

# MPG MAGAZINE

Issue no.562

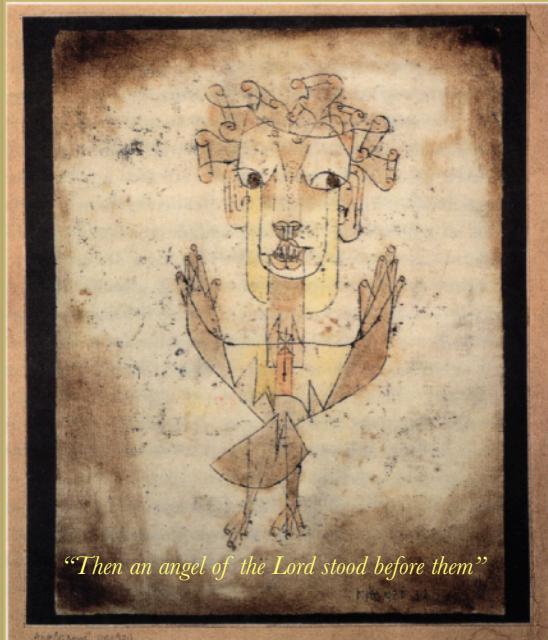


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## MPC MAGAZINE

Issue no.562



 Murrayfield  
PARISH CHURCH

DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Welcome to the  
December edition of the magazine

# Minister's letter

*Rev Keith Graham*

“Sing to the Lord a new song ...Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. **Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming...**”.

The tradition, in recent years, in the parish church here at Murrayfield is to set up a Christmas tree for Advent Sunday. So this year the tree was lit on Sunday 30th November, and the tree will stay in situ until the New Year. Trees became a popular part of the celebration of Christmas in the Victorian era (originally with the royal family). They were increasingly adopted by the middle classes as part of decorating homes during the season. I am really curious if anyone remembers approximately when the practice began of installing a tree on the chancel inside the church?

In my childhood family home the setting up of the Christmas tree, in the living room, occurred on a weekend about three weeks before Christmas. I suspect that my brother and I were keen to have the tree up as soon as possible, and my parents had to hold firm in an attempt to rein in the excitement. These days Christmas comes earlier and earlier and it is not uncommon for people to have trees up from mid-November. Bars and restaurants often go early with their trees and lights, trying to create a Christmas vibe and for a busy period in the hospitality sector.



The Christmas tree in Trafalgar Square (gifted now for 78 years by City of Oslo) was turned on this year on Thursday 4th December. It will be taken down twelve days after Christmas (and recycled) on Monday 5th January. These days there is a Christmas Tree in the Vatican at St. Peter's Square. This year the tree comes from Bolzano in the Italian Alps. The lighting ceremony is on 7th December. This now popular tradition of the tree in St. Peter's Square was started in 1982 by Pope John Paul II. I wonder if the Murrayfield Church tree began around the same sort of time (or earlier? or later?).

Some Christians have been critical of Christmas trees, regarding them as having pagan origins. I think it is really helpful to be guided in this matter by Pope Benedict. He saw the tradition of the tree as a richly generative way of symbolising one of the theological aspects of Christmas. In one of his Christmas thoughts he references Psalm 96. He imagines the Christmas tree as a visible form of the praise offering in which the whole of creation sings a new song, and worships God for the birth of the saviour.

The Psalmist writes: "Sing to the Lord a new song ... Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it. Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the Lord; for he is coming...". Thinking of Christmas trees in this way gives them a performative function. To quote Benedict: "they point to the One who is the reason for our joy – the God who comes, the God who for our sake became a child. In the end, this song of praise, at the deepest level, speaks of him who is the very tree of new-found life."

I hope you will be able to enjoy worshipping around the church Christmas tree this December. The services that are planned are similar to in previous years. There is a Nativity Service on Sunday 14th December. On Sunday 21st there is a Lessons & Carols (with a slight variation on the preceding years). On Christmas Eve there is the popular 6pm service, and I will be grateful if you can remind as many of your neighbours as possible about this very accessible service! On Christmas Morning there is also a lovely service suitable for all ages.

