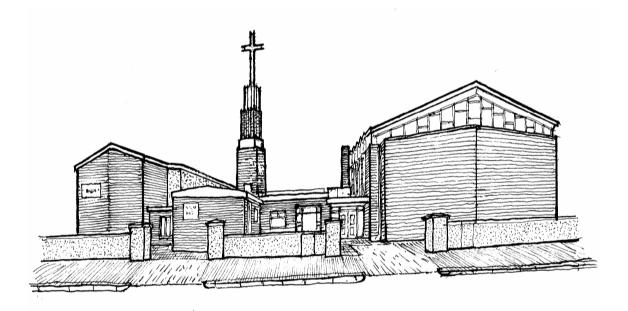
CASTLEHILL PARISH CHURCH 1956 to 2006 Celebrating 50 years of Worship



The Herald Summer Edition 2006

Church Office Bearers

Minister

Rev. Peter B Park Tel. 267332 E-mail ~ peterpark9@btinternet.com

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> Kirk Session Clerk Mr. Douglas Owens Tel. 442062

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Treasurer Mr. Douglas Wilson Tel. 285230

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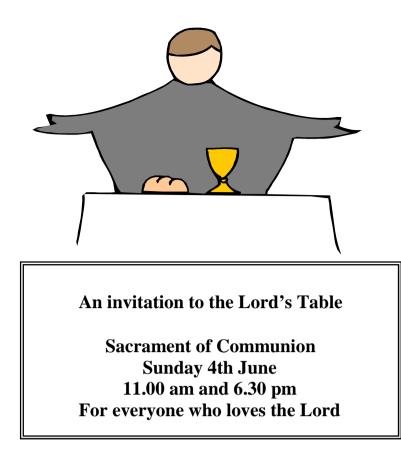
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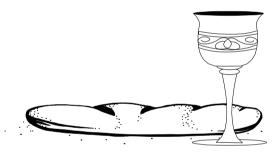
Roll Keeper Mr. Tom Petticrew Tel. 442069

Flowers Mrs. Trudy McLeod Tel. 443213

> **Organist** Contact Office

If you require telephone numbers of any names mentioned in the magazine, please contact the church office.





Resurrection

Risen Lord, come stand among us, awaken us to Your presence. Open to us the gate of glory, show us the path of life. Help us to know you are with us, now and always.

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3 : 16



As part of our 50th Birthday we look forward to the following guest preachers

June 4th ~ Revd. Ian Macdonald will be participating in Communion June 11th ~ Revd. Ian Stirling ~ Hospice Chaplain September 10th ~ Revd. Bill Johnston ~ Previous member of Castlehill October 15th ~ Revd. David Munro ~ The first Minister of Castlehill

<u>A date for your Diary</u>

30th September 2006 ~ 50th Birthday ~ Supper Dance Watch Order of Service for forthcoming details

Are you a Reason, A Season, or a Lifetime?

When someone is in you life for a REASON.....it is usually to meet a need you have expressed. They have come to assist you through a difficulty, to provide you with guidance and support, to aid you physically, emotionally, or spiritually. They may seem like a Godsend, and they are! They are there for the reason you need them to be. Then, with out any wrongdoing on your part, or at an inconvenient time, this person will say or do something to bring the relationship to an end. Sometimes they just walk away. Sometimes they just drift away from you and you cannot understand why. Sometimes they act up and force you to take a stand. What we must realise is that our need has been met, our desire fulfilled, their work is done. The prayer you sent up to God has been answered. And now it is time to move on.

Then people come into your life for a SEASON, because your turn has come to share, to grow or learn. They bring you an experience of peace, or make you laugh. They may teach you something you have never done. They usually give you an unbelievable amount of joy. Believe it! It is real! But, only for a season!

LIFETIME relationships teach you lifetime lessons: things you must build upon in order to have a solid emotional foundation. Your job is to use to accept the lesson, love the person, and put what you have learned to use in all other relationships and areas of your life. It is said that love is blind but friendship is clairvoyant.





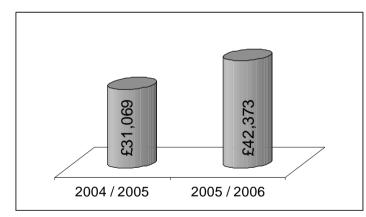
How time flies.

