



Annual Report

2009





It has been an exciting year in the life of our church as we have endeavoured to put our new system of governance into action. At the outset we decided that we wouldn't rush the process so it has taken some time to ensure that all the groundwork that needed to be done has been done. Throughout the year there have been many meetings among the different groups of people responsible for getting things up and running and it has been encouraging to see the enthusiasm with which people have tackled the vision of building the Body of Christ in Newhaven. We now have various working groups looking after all the areas of life in our church and volunteers to fill the many roles that have been generated and it has been a rewarding experience to be a part of.

We believe the church is living and active. We believe that God has blessed all of us with different talents and gifts. We believe through working together or working in our groups that we will serve God's kingdom in a more efficient and fruitful way. We also believe that our experiences within our groups will grow us and nourish us as Christians. I would like to thank all those who have put so much effort into making our vision for Newhaven come to life. I would like to thank all those who have spent many hours in meetings and many hours in prayer seeking God's guidance and discerning God's will for us. I firmly believe God will honour our commitment and our efforts and that what we have done will bear much fruit.

Of course change isn't always easy. There are often unforeseen challenges that pop up and different points of view expressed but if we face these challenges in a spirit of love and understanding we will succeed. In Numbers 13 we read about the spies who went into the land of Canaan to explore it and when they came back to report to Moses and Aaron about what they had seen, they were afraid. They told Moses and Aaron that the people were giants, stronger by far than the Israelites, and when news spread of what they had discovered the people bemoaned their fate. They raised their voices and wept aloud and cried, "if only we had died in Egypt! Or in this desert!" They yearned to go back to Egypt but they were called not to rebel against God but instead to have faith because God was with them. In the New Testament there's a theme that runs throughout its pages, the theme of perseverance, of putting one's hand to the plough, trusting in God and moving forward and it's one we need to consider as day by day and step by step we venture with God, not into the unknown as much as building God's kingdom with what God has blessed us with. It's exciting stuff and although there will be mountains to climb I hope and pray that we will never lose our sense of wonder and awe at what God wants us to achieve in Jesus name.

Apart from the main thrust of what we have been seeking to achieve in Newhaven Church there have been many other areas of church life that have flourished due to the enthusiasm of so many of our members. The Café, the Toddlers Group, the Haven, the Guild, the Growth Groups, the Boys Brigade, the Sunday School, and our Sunday morning and evening services have all been well attended and have served the community in so many different ways and it's been wonderful to witness how the Spirit of God has moved in all these areas. They are all proof that where there is a genuine desire to serve each other with the love of Christ, God is present. They are also proof that the Kingdom of God is a kingdom of great variety where our talents and gifts can be used for the greater good.

On a personal note I would like to thank the congregation of Newhaven Church for all your love and support. As you probably know by now I am a firm believer in the understanding that the reason we have been given life by God is to live in relationship with God and with each other, that what we have in common is the love of Christ and in big and small ways this have been evident to me in the people of our church. Your love has touched my life in so many ways and has built me up as a Christian and I am grateful that you have given me space to learn and grow, to immerse myself in the things of our faith so that I may teach with an intimate knowledge of scripture and discern what it is that God would have us hear. I am glad that I am your minister. Leandra and I are blessed to be part of a loving, caring, enthusiastic congregation and we give thanks to God for you and for God's faithfulness.

Lastly, as we look ahead, as our journey with God continues, may the love of Jesus always come first in what we do. The love of Jesus is no easy thing because it doesn't seek reward of any kind but it is the only worthwhile thing. Without it we can do nothing. Without it we are nothing. Encourage each other in love.

With my love, Peter



It's that time of year again when I look through all the minutes of the past year and wonder how I can condense them into a coherent picture of what has happened at Session. Much has already been reported in Session News items in the magazine so I will endeavour to make this fairly brief.

We held six full session meetings in 2009, with attendances averaging 69%. There were also regular prayer breakfasts, open to all in the congregation every other month.

