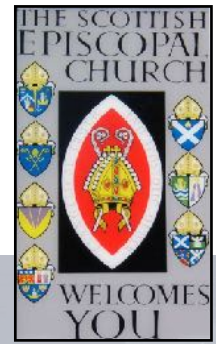


In Touch



*with St James the Less Church, Penicuik
& St Mungo's Church, West Linton*

**A quarterly magazine for all of us
Issue 22 - November 2025**

***Advent - Christmas - Epiphany -
Candlemas***

Reflections from the Rectory

For four consecutive Sundays, from 12th October, we have been preaching on the theme of *Friendship with God*. I hope this was a series which left you with plenty to reflect on, and has helped you on your journey in faith, knowing God through Jesus and your personal spiritual practices.

I attended a morning of talks last week on the *Quiet Revival (QR)*. This is a recent phenomenon where mainly older teens and people in their twenties have started a spiritual search, realising that the consumerist society we live in, with omens of the climate emergency and the emergence of populist and far-right politicians, is not the way of life that gives meaning and purpose. They are very concerned for their own welfare but also that of others, not just their close geographical neighbours but across the world. So many new media sources give them a window into aspects of the world that deeply trouble them.

It seems God has been at work, and many of these young adults have started asking hard questions about their lives, buying (and also reading) the Bible, exploring spirituality and the nature of God. It is, and has always been, our task to see where God is working in our world and come alongside those people to further God's kingdom.

The young adults want us to be genuine, want us to show that we too are exploring and learning all the time, and engage in real life issues where faith comes up against the realities of living in the 21st century. I was asked a week ago to suggest a few books for someone to read who had just finished reading the Bible and was thirsty to understand more. This was, it seemed to me, someone on an intellectual head-focussed investigation of faith, and there is nothing at all wrong with that. I suggested a few books that give background to how the Bible came about, how to read it, and also suggested a few books that start to explore our response to the Bible, our response to starting to know Jesus, our feelings and spiritual awakening.

In January I shall be facilitating a five-week programme focussing on the stories Jesus told, as part of a larger programme called *Meeting Jesus*. For anyone new to faith, and for many of us who definitely are not new to faith, it is good to focus on our Lord Jesus, to learn or remind ourselves about Him, and grow in faith. None of us is too old or experienced, or too 'holy' to engage with this material. Even if you don't want to meet with us, you may wish to read and reflect on the passages we shall be discussing each week. These will be included in the Monthly Lists for January and February. Who do you know who may benefit from 'meeting Jesus'?

We believe in the ministry of all the baptised, so it is for each of us to nurture our own faith and to encourage others who may be searching and seeking.

Nick Bowry

News from the Congregations

Thank you

I'd like to say how much I appreciate the cards, gifts, beautiful flowers, and all the kind thoughts and prayers from everyone at St James the Less since my diagnosis. I'm now recovering well from my operation.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness have helped me through this very difficult time. Thank you for your unwavering support and for going out of your way to help me; it has meant so much and truly brightened my days.

Catherine Pow



Baby Bea's baptism



On Sunday 31st August, the congregation of St James the Less joyfully welcomed baby Bea Gardner into our church family. She was baptised during the Sunday morning service of Holy Communion, then lovingly presented to the congregation by her proud parents, Jay Gardner and Olivia Redshaw-Haykin.



Happy birthday Elspeth!

Val McGavin (right) took flowers from the congregation of St James the Less to wish Elspeth Tennant (left) a very happy ninetieth birthday on Saturday 4th October 2025. Elspeth was very pleased to see a friend from church on her special day and sends thanks to the congregation. Elspeth's two daughters, Ishbel and Fiona, were with Elspeth and the family took her to the Royal hotel for a birthday lunch.



Happy birthday Joy!

Joy Middleton celebrated her 80th birthday on the 22nd October, and the congregation of St James the Less celebrated with her on the following Sunday, presenting her with flowers and sharing a delicious chocolate gluten-free cake made by Rachel Crease. Joy has written a wee reflection on being eighty years old (page 7),



Looking for Christmas presents?

What better than our homegrown publications, still available. *Up the Lane*, published in 2019, was the result of interviews conducted by the Penicuik Oral History Resource. It is a miscellany of themed personal reminiscences interwoven with humour, and describes the life of the church and its place in the community, both local and further afield. Along the way, it gives an overview of recent developments in the church's history. A book to dip into, always finding something new and interesting. Copies are still available for sale at £5.

In 2024, we collated information about past ministers in *Forth in Thy Name* (for sale at £3), and our recent publication is a wee booklet, *From Tin School to Cornbank*, a history of the Episcopalian School, on sale at £2. We also have a few copies of the recently updated *church cookbook* at £7.

All books are available at the back of the church, or please see me.

Georgina Phillips



St James in Dublin

During our first visit to Dublin in October, we spent several hours looking at the paintings in the National Gallery of Ireland. We were really pleased to come across this one of St James the Less with St Phillip and thought our friends here at St James would find it interesting to see.

Anthony and Jennifer Edge



Paolo Veronese

Verona 1528-1588 Venice

Saints Philip and James the Less

1560s

Oil on canvas

In this asymmetrical composition Veronese depicts Saints James the Less and Philip startled by a group of cherubs in the sky. James is shown seated holding a gospel book. A club, resting on the ground beside him, alludes to his martyrdom; he was clubbed to death. Philip, who was crucified, stands holding a cross. The two saints are often depicted together in paintings and they are believed to be buried together in the church of Santi Apostolic in Rome. Veronese is considered to one of the three greatest artists working in Venice during the late renaissance, the others being Titian and Tintoretto.

Purchased, 1889, NGL.115

Becoming eighty in 2025



Joy the Bridesmaid 1948

I was thinking I might share some thoughts and Ideas that occurred to me when reviewing my past life, particularly as it relates to being part of a church community. The first time I can remember being in church was when I was bridesmaid for a lady at church. I was about three years old and clothes and footwear were still on ration. Someone had found some coupons and had made me a pink chiffon dress, and my mum had dyed my old shoes white. In the process of dyeing my shoes she had shrunk them, and I was in agony throughout the proceedings and bitterly complained of my woe - *woes [toes] hurting*, not perhaps a good start!

About the same time, I started Sunday School. We met in the remains of the organ loft as our church had been destroyed by a bomb in the second World War. The back premises had, however, survived. This was a happy time; we sang little choruses and were allowed to jump off our little chairs as we finished each song. Recently I sang one of these to you at St James the Less in the middle of my sermon and so many of you joined in; this will remain a very happy memory for me: *Jesus bids us shine ... you in your small corner, and I in mine.*

My family and I all attended the local Baptist Church in Clapham in London and three generations of my family were married there, including Pete and me. I was baptised by immersion in the church baptistry when I was just short of my fourteenth birthday. Interestingly, something went wrong with the plumbing and the water flowed across the road and down into the Billiard Hall opposite. Some of the clientele came across to see what was going on and later joined the congregation!