In addition a daytime carol service is being trialled this year on Monday 22nd December at 2pm. The hope is that this might provide a good opportunity for those who don't want to come out in the dark, and for those who won't be able to make the Christmas morning celebration. This will be a short service with carols and a reflection. My colleague Rev. Douglas Nicol is taking the lead on this service and I trust many of you will be able to support it. There is also the promise of tea and cake afterwards.



Wishing you all the peace and joy that comes from knowing our Lord has come and is coming.

Your minister Keith

# Murrayfield Churches Together Christmas Services

## Sunday 14th December

Nativity Service: 10.30am - Murrayfield Parish Church



## Sunday 21st December

Lessons and Carols: 10.30am - Murrayfield Parish Church

Lessons and Scottish Carols: 12 noon - Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

Christmas carol Service: 4pm - The Church of the Good Shepherd

## Monday 22nd December

A Christmas Service with Carols and Cake: 2pm - Murrayfield Parish Church

## Christmas Eve

Crib Service: 4pm - The Church of the Good Shepherd

Family Christmas Eve Service: 6pm - Murrayfield Parish Church

Watchnight Service: 11.30pm - Saughtonhall United Reformed Church (with carols and refreshments from 11pm)

## Christmas Day

Festal Sung Eucharist: 10am - The Church of the Good Shepherd

All Age Service: 10.30am - Murrayfield Parish Church



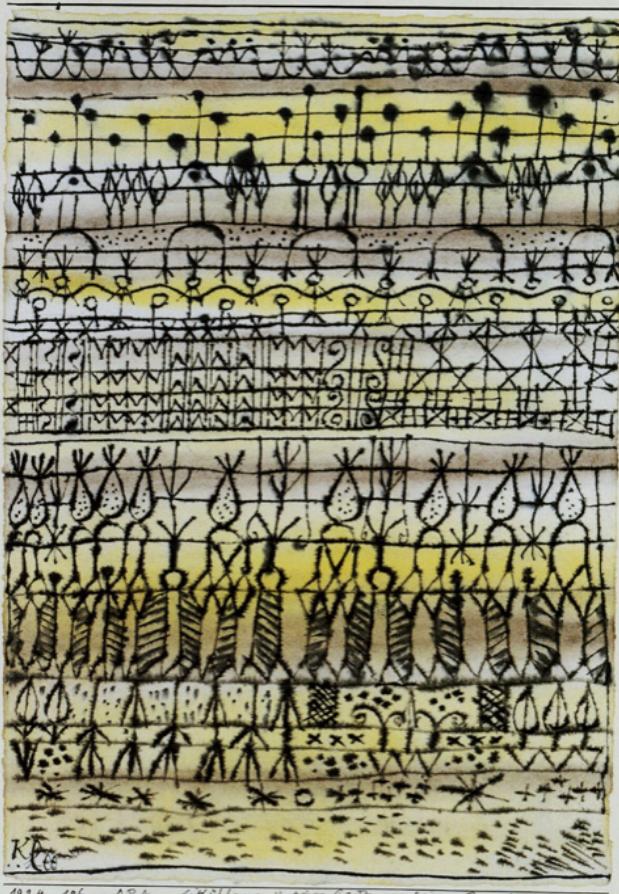
## Would you like to join in with the Christmas Choir?



Do you enjoy singing? Why not join in with the Christmas Choir. It's a really fun Christmas activity. The choir will be singing at the Nativity service on Sunday 14th December and Lessons and Carols on Sunday 21st December. This is an opportunity to lead the congregation in singing carols but also to be part of singing a couple of choir only pieces. Rehearsals will take place after the service on Sunday 7th December and before the services on 14th and 21st December. All ages are welcome to join in!