In January each year the Roll Keeper presents the statistics for the church membership for the previous twelve months. Last year we joyfully welcomed six new members to our fellowship, Nick and Nancy Timmins, Stevan and Brenda Cloete and William and Blyth McLucas. Two members had died and three wished to be removed from the Roll. Thus overall, our Roll rose in 2009, though admittedly only by one! Nevertheless, this bucks the trend. Even more encouraging is the sizeable number of people who have recently started coming regularly. May all who come to worship with us always find a warm welcome and food for their souls.

Church governance, like last year, has dominated the agenda, and rightly so, as we implemented a major change in the way the church is organised in September. Each step required careful planning followed by discussion at Session. The small group responsible for working out the process for introducing the new constitution met many times over the year. Here I wish to record our sincere gratitude to God for Colin MacNeill's guiding hand on this process. His vision, clear thinking and impressive presentation skills have been of enormous benefit. At the Annual Stated Meeting in April the overwhelming vote in favour of adopting the new constitution was a big encouragement. Presbytery approval was then sought and granted, opening the way for membership of the working groups to be carefully and prayerfully considered prior to invitations being sent out in May. Workshops were then organised for the new working groups in June and September to help them get to grips with how the new set up would work. It was hugely encouraging to witness the enthusiasm and energy with which our new system was launched and the sense that it could help us serve God more effectively by opening up many more opportunities for people to get involved. Our website has proved a very useful tool as an intranet facility, an electronic notice board in effect, where the working group agendas, minutes and reports can be displayed. This cuts down the need for paper copies and is proving a very effective system of communication. Shona Adam has put a lot of work into getting the intranet operating smoothly and we owe her many thanks. The first working group reports appeared in late autumn and made exciting reading as we saw steps being taken to put into place things we had long hoped and prayed for. You can read about some of these in the individual working group reports elsewhere in this annual report. Our new governance system, which was nearly two years in the planning, will take time to bed in and will need regular tweaking to run smoothly. It is a learning process for us all but God's grace is always sufficient and His wisdom always there for the asking.

Not only has the church governance been undergoing major changes, changes are also in the offing at Edinburgh Presbytery. A considerable amount of our Session time was devoted last year to presbytery questionnaires. One involved our opinions on proposed alternative models for Presbytery. The workings of Presbytery are not something many elders are familiar with but we learned quite a lot as we grappled with the different proposals for making Presbytery

more fit for the 21st century. We were very grateful to Hugh MacDiarmid, who represents us at Presbytery, and to Alister Greig, a freely elected Presbytery elder, for explaining much of the detail, and for undertaking to put together a response to the questions we had been posed. Another questionnaire concerned the revision of the Ten Year Presbytery Plan. The current plan, dating from 2007, is reviewed annually. The review carried out in 2008 highlighted the need for a radical revision on theological, demographic, state of buildings and financial grounds. The outcome of the resulting revision will affect every Church of Scotland congregation in Edinburgh. All the elders were asked for their responses to the series of questions dealing with our mission endeavours in our parish. Again, Hugh MacDiarmid's assistance in collating these responses was much appreciated. We will hear more of the Presbytery Plan Review over the coming months.

You will remember how the General Assembly attracted much media attention last year. Alister Greig, who attended as a Commissioner, produced a very helpful report for the Session members, who were very aware of the deep impact of the events at Assembly on many in the congregation. We received notification in November that the Special Commission on Same-sex Relationships and the Ministry had been appointed and would be consulting with all Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions during the first half of 2010.

I am delighted to report that Kate Aitchison's nomination as a member of the Church Without Walls Planning Group was ratified at the Assembly and we look forward to hearing first hand about the events the Group is planning for 2010.

In October Ray Bain intimated that he would be standing down from his Session duties for the time being due to his increasing commitments at Liberton, where God's blessing on the work has been much in evidence. While fully understanding Ray's situation, we will greatly miss his valued contribution and we look forward to the time when he can return to an active eldership role on his retirement from Liberton.

