

# Bristo Baptist

## M a g a z i n e

March / April 2006

### Building God's Church



### Bristo Baptist Church

41 Buckingham Terrace / 1 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 3DJ

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'Reaching Out'

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### Editorial



What do bricks and cells have in common? Not much you may think. But they do. The answer is – *building blocks*. Bricks are the building blocks of houses, offices, shopping centres, cathedrals and churches. Cells are the building blocks of life. Just as almost every house is made up of bricks (or brick shaped slabs of stone), every plant, animal, bird, fish, or other creature is made up of cells.

In this issue we have two features that cover these topics. One outlines ideas whereby our church building could be transformed, in line with our recent 'Spiritual Health Check' that was featured in the last issue. The other features our cell groups, the building blocks of the life of the fellowship.

The writer to the Hebrews wrote, "Every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything" (3:4). Let us allow Him to build His house here in Bristo.

*Robert Mill*

Dear Family in Christ,

I have been reflecting on Jesus' teaching on the 'Kingdom of God' in Luke's Gospel, which is another way of speaking of the 'Kingdom of Heaven' (as Matthew does in his Gospel).

Jesus talks of Heaven as having a dynamic quality. It is a presence that we are to invite God to bring to earth (Luke 11: 2), the presence and coming of which is marked by the activity among us of the Holy Spirit (Luke 11: 9-13). Jesus' teaching centres on this Kingdom of Heaven, rooted in eternity, yet breaking through into the present age. It is this 'break through' of the Kingdom of Heaven that Jesus brings.

For Jesus, when this Kingdom breaks through, it brings a new perspective to people's lives. On the one hand, we discover the richness of God's provision through the presence and power of the Holy Spirit among us. On the

other hand, we become more focussed on the concern of God for justice and the need of those who are marginalised and poor (Luke 12: 22-34). Jesus wants us to identify with this agenda of God, and to prioritise it in our thinking (Luke 12: 35-48).

But the Kingdom of God, if it is to be meaningful, must have a context in which to be worked out. And that is where the local church comes in. It has to have something to model the reality that Jesus is calling us into. The journey of deliverance from a life of bondage into a life of freedom through Jesus has to find expression among a community of people, stumbling and struggling, yet ever moving forward with the help of the Holy Spirit towards the fullness that Jesus calls us into. This is the fullness of the life that comes through the gift of God to us through Jesus, in the eternal Kingdom of Heaven.

What we are working at in Bristo is seeking to develop this way of being church: a people who

acknowledge Jesus Christ, making a journey together. Our congregational meetings, our small groups and all the activities we share are part of that.

Let's keep working at walking this path together. For this is what church is all about.

In His love,

Jim

COMING EVENTS

**Easter Play, Princes Street Gardens** – Saturday 15 April, moving through five locations in West Princes Street Gardens. Admission free. Help is needed in various roles, including actors, marshals, props and sound crew.

**Resurrection Concert** organised by Origin Scotland – Usher Hall, Sunday 16 April, 7.30 p.m. Admission free but is by ticket only – tickets can be obtained from Wesley Owen or the Faith Mission bookshop in Gilmerton (NOT from the Usher Hall).

**Life of Christ play**, Dundas Castle, Wednesday 7 – Sunday 11 June. More details in next Magazine but put the dates in your diary now.

**Frenzy**, Christian Festival, Saturday 10 June, Highland Hall, Royal Highland Centre, Ingliston, near Edinburgh airport, 12 noon – 10 p.m. Tickets: adults £27.50, children under 16 £18. Frenzy is the UK's largest one day Christian music festival. Bands appearing will include Delirious?, Hillsongs United, Tim Hughes, Tree63 and others. Tickets can be booked by phone without booking fee (08708 748 748), or online with booking fee payable ([www.seetickets.com](http://www.seetickets.com)).

**Clan Gathering**, Strathtyrum by St Andrews, Saturday 15–Friday 21 July. Speakers and worship leaders include David & Mary Pytches, Brian Doerksen, Mike Pilavachi and others. Booking now costs £80 (adults), £60 (youth 17-24), £48 (kids 5-16) or £38 (kids under 5). Andrea and Robert went last year, thoroughly enjoyed the spiritual feast, and have booked already for this year - why not join them?

**TREASURER'S REPORT**

This is my first attempt at a treasurer's report since my appointment as treasurer at the anniversary church meeting. I'd like to start by offering my thanks to Mr Mel Clarke for his help, support and patience in guiding me through the initial weeks as I gradually took over the treasurer's role. I still have much to learn, and I have certainly come to appreciate how complex a task I have taken on. I'd also like to thank the church membership for appointing me and putting their trust in me.