# Advent Series

## Songs of Advent



### Week 1

Sing a New Song

*(Psalm 147)*

### Week 2

The Song of a Brother and Sister

*(Exodus Ch.15)*

### Week 3

The Song of Mary

*(Luke 1)*

### Week 4

Lessons and Songs

### Christmas Eve

The Angel Song

*(Luke 2)*



**The countdown is on!**

We will be opening the Advent tree calendar boxes on the four Sundays of advent. Great fun for children and the young at heart!

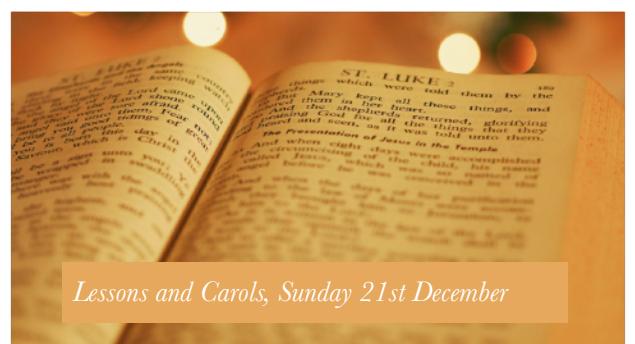
And lighting the advent wreath candles - saving the Christ Candle for Christmas Day.

Hope you can join in with the Advent services.

# Christmas Services at Murrayfield Parish Church



Film Crew and S Club have been working hard over the past few months preparing a Nativity Video for us all to enjoy at the Nativity Service, 14th December.  
'God is with us Everywhere'



Lessons and Carols, Sunday 21st December

Lessons & Carols, 21st December  
(With a slight variation this year!)



A new day time Christmas service for 2025 at 2pm. For those who may prefer to attend a Christmas service during the day and avoid the dark, cold evenings.  
Cake and refreshments.



This family friendly Christmas Eve service will include a Pop Up Nativity, well known carols, a Christmas reflection and a surprise video!



A short All Age Service with a Christmas reflection.  
Please bring a favourite gift along with you!

# S Club and Film Crew News

## Julia Hodgson

We hope to be able to show Film Crew's latest video " God is with us Everywhere" by Fay Rowland at the nativity service on Sunday 14th December. The play is rounded off by some of our younger members of S Club.



We hope you will be able to join us after the service for mince pies, carol singing, a pop up photo booth and a Quiz. All are welcome.

## Planting a New Tree

On Remembrance Sunday we planted a new tree in the garden to replace the Bay tree planted by the children for the Queen's Jubilee. The tree is a Magnolia Grandiflora kindly donated by the Drysdale family. In planting the tree we remember not only the late Queen but all those affected by conflicts. We hope this will continue for many years to help us to remember.



## Film Crew +

**Dove Room 4pm-6pm for primary 7 and up ....**

Through film-making, these sessions give our young people the time to creatively interact with the faith stories they are being taught. Film Crew is for Primary 7 and above and provides a bridge to encourage them in their faith. Look out for session dates for 2026.



We have a family area in our church in the Rossie Brown Chapel (at the front of the church on the right hand side) It's an area with quiet toys and activities for younger children to enjoy during the service (supervised by a parent/carer) .

# Community Carol Singing



**CHRISTMAS CAROLS  
AT THE WOODS**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December** **6-8 pm**

- At the top of Ormidale Terrace
- Please email Lesley [lj52a@outlook.com](mailto:lj52a@outlook.com) if you plan to come, with approximately how many people in your group

**please bring:**

- a torch
- a donation
- or donate online
- some drinks for your group

**SCAN HERE TO DONATE**



Campbell Avenue Woodland Association



*Community Carols*

Community Carols around the Roseburn Christmas Tree  
Thursday 18th December at 6pm  
Come and join the choir of the Church of the Good Shepherd and others from Murrayfield Churches Together

## Moderator launches Season of Advent

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Rosie Frew, welcomes the start of [Advent](#).