It was in February 2005 that the Congregational Board took the bold decision that we should undertake a Stewardship campaign to improve the Church's finances. Many months of hard work followed, culminating in our Money Matters Gatherings on 4th, 5th and 6th October.

I gave an initial report on the response to the campaign in December, advising that our Congregation had **pledged** an increase in offerings of around £18,000, equivalent to a 29% increase on expected giving.

It is now seven months since the Gatherings and I am now in a position to advise how well our pledged offerings have translated into actual offerings for the first 6 months.

The graph below shows our offerings before Gift Aid for the 6 month periods Nov 2004 to April 2005, and November 2005 to April 2006.



As you can see, we have had increased giving of £11,304 in the 6 month period.

This is an excellent response and shows that our pledges made in the campaign have indeed been honoured.

Thank you to everyone who has reviewed their giving.

Due to your efforts Castlehill should be able to meet it's annual commitments and may even have a small surplus this year.

This is a result we can all be proud of.

Douglas Wilson May 2006

Tales from a Queen's Chaplain

Most of us will never attend a Royal Garden Party, nor stay in one of the Queen's residences, so it was most illuminating to see how the other half lives. As one of the Queen's Royal Chaplains in Scotland, the Reverend Alistair Symington is in the unique position of having done both—perks of the job! Recently he shared some of his reminiscences with the Church of Scotland Guild here at Castlehill.

In this age when we are all being exhorted to save energy in our bid to save global warming, how refreshing it was to learn of the example being set in the royal palaces. Rather awkward though in the middle of the night when nature calls to be searching for the light switch to lead one safely to the chosen goal.

As minister at one time of the late, great and much lamented Rikki Fulton, Alistair regaled his audience with ready laughter leaving the question unanswered of who had come first, the minister or the comedian. The tale that took the biscuit was of the Lord High Commissioner's limousine as it sped down the M8 towards Bearsden shepherded with an escort of motor cyclists from Glasgow's 'great and good'.

Rather than be recognised by any of her friends who may have been shopping in Edinburgh, Lady McF elected to travel crouched down on the floor of the vehicle!

Had the North Hall been constructed with rafters they would surely have been fair dirling. How delightful it was to hear such a ready chorus of merriment as Alistair heaped tale upon tale of royal life, whilst preserving the absolute confidentiality of conversations with Her Majesty.

An evening of sheer delight came to an end too soon, leaving us requesting a return visit. As the audience left for home, skips in the steps and smiles on the faces proved the resounding success of the evening.

Tom Petticrew (Representing the Kirk Session)



Seniors Afternoons



On 11th April, the winter session finished with an Easter Theme, both in food and music. The music was provided by Jim Colvin and his group and was very much appreciated by the audience. We had an attendance of almost 60 and this included some men for a change.

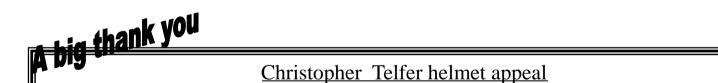
The previous meeting on 14th February had as you would expect a St. Valentines aspect to the afternoon. The entertainment was provided by Tony Argent on his accordion.

This year the attendances were up on previous years and there is room for more. Please think about coming along next year. The first meeting is on 10th October at 2.30 p.m. A syllabus will come out later in the year and the notice always appears in the order of service.

The afternoons are not restricted to church members so please bring along a friend or neighbour. If you wish we can arrange transport. Let us know in good time so that we can arrange this for you.

To all our present friends thank you for supporting us and have a good summer. My thanks are due to the ladies who give of their time and ensure there is plenty to eat for the teas each afternoon and to all those who provide transport.

Wellwood Grierson



We would like to extend a very big thank you to everyone who contributed towards the cost of Christopher's helmet. He has been wearing it for 5 weeks now, and his last check up was on Monday 24th April. His measurements have reduced by a massive 7mm! Most importantly, his head looks so much better. The 'bump' that was on the side of his head has moved back and rounded out, which was unexpected, and is the main reason his head is looking so much better. He will still wear it for another 3 months or so, but at least we now have a clinic in Glasgow and only have one more journey to make to Leeds.

