

# Murrayfield

PARISH CHURCH

Issue no.558



MARCH MAGAZINE

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Welcome to the  
March edition of the  
magazine



Look out for Easter Service Details



## Minister's letter

The first thing to mention is a reminder about the services being held this coming Holy Week. On Palm/Passion Sunday (24th March) there will be input from the young people who are meeting monthly as 'Film Crew'. This is always something to which one can look forward! Hopefully there will also be some participation on the day from S-Club. During Holy Week there are some MCT services. There is a 7pm service on Tuesday (26th March) in the Garden of the Church of the Good Shepherd and a 7pm service of communion at Saughtonhall UR Church on Maundy Thursday (28th March).



On Good Friday (29th March) there will be a joint service with our Church of Scotland neighbours from Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church (GAPP) and St Stephen's Comely Bank

Church which will be held at Murrayfield at 7pm. Please do consider whether you can attend, on this important day in the church calendar.

On Easter Sunday (31st March) there will be a joyful Sunday morning service which (as usual for Easter) will include a celebration of communion. It is hoped that we will also have an Easter Choir this year. Any singers are very welcome (and encouraged) to join. The choir will contribute during the services on Palm/Passion Sunday (24th March), Good Friday (29th March 12.30pm) and Easter Sunday (31st March). There will be rehearsals after the Sunday services during March (more details to follow in the weekly news).



The second thing to draw to your attention is that the Kirk Session has very recently considered a Three Year Strategic Plan for the congregation. There has been a recent history of strategic plans the latest of which ran from 2015-2020. These help to shape our priorities and guide our activities. Normally there would have been a plan to run from 2020-2025 but the Covid pandemic intervened. Presently, taking cognisance of the shifts within the Presbytery, a three year plan was

deemed to be a more prudent timeframe.

It has taken longer than expected to produce this Three Year Plan (2024 - 2027)! Originally I had hoped it would be ready by last autumn. The format replicates the 2015-2020 plan and adopts various categories that were used in Church of Scotland Local Church Review documentation. The areas covered are: Worship, Discipleship, Service, Evangelism, Fellowship, Ministry Team, Property, Stewardship, Communication, and Committee Structure. The end product is reasonably lengthy but at the same time it is not difficult to digest.

Once this is published on the website (printed copies can be requested from the office) myself and the Kirk Session would like to receive feedback and comments. Please send over any remarks to me or to one of the session clerks (contact details on pg 25 ). In particular we would like to hear if you have any other ideas, and whether or not you think the proposals are heading along the right lines. Please feel free also to speak to me or one of the session clerks if there is anything you would like to discuss in person.

The landscape at the moment has many challenges and we need to face them with a prayerful vision and an orderly sense of purpose. Hopefully the Three Year Plan can help us take some positive steps. Undoubtedly achieving the proposals will require some sacrificial hard work and some boldness and participation from as many of our church members as possible. Getting there will also require us to keep our faith in the God of Easter who raised Jesus from the dead and who gave the Spirit of the resurrection as a gift for the church.

Your minister Keith



# Holy Week & Easter Services

## Murrayfield Churches Together

### and the Church of Scotland Grouping



**Palm/Passion Sunday 10.30am:** we are looking forward to an Easter video performed and produced by the young people from S-Club Film Crew.

**Tuesday of Holy Week at 7pm:** Stations of the Cross at the garden of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

**Thursday of Holy Week at 7pm:** a communion service at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church. This will follow a Tenebrae format.



**Good Friday 2pm:** Liturgy of the Cross service at the Church of the Good Shepherd

**Good Friday 7pm:** A joint service with the CofS grouping churches, 7pm at Murrayfield Parish Church

**Messy Easter:** Saturday 30th March 3.30-5.30pm at Murrayfield Parish Church

**Easter Sunday:** we have a joyous celebration of the resurrection at 10.30am. As normal this will include the Lord's Supper.

# Keeping in Touch



As a church, keeping in touch and offering pastoral care to all our members is very important and is what we strive to do well. We have now launched the new pastoral care initiative (you may remember reading an article regarding this in the December magazine).

You may have already met your new church elder, if not they will be in touch to introduce themselves to you in the next few months. Hopefully you will meet them face to face even if that is just speaking for a few minutes at the doorstep. Once you have met, you will then be able to let them know the best way of staying in touch. They will be happy to maintain contact by visiting you in person, meeting up in person with you, or alternatively communicate by phone, or email, or messages.

The intention is for the new approach to strike a balance between the responsibility of the Kirk Session to stay in touch with the members of the congregation, whilst recognising that members will have different

preferences about how often they want contact and what type of contact they prefer.

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## Bible Buddies!

We are a very friendly bible study group at MPC for women of working age. We meet monthly on a Tuesday at 8pm, taking turns to host in our homes.