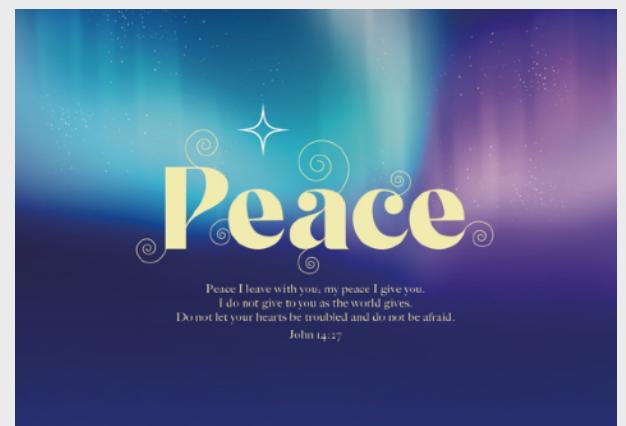
Mrs Frew said: "This Advent take time to be still, to remember, to read from Scripture what it's all about, what it is we're preparing for."

"A Saviour has been born for you in humble surroundings away from home, welcomed by strangers.

"God's greatest gift. God's perfect gift. For you, for me.

"A child who brings peace and hope."

Watch the video message by clicking on the image.



# WWW is in full swing!

*Douglas Nicol*

As I write this article 'WWW' is in full swing! ... and the complete title: 'Well-being Workshops & Worship' explains more about the programme. This morning (6<sup>th</sup> November) seventeen of us participated in a 'Tech Workshop' ably led by Gary Wallis, the student for ministry attached to our congregation this Winter. Everyone shared in an interesting discussion about the danger of scams and how to be safe online. Full details of the 'WWW' programme is contained in weekly intimations, and if you feel you've missed out this time be assured of further courses next year.

'WWW' sits alongside our very successful Tuesday exercise class: 'TTT', and helpful Bereavement Course which ran in the Autumn.

In addition to organising these Courses and our summer outings, my post includes visiting, and I've greatly appreciated the welcome I've received in many homes over recent months. Please let me know if you or anyone you know would like a visit, you can contact me [HERE](#). I'll look forward to calling.

Visits to those who find it difficult to come to Church regularly can include Home Communion, and that can be arranged with the District Elder who normally attends the service. I've conducted three already and know how much the sharing of the bread and wine of Communion 'by the fireside at home' can be very special.

Festive Greetings to all! Douglas. (Pastoral Assistant)

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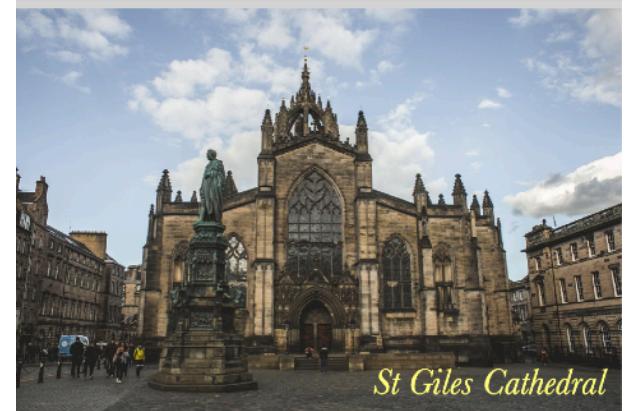
And ...due to popular demand after the trip in the summer to St Giles Cathedral, another visit has been arranged for Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December at 2pm. Transport will leave Murrayfield Parish Church at 1.30pm. The visit will include a guided tour of the 900 year old Cathedral and also the Thistle Chapel, and time will be given for a visit to the Cathedral shop. There will be no charge though an opportunity will be given for those attending to purchase tea or coffee after the visit. Those wishing to join the tour can give names to Maureen in the church office [HERE](#) or to [Douglas Nicol](#) or by phoning Douglas on 07811 437075.

