

Leslie Baptist Church

Annual General Meeting

25th November 2009
at 7.30pm



Leslie Baptist Church Meeting Held on
30th September 2009 at 7.30pm in Leslie Baptist Church

Present: Alice Adam; Helen Aitken; Edna Anderson; Jimmy Balfour; Sheila Balfour; Bob Brown; Naomi Brown; Lynn Bruckshaw; Bethany Butchart; Karen Butchart; Mary Dawson; Kathleen Dick; Margaret Dunn; David Greenall; Fred Ku Mesu; Violet Laing; Florence McDonald; Irene McDonald; Rosalind Mennie; Alan Milnes; Jim Neilson; Betty Nicol; Joyce Nicoll; Mary Ann Nicol; Robert Nicol; Gina Spears;; Ross Tulloch; Lillias Webb; Evelyn Wilson; Evelyn Young.

Apologies: John Adam; Christine Brown; Ivor Brown; William Butchart; Rita Duncan; Rona Fotheringham; Katalin Egri Ku-Mesu; Andrew McDonald; Alex Mitchell; Margaret Mitchell; Trish O'Brien; Gordon Spears; Margaret Tadrowski; Barbara Tulloch; Paul Younger

Chairperson: Bob Brown Interim Moderator

<u>Item</u>	<u>Action</u>
1	
<u>Worship</u>	
Bob Brown opened the meeting with prayer and read from Acts ch 2 v 40 - 47. Focusing upon v 44 - 'All who believed were together and had all things in common'	
New testament fellowship demands:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The church and its life will demand time in a busy world• Demand truth in a devious world• Demand of trust in an untrustworthy world	
2	
<u>Adoption of Minutes Of Previous Meeting</u>	
The minute from the meeting held on 26 th May 2009 was accepted as accurate, moved by Joyce Nicoll, seconded by Betty Nicol and agreed by the meeting.	
3	
<u>Matters Arising</u>	
None	
4	
<u>Elders Report</u>	
Church profile: Jim Neilson informed the meeting that the church profile was in the process of being updated and would be available for forwarding to prospective candidates.	
Pastor Selection Group: Jim informed the church that the Pastor Selection Group continues to meet together to consider and pray through profiles received. Some candidates have been invited to cover pulpit supply but have been unable to come. Jim requested that the church continues to pray for the group and potential candidates and also to feed back to the group any relevant information.	
Bob Brown verified that the work of the Pastor Selection Group is taken very seriously and prayerfully. He identified that the process will take time and that we should place it in Gods hands.	

5 Secretaries Report

Church Anniversary Weekend: Irene informed the church that this will take place on 12th & 13th June 2010, the speaker for this weekend will be Jim Purves.

Church Membership: Irene updated the church with regard to church membership. Since the last church meeting Mrs Balshaw had died and two members of the young people had been saved.

A baptismal service is to take place on Sunday evening 8th November when Brian Mann will be baptised and has asked to become a member of the church at this time. He is currently attending baptismal/church membership classes led by Jim Nielson. Alan Milnes and Liliias Webb interviewed Brian with a view to church membership. Both reported back to the meeting about how Brian had become a Christian and how his life had changed since then. He has identified that once work commitments settle he will be able to attend the church on a more regular basis and become more involved. Alan and Liliias recommended that Brian is accepted into church membership once he is baptised and the church agreed to this.

Carol Neilson was interviewed by Margaret Dunn and Alan Milnes with a view to church membership. Carol is also attending baptismal/church membership classes. Both Margaret and Alan informed the church that Carol became a Christian at a young age and was baptised as a teenager. They shared with the church Carol's testimony and identified that she is a gifted person who is willing to use these gifts within the church. Margaret and Alan recommended that Carol is accepted into church membership and the church agreed.

Bob Brown encouraged the church and identified that this was a healthy sign that even in the vacancy situation people are being saved and baptised and becoming members of the church.

Bob apologised to Ross who had prepared worship for the meeting and invited him to come and lead the church in worship.

6 Finance report

Finance Report: Alan presented the finance report to the church and spoke to this. He identified that the gift aid had still to come in and that there were still some items of expenditure to come off the including the projector and some funding for the youth work. Alan invited questions and none were received.