Each session comprises tea, biscuits, a natter and a study of a guide of our choosing. Previously we have looked at Christianity Explored and The Fruit of the Spirit. We'd love you to join us – working or not! If interested, please chat to any one of us after church on Sundays or phone Catriona Parkin on 07963 279311.



## Popping up for Easter!

Do you enjoy singing ? Then you may like to join in with the Easter Choir. The choir will contribute during the services on Palm/Passion Sunday (24th March), Good Friday (29th March 12.30pm) and Easter Sunday (31st March). There will be rehearsals after the Sunday services during March (more details to follow in the weekly news). Those of all ages are welcome to join in!



Do you play a  
musical  
instrument?



Would you like to share your talent? It would be great to hear from you. Perhaps you would be happy to play a piece of music during a Sunday service or accompany a hymn?

If you're not a musician you may know of someone who is, and think might be interested. Please contact the minister [Keith Graham](#) or one of the session clerks [Scott](#), [Catherine](#) or [Fay](#)

## Reading lessons and leading Prayers of Intercession on Sunday mornings

It would be great to build on the current rotas and increase participation to a wider group of people. If you would like to join the reading rota or lead prayers of intercession please get in touch. Or you may prefer to read occasionally at services such as Easter or Christmas? Please get in touch with Keith Graham [HERE](#) - he will be delighted to hear from you.



## It's back ! By popular demand : The Christian Aid Quiz.

*Sunday 17th March*

*6.45pm*

*At Saughtonhall United Reformed Church*

*Teams of four*

*Refreshments provided.*

*Minimum donation of £5 welcome*

*Get your tickets soon!*

*Contact David Parkin [HERE](#)*



Find out more about Christian Aid [HERE](#)

On Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 6:45pm there will be a Murrayfield Churches Together Christian Aid quiz at Saughtonhall United Reform Church. Tickets are now available with a suggested minimum donation of £5 per person. The evening is led by an experienced quiz leader, who in previous years has provided such a wide variety of general knowledge questions that any team could be the winner. This creates a very entertaining evening. The set up at the venue is designed to accommodate tables of four people hence the reason we request for teams of four people. This doesn't mean you have to be in a team of four to obtain a ticket. Anyone who would like to attend that is not part of a team of four will be allocated an available space. There are refreshments provided at the interval as a chance to catch up with friends and getting to know your team members. Also we hope to provide a raffle and would be happy to receive any donations of prizes. Whilst there are opportunities to be winners in both the quiz and a raffle, everyone should feel a sense of achievement knowing that all donations are going to helping those less fortunate than ourselves through Christian Aid. We look forward to seeing you there. The Christian Aid group hope to organise other community events throughout the year and will advertise in our Church Weekly News or magazine.

### Other events by Christian Aid



For anyone looking to fundraise for Christian Aid this year, you can join a Kiltwalk, which takes place on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in Edinburgh (last year Christian Aid raised £24,000 from sponsorship funds). For further information please visit the Christian Aid website

[HERE](#) on information about how to register.

Christian Aid Week 2024 will be 12-18 May and will inform you in due course of detailing how Murrayfield Churches Together will aim to contribute.

David Parkin





A very BIG thank you to you all for giving so generously to our MCT Christmas Virtual gifts appeal for Ecludare. Esther sent a video in early December to launch the appeal with the list of gifts and we distributed the leaflets with all the gifts and how to donate.

We had many gifts selected - the Food packs for Families were a favourite and the seeds and stationary were also popular.

Some people chose to donate online and so after getting all the various donations we have a great total of £1,574 .58p!

Some of that total came from the retrieval collection from Judith Scott's funeral on the 7th December. Judith was the convener of the MCT Ecludare committee for many years and she was a huge supporter of the project. We are delighted to let you know that we have sent the £1,500 to Esther this week. Esther keeps in close contact with us and her message is *"Once again , thank you for your ongoing support and for being an integral part of our community. We look forward to seeing you someday soon. Every Blessing to you all"* . Esther Well we have received just this week a message from Esther telling us she is hoping to visit us in the summer. She is attending a conference in Germany in July and hopes to also visit the UK and us in Edinburgh after the conference.

We are very excited with this news and will hopefully have had a committee meeting to discuss further by the time you are reading this article. Watch this space for more info !

I hope those who bought a pot of hyacinth bulbs are enjoying their blooms or they are yet to flower, enjoy them when that happens. Remember to plant them into your garden after flowering and you will go on enjoying them for years to come. Kath Anderson



Children from the school



In full bloom!



# Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Scheme

Dearest Friends.

