

# Review of the Year 2009



## ***Our Church***

In the past year, the number of adults in the church community has continued to grow, albeit slowly, to 425 (420 in 2008). In contrast, the number of children and young people has fallen to 240 (260 in '08), principally due to fewer babies and toddlers in crèche. Overall, upon adding together these and other categories, the church community numbers 677 people. (696 in '08).

The 2008 Christmas Carol Service saw a record attendance of 895 people (821 in '07), including just under 250 children and their leaders (235 in '07), demonstrating that this event remains a key means of connecting with our communities. Such is the year-on-year growth rate that it has been necessary to introduce a second Carol Service in 2009.

26 House Groups (24 in '08) met fortnightly at various homes and locations throughout Balerno, South West Edinburgh and Kirknewton. House Group Leaders are supported by 6 House Group Pastors and, along with other leaders within the church, attend monthly teaching, training and leadership meetings. Approximately 350 adults (345 in '08), over 80% of the adult church, belong to a House Group.

15 Prayer Cell Groups (13 in '08) met weekly, attended by 115 members (100 in '08).

We celebrated as 6 babies/toddlers were dedicated, 5 couples were married and 7 people were baptised.

## ***Serving within the Church and in our Communities***

Led by our staff team and supported by the expertise, experience and enthusiasm of many of our volunteers, we continued to provide a wide range of courses offering help, discipleship, training and advice. Courses included Alpha, Youth Alpha, Freedom in Christ, Child Protection, Marriage, Marriage Preparation, Parenting, Work and Money Management. Our staff team also continued to be involved with the provision of the Listening Ear service at Balerno High School.

Our focus on wellness grew significantly as we complemented our existing pastoral support activities with the launch of the Life and Soul Counselling service, the culmination of over two years of dedicated effort from our 20 students who will graduate with the Diploma in Christian Counselling in 2010 and joined our existing team in October '08. Life and Soul is already building an excellent reputation as a vital resource for both the church and the wider community, and enjoys the support of local Medical Centres.

Other outreach events included regular involvement in the Balerno Farmers Market, organising the Balerno Music Festival Ceilidh, redecorating a classroom at Dean Park Primary School, cleaning accommodation for Bethany Christian Trust clients, serving individuals and groups across our communities, notably through Hope '09 during the May Bank Holiday, and free fun for around 200 children and young people at the third Inflatables Day, held at Woodcroft in Sept.

## **Mission**

15% of Ministry Fund income (£114,500) was transferred to the UK & World Mission Giving Fund for distribution to mission partners and projects, with the principal recipients being:

- Bethany Christian Trust,
- The Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford (Martin Whittingham),
- Holy Trinity Wester Hailes (Ollie Clegg),
- Overseas Missionary Fellowship (the Thomsons),
- Scripture Union Scotland (including EsTeam),
- Tearfund (including the Work a Miracle (AIDS) project),
- Wycliffe Bible Translators (the Baines),
- Somerset West Baptist Church, South Africa,
- Living Stones Church and School, Okara, Pakistan. (Rev Waqas Moazzam visited St Mungo's in August.)

Our giving this year has also included a number of smaller donations to other mission agencies including:

- Alpha Scotland,
- Care Van/Shelter,
- Clan Gathering,
- Evangelical Alliance,
- Friends International,
- Heriot-Watt International Students,
- UCCF.

Additionally, a collection was taken over Christmas 2008 for Comfort Rwanda (a Scottish charity working with street kids in Rwanda) and raised a total of just over £6,400 including tax recoverable. This collection was given directly to the charity and is not included in the accounts.

The Vestry approved sponsorship guidelines (drawn up by the UK and World Mission Giving Team) for people and teams applying for mission trips.

Various mission trips took place during the year, including:

- Bill and Marion Thompson helping to lead a team from 3 different Edinburgh churches to revisit Rwanda in September.
- Richard McArthur leading a team from St Mungo's to visit the Maseno Farmers School in Kenya in June.
- Andrea Wigglesworth travelling on mission and speaking trips to South Africa in January, and China and Malaysia in September.

## **Leadership and Governance**

The Rector, the Staff team and the Vestry combine their complementary gifts and responsibilities to form the Leadership and Management Body of the church. The Spiritual leadership of the church resides with the Rector and the principal purpose of the Vestry is to serve the Rector, the Staff and the wider church by governing the temporal affairs of St Mungo's. These affairs most commonly include matters of property, financial stewardship and resources. In addition, charitable status requires the Vestry to hold the position and legal obligations of Trustees, broadly summarised as being "*the persons having the general control and management of the administration of the charity*". Responsibility for creating, developing and implementing plans and strategies resides with the Rector and the Staff team.