Dawn and Steven Telfer

Castlehill Bowling Club

It was good to see that the past year of the Bowling Club had continued to be a successful one. Membership had increased slightly despite the loss of some regular members. The progress of the Wednesday afternoon sessions was particularly pleasing with attendances up from an average of 14 last year to around twenty this year. Total club membership has risen to 33.

We remember the loss of Betty Duncan and Joan Ness during the past session. We had an excellent outing to Girvan Outdoor Bowling Greens in July enjoyed by the members and their friends. Around 30 went despite the fact that some had never played outdoors before, which did nothing to spoil everyone's enjoyment.

The president expressed his thanks to his Vice President Jim Roy, to Wilma McKee, who was presented with a bouquet of flowers for her 10years service as Treasurer ,and to the ladies tea committee under Jean Hunt and Joan Macfie and their helpers. Thanks also to those who provided biscuits and goodies throughout the year and not least to all who lifted and laid the carpets. The success of the club is reflected in the warm atmosphere when we meet and the large numbers who regularly attend. The competitions were well contested and we are grateful to David and Isobel Kerr who donated a trophy for the Wednesday points league.

The competition winners for the year 2005/2006 were as follows:

Thomson Rose Bowl for Monday points league. Winner: May Harris ; Runner Up: Michael Hardie.

Kerr Rose Bowl for Wednesday Points league. Winner: David Lynch ; Runner Up: Betty Taylor

Ina Walker Trophy for Mixed Pairs.

Winners: Michael Hardie and Linda Telfer Runners Up: Wilma McKee and Isobel Kerr

Edgar Grierson Quaich: Ladies Pairs

Winners: Pearl Neil and Ella Grierson Runners Up: Mary Paterson and Isobel Kerr

Gents Singles Trophy. Winner: Wellwood Grierson; Runner Up: Bill Duncan

The Prizes were presented by Joey Gordon a former member of the Club.

Look out for more news in the next issue of "The Herald"



The Youth Church started off the new session at the beginning of September with a Party. We were blessed with a fine day so that the children could enjoy the Bouncy Castle outside. We also had games and snacks for them.

This year for the first time each group chose their own teaching materials suitable for the age group they were teaching. This seems to have worked well as each age group need a different approach. Although our numbers are small all the children who come attend regularly and really enjoy their time with us and with each other. Our big success over the last year has been the B.C's which range from 10 to 15 years old. This group has gone from strength to strength thanks mainly to hard work put in by both Margaret Houston and Marion Turnbull (who joined us this year). It is great to have so many young people in our church.

Christmas was a very busy time for us with Christmas parties for the younger ones and an outing to the Bowling for the older children. The Youth Church Nativity performed on the Sunday before Christmas was as usual a great success portraying the birth of Jesus from a child's prospective. Easter was bit of a problem this year as the children were on holiday on Palm Sunday so we couldn't enter waving our palm branches.

Our Soup & Sweet Lunch in March was a great day, thanks to all the members of the congregation, parents and children who attend. It gave everyone a time for fellowship and chat.

We are all getting excited about our forthcoming trip to Blair Drummond Safari Park on June 10th, teachers, parents as well as the children. The church has kindly decided to fund this trip as part of the 50th Celebrations. We are hiring a bus and are off to enjoy a fun day out!!!

I would just like to thank all the staff of the Youth Church for their time, dedication and friendship over the last year. We find it very rewarding to help the children grow up through the different stages of the Youth Church hopefully to become our new members of the future.

As two members of staff have decided to retire after more than twenty years with us and another has decided to step down for the moment, we desperately need at least two new teachers. I'm sure you are out there in the congregation somewhere. Is it YOU!!!

Marlene Forbes



Answered Prayers

Dear All,

Janís and I attended my níece Natalíe's baptísm yesterday at Falkírk Baptíst Church.

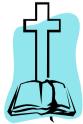
Prior to the Baptism she had to give a word of testimony, and in her testimony she spoke of her illness and how much she has to thank people from all over for praying for her recovery.

You in Castlehill Prayer Chain and friends within the church prayed on may occasions for Natalie and I write to pass on her thanks to you for your faithfulness in Prayer which we all believe helped her through her illnesses. On the two occasions when she was not expected to survive the night, she believes it was God answering all the prayers of people like you that brought her through and indeed her doctors and consultants can offer no explanation as to why she survived.

Natalie is 90% better but still has issues to solve and at 21 she has made a public profession of her faith in her Lord and Master and has committed her life to serving Him.