I became a Sunday School teacher a little later [a touch of things to come] and was made responsible for a class of about half a dozen small boys.

Also about this time, I was asked to write about how I spent my weekends. I remember I shocked my English teacher by saying I spent all Sunday walking back and forth across Clapham Common to attend three services at church, and I hated it.

Each journey was about one and a half miles, and, to begin with, when I was much younger, we had to pass the remains of the gun emplacements on the common and the prefab houses built to accommodate some of the families who had lost their homes due to the blitz. We did not have a car and although there was a bus that would have taken us some of the way my parents did not approve of working on a Sunday or causing others to work. I still feel guilty if I go into a shop on a Sunday or do the washing.

Later, as I referred to earlier, I was accepted to train as a teacher of Divinity at Christ Church College Canterbury. It was a building site when I went for interview - the first teacher training college to be built by the Church of England in over one hundred years. Queen Elizabeth II came to officially open it on Maundy Thursday during my first year and to take part in the Maundy service in Canterbury Cathedral. I remember we had to learn how to curtsy and wear gloves in case we had to shake hands; also a new loo was built in case it was needed by our honoured guest!

I had wanted to be a geography teacher but was offered a place in college on condition that Divinity was my main subject. Thus, I became a teacher of Religious Studies and spent the rest of my working life doing this in many Secondary Schools in south London. I feel immensely privileged that I was able to do this, as at eleven years old I had still not mastered reading or writing. And as for the subject I taught, I am so pleased that in a way I feel that teaching Religious Studies to teenagers was a vocation God gave me the opportunity to fulfil. I never, however, tried to teach little eight-year old boys again!

Joy Middleton

Mary Berry's Tea Loaf

INGREDIENTS

- 350 g raisins currents & sultanas
- 300 ml strongly brewed hot Earl Grey tea(I used ordinary tea- 3 bags brewed For 5 mins)
- 275 g self-raising flour
- 225 g light or dark muscovado sugar or use any brown sugar (I used dark)
- 1 large free-range egg beaten

INSTRUCTIONS

- Place all the fruit in a bowl and cover it with hot tea. Leave to soak overnight.
- Preheat the oven to 150C/130C Fan and line a 900g/2lb loaf tin with non-stick baking paper.
- Add the flour, sugar and egg to the bowl of soaked fruit (if there is a little excess liquid this is fine) and mix thoroughly.
- Spoon the mixture into the prepared tin and smooth out the top.
- Bake for 1¾ hours, or until the cake is risen and is just firm to the touch, but check it after 1¼ hours to see how it is doing. Loosely cover with a piece of tin foil from about halfway through to prevent over-browning if necessary. Leave to cool in the tin for about 10 minutes.
- Turn out the loaf and remove the paper.
- Serve thick slices with a generous spread of butter.

NOTES

Store any leftovers in an airtight container. It can keep for up to 5 days. This tea loaf is suitable for freezing. If you want to make two loaves from this recipe, bake for about 1 hour 15 mins and test with skewer.

Ian Sproule

In response to requests for the recipe for the delicious Tea Loaf that Ian brought to church on the 14th September 2025!

Another very happy Baptism day

Sunday 2nd November was a very special day for the O'Rourke family and the St James Congregation. The usual Sunday morning service began with a double baptism. First of all, Barry O'Rourke presented himself for adult baptism, with his wife Ania, and stepson Adrien beside him. And then he became Godfather to Adrien as Adrien received baptism. Marion Mather is Adrien's Godmother. Afterwards, the church family enjoyed a soup lunch in the hall together, with some celebration cake to finish!



Left to right: Marion Mather, Ania O'Rourke standing behind Adrien O'Rourke, Barry O'Rourke.

Corrections for Issue 21

1. Date on Front cover: Should have been August 2025!
2. Scripture Union Holiday club: "*Ruth Aird was the overall leader, supported by Derek and Claire Harley from the Scripture Union....*". Reference to Elaine Tait was in error.

St James the Less Fundraising November 2025

The Taizé evening, due to take place on 3rd October, had to be postponed because of stormy weather, but it went ahead on Saturday 1st November. About thirty people attended from around Penicuik and were given a short history of the Taizé movement and, after a delicious buffet, were entertained by tales of Nick's recent visit to the Taizé community with a group of young people from the diocese. We raised £186.25 and had a lovely evening of fellowship. Many thanks to all those who supported this event.

At time of writing, we are preparing for a Pub Quiz, led by Alan and Gill Murray on 15th November 2025. While we hope to make funds, it's also a chance to get together for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Our Christmas Coffee Morning is on Saturday 6th December in the church hall. Please put the date in your diary and invite family, neighbours and friends along. We'll have a Christmas stall, Lucky Bags and a Tombola as well as home baking, so donations for these stalls would be gratefully received.

Funds raised at Fellowship Lunches:

7th September 25 for Medical Aid for Palestinians: £251.83

5th October for Street children in Accra: £540.66

2nd November for School Yard Kitchen in Ghana: £180

Lunch on the 7th December will be for Broomhill Day Centre. Please do come and support that worthy cause.

The sheet for next year's Fellowship Lunches will be on the noticeboard soon. Please look out for it and sign up if you'd like to have a Fellowship Lunch for your chosen charity.

As always, thank you so much for your support with fundraising activities. We couldn't do it without you!

Marion Mather

Doors Open – delving into the Archives

Saturday 13th September 2025 saw St James the Less fling wide its gates to welcome visitors to our Doors Open event. Attendance in the morning was slow, but picked up in the afternoon. Over all, it was worth participating, as the social interaction is such a vital ingredient of the day. Marion ably organised the catering: a cuppa and cake quite sufficient, and grateful thanks to all who contributed home baking and helped on the day. Charlotte, Helen and Georgina organised the exhibition about our church, with help as available. Thanks to Rachel for the publicity. There is much work involved in setting up and clearing away, and it is somewhat difficult to anticipate what might be of interest to visitors. We tried to give a flavour of what is held in the Archives, which are still a work in progress. The architectural drawings proved very attractive, especially to some of the church neighbours. The Birth, Marriage and Burial Registers are a magnet for anyone whose ancestor might be therein recorded. We are lucky to have such a lovely building which is itself a prime exhibit, and that visitors are free to wander. Photos are always popular, and we do have some photo albums which need names added to pictures. There was a good response to the request for stewards volunteering for a couple of hours and being available to answer questions about the church. Thanks to all who helped. It was not a fundraising event, but a goodly amount was realised through donations.

Doors Open Team

Supporting Norvi Academy, Ghana

Thank you to all of you who donated to the Fellowship Lunch fundraiser on 5th October 2025 for Norvi Academy, a school in Nsumia, Greater Accra, Ghana. The Academy teaches around one hundred and fifty boys and girls, aged between two and seventeen years. Many thanks to Nick Bowry for supporting this, and John McCulloch for organising the funds. The sum of £540.66 was raised, plus an additional £155 giving £695.66 in total!

