



Annual Report

2010





A word from the Minister



Friends, first, it's been a joy to be your minister this last year. One of the things I've enjoyed most is seeing people getting involved in the activities which take place in and around our congregation. There is much that happens at Newhaven, not only on Sundays, but especially during the week. It is a sign to me that God's Spirit is moving among us and we are listening to His voice. There is a deep sense of community among the people of this church and I realize that it's partly because the people of Newhaven have always been closely knit but I believe it's more than that, for the face of the community has slowly changed. I think one can see this in the fact that we see new faces almost on a weekly basis. I believe it's also because people don't simply care for one another because they've grown up together but because people are seeking to follow Christ and that matters. It draws people closer and it allows the fruits of God's Spirit to be witnessed. I give thanks to God every week when I look out across the congregation and see young and old together. It teaches me that God is no respecter of persons, God is no respecter of age, that Christ unites us despite these things. A number of our members have celebrated their ninetieth birthdays and we've also welcomed newborn babies into our midst and it is a wonderful thing. It reminds us that God has blessed us greatly.

Our ministries are growing and going from strength to strength and we have run courses like the Alpha Course and they have all been a great blessing to many. We have had some changes too. After five and a half years Heather Robertson has stepped down from her role as Session Clerk and Colin MacNeill has taken over from her. We have also welcomed new members and three new elders and have said farewell to some of our older members who have gone on to be with God. All these things are part and parcel of our life as a congregation and all of them tell of God's presence and we give thanks to God for this.

I have enjoyed preaching each Sunday and I've especially enjoyed my time with the children. It gives me great pleasure to be a small part of their lives and their enthusiasm and zest for life fills me with hope. More than anything I want them to know that God loves them and we love them and I want them to know the importance of love in their lives. I feel the same way about the adults. We live in a cynical and often selfish world and it's only the love of God that truly unites us and transforms us and we need to acknowledge this, let it grip our hearts and motivate everything we do, so that we will truly be like lights in our community. Of course this kind of love is tough. It can so easily conflict with our own thoughts of self-preservation and that is why Jesus always needs to be our focus. We cannot take our eyes off Him, we cannot, for a second, think we are self-sufficient and go it alone. Paul tells us as much in his first letter to the church at Corinth- "without love, we are nothing." So, as we head into a new year, keeping our eyes on Christ, we are going to ponder the way of our Lord. We are going to delve deeply into what it means to live as Christians in this world and I, for one, am excited about what we are going to uncover.

Last but certainly not least, I want to say thank you for all your love and support and all your care for the people of Newhaven Church. I want to thank all those who unselfishly serve God in this place and give of their time and energy to glorify God in both big and small ways. God sees our deeds and knows our hearts. May God continue to bless us and grow us in His love. May we put our trust in Him as we venture forward together in the presence of His Spirit, in the love of Christ.

With much love, Peter



Session Report



There were many reasons to give thanks to God for 2010: for the ways God has been at work in and through Newhaven Church and the vibrancy of our fellowship; but also for the gracious provision of His wisdom to us as we faced new challenges. Some of the items below you will be able to read about in more detail in the individual Working Group reports elsewhere in the Annual Report but they are included here so as to give a rounded reflection of the year of 2010 in the life of Newhaven Church.

Building the Body

The Working Groups held the "Building the Body" weekend in February. This was a weekend of fun and fellowship and an opportunity for the Working Groups to show all the things that go on in Newhaven and the many opportunities for people to serve God. The Communications Group developed the theme of "one body, many parts" and as a result of the weekend, and other initiatives through the year, there are more people than ever involved in the activities of Newhaven Church.

Unless the Lord builds the house

In May we were visited by a group from Presbytery to monitor the "health" of the Congregation. This goes under the banner of "Unless the Lord builds the house" and replaces the old Presbytery Quinquennial Visitation that many of you will remember. A cross section of people from the Congregation spent the evening explaining to the visitors the recent history of Newhaven Church, what we were involved in at the moment and the challenges we faced. We were pleased to receive a very encouraging report from the visiting group who were impressed by the friendliness and enthusiasm of the Congregation as well as the strength of service and fellowship.