Your prayers have not only been part in keeping her alive, but have also been part in leading her to make this commitment, Our God is good, God does answer the prayers of the faithful and in His time and way.

Thanks for all your prayerful support. Wilson Meredith





PRAYER CHAIN

If you would like us to help you in times of need, please contact one of the following.

Margaret MacCormick	263949						
Margaret Cairns	265217						
Rosemary Ash	443765						
Elizabeth Graham	261486						
Caroline Fisher	265264						
Sheila MacKenzie	281121						
Isobel Wilson	268859						
Linda Telfer	288613						
John Doig	269685						
Joyce Henderson	618168						
Betty Dunlop	280672						
Margaret Grierson	285903						
Sandra Wyllie	286115						
BE ASSURED THAT ALL INFORMATION IS CONFIDENTIAL							
"Faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love"							
1 Corinthians 13: 13							
"Faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love"							

The Power of Prayer

Recently one of my friends was extremely sick. It looked like death was certain, so much so the doctors called in his family to say goodbye to him. This was a much loved man who had quite a positive impact in the lives of many people. The word of his impending death spread through the entire community, which responded by forming prayer circles. These were totally cross-cultural: Catholics, Buddhists, Protestants, New Age groups and members of the business community who were not religious, all got together and prayed for our friend's wellbeing. A miracle happened-he lived. The doctors couldn't believe this because they had never seen anybody come back from as far into death as he was. The power of prayer clearly worked.



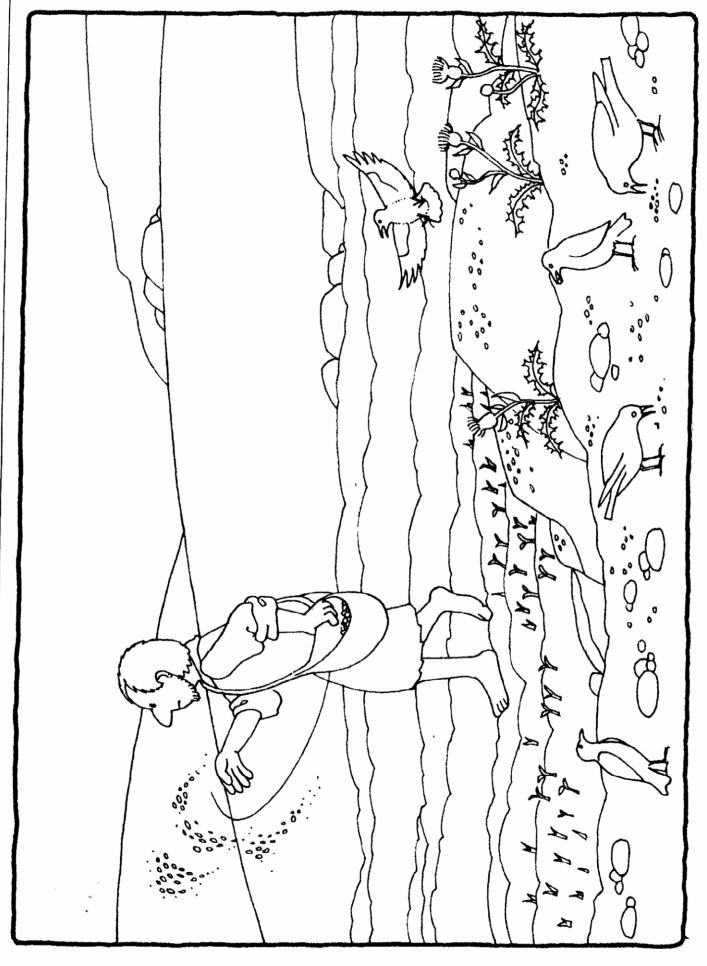
FOR OLDER CHILDREN TO TACKLE!



Τ	U	N	S	Τ	N	A	L	P
E	0	W	D	R	U	Ι	S	A
S	D	E	E	S	S	D	E	T
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R	R	0	K	Y	С	L	C	W
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Ι	U	Ι	E	E	S	R	Y	E
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Find the wordsBIRDSRICHESDEVILROCKYFRUITSEEDSGOODSOILGROUNDSOWERPATHTHORNSPLANTSWEEDS

For Younger Children





Bookmarks are now available to commemorate the 50th Birthday of the Church.





