



17 August 2008

## Livewire Takeaway

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

*"Worshipping together.  
Sharing Good News.  
Serving Christ in  
the Community"*

### WELCOME TO REV. ROBIN HINE

Livingston Ecumenical Parish has been on a very long journey to refine our calling and mission in Livingston.

After a few years of consultations on many different levels, and gaining the confidence of our supporting denominations (as well as a few spills of blood, sweat and tears), we have defined a role for a Team Leader. We are very glad to be joined by Rev. Robin Hine, minister in the United Reformed Church who is today, the sole candidate for the Team Leader position we had advertised for Livingston Ecumenical Parish.

Robin's present ministry is in the Havant United Reformed

Church in England where he and his wife Ann have been for the past eight years.

We sought a Team Leader who would enable the achievement of our Mission Plan objectives. The work would include:

- Leading and co-ordinating the work of the ministry team;
- sharing in the sacramental and preaching ministry of LEP;
- leading on specific aspects of Parish-wide duties and Mission Plan development;
- liaising and negotiating with denominations and others for the required parish resources; *continued...*

- liaising between the lay leadership of the LEP and ministry team;
- seeking partners by accessing local or national development groups & community resources to enable mission to town;
- specifically leading on the development of mission in the town centre;
- and raising the profile of LEP and promoting LEP through internal channels and external media.

This is a tall order by any standards, but LEP is more than ready to continue to move forwards as we seek God's leading and blessing on our parish.

So we seek the church's wisdom and prayerful consideration of Robin's gifts and experience as we welcome him into our congregation today.

### ANOTHER WAY

People enjoy worship. They like to come to what is familiar and to sing hymns they know. Or they want to come to something that is different every week and to learn new music, to dance, to contribute. Unfortu-

nately or fortunately they all come to the same service and the hapless leader is faced with either pleasing the first group, listening to the second group or trying to meet all needs in one service and ending up upsetting everyone! Obviously it is not really as bad as that caricature but we are conscious that with only one service at a worship centre on a Sunday it is difficult to meet all needs all of the time. We are conscious too that many families have commitments on Sunday mornings as lifestyles change and people move away from one another.

To meet this over the last few years we have tried to explore different styles of worship as we have moves around the parish month by month. Our evening services have reflected different traditions and patterns and have made us think.

Over the last few months in the south of the town, people have been asking for something more. As I visit I'm asked why there can't be evening worship locally more regularly. 'We get back from our family visits and sports activities in the early evening. We'd come to something then.' So as an experiment, starting on 7th September we will give people the chance to do that. We will hold a short service in the Lanthorn



## NEWS FROM AROUND THE PARISH

**Dedridge & Murieston Congregation**  
Livingston Ecumenical Parish

YOU'RE WORTH IT

**Come to our Complementary Therapies Day**

**Saturday 20th September**

10.00am - 2.00pm

You can choose from

**\* XI \* SHIATSU \* REFLEXOLOGY \* REIKI \***  
and many more

£5 per session - all qualified, experienced practitioners

### ORDINATION SERVICE IN LIVINGSTON

It was a great delight to share in the service of the ordination of Helen Mee which took place on the 6th of July in St Columba's Church. The service was conducted by the Moderator of The United Reformed Church Synod of Scotland and the preacher was Professor John Swinton of Aberdeen University. It was a truly joyful ecumenical service with people from many churches participating in leading worship and members of all four of our partner denominations being present to represent their denominations.

Helen has been working in LEP for a few months as a part-time Locum Minister based mainly in St Columba's and St Paul's. Previously she was employed at St John's as Locum Hospital Chaplain. Helen completed part of her training for ministry in Livingston Ecumenical Parish in 2006.

So what was the story behind the trees? Helen was found wandering around after the

service with a huge basket of live Rowan Trees handing them out to folk. Well Helen wanted to give a gift to each person involved in the service and a tree seemed to be a good minding - that it should last and develop and grow along with Helen in her ministry and of course it might do a little bit to counteract the high carbon footprint of the service with people travelling from across the UK - by train, plane and car, to be there.

We wish Helen every success and blessing in her ministry wherever God leads her.

If you have notices or information to share with the rest of the parish for the next *Livewire Takeaway*, please contact Margaret Alexander on Tel: 07936103983 or e-mail: LEPC@hotmail.co.uk

#### Ministers' Leave - Please note:

Bill: 12-31 August

Helen: 23-30 August

Suzanna: 15-30 September

Eileen: 3-29 November

Minister on-call Parish Phone:

**Tel: 07933085186**

Chapel at 6.00pm on the first Sunday each month for a period of six months to see if there really is a demand for something more than Sunday morning. We'll have the chance to look at different patterns of worship, to sing or be still and quiet, to discuss... Every third month the service will be taken wholly by the lay people who attended our worship leaders training course this year.

Although this is happening in the Lanthorn and at the request of people there, like all the services and activities in our Ecumenical Parish, it is open to everyone, so come along and bring your friends.

Eileen Thompson

### SOME FUNDRAISING EVENTS at ST PAUL'S

**Saturday 6 September**

**11am - 2pm Grand**

**Auction:** Tea/Coffee & snack lunches available.

If you have any items for auction contact Jim 432545;

Hannah 416742 or

Nancy 419904.

**Friday 31 October**

**Haggis pie Ceilidh:**

Ticket: only £8 on sale soon

**Saturday 29 November**

**Christmas Fayre:**

All the fun of the fayre including Santa!