Special Commission on Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry

The Session held a special meeting in April in order to respond to the questions posed to every Kirk Session by the Special Commission on Same Sex Relationships and the Ministry. At the outset the Minister stated that the meeting would be conducted in a spirit of love and grace and would be a proper debate. To that end he divided us into two arbitrary groups, with time to prepare and then argue "for" or "against" the ordination of people in same sex relationships. Then in the same groups we swapped and argued for the opposite motion. As a result, all those participating had to consider all sides before the required secret ballot on the specific questions posed by the Special Commission was held.

Our Carbon Footprint

We took part in an exercise to calculate the carbon footprints of Newhaven Church and the manse in order to measure our energy consumption and have since sought the free advice of the Energy Savings Trust. Their recommendations, some of which are more realistic than others, have been passed to the Fabric Working Group to assess.

General Assembly 2010

Hugh McDiarmid attended the General Assembly in May as Commissioner for Newhaven. He brought back to us reports of worthwhile topics as diverse as the financial crisis facing the Church in future years due to salary costs, the impressive work of the Chaplains to HM Forces, particularly given the recent and continuing active service in Iraq and Afghanistan and an enlightening report on the work of the Iona Community.

Newsletter

2010 saw the retirement of Hugh as the magazine editor and we are very grateful to him and the editorial team for their many years' service. Elaine Greig has taken up the post of editor and, together with the Communications Group has relaunched the magazine as a colour newsletter, called Harbour Lights.

Summer Barbecue

After a break of many years, we held a Summer Barbecue in June in the park on Park Road. We enjoyed the sun, fellowship, food and games as a fitting end to the Church calendar before the summer break.

Alpha course

In the Autumn an Alpha course was held for members of the Congregation and, like the first Alpha course held in Newhaven many years before, there was much for which to praise God, as the Spirit moved deeply amongst those taking part. It is hoped that another Alpha course will be able to be held in the near future.

Presbytery Plan consultation

In October, like every other Kirk Session in the Edinburgh Presbytery, we engaged in the consultation exercise concerning the new 10-year Presbytery Plan. This plan is due to be put to the General Assembly in 2012 and seems certain to impact every congregation in the city. Its aim is to make the best use of the Kirk's resources – people, buildings and money – for the furtherance of God's Kingdom. The guiding principle of the plan is the mission of God to which the church is called, and its context is our city and its communities.

We were asked in the consultation exercise what we regarded as the top three missionary tasks for the church in Edinburgh and how we would envisage these tasks being carried out in our parish. In our response, we made mention of Christ's commission to his disciples in Matthew 28: 19 & 20. Taking the preaching of the Gospel as a given, we said that our top three tasks are helping unbelievers to come to faith, nurturing and providing opportunities for growth, and service, with particular emphasis on vulnerable groups, such as the poor, the lonely and the marginalised. We will build on our ongoing Alpha course, the associated growth groups, the Church Café, the Haven, our fellowship at Newhaven Church and our commitment to serving Christ, each other and the community.

Bethany night shelter

Early in January 2011 we hosted the Bethany night shelter on two separate nights and although this strictly speaking will fall within next year's annual report, it seems fitting for this year's report to acknowledge the efforts of all those who donated food, money and their time on the actual nights to help this most worthy of services and in particular we are grateful for Bea Frances's work in co-ordinating and leading the team for the nights we hosted.

New Elders

Three new elders were ordained in December. We welcomed onto the Session Susan Edwards, Alastair Sutherland and Nick Timmins. Each of them will be well known to the Congregation and we look forward to the exercise of their gifts of leadership on the Session.



Church Governance



Appointments & Welfare

The group who co-ordinated the set up of Newhaven Church's new Governance framework in 2009 has evolved into the Appointments &-Welfare Group. Our name does not really mean too much as our main objectives are to ensure

- (i) that the new Governance system is working well,
- (ii) that the members of the Working Groups know what is expected of them,
- (iii) that there is no one taking on too much.

Once the Working Groups were set up it was important that they did not end up 'doing' everything themselves but instead, so far as possible, enlisted the help of the Congregation in the jobs that need to be done in the Church. We therefore decided to have a 'Building the Body' weekend in February 2010 and, with a lot of help from the Communication Group, this was very successful. Not only did it start involving more of the Congregation in the work of the Church but informed them in what each Working Group is doing.