The Autumn 2006 Newsletter will be issued in mid August If anyone has any articles they should be handed into the office by the end of July.

PASTORAL CARE ~ HOSPITAL VISITING

The Revd Peter Park and the team of hospital visitors are available to visit members of the congregation who are admitted to hospital. Ensuring that someone who needs a visit gets one, depends on the minister and the team being informed as soon as possible after the person has been admitted to hospital.

It would be appreciated if a family member or a close friend would contact the minister or a team member to let them know a visit is required.

Contact Nos. of team are as follows :

Revd Peter Park	Church Office	267332
Biggart Hospital	Margaret MacCormick Margaret Grierson	263949 285903
Ailsa Hospital	Andrew Graham	261486
Ayr Hospital	Pat Colquhoun	267749



All information will be strictly confidential.



GIRLGUIDING

Girlguiding has had another busy year at Castlehill from the Rainbows to Senior Section.

In November we had our District Challenge with all the units making Christmas Cards, Crackers and Decorations which they made at home and brought along on the night, Margaret Cairns, Margaret McCormick, Sandra Wyllie and our County Commissioner had the very difficult task of judging. Tuesday night Brownies won the shield for the Brownies and Monday night Guides won the shield for the Guides.

We had our first Thinking Day dedication service, which all the girls appreciated, as this is an important day in the guiding calendar.

The rainbows had an overnight sleepover which they all enjoyed at Nether Auchendrane and Kincaidston Brownies and Tuesday night Guides had a joint Pack Holiday at Easter and Monday night Brownies will be having their Pack Holiday at the end of May. Monday night Guides are also preparing to go to County Camp at Lochgoilhead, which is an activity centre. Going away for the weekend is the highlight of the year.

Amongst other things, Tuesday night Guides had a bag pack, to raise money to visit the Guiding chalet in Switzerland next year, £300 of which was donated to the Malcolm Sargent House. Some of the Monday night Guides are working on Baden Powell Awards, which to obtain is a great achievement in Guiding and hopefully these will be completed in the not too distant future.

Senior Section meet on a regular basis also and keep themselves busy.

Guiding is still very active at Castlehill and if anyone is interested in joining or coming along to visit any of the units to see what goes on, please telephone Linda McClurkin on 265873. We will always welcome another pair of hands.

Linda McClurkin

CHURCH FLOWERS

We have received many letters and phone calls in appreciation of the flowers that people receive on a Sunday from the Church. Continuing thanks goes to all those who donate , arrange and deliver the flowers each week.





Real people

The isolated individual is not a real person. A real person is one who lives in and for others. And the more personal relationships we form with others, the more we truly realize ourselves as persons. It has even been said that there can be no true person unless there are two, entering into communication with one another.

This idea of openness to others could be summed up under the word love. By love, I don't mean merely an emotional feeling, but a fundamental attitude. In its deepest sense, love is the life, the energy of God in us. We are not truly personal as long as we are turned in on ourselves, isolated from others. We only become personal if we face other persons, and relate to them.



Submitted by Michael Dickie.

Coffee Shop Visit



On Tuesday 28th March Pat and I did our elders visit to the Coffee Morning. It was rather a cold morning, so it was very nice going into a lovely warm North Hall, and being greeted by warm smiles and friendly people. We extended the good wishes of the Session to everyone, and thanked them for all they do through the winter months. We then enjoyed a cup of tea and of course, had to sample the delightful home baking.

The ladies indicated that they could really do with more support, either to join one of the 4 teams or to come along and enjoy a friendly chat over tea or coffee. If you are free on some Tuesday mornings and feel you would like to help in any way, the coffee mornings start in early September to the end of April 10a.m. to 11a.m. Come along and you would be made most welcome.

Sheila Nicol & Pat Colquhoun.

Church gossip "She who minds her words preserves her life; She who talks teo much comes to grief. " (Proverbs 13.3) Mildred, the church gossip, self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extra curricular activities, but feared her enough to maintain their silence. She made a mistake, however, when she accused Henry, a new member, of being an alcoholic after she saw his old pickup truck parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon. She emphatically told Henry and several others that everyone seeing it there would know what he was doing. Henry, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked away. He didn't explain, defend, or deny. He said nothing. Later that evening, Henry quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house . . . walked home . . and left it there all night.