Thank you for your kindness and generosity. Every child that visited the visitors centre during the time leading up to Christmas received a gift, whether their parents or guardians requested them or not. This year three hundred and twenty-eight children from one hundred and twenty-six families had a Christmas present to open on Christmas morning due to your kindness and generosity. Many adults also received presents

from the gift collection but again we did not take note of the adults, as our focus was on the children. Every child where possible received a toy, an activity gift and book, and of course something nice. More than a thousand gifts were given out.

**This year three hundred and twenty-eight children from one hundred and twenty-six families had a Christmas present to open on Christmas morning!**

It is impossible to measure the difference that your kindness and generosity makes to these children. I cannot thank you enough for what you do. I feel proud and privileged to be part of such a special group of people.

The gifts were distributed through five Christmas parties in the visits room of the prison organised through the visitor's centre and family contact officers. Gifts were also given out directly through the visitor's centre.

My thanks as always go to Shona and Patrizia and the other staff in the visitor's centre for their help in making sure the gifts go to the correct families. My thanks also go to one of my colleague's family contact Officer Rebecca Brown who when off duty was to be found helping in the visitor's centre. Thanks, should also go to two ex-colleagues Eddie and Innes they were this year's Santas at the Christmas parties.

My thanks also go to Fiona Cruickshanks the Governor of Edinburgh prison without whose support it would make doing the gift collection more difficult. But most of all my thanks goes to you for what you do in supporting the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection.

Best Wishes Colin (Colin O'Flaherty Officer)



# Younger families in our church and community



## Messy Church 2024

We're delighted that Messy Church is once again up and running every month until the summer and we have a fun filled programme for all ages of children, and their parents, to enjoy.

January saw us creating lots of crafts about and celebrating "Jesus who we follow". Every session starts with a "welcome song" and an introduction to the theme while craft bags are prepared and then everyone gets their sleeves rolled up to get stuck in and enjoy the crafts. Crafts are designed to be attractive to different ages but to be "do-able" by all. We then gather together to talk about the theme in more detail, sing some songs, admire some of the craftwork while enjoying a time of worship. The session is finished by all enjoying a tasty tea in the hall and some fellowship together.

We're looking forward to exploring the various themes planned for the coming months and would love for more to join in the fellowship and fun. So if you know of anyone who might like to come along, please do pass on an invite and spread the word. Messy Church is a perfect way to spend a Saturday afternoon (last Saturday of every month 3 -30pm – 5/5.30pm).

Messy Easter Saturday 30th March 3.30-5.30pm : Jesus who Rose from the Dead

Messy Church Saturday 27th April 3.30-5.30pm: Jesus who taught love

Messy Church Saturday 25th May 3.30-5.30pm: Jesus who went home

## Looking to the Future

We are at the very early stages of considering/planning a restart of a weekly toddler group for parents/carers and pre-school children involving play and simple worship. We previously ran "TOTs" which was a huge success but unfortunately Covid prevented the group meeting. We are aware that to run such a group a good number of volunteers is required to ensure the commitment required is not so great. Many hands make light work! We do hope you would consider volunteering if you do have a little time during the week as we are aware of how appreciated such a group is by many in the community. If this is something with which you would like to get involved in any way, please do contact the Church Office.

## Coming to church with younger children



Do you know that we have a family area in our church? In the Rossie Brown Chapel (at the front of the church on the right hand side) there is an area with quiet toys and activities for younger children to enjoy during the service (supervised by a parent/carer) .The area can accommodate prams for sleeping infants.

For those who are on door duty please could you let families know as they arrive, especially those who are visiting or coming along for the first time.



Everyone is enjoying a mixture of creativity based on religious themes as well as fun and games

Film Crew has continued to meet since Christmas and enjoyed creating videos, one the parable of the Good Samaritan and most recently telling the story of Jesus at the beginning of Holy week. We hope to show you this video on Palm Sunday. As you can see from the photograph some hard work takes place researching the story, preparing the script, acting and filming the story. Some refreshment is obviously also part of the process! There is always time to let off steam at the end with some sporting activities (not filmed!)



S Club also continues to meet during the service with stories and craft relating to the theme of the day. Children of all ages are welcome to join the fun and laughter! Julia Hodgson

"The Bridge" is a relaxed and fun space where you can come along with someone you already know from Murrayfield, or where you can meet new friends. Each month follows a regular format of fun games, engaging discussions, and great food, with a different theme of focus each time.

If you're a young person looking for a community where you can connect, grow, and have fun with others your age, we invite you to join us. The events are open to all. You'll find warmth, acceptance, and a chance to explore your faith in a supportive and inclusive environment.



## The Bridge

*A monthly event for those ages 10 - 18*

**At Palmerston Place Church**

**12 Palmerston Place, EH12 5AA**

**5pm – 6.45pm**

**Sunday 3rd March - Failure, Hope & Restoration : Why we are all Peter**

**Sunday 7th April - Spring & Seasons: Why *\*is\** God faithful, Anyway**

**Sunday 5th May - Ascension: Exploration of the 40 days and beyond**

**Sunday 2nd June - Summer & Sabbath: Can Rest Be Righteous?**





We believe in the God who is able to do more than we could ever ask or imagine. We believe that encountering Him in His fullness is life-changing. We believe that when young people are captivated by Him, amazing things happen.

