

# Parish News

EAGLESHAM PARISH CHURCH

## *A New Start.....*



A new start. That was a theme of the address by Rev Scott Kirkland at the induction of Andrew Robertson as our new minister on March 3rd. A delegation from Glasgow Presbytery ensured that the formality of induction was followed. This formality and the service made it clear that commitment is expected from both the new minister and his congregation, that both have a responsibility for the health of Eaglesham church and Christian community.

*continued page 5*

### **In Memoriam**

Laurie Maxwell, 39 Glasgow Rd

Margaret Lamond, 32 Riverside Rd

Alex Craik, 44 Brackenrig Cresc

### **Easter Services**

Palm Sunday service March 20 at 11am

Maundy Thursday communion March 24 at 7pm

Good Friday quiet time March 25. Church open from 12noon to 3pm

Easter Sunday service for the whole church family March 27 at 11am

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation will be held in the Sanctuary on Sunday 20th March immediately following morning worship. The unaudited accounts for 2015 are available on our website.



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Comments, articles, suggestions for future issues to [macintyre74@btinternet.com](mailto:macintyre74@btinternet.com)

## A LAST WORD FROM WILLIE

It has been a great joy to be involved in Eaglesham over the past 8 months. Many thanks for the many kind and encouraging words I have received at the door of the church. My “last word” comes with my best wishes and prayers for God’s richest blessing for you and Andrew as a new ministry begins.

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight” Proverbs 3:5,6**

There is so much wisdom in the Old Testament and in the book of Proverbs and especially with the start of a new ministry and all the changes that that always involves – so let’s take God’s wisdom to heart.

**“Trust in the Lord with all your heart”**  
All God ever looks from us is that we trust Him – He is the Lord – He is in control – He is the one who has made His plans for all of us individually and also as a church. He can be trusted because He is always faithful to His promises and His Word and to the relationship He has committed to be in with each one of us. As a new ministry begins we need to reaffirm our trust and faith in the Lord. He will go before us.

**“Lean not on your own understanding”**  
A new leadership always means change. A different personality means different ways and for a while there will be the temptation to look back wistfully to what has been – to what has become comfortable. Change is never comfortable and the temptation is to think that “we know best” and to prefer “what has aye been”. But God’s counsel here is to remind us that we do not always know what is best. He does.

**“In all your ways acknowledge Him”**  
God is not just for Sundays. It is not enough just to give Him a nod for an hour on a Sunday and get on with the rest of the week as if He does not exist. He needs to be involved with us every day and in every situation we find ourselves in. Nor has our commitment to Him just to be seen in the words we speak but in all we do – even without our words people should be able to see that we belong to Jesus.

**“And He will make your paths straight”.**  
A life without God usually means that a person wanders aimlessly through life with little meaning and purpose – but when we get Jesus at the centre of our lives and church, then God will lead us in a way whereby we will know just where we are going.

My prayer is that with the Lord in charge the church in Eaglesham will march confidently into a new phase of life and see much blessing.

## To Eaglesham from Islay...

*A poetic memory Alistair Anderson has from Portnahaven Church*

HUGS- and why God made them.

Everyone was meant to share  
God's all abiding love and care  
He saw that we would need to know  
A way to let these feelings show.

So God made hugs a special sign  
And symbol of his love divine,  
A circle of our open arms  
To hold in love and keep out harm.

One simple hug can do its part  
To warm and cheer another heart,  
A hug's a bit of heaven above  
That signifies his perfect love.

## Session notes

By the time you read this in your Parish News, we will have a new Minister, following the Induction of Rev Andrew Robertson on 3rd March 2016!

I've been reflecting on the process that we've gone through as a Congregation during our Vacancy. It's been sometimes exciting, often challenging, and occasionally quite scary.....but we made it to a wonderful conclusion and look forward to working with and supporting Andrew as he starts his new Ministry here in Eaglesham.