My contact at Norvi Academy is Selassy Gbeglo who set up the school in 2021 in response to need for education that reaches children in the poorest families.

Ghana has a state school system and has recently expanded free education to include senior high school. This is great on paper, but in practice, there are very limited funds, and many children receive hardly any education. Those who can afford it send their children to boarding schools – these are not like public schools in the UK but have better quality teaching than basic state schools (again, not like our fantastic state schools) and away from noisy street environments where most people live. When living at home, older children contribute to their families' income through selling, and many children help with chores, such as fetching water, etc.

Selassy explained: “The objective of operating the school is to make it possible for the very poor, including street-connected families and children, to have a formal education. And so we started with a fee-free policy. I didn't want school fees to be a hindrance for poor families to educate their children.

“We were faced with considerable challenges finding money to pay teachers and feed the children lunch. So we have been encouraging parents to try and contribute small cash to support our expenses.

“We would welcome support to enable us to continue to provide services to the children. For a good number of the students, I provide them with uniforms, clothes, stationery and textbooks as well as a free meal.”

Selassy told me that several children show great potential and would like to go to boarding school. I work with another larger charity, Street Children's Empowerment Foundation (SCEF; <https://scef-international.org/>) which runs a boarding school. However, it costs around £50 a month to support a child there and SCEF cannot afford to take on all the children that Selassy puts forward; in fact, for the past two years they have been unable to take on any.

Selassy says: "There are scores of parents that pleaded with me to get their children into the boarding school project. But all didn't go through. I tell you, Janine I am heartbroken seeing how these children live. The children who were lucky to get accepted three to four years ago have all made it to senior secondary school. This sets their lives on the path of certainty."

Ghana is a country of contrasts, with a small middle class, an active democracy and civil society, demonstrated by the commitment of people like Selassy and Paul, who runs SCEF. These people will stop at nothing to support and encourage young people to achieve lives of value. I'm delighted that the St James' community has been able to contribute to that. If any of you are interested in supporting a child to go to SCEF's boarding school do let me know.

I was unable to visit Norvi Academy when I was in Ghana recently, due to work commitments and the poor roads. But I imagine Nsumia is very like the other suburbs of Accra I passed through when travelling west: a mixture of buildings and informal settlements where people live in 'kiosks' - homemade shacks which often have electricity (through various means) but no running water. They go to public bath houses nearby for water, the toilet, and to keep clean, which is culturally very important.

I have known and worked with Selassy since 2013, on the Growing up on the Streets research project (<https://dundee.ac.uk/growing-streets>). Please take a look at the [story maps](#) we made with street children and youth, including one made in Accra. They are under the 'Knowledge Exchange and Impact' tab at that website.

These give a real insight into the lives of young people in the three countries the project worked in (also Democratic Republic of the Congo and Zimbabwe) and are an antidote to the constant negative press coming our way about African countries and people! I hope this brief article has given some further background to Norvi Academy. I will be able to give updates on the impact the funds have made and I am happy to answer any questions anyone has.

Janine Hunter Hall



Norvi Academy



Norvi school and teachers



Children in Norvi School

Post-script

Since writing this I have received an acknowledgement from Peter Agyei, Norvi's headmaster who says: *"On behalf of the teachers, the deprived children, their parents, and on my own behalf I want to say we are immensely grateful"*. Peter says they plan to use the funds donated by St James the Less to buy *"durable tables and chairs for the two to four-year-olds; repair and upgrade the children's toilet which is in a very deplorable state; employ one new teacher, Doris, to teach children in kindergarten 1 & 2, as their former teacher, Belinda, left at the end of last term because the school couldn't pay her salary."* They also plan to build a security fence and *"support the treatment of three extremely deprived siblings; Winifred, Wendy, and Samantha who are currently down with severe measles."*

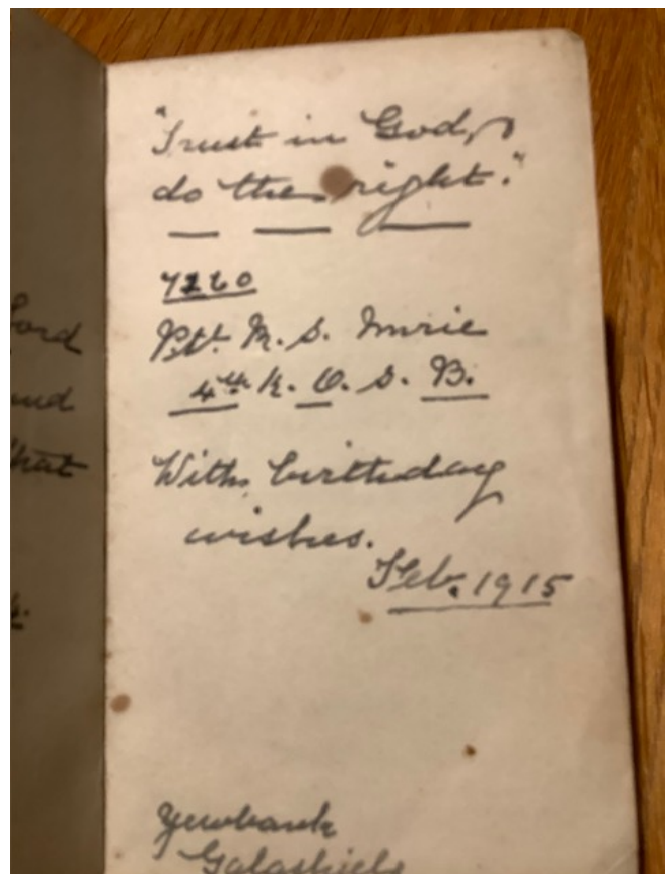
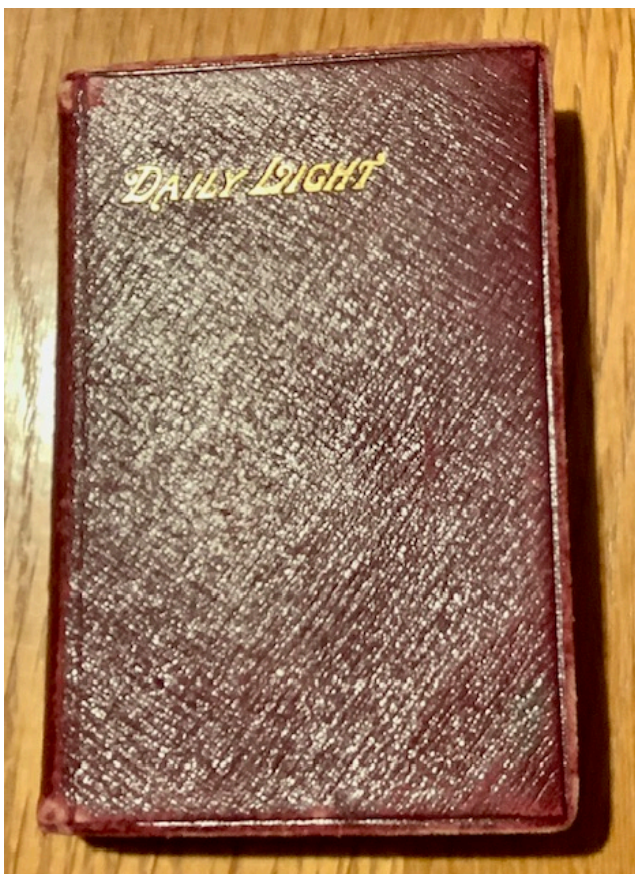
Thank you again for all your support.

