



# St Leonard's

## Scottish Episcopal Church

### 2013 Annual Report

St Leonard's Church Dobbies Rd Lasswade & Bonnyrigg  
A Scottish Charity no. SC014151

## ST. LEONARD'S CHURCH, LASSWADE

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 30<sup>th</sup> October 2013

#### AGENDA

- 1) Opening Prayer
- 2) In memoriam
- 3) Apologies
- 4) Order of business
- 5) Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2012 (page 3)
- 6) Matters arising from Minutes
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
- 7) Rector's Report (page 4)
- 8) Secretary's Report (page 5)
- 9) Treasurer's Report (page 6-8)
  - a) Approval of annual report and accounts for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2012
  - b) Approval of annual report and accounts for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2013
- 10) Lay Representative's and Area Council Report (page 9-10)
- 11) Property Report (page 11-12)
- 12) Reports from groups and committees (page 13-15)
- 13) Statistics
- 14) Election of:
  - a) Vestry Members – Shan Kemp and Ruth Simpson retire at this AGM, so there are vacancies for up to four new members - (Vestry members continuing to serve are Tom Mooney, Alison Bruce, Vicky Scott, Neil Stewart and John Mellon)
  - b) Lay Representative – currently Vicki Clark
  - c) Alternate Lay Representative – currently Chris Todd
  - d) People's Warden – currently Ian Nicolson
- 15) Appointment of Rector's Warden – currently Martin Johnson
- 16) Appointment of Independent Examiner – currently Jack Kirk
- 17) Any other competent business:
  - a)
  - b)
  - c)
- 18) Vote of thanks
- 19) Closing Prayer

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> Oct 2012

**Present:** Rev Peter Harris and 19 members of the congregation.

**1 Opening Prayer:** The meeting opened with a reading from Thessalonians and prayer.

**2 In Memorial:** Maria Green and Alan Kean.

**3 Apologies:** Ruth Simpson, Cathie Anderson, Jackie Shannon, Judy Strong.

**4 Order of Business:** As Agenda.

**5 Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Hall on Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Oct 2011.**

These were proposed by Vicky Scott and seconded by Vicki Clark.

**6 Matters Arising:**

**a) Organ:** There had been a recent repair to the organ of £264. It was decided to keep the organ for the time being, as we can maintain it at its present cost. Elisabeth Stewart was still happy to play for us once a month.

**b) Hall:** The Hall is listing to one side as there are no proper foundations. It will be necessary to put in major supports or else demolish the whole building. As the Hall is a listed building, we would have to approach Historic Scotland if we decide to pull it down and rebuild. Peter said that he was meeting with Jennifer Willis to discuss various possibilities regarding the Hall. Peter stressed the hall's value as a community hall for different groups/organisations in Bonnyrigg/Lasswade. He also suggested the possibility of going into partnership with the Girl Guides to develop the site as a whole.

**7 – 13 Reports from various organisations:**

Outlined below are the salient points from some of the reports.

**7 Rector's Report:** Peter said that he was very happy with the many positive initiatives, such as the Pastoral Care Group, which were being undertaken at St. Leonards.

**8 Secretary's Report:** John asked those present if they would like to receive vestry notes in the magazine.

**9 Treasurer's Report:** Tom said that for six months we had been in the red. He made a request for payments to be made by Standing Order. Any surplus we made was nearly all made up from donations. The capital was divided between Barclays, Bank of Scotland and a Trust Fund. The Accounts had not yet been examined – this would be done at a later date.

**12 Property Report:** Martin reported that vandalism was an ongoing problem. Mike suggested we acquire a CCTV camera.

**14 Statistics:** There had been one funeral (Maria Green) and three baptisms - Tom and Alex Kirk and Will Couillard, but no weddings. There followed a short discussion amongst those present as to how we could promote the use of St. Leonard's as a wedding venue. The fee for performing a wedding was £300. Tom suggested that we drop this fee.

**15 – 17 Elections:** Joy Mooney was to retire from the vestry.

Neil Stewart was proposed as a future vestry member by Shan Kemp and seconded by Ian Nicolson. Vicki Clark was re – elected as Lay Rep and Chris Todd as Alt Lay Rep. Ian Nicolson was re – elected as People's Warden and Martin Johnson was re – appointed as Rector's Warden. Jack Kirk was re – elected as Independent Examiner.