Proposed Budget: Alan presented the proposed budget and explained this. He noted that to maintain this budget each member would require to increase their giving by £3.14 per week. Alan invited questions and none were received.

Alan proposed the financial report and proposed budget, Jim Nielson moved the proposal, Florence McDonald seconded and the church approved it with no abstentions.

Alan brought the recommendation to the church that the bank account is moved from Bank of Scotland to HBSC. Alan explained the reasons for this and the church agreed to do this.

Bob thanked Alan and Irene and expressed his gratitude for the work they are doing on behalf of the church.

7 **Property report**

Church Roof: Fred informed the church that the roof had now been repaired.

Heating System: Fred informed the church that he is in the process of obtaining quotation for replacing the boiler for the heating system.

Church Flat: Margaret Dunn informed the church that the Elders have met with Rona Fotheringham regarding the church flat and discussed ways to identify a suitable tenant. Two possible letting agents are being considered Frontline and the Fife Key Fund.

The insurance cover for three months for the flat is fire, flood and lightning but Rona is querying this.

8 **Youth report**

Trish O'Brien was unwell therefore David Greenall reported to the Church with regard to the youth work.

Material –All areas of youth and children" work are covering the same subject at the same time using the Urban Saints Energize material. Although the material for the different age groups differs they are all covering the same subject looking at bible characters. This is working well and is particularly helpful for the teenagers who are both learning and teaching the same material.

Mega Quest – Trish Leads on this and as Andrew McDonald is now working in Edinburgh David has stepped in as Co-leader. Cameron McDonald and Ryan Smith have joined the Mega Quest team and Siggy is back after a break.

Mega rock: It was previously decided not to carry on with Mega Rock (P7s) as the current kids did not seem interested, but since starting Mega Quest they have been bored and requested their 'own thing' so there is now a separate P7 group in the lounge during Mega Quest headed up by Bethany with Karen assisting up until Christmas there are now 11 P7s attending this.

Rock Solid – there are approx 6 – 8 new members attending and they are settling in well, some have to leave early due to their curfew. Pray for the leaders.

16 plus - Bethany and Sarah are now too old for Rock Solid and Trish is leading them in their own study, giving them scriptures and insights to develop and write notes in a journal. Ryan Smith has now joined this group. Carol Neilson has expressed an interest in meeting with the 16 plus and having social events for them. Sunday evening will focus on discipleship and possibly doing Christianity explored with the younger teenagers.

Sunday school – Naomi will be assisting with Sunday school along with Alice and Fred.

Bible Class: Trish continues to lead the bible class, Siggy and Kayleigh have joined the group and Bethany, Sarah, and Erika now sit in the church service.

Training: Trish and 7 young people attended Morningside Baptist Church last Saturday for a days training on children's ministry. This day was extremely useful and confirmation that we were doing things well and that the church is supporting us more than many other churches support their youth and children's work.

Deep Impact is coming up again on January 22nd – 24th 2010, Naomi, William, Karen, David and Trish are attending. The church is supporting them financially to attend.

Trip: We are taking the teenagers on a trip to M&D's 17th October and end it with a sleepover.

Child Protection – Karen Butchart has volunteered to take the role of Child Protection Officer from October.

Family Service: October's service will be based around the Trip to Romania with folks from Glenrothes Baptist joining us.

GROW: GROW meetings are held on a Thursday evening and therefore no one from the youth team can attend. Irene McDonald has agreed to represent the church at these meetings. H2O (an inter-church youth event) will be held at Leslie on Saturday evening 21st November and our praise band will be leading the worship.

Prayer Support: David thanked the prayer support team for their continued prayers.

9 Dates for the diary

Irene informed the church of the following dates

20th October Prayer meeting

8th November Baptismal service (Evening)

25th November AGM

13th December 2009 Carol service (Evening)

16th, 17th, 18th December 2009 Carol Singing in Leslie

24th December 2009 watch night service Speaker to be confirmed

25th December 2009 Christmas morning service Speaker Alan Milnes.

Bob noted that a few people were ill and prayed for Trish O'Brien and Paul Younger.