Janine Hunter Hall

Mementos of the Great War

Robert Imrie, my maternal grandfather, was born on a farm at Edrom, Berwickshire in 1894 and the family made several moves before he left school at aged fourteen and followed his father to work on the land. The census of 1911 has the family in a cottage on Hillend Farm in the parish of Coldingham and Grandad is described then as a ploughman, aged seventeen. He would therefore be responsible for a pair of horses. (A girl of fourteen was a live-in maid in the farmhouse at the time-she appears again later on in this story!)

By 1914 and the outbreak of war, the Imries were at Ayton Law farm and in October 1914, Grandad and a friend went to the local solicitor's office in Ayton to enlist. The Kings Own Scottish Borderers (KOSBs) underwent training at Galashiels over the winter and were billeted in the Town Hall. A Miss Tait entertained six soldiers every Sunday afternoon for tea and if they attended the Evening Service in church, they were invited back for supper too! In the February of 1915, my grandfather celebrated his 21st birthday and Miss Tait presented him with a little book of daily devotions to mark the occasion (see *photographs*).



By May 1915, the 4th KOSBs embarked on the Empress of Britain for an unknown destination. It turned out to be Gallipoli. After difficult months on the Peninsula there, the battalion then went to Cairo and El Kantara on the Suez Canal before starting the long trek of one hundred miles across the Sinai desert to Palestine. Grandad was assigned to the Quartermasters' Stores and each day, riding on a pony, accompanied the Egyptians with camels which carried rations and ammunition. So, this farm lad from Berwickshire climbed a pyramid, visited Jerusalem and picked Jaffa oranges from the trees. Throughout this time, he corresponded with that young girl from Hillend farm.

In 1917, the battalion sailed to Marseilles before travelling by train to Northern France and taking part in fighting there.

Grandad was given Home Leave just once in all those years and spent most of it in Berwickshire, although he did take the train up to Edinburgh one day because a certain young lady was by then working in a house in Forbes Road, Bruntsfield. The Mistress graciously said Nell could have a half day. Firstly, there was a visit to a jewellers, where a lovely pendant was purchased, followed by calling in at a photographer's studio.



Left - a token of love for Helen's grandmother, from her future husband.

Grandad returned to France and the correspondence continued and I have two postcards which were sent home from France.

Later, news of the Armistice was heard while marching into Jerbais, Belgium. It took until February 1919 before Grandad was demobbed. Rather than return to a Berwickshire farm, he sought work in Edinburgh and found a position driving a pair of horses, delivering flour for Herdman's Mill. My grandparents married in 1921 and the pendant is just visible in their wedding photograph! They went on to have nearly sixty years of married life together.

Helen S



Left: A postcard from France sent by Helen's grandfather to his sweetheart at home.

Right: Helen's grandparents' wedding day



Helen's treasured collection of mementos from her grandparents' lives during the first world war.

Prayers on a Sunday morning

Editor's note: I very much enjoy the "intercession" prayers on a Sunday morning - each person on the rota brings their own thoughts, words and prayer style. I'd like to share some intercessions occasionally. In this issue, I'd like to share some prayers from Sue Crosfield (see next page). Sue has been offering intercessions for many years, and her prayers are in a more formal style and address current concerns across the world. She invites the response "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer" after each paragraph.

Please let me know if you'd like to share particular intercessions which you have found helpful.

Let us pray

“Let us pray for the world as it confronts so many problems and potential disasters. We pray for a just and lasting peace in Ukraine, Gaza and the wider Middle East and we pray for all whose lives and livelihoods have been devastated by war.

We pray especially for members of UNRA who risk their lives daily to deliver food, clean water and medical supplies to those who so desperately need it,

Let us pray for the leaders of the nations, for members of Nato and the EU and for all who seek to maintain a just and lasting peace across the world. We pray for our own country for the King, for Keir Starmer, our Prime Minister, for all members of parliament both in Westminster and in the devolved parliaments in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, and we pray for all those involved in maintaining law and order with justice.

Let us pray for farmers and for all those across the world who are involved in food production and who are affected by climate change that sustainable methods of agriculture may soon become the norm.

Let us pray for all who suffer, for those made homeless as a result of the the relentless bombardment in wartorn areas, for the wounded, the sick, the neglected and the bereaved that consolation may be theirs.

Let us pray for the worldwide church. We pray for a strengthening and steady growth of Christian communities across the world and we pray especially for all who have suffered from clerical abuse such as has been practised by the recently exposed Jesus Army.

Let us pray for our own Episcopal Church, for John our bishop who retires to-day, for those involved in the choice of his successor, for Nick our rector and for all members of our vestries and congregations both here and in West Linton,

And finally we pray for all whom we love but see no longer, May they rest in peace and rise in glory,

Amen

Sue Crosfield

Agnes Thorburn (1928 - 2025)



Agnes was born in Penicuik in 1928, the only daughter to John and Annie Tople. She had two older brothers and one younger brother. Her brothers used to save their sweet ration coupons for their sister.

Agnes wanted to be in the Land Army during the war, but her father forbade this.

Agnes was a member of the St James the Less church choir and she played the piano for St Leonard's Lasswade Sunday School.

Agnes met Alexander (Alex) Thorburn when she went into Rae Macs in Edinburgh to buy music. The story is that he leapt over the counter to serve

her! They married in 1952 in St James the Less, and she was Alex's 'duchess' until his death in 2006.

Their first born was Rosalind, named from a performance of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* during the Edinburgh Festival where Agnes and Alex acted as ushers.

Their second child was Anne (or Jemima Anne) - named after both grandmothers. Finally, their third child arrived, a little blond angel called Melita - the name of one of Agnes' first piano teachers.

Agnes' family remember family caravan holidays in Markington, Yorkshire and also in Wales, Devon, Cornwall and the New Forest. Going on holiday like this was not easy with few motorways and three children in the back of the car!