## CONFIRMATION / NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

4 weeks in October

This might be something for you if any of the following is applicable to you:

- \* you have recently moved into the area and want to know more about your church
- \* you would like to become a member of the church
- \* you are transferring in from another church
- \* you have never been confirmed and would like to be
- \* you have had your child baptised in the past few years and you would like to increase your links with the church
- \* you are already a church member and would like an opportunity to talk about your faith with others and re-affirm your commitment to Christ in the church

The classes will be held on Sunday afternoons at Carmondean: **5<sup>th</sup>; 12<sup>th</sup>; 19<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> October** (all 4.00pm - 5.30pm) with a Parish-Wide Confirmation Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Please speak to one of the ministers if you are interested in joining the classes. A class for teens and young adults (Enquirer's Class) will be held early in 2009. Look out for the details.

## Bon Accord Cellidh Band

Back by popular demand, an evening of summer entertainment!

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September: 7.30pm - 12.00pm  
Carmondean Church



This is a ticket-only event:

Adults: £6.00; Concessions: £4.00; Children: £4.00

Bring your own picnic!

Call Sarah: 431637 or Ilse: 07786538640 for more details and tickets



## ANOTHER WAY

*'We are interested in God and church but we don't want to come to services on a Sunday morning.'*; *'We want to think about issues that affect our lives and our worship: climate change, genetic engineering, music...'*; *'We want something different'* - comments gleaned from visiting people and hearing their thoughts about faith and life set me thinking about what we might do to meet some of these needs and wishes. We talked about them at a meeting of Mission Plan 1 advisory group and came up with a host of ideas. We are following all of these up so watch this space over the next months as we research the possibilities of prayer breakfasts and other new ideas. And if you have any thoughts yourself, let me know.

One of the suggestions which was made has really taken off. That's been happening for about six months now. On the last Thursday of each month we meet in the Lanthorn Chapel to discuss matters of life and faith. Usually we try to get an outside expert to come and lead the session, giving some input and answering questions, leading conversations or possibly even getting us singing or doing something practical. Each session is different

and each sends us out with more knowledge and, often more questions. We have covered a lot of issues such as bio-ethics, led by Rev. Professor Kenneth Boyd of Edinburgh University and hymns and hymnody, animated by Rev. Douglas Galbraith, one of the team which put together CH4. We have been led by our own speakers: Marjory McGhie helped us explore ecological issues, and Chris Wigglesworth a familiar visitor to our parish started us out with a talk on Christianity and politics.

Although we are having a gap in August we begin again in September with Rev. Dr Michael Fuller, who has lectured in both science and theology, coming to talk about Richard Dawkins, and later in the year we will be looking at questions of peace and justice and Israel-Palestine. We also hope that someone from the Sports Christian Fellowship will be able to lead one of our sessions.

Whilst some of those who asked for such meetings have not come, folk from across the town come along as do people from our neighbouring churches and denominations. People say the evenings help them make sense of the things they hear on Sunday and that faith is more than worship services.

We look forward to continuing and would value suggestions for further evenings.

Eileen Thompson

Meetings in Lanthorn Chapel on the last Thursday of each month from 7.30 - 9.30. Refreshments provided

LEP  
"PARISH PHONE"  
Tel: 07933085186



Just a reminder that you can always reach one of the ministers via our Parish Phone. We work on a call system and take it in turns to carry the phone so that one of us is always on call.

We hope that you may be able to use this phone for information; to tell us of pastoral needs or emergencies or with any enquiries about the church. We will do our best to meet your needs.

**Reminder of the team's home contact numbers:**

Bill Whitson 650027  
Eileen Thompson 433451  
Suzanna Bates 464567  
Helen Mee 07973509691

THE UNITED  
REFORMED CHURCH  
NATIONAL SYNOD  
OF SCOTLAND



### YOUTH FORUM

This Forum will meet for the first time in Righead URC Church in East Kilbride on Saturday 13th September from 10.30-3.30 (this will be at the same time and venue as the Synod will be meeting).

It is for anyone associated with a United Reformed Church between the ages of 12-16. The programme will be a real mixture of activities mostly based around the theme of Cuba with games, things to make, drumming and all kinds of stuff. It won't be dull! It is Free! You only need to take a packed lunch!

Bookings close on 4th Sept.

Details are available from any of the ministers. Helen will organise transport.

Helen's contact details:  
0131 334 3812 or 07973 509691

### INDOOR CAR BOOT SALE

St Columba's - Sat 30th August  
Contact Wilma Pincott for your table. Tel. 431421

## SEASIDE ROCK Children's Holiday Club



*"Do the diggy-dig on the rocky rock, spin yourselves around..."*

That's a line in the theme song which helped tell the story of various conversations between Jesus and Peter, invariably on a beach somewhere. Hence the theme "Seaside Rock"!

We were very pleased to offer this holiday club to primary school age children in Livingston for 3 days in August during their long summer break. St Columba's Church was totally transformed into a semi seaside resort with things like palm trees, seagulls, beach umbrellas and beach towels.

We had an average of 23 children on each day and an army of wonderful helpers and leaders to help make the holiday club such a tremendous success.

Each day started with a session with lots of singing and stories and brilliant beach aerobics. This was followed by some energetic beach games and a dive in the "Rock Pools", - craft groups where leaders helped the children create some wonderful



works of art, - all based on our seaside theme. Then it was snack-time, much more like a fabulous party each day! Then back to games and rock pools and finishing with another session of singing and prayer.

St Columba's turned out to be a great venue for our holiday club even though the rain came flooding in at various places, but this did nothing to dampen the spirits of all those on the beach at Seaside Rock!

Thank you to all those who participated, donated money and a host of other goodies to make this a memorable event. We can't wait to do another one next year!