12 A.O.C.B

None

13 Date of next meeting

25th November 2009 at 7.30pm in the Church

Bob closed the meeting with a prayer and thanked every one for attending.

Meeting finished 8.40pm

Elders Report

This has been a more settled year in church life and also one of great excitement. Kathleen joined the elders group last year and has made a significant contribution with her insight and wisdom, not to mention her organisational skills.

Six of our youth made a commitment to the Lord this year and the challenge now is to see them nurtured and brought into membership.

Brian was baptised just the other week and Carol also came into membership – it was good to see so many people out at the baptismal service and who knows what God is doing in each of their lives? Watch this space!

We have recently had our first encounter with a potential pastor although there was no significant swell of opinion to cause us to proceed. Please continue to pray for us and the selection group as we seek the way forward.

May we thank you for your continued support and prayers and encourage you to persevere in what are challenging but also exciting times for the church

Margaret Dunn
Alex Mitchell
Jim Neilson
Kathleen Dick

Secretary's Report

Since being accepted as Associate Secretary to support the Church Secretary at the last AGM I have since been accepted by the church to serve as Church Secretary. It is a privilege to serve both the Lord and the church in this way and I am grateful for all the support I receive from everyone whilst seeking to fulfil this role. I am also grateful for the direction of the Leaders and the Interim Moderator Reverend Bob Brown as I provide administrative support to the various church meetings and other tasks especially whilst we are in a vacancy situation.

The church profile has now been updated by the Elders and Deacons and is available for potential candidates during the selection process. Copies of this are available on the vestibule table or from me on request.

Church membership at the time of this report is 74. There has been some movement in and out of church membership with 3 resignations and one transfer of membership but also seven professions of faith including six young people with a baptism and people becoming members of the church. Sadly Mrs Balshaw died recently but on a happier note there has also been 2 weddings and a birth within the church this year.

At the time of writing this report the Church Directory is in the process of being updated.

I have tried to provide a weekly notice sheet every Sunday and have been grateful for the contributions of members of the church. I would encourage you to use this as a means of telling others what is happening within the various groups of the church and for sharing prayer needs.

I have compiled the Worship/Preaching rota on a quarterly basis and have sought to invite speakers for pulpit supply as directed by the Elders and the Pastor Selection Group and am grateful to Ross Tulloch who has supported me in achieving this rota by identifying the worship leaders for the services. Similarly I compile the Duty rota and would like to thank all those who are willing to be part of a rota duty.

I would request that you continue to pray for all the administrative tasks that must be carried out - especially in this time of vacancy.

Reports for Evangelism and Social Events were not received in time to be included in this AGM Report.

Irene McDonald
Church Secretary

Children and Youth Work Report

It has been an exciting and challenging year in which God has truly blessed our work. The core team is now Karen and William Butchart and David Greenall and myself – we cover all of Thursday evening events between us with several teenage helpers. We started using the Urban Saints material at the beginning of the year, this used to be called Crusaders. This material has enabled us to cover the same subject for all youth and children's groups across the board – we meet together and plan as a core team each term, since August we have looked at Bible Characters going much deeper than the usual 'Bible story' at Sunday School, but actually looking at the characteristics of God's chosen people. The plans are easy to create on-line and then are e-mailed to all the leaders and helpers so that everyone is prepared. The helpers at MegaQuest also get taught the same subject at Rock Solid and then again at Bible class this enables them to gain a better understanding and to explore the subject in more depth.

November – Sarah Mann, Naomi Brown and Calum O'Brien were baptised.

December - Christmas parties and the nativity went very well last year and we really appreciate everyone's help with food presents etc.

January – Karen, William, Andrew and myself attended the youth leaders conference Deep Impact, in Aviemore with Glenrothes Baptist guys.

February – GROW organised a mini-bus for Glenrothes/Leslie kids to attend Strictly Come Praying, some of our kids were disappointed as it was fully booked and they couldn't go. The Slave Auction went down a treat where our teenagers were sold to do chores for the Fellowship and raise funds for Romania.