Shortly before being asked if I would be prepared to take on the role of treasurer the Lord laid a burden on my heart. I was becoming increasingly aware that I was not making best use of my time. I prayed for guidance in this and, as so often is the case, once the Lord makes His will known He quickly makes an opportunity available. My initial reaction was one of surprise; I have no accountancy background and no experience of working as a treasurer, but the more I prayed, the more obvious it became that this was the job that the Lord wished me to take on.

Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through Him who gives me strength." I would ask for your continued prayers. The end of the Bristo financial year rapidly approaches, and with this comes a whole series of accounts, reports and returns. All this is very new, but with help, some guidance, and prayerful support all should be successfully completed.

	General Offering	Mission Fund & Designated	Gift Aid Tax Refund	Total Offering
Budget for 2005-06	£39,000	£9,500	£8,300	£56,800
Budget Year to Date	£32,500	£7,917	£6,920	£47,337
Jan - Feb Offerings	£4,647	£212	-	£4,859
Offerings Year to Date	£30,146	£4,972	£5,900	£41,018
Percent of Budget	93%	63%	86%	87%

**Mission Fund**

General A/c	Budget	Budget Year to Date	Actual Donation	Percentage of Budget Year to Date
BMS	£3,375	£2,813	£2,000	71%
Scot. Baptist Fund	£2,250	£1,875	£2,250	120%
Bethany	£975	£813	£975	120%
Edin. City Mission	£500	£417	£500	120%
Fatela	£1,325	£1,104	£1,324	120%
Tear Fund	£500	£417	£147	120%
Lom, Bulgaria	£2,400	£2,000	£1,414	71%
Other Funds	£50	£38	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>£11,375</b>	<b>£9,477</b>	<b>£8,610</b>	<b>95%</b>

It should be noted that there is a considerable projected shortfall in actual giving through designated offerings, thank offerings and Mission Fund.

Fund	Budget	Budget Year to Date	Actual Donation	Percentage of Budget Year to Date
Designated Offering	£5,000	£4,167	£2114	51%
Thank Off. / Mission	£4,500	£3,750	£2,858	76%

**Paul Watson**

TIME FOR CHANGE

The deacons and pastor met for a day in February to review the church audit and suggestions from the last church meeting to seek the Lord over what we should start to action now.

We decided to move forward only where we felt unity in the Holy Spirit. Anything that provoked different views will be revisited at a later date.

Overall our aim is to win souls for Jesus and this should be our focus as we seek to live out the Nazareth manifesto. What we do should be influenced by the potential impact on non-Christians and their perceptions and understanding of what we stand for.

With this in mind, we felt we should take advice from architects and investigate costs of improving the appearance of the outside of the church building. This could involve

- Improving the exterior appearance of the walls, hanging banners, improved lighting etc.

- Improving the landscaping and reducing the maintenance requirement of the gardens.

- Redesigning the main entrance on Queensferry Road, taking away the railings and possibly having a glass interior door to draught-proof the Sanctuary when the front doors are left open.

Inside the Sanctuary, for now, all we felt we should do is look at ways of making more space on the front stage area – perhaps by removing the pulpit. We will also seek guidance over ways to modernise the Middle Hall and make it more welcoming.

Also, to bring us more up to date, we will research the possibility of buying a laptop, projector and screen so that we can begin to project the words of songs.

In terms of what we should actually do in the building, it was felt that we should continue to build on existing ministries where we see the Holy Spirit already at work.

However, we do feel constrained by the number of people with time available to develop things further. Most people are already fully committed in several areas of ministry.

As you know, we are looking to begin an intern programme in the autumn, taking up to four people probably in their twenties. The original plan was that we would provide accommodation in the church flat but otherwise they would be self-supporting. However, on reflection, we felt that it would be wiser to invest financially in the intern programme rather than seek to employ one or two additional staff.

With the interns freed up from the need to work part-time, they will have more time available for Bristo projects – whatever they may turn out to be – we still have to seek direction over that bit, and to some extent it may depend on the giftings of the individuals concerned.

Finally, many people would like to see us raising the profile of the church by increased marketing

activity. So we plan to produce a range of literature that can be used for different purposes. For example, you could give a card with our service times to people you meet if the opportunity arises to invite them to church.

We discussed other subjects like whether we should change the name of the fellowship, or remove some or all of the pews, but as no consensus emerged these plus other ideas were put on hold.

What happens now? There will be a lot of activity in investigating options and costs for the things mentioned earlier and recommendations brought to the next church meeting. So please do make your views known and offer to help wherever you can.