Born out of a love for God's Word, a love for people and a love for adventure:

## **We are Magnitude.**

An immersive, carefully curated five-day adventure in the heart of Scotland, designed specifically to enable young people to encounter more of the magnitude of God: in His Word, in worship, and in wonder at His creation. Find out more [HERE](#)

Magnitude is about seeing young people live out the daily rhythms of trust and closeness with God that characterise this way of life. Empowering them to follow Him, inspiring them to be expectant of what He will do in their lives, encouraging them to be secure in their identity in Him, and enabling them to know a faith that goes beyond knowledge.

# Holy Week at the Church of the Good Shepherd

## Sunday 24th March - Palm Sunday

10am Sung Eucharist with the blessing of palms and the reading of the Passion Gospel

## Holy Monday 25th March

11.30 Chrism Mass at the St Mary's Cathedral - all welcome  
Please come and support your clergy as we renew our ordination vows

## Holy Tuesday 26th March

7pm Stations of the Cross in the Church garden

## Holy Wednesday 27th March

11am Eucharist

## Maundy Thursday 28th March

7pm Institution of the Eucharist followed by a short Gethsemane watch

## Good Friday 29th March

2pm Liturgy of the Cross

## Holy Saturday 30th March

10am decorating the Church for Easter - All welcome to help

## EASTER DAY

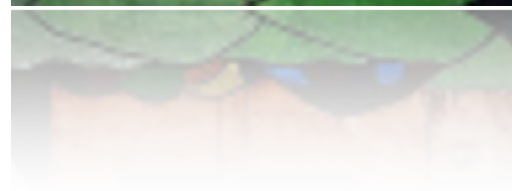
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

10am Festal Sung Eucharist

## Monday 1st April

Easter Monday

10am Easter Worship on Zoom



# Saughtonhall United Reformed Church



Saughtonhall United Reformed Church  
87 Saughtonhall Dr, Edinburgh EH12 5TR

# News from the Pastoral Group

Pastoral Group activities were many over the festive period. We held a very successful tea party in early December, attended by some 25 members and friends. Cards were delivered around the parish giving details of church services and our charity collections. Members on our 'pastoral list' received Christmas Cards signed by Keith (minister). Our Christmas charitable activities were once again very successful. A huge number of cans/perishable goods were handed over to the Edinburgh Food Project, £325 (£405 including Gift Aid) was donated to Edinburgh Women's Aid and a significant number of gifts were donated to HMP Edinburgh (thanks go to St George's School who supported this activity). TTT had a winter break and restarted for a spring term on 6th February. We look forward to the employment of a Pastoral Assistant who we hope will take an active part in TTT and other activities and will work with the Pastoral Group in the care of our congregation. The group's next main focus will be Easter.



This year Fairtrade Fortnight has moved from it's usual fortnight in February/March to September. During February, Fairtrade encouraged shoppers to support 'Fairbruary' by swapping just one or two items on their regular shopping lists for fairtrade alternatives (there are over 6,000 Fairtrade products available). People are familiar with fairtrade bananas, coffee, chocolate etc but there are so many more unusual Fairtrade products such as wine, nuts, cotton T Shirts, deodorant, soft drinks as well as fairtrade gifts. We have missed the Fairbruary initiative but as Fairtrade supporters it would be great to look out for and buy some of the more unusual Fairtrade products. Just look out for the Fairtrade mark.

Find out more about Fairtrade

[HERE](#)

**Did you know?**  
**Fairtrade Kenyan flowers have a lower carbon footprint than flowers grown in the Netherlands!**





# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

The Church of Scotland's Social Care Council is accountable for the work of CROSSREACH. Its remit is to provide social care services and specialist resources in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church to people of all ages in challenging circumstances.

At CROSSREACH loving care is offered to people of all ages who are in need of a helping hand, Supporting them to live life to the full whatever their circumstances. Care for older people, help with alcoholism, drug and mental health problems and assistance for homeless people and those with special learning needs.

Also supporting young people who are affected by drug or alcohol abuse by someone in their family. This is the Sunflower Garden Project, the charity chosen to be supported by Murrayfield Parish Church at our Christmas Eve Service. Thank you for your support.

The Church of Scotland has been at the forefront of high quality social care for over 150 years and is one of the largest care providers in Scotland. In 2005 following a reorganisation of the central

administration of the Church of Scotland the Board of Social Responsibility was renamed to The Social Care Council trading as CrossReach

**CrossReach services are available to people of all faiths or none at all**

The name CrossReach was chosen to convey the desire to reach out to people who need support across Scotland while making it clear that faith is the motivation for the work. CrossReach services are available to people of all faiths or none at all.