Agnes passed her driving test in Ripon, surprising her mother when she returned by inviting her out for a run in the country and no Alex at the wheel. She enjoyed ferrying other members of the church to the 'early service' which was a Said Eucharist.

Agnes taught piano to many children who came to the house after school for their lessons. She accompanied many other children when for their exams who were taught violin by Alex. She also played piano for keep fit classes in Midlothian.

She worked from when Anne and Melita were teenagers. First, she did an insurance round in East Lothian and Midlothian and then worked behind the counter at Stewart the Bakers and latterly at the Castle Warehouse, eventually becoming manageress there. She retired aged seventy two. She then worked as a volunteer at British Heart Foundation until the Penicuik branch closed.

She welcomed and thought highly of her sons in law - Len, Jim and Alistair. She delighted in her grandchildren Chris, Julie, Kirsty and Mhairi and was always keen to see them and hear what they were doing.

Agnes loved playing the piano, most usually accompanying Alex playing his violin. She was also a great knitter - baby hats and jackets for friends and neighbours' children and grandchildren; she was also an accomplished dressmaker for herself and all three daughters. An avid puzzler, she loved doing crosswords,

Agnes was also a knowledgeable gardener, a much admired baker - baked wedding cakes for extended family, and enjoyed giving cakes and biscuits to friends, particularly Christmas cakes.

She enjoyed singing in a choir in Penicuik and then with Anne in Dalkeith Singers.

Sadly due to arthritis and later macular degeneration and failing hearing she could no longer enjoy these pastimes.

Agnes was always elegantly dressed with hair neatly styled and make up (not much though) carefully applied.

She was always a very determined and capable woman, but after a fall, she unfortunately deteriorated and spent her last few years in Aaron House where she was wonderfully looked after.

She never expected to make it to ninety seven. She was convinced that, like her mother and some of her mother's brothers and sisters, that she would only reach ninety three! Rest in Peace Agnes.

Nick Bowry, from Agnes' family's memories

St James the Less Congregation's Memories of Agnes

Kathryn Topham

I can't make the service, but I know that Agnes had a fondness for Girl-guiding and a sense of adventure; she was very chuffed that her grand daughter carried on the mantle.

Agnes' granddaughter Mhairi, who used to be a Brownie leader in Penicuik, is currently the Assistant Chief Guide. There was also story of Agnes, long after retirement, of driving Mhairi a long distance when Mhairi was a student, to avoid Mhairi thumbing a lift. I don't know the full details. The family may be able to fill in gaps.

Angela Sibley

Agnes was always smartly dressed and cheerful. She helped with refreshment and made lovely cakes. She always had cake made if you visited her. She also made a Christmas cake and decorated it to be raffled for Church funds. I think she also did flower arrangements in church. Marion will know more about that. Agnes was also very helpful if you were shopping at the Castle Warehouse. She was much appreciated by all.

Charlotte Kemp

Agnes was a regular attender at the 8am Sunday service in the Peace chapel. When her son-in-law was in Penicuik he would come with her and she sometimes brought others. Latterly, Agnes and I were often the only ones at this early Sunday service

Agnes raffled a Christmas cake every year. She always made several Christmas cakes. Her empire biscuits were always very precisely prepared and of even size and very good to eat.

She enjoyed driving and was always offering lifts and she regularly drove to visit her cousins. (I can't remember where they lived - somewhere in south west of Scotland I think).

I was pleased to be at her 90th Birthday lunch which I think Gillian organised.

For many years she worked in the Castle Warehouse and was always smartly dressed.

Marian Hunter

As every one else will say, as a singer herself, Agnes was always so appreciative of the choir and the music in church. You will also hear (if you didn't know it already) how generous she was with her gifts for the Leprosy Mission. I have personal experience of this. She would seek me out at the end of the service to insist I accept the fist full of cash she held.

Sue Owen

As a relative newcomer to Penicuik, I knew Agnes only in her later years, and found she was a caring, generous soul. At one time, a year or two before Covid, I visited her every few weeks to give her Indian Head massage, have a cup of tea and a chat. I got to know her a bit better during this time and she told me about her family, who she obviously adored, and her music. I eventually encouraged her to write an article about her musical life for the church magazine "Outreach" (as it was then). When Covid struck, and when we were allowed, I fairly regularly called to take her for a chat while walking round the block. (Gillian at this time also visited her very often). Agnes was always incredibly appreciative of any small attention. I experienced her determination, when she walked herself to the local shops to buy a wee box of plants, or some provisions. A loving, talented and courageous lady.

Val McGavin

I've known Agnes most of my life. She was always a genteel lady, very well dressed, very well made up. She was always very welcoming when you went to the house.

I took my children to see her. Agnes was an insurance agent in those days and she collected our money. She always called you "darling" , always made you feel special, that you mattered!

Latterly it was lovely to go with our church to the services at Aaron house and see how much she enjoyed singing the hymns with us.

I think she was proud of her church. It was a pleasure to be with her.

Agnes Thorburn - the Musician

Editor's note 2017: ...I realise that there are still quite a few people (in the congregation) whose stories I know nothing about. I chanced to chat to Agnes Thorburn one day. She began to talk about her life as a musician. I was fascinated; as a relative newcomer, I have never known Agnes in that role. She kindly allowed me to ask her more questions, and to share her story with you.

How did music become important in your own life?

I was born in Penicuik in 1928 just over the old post office in Bridge Street. The building is now occupied by Pen-Y-Coe Press. I remember my father taking me as wee child (about five years old) to listen to my brothers singing in the choir at St James the Less Church. Only boys and men were allowed to sing in the choir at that time! I loved to listen to the music.

My brothers attended the "Tin School" in the grounds of St James the Less church, and I remember their comments about the noise of the rain on the tin roof. I started school in the new building of St James the Less school, which is now the premises of Findlay-Irvine in Bog Road. There were three class-rooms and each teacher taught two year-groups in their class-room. My head mistress was Miss Evans. I suppose she noticed my musical talent and offered to teach me to play the piano. I remember the tumbler of milk and a chocolate biscuit at each lesson! I had one lesson a week at her house just round the corner from the school. After I left school, Mrs MacFarlane, who was the organist at St James the Less church, took me on for piano lessons.

When did you start and end your music career?

I married Alex, who was a violinist, and I started to accompany him on the piano. Later, I began teaching piano to school pupils, and I taught for seven years.

My hands are arthritic now, so I can't play the piano any more. I gave my piano away to Cuiken school.

What training/qualifications did you have or need for the job?

Mrs MacFarlane put me in for the piano grade exams, and I qualified up to a teaching grade.

Can you describe your musical life?

Alex worked with MacTaggart Scott at Loanhead, making arresting gear for planes landing on ships. After a disaster at sea in 1958, a benefit concert was arranged to help the bereaved families. Alex was asked to play at the concert, and I accompanied him and all the singers. I even accompanied a sword-player! Alex also conducted the Loanhead orchestra in the concert, and was presented with a small trophy as a thank you from MacTaggart Scott.