In December we finally realised our aim of hosting the Bethany Night Shelter. We are very grateful to Bea Frances for doing all the liaising with Bethany and for organising the teams for the evening we had been allocated. There was such a good response to the invitation to be involved that there were enough volunteers to have a cooking team and a serving team. Furthermore, the donations covered the full cost of the food. Around thirty people came that cold night to be welcomed into a warm, safe environment and to enjoy a hearty meal – a very practical way for us to show God's love in action.

It only remains for me to express my sincere thanks to my fellow elders for their continual support and to acknowledge the huge range of tasks they gladly undertake. Many are now shouldering new responsibilities as members of Working Groups. I am sure we have all had cause to thank God for Peter's preaching over the past year. From conversations with others and from my personal experience I am aware that the Lord is powerfully using Peter's words to speak into our lives, words that challenge and inspire and unfailingly point us to Christ, whose love for us knows no bounds.

It is a privilege to serve Him on the Session and we value your prayers on our behalf enormously. Please continue to pray for us that we may exercise our calling to leadership with grace, love and humility, focussing always on Him, whose we are and whom we serve.

Heather Robertson



Church Governance



Mission and Outreach Group (MOG)

Many of the groups which come under the Mission and Outreach 'umbrella' (e.g. Cafe, Haven Toddlers, Guild, BB) are self-managing and have their own entries in this Annual Report. This report, therefore, just summarises some of the future initiatives and challenges which MOG would like to see our church undertaking. These were highlighted at the 'Body Building' weekend but merit repeating.

- Members being prepared to commit to a more regular and disciplined prayer life.
- A 'Porridge Club' – to provide a simple breakfast and a quiet space for prayer before school/work.
- Setting up of a Youth Cafe.
- Possibility of a Girls Brigade, or similar, being established.
- People being 'Parish Lookouts' – so that new families to the area can be contacted and given, for example, church 'Welcome Pack'.
- Would like to run an Alpha course.
- Hope to develop wider missionary support (e.g. our own missionaries, CofS projects, Christian Aid etc.)
- 'Bibleworld' Bus' hopefully being sited at Victoria Primary for a week in early Summer (tbc)

The success or otherwise of any of these ventures is clearly dependent upon God, but He does require that people step out in faith and take the initiative to make these things happen. Please prayerfully consider what part you are currently playing in the life and witness of this church and whether God is challenging you to trust Him with more of your time and energies. Exciting times ahead with our amazing God!

Kate Aitchison

Worship Group

The Worship Group has been tasked with organising worship in Newhaven Church. This covers everything from Orders of Service to Welcome Teams, Praise Band, Flowers, After Church Fellowship and many other aspects of Sunday morning worship. The children's groups, however, come under the remit of the Education Group. The Worship Group has prepared rotas for the key tasks but there are many places and roles that can still be filled.

In keeping with the theme of Building the Body, the Worship Group is keen that as many as possible within our Congregation can contribute to worship, whether handing out Orders of Service, counting the offering, serving tea and coffee or even leading prayers and talks.

The Family Services on the first Sunday of each month have continued and these have been appreciated by many, and suggestions and ideas for these Services have also been received from some in the Congregation. The Worship Group will continue to explore different formats for worship while recognising that our "traditional" Sunday morning worship service has evolved into a mix of traditional and modern that many in the Congregation value and appreciate as helping them to worship the Living God.

Colin MacNeill

Education Group

As you will all be aware the Education Group was set up in September 09 as part of the new Church Governance the group have only met twice therefore we do not have much to report on this year however below is a note of matters that we have been looking at so far. Group members – The Minister, Brenda Cloete, Lyn MacNeill, Jeanette Meek and Colin Robertson.

Future Meetings.

Dates for future meetings were set at 3 within the year.

Adult/Children teaching.

A list was collated of details of all adult and children's group's already in place and the teaching materials used within the church.