**18 AOCB:** None

**19 Votes of Thanks:** Joy Mooney and Alison Bruce were thanked for providing and serving the buffet. Ian Nicolson thanked everyone who helped in the church. Particular thanks were given to John, Tom and Martin for all their tireless work as Secretary, Treasurer and Property Manager respectively. Ruth Simpson was thanked for her hard work as flower co-ordinator and especially for the beautiful flower displays in the church at Easter and Harvest Festival. Finally Ian thanked Peter, Fiona, Elizabeth and Bill for all their input and support over the last year.

**20 Closing Prayer:** The meeting closed with prayer and the Grace.

## Rector's Report

As I begin to write and reflect on this past year I am reminded of the Hymn "One More Step along the world I go" with its refrain or chorus,

***And it's from the old I travel to the new;  
keep me traveling along with you.***



Within the Hymn there is a sense of movement, development and life with all its twists and turns. Although God is not mentioned the underlying theme is that we journey together with God seeking his strength, courage and love. This year I personally feel that although there have been some frustrations and delays we have taken some good positive steps forward on that journey.

I am delighted with the response that the new Pastoral Group received and after some initial training in Listening Skills we now have a good team of people at both churches already engaging with some of the Pastoral work of the charge. If you or anyone you know would appreciate a Pastoral Visit please do inform Joy Mooney, Noreen Grieve or one of the Ministry Team (Elizabeth Jones, Bill Elliot, Jenny Godfrey and myself) and we will arrange this for you. The Pastoral group is a key development in the life of the churches as our vision is to expand from where we are as "Friendly and Welcoming" church to a church that is "Friendly, Welcoming and Caring". We look forward to further developing this group and to move towards having within it a number of people who can be called upon to administer Communion to the sick and housebound. Another aspect of this group is the development of a "Card Ministry" where people will be sent cards where we know that there is a pastoral need or to acknowledge the anniversary of a Wedding, Baptism or Funeral.

Within our weekly services it has also been a delight to encourage individuals to be involved in the worship of the church as a sign of our commitment to corporate worship as a body of made up of many parts. Music is often a central component to our worship and although we have explored a number of avenues we have struggled with finding musicians to cover all the services in a month. My thanks go to all who give of their time, finance, talents and abilities in maintaining the church physically and spiritually. Together we are one body, worshipping God as a friendly, welcoming and caring church family and it is a privilege to be your Rector and friend.

At St Leonard's it has been a real delight to witness the development and growth of the Sunday Club. My thanks go to John and his team of willing assistants. Our big challenge for the year ahead will of course be around the future of the hall. It is a key asset not only for our church activities but for the facilities and role it plays (or could play) in the life of the wider community.

In the wider community we have continued to play our part as a church ecumenically taking part in many of the joint adventures that have been organised over this past year. Holy Week and Easter services are still significant ecumenical occasions. This year we also held an outreach BBQ in Dalkeith and hope to repeat this next summer. Quiz Aid has also become an annual event bringing churches together to "FUN-raise" for Christian Aid. This years winner was St John's & Kings Park Church with St Leonard's coming a close second with St Mary's in third but all done in good fun and with thanks to Andrew Watt our own Bamber Gascoigne.

Working with our friends from RE:Bonnyrigg we are also now involved in the running of a Christianity Explored course and have also been able to establishing a couple of Scripture Union (SU) groups within the Burnbrae & Lasswade Primary Schools. Discussions are also taking place with Lasswade High School about the possibility of having an SU group there too. As we approach our AGM it has also been a delight to be involved in the setting up of a new Ecumenical Youth Group and over the next few months they will be following the Youth version of the Christianity Explored course.

As we continue to step out in faith may we have the courage to keep on loving though the world is tough and to continue our travels with God until our journey's end. *With love from Peter*

## **Secretary's Report – 2012/13**



This has been a year of progress in a number of directions.

At the time of our last Annual General Meeting, we were very much in a state of flux concerning the future of our church hall and, as a consequence, there was much discussion and uncertainty then on what might or might not be done with it.

Thankfully, we have been able to make progress on this in the course of the last twelve months. Following further advice from another surveyor and from an architect, and the commissioning of a comprehensive report from them, we were given enough information to enable the members of the Vestry at their September meeting to unanimously agree on the way forward. More news about that can be found later in The Property Report for this Annual General Meeting

Other property related work has continued at both the church and Rectory. Thanks are especially due to Martin and a few others who have rolled up their sleeves and got on with the hard work. Much progress has especially been made at the Garden of Rest and it is now in a condition worthy of its purpose. *(The Garden of Rest is available for the interment of Ashes of our loved ones, to make use of the garden for this purpose please do speak to the Rector)*

At the beginning of the year we also set up the Fundraising sub-committee, which has resurrected some of the money-raising activities last experienced many years ago and introduced some new ones for our enjoyment. Thanks to Neil and other members of the committee for all of their efforts in this direction.