We also used to play support acts with the Penicuik Male Voice Choir, which performed concerts across the region from the east to west coasts.

I think I was in high demand as an accompanist, because I made efforts to empathise with all the performers. I continued to accompany Alex's violin performances for many years, sometimes with only one week's notice of a concert!



Caricature of Alex and Agnes Thorburn with violin and piano

Alex and I had birthdays in the same week. As a joint seventieth birthday gift, our three daughters commissioned a caricature picture of us illustrating our main interests - the piano and violin figure prominently!

The Headmaster at Cuiken School knew Alex as a friend, and asked him if he would teach violin to school pupils on a Saturday morning. I used to call in at the school with coffee at mid-morning, and then I began to accompany the pupils. I remember giving lifts to children in my car to their violin exams in Edinburgh.

I tried to comfort and encourage them on the journey there, and they were always relieved to find out that I was going to be there for their exams. I offered this service for free - normally people had to pay a lot for an accompanist. After their exam ordeal, I always bought the children an ice cream!

At the end of every term at Cuiken School, parents were invited to come to hear their children's music. On one occasion, the head of the Midlothian music department called in to listen. He watched me accompanying the children's violin pieces and then had a chat with me about the possibility of teaching piano to school pupils. I was offered two days a week teaching at St Margaret's School in Loanhead, and at a Gorebridge primary school. On one occasion, the Gorebridge primary school asked me to play accompaniments for a Burns songs competition in Edinburgh. I drove the Headmaster to the venue, but I can't remember the location now. Nobody that I've spoken to in Penicuik took part in that competition. I still wonder where it was!

Describe a typical working week

I went to St Margaret's school to teach on a Tuesday, and to Gorebridge on a Thursday or Friday. I also taught privately in people's houses.

Do you have any particular story to share about your life as a music teacher?

At St Margaret's school there was a wee boy called Christopher. He didn't practice very much, but I tried to be forgiving and kind. Our first grandchild was born at around that time, and he was also given the name Christopher. When I told this to my wee piano pupil, he was thrilled, and thought the new baby had been named after him! Alex taught violin to his sister Kathleen at Roslin school. Before long, Alex and I became friendly with their mum & dad. When Kathleen grew up she invited us to her wedding, and I made their wedding cake. Kathleen and her new husband, Craig, went to live in Colorado. Two years ago, she phoned me to say that they were coming to the UK to their nephew's wedding & wanted to take me out to lunch. They told me they would "never forget me", which was lovely.

Some months ago, I fell & fractured my wrist. My daughter used Facebook to thank everyone who had helped me at the time. This resulted in a call from Colorado: it was Kathleen & Craig sending their love. When their mum died, I felt honoured to be invited to sit with the family at the funeral.

Our daughters learned to play instruments - the youngest and eldest both played the violin and the middle daughter played the cello. Sadly, they are too busy to play these days.

What were the main problems in your life as a musician?

Problems? I don't think I had problems. Alex was always there to talk things over with if I needed to. I enjoyed it very much.

Has any particular person inspired you before or during your music career?

My husband, Alex, was my main inspiration. He was an only son (he had had a twin brother who died at birth, and there had been another brother who had died of diphtheria). When Alex and I started courting, Alex's parents bought a piano for their own home so that they could hear Alex and me playing music together when we visited. Alex died eleven years ago.

How did music feature in other parts of your life? How does it feature in your life now?

As an adult, accompanying on the piano lasted all my married life. I also liked to sing. I was still a small girl when girls and women were eventually allowed in the choir at St James the Less church, At that time, my father's sisters (Aunt Bella and Aunt Liza) and their two friends were the only female choir members. They had to stand hidden away, between the men and the organ!



Dorothy Braggins, Betty Nisbet, Margaret Bell and Agnes - choir girls in the 1940s. Mrs MacFarlane can be seen behind the girls.

I became a choir girl in my teens. At that time, there were still only four female choir members (Dorothy Braggins, Betty Nisbet, Margaret Bell and myself). The female choir members still had to stand hidden between the men and the organ.

We didn't wear robes, and we didn't process in and out. We simply slipped quietly into our place at the beginning of the service, and then left quietly after the boys and men had processed out. Our mothers always bought us new coats and hats at Easter time, which we proudly paraded at church.

Nowadays I sing with the Dalkeith Singers every Thursday evening. They are a wonderful choir of about seventy singers. We're giving a concert on 9th December!

What were the main joys in your life as a musician?

I loved all of it! If I hadn't met Alex, I don't think I would have had such a wonderful musical life. I owe it all to him.

Agnes Thorburn

November 2017

VE DAY

I was six when the war broke out and twelve when it ended so my memories, not least of VE day, remain vivid. Here are a few of them.

AIR RAIDS: We lived in Sussex in a house which was once an observatory, on the top of a hill some thirty miles as the crow flies from London. I remember how the sky to the north of us was red as London burned at the height of the blitz. When the air raid warnings went out, some people would flock to their nearest air raid shelter. In London that was often the underground stations; other towns had similar shelters. Some people erected shelters in their gardens. We had a lovely big sofa in the gap under the stairs, said to be the safest part of the house, and would huddle there cosily until the *All Clear*. Once the blitz was over, nights became quieter until 1944 when the doodlebugs arrived. These were flying bombs which arrived with very little warning and did a lot of damage. All in all, during the war we lost our windows three or four times. The war damage department of the government was very efficient in replacing them, but I do remember eating breakfast with unmelted snow on the carpet at my feet. The house was very cold in the winter as fuel for the central heating was often unavailable. A glass of water by your bed might well have a layer of ice in the morning.

EVACUEES: Our first few evacuees from the east end of London were with us for a very short time preferring London bombs to life in the country. Then came a number of boys from Croydon Grammar School. They were very eager to be allowed to help air raid wardens in their search for unexploded bombs. War was exciting. They were moved to better premises after a time.

Then there was John and Anne. Their father was in the Eighth Army and their mother helped in the house. Anne was a wizard with a skipping rope (remember those?) and John was an engaging little fellow, two years older than my brother who was just learning to speak. He copied John, swear words and all, which caused much embarrassment, especially given his angelic long fair curls.

INVASION: In the early days of the war when fears of an imminent invasion by the Germans were rife and Churchill had promised that we would “never surrender”, we selected weapons with which to bash the enemy. My choice was a garden rake.

SHRAPNEL: There was huge competition among children when it came to collecting shrapnel, but no one could beat my sister who found a WHOLE UNEXPLODED BOMB which she carried triumphantly into the kitchen. My mother nearly fainted on the spot but soon managed to get hold of a fireman who rendered it harmless. It remained a treasured possession of my sister's for the rest of her life. Another great excitement occurred when an aircraft crashed not far from our house. Children flocked to inspect the ruins, half hoping, half dreading that the dead pilot would still be in place. He wasn't.

