

# THE OPEN DOOR



*Penicuik North Kirk  
Newsletter number 302  
August, 2007*

*Dear friends*

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.”

These words are so familiar, for we frequently end our worship by saying them together, and they bring us comfort and reassurance. But sometimes these words can become too familiar and we repeat them without thinking about what we are praying. So in this letter, as I ‘unpack’ these words phrase by phrase, I hope that we will discover again the message that is at the heart of our faith.

So firstly, let me share with you the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. When I was still a very young Christian, I was involved in the Edinburgh SU Fellowship, a group of S4 to S6 pupils from school SU groups across the city who met on Saturday nights – which explains why I never learned to dance. It was there that I learned that ‘grace’ is God’s unmerited favour. I went on to learn that ‘grace’ is also about God taking the initiative. So long before I knew anything about him, never mind knew him, God had taken the initiative and had come seeking me out because, incredibly, he wanted to show me unmerited favour. This staggering truth lies at the heart of our faith. – God taking the initiative, God coming to seek us out before we ever seek him, God showing us unmerited favour.

When I became a Christian, I was working with Norman Dodman, his

family and other friends on the beach mission at Burntisland – I was swept up into it – and I was keen to tell as many people as possible about my amazing decision to choose Jesus. It was a few years later before I discovered the even more amazing truth that Jesus had chosen me. That’s grace. This amazing grace lies at the heart of our faith – God has chosen us and keeps on choosing us

Secondly, let me share with you, the love of God. I wonder if, like I, you’ve noticed how conditional lots of our love is. “I’ll love you if...you’ll warm my feet, cook a meal, iron your own shirts, use your bus pass so I can have the car”...and a whole lot more and a lot less trivial. The love that God has for us is the exact opposite – he says: “I love you”...and when he searches around for a reason, here’s the only one he comes up with: “...because I love you.” We don’t have to sign up or attend church or do a whole lot of religious things or even go on an Alpha Course – “I love you because I love you”. And this unconditional love lies at the heart of our faith – “I love you because I love you”.

What’s more, this unconditional love is a love without limit – Jesus went to such lengths for us, walking the path of obedience to death on a cross; this love is indestructible – the power of death was not enough to snuff it because Jesus rose from death; this love will never run out – but goes on loving us and loving us and loving us till the end of our lives and beyond; this love will

never be defeated – God will never say “I’ve had enough” and wash his hands of us. And this unlimited, indestructible, inextinguishable, unconquerable love lies at the heart of our faith.

And finally, let me share with you the fellowship of the Holy Spirit. The fellowship you and I belong to is unlike any other fellowship or society or company or club. Unlike them, this fellowship was brought into being by the Holy Spirit; unlike them, this fellowship is kept going by the Holy Spirit; unlike them, this fellowship is empowered by the Holy Spirit; unlike them, this fellowship belongs to the Holy Spirit and not the members.

And this fellowship is called to be holy – radically different to the society in which we live, demonstrating Christian counter-culture. This fellowship is transnational, spanning the earth, crossing frontiers and penetrating into the remotest corners of the world. This fellowship is inclusive – counting people in rather than out, so that “ALL are welcome in this place.” And this inclusive, transnational, holy fellowship, this fellowship of the Holy Spirit lies at the heart of our faith.

So may the Holy Spirit draw us ever closer together in his fellowship, may the unconditional, unlimited, indestructible, inextinguishable, unconquerable love of God enfold us and may the amazing grace of Jesus set our hearts on fire for God.

“The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and

the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.”

Your friend and minister,



## **PNK TV**

Many of you will recall that fundraising for the Open Door Project began in earnest in December 2000? with the staging by members of the North Kirk family of Christmas Reflections. It is proposed that the final fundraising event for the Project involving members of the North Kirk family will be PNK TV (an evening based on some of the best loved TV programmes and adverts both past and present portrayed by Kirk family members) which is to be staged in the North Kirk in September 2008. A number of individuals and groups have expressed interest in participating in the production and attended the auditions held in early June whilst others have indicated that they would like to assist with its production.

Like Christmas Reflections the production of PNK TV will take a lot of planning and preparation and work on its production will begin this September, after the summer break. So it’s not too late to be involved if you are interested in participating or assisting with the production of PNK TV either contact me or any member of the Fundraising or Events Team.