March – The Prayer Support team, headed up by Edna Anderson, expanded and the effects of these prayers are evidenced throughout the year. The coffee morning to raise funds for our trip to Romania was a great success and saw many from the Church Fellowship pull together to provide a fun packed day, ending with a New Song singing for us.

April – 6 young people came to know the Lord at a Rock Solid meeting through the reading of Psalm 139, all of these guys continue to show a commitment and attend Church regularly – some of them have become helpers at MegaQuest.

June - Attended Frenzy with Glenrothes Baptist Church and the usual sleepover afterwards. We reached our target in raising more than enough to send the group of 5 to Romania, thanks to LBC Fellowship for giving so generously.

July – Myself, Sarah, Bethany, Erika and Rachel set off for Romania with Leaders and 2 girls from Glenrothes Baptist Church to assist and take part in Friendship International Camp, where we witnessed the Lord touch many lives including our own.

The Holiday Club this year was a great success with the Step Out Team and our Youth Team providing lots of creative activities based around the theme 'Heaven's Kitchen' with David overseeing and coordinating; we had a youth night every night and the week ended with a BBQ on the Friday evening which many kids, parents and grandparents attended.

August – The new term saw 14 p7s coming to **MegaRock** which now runs at the same time as **MegaQuest** with Bethany and Karen heading it up. MegaQuest now has me at the helm, planning and coordinating with David running the show on Thursday evenings and we are both working together to organise Christmas events etc. Our MQ helpers are – Rachel Scott, Ryan Smith, Cameron McDonald, Megan O’Brien, Naomi Brown, Sigourney Clark, Jonah Butchart, Erika Walker and Sarah Mann, with William and Margaret T stepping in when required, average attendance is 15 – 20 p1s – p6s. **Rock Solid** is going steady with some new starts from last year’s MegaRock, averaging 15 YP each evening. We now have a worship time and Bible study for the last half an hour. William heads this up with Karen, David and myself as leaders and Bethany, Sarah, Ryan and Naomi as helpers.

October – The Family service was based on our trip to Romania where we shared our experiences with the Fellowship. 25 teenagers came to M&DS with William, Karen, Alan and myself which was great fun the Church paid for the trip including the coach hire. We then had a sleepover in the church and the Sunday service saw 22 young people in the ‘pews’ to hear William preaching.

November – will see the launch of our discipleship programme with Karen coordinating sessions in the afternoon after the morning service and in the evenings at 7.30. The sessions will be provided for new Christians and the programme will be Christianity Explored, for those who have already done this we will be looking at material called ‘The Discipleship Training Series’ by Tim Hawkins.

H2O will be held at LBC on 21st Nov – this is an inter-church youth night organised by GROW.

Sunday School numbers are low and there is often no class due to no kids, but I still prepare a lesson each week. Thanks to Fred, Alice and Naomi plus other teenagers who assist with this.

Bible class is well attended and we will now only be scheduled every second week now due to the discipleship classes being on the alternative week.

We have recognised the importance of developing young leaders in the Church and it is an honour and a privilege to watch them grow in their faith and their ability to lead small groups and games for the younger groups.

Karen has taken on the responsibility of organising trips and events and is now the Child Protection Officer which has eased my burden greatly. Andrew now has a Job in Edinburgh and is unable to commit to the Team. Michelle is now worshipping at Collydean Baptist Church.

I am now into my 3rd year as Deacon responsible for Youth and Children’s work and I am looking forward to new challenges and blessings this will bring. I wish to thank the team for all their hard work and commitment during 2009 and the Fellowship for their support and encouragement and I look forward to building on what God has provided.

‘Jesus said. “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these”.’ Mat 19:14

Trish O’Brien

Deacon responsible for the Children and Youth Work

MOTHER & TODDLER GROUPS REPORT

The ladies who run the church Mother & Toddler groups on Monday and Friday mornings (Rita Duncan, Margaret Dunn & Margaret Tadrowski) are pleased to report that over the last year we have been privileged to spend time with so many mums, toddlers and babies. At the last count there were up to 23 joining us on a regular basis.

It is always sad when the toddlers move on to nursery but this year 3 of our mums had another baby so we have followed them from "bump" to "birth" to "toddler" and it never ceases to amaze us just how quickly they grow up.