Structure/Format of Groups

A questionnaire was compiled and completed by the leaders of each of the children's groups to give the education team a better insight in to how each group operates e.g. structure, materials, staffing or any other difficulties or issues that the group leaders may be experiencing with a view to hopefully help resolve any issues.

Congregational Day

The February Open day was discussed, how our stall would look, and what needed to be brought and who was doing what for the day. We explored and came up with ideas for what we planned to deliver and compiled job cards for issue to anyone wishing to know what would be expected if volunteering to help with different aspects of the church work.

Prayer

The group set aside time each Monday morning at 9 a.m. to pray for the Holy Spirits guidance, wisdom and all the skills we would require in making the event in February a truly happy, fun, spirit led and fruitful day. Which I'm sure all of you who attended would agree was.

Jeanette Meek

Social Group

Social Group Consist of Sara Dewar, Catherine Lighterness and Audrey Tully.

A proposal is to go to Session with 2010 events for June 2010 – Feb 2011

Proposal will be to have a standard 'church social calendar' – open to change but will offer a guide of what we should be considering on an annual basis.

Then we will confirm with those who volunteered at open day of their roles and involvement

We are still looking for 3 more roles to be filled – children's entertainment contact, new group member and food & hygiene contact.

Once confirmation is received from session, we will agree with Communication team on how to share news, work with Finance team on budget and incoming funds from events and work with Outreach and Education teams to co-ordinate calendar and joint input to events.

Sara Dewar



Fabric Report



Following a busy year for Fabric in 2008 activity has continued unabated through 2009 and with a Fabric Team member (Ray Bain) standing down due to other commitments we were pleased to welcome a new member Iain Logan to the team.

The main work of Fabric carried out in 2009 was having the ceilings in the main hall and the café treated with an acoustic covering. Thanks go to the Hall Improvement Team for managing this project. This has proven to be very successful and provides a less noisy and more comfortable sound environment in the main hall and cafe.

It is of some concern that the ceiling is now being damaged on a regular basis as a result of it being hit by projectiles, which are dislodging the acoustic covering. It would be appreciated if the Leaders of the groups using the main hall who are, cognizant of this situation take the necessary remedial action.

- Once the ceiling work was completed in the café we provided wall protection in the form of a dado strip at table height as well as protection in six locations to the corner walls. This was prior to carrying out a complete redecoration of the café.
- With regard to the Kitchen area a new splash back was provided for the hand wash sink in June prior to the complete redecoration of same using an antibacterial and washable paint.
- The Boiler was serviced and at that time a heating schedule (Thanks to Alastair Sutherland for providing same) was programmed into the Boiler controller.
- This proved to be very successful.

- Work to make good the boundary walls has been quoted for by three Companies. One was finally selected and the work should be carried out early next year.
- Suspected slippery steps to rear of building have had moss removed and anti-algae solution applied.
- When the provision of the decking, new fencing and planting was complete we undertook the complete redecoration of the external paint work to ensure adequate protection and uniformity of colour.
- A remit outlining the responsibilities of the Fabric Working Group was received from the Session.
- A safety window was fitted into the inner door of the Ladies toilet

An inspection of the Church premises was carried out with a representative from Bethany in preparation for the "Sleep- Over" night in December.

The Manse has also had some considerable work carried out during this year:

- The Sauna has been converted into a laundry room.
- The Loft space has been floored and shelved to provide additional storage space.
- The ground floor En-Suite Bathroom has had several units replaced as well as being re-tiled.
- Several upgrades to light fittings and radiators have also been provided.
- The upper North West bedroom has been fully upgraded and new wardrobes fitted.

Other Church matters such as broken blind cords, choked toilets, loose door handles, light bulb replacement, loose roof tiles, water flowing over gutter at front door, the alarm system having to be re-set, damaged door closer repaired (Thanks to Alastair Sutherland) and too many more to mention.