Please look at the website [HERE](#) for information about all of the services offered and how to donate to support the work being undertaken by CrossReach.

Thank you to all who purchased CrossReach Christmas cards. Each one sent let others know about CrossReach and its work.

CrossReach do have a shop on line selling among other things Easter cards. Have a look at the website [HERE](#) or you can telephone 0131454 4374 to place an order if you prefer.

Thank you for your continuing support for CrossReach working for us the Church of Scotland members in Christ's name.

Jane Crispin

## FreshStart

helping people make a home for themselves

helping people make a home for themselves

Thank you very much to everyone who has recently donated via the Fresh Start box at Church.

Basic household goods, these can be bedding, towels, pots and pans, cutlery, crockery and also things like kettles and toasters, food, cleaning products and also personal hygiene products are always very much appreciated by Fresh Start. If you have access to the internet I recommend watching a short video on the Fresh Start website which explains about the work they do in helping people living in poverty and in particular around homelessness. The aims and the work they do are encouraging and interesting! You can watch the video [HERE](#)

Jennifer Patterson

## TTT: Tone up on Tuesdays at 2pm

This lively and young at heart group meet on Tuesdays at 2pm for some three or four sessions per year. Members are gathered from the congregation and community and come together for seated - and some standing - exercise led by Joanne our teacher from Move It or Lose It, tea/coffee and chat and finally a short act of worship.

This session we have some 22 core participants, including new members and of course new folk are always welcome.

As the exercise is led by a trained teacher new members are asked to complete a simple health questionnaire -for insurance purposes, otherwise we only hold names and contact details. Joanne charges £5 per person per session, everything else is free.

The group did benefit from the worship skills of our past Ministerial Assistant however since she left we have still managed to have a homily, reading, prayer and even a hymn.

The group would not be possible without the input from our volunteers and enormous thanks should go to Tina Brown and Jane Flanagan for their weekly input.

If you would like to come along please do so - Tuesday at 2.00pm.

TTT will run each Tuesday during February and March and on 2<sup>nd</sup> April. We will have a break for the rest of April (9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>). We will restart on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May and run through till a last class on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> June. We will then have a summer break. Contact Jane Smart [HERE](#) for more information



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## MCT Faith Discussion Group

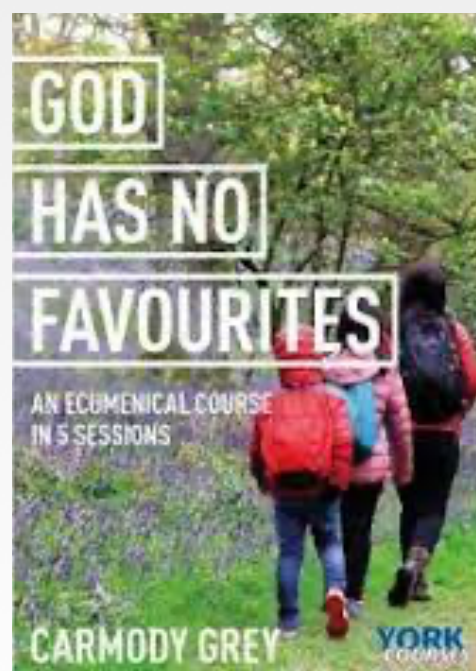
The Faith Discussion Group considers different topics to do with faith to try better to understand what faith is and how it affects us both as individuals and as a community. All are welcome to our meetings, including doubters and sceptics.

Meetings are on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, in the Upper Hall at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church, 85/87 Saughtonhall Drive, Edinburgh EH12 5TR.

The group started a Lent series 'God has no Favourites' on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> February which will run for five weeks. All are welcome to join in.

If you would like more information please contact Jim Paterson.

Contact Jim Paterson [HERE](#)



# Memory Lane Cafe

For more  
information  
contact Lesley  
Webster [HERE](#)

## The Murrayfield Club



Come along to join in with lots of  
friendly chat, meet new people and  
enjoy refreshments.

Held every Friday, 10am -12pm at  
Saughtonhall United Reformed Church  
87 Saughtonhall Drive, EH12 5TR  
For further information contact: 07881 288909

**Admission £3 per person**

Funded by | Edinburgh Health and  
Social Care Partnership  
 • EDINBURGH •  
Lothian

**Murrayfield  
Churches  
together**

Scottish Charity Number SCO23210

## Giving and receiving flowers

I'm sure that you have admired the beautiful flowers in church on Sunday mornings. After the service the flowers are delivered to members of the congregation and friends in the community who are perhaps ill, bereaved or celebrating a special occasion. If you would like to donate flowers please add your name and choose a date on the rota at the back of the church. It might be a date that is special to you. If you need more information please contact Tina Brown, she will be delighted to hear from you.