After the summer, we contacted each member of the Working Groups to find out how the new system is working and how we can help make mores successful the change-in our Church. On the back of the feedback received from them we organised a session for all the members of the Groups where we looked at how change affects everyone and gave them all a chance to feedback on what they are doing. This was felt to be of benefit and that there should be more opportunities for the Working Groups to get together on a regular basis.

Building on this the Appointments & Welfare Group have organised a Training Day on Saturday 9th April for members of Session and Working Groups. Peter and Dorothy Neilson will be coming to help us learn more about ourselves as individuals and our roles in the Church. We also plan to have other opportunities for the Working Groups to get together later on in the year.

Heather Robertson has been part of this Group since it started and she has now decided to step down. We would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her wise counsel and invaluable contribution to the Group. The Group now consists of Rev Peter Bluett, Colin MacNeill, Shona Adam and Susan Edwards. If you have any questions about the Working Groups please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Susan Edwards

Mission and Outreach Group (MOG)

What an amazing God we serve and what a privilege to be involved with some of the amazing things He is doing among us here in Newhaven.

- Cafe continues to go from strength to strength (see separate report).
- Toddlers has proved so successful that they are currently exploring expanding into an extra time slot in the week. See Lynsey Orbegozo for more details.
- Alpha Course Last autumn's course was attended by over 30 participants, mainly, but not exclusively, from our own members. It is planned to run another Alpha Course this autumn, aimed more at the wider community. If you would like to be involved in some way with that course then please speak to either Kate Aitchison or Alastair Sutherland.
- Carol Singing at Asda was again well supported, with attractive publicity leaflets detailing our Christmas services handed out to shoppers. Thanks to Eileen we all went back to the church hall afterwards for hot soup!
- Christian Aid Shona Adam has taken over from Marcus Stout as the church's convener. We would like to thank Shona and Marcus and all their predecessors for their level of commitment to this very worthy cause.

- Try Praying In the run-up to Easter, Mission and Outreach will be supporting a national – ‘Try Praying’ campaign (promoted by SU and others). Buses will be carrying adverts encouraging people to ‘Try Praying’. Supporting materials will be available in the Cafe and for midweek groups (e.g. The Haven, Toddlers, and Guild etc.). 24/7 Prayer Room We are also investigating the setting up of a ‘24/7 Prayer Room’ in the church for Holy Week – people would sign up for a time slot (1 hour or more as available). Please commit both these initiatives to your prayerful consideration.
- Newhaven Gala Day The church will hopefully once again be involved with the Newhaven Gala Day in May. Dina Dunlop has agreed to be the church's representative at the planning stage with Laura Thomson (Head of Victoria Primary School) and others. Last Gala Day the BB boys helped with stewarding and several people from the church mingled with the crowd and gave out free home baking.
- Bibleworld Bus The only ‘hiccup’ from last year was that the planned visit of the Bibleworld Bus had to be cancelled as the trailer could not be physically manoeuvred into the school playground! We may revisit this for another venue at another time. Thanks to all those who committed both funds and their own time to this outreach.
- SU groups We have new people in our fellowship with a heart for setting up SU groups in our local schools. Please pray that this may become a reality and that next year we will be reporting on the success of these ventures.

Please forgive me if I have missed something crucial, and many thanks for all your prayers for the work of the Mission and Outreach Group and all the associated groups and activities.

Kate Aitchison

Worship Group

During 2010, the Worship Group continued to seek to organise Worship in Newhaven Church in a manner that glorifies God and reflects the backgrounds represented in the Congregation. Normal Sunday morning worship continued to be along traditional lines but with a mix of ancient and modern hymns and songs. The All Age Services, on the first Sunday of each month, were along more informal lines, with opportunities for participation for all ages and using audio visual media wherever appropriate. We followed a theme of “Good News for the World” for the All Age Services from June to December, looking at such topics as “What is the Good News”, “Who is our neighbour” and finishing in December with the wonderful news of Jesus’ birth on Earth.