More recently we have seen the establishment of a Pastoral Care group with members from both churches. The scope and work of this group are still being developed.

The Sunday Club has seen strong growth over the last year with more regular attendees now than we've had in the past twenty-plus years. Thanks to all of the leaders who have committed themselves to working with our children and young people.

Peter himself has recently been involved with the setting up of an interdenominational youth group for young people from a few of the local churches. We hope that this will be a success and that our own young people will involve themselves in it.

Last but not least, we must remember with thanks that our numbers have increased under Peter's stewardship, and we welcome all those who have newly decided to worship with us over the course of this last year.

We especially thank Peter, Elizabeth and Bill for sustaining our spiritual well-being, as well as all those who participate in so many ways in our worship, in the duties which they carry out on Sundays or at other times, and in the management and maintenance of our church and its activities.

We thank all those who attend the Vestry meetings each month and give of their time to oversee the Spiritual, Physical and financial concerns of the church. Shan Kemp and Ruth Simpson retire from the Vestry at this Annual General Meeting and we thank them for their valuable contribution over the last three years. We look forward to new members being elected to the Vestry at this meeting.

**John Mellon  
Secretary**

## Receipts and Payment Account

For the Year Ended September 2013

|                                                           | Notes | 2013<br>£         | 2012<br>£         |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                                           |       |                   |                   |
| Donations received                                        |       |                   |                   |
| Voluntary Income :                                        |       |                   |                   |
| Pledged giving                                            |       | 15,067.00         | 15,539.31         |
| Open Plate                                                |       | 6,483.65          | 6,815.64          |
| Donations                                                 |       | 1,494.77          | 3,153.20          |
| Tax reclaimed (Gift Aid)                                  |       | -                 | 6,252.86          |
| Other                                                     |       | 288.75            | 205.00            |
| Restoration Fund                                          |       | 3,700.40          |                   |
| Receipts from investments other than land & buildings     |       |                   |                   |
| Investment income                                         |       | 943.74            | 761.70            |
| Bank Interest                                             |       | 368.42            | 448.61            |
| Gross receipts from other charitable activities           |       |                   |                   |
| Miscellaneous                                             |       | 3,770.50          | 3,832.79          |
| Grants received                                           |       | 110.00            | 110.00            |
| <b>Total receipts</b>                                     |       | <b>32,227.23</b>  | <b>37,119.11</b>  |
| <b>PAYMENTS</b>                                           |       |                   |                   |
| Payments for charitable activities                        |       |                   |                   |
| Stipend & Pension                                         |       | 34,179.96         | 33,532.05         |
| Quota                                                     |       | 3,351.00          | 3,316.00          |
| Trustees expenses                                         | 3     | 1,359.90          | 1,048.95          |
| Property expenses                                         | 4     | 12,999.94         | 11,612.29         |
| Administrative expenses                                   | 5     | 4,721.82          | 3,487.43          |
| Garden expenses                                           |       | 710.00            | 645.30            |
| Altar expenses                                            |       | 180.52            | 245.94            |
| Total payments for charitable activities                  |       | 57,503.14         | 53,887.96         |
| Less St.Mary's share of joint expenses                    |       | -23,675.75        | -20,400.00        |
| Less Specific collections in                              |       | - 2,468.98        | - 2,830.05        |
| Plus Specific collections out                             |       | 2,587.15          | 2,830.05          |
| Donations : Action Aid projects in Kenya & Pakistan, ACAT | 6     | 483.48            | 472.16            |
| <b>Sub Total</b>                                          |       | <b>34,429.04</b>  | <b>33,960.12</b>  |
| Purchase of additional units in SEC Unit Trust Pool       |       | -                 | 8,000.00          |
| <b>Total Payments</b>                                     |       | <b>34,429.04</b>  | <b>41,960.12</b>  |
| Surplus (Deficit ) for the year                           |       | <b>(2,201.81)</b> | <b>(4,841.01)</b> |

# Treasurer's Report

## Treasurer's Report

A snapshot of St. Leonard's accounts at the end of September showed an overall deficit of £2202. This deficit will disappear when our HMRC Gift Aid claim is added in October.