Contact Tina [here](#)





## What's going on in the Church Centre?

### In this edition we are delighted to highlight

### Edinburgh Karate Shizen



Our Karate Club - Edinburgh Karate Shizen has been running Shotokan Karate classes since 2012. We now have twenty weekly classes - two of which started in Murrayfield Parish Church Hall in April 2022 on Fridays. Both classes are very busy with the younger class for age 6 - 8, full of energy as you'd imagine! The age 9+ class has a wonderful family feel, with close to twenty students when at full capacity -

including four Mums who train alongside their children and a number of other siblings training together. Martial arts tend to have one of three main focusses.

1. Sport - for those who like competition
2. Self Defence - For those interested in "real" self protection
3. Art

While we incorporate 1 and 2, our main focus is on the Art. Meaning we are looking to find beauty in perfecting our movement, as well as in the persistent struggle to attain it! It makes for a skill which is both physically

and mentally taxing regardless of your age and condition. We have members from age five to sixty five across our club.

Classes are going so well we are investigating the possibility of having a second evening of Karate in the area soon. We love running classes at Murrayfield Parish Church Hall as the floor is perfect for our barefoot training! To get in touch :Visit the website [HERE](#) , Email: [HERE](#) , Facebook: 'Edinburgh Karate Shizen'

*A great resource for the congregation and a place for building links with our local community*

## Brownies

Brownies meet in church centre on Friday evenings 6-7.45pm.  
They are always keen to welcome new volunteers! You can find out more about volunteering [HERE](#)



Scottish Charity 005918

[www.murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)



We open up a **world of possibilities** to girls from 4-18-years-old, one where they **can do anything**.  
**It's totally flexible**, you can help as much or as little as you want.  
Join us for nonstop fun, learning and adventures.

Your local Girlguiding group needs:  
- Brownie Unit meeting on Friday evenings  
- Rainbow Unit meeting on Wednesday evenings  
Urgently looking for more leaders-in-training!



Register today



[girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer](http://girlguiding.org.uk/volunteer)  
Registered charity number: SC033171

# The Church of Scotland used Stamp Appeal

The Church of Scotland is continuing with the annual Stamp Appeal. The 2023 – 2024 Appeal will support the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP) to improve agricultural productivity, create youth employment and mitigate the impact of the climate crisis. The project, 'Firmly Planted' aims to establish self-sustaining tree nurseries to nurture and protect the environment, livelihoods for households and communities.



Any used postage stamps you receive could go towards this work. If you can, please bring them to the church or church office and I shall forward them as appropriate. The stamps should have ½ inch of envelope surrounding them and should not be damaged in any way. The slightest tear or cut, even at a corner, means they would be of no value. You can read more about the appeal [HERE](#) . Edith Elliot



## **4 Free Talks on Wednesdays in March from 1pm- 2pm**

*at the Church of the Good Shepherd  
on Murrayfield Avenue*

Set up to support and help those looking to boost their health & fitness and those looking for support to manage their weight. Talks aim to be informative, positive, honest, some with demos, and all from specialists in the local community.

### **Week One - 6th March**

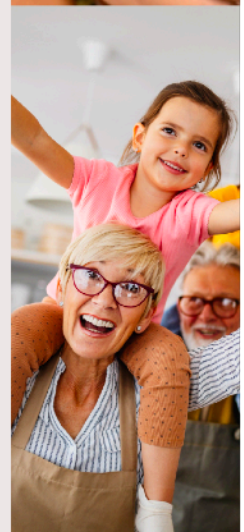
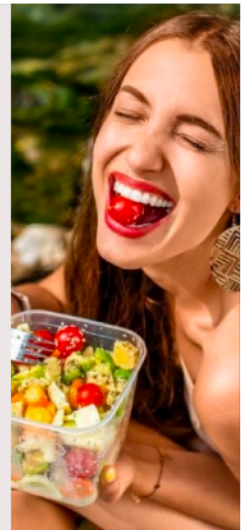
Getting Started - Choosing a Plan for You, Accountability, Tips, Hints and More...all to set you on the road for your health success.