In November, Mrs May Melrose laid the wreath on behalf of the Congregation at the Remembrance Day Service, and this, together with the Minister's preaching, the silence, the Flowers of the Forest on the pipes and a series of images from military conflicts past and present combined to make a very reverential and moving act of worship.

A large number of people are involved in the various rotas for Sunday morning worship and the Worship Group is grateful, on behalf of the whole Congregation, for those who take their parts in the Welcome Teams, the Counting Teams and the Flowers Rota and those from the Pastoral Care Group who see that the flowers from the service are taken to someone who will appreciate them.

Our special thanks go to the Boys’ Brigade who have served the tea and coffee after each service, to Blyth McLucas and her team for the brunches served after the All Age Services and also to Moyra Logan and her team for decorating the Hall for Harvest and for Christmas.

Colin MacNeill

Education Group

Since our last report The Education Group have met three times 28th Jan, 27th May, and 13th Oct, 2010. We open and close our meetings with prayer.

6th February was the Congregational Open Day (Building the Body weekend) at which the Education Group had a stall displaying some of the teaching materials used within the church by the adults and children's groups, there was also colourful examples of crafts created by the children. Job cards were distributed and this resulted in two new people volunteering to oversee the church library, a new recruit to assist with teaching in Lighthouse, someone to assist with the devotional notes and another asking to join a growth group, in all a successful day.

At the end of June Peter presented the children with books at the beginning of worship; this denotes the start of Summer Sunday school which ran from 4th July – 29th August. This is a time when our Lighthouse and Lighten Up teachers could do with a well earned break to enable them to recharge their batteries however because of the lack of volunteers this is not always possible. The group have been discussing Summer Sunday school and it was agreed that recruiting and planning should be made earlier in the year. Little Lights continue as usual over the summer.

In October a Working Group open day was organised where a representative from each group gave a short presentation of their group's progress so far and their plans for the next 12 months. The following is the Education Group's progress and plans

Achieved-

- Questionnaires to most groups
- Successful Building the Body weekend.
- Regular prayer support.

Planned-

- Finish questionnaires to all groups
- Increase interaction amongst the WG.
- Use cafe space to display what's happening in the groups
- Start recruiting and planning for summer groups.

The children's groups are working well which I am sure you will see when reading their individual reports. The adult growth groups continue to thrive and it was hoped that those who attended the Alpha course organised by Mission and Outreach may like to join a Growth Group either an existing group or to start up their own group. This is an excellent way to learn more about God, to join in fellowship, make new friends and there are also some good refreshments. Anyone wishing to know more about joining a group or even wanting to start a new group please speak to someone from the Education Working Group who will only be too happy to help.

Jeanette Meek

Communication Group

The Communication Group has seen various changes during 2010 to personnel. The members are: - Shona Adam, Susan Edwards, Audrey Gardiner, Elaine Greig and Chris Myers.

The remit of the group covers timely administration for all aspects of communication by the Church and to ensure all lines of communication are interlinked. Our first project for 2010 was the "Building the Body" event on Sat 27 March. The Comms Group held a joint workshop for all working groups both prior to the weekend event and afterwards to enable good communication internally. To ensure good external communication the group produced personal invitations for all on Newhaven Church roll for the "Building the Body" weekend to try and encourage good support for the event.

During the second half of 2010 much of our time was spent designing and producing the church magazine, Harbour Lights. We also produced a generic flyer (postcard size/style) advertising activities held at Newhaven Church and flyers for carol singing at Asda at Christmas time.

Our plans for 2011 include updating our Church roll and incorporating this onto software allowing us to communicate effectively with Newhaven Church's congregation.

"Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air." 1 Corinthians 14:9

Shona Adam

Pastoral Care Group

The Pastoral Care Group was born at the group workshop in June 2009 and has been fully operational for more than a year. The core purpose of the Pastoral Care Group is to offer care to the members of the congregation.

In the early part of 2010 we established a list of volunteers who would fulfil the role of pastoral visitor and we are twelve in number plus Peter. Some of the volunteers are also members of Session. The visits carried out by the Pastoral team are in addition to the elder's visits.