We are beginning an exciting journey with the Lord as He seeks to shape us and our building into what is needed to reach the lost in this point in time and social environment.

We do not know the ending but it's here that we must start.....

Andrea Mill

## ELECTION OF DEACONS

Our annual election of deacons is due to take place at the beginning of June. Appointment as a deacon lasts for three years with effect from the Annual General Meeting, unless foreshortened by decision of the members. Mr Mel Clarke resigns office as he and Janice move to England to be near their family. We record our gratitude to Mel for his long and faithful service as deacon, treasurer and in many other ways and also to Janice, especially for her work in leading the Sunday School. Our prayers are with them as they start this new phase of their ministry.

While Mr Paul Watson was appointed treasurer at the Church Meeting on 23 November, his continued service in that role depends on his nomination for and election as a deacon. Of the present deacons, Mr David Pollard completes his term but is willing to seek re-election. The remaining deacons, Christine Lumsden, Robert and Andrea Mill, Gill Schärer and Craig Smith, each have one more year to serve of their three-year term.

This note outlines the responsibilities of members and deacons and sets out the procedures to be followed and the timetable for this year's election.

### • Duties of Deacons

The deacons are responsible to the church for the day to day running of its affairs, seeking to guide the church as collectively we discern the Lord's will as a congregation. They co-ordinate reports, bring recommendations to the church and implement its decisions. The deacons are also *ex officio* trustees of Bristo Baptist Church and so carry certain responsibilities under the charity laws. Above all, as the name (*diakonos*) suggests, deacons are servants of Jesus Christ and of this congregation, supporting the pastor in his spiritual leadership.

### • Qualities of Deacons

We read in **Acts 6: 1-6** how the early church chose the first deacons. They were men of good report, full of faith, of the Holy Spirit and of wisdom. In **1 Timothy 3: 8-13** Paul advises Timothy of the qualities he should look for in deacons. They should be reverent,

holding the mystery of faith with a clear conscience, tested and found blameless. In other words they should be mature in faith, ready to listen to God and to the people they serve, seeking to encourage and care for others in service, and leading lives honouring to God.

### • Nominations

Nomination for election to the office of deacon should be submitted in writing to any of the present deacons, together with the names and signatures of two referees, the candidate's express agreement having been obtained previously. Candidates, proposers and seconders should all be full members of Bristo Baptist Church. Nominations should be submitted not later than **6.30 p.m. on Sunday 14 May**. Ballot papers will be distributed to members who participate in morning or evening worship on either **Sunday 21 or Sunday 28 May**. Arrangements will be made to issue ballot papers to the housebound or those prevented by illness from attending.

### • Procedure

Ballot papers should be returned no

later than the evening service on **Sunday 4 June**. For appointment as a deacon of Bristo Baptist Church not less than 2/3 of the total votes cast must be in the candidate's favour. Two of the continuing deacons will act as scrutineers and Dr Purves will give private confidential intimation to the candidates before the result of the election is announced at the Annual General Meeting on **Wednesday 7 June**.

The election of deacons is one of the most important responsibilities we have as church members and we each have a role to play. During the next few weeks may we all prayerfully consider the following questions:

*Is God calling me to this task?*

*Whom has the Lord laid on my heart to nominate for this service?*

Let us all in humility draw near to God and seek His will as together we go forward in the power of the Holy Spirit that we may *through love serve one another* (**Galatians 5: 13**).

**Christine Lumsden**

**CELL GROUPS - BUILDING GOD'S HOUSE**

*Our cell groups are an integral part of the life of the congregation, serving to build up the lives of those who attend through fellowship, encouragement, worship, ministry, Bible study and prayer. At present we have five groups - two on a Tuesday evening, two on Wednesdays and one on Thursdays, meeting in various homes around the city. Each group is different but they all have one thing in common - they are made up of people who love the Lord and want to find out more about Him, and are open to all who are seeking Him. Here are a few words from people associated with each of the groups. - Ed.*

The Tuesday night Cell Group that meets at the church flat is truly international. Last night (7 March), there were 7 adults and 3 children from 4 different countries! This group has changed a lot over the last year, seeing two couples move away to different parts of the country; but as it reforms, we discover that the risen Lord Jesus has not moved from the centre! We meet at 8.00 p.m. on Tuesdays in the church flat, and everyone is welcome. Don't worry if you don't speak English - Russian or Portuguese will do!

**Jim Purves**

The cell group that meets in Balerno, on a Tuesday night, has been doing so

for about two years now. We started with nine but with the departure of the Nyirenda family, there are now seven of us (Sam & Sally, Paul & Linda, Brian, Craig & Alice). We are praying that the Lord would add to our numbers. We are blessed that we are all able to attend every week quite regularly, with Paul & Linda alternating.

