

Kirk News

Meldrum Bourtie

August / September 06

Dear friends,

As I write the Middle East seems headed for melt-down once more. The new crisis occurred after Hezbollah militants seized two Israeli soldiers on the Lebanon-Israel border in an attempt to force the release of Lebanese prisoners in Israeli jails. Hezbollah also fired rockets from Lebanon killing and injuring Israeli civilians. In response, Israel has blockaded Lebanon from the air and sea, and has launched a major offensive in the country, killing many civilians. Members of our congregation are on holiday with relatives in Israel but, thankfully, have emailed to say they are fine, though were in Nazareth when a mortar fell on the town.

The developments in this area are very worrying and it is difficult to make comment one way or the other without being thought-of as promoting a perceived Western political agenda or being anti-semitic. In truth, the situation is a tragedy for **everyone** involved. This is easy to see in the television shots of a devastated Lebanon, so recently having re-established some sort of infrastructure after years of war and terror, which must surely reinforce the ordinary people's sense of helplessness at being caught up in a wider regional struggle. It is not only Jews and Moslems who are



**Meldrum & Bourtie
Parish Church**



www.meldrum-bourtiechurch.org

affected. In the midst of these larger groups there are Christian families who attempt to live in peace with those around them and who are caught in the middle of this increasingly desperate situation. A few years ago I had the privilege of sharing in fellowship with Israeli and Palestinian Christians when I visited the Holy Land and met the Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem, the Rt. Rev Riah Abu El-Assal. At that time he shared with us the difficulties experienced by Christians in Israel-Palestine. Unfortunately these difficulties have increased in the few years since, not only in the Holy Land but throughout the Middle East.

So should there be any response from us here in the UK to their situation and that of all people's of this conflict area, and if-so where do we start? The best place to start is by hearing what our brothers and sisters in the local churches ask of us. In a statement about the current situation the Middle East Council of Churches – which brings together Christians from a range of Orthodox, Protestant and Catholic traditions – expresses fear of a return to even greater conflict there and the danger that valuable work could be undone“Days of dread and despair long-lived by the Lebanese during the war seem to have returned. Your prayers and support are needed at this terrible time we are living in.” And so let us each pray – and continue to pray – for peace once more and for the countless ordinary individuals like you and I who have lost everything and have been made homeless by the latest violence.



Your friend,
Hugh O'Brien

Contacts

Name	Position
Rev. Hugh O'Brien	Minister
Jim Walker	Session Clerk
Mrs Mary Dow	Board Clerk
Mrs Marian Philip	Treasurer
Mrs Eileen Arthur	Gift Aid Convenor
Mrs Winnie Reid	Roll Keeper
Mrs Alison Milton	Rock Solid
Mrs Pat Patrone	Quest
Focus Groups:	
Billy Dalzell	Outreach & Communication Group
Mrs Ray Walker	Pastoral Care Group
Charlie Simpson	Worship Group
Sheila Bousefield	Audiotape Co-ordinator



The Guild

The Guild Dedication Service will be held in the Church on Sunday 10th September.

The theme for this year is "Honouring the Body", the first theme in the 2006/09 strategy: Let's Live: Body, Mind and Soul.

The first meeting for the new session of The Guild will be on Monday 11th September at 7.30pm in the Church Hall.

Rev. Neil Gow, Minister of Foveran and Newburgh Parish Church, is to give a "Talk on Church Music". Rev. Gow is an accomplished musician and hopes to incorporate some violin music into his talk.

All welcome.

We especially extend a warm welcome to any new residents to Oldmeldrum who may wish to join us at our fortnightly meetings.

Information Supplement

Dates for your Diary

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
August			
6 th	Meldrum	11am	Fairtrade Stall
	Bourtie	2pm	Agriculture Service (No 9.45am service)
			NO Power Praise
13 th	Meldrum	11am	
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
20 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
27 th	Meldrum Church Hall	10am	Alternative Service
	Meldrum	11am	
September			
3 rd	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fairtrade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
6 th Wed	Meldrum Church Hall	11am	'Monthly Gathering' See separate KN article.
	Meldrum Manse	7.30pm	Bible Study Group
10 th	Meldrum	11am	The Guild Dedication
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
11 th Mon	Meldrum Church Hall	7.30pm	Guild Talk on Church Music by Rev. Neil Gow
12 th	Meldrum Church Hall	7.30pm	Board Meeting
17 th	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise

Date	Place	Time	Remarks
23 rd Sat	British Legion Hall	10am – 12 noon	Coffee Morning One Mile of 20pences for Church Fabric Fund
24 th	Meldrum Church Hall	9.45am	Alternative Service – Breakfast
	Meldrum	11am	
25 th Mon	Meldrum Church Hall	7.30pm	Guild - “Taste and Try” Members & Guests Fairtrade Stall
October			
1 st	Bourtie	9.45am	
	Meldrum	11am	Family Service Fair Trade Stall
	Meldrum	6.30pm	Power Praise
8 th	Meldrum	11am	Trinity Sunday
	Wyverie Court	2pm	Transport available
	Westbank Home	2.45pm	
	Meldrum Church Hall	3pm	Bereavement Service

Bereavement Service

Over the last 3 years a bereavement service has been held, usually in October, when those who have been recently bereaved are personally invited to this special service to remember the many memories of loved ones who have passed away.

It is intended to hold this service on Sunday 8th October 2006 at 3p.m in the Church Hall, Albert Road. Personal invitations to those more recently bereaved, will be sent out in September, but there will also be a welcome for people who would like to come along to share and cherish the memories of their own loved ones. Although final details will be published in the October Kirk News, please note this date in your diary if you wish to attend.

Meldrum Church Duty Rota						
Date	Door			Finance		Flowers
August						
6 th	Mrs A Milton	Mrs E Falconer	L Stevenson	F Sinclair	Mrs L Niven	Spare
13 th	Mrs L Reid	A Dobson	Mrs Richardson	Mrs M Philip	A McCartney	Mrs E Arthur
20 th	Mrs S Moir	Mrs R Walker	J Walker	S Hill	Mrs E Oliver	Miss H Webster
27 th	Mrs M Green	Mrs D Davidson	Mrs McDermid	G Stephen	Mrs A McLean	Mrs C Christie
Sep 3 rd	Mrs P Patrone	J Sleigh	Mrs A Milton	C Donald	Miss E Hourston	Mrs A Gibson
10 th	Mrs Bousefield	Mrs W Reid	J Walker	Mrs L Niven	Mrs MacDonald	Miss H Webster
17 th	Mrs M Dow	Mrs A Milton	A McCartney	C Donald	Mrs McCartney	Mrs M Spence
24 th	Mrs MacDonald	J Sleigh	Mrs I Reid	B Reid	Mrs R Walker	Mrs M Kelman
Oct 1 st	Mrs A McLean	Mrs L Reid	Mrs P Patrone	Mrs M Watt	G Smith	Mrs E Arthur
8 th	Mrs A Garty	Mrs B Webster	A Dobson	Miss E Hourston	Mrs W Reid	Mrs C Donald
	Bourtie Duty Rota					
Date	Door		Flowers			
Aug 6 th	Mrs Bousefield	Mrs M Green	Mrs M Stephen			
20 th	G Stephen	I Peddie	Mrs S Peddie			
Sep 3 rd	Mrs M Green	I Peddie	Mrs M Christie			
17 th	G Stephen	Mrs M Green	Mrs M Nagahiro			
Oct 1 st	I Peddie	Mrs Bousefield	Mrs S Peddie			



HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

This is a service we provide to take hospital visitors to Aberdeen on Wednesdays, the Inverurie area, including Blythwood, Port Elphinstone and Badenscoth, Rothienorman on Thursdays at request of passengers.

Prospective visitors should phone the volunteers on duty between 6pm & 7pm on the day before their chosen run. If for any reason you have difficulty in contacting the volunteers phone: Mrs M. Green, Mrs M. MacDonald, or Mrs R Richardson.

Further volunteers for this list would be very welcome.

Aberdeen 2pm – 5pm	Month	Date	Volunteer	Tel No
	August	2 nd	Mrs G Silver	872570
		9 th	Mrs M Simmers	882302
		16 th	Mrs M McKay	872565
		23 rd	Mrs M MacDonald	872216
		30 th	Mr T Fryers	873133
	September	6 th	Mrs M Simmers	882302
		13 th	Mrs M McKay	872565
		20 th	Mr A Donald	873414
		27 th	Mr T Fryers	873133
October	4 th	Mr K Webster	872692	

Inverurie 2pm – 4pm	Month	Date	Volunteer	Tel No
	August	3 rd	Mrs F Emslie	873652
		10 th	Mrs M Murray	872412
		17 th	Mrs G Silver	872570
		24 th	Mrs F Emslie	873652
		31 st	Mrs M McKay	872565
	September	7 th	Mrs M Murray	872412
		14 th	Mr W Dow	873466
		21 st	Mrs F Emslie	873652
28 th		Mrs R Richardson	872307	
October	5 th	Mrs E Arthur	872867	

The Monthly Gathering – something new!

Meet monthly for relaxed fellowship over tea and coffee, with a short thought-for-the-month and a chance to sing together.