Many people have contributed to the work of our church during our vacancy. We have been blessed with an inspiring locum preacher in Rev Willie Black; not only inspiring but warm and encouraging to us as we went about our search. Who can forget the stories of Korea, Taiwan and (nearer to home) Stornoway? And each one with an important message to convey. Rev Tom Houston has worked away quietly and faithfully in the background, continuing the pastoral care that is so vital in Parish Ministry, maybe especially in our village community. I know from your comments to me that his visiting and care for those in need of support from a Minister has been exemplary and very sensitive for those who have been experiencing illness, bereavement, or other difficulties in their lives. James Edgar, our Youth Worker, has taken on extra responsibilities during the Vacancy, and this hasn't just involved a 'Maintenance Agenda', indeed, James has continued to develop our youth work in the schools and via EPYC and our local youth organisations. And this is in addition to helping with the organisation of Children's talks and the Contemporary Service. And finally, Rev Stuart Smith, our Interim Moderator, has led the Kirk Session most ably during the Vacancy. Although maybe the congregation haven't seen Stuart as much as they have Willie, Tom and James, his help to the Nominating Committee, and his wise advice and counsel have been invaluable.

But, in the words of the Church of Scotland advice to Nominating Committees, once the Vacancy is finished it is 'a thing of the past'. We now look forward to the future, and to working with Andrew. in the words of the Call, which many of us signed after Andrew preached as Sole Nominee 'we promise that we shall devote ourselves with you to worship, witness, mission and service in this Parish, and also to the furtherance of these in the world, to the glory of God and for the advancement of His Kingdom'.

Wendy Armstrong, Session Clerk

01355 302346

[wendy.armstrong2@btinternet.com](mailto:wendy.armstrong2@btinternet.com)

## Admin Report

Carswell Centre. A committee consisting of representatives from each of the Church teams has been set up to discuss the use and promotion of the Carswell centre. While the centre is primarily for Church use, we are very keen for it to be utilised by the local and wider community. We are therefore interested in hosting conferences, clinics, social events etc and will be publicising our facilities in the local press, on websites and on facebook. If you would like to consider hiring the Centre or part of it, please contact the Church Office who will pass on your enquiry. Similarly, if you have any ideas for the use of the Centre or its promotion, please get in touch.

Beadles. We now have a team of 13 Beadles to replace Liz (actually an extra 12 as Liz is one of them)! We started our rota on 24/1 and at time of writing 6 of us have had a 'turn'. So far, it's going well - but there's more to it than you think. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.

Budget. The 2016 budget was prepared and agreed by Session at the January meeting. Details are available on the Church website - [password eagle15sham]. A financial report appears elsewhere in the magazine.

Maureen Hunter, Admin Convener.

*induction of Rev Andrew Robertson  
continued....*

Mr Kirkland's message based on the third chapter of James was challenging. It starts by emphasising the high standards by which teachers of the word are judged. It then warns of how the tongue can be a source of ill as well as good. We need to remember that when change is taking place, during periods of uncertainty, if comparing past with present. But we can use our tongues in prayer and in 'telling the story' to others. A new minister is a great way to open a conversation about the church!

The Carswell Centre then welcomed all in an atmosphere of celebration for relaxed conversation - members of Presbytery and Eaglesham Church, folk from St Bridgets, friends of the Robertsons and parishioners from Lhanbryd Church in Elgin. Our Session Clerk, Wendy Armstrong, thanked the vacancy committee and the 'fab four' who had contributed so much during the vacancy - Willie Black, Tom Houston, James Edgar and Stuart Smith - before welcoming Andrew and Sheila Robertson to Eaglesham. In looking ahead to working with us Andrew echoed Wendy's comment that somehow God had seen it right to point both him and the vacancy committee in the same direction at the same time!

### **And from Andrew.....**

Shirley and I thank you for the wonderful welcome to Eaglesham parish at the service of Induction and for the generous gift given to us on March 3rd. We also want to express our thanks for all the work that has been done in the manse in preparation for our arrival. Both of us are almost local. Prior to my call to ministry at the age of 42 we lived in Newton Mearns, so we are not exactly strangers to the area. But, we are new to the village and very much at a fresh starting point in our journeys as Christians. When you see us on the street, or walking our cairn terriers Misty and Bracken, please say hello and tell us who you are.

I am very much looking forward to this new phase of my ministry, journeying forward with the congregation, praying together, reading scripture together and discerning together God's word and what it means for us in this parish at this time. For all of us this is a time to dream big dreams for God's Kingdom to continue to grow in this parish in witness, worship and mission in a way that is coherent with the needs of this age. For everyone engaged in the life of the church this is a time for stepping out of the boat and walking in the footsteps of Jesus and seeing where this will

lead us. It's an exciting journey and one that I personally invite you to join me in travelling.