More talks lined up by specialists for the following weeks on 13th, 20th and 27th March

Find & Follow on FB for more information



[www.ghhg.co.uk](http://www.ghhg.co.uk)

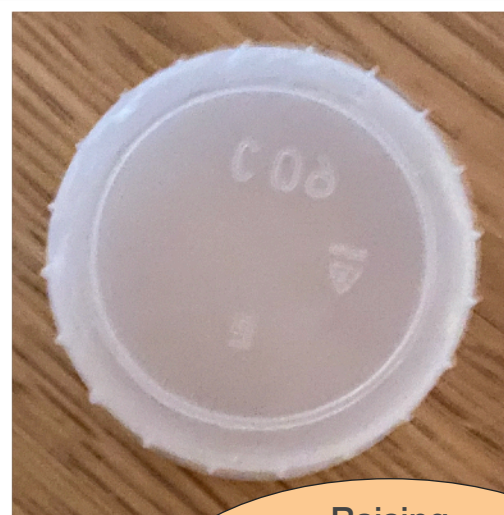


# Please save milk bottle tops!

I still don't have a new total from the Borders but the collection continues for all colours of plastic milk bottle tops. A big Thank You to all who pop tops in to 6 Osborne Terrace bins in front of the two windows in the front garden or the church. You can park on Donaldsons' side of the road at non-peak periods. We now need more than 9.5 million tops to fill a skip - which is when we get paid, as the new clear plastic tops are 1gm lighter than the old tops. Thank you again. It is such an easy way to raise money for palliative care and we are an eco-friendly church.

Martha Dickson

For more information you can contact Martha [HERE](#)



Raising funds for palliative care for charities Marie Curie, The Lavender trust and Macmillan

**The Guild Coffee Morning  
at St Anne's Church Hall,  
Kaimes Road**

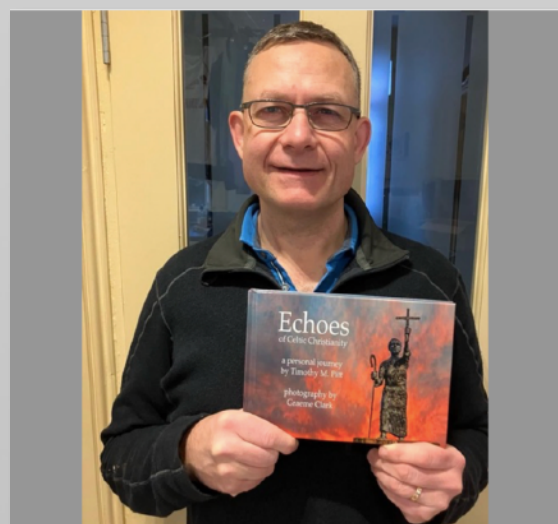


Saturday, 16th March  
10.00 - 12.00 noon  
Tickets at the door  
All welcome!



## ECHOES OF CELTIC CHRISTIANITY BY TIMOTHY M PITT

Timothy M Pitt, Session Clerk at St Stephen's Comely Bank Church, has written a book entitled Echoes of Celtic Christianity which looks at the history of the Celtic Christians and their faith and how this can still have relevance to us today. Copies of the book are available to purchase at the price of £10 in the hall after the service or contact the church office [HERE](#).







**Saturday, 18 May to Thursday, 23 May, 2024**  
**(Excluding Sunday)**



### **Can you help with stewarding at the General Assembly?**

Stewards have a vital role at the General Assembly to ensure the safety and comfort of those attending. Stewards provide a friendly welcome to the Assembly Halls, ensure the security of proceedings by checking passes, are alert to security threats and disturbances and have a responsibility to ensure the safe evacuation of the Assembly Hall if this is required.

Individual shifts last for three hours and volunteers can select the day or days upon which they would seek to help.

**For more details please contact Sandy Gemmill, Chief Steward**

Contact Sandy Gammill [HERE](#)

# St Ninian's Corstorphine

## Edinburgh



### Church Administrator

### St Ninians's Church, Corstorphine

We are seeking a Church Administrator to be the front-line contact of our congregation, providing administrative and communication support to our Minister and church communities.

The post will be based in the office at St Ninian's Parish Church, and serves as the first point contact for all church activity, focusing on administration, communications, managing the church halls and their booking, and developing links and relationships within the congregation and wider church community. The Church Administrator will work closely with the Minister, the Session Clerk Team, Church Officers, and all those who interact with the church. It is expected that the role holder has an excellent experience of Microsoft 365, especially Excel and Word.

The post is a part time post of 16 hours per week. Remuneration will be £12,480 per annum. While normal hours of work will be 16 hours per week, at times agreed with the line manager, the nature of the work may call for a degree of flexibility.