We then set up the communications connection between the Pastoral Care Group and the Session by appointing a co-ordinator whose role is to keep in contact with Peter on a weekly basis. Some members of the group are also members of Session and this link is an important part of the communication network. Through these contacts we gather information regarding members of the congregation who are in need of pastoral care. At all times the members of the group are mindful that pastoral care must be offered sensitively and that all matters discussed remain confidential.

In February we set up the "Flower Distribution Rota" and this has proved to be a very successful element of the work of the group and is an important extension of our pastoral visiting duties. The recipients are always very appreciative of the gift and a home visit can on some occasions be combined with the delivery of the flowers. Later in the year we agreed with Peter that baptismal gifts should be given at every christening and Peter has implemented this. At Christmas gifts were distributed to selected members of the congregation and once again all of the recipients were most appreciative.

The group have set up a programme of review meetings for the group and the visitors and these are ongoing. The members of the group meet most Sundays after church service and review the pastoral needs of the congregation and decide on what action to take.

We look forward to another year and hope that with God's blessing we may continue to provide pastoral care to the members of Newhaven Church.

Marcus Stout



Fabric Report

The Fabric activity got off to an early start with having to engage a firm to carry out snow clearing. January is also the month for completing and presenting the reports associated with the Fabric role: there is the Property Register to the Church of Scotland and this report to the Congregation.

- The main work of Fabric carried out in 2010 was having the Halls and corridors redecorated. Prior to the decoration of the Main Hall a dado rail was fitted around the walls in an attempt to minimise damage from chairs. Within a week of this work being completed the Lighthouse room had an ingress of water from above and had to be re-re-decorated. Fortunately the cost of this was borne by the Insurers of the above property.
- With regard to the Kitchen / Café area the main work has been to replace a unit door (again there is another one off awaiting attention) replacing a leaking plumbing joint on the Coffee/Hot Water heaters, a leaking sink as well as upgrading the electrical supply to the Panini machine. On two occasions broken legs on Café tables had to be repaired. The anti-insect blinds had to be fixed resulting from major pest assault.
- The Boiler was serviced as well as the Pressurisation unit. Unfortunately the service was not sufficient for the Pressurisation unit which eventually failed completely and had to be replaced. There have been several instances of leaking radiators having to be repaired.
- The Hot Water System had a major service and the long standing faulty thermostats were replaced.
- A new notice board was fitted in the Little Lights Room.
- Signing-in book stand at the entrance was damaged and necessitated repair. Thanks to Ray Bain for carrying out the repair.
- New threshold plates were fitted at main hall doors and door to small halls.
- Four benches were provided in the garden area.
- The Fencing on the wall outside the Church Door was extended.
- Pointing work carried out to South wall and sealant applied to roof at point of water ingress.
- The Security and fire system was fully tested as well as all smoke detectors. The Security system required to be re-set on three occasions.
- There were eight plumbing repairs in the year. Three electrical repairs including the outside lighting. Door handles tightened on three occasions and two occasions of carpet tiles being re-fitted.
- Work to make good the boundary walls was carried out in January.
- There were no major items of Fabric carried out at the Manse in the last year.

A survey of all the Church premises was carried out as part of our Carbon Footprint assessment. The recommendations have been received some have been implemented and others are still being evaluated.

In closing I would like to thank the Minister, the Session, and the Church Caretaker and the Fabric Work Group for their support during this last year.

Bill Oliver



During 2010 our numbers at Lighten Up continued more or less with five or six regular kids coming along on a Sunday morning for some lively Bible study and activity. We have continued to use Scripture Union material as a guide, adapting it for our own circumstances.

In February 2010 we went along to PowerPoint, a regular Friday night Edinburgh youth event organised by Scripture Union and Alpha Scotland. It was good to take part in worship with 400 other teenagers and enjoy what were, with some justification, described as outstanding cupcakes from the tuck shop.

In June Lighten Up helped to run the younger children's games at the Church Barbecue.

In the autumn, we spent a lot of time preparing to take part in the Christmas Service on the Sunday before Christmas. We decided to prepare a video presentation on the theme of Luke 4: 18-20: "The spirit of the Lord is upon me because He has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight to the blind, to release the oppressed and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour." We used contemporary photographs to highlight how this message is just as relevant today as it was two thousand years ago.