It is one that we need not fear making because we know that if we struggle, or if we stumble Jesus is there to catch us and raise us up again. Just like he did on that stormy night when Peter stepped out of the boat on the sea of Galilee and had a moment of faithlessness.

The bible tells us Peter said to Him, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." And He said, "Come!" And Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"... (Matthew 14:28-30)

Jesus did save Peter and used him as one of the founders of his church. Be prepared to be amazed at what God will do in this parish – Dream big Dreams for the Church and work with God to make them a reality.

Blessings  
Andrew

### **Finance Report.**

Good news - we ended 2015 with an estimated surplus of £7206 instead of the projected deficit of £4989. Our income was very close to budget – helped by donations for the use of the Manse. The difference was in our expenditure which was reduced mainly as a result of the vacancy reducing our Ministry and Mission contributions, expenses and council tax. Fabric was under budget partly due to no work being required at the Carswell and the Manse not being available while our caretakers were in residence.

Bad news - the budget for 2016 unfortunately shows a deficit. We estimate our income will remain around the same as in 2014 and 2015 with perhaps a slight increase in letting fees as the Carswell comes on stream. Our expenditure has some increases and some one off costs – vacancy costs and additional fabric costs due to refurbishment at the manse. The fabric budget has been increased by the donations from the occupancy of the Manse. The slightly more hopeful news is that our new electricity contract is 10% less than the previous one and we have applied for exemption for water charges.

Once again, thank you for our income in 2015 – and would you please review your givings for 2016? If you are a taxpayer, we would ask you to consider signing a Gift Aid form which would let us reclaim 25% of any money you donate to the Church.

Maureen Hunter.

## Blessing the Carswell Centre

Planning is underway for the blessing of the Carswell Centre on Friday 6 May. There will be a formal blessing ceremony in the afternoon which will be conducted by Rev Andrew Robertson with the plaque being unveiled by Rev Lynn McChlery. In the evening there will be a grand ceilidh to celebrate the event and we would be delighted to see you at both. Full details will be posted on notice boards and website nearer the date.

## Election Hustings

Eastwood Churches Peace and Justice group held a successful local hustings event before last year's Westminster elections. A Hustings with candidates from all the political parties is again planned in advance of this May's Holyrood elections. Thursday April 21st at 7pm in Eastwood House. The Very Rev John Miller, ex-moderator of the Church of Scotland, will chair the event. As previously the aim will be to focus on issues of general social concern relevant to the election

**Action Medical Research** focusses on funding research to prevent and treat disease and disability in babies and children. It donates money to university based projects throughout the country and across a wide range of clinical conditions. It has had members and an active committee in Eaglesham for nigh on 40 years but currently there is a risk of the local group folding through lack of support. Morag Hill is secretary of Action Eaglesham. If you would be willing to join and help with fund raising for this worthy cause contact her on 01355302574.

**Starter Packs** urgently need supplies - bedding, furniture, kitchen and other utensils. Larger items can be uplifted by contacting Nicola Speirs of Starter Packs at 0141-440-1008. Smaller items can also be uplifted or call Sandy McIlwham on 01355303841 to arrange.

## Learning Disabilities Conference

*Saturday June 4th. Dundee*

An event to connect, resource and inspire those with a passion for enabling their church to be communities where those with learning disabilities belong and are supported to explore God's call in their lives. Kirsty Clark will be attending and is looking for someone to accompany her. If interested contact Kirsty on [07743 736113](tel:07743736113) or Email [kirstyclark9@gmail.com](mailto:kirstyclark9@gmail.com). Further information is also available on the Church of Scotland website.

**Food Bank** donations. These are still being collected - container for produce in Laird Hall vestibule

## *The Choir needs your voice!*

High  or  
Reach Low

*Singing uplifts your feelings*

*Life needs music*

Join us on Thursdays 7.30 to 9pm - a warm welcome awaits

[Upper floor of Carswell Centre]

# From The Wider Church

## Churches Mutual Credit Union

Credit Unions are financial institutions based on the co-operative principle - owned by members and with a reputation for providing friendly local services which can help folk at times of financial difficulty. This established history and the recent problems of the banking sector have led to the creation of an interdenominational churches credit union launched in December 2014 jointly by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland. CMCU aims to be an example of both best practice in the financial sector and of how society can offer more in the way of financial inclusion. It is currently open for deposits and loans to ministers, elders and employees of the Church of Scotland. The aim is to open it to all church members once it has built an established track record. For more information see [www.cmcu.org.uk](http://www.cmcu.org.uk)

## Columba Declaration - better together?

This proposed agreement between the Church of Scotland and Church of England has been in the news recently following its discussion and approval at the January C of E Synod. It is intended to build on past links and on their parallel roles as 'national' churches. The aim is not to revisit the steps towards unity which caused much acrimony in Scotland in the 1950s and 60s. However collaboration over various issues has continued since then. It is proposed that four areas of future work together be explored.