In closing I would like to thank the Minister, the Congregational Board and the Fabric Committee for their support during this last year.

Bill Oliver

 Roll Keeper's Report 

Members as at 31st December 2008 226

4 added by resolution
 2 added by certificate
 2 removed by death
 3 removed by resolution

Members as at 31st December 2009 227
 Number on Supplementary Roll 28

Colin Robertson



Growth Groups



In addition to the four Growth Groups which are established, a new group started has been started up in January. The groups meet fortnightly, three meet in members' homes and two meet at the church. There is the choice of daytime or evening meetings, to try and accommodate anyone who wants to grow in their faith.

There are currently groups running on a Monday (evening), Tuesday (morning), Tuesday (evening), Thursday (evening) and Friday (morning).

There are no qualifications needed to join a group! The purpose of the meetings is so that people of all ages and stages can grow closer to God. The Growth groups study a wide range of materials, varying from group to group. Throughout the year this has included study books of Esther, The Sermon on the Mount, God's Rescue Plan, Thessalonians, Transformation and Characters of the New Testament. The Nooma DVD's are still being used by one group for Christian growth too.

If you think that you might like to join a Growth Group, please speak to Peter or anyone else on the Education Group who would be delighted to help.

Lynn MacNeill.



Lighten Up



Our Sunday morning group for P7 to S3 children continued throughout 2009. We have had three girls join us from Lighthouse in September which brings our regular attendees to a total of seven, which we are delighted with. This number brings a greater mass and less chance of there being only one or two children on a Sunday morning. Colin MacNeill and Shona Adam continue to lead and our aim is to study the Bible and use what we learn to challenge the ways in which we and the World live.

In the first half of 2009, up until the summer break we continued dipping into the Bible on a week by week basis, using characters from the Bible to challenge how we live today. A particular favourite was Esther, and the story of her rise to celebrity glamour, all the while remaining true to God.

Since September we've been using Scripture Union materials week by week and finding them very helpful as a starting point with ready made resources, including web based animations. We have also had Sunday morning visits from Jo Black, the local SU regional worker and Georgie Orme, from the congregation. In each case we interviewed them and covered a range of questions, but with a focus on what their job involved and why they ended up working in full time ministry for God (albeit in very different circumstances with different risks and dangers – the risk of Jo being bitten by a snake in North Edinburgh is probably low).

In June we did a sponsored Jailbreak to raise money for Samaritan's Purse. This required two teams to see how far they could get from the Church one Sunday afternoon, with only £10 per team. The winning team managed 22 miles away! Over £300 was raised and great fun had by everyone. In December our outing was to 10 Pin Bowling – great fun but very much mixed results!

Colin MacNeill



Lighthouse



It has been an exciting year at the Lighthouse. The number of children on the roll has increased to 15, aged between 5 and 10 years. We have welcomed 2 new children and been delighted also to have 5 children who have joined us from the Little lites. We had 3 girls move up to Lighten Up after the summer.

The teaching is generally shared equally between the 3 regular leaders and we have been blessed by the additional support offered by Kate Aitchison.

On our journey of faith over the last year, we started by looking at the Life of Jesus, which took us back in time to the Old Testament prophesies then right up to today! Next, we learned about Paul's transformation and journeys. We had fun making up our own passports which were stamped each week as we travelled around the Mediterranean with Paul. Everyone particularly enjoyed building a boat out of Sunday School furniture, dressing up and climbing aboard while we sang 'With Christ in your vessel you can smile at the storm'. In our most recent block of lessons have been learning about Elijah, Elisha and Jonah. All of the children have been enthusiastic and encouraged the teachers with their eagerness to listen to the Bible and learn about Jesus.

This term we will be finding out about God's plan to save us, who He used and how He did it. This will lead up to Easter Sunday.

The main social highlight was our annual Christmas Party in the church, when again we came together with the Little lites and Lighten Up to share a party tea. We have not had an outing with the children this year, but are keen for this to happen in the forthcoming year.