Colin MacNeill



The number of children in the Lighthouse Group has remained steady at 15, aged between 5 and 10 years. We have been delighted to welcome Jennifer Mitchell as a new leader. This brings the teaching staff to 4 in total. This adult/child ratio has allowed us to introduce a new rota whereby each leader has the opportunity to take part in the communion service on a rolling basis. This has been a real blessing.

We have had an exciting teaching year, beginning the first session by finding out the answers to some BIG questions like "What was God's plan?", "Who is the saviour God promised?" and "How does Jesus save us?" The children enjoyed being detectives and we slowly uncovered the answers to these questions in the Bible. This session led up to Easter Sunday. After Easter we looked at parables to teach of Jesus' return. Next, we looked at "Families", how we could be peacemakers within our own families and how we fit together as a church family.

Many of the congregation visited us and were willing to have their photograph taken and tell us what they believed their talent to be. We pasted these pictures on to jigsaw pieces and then fitted them together -what an amazing family and what a breadth of talent we have in our church family!

The increased number of leaders was particularly welcome as the teachers continued with Lighthouse classes during the summer when they would normally take a rest from lessons and be re-charged. Summer Lighthouse was used as a chance for the children to play more games, run off some energy and enjoy each other's company.

In the term before Christmas we visited God's supermarket and discovered God's amazing offer of "Buy nothing- Get everything for free". Each week the children imagined visiting a different part of the supermarket and heard a message such as teachings about Salt (of the earth), Fish(ers of men) etc.

We are currently using the Scripture Union E100 for our lessons and pick out a different bible passage to look at each week.

We have a new prayer poster which has been specially made for us. This enables the children to choose one topic from a range of pictures which we then use as a focus for our prayer that day.

This has encouraged the children to be more involved in prayer.

Again, we have been blessed by the eagerness of the children to meet together and learn about God, and your prayer support is much appreciated.

Lynn MacNeill.



2010 brought us another year of learning and fun. In Little Lights we try to make the children's time as varied as possible in order that the children are kept interested and have fun. Our usual programme is story/lesson time, prayer, craft, songs and games (this of course is time permitting) and not forgetting snack time which is appreciated by all.

Our Little Lights continue to thrive; we have had the addition of two babies to our group this year that being Daniel Dewar and Paz Gracia Orbegozo, 11 children in all who keep us on our toes. We continue with 4 teams of faithful and loving people who help with the children each Sunday morning.

Our lessons for the past year have been "What's inside God's big book", "Stories of Jesus", "God's wonderful world", "Fruits of the Spirit" and much more. Each week we include crafts which are 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 God's wonderful world, a miniature garden, sun mask, chains, trumpets and a wall freeze of heaven, these are only a few of the things, too many to list but I am sure you will have seen the children coming from Little Lights clutching proudly their creations. 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. Sarah Dewar kindly showed the children the use of hand signs when singing Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer which was great fun.

We thank you all for your continued support and prayers. Please do feel free to come and visit us one Sunday to see what goes on in Little Lights or you may feel that that you would like to join our team then please see myself, Jacqui Bain or Janis Merry who will only be to glad to tell you what is involved.

Jeanette Meek



There are currently four Growth Groups running: Monday and Thursday evenings and Tuesday and Friday mornings. Groups meet fortnightly, two in members' homes and two at the Church. The Tuesday evening group has not re-established since the recent Alpha course. Each Group has between 6-9 people meeting regularly, with about 28 in total.

There is the choice of daytime or evening Groups, to try and accommodate anyone who wants to grow in their faith. It is hoped that more people will do so. The Growth Groups study a wide range of materials, varying from Group to Group.

Throughout the past year there have been studies on the book of Romans, short study booklets on "Healing the hunger of our hearts" and "Transformation", "The image of God" and "How to rejoice in the situation"- exploring the fruit of the Spirit. The feedback from those who are meeting is extremely encouraging, they enjoy getting to know more about God and enjoy having fellowship together.

If anyone wishes to find out more about joining a Growth Group please speak to the Minister or anyone else on the Education Group who will be happy to help.

Lynn MacNeill



With thanks to some amazing volunteers Newhaven Toddlers has had a great – if somewhat busy year!