- 'Sharing across borders' would consider the issues that arise for church membership when moving from one country to the other and choosing a new place of worship. And current options for clergy assisting in worship should be encouraged.
- The vexed question of episcopacy and full mutual recognition of ministries. There is a hope that clergy in one church might be fully recognised in the other. Current Anglican - Methodist discussions might provide models of how this can be approached.
- Shared involvement as national churches with constitutional status in issues of public affairs.
- Shared exploration of the meaning and practice of mission for our Churches.

The Scottish Episcopal Church was initially also involved in these discussions but has more recently expressed reservations. The Declaration will feature at this year's General Assembly...update in June Parish News?

## CrossReach

CrossReach used to be called the Church of Scotland Board of Social Responsibility. It continues the Church of Scotland's long tradition of providing care employing more than 2,000 staff to support some of the most vulnerable people in Scotland. Its activities include services for children and the elderly, the homeless and those with learning disability or mental health problems. CrossReach has an annual expenditure of £51 million. Most of the funding comes from local authorities, but it also relies on donations and legacies to help continue this vital work. Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the Church of Scotland has asked that we pray for their work, think about offering help if appropriate and consider giving financial support. Details of CrossReach are available on the website...[crossreach.org.uk](http://crossreach.org.uk)

***And thanks again to Alistair for this 'Islay advert'.....***

***Come and work for Jesus!.....***

*the pay is not very good, but the retirement benefits are out of this world!*

## Youth Activities

**Support for youth activity needed....**Do you have a passion for young people? Want to share your faith?

We currently have opportunities for people who would like to share their faith with young people in our Church. EPYC, our Sunday evening club for P7 to S6 is seeking additional people to help run these weekly meetings involving fun, music and exploring Christianity in the context of today's world.

Churchbuilders, our Sunday morning group for children in nursery and primary school is also looking for additional helpers to join in our rota of one week in three to share Bible stories and God's love through games, crafts, stories and music.

If you want to explore these opportunities please contact James Edgar (07710977309 [jamesedgarepc@gmail.com](mailto:jamesedgarepc@gmail.com)) or Sheila Lamont (07711395964 [Sheila.lamont@btinternet.com](mailto:Sheila.lamont@btinternet.com)) to have a no obligation chat

### 1st Eaglesham Guides

Since starting back in January the girls have been extremely busy. In January we had a Scottish evening making some potato haggis, which were very cute. We recycled some rubbish in two different ways by making an outfit out of rubbish and then turning it into a game. They had great fun doing this activity and were very inventive. A musical evening and quiz was next. The girls brought their musical instruments. We were treated to some lovely music - a very talented bunch. On 22nd February, we celebrated Thinking Day with some bhangra dancing, and throwing coloured water at each other as part of the Holi Festival, which is a very colourful festival. The girls then toasted marshmallows on the campfire and we all had sommores - very delicious!!



We continue to go from strength to strength in the County. East Renfrewshire County had their Annual Review in the Carswell Centre which was very well attended on Sunday, 28 February 2016 - a great opportunity to show off our lovely halls!!

Four of our girls were presented with their Baden Powell award at the review and another four were away to Sea Life World at Loch Lomond taking part in their over night adventure as part of the Baden Powell Challenge Award, where they slept with the sharks and other creatures of the deep!! We also have three girls attending international camps in the summer this year; Cara Finlay, Ellyn Lightbody and Ellis Paterson. This is an amazing opportunity for the girls and 1st Eaglesham Guides are very proud that they were selected to represent Scotland.

There are lots of other activities coming up with a visit to the fire station and County Camp in May to name but a few!!

Louise Lightbody, Unit Leader

*ed note - being educated by the guides:*

*Bhangra - traditional Punjabi dance*

*Holi - popular Asian Spring festival*

*sommores - chocolate digestive and toasted marshmallow sandwich!*



### **3rd Eaglesham Brownies - a message from Elaine Wallace**

We have had a busy session so far, completing the Science Badge, visiting the pantomime and doing a variety of crafts. We celebrated Burns Day with some dancing, designing our own tartan and sampling some Scottish food. We made Chinese lanterns for Chinese New Year and also some Valentines cards.