We have been very lucky with the mums who get on so well together and we realise how important it is that they have this opportunity to get out of the house and mix with people – even for a few hours a week.

We know that there are still a lot of young mums in Leslie that we have not reached but hopefully through word of mouth our numbers will continue to increase.

We are especially grateful this year for the fabulous storage that has been provided for the toys etc so thank you Karen and everyone else who had a hand in that project and for the setting up of the hall as it all helps us enormously.

We are now looking forward to planning our Christmas party and thank the Lord for the opportunity to serve him in this very rewarding way.

Margaret Tadrowski

Worship Report

Annual General Meeting – 25th November 2009 Report On Worship Team

This is my twelfth report on the Worship Team for our annual general meetings. I wrote my first one back in 1997. As always, it is a joy and a privilege to serve the Lord in music.

It has been really encouraging to have a number of people getting involved with the team over the last few months. Bethany Butchart, Carol Neilson and Stephen Campbell have all been attending practices and you will see them become more involved in services over the next few weeks. William Butchart has started leading worship. Unfortunately, we have seen Alan Nicol, Alan Milnes, Joyce Nicoll and Donna Walker step back from their involvement with the worship team. Our thanks go to them for their service to God and His church. We hope to see some of them getting involved again in the future.

Ivor Brown, Carol Lee and Jim Neilson continue to serve faithfully in the band. Helen Aitken, and Evelyn Young have the unenviable, but invaluable task of sorting out music. William Butchart and Helen prepare multi-media presentations and operate the projector. They perform these tasks with a real dedication in their service to the Lord. Our thanks go to them, for this sterling work. Fred Ku Mesu and Jonah Butchart operate the sound desk. Worship is lead by Kathleen Dick, William Butchart, Jim Neilson and myself.

We would dearly love to have more people involved in all of the areas mentioned above. Please consider if God is calling you into worship ministry. Whilst a reasonable level of musical ability is a prerequisite for those who want to be musicians; a heart for worship, a desire to serve God and his people and a calling are just as important. It is more important to be able to work as part of a team, than to be a virtuoso musician. Training is given in playing as part of our worship team and no one is expected to step straight into services. If you are interested in getting involved, we would point you to the example of our Lord in service, sacrifice, humility and obedience, see Philippians 2:5-11. Of particular need at the moment are people to sort out music, prepare multi-media presentations and operate the projector, as well as people to operate the sound desk.

Some highlights of the year include playing at the weddings of Jim and Carol Neilson and William and Karen Butchart. Whilst weddings are always joyous occasions, it is a special privilege to be involved in the weddings of members of the worship team!

As we look forward to the challenges of the coming year, we would very much value your continued prayers and support. We are especially looking forward to playing at the H2O youth event at the church on 21 November.

Ross Tulloch

Deacon with Responsibility for Worship

Ministry Team Report

*'Love the Lord your God listen to his voice and hold fast to him'
Deuteronomy 30 v 20*

Ministry Team Members

Kathleen Dick, Irene McDonald, Donna Walker, Sheila Balfour, Gina Spears, Alan Milne's, Moira Cobban, Susan Young , Margaret Mitchell (leader).

The Ministry Team meets in the Church lounge on the last Monday of the month. We use this time to pray and listen to God for our Church and the leadership we also pray for one another.

We have been encouraged by Church members actively seeking out the Ministry Team and asking for prayer

Margaret Mitchell

Ministry Team leader

Property Report

The past year our main project was to have the two boilers replaced. Two quotations were received. However, due to the high cost, Ross Tulloch is now looking into other options. It is our hope that the work can be carried out during the vacancy period.

Below is what has been done and what needs attention.

Sanctuary

Completed:

- roof repaired;
- main and side doors painted;
- four vandalised windows replaced.

Main Hall

To do:

- walls to be painted;
- radiator covers to be painted.

General

To do:

- boiler to be upgraded;
- church cleaning to be done.

Members of the property team currently are Edna Anderson, Jim Balfour, Bob Mary Ann Nicol.