Although regular giving was down on last year, generous donations totalling £3000 towards the cost of a new Hall were received.



Tom Mooney

### St Leonard's Episcopal Church, Lasswade SC014151 Statement of Balances as at September 2013

|                                        |                         |            | 2013       | 2012       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|
|                                        |                         |            | £          | £          |
| <b>Bank and cash in hand</b>           |                         |            |            |            |
| Opening balances                       | <b>Bank of Scotland</b> | 2,721.66   |            |            |
|                                        | <b>Barclays</b>         | 36,605.27  | 39,326.93  | 44,878.32  |
| Surplus(Deficit) for the year          |                         | (2,201.81) | - 2,201.81 | - 1,374.68 |
| Closing balances                       | <b>Bank of Scotland</b> | 5,651.43   |            | (8,000.00) |
|                                        | <b>Barclays</b>         | 6,334.79   |            |            |
|                                        | <b>Virgin Money</b>     | 25,138.90  |            |            |
|                                        |                         |            | 37,125.12  | 35,503.64  |
| <b>Investments</b>                     |                         |            |            |            |
| SEC UnitTrustPool                      |                         | 1926 units |            | 1,183      |
| Market value at beginning of year      |                         |            | 20,066.42  | 11,636.46  |
| Unrealised gain (loss) in year         |                         |            | 3,244.92   | 688.86     |
| Market value at end of year            |                         |            | 23,311.34  | 12,325.32  |
| SEC UnitTrustPool                      | additional units        | 0          |            | 743        |
| Purchase cost                          |                         |            |            | 8,000.00   |
| Unrealised gain (loss) in year         |                         |            |            | (258.90)   |
| Market value at end of year            |                         |            |            | 7,741.10   |
| Overall unrealised gain (loss) in year |                         |            |            | 429.96     |
| Overall market value at end of year    |                         |            | 23,311.34  | 20,066.42  |

**Restricted Fund** : Bank balance total includes £3700.40 which is the Hall Restoration Fund.

## Notes for St Leonard's Accounts 2013

### 1 PROPERTY

The Church, Hall and Rectory are not shown in the statement of balances as the Vestry believes that it is not possible to place a market value on them. The Church and Hall and Rectory are insured at a cost of £3768.59

### 2 FUNDS

The various funds are held for the following purposes:

**Unrestricted Funds** General Fund – to support the work of the Church.

**Restricted Funds** The Hall Restoration Fund - to part fund the repair/rebuild of the Church Hall.

### 3 TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Remuneration

None of the Vestry members received remuneration in respect of their position as Vestry members. However the Rector received a stipend, pension contributions and occupies the rectory on a rent-free basis with the Council Tax and telephone paid by the Church. Heating and lighting are also subsidised. (These are all shared expenses with the linked charge of St.Mary's, Dalkeith.)

Expenses paid to members of the Vestry were as follows:

|                                          | 2013  | 2012  |
|------------------------------------------|-------|-------|
|                                          | £     | £     |
| Rector and mileage<br>Chairman allowance | 1,360 | 1,049 |
| Rev. P.Harris                            | 1,360 | 1,049 |
|                                          | 1,360 | 1,049 |

### 4

#### PROPERTY EXPENSES

|                                                      |        |        |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|
| Premises costs<br>(heat,light and repairs)           | 3,381  | 3,726  |
| Insurance                                            | 3,139  | 3,099  |
| Organ and music                                      | 1,099  | 763    |
| Rectory heat and light,<br>council tax and insurance | 4,541  | 3,184  |
| Rectory maintenance fund                             | 840    | 840    |
|                                                      | 13,000 | 11,612 |
|                                                      | 13,000 | 11,612 |

### 5

#### ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

|                           |       |       |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|
| Other joint costs         | 2,537 | 1,552 |
| Telephone                 | 443   | 315   |
| Printing and stationery   |       | 30    |
| St Leonard's sundry costs | 1,309 | 1,149 |
| St Mary's sundry costs    | 432   | 442   |
|                           | 4,722 | 3,487 |
|                           | 4,722 | 3,487 |

### 6

#### CHARITABLE GIVING

|                                         |     |     |
|-----------------------------------------|-----|-----|
| Action Aid projects in Kenya & Pakistan | 433 | 422 |
| ACAT                                    | 50  | 50  |
|                                         | 483 | 472 |
|                                         | 483 | 472 |

## Area Council and Lay Rep's report

As a Church we are part of the Diocese of Edinburgh and locally part of the Mid and East Lothian Area council. The Council exists to offer collegiality and support to the clergy and congregations of our area. Within council meetings we receive news of what is happening around the area and also discuss agenda items that require feedback to the charges and the Synod.

