from Lesmahagow will be providing ministerial cover.

Greyfriars Church Contacts

Minister: Rev Bryan Kerr B.A., B.D. 661510
Greyfriars Manse, 3 Bellefield Way, Lanark, ML11 7NW 663363
Email: bryan@lanarkgreyfriars.com Fax: 08700 518795

Interim Moderator: Rev Aileen Robson, B.D. 895325
9 Elmbank, Lesmahagow, ML11 0EA Email: a.robson@lanarkpresbytery.org

Church Office: Helen McCrindle, Administrator
Email: office@lanarkgreyfriars.com

Church Officer: Keith Prentice 662109
Session Clerk: Graham Chapman 661385
Depute Session Clerk: Avril Mitchell 662627

Mission & Nurture Action Group Diane Sloan, Convenor 665654
Child Protection Coordinator: Dale Robb 662823
Primary Sunday School: Agnes Robb 663204
Youth Group: Pauline Kerr 663363

Resources Action Group Jack Lumsden, Convenor 662775
Joint Treasurers: Karen Brown 666086
Anne Gibson 660339
Gift Aid Convenor: Louise Gemmell 870836
WFO (Envelopes) Convenor: Graham Chapman 661385
Property Convenor: Robert McMillan 662295

Pastoral Action Group Lillias Tennant, Convenor 661496
Rollkeeper: Bill Tennant 661496
Flower Convenor: Jessie Holmes 663409
Magazine Editor: Jack Lumsden 662775

Worship Action Group Bryan Kerr, Convenor 663363
Directors of Church Music: Philip & Shena Fox 662880

Church Organisations
Wrigglers: Joan MacMillan 660092
Guild: Marlene Waugh 662381

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2010

Lanark Christian Aid Council would like to thank the members of Greyfriars Church who acted as collectors in the recent Christian Aid Week house-to-house collection. We were delighted that after an appeal for additional collectors, we had a total of 32 collectors, although we did not manage to cover all the streets of our increased allocation. Despite this, our final total was £3,473.71. Well done to all involved.

The final total raised by this year’s Lenten Lunches has now increased to £2,030.50. Thanks again to all who were involved, especially during the very bad weather on the last day.

Deadline

Material for the next edition of the Greyfriars Gazette, to be published in late August, should be passed to Jack Lumsden, 4 Friarsfield Road, Lanark by Sunday 15th August at the latest.

Lanimer Dilemma!

Soon it will be Lamiers, When all the town’s “en fete” And everyone keeps hoping, ‘Twill be the best one yet.

Now for Geoff Smith’s family, ‘Twill be one they won’t forget. For Geoff has been selected, To be this year’s Lord Cornet.

Now here is my dilemma, I’m not sure what to do; Do I decorate as usual, Or try out something new?

You see, as he’s my neighbour, Do I put on a special show? Or do I decorate my house, With flags all in a row?

Whatever I decide upon, I’ll set my mind at rest. And wish our new Lord Cornet, All the very best.