Although as a group we have not been meeting as regularly as we should, maintenance work and repairs have been carried out. Our thanks are due to the property team for the upkeep of the church building. Thanks also to Jim Balfour and Bob Nicol for all the work that they carry out unnoticed.

Please pray for the protection of our church building against vandalism.

Fred Ku-Mesu on behalf of the Property Team

House Groups

The house groups may not have the highest profile at the moment, but 5 groups continue to meet faithfully each week for prayer, bible study and ministry. On Tuesday evenings two groups meet in Leslie, one in North Glenrothes and one in Woodside / Balfarg. A daytime group for those who find it difficult to get out in the evenings meets on Wednesday afternoons.

As usual the groups led services during Holy Week and these were, as always, a blessing to the whole church.

(Submitted by Paul Younger)

Missions Report

Doug & Dot Smith

This has been a difficult year for them with having to live separately, Doug in Singapore and Dot in Leslie, while Dot nursed her mum, Win Balshaw, until the Lord called Win home. They are happy to be back living and working together again.

Doug's work has been different this year as O.M.F. headquarters are being extended and a lot of building work is going on. Doug has been overseeing and ordering materials and also helping with the work, which is unfortunately behind schedule. Dot, meanwhile, is kept busy with her catering work.

Andy & Nina McLaren

They are still being kept very busy with their various duties at the Christian school in Senegal. Andy's main job is overseeing all the financial affairs, and he has to be available to others when required. Nina is the school nurse, caring for all the children when they are ill; she also covers other tasks when needed.

Andy and Nina ask for prayer that the Lord will guide them as to how they can best serve him after next summer as their time in Africa is due to end in August 2010.

Carolyn Kemp

Carolyn is kept very busy overseeing the work of the Diaspora Ministry which the Lord has given her. She is hardly ever in Wolverhampton as she travels all over Europe and further a field teaching and leading various groups to become better equipped for all that the Diaspora Ministry entails.

It requires you to befriend, care for and love Europeans who come to the U.K. to study or work. You can tell them about Jesus' love for them and invite them to a monthly international bible study which gives them an opportunity to meet others like themselves living in a foreign country.

Chas & Jenny Tanner

They are presently in Katmandu, Nepal and are awaiting the Lord's guidance as to where they can best use the gift and talents he has given them. They would appreciate prayer for this as they can see many needs surrounding them.

(Submitted by Betty Nicol)

Baptist Union Assembly Report

Baptist Union Assembly
Queen's Park Baptist Church, Glasgow
29th, 30th and 31st October 2009

Evelyn Young and I attended the Assembly on your behalf this year. I have been to many of these in my time and I can honestly say this was the best ever.

The tone of the Assembly was set by the worship with mission Adviser Andy Scarcliffe sensitively leading all the sessions.

The theme of the weekend was "Punching Holes in the Darkness" – the emphasis was that we need to see all of our triumphs as gradually punching holes, the darkness will be there until Christ returns: our job is to plunder Hell one soul at a time! **One astonishing fact is that the Christian Church is growing faster than at any time in history, we are part of a worldwide movement made up of 2 billion people – 1 in 3 of the world's population!** The fastest growing part of the Church is Evangelical Charismatics (like us!) – especially in South America and Asia.

Looking at various stories from round Scotland we can see that there are many positive developments and I have a DVD that I hope to share via House Groups etc that tells some of these stories. Many Churches are experimenting with different forms of Church – reaching out to rural communities, immigrant families, men who are not attracted to our current way of doing Church etc.

It was pointed out that these days people tend to "belong before they believe" and this has implications for our practices (e.g. do we insist someone is a Christian before playing in our Worship Band?). Mission can be messy as we take the Church out of its comfort zone.

On the business side it was highlighted that:-

- General Director, Bill Slack, had moved back to Pastoral Ministry and a replacement was being sought.
- Youth Adviser, Gary Smith, was moving into Pastorate in Aberdeen and a part-time temporary replacement was being sought.
- At this time the BUS would not be progressing any national involvement with ACTS, the ecumenical grouping in Scotland although local Churches are free to make their own decisions.
- The recommended contribution per Member was set at £43 per annum (we pay £24).