We've seen some of our original toddlers progress on to pre-school nursery and also welcomed new families. Each week has been very busy and there's now a waiting list of 30 families wanting to join the 58 regularly attending. With this in mind, we're now looking into setting up a further group to accommodate more people.

Each week consists of lots of free play; a healthy snack for carers and toddlers and a song/rhyme time open to all to join in. The age range is from newborn to pre-school. Without the dedication of our volunteers in setting up and running each week, Toddlers couldn't function, so we say a big 'thank you' to all involved!

Lynsey Orbegozo



The Guild



It is encouraging to know that our Guild in Newhaven Church is a growing Guild. The past year showed an increase in new members, giving us a real sense of outreach into the community around us. We look forward to the future.

Calm waters and blue skies on our May outing in 2010 enticed many of us onto Loch Lomond for a pleasant sail before travelling on to Gartmore House for 'High Tea'. Our annual outing is always a popular day out for our members and friends in the summer break between meetings.

Neil Bain from the Christian Police Association was our first visiting speaker in the new session in September 2010. Neil gave us an insight into the growing number of Christians in our Police Force and the dedicated support they give to their colleagues as well as to the public.

Although 'Edinburgh Crystal' is no longer in existence as a Company, Danny Fair, a skilled craftsman from that once famous factory, came along in November to show us how a crystal goblet was created from the first 'gathering' of glass at the end of a pipe to the beauty of the finished article. Danny's jovial style uplifted us and yet left us aware of the loss of this local exquisite craft.

Once again snow and ice disrupted our plans in November and December, but nevertheless bad weather did not deter us from enjoying Christmas Dinner at the David Lloyd Leisure Centre.

We started 2011 with a 'Chinese Evening', journeying by film to Central China to meet with the people and see something of their way of life and their local traditional crafts. We sampled three different Chinese green teas and had the opportunity to handle some genuine Chinese artefacts.

Chocolate temptation was evident in February when Wendy Mitchell from Thorntons visited the Guild to tell us about the art of the Master Chocolatier and offer us a taste of some sublime creations. Not much persuasion was needed for volunteers that evening!!

February is the month for Romance and our Valentine Film Night followed this theme with a Romantic Comedy starring Cary Grant in 'Operation Petticoat'. We can recommend it if you haven't seen it!

Our Fundraising effort this year is for Mission Aviation Fellowship's project 'Mission Run-Madagascar', and on Sunday 6th March we hosted our traditional after-church Guild Sunday Lunch with our famed 'home baking'.

We look forward at this time to our Bible Study evening with our minister. Peter always speaks to our hearts and his message inspires us as a Guild in our service to others at home and abroad.

Newhaven Church was the host church in our area for this year's World Day of Prayer on Friday 4th March. The ecumenical service was prepared for us by the women of Chile and gave us an opportunity to join with 5 other local churches in sharing this special day of worldwide worship and prayer for Chile. We will close our season with a musical evening in the company of 'The Trinity Trio' on Tuesday 12th April at 7.30pm. Join us then if you can.

As ever we extend a warm invitation to you all to join in our Tuesday evening fortnightly meetings between September and April where there is always something of interest going on and happy fellowship.

Louisa McKenzie



The Haven Centre has had a very busy year since our last report. We have had three memorable birthdays. The Haven itself celebrated 10 years of ministry, George Hackland his 90th birthday at the end of September and May Melrose her 90th birthday in January. Both George and May have hardly missed a week of those 10 years and are typical of all who come. Our numbers have remained more or less the same, but if most people come on the same day we can have up to 50 at a time.

We had two very interesting visits, the first from Millie Gray one of the Scottish Storytellers who entertained us with memories of her childhood and how we laughed! The other was a visit from Alba Falconry who brought their birds including the Golden Eagle, Princess. That was a truly memorable time for us and also some of the church children who were on autumn holiday that week. We maintain a strong link with Victoria school and interchange visits at times and we have helped Diana Morton fill in the blanks with many of the museum's store of memorabilia.