Further information including job description and how to apply can be obtained from:

Rev James Aitken

Application is by CV and covering letter demonstrating how you meet the criteria outlined in the job description and describing your relevant experience and submitted to: the session clerk [HERE](#)

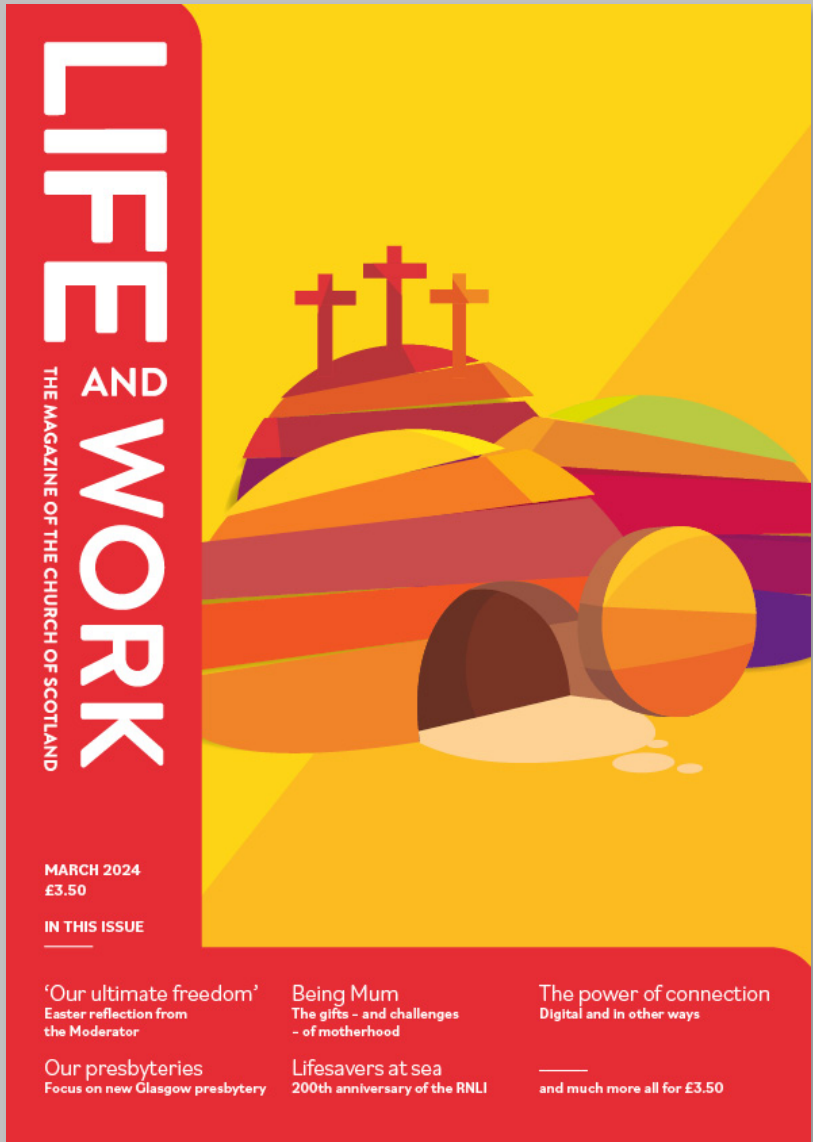
The closing dates for applications: **12 noon on 17th March 2024**

Interviews are scheduled for: **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2024**  
**at St Ninian's Church, Corstorphine, 144, St John's Road, Edinburgh EH12 8AY**

You can contact Rev James Aitken [HERE](#)

Life and Work is the magazine of the Church of Scotland.

In a history spanning over 140 years, it has established itself as the voice of the Church of Scotland. Read more about Life and Work [HERE](#)



MARCH 2024

**‘Our ultimate freedom’:** Easter reflection from the moderator

**Time to Pause:** The Rev Roddy Hamilton urges us to find space to consider every aspect of the Advent story anew

**‘Being Mum’**  
The gifts- and challenges of motherhood  
A Labyrinth Ministry

**The power of connection**  
Digital and in other ways

**Our presbyteries**  
Focus on new Glasgow presbytery

**Lifesavers at sea**  
200th anniversary of the RNLI

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## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are deeply saddened to announce the following deaths

Mrs Elizabeth Osborne - December 2023

Mrs Sheila Russell - 11th January 2024

Please keep the families and friends of Elizabeth and Sheila in your thoughts and prayers

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## STAFF ARRANGEMENTS



**Church office:** Maureen Gilleade

**Organists :** Justin Nash and Andy Elders

**Cleaner:** Kerry MacLean



## CONTACT DETAILS

Church office - Maureen Gilleade  
can be contacted  
on 0131 337 1091  
[office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)

Minister Keith Graham can be contacted on  
0131 337 1364  
[kegraham@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kegraham@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Session Clerk Catherine Campbell can be  
contacted  
on 0131 445 2662  
[catherine@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:catherine@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)

Session Clerk Scott Kerr can be contacted on  
[scott@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:scott@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)

Session Clerk Fay Forsythe can be contacted  
on 07708 400 589  
[fay@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk](mailto:fay@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)



If you know of a member or friend of Murrayfield Parish Church who is in hospital, please contact Rev Keith

Graham or the church office  
so that a visit can be arranged.