After much consideration, I have decided to stand down as Brownie leader at the end of this session in June. I have been a Brownie leader for the past twenty years but feel that the time has come to move on. We are looking for new leaders for the unit to start in September. If you would like to volunteer or know of anyone who would like to, then, please let me know. You would be given plenty of equipment and ideas and it would be great if you could come along for a few nights this session to see what it is all about. Helping with Girl Guiding is a great way to volunteer and is very rewarding. The girls are aged between seven and ten and we meet on a Monday night from 5.45- 7pm. For more details, please contact Elaine on 07813 454984

### **Tom Potter - UK Drummer**

Tom Potter aged 15 from Clarkston has won the 'UK Young Drummer of the Year' competition held in Leamington Spa on February 7th. Tom was the only Scot to make it through to the final 10 from an original entry selection of over 400. Tom is Olive and David Reid's grandson.....fortunately for them he lives outwith their ear-shot. It was his third time in a row of reaching the top 10.

### **Church builders and Creche**

Church Builders and creche will move to the new Carswell Centre from Sunday 17th April. We are excited to be moving to this superb accommodation. Creche will be in the refurbished youth base at the back of the centre and Church Builders will be in the upstairs hall. As usual, babies and under 3s can be brought to creche 10 minutes before the 11am service while children aged 3 and over attend the first part of the church service and come up to Church Builders with staff. On school holiday Sundays there will be games for all ages in place of Church Builders. We look forward to welcoming current and new children on Sunday mornings. For any queries please contact Sheila Lamont ([sheila@lamontassociates.co.uk](mailto:sheila@lamontassociates.co.uk)) for Church Builders and Ann McCormick ([annsimonmccormick@btinternet.com](mailto:annsimonmccormick@btinternet.com)) for creche



The judging panel featured drummers from Kasabian, Robbie Williams and one of the UK's best known session drummers, Ash Soan (drummer for the band on the BBCs – “The Voice”).

Tom has also been selected by National Youth Jazz Orchestra of Scotland as their drummer for the next year after recently completing an album with saxophonist Iain Ballamy - quite an accolade for a 15 year old. He plays many drumming styles. With the Williams Jazz Quartet he has played many jazz gigs around Glasgow including corporate events, weddings etc.

Tom took up drum lessons from the age of 11 through the Loud n' Proud charity in Paisley and has been taught by drummer Jamie McGrory. Incredibly, Loud n' Proud have had three winners of the UK title in recent years - two taught by Jamie. Quite a feather in the cap for the charity.

Apart from the title and useful contacts, Tom wins a slot at the London Drum Show and other events throughout the year; and he will be the guest drummer at next year's competition final.

*Christian Potter*

## The Lodging House Mission

The Lodging House Mission was founded in 1909 and has been at its current site in 35 East Campbell Street since 1932. It is a Glasgow based Christian charity dedicated to providing care and support to homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded people regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. With more men and women becoming homeless in the current economic downturn, there is a dedicated team of Support Workers and Volunteers working to make a positive difference in people's lives - giving the opportunity to get their lives back on track by developing new skills and feelings of self worth.

'Trotters' - the name given by the homeless community after Rev John Trotter, chaplain from 1958 – 1977! - is open Monday – Friday 8am to 3pm and on average sees 100 service users on a daily basis. There is no Government or Local Authority funding. It relies on financial support from individuals, grant awarding bodies, charitable trusts, and churches. The Lodging House Mission Day Centre is a safe and welcoming environment with an open door policy where service users can access:

- **Food** - The LHM prepares more than 45,000 hot meals every year.
- **Skills and vocational courses** including DIY, creative writing, digital photography, Computing, Cookery, Woodworking
- **English language courses** for around 30 students weekly
- **Recreational activities** – Art, Drama, Choir, Women's and Men's Groups.
- **Help and support** on practical issues including filling in benefit forms, housing applications as well as referrals to other agencies
- **Emergency clothing** for rough sleepers
- **Essential facilities** including showers, laundry, hairdressers, free phone and internet
- **Chaplaincy** - The Lodging House Mission provides dignity, love and respect to those come through its doors - regardless of their faith. For some of the users, spiritual support doesn't matter but for many it's an important part of empowerment.