The Vestry appreciates the time and wisdom of those who support it on the three Sub Groups who report and present recommendations in key specialist areas:

- *Salary Review Group*: David Hutton, Graham Storrie, John Stuart, Alison Wilson and Derek Thomson;
- *The Investment Team*: Andrew Hartley (who retired this year), Andrew November, Graham Storrie, Simon Lloyd (who was appointed during the year) and Alison Wilson;
- *UK and World Mission Giving Team*: Richard McArthur, Val Montgomery, Bill Thompson, Alison Wilson and Kate Yates.

The Vestry met on 11 occasions during the year. Minutes of the meetings, which are available at the information points at each of the services, provide a forum for feedback to the church.

During the course of this year, the Vestry implemented a number of measures to ensure best practice compliance with their responsibilities as Charity Trustees. These measures included clarifying roles and responsibilities, increasing information flows with staff ministry departments via "show case reports" being presented by respective Heads of Ministry at Vestry meetings, the establishment of an annual Vestry and Staff joint Away Day (scheduled for 30 Jan 2010), the production of a Vestry Briefing Folder and the creation of a Vestry Skills Profile, which will help determine future training requirements and indicate where external expertise may be required.

The Rector continued in his role on the Scottish Episcopal Church Provincial Standing Committee. Malcolm and other local ministers also continued in dialogue with the Bishop concerning the Anglican Covenant. Andrea Brewster continued as a Lay Representative on the Scottish Episcopal Church General Synod, Pat Barfill continued to serve on the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Committee and Alison Wilson continued to serve on the Diocesan Stewardship Group.

## ***Projects and Developments***

This has been a year of significant investment in our resources and infrastructure, notably:

- the creation of new staff offices and meeting room facilities at the Ministry Centre, which opened in December 2008;
- the redevelopment of Woodcroft as the Wellness Centre, which now hosts Life and Soul and opened in February 2009;
- the refurbishment of the lounge at the Church Building, which was completed in September 2009;
- the installation of audio-visual technology (including a hearing loop) at Balerno High School in October 2008 with subsequent developments continuing throughout 2009;
- the creation of the new role of Wellness Centre Manager in February 2009.

These developments were possible due to the gifts and generosity of our church community. In November 2008, the church responded to a “special offering” by raising over £69,000 including tax recoverable. This generosity has enabled the church to fund two years’ costs for the role of Wellness Centre Manager, support the completion of the redevelopment of Woodcroft to serve as the Wellness Centre, undertake work on areas of need at the Ministry Centre and carry out other developments across the church which could not otherwise be funded from existing budgets.

## ***Finance***

In the midst of a difficult economic climate our overall finances remained steady with total Ministry Fund income just under 1% below budget and congregational giving to the Ministry Fund 5% up on the previous year. While one-off gifts fell significantly and some standing orders were reduced, new standing orders were set up and a considerable number of members increased their giving. Approximately 87% of house-holds in house groups gave to the church during the year and tax efficient giving remained high at 95%. Partly as a result of prudent decision making, total expenditure for the year was £25,000 under budget. Further details are to be found in the relevant Financial Reports.

## ***National Links and Involvement***

Staff and volunteers continued to make a significant contribution nationally including involvement in CLAN Gathering, Bethany Christian Trust, Worship Central and Alpha Scotland.

### **Staff**

The Vestry wishes to thank Muriel Samson for her term of service as Wellness Centre Manager and welcomes Sharan Collins, who succeeded Muriel in August.

Katherine Burnett joined the team as Assistant Accountant in November 2008.

In order to pursue opportunities for growth and to develop our Ministries, the Vestry agreed to increase the contracted hours worked by Ruth Smart, Children's Worker, (from 3 days to 4 days per week ), and Derek Thomson, Operations Director, (from 2 days to 4 days per week) with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October.

At the same time, Clare Gardner, Director of Children's Ministry, decided to reduce her paid time commitment to 3 days per week in order to pursue her interests in counselling children and young people.

### **Thanks**

The Vestry wishes to express its appreciation to the vast number of volunteers who contribute towards the running of the church.

The Vestry also expresses its gratitude to Iain Gordon and Emma Galloway who are standing down from Vestry this year having kindly committed to two extra months of service in order to accommodate the change in the date of our Annual General Meeting.

Please pray for existing and new Vestry members, that they will continue to be given God's wisdom for the leadership decisions that they need to take.

*This is an abbreviated version of the full report contained in the annual accounts. Copies of the annual accounts are available at the information tables at each service and from the church Finance Manager.*