Although we usually meet in Craig and Alice's house we sometimes fellowship in Linda & Paul's house in Portobello. Our practice is to open in prayer and follow with a short time of praise. This leads into the word, when we often look at what was preached the previous Sunday. The Holy Spirit will often surprise us with the way the discussion goes, or will occasionally hijack the meeting completely.

Quite early on we realised the need to serve as a group and after prayer we felt it right to volunteer as a group on the Bethany care van, something which Paul and Linda had been doing already. In our times together a good half an hour to three quarters of an hour is given over to prayer and ministry and we have many answered prayers to encourage us.

Periodically we have bring and share meals but our favourite eating spot is Jimmy Chung's!

**Craig Smith**

The Wednesday cell group that meets at Janis White's house in East Craigs is

led by David and Lorraine Polland. The group is fairly small in number and in a typical week around seven will attend. Nevertheless this affords us an intimacy and openness with one another which we all value. Three of the group members will be travelling with the church party to Bulgaria this coming month.

Presently we are working through Neil Anderson's excellent booklet, 'Steps to Freedom in Christ'. There is an accompanying DVD which helps explain issues and promotes discussion. Our desire is to see group members come into greater knowledge of their freedom in Christ and to share this with others.

**David Polland**

After spending a few years at the other Wednesday cell group (Robert) and the Thursday group at the manse (Andrea), we felt that, having now settled in to our new home in Craigcrook Avenue after almost a year of marriage, we should begin to use our house for God by starting a cell group ourselves. So, one Wednesday evening in February this year, we said goodbye to most of our former 'cell mates' and stepped out in faith to start a new group. So far we have met five times. On the most recent two Wednesdays we have had four people - Matthias or Terri, Jim Martin and

ourselves. It is very early days, but we pray and hope that God will eventually form a larger group, especially from those who do not yet know the Lord. If you are not yet attached to another cell group, why not come along to ours on a Wednesday evening at 7.30 p.m. at 59 Craigcrook Avenue? You will be made very welcome.

**Robert and Andrea Mill**

The Thursday night group in the manse has been a family home for many people over the years, with some 'long-stay' members and others passing through Edinburgh; but for all it has been significant in providing an environment of faith-formation and discipleship development.



**A happy bunch - some of the Thursday cell group at the manse**

Especially for people unused to church or from foreign lands, this has been an environment where friendship and faith have been found. Here, relationship with God is shared, and people are able to absorb the reality of the Christian life and the active presence of God.

**Jim Purves**

## COPY DATES 2006/07

Here are the planned copy dates and publication dates for the remaining issues of the Magazine in 2006, up until New Year. Please put them in your diaries. Please also do remember that copy is welcome at any time - the earlier we get it, the more likely it is that your Magazine will appear on its scheduled date!

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Copy Date</u>	<u>Publication</u>
May/June '06	30 April	14 May
July/August '06	18 June	2 July
Sept/Oct '06	27 August	10 September
Nov/Dec '06	29 October	12 November
Jan/Feb '07	31 December	14 January

### The Editors

## WESTERN GENERAL HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY VOLUNTEER TEAM

Bristo Church has agreed to provide a team of six people who take patients to the morning service in the hospital chapel on Sunday mornings. We are only required to do this approximately every six weeks on a rota basis along with other churches.

This involves going around the wards and asking patients if they would like to attend, and assisting them to get there either by foot or in a wheelchair. It also involves taking them back to their wards when the service is finished.

We meet at 9.00am in the chapel and after the service we then come up to our own service at Bristo. Don't worry if you feel you do not have the confidence to speak to people. You can accompany myself or another experienced person to build up your confidence.

We are now very short of volunteers to do this important work for the Lord and we would appeal to you to consider this in your hearts and to join the team. On a few occasions we have only had two people on duty. So if you are fit and can manage to push wheelchairs then please come forward and give your name to Mark Francis or myself. You will get a copy of the rota and we will answer any questions you have. The next date is 23 April 2006.

Thank you and God Bless you.

**Terri Eprile**



## Service Times

### Sunday

Morning Celebration (including Junior Church)	11.00 a.m.
Evening Celebration	6.30 p.m.

### Monday / Tuesday / Wednesday / Thursday

Cell Groups (refer to weekly sheet for times / locations)

### Monday

Prayer Meeting	10.00 a.m.
International Soup	12 noon

### Tuesday

Home from Home	1.00 p.m.
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### Friday

IT Youth Club	7.30 p.m.
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### Saturday

Morning of Prayer	9.30 a.m.
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