Finally I want to end with 2 powerful quotes before Evelyn brings her thoughts:-

"If you want to see something you haven't seen you need to do something you haven't done"

"Do what you can and God will do what you can't!"

Alan Milnes

Alan and I travelled by train on Thursday morning to Glasgow. I was a bit apprehensive. What if there was a lot of boring admin 'stuff'? Could I keep up at Alan's pace! We went straight into the assembly and I got a taste of what it is to have Alan as my co traveller. He was so helpful, carrying my case up and down stairs. It was lovely to be looked after. The programme looked really interesting and I really wanted to go to everything, I was really glad that Alan liked to sit near the front as I do. You see and hear better. Large people do not sit in front of you to block your view.

The theme was 'Punching holes in the darkness'. Evangelism; fulfilling the great commission.

This is not one of my strengths or the strengths of LBC, in my opinion. We certainly do not 'punch' although within our group there are people who are great evangelists and I think the youth group has been doing some 'punching holes in the darkness' over the years!

David Coffey was the main speaker. He spoke about 'The witness of the church'. Throughout the weekend we heard more and more amazing stories of what ordinary people had achieved to witness to the world about Jesus. There was nothing boring about any of the sessions. Every one there can have a chance to speak when we are debating.

Friday afternoon brought us the Baptist Women's Fellowship and the Scottish Baptist Lay Preacher's association. Both these groups were places where you could learn and pray together with other Baptists.

On Friday and Saturday morning we were led in a bible study. On Friday it was Elaine Duncan from the Scottish Bible Society and on Saturday it was David Kerrigan from BMS. We had a real treat on Friday morning. The speaker was from 'Big Life' in Bangladesh. His name was Benjamin Francis. He was very small but you never noticed because he used such energy when he preached. He talked about 'witnessing in a Muslim world'. He was a very exciting preacher because he was himself full of excitement about Jesus and the people who do not know God. One phrase he used was that he was 'plundering hell to populate heaven'.

Each church was given a copy of a DVD called Ignite. It shows clips from seven different churches and the different ways they order their church to witness to the local neighbours. It comes with study notes on the DVD and they may be useful in house groups.

Gary Smith the Young people's adviser is moving on to be a pastor. When you meet him you can understand why everyone is so sad that he is leaving. Gary got a standing ovation which I think was probably well deserved. We need to pray for a godly replacement for Gary.

In the talks there was a lot of mention of working with the churches near you. There were stories from all over the world.

I cannot stop before I mention the worship. Andy Scarcliffe led the worship. His leading was sensitive and moving. He was also involved in many other presentations and evangelical work, and appeared to be a very committed, creative and wise Christian. The worship was really excellent.

The Assembly took me right out of our life in Leslie to see and hear about wonderful things that are going on in large and small churches just like our own, here in Britain but also out in the wider world.

I would love to go next year and I would thoroughly recommend anyone to go. It is a great privilege to attend and I would like to thank the church for making this possible and Alan for being such a pleasant and organised companion.

Even on the journey back, we had to wait for over an hour after a train was cancelled because of a cow on the line and later at Kirkcaldy because of a fight on the train in front when two youths attacked each other and one was set on fire! Alan was calm and patient and we enjoyed the ridiculous things that happen in a train full of drunk but friendly Halloween party folk.

Evelyn Young

Five Aside

For a number of years now a group of us have met every Saturday morning at Glenwood High School at the unearthly hour of 9am to play 5 a side football. Whilst it started as a mainly Church group it is now mostly made up of people who don't go to Church, with Jim Neilson and myself the regulars from LBC.

We had an enjoyable social evening earlier this year when Jim organised a trip to the Adam Smith theatre to see "Only an Excuse".

It is a good opportunity to get to know non-Christians and to display our faith in the way we approach things and handle difficulties. Please pray that we will be able to share our faith with these guys and that some might come along to our Christmas events.