- **Where?** The Church hall.
- **When?** The final arrangements will be decided by us together, however, the first meeting will be on **Wednesday 6th September at 11.00am.**

This is a good chance to meet for chat in a 'coffee morning'-style atmosphere. It's also a great place to bring friends who don't come to church. We'd love to see this develop a real gathering place for the whole community. You can help this happen by coming along and adding to the numbers. You'll receive a warm welcome! Watch-out for details on the final arrangements – better still, come along on 6th Sept and help make them!

**Please note that the Monthly Gathering replaces 'Wednesday AM'*

“LEFT BEHIND”

Have you ever thought about the end-times? Have you read what the Bible says about them, or is it something you've quite deliberately avoided looking into? There have been and are many interpretations of the Bible, in particular the book of Revelation. During September **PowerPraise** will boldly go where we (here at Meldrum & Bourtie at any rate) have not gone before. On 3rd September we will watch the whole movie “Left Behind”, based on a New York Times best selling novel. At our next meeting on 17th September we will discuss what we thought about the issues raised and look more closely at the Bible. This may be uncomfortable, but worthwhile and hopefully we will learn more together. Why not come along and join us for both evenings, in the church starting prompt at 6.30pm (3rd & 17th Sept). Tea and coffee will be served during the movie. Some Bible notes will be made available prior to the events.

Warning!

There is a man who is systematically taking advantage of clergy and church folk throughout the UK. He travels from town to town, finds out about the local church scene, often asking for someone to pray with. He then tells of his connection to that particular denomination He does his homework on particular individuals.

He even spent a whole week living with a Baptist couple, 3 meals a day, new clothes, etc!

He speaks with a broad Liverpool accent. He usually uses his own first name, David, but he changes his surname from place to place. He is quite capable of walking away with elderly people's life savings.

Description: tallish, quite thin although he has a little paunch. His face looks a bit like a bloodhound.

He presents himself as a professional who has is having a hard time; but has recently got a good job; it's just that difficult time until he gets his first pay check. He says he is completely penniless and has nowhere to live, or makes up some other story.

If this person turns up on your doorstep, let the police know - he is wanted! There is a reference number to give the police, so that they will get immediate access to his file:

Ref: CRO99393-83B.

Ecclesiastes (Ch8 –V16-17)

We cannot understand all God does.

I tried to understand all that happens on earth. I saw how busy people are, working day and night and hardly ever sleeping. I also saw all that God has done. Nobody can understand what God does here on earth no matter how hard people try to understand it, they cannot. Even if wise people say they understand, they cannot; no-one can really understand it.

Meldrum Community Garden Project

The Management Group have now secured planning permission and ownership and title deeds for the site at the top of South Road are now almost complete. In the meantime application for Grant Funding from Scottish National Heritage has been submitted and we expect to hear the results in the next few weeks.

Volunteers have already made a big impact in clearing and tidying the site however much still has to be done.

Many of the businesses have already undertaken to provide in kind assistance with much of the expenditure.

The Management Group are now seeking hands on assistance to continue with landscaping and path construction throughout the site. If any members of the congregation feel they can be of assistance we would be delighted for any help whether it be hands on or whatever.

For the remainder of the summer there will be activity on Saturday mornings from 9 am until 12 noon, weather permitting.

This is a community project for the benefit of all.

Any enquiries contact Andrew McCartney

Ecclesiastes (Ch9 –V11-12 & 17-18)

Time and Chance / Wisdom does not always win.

I also saw something else here on earth: the fastest runner does not always win the race, the strongest soldier does not always win the battle, the wisest does not always have food, the cleverest man does not always become wealthy and the talented one does not always receive praise. Time and chance happen to everyone. No-one knows what will happen next. Like a fish caught in a net, or a bird caught in a trap, people are trapped by evil when it suddenly falls on them.

The quiet words of a wise person are better than the shouts of a foolish ruler. Wisdom is better than weapons of war but one sinner can destroy much good.

ALTERNATIVE SERVICE

Meldrum & Bourtie Parish Kirk invite you to their Alternative Service in the Church Hall, Oldmeldrum on the last Sunday of the month. Services normally start at 10am unless otherwise stated.

They are open to all.

27th August 06

Come & See

24th September 06

Breakfast - 9.45am

We look forward to welcoming you.

The Alternative Service is a complementary service which takes place on an informal basis in the Church Hall rather than the Church.

The band 'Reachout' play for us every month and there is always a short talk and plenty of song in this short service.

If you would like to try out this form of service you will be made most welcome. The breakfast services are very informal and a great way to get to know people.