FOOD: As the war progressed food rationing became more and more severe. We were vegetarians which meant we got cheese instead of meat, and of course four ounces of cheese goes much further than four ounces of meat. Also we were lucky to have a fair sized vegetable garden, including fruit. We also had hens, but if you had more than so many you had to have customers, which was fine until the hens went off the lay.

Bread was of one sort only, the national loaf. Sweets were rationed to two ounces a week at its severest, and chocolate was totally unavailable until well after the war. So of course were tropical fruits like bananas and oranges, yet the government somehow managed to provide orange juice for the very young. The government were good at trying to keep morale as high as possible by providing, for example, a little extra sugar at Christmas so that we didn't go without a Christmas cake, even if it had to be a sponge cake as there was no dried fruit.

BIRTHDAY PARTIES: These still took place and invitations would be sent out with the letters BYOG (Bring Your Own Grub) at the foot. That worked well.

VE DAY: In April 1945 I was in the Lake District for various complicated reasons. I started my secondary education in the summer term 1945. The school I went to had been evacuated from Brighton to Keswick, and to Keswick I went in a special and extremely slow train. I will never forget the wonderful quality of the Lake District air when we finally reached Keswick. I had never been north of London before and I found those Lakeland hills and gushing streams absolutely entrancing. Within a week of the start of term victory was declared and on VE Day itself we had a picnic on the banks of Lake Bassenthwaite. We had a special VE Day cake made largely of flour and baking powder, so it was pretty unpalatable but there was a Union Jack and a little spattering of sugar on the top so we all ate a small piece and felt very happy and patriotic.

POST WAR: During 1946 children who had been sent to Canada or the United States for their safety at the outset of the war began to come back to the UK. Among them were some of our cousins. They lived with us for a few weeks while their parents got their house in order. We felt horribly superior .

“You don't know what we have been through” would be our mantra which made one of the cousins a boy of my age very envious. He felt really deprived.

Food continued to be heavily rationed for some time and we still lived largely in second hand clothes. Clothing coupons restricted sales of new clothes and they tended to be on the skimpy side until things eased up and we had those wonderful New Look fashions. But that is another story.

Sue Crosfield

Poetry (and Song) Corner

Walk with me

Jesus told me to learn to love my neighbour.
And that's easy, when my neighbour's my best friend.

But Jesus said that I must not trust those feelings.
Rise above them, reach beyond them and transcend.

Walk with me, as I try to find your foot-steps

Walk with me, as I stumble on the way.

Hold my hand when my courage starts to fail me.

Set me straight when my feet begin to stray.

Jesus told me money won't buy heaven.

That a rich man has to work to find the key.
But I only need a few nice things for comfort.

Surely this edict will not apply to me?

Jesus told me the poor inherit heaven.

The meek will be the owners of the Earth.

And the merciful will feel the greatest mercy.

So be careful how you measure what you're worth.

Jesus told me not to worry if I'm hungry.

And if someone calls me names, I should just smile.

I will surely be rewarded up in heaven.

But that means I have to wait for quite a while.

Alan Murray

Walk With Me

© Alan Murray, 2025

D Bm⁷ A D D/C#
 Jesus told me to learn to love my neighbour. And that's

6 G D/F# Em⁷ A
 ea - sy, when my neighbour's my best friend. But Je - sus said

10 G A D D/C#
 that I must not trust those feelings. Rise a

14 G D/F# A
 bove them, reach be - yond them and trans - cend.

17 A⁷ D G D
 Walk with me, as I try to find your foot - steps.

21 A Bm⁷ G Em⁷ A
 Walk with me, as I stum - ble on the way.

25 A⁷ D F#m
 Hold my hand when my courage starts to fail

28 Bm⁷ Bm⁷/A
 me. Set me straight

30 Em⁷ D/F# Em⁷ A D D(sus⁴)
 when my feet begin to stray.

St Mungo's Report November 2025



*Bountiful harvest at St Mungo's,
West Linton*

At our recent harvest appeal, £320 was raised in support of the St Catherine's Mercy Centre.

Our Christmas appeal is now under way in support of the Peebleshire Youth Trust and we are collecting drinking chocolate, boxes of biscuits and sharing crisps to go in their Christmas hampers.

Although at present our congregation is small, it is very generous. As well as supporting St Mungo's through giving, last year we gave in total over £2000 pounds to eight good causes.

For at least the last thirty years, St Mungo's has supported a Care Van Team. This was originally organised by St James and subsequently taken over by St Mungo's. Over the last fifteen years it has evolved into being a West Linton team and Robert Higgins from St Andrews has just completed ten years as coordinator. When Robert announced he was going to step back, there was some concern as to whether the project could continue, but I am pleased to report that Peter Woodfield has offered to take this on, so the future is in good hands.

Ian Kerry

St James the Less Vestry Notes July 2025

Election of new Vestry Members

The financial year for St James concludes on 30th September each year. Following this date, the Vestry begins preparations for the Annual General Meeting (AGM), which is scheduled for the first Sunday in December, immediately after the morning service. During the AGM, new members are elected to join the Vestry. However, before this can happen, we require nominations for candidates. We encourage you to consider volunteering as a Vestry member or to suggest someone from the congregation who might be willing to serve. Being part of the Vestry is an opportunity to contribute to the life of our church, and your involvement is highly valued.

Over the past year, the Vestry has convened on seven occasions. Our discussions extend beyond the routine management of church affairs. Recent years have been both challenging and stimulating, as we have tackled projects such as planning the insulation of the Rectory, exploring efficient heating solutions for the church, addressing the aftermath of fallen trees, and managing the associated costs of these initiatives. Vestry meetings are always engaging reflecting the wide range of issues and opportunities facing our congregation. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please get in touch. A nomination form is available at the end of this report.

Recent Vestry Meeting

The Vestry met on Wednesday, 23rd September 2025, to address several important matters:

- The finance reports indicate that by the end of the financial year, income and expenditure are expected to balance, with a modest surplus predicted.
- With general running costs on the rise, the congregation will be asked to consider increasing their financial contributions to support church expenses.

- The current gas contract is due to expire in March. The Vestry will seek a new gas supplier in the hope of securing a more favourable deal and reducing overall energy costs.
- A comprehensive programme of works, as identified in the recent Quinquennial Survey, will be prepared. Several of these works have been classified as urgent and will be prioritised accordingly.
- Fire safety remains a key concern. A detailed plan of action will be developed to address the issues raised in the recent fire safety assessment.
- About thirty visitors and congregation members attended the Midlothian Doors Open event on Saturday, 13th September. The church and archive displays were well received, and refreshments were appreciated. The vestry plans to participate again next year.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM will take place on Sunday 7th December 2025. At this meeting, new Vestry members will be elected to replace those who have completed their terms of service. If you are a leader of any church activity or Group, please can you submit your annual report by 22 November 2025.