The Charges in our area include:

St Anne's Dunbar - Rev Andrew Bain  
St Baldric's North Berwick - Rev Canon John Lindsay  
St Adrian Gullane - Rev Canon John Lindsay  
Holy Trinity Haddington - Canon Anne Dyer  
St Andrew's Prestonpans - Rev Andrew Keulemans  
St Peter's Musselburgh - Rev Andrew Keulemans  
St Mary's Dalkeith - Rev Peter Harris  
St Leonard's Lasswade - Rev Peter Harris



### Area Council Report

The Council is now convened by Canon John Lindsay, and since taking the chair there have been two meetings both at St. Baldred's, North Berwick.

In the January meeting, John reminded us of the role of the AC which should meet pre-Synod to discuss events which are on the agenda. However, this often proves difficult due to the paperwork not arriving before the AC meetings.

Common social events were discussed and I raised the point that Sari Salvesen who has hosted the Quiet Day at the beginning of Advent is now finding this physically difficult.

St. Peter's, Musselburgh has a Veterans and Family Support project and Training Days on Listening Skills were being held at St. M and St. L.. Holy Trinity in Haddington reported on a successful Food Bank. St. Anne's, Dunbar, had masonry work done and had obtained a grant from Viridor the landfill company! St. Mary's has had substantial roof work to be done.

Neither Peter or I were able attend the September meeting of the AC but the minutes reveal that the Food Bank appears to be over-supplied but operating as planned. Haddington had a pot-luck supper and are planning a St Andrew's Fair. St. Peter's reported on the highly successful Holiday clubs – an ecumenical week in Prestonpans supported by SU and a one day/weekend event in Musselburgh. Well worth exploring as not expensive (grants from Guthrie Foundation) and link into Messy Church. St Andrews is running worrying low in funds and this is being discussed with the Diocese.

As a result of their Quinquennial Report Haddington will be trying to raise £60,000 over the next three years. However as there was no representation from St Mary's or St Leonard's at this meeting we have still to inform them of our plans and hopes which although will have a large financial bearing on the work of the church will also bring a new dimension to our work in the local community.

Vicki Clark  
October 2013

## LAY REP REPORT 2013

As your Lay Rep I represent the church at our Diocesan Synods acting as one of our communication channels between us and the Diocese and Province and the Diocese and the local church.



In the October Synod, the main thrust of the Bishop's address was that small achievements can make a big difference. Low profile projects enable larger ones. Big Society needs Small Society to work. Our Big God is a God of small things.

The 2012 budget revealed a small surplus due to legacy income and the lack of a Bishop for part of the year and therefore no salary required. The Diocese appreciated that because of the financial climate, many charges were having difficulty reaching their quota. The previous Bishop's flat was also sold for £651K.

St. Hilda's Fund was making grants of up to 5K for congregational mission projects.

Work was on going to produce a template for church websites (Both St. Mary's and St. Leonard's are ahead of the game here as we have ours already!)

International links continue with Dunedin, NZ and Cape Coast in Africa. The Diocese was to start formulating a covenant with Espoo, Finland. (Peter has been on this initiative)

There was to be an Advent Church crawl of churches within the Edinburgh bypass using the main bus links. The 15 churches would open their doors on December 1st. The idea was that we would see the activities in other churches as well as to provide networking and a personal pilgrimage.

At the General Synod, the motion to agree to the process to accept the Anglican Covenant was rejected. It had already been rejected by several Dioceses in C of E.

In the March Synod,

the Bishop reminded us of the changes in Church leadership – the appointment of Justin Welby and the election of Pope Francis. He encouraged us as disciples of Christ to be mutually supportive and accountable. Revd Susan Macdonald has been appointed as dean, the first woman Dean in Scotland. 4 Vocation Advisers have also been appointed.

The Diocese has bought a new Bishop's Residence in Colinton. Prestonpans House to be sold.

Finances are stable. The principle of banking ethically has been discussed, accepted and will be followed up.

Kairos Palestine. The situation of Palestinian Christians was presented by the Nick Bowry. He made a plea for the international community to support and work for a just peace in the region where there is "oppression, displacement, suffering and apartheid".