Rotary Club of Oldmeldrum

The Rotary Club held their Club Assembly on Monday 26th June. This marked the end of Helen Milne's year as President, a year which has been filled with lots of activity, fun and friendship. It is also the start of Lara Anderson's year as President. Lara is our youngest member and we look forward to a full programme of events for the year 2006/2007. More information will follow as the year progresses.

Westbank Home, Oldmeldrum – The Community Services Committee and Rotary Club Members, a small but hardworking team, removed spring bulbs from tubs, prepared the summer borders and are busy keeping the grass cut and weeding under control.

Meldrum Community Garden Project. The project is to develop a woodland walk. The project will involve some habitat management, some new plantings, construction of a new path, prepare a seating area so that the area would become a recreational resource for both young and mature in the Oldmeldrum community. Work begins on Saturday 22nd July with the pathway construction to start on Saturday 29th July.

The Oldmeldrum Rotary Club have sponsored two young people to attend the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards held at Abernethy Trust Outdoor Centre at Nethy Bridge. The young people attend for a week, the girls during the first week of July and the boys during the second week. This Leadership Awards are aimed at young people from 5th and 6th year of school. It helps build self confidence and leadership skills. Rotary look for young people who will benefit from these weeks and gain confidence from the experience.

We will be holding our annual Club Dance on the 26th August at Tarves Hall, further details will be printed later.

For more information about these events or about Rotary visit our web site on www.oldmeldrumrotary.freeserve.co.uk

Going the Extra Mile

We are reliably informed that a mile of 20p pieces laid side by side by side can raise £16,000 – so we are going to attempt it!



What we are asking you to do is to start saving all your 20p pieces and to bring them along to the Royal British Legion car park on Saturday 23rd September when we will attempt a mile of 20p pieces.

If you are unable to attend, hand them in beforehand to an Elder and we will lay them down for you. Start saving them now and then come along to see how far we can get!

On that same morning we will also be holding a Coffee Morning in the Legion from 10am. There will also be Sales tables selling Cake & Candy, Produce and Raffle tickets. We welcome donations for the stalls and/or the raffle. These should be brought to the Legion from 8.30am onwards on 23rd September. Donations can also be handed on the previous day to Eileen Arthur, Malvern, Urquhart Road, or to Dorothy Davidson, at Meldrum Motors, in the Square.

Help us make our 20p pieces stretch as far as possible and start saving them now!

Watch out for posters nearer the event.

Fairtrade

Thanks to all who supported some of the less fortunate in the World. We sold over £200 worth of fairly traded goods in our Coffee Morning on June 3rd. Please support our monthly sales after church on the first Sunday of the month.

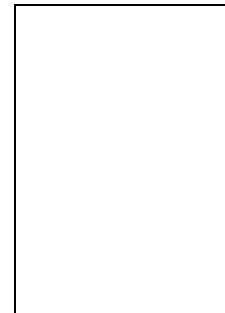
We also raised £260 for our Mission Partners

Mission Partners

Alistair and Mary Morrice are now back on leave from Kyrgystan, which remains and economically poor country. For example, the Morrises' would like to help the local prison by collecting money for a horse cart (not a tractor) to help with the harvest on the prison farm. The conditions there are very basic with severe winters and hot summers.

There is an opportunity to hear the Morrises at Kemnay on August the 5th. Details from Ruth Richardson.

Alpha Course



Meldrum & Bourtie

We intend holding an Alpha Course in September '06.

What is Alpha?

The Alpha Course is an opportunity for anyone to explore the Christian faith in a relaxed, non-threatening manner over ten, thought provoking weekly sessions.

Who is Alpha for?

Alpha is for everyone, especially

- Those wanting to investigate Christianity
- Newcomers to the church
- New Christians
- Couples preparing for Marriage
- Those who want to brush up on the basics
- Those who wonder what life is all about
- Those who have really big questions about what is going on around them
- Those who have small worries about what happens when...

What's involved?

The Alpha Course consists of series of talks looking at topics such as "Who is Jesus?" and "Why and how do I pray?".

There will be refreshments at the beginning of each session, which gives you an opportunity to get to know each other.

After each talk we divide into small groups for a time of discussion. Listen, learn, discuss and discover. And ask anything. Alpha is a place where no question is too simple or too hostile.

What will it cost?

There is no charge for the Alpha course, although you may be asked to make a donation towards refreshments.

What next?

There are more than seven thousand Alpha courses running in churches of all denominations in the UK. Why not join an Alpha course near you. You are warmly invited to join us as Meldrum & Bourtie Church hold our third Alpha Course starting in September 2006 in the Meldum Church Hall. Look out for further details in the Church Intimations and on posters around town.

Come and join us