*David Tulloch*

## **The Boys' Brigade**

The new session starts soon and we look forward to welcoming all existing members back after the summer break and to meeting new boys.

**The Anchor Boys** (for boys in Primaries 2 & 3) will meet in the Back Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm, starting 4th September 2007. Activities will include games, handicrafts, stories and singing.

**The Junior Section** (for boys in Primaries 4, 5 & 6) will meet in the North Hall on Tuesday nights, from 6.30 pm to 8.00 pm, starting 4th September 2007. Activities will include badge work, figure marching, games, football and handicrafts.

In May a total of ten Junior and Company Section boys, accompanied by Richard Charleson and Brian Christie, joined the 1st Dalgety Bay Company for a weekend at the BB Training Centre, Carronvale House, Larbert. Boys and Officers enjoyed a very full programme of activities and made new friends in the 1st Dalgety Bay Company. Colin Ramsay, a former boy in our Company, is an Officer in Dalgety Bay and we intend to build on the links established with that Company.

**The Company Section** (for boys in Primary 7 to 18 years of age) will meet in the North Hall on Friday nights, from 7.30 pm to 10.00 pm, starting 7th September 2007. Activities will include Christian Faith, badge work, physical training, sports and games.

In May the boys took part in several ceremonial events connected with the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Our Company represented the BB at an event on 14 June 2007 to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Falklands Campaign. The commemoration started with a wreath laying ceremony at the Scottish National War Memorial, in Edinburgh Castle. A Royal Marines band then led the parade of veterans, HMS Edinburgh crew, Army Cadet Force and BB to St Giles' Cathedral. As we marched down the High Street, two RAF Tornado jets carried out a fly-past. The commemoration concluded with a Service of Remembrance in St Giles' Cathedral.

In June, Euan Speed, Colin Thomson, Michael Thomson and Stephen Vacher undertook a four day Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expedition in the Grampian Mountains. They successfully completed a journey of over fifty miles in demanding terrain, with constant torrential rain, high winds, unseasonably low temperatures, thick mist and electrical storms to contend with. Many others would have given up, but these young men showed great determination in completing the venture. Well done!

New members will be made very welcome. For further information about any Section, please contact Alan Anderson on tel. (01875) 853281 or Email [alanandcarola@aol.com](mailto:alanandcarola@aol.com).

*Sudoku No 11. Answer  
can be found on page 6*

						6		4
				7		8		9
	5		2				7	
1	6				3			
9				8				7
			5				1	8
	9				6		3	
4		2		9				
8		6						

**PiNKies**

The Pinkies, for parents/carers and children 0 - 5 years, meet on Friday mornings, 9.30 to 11.30am in the Back Hall.

For the children - story and music time, crafts, snack, play, friends.

For the adults - friendship, coffee/tea, somewhere to take the kids.

For start back time after the summer and further information - Fiona Charleson on 672754

**The Leprosy Mission**

Our annual Pancake Day in St Mungo's hall, on Saturday 2nd June, was a great success. The amount raised was £1032,

many thanks to all those who made such a magnificent sum possible. The committee is grateful for the continued support of the North Kirk family.

Answers to Cathy Jarvis quiz are as follows: Harrow, phlox, binder, roller, rake, fencing, graip, hose, calf, corn, spade, grass, horse, cart, shed, henrun, sack, ram, fork, grain, the winner of the quiz was Muriel Philip of Edinburgh. Our chosen project this year is the training of Sudanese field workers in Dafur in the diagnosis and care of those with leprosy in that region of Africa.

*Roberta Mackenzie*

**Tribal Generation**

The next Tribal Generation will be held

1	6	7	2	5	4	9	3	8
9	8	5	7	6	3	2	1	4
2	3	4	9	1	8	7	6	5
8	1	2	9	6	5	4	7	3
7	9	3	4	8	1	5	2	6
5	4	9	3	2	7	8	6	1
3	7	1	8	4	2	6	5	9
9	5	8	1	7	9	3	4	2
4	2	9	5	3	9	1	8	7

*Answer to Sudoku No 11*

in the church on Sunday, September 9th from 7.30 to 9.00pm. Worship will be led by the Tribal Generation Youth Band with a guest speaker.

### **The 'Extend' Exercise Class**

This class restarts on Thursday, October 4th. Contact Marjorie Bissett on 673393 for further information

### **The Next Prayer Breakfast**

This will take place in the Welcome Area on Saturday, 29th September from 9.00am for Croissants and tea/coffee the 9.30 to 10.15 for prayer and reflection.