St. Hilda's Fund. St. John's Jedburgh used their grant toward a part-time Youth Worker and Emmanuel Church at Clermiston used their grant toward community development – a debt café, food bank, street outreach - along with their local Baptist brothers.

"Truly called . . . Two". There is a move toward exploring the role of deacons, a role which in the last decades has been very much reduced as many of the deacons who were women have now been ordained.

## St Leonard's Property Report

Our thanks as always goes to the army of volunteers from the congregation who work hard at keeping the Church, Hall and Grounds in good order over the past year. The property committee endeavours to keep a breast of the physical needs of the Church, Hall, Rectory and associated grounds and often carry out work in house so to speak where we can endeavouring to keep costs to a minimum where we can. Some of the key highlights of the year are as follows:



### Electrical Installation Condition Report (Church and Hall)

With the renewal of our Insurance we were asked to undertake an electrical inspection. The EICR survey was completed and some minor repairs were noted for the church and the Hall wiring were found to be necessary. When these had been implemented, the EICR Certificate was issued and sent to our Insurers. At this time we also addressed the issue of emergency lighting and fitted a new system in the hall.

### Church Roof

We continue to keep a watchful eye on the church roof. One of the missing slates, responsible for rain ingress over the vestry toilet, has been replaced but two other loose tiles await the services of a roofer. As it is difficult to justify the call-out charge for such a small a job we are keeping a close watch to ensure that no water is getting through.

The mesh netting applied to most of the main church guttering appears to be hindering leaf build up, however in the coming year the chancel, sanctuary and vestry gutters will require cleaning and netting applied.

### Heating

As with our own houses fuel bills are ever increasing and are a cause for concern when trying to maintain a warm and welcoming environment within the church and hall. However, we are often at the mercy of the weather as to whether we will have a warm church or not. As we enter the colder months we will endeavour to keep the church at a comfortable temperature Sunday by Sunday. However, please do dress appropriately as we cannot give any guarantees.

### Noticeboard

Those with an observant eye will notice that the old noticeboard on the west wall was getting very tatty and has now been replaced. It is hoped that the Episcopal Church "pub" sign will be reinstated in the coming year.

### The Church Grounds

The Garden of Rest has had a major refurbishment with thanks to Ian Nicolson, Tom Mooney and myself carrying out the major work of clearing out and re-turfing. Additional chips have been added to the path to improve the appearance and access. We have also added more gravel to the path around the Garden, and planted annuals and new hedging shrubs in the borders. With the arrival of Autumn there will need to be a tidy up of leaves, clearing of beds and cutting back of the rhododendrons.

### The Rectory

To the delight of the Rector and his family a new bathroom suite and shower have been installed and the driveway has been re-chipped. There are however, growing concerns about the safety of the property as a number of large tree limbs have been falling, destroying the boundary fence and leaving debris in the garden. The owner of the land adjacent to the Rectory has had some of the more dangerous trees felled but a number of existing trees are still in need of attention.

## St Leonard's Community Hall

The existing hall has been a topic of serious discussion since our last Quinquennial Inspection of 5th October 2010. Within that report we were strongly recommend to carry out a structural survey of the Hall regarding its long term stability and durability.

This Structural Survey was carried out during 2011 and reported to last years AGM. The results revealed that the building was built on shallow foundations sitting on wet vegetable soil. To repair this would require the hall to be underpinned with new foundations and drainage to be installed to dry out the ground. The Structural Survey although showing that a repair to the foundations could be feasible directed us to consider an "Options Appraisal" as it would be unwise not to consider other options at this time as over all condition of the hall poor.

A wide-ranging discussion took place during the 2012 AGM and suggestions were noted for discussion by the Vestry regarding alternative solutions in dealing with the problem and finding a good outcome for the future. As a result of those discussions, the Vestry decided to contract a quantity surveyor's and an architect to examine everything that has gone before and to carry out their own investigations and present a comprehensive report, with options appraisal and costing.

This report was received by us in the middle of August this year and was distributed to all those on the Vestry to consider for discussion at our September meeting. The report is authoritative, complete and conclusive. The following is a very brief summary of its content:-

**Option 1 Repair:** An exhaustive list of immediate and urgent works, fabric restoration and repairs, and later minor enhancements was provided. The indicative cost of all of these, including VAT but excluding statutory and professional fees, is in the order of £200,000. The report states that, on completion of these works and with continued maintenance, the life of the hall may be extended to between fifteen to twenty years. However there would be no additional benefits to the church or community.