Lynn MacNeill.



We have had another year of fun learning all about our Lord Jesus.

Our Little Lights continue to thrive; our babies are now toddlers and as always keep us on our toes.

Four of our children graduated to Lighthouse in the summer, Sophie Robertson, Verity McNeill, David Weir and Lillie Martin, this leaves a total of 8 children who regularly attend with the occasional visitors. Because of the reduction in the number of children we have been able to provide a 4 team rota rather than 3 teams.

Over the past year we have been learning about being a Child of God, Jesus is out of this world; Jesus is alive, Daniel, David and Goliath, The Lost Sheep, Zaccchaeus, Joseph and much more.

Each week we include a craft which is associated with the lesson, this is always very interesting and inventive and not always just for the children. During the year the children have made a colourful wall freeze of Jesus Is Out of this World, megaphones, binoculars, bread rolls, caterpillars, Joseph's wonderfully coloured coat an Easter egg tree and sheep masks. The material we use is taken from Tiddlywinks by Scripture Union and other suitable resources sought by the team co-ordinators.

In December we held the children's Christmas Party. Because of the varied age range each group meet in separate rooms for games songs and fun then we join together in the cafe area for eats and the giving of gifts. A good time is had by all and the children seem to enjoy one another's company.

We thank you all for your continued support and prayers.

Pray that our children will be kept healthy and protected from harm.

Pray as the children grow they will always keep God's word in their heart.

Pray for God's guidance so that we may teach our children at their level and in a way that they will enjoy and understand.

Please do feel free to come and join us one Sunday to see what goes on in Little Lights occasionally you may like to tell the children a short story or just come and sit and join in the fun, you would be very welcome.

Jeanette Meek



The Guild



Our May Annual Outing in 2009 was to the East Neuk of Fife. The weather was not kind to us but the friendship and laughter we shared throughout the day kept us warm and we enjoyed High Tea overlooking the Golf Course at St Andrews.

The Guild's new National Theme for 2009-2010 is

"What does the Lord require of You?.....to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God" (from Micah 6:8.)

And so, our first term has reflected the understanding of and support of "justice" in our world. We raised £415 with an "After Church Soup Lunch" in December and the money was given to the H.I.V./AIDS project "A New Hunger" which enables women in Kenya to establish workshop businesses to provide nourishing food for their families and so increase the successful intervention of the anti-viral drugs these communities are now receiving in the fight against this dreadful virus.

To celebrate the Centenary of Women winning the Right to Vote, Gwenneth Williamson visited us in October to give us an insight into the struggle and determination of the women who fought so hard on behalf of us all.

At our Bible Study Evening in November, Peter, our Minister, got us all involved in understanding what "justice" should mean in the way we all live our Christian lives with others. Formal Dress was not required for our evening with Mr Charles Hutton M.B.E.! We were enthralled to hear of the background scenes which are part of this Royal occasion inside Buckingham Palace and honoured to have shared Charlie's anecdotes of his Investiture by Her Majesty the Queen.

We enjoyed our Guild Christmas Dinner "at home" in our own Church Hall, a "first" since we moved back into our own building. This was deemed a great success due to the superb catering and the efficient and friendly serving of our meal, followed by some fun-filled and very competitive party games!

Snow and ice brought about the cancellation of our first meeting of 2010, but the slight thaw saw a full house for our Scottish Night of Haggis and Neeps followed by a trip (via the Plasma Screen!) to the Ross Bandstand in Princes Street for music by the Scottish Fiddle Orchestra and songs from The Caledons.

Charlotte Ager spoke to us about the International Justice Mission U.K. which has rescued 400 women and children from sexual exploitation since it started in Cambodia in 2002. I.J.M. works with the authorities there to rescue victims and prosecute the perpetrators. Charlotte has inspired us, as a Guild, to organise a fundraising event for this project, "Terrify no more", which aims to rescue 65 children each year from human trafficking. We would ask you all to watch out for further details from the Guild in the coming weeks.