The Vestry appreciates your participation in the Annual General Meeting and values your continued support for its initiatives and the various activities of our congregation. Thank you.

Charlotte Kemp
Vestry Secretary
1st November 2025

St James the Less, Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik

Vestry Nomination for ORDINARY MEMBER 2025/2026

Name of Nomination.....

I.....

(name of **proposer**)

Nominate.....

to become an **Ordinary Vestry Member** of St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik.

I.....

(name of **seconder**)

Second the nomination of

.....

to become an **Ordinary Vestry Member** of St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik.

I.....

(**Signed by person to be nominated**) November 2025

agree to be nominated for **Ordinary Vestry Member** of St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Penicuik

Forms to be returned by **4th December 2025** to:

Charlotte Kemp (Vestry Secretary)

11 Monksrig Road

Penicuik

EH26 9JH

charkemp@talktalk.net

01968 675725

Pete Singer's Thought Experiment of the Drowning Child

For many centuries philosophers have been thinking about what 'good' or 'evil' behaviour really means. We think that we recognise evil when we see it - but do we really? Peter Singer's drowning child thought experiment is an attempt to clarify that question.

Peter Singer created a thought experiment to explore this in a challenging way. He challenged his university students to think about the ethics of what we owe to people in need.

Pete asked them to imagine that their route to the university takes them past a shallow pond. One morning, you notice a child has fallen in and appears to be drowning. To wade in and pull the child out would be easy but it will mean that you get your clothes wet and muddy, and by the time you go home and change you will have missed your first class.

The question posed to the students is: do you have any obligation to rescue the child?

Unanimously, the students said that they do. The importance of saving a child so far outweighs the cost of getting one's clothes muddy and missing a class, that they refused to consider it any kind of excuse for not saving the child.

Pete then asked whether it made a difference that there were other people walking past the pond who would equally be able to rescue the child but are not doing so? No, the students replied, the fact that others are not doing what they ought to do is no reason why I should not do what I ought to do.

We can probably agree with Singer's students. Now the question is, why don't we act in the same way towards children in poorer countries, whose lives are also threatened, and whom we could also save with a very small (for us) sacrifice, say, a donation of a few pounds per month to some international charity.

Does it really matter whether the child is in front of us in that pond, or whether it is half a world away? It's not like we would have to travel there. There are many trustworthy charities that would gladly take and distribute our money to the needy.

Peter Singer's drowning child thought experiment leads us to the one inescapable question:

Why don't we act?

Is there a geographical limit or other boundary to my duty to further the wellbeing of others? Do I have to check every one of my dozens of daily transactions to make sure that I'm not taking advantage of anyone in a faraway country? And what about the transactions I cannot exercise any control over? What if my *government* exploits the citizens of another country in order to provide affordable goods and services to me? Am I responsible for that, too?

It would often be unreasonable to hold an individual responsible for the actions of a government, especially if we were unaware of their actions? So maybe we need to ask: how much of a good behaviour would be good *enough*? What does it really mean to be good in a global society?

Peter Singer's drowning child example shows that we must be held responsible. He writes:

In comparison with the needs of people going short of food in Rwanda, the desire to sample the wines of Australia's best vineyards pales into insignificance. An ethical approach to life does not forbid having fun or enjoying food and wine; but it changes our sense of priorities. The effort and expense put into fashion, the endless search for more and more refined gastronomic pleasures, the added expense that marks out the luxury-car market – all these become disproportionate to people who can shift perspective long enough to put themselves in the position of others affected by their actions.

Let us then try to expand our consciousness, just a little bit, in this direction. Perhaps the next time you want to buy a shirt, don't go for the cheapest one. It has probably been produced by child labour. Our purchase contributes to the profits of the person running a factory where children and women suffer and are exploited. Look for a reputable company that does not use child labour. When you buy a cup of coffee, or buy coffee beans from a supermarket pay a bit more for a fairtrade pack. And look to buy your cup of coffee not from a large chain that takes aggressive steps to avoid paying tax in the UK, but a local family run firm or an ethical company.

It is just a matter of training ourselves to look at the other end of that supply chain, and the people who give their lives to make ours possible.

Am I evil when I buy such a cheap shirt, or the 'not free-trade' coffee? Probably not. Am I *good*? Probably neither.

Immanuel Kant argued that we need to treat others "as ends in themselves," rather than only as means to our own ends. It sounds very similar to the teachings of Jesus about do unto others as you wish them to do unto you. We should pay a fair price for what we purchase, so the producer/worker can live a life of meaning and can pursue their own wishes and dreams.

Nick Bowry

Last Word

As Christians, the Pete Singer *Drowning Child* thought experiment really challenges us. What we spend over and above the necessities of life is a privilege, one that most people in the world can only wish for but seldom achieve. I think it sets up a really challenging scenario that every pound of discretionary spend, on a coffee, on a book, on a holiday, could in fact be used to lift someone else out of child labour, servitude, enforced debt, or help a farmer raise crops and animals. Now, there are some admirable people who do live very frugally and are exceedingly generous with their sacrificial giving, just as there are people who would deride the mere notion of using any of their income and wealth to help anyone else. A few can afford the most luxurious and opulent of houses, furnishings, clothes and jewellery, even yachts and second, third or fourth homes, and spend money in an ostentatious fashion. We are all of us somewhere on that continuum. Personally, I feel convicted by the thought experiment, thinking of the 'drowning child' far away from us that we can not see and have no contact with, but who needs to be rescued, and we have the resources to effect that rescue.

'Out of sight' can't be 'out of mind' for a Christian. Our two congregations are generous in their giving to local and overseas projects, and that is a wonderful aspect of both congregations' cares for the world.

As reflective people of faith, I invite you to consider if you are comfortable with where you are on that continuum, and when you take the issue into prayer, how might God speak to you, and what changes you may wish to make?

Nick Bowry

Contact details



Revd Nick Bowry

The Rectory
23 Broomhill Road
Penicuik EH26 9EE

01968 678254

email: [rector.pandwl\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:rector.pandwl@gmail.com)

For donations to any of the causes mentioned in this issue, please contact the treasurer for St James the Less, John McCulloch ([treasurer\[at\]stjamesthelesspenicuik.org](mailto:treasurer[at]stjamesthelesspenicuik.org))

Websites

St Mungo's: <https://stmungoswestlinton.org/>

St James the Less: <https://stjamesthelesspenicuik.org/>

Next Deadline

Please send copy to Sue Owen at the email address below by **Sunday 1 February 2026**

The next issue of *In Touch* will be distributed on **Sunday 22 February 2026**

Email: [intouch\[at\]stjamesthelesspenicuik.org](mailto:intouch[at]stjamesthelesspenicuik.org)