**Option 2 New Build:** To demolish the existing building and build a new one with the same total floor area as at present (120 square metres) would cost in the order of £240,000, excluding statutory and professional fees. No VAT would be chargeable on a new build. To provide bigger accommodation, by increasing the floor area would cost in the order of an additional £60,000. This would provide the church and community with a more usable space with modern facilities with a long term durability.

**Vestry Decision:** After having had the opportunity to consider the report, all members of the Vestry unanimously decided that we should *proceed with option 2* of the report, i.e. to demolish the existing building and build a new one. More specific detail and planning with the architect and quantity surveyor will take place in the coming year as we commit to moving the project forward.

A Pre-Planning discussion has also taken place with Midlothian Council who have already highlighted that the issue of the design of the replacement hall is a sensitive one. They state that "*It would be unlikely that the planning authority would support a new building that was different in terms of position and general appearance of the hall that is currently there.*" This curtails some of the ideas that were discussed at previous AGM's but helps us to focus our thoughts on building a new hall on the existing site with a moderately increased floor area and facilities.

Because the decision to replace the Hall has now been made, we have decided that we will limit further expenditure of time and money to vital matters such as health safety and keeping it weatherproof. However, the crèche room has recently been fitted with a new carpet, thanks to the generosity of one of our members, and is now much more pleasant to use.

Our attention will of course now have to be directed towards the small matter of how we fund the development of the new hall. Possible funds and grant making bodies are now being identified with the desire and hope that much of the out lay may be found in by these benefactors.

Martin Johnson  
(for St Leonard's Property Committee)

## Reports from groups and committees



### **Fundraising Sub-Committee**

On behalf of the St Leonard's Fundraising Sub-Committee, I am pleased to report a very successful and most encouraging year to date. The following fundraising events were organised and the sums of money raised are shown against each:

|                                                                    |                                        |          |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|----------|
| Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2013                                 | Beetle Drive                           | £212.00  |
| Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May 2013                                 | May Fayre                              | £1371.66 |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of each month<br>[June to September 2013] | Home Baking Stall<br>[Pitcairn Centre] | £700.40  |

The monthly Home Baking Stall at the Pitcairn Centre is proving to be a very lucrative venture and regularly raises around the £160 mark each month.

At the time of writing, we have just finalised the arrangements for the Harvest Dance which will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 at the Bonnyrigg & District Ex-Servicemen's Club. We are hoping to sell around 80-100 tickets for the event and look forward to it being an enjoyable and profitable evening.

Other events currently being considered include a Christmas Fayre with a proposed date of Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November 2013 and a Burns Supper on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2014.

A lot of effort and hard work has gone into making the events successful and I would like take this opportunity to thank everyone in our congregation for their continued support.

Neil Stewart

### **Sunday Club**

Just over a year ago we formed a new group catering for the youngest members of our church family. This has been a successful addition, which has only been possible to do thanks to four new leaders committing themselves to looking after this group.

At the end of last term, we had eleven young people in the oldest group, which was an unmanageable number. So we made the decision to divide that group into two new, smaller groups, which has also enabled us to introduce more advanced materials for the new oldest group. Once again, this has only been made possible by two new leaders, Katie and Jackie, joining the Sunday Club team.

Our activities often involve much running about and much noise, both of which would be unbearable with four separate groups in the hall. So we have now hired the Guides' hall to house the two older groups, leaving the two younger groups in our hall. This has been a successful change.

Thanks to all of the Sunday Club leaders for their continued commitment to our young people and to the church and congregation for spiritual and financial support.



John Mellon

## Tuesday Housegroup

The Tuesday Housegroup continues to meet fortnightly in each other's homes during term time (and weekly during Lent). We currently have eleven members. This season we have been studying the Apprentice Series by James Bryan Smith. We began with "The Good and Beautiful God"; subtitled "Falling in love with the God Jesus knows".



Each chapter discusses a different characteristic of God, and we certainly found plenty to talk about and hopefully put into practice whilst studying the book. Currently we are reading through the second book in the series "The Good and Beautiful Life"; subtitled "Putting on the Character of Christ".

This book is in the main an exposition of Jesus' teachings as outlined in the Sermon on the Mount, and gives practical suggestions as to how we can go about trying to lead a genuinely good life. Each chapter covers one of the deadly sins (which are all obstacles in the pursuit of this goal). We are certainly finding much in this which applies to our own lives!