Our annual Film Show is always fun and of course includes ice cream at the interval. Popcorn is optional!

After our A.G.M. in March, our members are rewarded with a traditional Daffodil Tea and a fantastic Bring and Buy table where surprises and bargains are always anticipated!

The final evening of this session will be a Musical Social Evening on April 13th at 7pm to which all friends are warmly invited. We would love to see you all there and also at our fortnightly meetings in the new session starting in mid September. At Newhaven Guild we strive to live up to our Aim of expressing our Faith in Worship, Prayer and Action.

Louisa McKenzie



Boys Brigade



Sections

We now have 6 boys in our Anchor Boys (p2-3), 7 boys in our Junior Section (p4-6), and close to 30 in our Company Section (p7-s6).

Activities and events

On our Friday meeting nights we have been running some great activities. Things covered include instruction in cooking, film-making, healthy living, job skilling and various sports. Trips have also been arranged on a regular basis and we have paid visits to laze quest, paintball, mega bowl, go-karting as well as having a BBQ at Yellowcraigs.

In addition, we are in the process of getting a record number of guys (15) through their Duke of Edinburgh and BB President's Badge and Queen's Badge Awards.

The Company took part in a number of Battalion Competitions including cross country, swimming, physical training, badminton and football. We also took part in National football and table tennis competitions in Gourrock, Buckie and Aberdeen.

Camp

One of the highlights of the year was our camp at Craggan, Loch Tay in July.

Activities included white water rafting, canvas camping, golf, tennis, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking.

Staff

We now have a very settled staff team of 13, most of whom were members of the company as boys. They are a very enthusiastic bunch and are firmly committed to serving all who that come along.

Advancing Christ's Kingdom amongst Boys

While we do a massive amount with the boys in terms of activities and trips, our key priority remains the advancement of Christ's Kingdom amongst boys. We hope that the boys will experience God's love for them, not just through our devotional times, but by our care for and service to them.

We have continued to focus on our motto, Luke 6:31 – treating others as you would have them treat you. However, we have also had discussions about many of the areas that the boys have wanted to bring up (other religions, loving your enemies, heaven and hell, amongst others).

We have also been working on having the boys serve others and we feel that there is a transformational impact of this. Serving the teas and coffees after the Sunday services is just one small part of this work.

For more information on the Company, please visit our website at www.20thleith.com

Colin Robertson



The Haven



The Haven Centre still continues to open its doors each Wednesday and our numbers remain more or less the same as before. We have our short service on the first Wednesday of each month and it is greatly appreciated by The 'Haveners'. We have largely dispensed with guest speakers as there has been little interest shown - it is more a time for people catching up with their friends who they have not seen since the previous week.

The penny bottle has proved to be very popular and we have sent funds for clean water and for mosquito nets. We were also able to disburse funds and gave to the Treasurer, the cafe and provided living gifts via Samaritan's Purse very much in keeping with our Mission Statement "To serve Christ, each other and the community". We look forward to continuing this in 2010.

The Friday Fancy Footwork continues each Friday morning, 11-12.30. The numbers have dwindled slightly due in part to losing the teacher, Chalky White. However, the new teacher, a young lad, Scott, has proved a capable replacement and hopefully numbers will increase in time. It is still a very worthwhile outreach and good to have a partnership with the Aging Well people.

As always this work would not be possible without the cheerful and faithful volunteers who man the teapots each week, so a very special thanks to each one of them. Thanks are due to the Haven committee for their commitment to the work, our Treasurer, Retta, for her care and attention to our finances, Louisa who looks after the pennies and to Margaret Wilson and Heather who help by serving teas and closing up on Fridays.

Eileen Tait



The café has flourished over the past year, under the very efficient management of Fiona. We are seeing an increase in local people coming in on a regular basis as well as passing trade. We have also had some innovative events, such as Cream Teas for Wimbledon Fortnight (with television in the Lighthouse room), special individual Simnel Cakes for Easter and having a table set out for 'Fairraid' stock occasionally.