"Aclever man has the wit to find the right way."" (Proverbs 14,8)

Visit to Youth Church



On Sunday 26th February Margaret Devlin and I visited the Youth Church taking the best wishes of the Kirk Session to the leaders and the younger members of the congregation.

We were made most welcome by Moira Alexander and the team of leaders. The younger children were engaged in Scripture Union material and the B.C.'s (Bible Class) would like to learn more about the Church Board and Kirk Session. The crèche are ably managed by Francis Russell and team. All the children looked happy and well cared for.

Margaret Cairns and Margaret Devlin

Older not Old.....

This article is for folks young enough to be retired. But if you consider yourself young, keep on reading anyway, for you're headed for "the golden years."

As we grow older, we need God's help to recognise the frailties and temptations that come late in life. Old age is a dangerous period. No wonder the author of Psalm 71 prays as he does. (Read it now if you haven't already.)

While visiting in Florida, I found the following item in a church bulletin: A PRAYER AS I GROW OLDER

"O Lord, you know I am growing older! Keep me from closing my eyes to the fact. Keep me from becoming a pest, a self-appointed sage with the annoying habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Keep my mind free from the repetition of past experiences and endless details. Seal my lips about my aches and pains. I do not ask for improved memory, but for less cockiness about the memory of others. Teach me to admit that sometimes I am mistaken. Make me sweeter and mellower as my age progresses. Let me never grow old –only older. May it be said of me, 'Though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day' (2Cor. 4:16)

Let's not merely grow older, but more Christlike

O keep me sweet and let me look Beyond the frets that life must hold, To see the glad eternal joys; Yes, keep me sweet in growing old!-- Hazard





Brownie (E Pack) Visit

On 20th February Mrs. Marlene Forbes and I visited the Monday Brownies E Pack. We were warmly welcomed by leader Linda McClurkin, her assistant and helper. Altogether there are 24 Brownies in the pack and 20 of them were there that night, which was a good turnout.

Sitting in a circle, Linda thanked them for turning out for the service in Church for thinking day. They were all very attentive, listening to other Brownies telling of events that had happened during the previous week, to those who wished to share their news.

After this a team game was played, which used up some of their energy, then the hall was set up by the Brownies, bringing out the tables and chairs. They were then given coloured pens and paper, with the instructions to pretend to write to a pen-pal, and tell them about Scotland. It was interesting to note how well they could draw a Scottish Flag. After clearing away and tidying up, all went away home clutching their brightly coloured letters.

There were no complaints from the leaders and The Good Wishes from the Session were passed on.

Margaret MacCormick and Marlene Forbes.

Traidcraft

There will be a Traidcraft stall in the fellowship area on Sunday 4th June . All the usual Fairly traided goodies will be available so please support the stall.



Life of Jesus

As a postscript to the article in the last magazine the dates for the above event at Dundas Castle, South Queensferry are 7th – 11th June. Details can be found on their web site www jesus-at-dundas.com. Tickets can be bought through the site or at the castle on the day of the event. They are also presenting the play at Kelvingrove Park in Glasgow 16th to 18th June.

Friendship

Oh, the comfort The inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person; Having neither to weigh thoughts nor measure words, But pour them all out, just as they are-Chaff and grain together, Knowing that a faithful hand will take and lift them, Keep what is worth keeping, And then with the breath of kindness Blow the rest away.

George Elliot



Omitted from previous magazine

October 2005 Graham Cain 16 Cunningham place

February

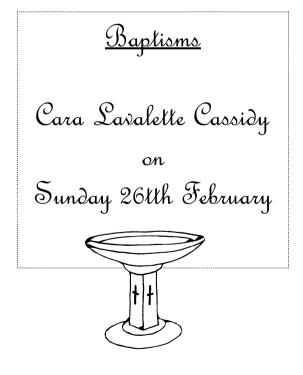
Colin Duffield ~ 8 Sorrell Drive

June Hughes ~ 1 Dalrymple Place, Irvine

<u>April</u>

Rebecca Wyllie ~ 11 Bellevue Crescent

Jesus said "I am the resurrection and the life whoever believes in me will live even though he dies and whoever lives and believes in me will never die". Do you believe this?



Regular Weekly Events