Many problems can co-exist with homelessness - drug and alcohol dependency, involvement in street culture activity, mental health problems, unemployment, relationship problems, financial strains and housing exclusion. This is recognised as Multiple Homelessness Exclusion. No single sector, charity or organisation can address these issues alone. The LHM works in strong partnership with other organisations. There is more information on the LHM website.

Since 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 LHM has hosted the Glasgow Winter Night Shelter with 400 visitors

Without the generosity of people like you, the work of the LHM cannot continue. Eaglesham Parish Church has been an enormous support to the LHM over the years. You can continue to support the work of the LHM in whatever way you can by donations, prayer support and by volunteering. There are currently volunteering vacancies for kitchen staff, general duties, learning centre, and also skilled **joiners, plumbers, electricians** and people with handyman skills. If interested please Email Helen Hart at [enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@lhm-glasgow.org.uk) for more information. A good way of helping is by purchasing meal vouchers at the cost of £1 - you can give these out to homeless people to be exchanged for a meal at the LHM. These can be obtained from me

Thank you for your continued support.

Brenda Bain. [brenda@thebains.org.uk](mailto:brenda@thebains.org.uk)

## The Guild

We started the second half of our 2015/16 session with the Strathaven Singers, held our topic evening, had a 'Taste of Burns', and heard about the BB Working Party in Malawi, to name just a few of our evenings. We had a welcome return of John Kinloch from Carmunnock with beautiful slides of his wonderful garden. He then surprised us by finishing off the evening by showing us the most amazing birthday and wedding cakes made and decorated by himself!

Our annual charity coffee morning raised £792 to be shared between Barnardos and Christian Aid - thank you to all who supported this event. We were delighted that James Edgar came along to the Guild's World Day of Prayer as our guest speaker.

At the time of writing this report we have only four Wednesday evenings left. For the final evening we will welcome our own Church Choir. Advance notice - we shall be holding our annual **Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 31st May**. Final details will be announced in the Sunday intimations once all the arrangements have been confirmed. (This year on a Tuesday and not a Wednesday).

Fiona Hamilton, Secretary

## The Sunday morning cuppa

The team who provide our tea, coffee, biscuits and cake after church on Sundays select a range of charities for the money collected. In the last year the following donations have been made...

Sciaf £100  
Alzheimers £200  
Lodging House Mission £240  
Scottish Bible Society £100  
Mary's Meals £100  
Tear Fund £240  
Clic Sergeant £100

## Tearfund

On 5<sup>th</sup> February, we held a Big Bake in aid of Tearfund's No Child Taken campaign. This is a project that aims to prevent child trafficking and links strongly into CHO, the project that we as a congregation support in Cambodia. Lots of families turned up for a really fun afternoon with children's activities including fairy cake decorating and cupcake designing. Many people also brought along their baking to be judged – the standards were extremely high!

Then on March 5th we were privileged to have a visit from Chomno In, founder of CHO. Along with Fiona Morrison of Tearfund he gave us an account of his life and work. His story is at the same time inspiring and humbling....teenage prisoner in a labour camp during the horrors of the Pol Pot era; refugee in the north of the country on the Thai border when the Vietnamese invaded; sanctuary in a Buddhist temple but at the same time learning English from a Christian doctor. This led to a choice - become a monk to continue the temple protection or be baptised and follow Jesus. He chose the latter. Eventually the situation in Cambodia improved, and now married he studied pharmacy in Phnom Penh and worked for UNICEF. However on a return visit to Piopet where he had been a refugee he encountered the cross-border child trade which was to become the focus of the work of CHO. Family tensions and administrative problems were resolved and the charity was established in 2002. Since then it has established a wide range of educational, training and employment activities along with the offer of spiritual support. Chomno emphasised the continuing role of prayer in their work - each day starts with a prayer meeting. His message to us was to pray for the local work of CHO but also for Cambodia which is currently suffering drought as a likely consequence of climate change. To find out more about CHO or the No Child Taken campaign, visit the Tearfund website at [www.connected.tearfund.org](http://www.connected.tearfund.org) or email [fiona\\_kettlewell@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:fiona_kettlewell@yahoo.co.uk)



A photo selection - Chomno In at the Carswell Centre; happy bakers at the Tearfund Big Bake; litter picking on Orry Tidy day; afternoon light on Whitelee; ecumenical fun at Age Concern Christmas party.