Alan Milnes

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Alan Milnes
Treasurer
Leslie Baptist Church
LBC is a Scottish Charity - No. SC021266

**Income and Expenditure Account
As at 30th September 2009**

<u>Income</u>	Actual 2008-09	Budget To Date	Budget Year
Offerings	10,545.84	11,000	11,000
Gift Aid	19,503.94	26,500	26,500
Gift Aid Refund	0.00	6,625	6,625
Rent - Flat	2,712.00	4,500	4,500
Tax Recovered	60.00	100	100
Donations	1,170.00	1,000	1,000
Special Offerings	370.46	0	0
Interest	45.48	300	300
TOTAL	34,407.72	50,025	50,025
<u>Expenditure</u>			
Ministry	2,360.00	11,064	11,064
Running costs	15,102.89	19,300	19,300
Repairs	1,884.68	1,000	1,000
Flat	2,009.72	1,000	1,000
Capital Expenditure	550.00	11,000	11,000
Gifts to others	7,475.00	6,920	6,920
Special Offerings	450.00	0	0
Transfer to reserves	1,000.00	1,000	1,000
TOTAL	30,832.29	51,284	51,284
Surplus/Deficit	3,575.43	Bank balance	5,534.02
Carried Forward from last year	2,589.27	Investment a/c	4,025.53
		CashChqs in Hand	0.00
		Uncashed cheques	-3,394.85
Balance	6,164.70	Balance	6,164.70

<u>Uncashed Cheques</u>	<u>Chq No</u>	<u>Amount</u>
E - Ministry - Pulpit Supply	33333	-60.00
E - Ministry - Pulpit Supply	33355	-70.00
E - Repairs - Repairs / Servicing	33359	-299.00
E - Running Costs - Training	33370	-720.00
E - Special Offerings - Special Offerings	33371	-250.00
E - Running Costs - Church Life	33372	-166.15
E - Gifts to others - Others	33373	-50.00
E - Running Costs - Printing	33374	-103.50
E - Gifts to others - Fellowship Fund	33375	-100.00
E - Gifts to others - Others	33375	-50.00
E - Running Costs - Youth Work	33376	-131.20
E - Running Costs - Church Life	33377	-1,035.00
E - Flat - Maintenance	33380	-45.00
E - Running Costs - Church Life	33381	-315.00
TOTAL		-3,394.85

Inland Revenue No CR32913
Charity Commission No. SC021266

Average Offerings per week: 577.88
Budgeted Offerings per week: 721.15

Notes:

- 1) New Projector ordered at price of £3,590
- 2) Gift Aid Refund of £6,451 expected

Expenditure Breakdown	Actual 2008-09	Budget To Date	Budget Year
MINISTRY (*)			
Salary	0	6,336	6,336
Car Allowance	0	720	720
Housing Allowance	0	917	917
Pension Allowance	0	317	317
Book Allowance	0	64	64
Employers NIC	0	811	811
Expenses	0	400	400
Pulpit Supply	2,360	1,500	1,500
Subtotal	2,360	11,065	11,065
RUNNING COSTS			
Gas & Electricity	5,129	4,250	4,250
Church Life	2,246	3,000	3,000
Insurance	1,850	2,000	2,000
Youth Work	1,347	3,000	3,000
Printing	757	1,500	1,500
Cleaning & Sanitary	1,399	1,200	1,200
Audit	1,035	1,100	1,100
Evangelism	0	1,000	1,000
Training	860	1,000	1,000
Worship	328	1,000	1,000
Phone	152	250	250
Subtotal	15,103	19,300	19,300
REPAIRS/SERVICING	1,885	1,000	1,000
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE			
Create room above Lounge	0	7,500	7,500
Purchase new Projector	0	3,500	3,500
New storage units	550	0	0
Subtotal	550	11,000	11,000
GIFTS TO OTHERS			
Fellowship Fund	150	500	500
Missionaries	3,715	3,300	3,300
Scottish Baptist Fund	1,660	1,680	1,680
BMS	820	840	840
GROW	600	600	600
Others	530	500	500
Subtotal	7,475	7,420	7,420
FLAT			
Insurance	230	150	150
Maintenance	484	600	600
Council Tax	812	0	0
Furnishings	483	250	250
	2,010	1,000	1,000
SPECIAL OFFERINGS	450	200	200
TRANSFER TO RESERVES	1,000	1,000	1,000