We still have our penny bottle on the tea table each week and the following are those we have managed to help throughout the year - Haiti Disaster Fund: Smile Train (cleft palate surgery): Club Foot surgery: Mosquito Nets: CBM's River Blindness Appeal: RNLI: Samaritan's Purse Clean Water Appeal & their Disaster Response Team. All in all £579.70 has gone to these causes this year alone and the amazing news is that we have now passed the £2,000 mark. Amazing what happens when many give a little. Thank you to all who have given.

Thanks also to our committee, Retta, Elizabeth, Mary, Louisa, Heather and Eileen. Retta also keeps meticulous accounts for us and Mary sets up stall each week. Thank you to all who donate goods for sale.

The Friday Fancy Footwork continues each week and last summer we had a visit (and a photo shoot down the harbour) with Kristina Rhianoff one of the Strictly Come Dancing professionals. Our numbers increased towards the end of the year and have been maintained this term. Edinburgh Aging Well who provide the teacher have many other activities including walking groups and these have resulted in extra business for our cafe.

We trust that all we undertake gives glory to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus.

Eileen Tait



The café continues to grow; we have lots of regulars and many new faces too, and therefore the café income is also increasing.

Our café assistant Brenda has moved on to a new job and her replacement Anastasia (Ana) started in January. We currently have 10 regular volunteers, 3 of whom volunteer 2 days a week and 3 "emergency" volunteers who help out when a volunteer is off.

As we are serving upwards of 70 customers per day I hope you can understand why the café is always advertising for new blood. Being a volunteer is good fun and has helped build and strengthen relationships between team members, apart from the constant hum of the fan the most common sound you will hear coming out of the kitchen is laughter.

The café is certainly fulfilling its purpose to reach out to our community. While a number of our customers are associated with other churches the majority of café customers have limited church connections therefore it's great to see them using a church café and enjoying the fellowship and strong sense of community which they find there.

Our Christmas Fair was well attended but the bad weather did have an impact on numbers, however we already have 4 stalls booked for 2011!

During the year the café has hosted several art and photography exhibitions in the café area, and we plan to have more throughout the coming year

We are now also able to cater for groups who use the halls during café hours; the Ageing Well walking group and the Leith Movers group both had small buffets over the Christmas period.

Please continue to pray for the work going on in the café and for the small group of dedicated volunteers who give of their time and talents to ensure its smooth running.

Fiona Wakeling



Footprints meets on a Sunday afternoon during term time from 2:45 - 4pm. We very much look on ourselves as an "outreach" group and just over half of our children and teens do not attend church. We have 18 juniors (7 new this past term) in P3-7 who are mostly very regular and 12 seniors who are not so regular partly due to other activities and partly due to age. We lost 2 leaders whom we miss greatly and are really praying for 2 more - especially a male leader.

The seniors have games' evenings about twice a term in one of the leader's homes which are very popular and we are hoping to have a short epilogue at these. They also meet for pizza and pudding at another leader's home before going to PowerPoint (a meeting for about 400 teenagers for worship, bible teaching and chat). Two of the boys have also been attending "Banter" a local SU bible study for IV-VI years which also provides great fun and fellowship.

We had a very successful late Christmas party ten pin bowling, pizza, puddings and games; our birthday service and inflatable day with Gladiators podium and the jungle run and giant chute; our annual picnic to Aberdour beach and the highlight being the week-ends away to Teen Ranch for those in P7 - secondary and Crail for

those in P4-6. We were blessed with good weather at all events this year and thank God for safety for all the activities (canoeing, climbing wall, abseiling, and horse riding....) that took place.

We also made up lots of shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child and ended the year with our Nativity Service at St Serf's Church hall where we benefit from their stage, scenery and the skills of one of their members with lighting and sound. Paz Orbegozo was baby Jesus (our youngest actress ever at 3 weeks) and slept through her performance! The children and teens all did really well and we had a large crowd of parents and friends raising £306 for the Bethany Night Shelter and Rachel House - Children's Hospice.

We are hoping to do some joint ventures in the future with the teenagers from the church and next year will be our 80th Birthday so we will be having some special celebrations.

I would like to thank the leaders for their hard work and commitment, the Kirk Session for allowing us to meet in the Church halls and the congregation for their prayers and support.

Christine Hodge