### **The PNK Friendship Group**

We restart on the second Tuesday in October. Details from Molly Kerr on 673126

### **'Open Door' Coffee Mornings**

These are normally held in the Back Hall from 10.00am to 12.00 noon on the first Saturday of every month. The next one will be on September 1st

### **Traidcraft Stall**

This is normally open on the first Sunday of every month. For details and orders, contact Ann Thomson on 678114

### **Back To Basics**

Been given a bunch of flowers and want to know what to do with them, come along to Back to Basics. We meet in the Back Hall at 7.30pm. (Please use the Back Hall door - bell on kitchen window. The cost is £2 per night which goes to the Open Door Project.

The remaining dates for 2007 are September 27th, October 11th and 25th, November 8th and 29th. For further information, contact Irene Young on 674064

### **The PNK Art Fellowship**

We restart on Friday, 7th September in the Back Hall at 2.00pm

### **Thank You All**

Robert and his family would like to thank you all for your wonderful support during the year of Maureen's illness. We know that Maureen found it a great comfort.

A special thank you goes to John for what was a truly comforting funeral service and to all of you who were either able to make it on the day or, if not, whose thoughts and prayers were with us. Your support was overwhelming and the singing was immense. Thanks to all who helped in any way.

The retiral collection on behalf of the Marie Curie Fairmile Hospice and the PNK Open Door Project raised the magnificent sum of £1588.

### **Footnote**

*PS* Jennifer Fraser came back from holiday on 15 July. She had done sky-diving, jumping out of a plane at 13,000 feet. She had walked, swum and bumped down gorges and has the bruises and scars to prove it. And she and John got engaged! What a girl!

### **The Lighter Section**

#### **The Difference Between Rich/poor People?**

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family. On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad." "Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked. "Oh yeah," said the son. "So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and

they have the whole horizon. We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight. We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs. We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless. Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

Isn't perspective a wonderful thing? Makes you wonder what would happen if we all gave thanks for everything we have, instead of worrying about what we don't have. Appreciate every single thing you have, especially your friends!

"Life is too short and friends are too few."

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A father was teaching his son to admire the beauties of nature. "Look, son," he exclaimed, "isn't that sunset a beautiful picture God has painted?"

"It sure is, dad," responded the youngster enthusiastically, "especially since God had to paint it with his left hand." The father was baffled. "What do you mean, son?"

The boy answered, "well, my Sunday School teacher said that Jesus sits on the right hand of God."

## Dates For Your Diary

**Our Summertime Out Services all begin at 10am and run through to 26 August. They comprise a time of all-age worship, a time out for the children and young people when there is a talk for the adults and a further time of all-age worship.**

**Our evening services are cancelled in August**

**To August 26, A Summertime Out service series on theme, “King of kings” 12th and 19th August, 2 Summertime Out services on the Holiday Club theme, “Waste watchers”**

*Sunday August 12th*

10am “Waste Watchers prologue”  
and Celebration of  
Communion

*Sunday August 19th*

10am “Waste Watchers postscript”  
7pm Local Church Without Walls  
Praise Service in Loanhead  
Parish Church

*Sunday August 26th*

10am “God is remembered”

**On 2 September the Sunday Club (formerly Sunday School) resumes.**

**On 2 September the starting time of morning worship services returns to 11am**

**On 2 September our evening services resume.**

**2nd to 30th September, a series on “Against all odds”**

*Sunday September 2nd*

11am Morning worship service, the  
theme “Teamwork”

7pm Readings in *Mark’s Gospel*

*Sunday September 9th*

11am Morning worship service, the  
theme “Total commitment”  
and Celebration of  
Communion

7.30pm Tribal Generation, youth-friendly  
worship event

*Sunday September 16th*

11am Morning worship service, the  
theme “True friend”

7pm Evening worship service

*Sunday September 23rd*

11am All-age worship at Harvest

7pm Evening worship service at  
Harvest

*Sunday September 30th*

11am Morning worship service on  
Back To Church Sunday  
the theme: “Total trust”

7pm Evening worship service

## Next Newsletter

Copy for next newsletter should be with the editors on or before 16th September for publication on 7th October. Copy can be sent as a Microsoft Word attachment to either email address or hard copy (preferably typescript) can be handed to either editor

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