During the six weeks of Lent we looked at the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives in a study entitled "Prepared for Purpose". This helped us to understand how the Spirit continually empowers and energises us in our everyday lives.



## ACAT

The Action for Christians Against Torture (ACAT) is a prayer and campaign group to which we are affiliated. Group members receive a bi-monthly Magazine with news and campaign information. Each group member is then encouraged to make a respond in a variety of ways.

Some Write Campaign Letters simply by copying the wording in the Magazine or you can take the information and put it in your own words, then send off by Email or "Snail Mail" to members of Governments whose addresses are given, or Ambassadors in London. This can mean a trip to the Post Office to get the letters weighed and the correct stamps now that Airmail forms are no longer available.

This is not difficult to do and can make an enormous difference to a prisoner's conditions or bring justice to their family or to other Human Rights workers. Governments do not like it if they realise those in other countries are aware of their torture methods to extract confessions, or their cruel and inhumane conditions people are kept in while in prison often awaiting trial or never getting a court hearing at all. Other members support prisoners by letter writing, or sending gifts. Strong friendships can develop over time, and it brings so much comfort and encouragement to men and women in prison to know that some one is praying for them, cares about them and is willing to help them.

Last but most important of all is PRAYER. ACAT is a Christian organisation founded on Prayer. We observe The International ACAT prayer vigil each year in June. We are part of a world wide body of Christians who care about and pray for the Tortured of the World, just as Our Saviour Jesus was.

Rosemary Garrod

## Flowers at St Leonard's

I would like to record my great THANKS to all the people who grace our lovely church with flowers each week and also at the Special Festivals. We are lucky to have such a willing group of people who are willing to decorate our church. If any one else would like to join in this team please speak to me.

Ruth Simpson

## **Cursillo**

The Cursillo movement works in co-operation with both lay people and clergy to encourage and enriches our worship and fellowship.

Cursillo in Scotland is a province-wide movement within the Scottish Episcopal Church, working in consultation with the College of Bishops.

Cursillo is a Spanish word (pronounced kur-see-yo) which means "short course". The full title (Cursillo in Christiandad) means "a short course in being a Christian".



Many people in our churches are aware of this group and sadly for a long time people thought Cursillo was a secretive society. But let me dispel this idea once and for all! Cursillo commences with a weekend experience (or short course) that runs along an Easter theme. None of the weekends are identical although the framework is the same for all.

After completing the short course participants are encouraged to meet on a monthly basis either in the evening or over the winter on Saturday morning as a group in various churches throughout the Diocese. It is not always possible for everyone to make all these *Ultreyas* (*another Spanish word that was used to encourage pilgrims onwards*) but these get together can be very supporting and up lifting helping us on our journey.

We also meet on the second Saturday morning of each month for our local Cursillo people. We meet at 10.30am and finish about 12.30pm at my house. At present there are usually 8 or 9 who meet regularly and we would welcome any one who are interested in joining us.

If any one would like more information, please ask me or any other Cursillo person you know.

Ruth Simpson

## **Fairtrade from Traidcraft**

St. Leonard's continues to promote Fairtrade goods. We only use Fairtrade tea, coffee and sugar.

There is an opportunity to buy other Fairtrade products from our Traidcraft stall on the 4th Sunday of the month. Items ordered from the Traidcraft catalogue through the church come free of P&P.

Buying Fairtrade products ensures that workers enjoy good working conditions and are paid a fair and regular wage.

Traidcraft fights poverty through trade, helping people in developing countries to transform their lives. Established in 1979 as a Christian response to poverty, it is the UK's leading Fairtrade organisation. Traidcraft runs development programmes in some of the poorest countries in the world. It campaigns in the UK and internationally to bring about trade justice.

Please support Traidcraft at St. Leonard's in the coming year.

Joy Mooney.

## **Prayer Group**

Although small in number, we meet regularly after the Wednesday Morning service to offer to God our concerns for those in need. Please let us know if you would like prayers for someone.

If you would like us to pray with you, we can be found at the back of the church during communion on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Joy, Shân and Ruth.

## **Church Cleaning**

Many thanks to all, both men and women, who clean our church every week. More volunteers are always needed – it only takes about an hour 5 or 6 times a year. This is a "behind-the-scenes" job and it can be done at any time during the week.

Joy Mooney

