

Emmanuel Church Clermiston

October
2012

A Church for all people to celebrate Good News



30 years of Church Action on Poverty

It's time to Close the Gap!

You may remember from the June Newsletter that Annie and Jane helped Jane's friend Clare on a Church Action on Poverty stand in Princes Street Gardens at the Church of Scotland Heart & Soul Event. They were promoting the 'Close the Gap' campaign. Clare is the Community Fundraiser for CAP.



Can you make a Pledge to tackle poverty and inequality in the UK? Rev. Dr. Clare McBeath

The UK is one of the unfairest countries in the developed world. The gap between rich and poor in our country is larger now than it has been for more than 30 years. This is neither sustainable nor just - and is bad for everyone, not just those who live in poverty.

If you oppress the poor, you offend their maker

Scripture is clear that the Kingdom of God is not a place where some have more than others: "He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty." (Luke 1:46-55)

As a church, we are called to speak out like the prophets against injustice. The scandalous gap between rich and poor is the result of specific policies and structures. We can challenge these, and speak out for a fairer world.

Together, we can Close the Gap

Church Action on Poverty is running a major campaign on this issue, with support from partners in all the UK's major Christian denominations. They aim to achieve four key things:

- **Fair Taxes** - pressing for a system where wealthy individuals and corporations pay their fair share, rather than avoiding tax and leaving poorer people to suffer the effects of spending cuts
- **Fair Pay** - calling on all employers to pay a Living Wage, and to curb excessive pay for high earners
- **Fair Prices** - challenging the exploitative energy companies and legal loan sharks who prey on people in poverty, charging them a 'poverty premium' which costs a typical family £1,300 a year
- **A Fair Say** - giving poorer communities a stronger voice, holding politicians to account, and challenging the excessive power which corporations have over decision-making

Give, Act and Pray

To make a real difference, Church Action on Poverty needs the active support of as many churches and individuals as possible. Please make a simple Pledge of support for the campaign. You could commit to join in campaign actions, to make a regular donation, or to hold the campaign in your prayers.

- **Make a Pledge now by picking up a flyer in church or visiting www.church-poverty.org.uk.**
- **Find out more about the issues and the campaign by visiting www.church-poverty.org.uk/closethegap**



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Rev. Terry Harkin



Today in Edinburgh, there are families struggling to put food on the table.

For people on low incomes, being made redundant or receiving an unexpected bill can mean going hungry. Every day parents skip meals to feed their children and people are forced to choose between paying the rent and eating.

Edinburgh North West Foodbank provides emergency food and support to local people in crisis.

Volunteers are needed to help with collecting food from supermarkets, sorting food and preparing packages for distribution to clients.

Training is provided and mandatory for volunteers. We have missed the first training session, but a volunteer information evening is being arranged in October, where anyone can sign up to slots and the appropriate training can be arranged. The volunteer co-ordinator will keep us posted.

It has been suggested that Emmanuel should donate our Harvest goods to the Foodbank. There is a suggested list of appropriate foods for this, and is available on the information table along with this Newsletter.

Ewen, from Barnton Baptist, had a meeting with folks from the Rannoch Centre. They want to be involved and are willing to use a room in the Centre as a Distribution point for the project. To discuss this further, there is a meeting with the Management Team next week. This is really encouraging.

For more information on the Foodbank, visit the website at www.edinburghnw.foodbank.org.uk

Dates to Remember

Sunday 7th October
'Harvest Thanksgiving'
 Followed by lunch after the service

Alpha - Wednesday evenings
10th, 17th, 24th, 31st
'The Brig Restaurant'

Sunday 21st October
Holy Communion Service

Thursday 25th October
Evening of Prayer

Monday 29th October
'The Seedling'
 Inter church Coffee morning
 at the Kirk Loan Hall - 10.00am



Not long now...from Ranjit and Annie Our immigration medicals are over and we await the results. We will be submitting our visa application in the next few weeks and God willing, if that comes through positively, will start the final preparations for our move to Rotorua in the North Island of New Zealand.

Please pray for God's will and His perfect timing as well as His gracious provision in all that needs to take place for this big move (likely early to mid November). I have decided to undertake my driving refresher lessons/test once in Rotorua as this is not an urgent requirement for my job. We appreciate your prayers and support! **Thank you!**

The love, support and prayers of the Emmanuel family will be with you both, Ranjit and Annie in the next few weeks and in the years ahead. Your new life will be exciting and we look forward to hearing from you both once you are settled in NZ. 'Enjoy the best of Jesus!' (Romans 16:20 - The Message)



Let your creative juices flow...

- Please give Dorothy items for the November Newsletter by **Friday October 26th.** email ken.dorothy.893@btinternet.com
- Please let Dorothy know any **change of address or phone number.**
- **Remember you can post articles directly to the blog** on the website by emailing info1588.emmanuel@blogger.com
- **Jane updates the website to reflect any changes but please review the website and email janerobbo@blueyonder.co.uk with any new information. It is important to keep the website up-to-date as many people looking for a new church will check the internet first.**