I would like to thank all the volunteers who give up their time to work in the café. Their cheery faces behind and in front of the counter remind us how blessed we are.

Our 'regulars' enjoy the varied work of the café but we are still looking for more volunteers to help in the café, especially when the 'regulars' need some well-earned time off! We now have a new Catering Assistant, Brenda Cloete, and we hope she is settling in well to her new post.

Our Tuesdays and Wednesdays continue to be busy and we have seen a marked improvement in customer numbers on a Thursday as well. Please pray that people continue to enjoy the good food and atmosphere in our Café, and that God's love shines through in the service our staff give to clients.

Bea Frances



In 2009 Newhaven Toddlers continued to go from strength to strength. An average of around 40 families attend each week with either one or two children, so we've found ourselves very busy once again.

There's been lots of new faces as, now in our third year, some of the older children have moved on to nursery etc. Families pay £1 per session and spend time playing, singing and snacking. Many then stay on after for lunch and a chat in the Connections Cafe which is great.

To celebrate Christmas, all the children received a book, 'You are special' for the over twos and 'Just incase you ever wonder' for the babies, both written by Max Lucado and given with the purpose of letting each child know just how much they are treasured by God.

Our sincere thanks go to our extremely dedicated and hard working volunteers - Thank you!
Lynsay Orbeozo



Footprints

Nationally Crusaders became Urban Saints a few years ago but we were not keen on the name and remained Trinity Crusaders. However last March we decided that the time had come to change our name partly because it wasn't suitable for the 21st Century and also we felt we would like a name that could be easily explained, understood and challenging.

We decided on the name "FOOTPRINTS" - following Jesus' footprints /exploring Jesus' footprints and finding out more about Him. To help us get used to the name and to give us an identity some of the young people and leaders bought hoodies, all different colours but with white or black footprints on the back.

We have 5 leaders and another 3 young leaders who have just left school. There are 28 children, 14 in primary 3-7 and 14 in secondary school.

We have enjoyed a late Christmas party in January at Megabowl and then back to Newhaven for games, pizza and puddings, our 78th birthday service and inflatable party in March and then the weekends.

This year those in secondary went to Teen Ranch - an Australian outdoor centre where we do horse riding, canoeing, rifle shooting, archery, mountain bikes and lots more. The centre organize everything so it means there is lots of time for building relationships as we take part in the activities together and we do find it bonds the group together. Those in primary 4-7 went as usual to Crail and also did lots of activities including climbing, abseiling, canoeing and archery as well as beach and barbeque and taking part in the service of the local Church of Scotland.

Weekends away are extremely important in our programme and we usually have 100% attendance. When you think of it we usually meet for just over an hour on about 35 weeks of the year and a weekend can have between 43- 48 hours which is more than a whole year. There are many opportunities for just living out the Christian faith with the young people over a weekend and lots of good conversations, discussions and questions occur and a huge amount of fun and laughter too.

Our annual picnic was in June and we had a brilliant time on the beach with a massive sandcastle competition and swim in the sea and glorious sunshine, before the rain came down!!

We had our Christmas service in St Serf's as usual with a big Nativity Play and everyone taking part. We raised £300 between Rachel House and Bethany Night Shelter.

It's been good to have had a number of new children in the P4& 5 age group this past year. We have 13 different schools represented and children coming from Pilton, Leith and Duddingston and everywhere in-between. New children are always welcome whether they go to church or not, over half of our children do not attend church and yet are very regular and many have been coming for years.

I would like to thank my leaders for their commitment and hard work; we very much work as a team.

Although we are an independent organization we very much feel "a part" of Newhaven Church and value the prayer and support we receive. We would like to thank the Kirk Session for allowing us to meet on a Sunday afternoon and for including us in your report.

Christine Hodge