WWW

Wellbeing Workshops & Worship



## A Visit to St Giles Cathedral



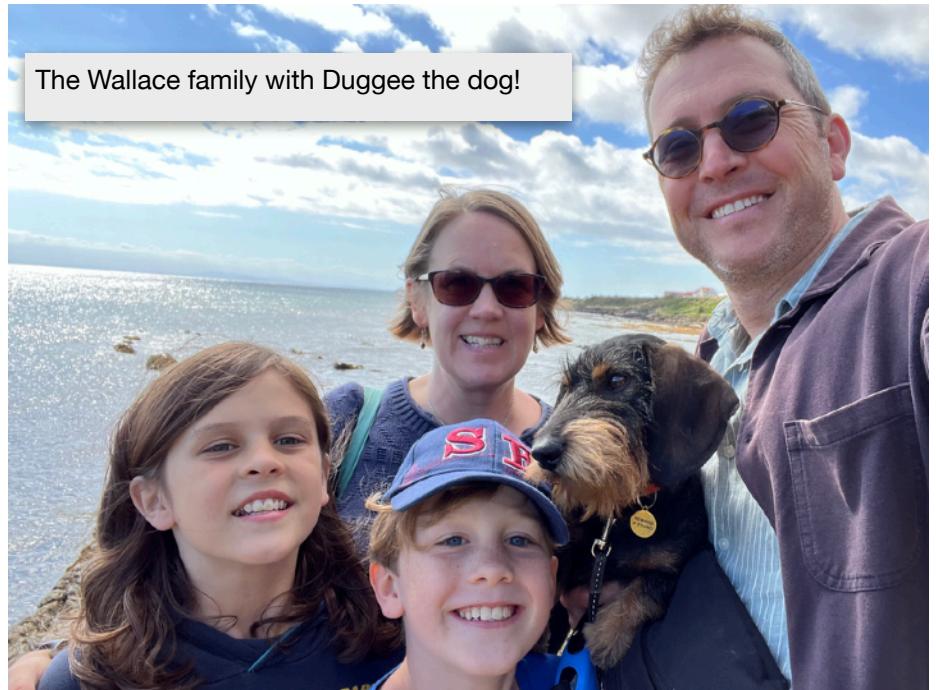
Monday 15th December

# Ministry Candidate in Training

## *Gary Wallace*

I'm only a month into my six-month placement, but already I've had the joy of meeting so many of you and discovering the rich variety of congregational life at Murrayfield Parish Church. From reflective Sunday morning services to sociable coffee in the hall. From the energy of Tone-up on Tuesdays at Two to the contemplative space offered by the Well-being Workshops and Worship. From the ecumenical spirit of Murrayfield Churches Together to the creativity of the young folk who enthusiastically join in Film Crew. Each encounter has been an insight into the richness of life within the church.

I am based in London with my family, and I am commuting to Edinburgh every other week for four to five days at a time for my training placement. I am splitting my time between my home congregation, where I continue my duties as an elder, beadle, and lunch team volunteer. It's a gathered congregation, with some members travelling over 50 miles to worship together, so it has been both fascinating and encouraging to experience the rhythms of parish life here at Murrayfield and to notice the similarities and differences between the two settings. Part of our formation involves immersing ourselves in a range of contexts in preparation for future ministry, so I am enjoying the opportunity to learn.



I am currently in my second year of training as a candidate for ministry. I have one more placement after this, a 10-week summer placement, before going on to a 15-month probationary placement. Alongside placement life, I am also entering the final phase of my theology degree, with my dissertation deadline beginning to loom on the horizon!

Thank you for welcoming my family and me so warmly into your community. I look forward to the months ahead and to sharing in the life of Murrayfield Parish Church.

## Our Best Fairtrade Christmas Gifts for 2025



Find our list of thoughtful presents that will let you celebrate Christmas, while also supporting farmers and producers across the world.

Christmas gifting is about more than just presents, it's about making the choices that matter. Fairtrade gifts bring joy to your loved ones while also supporting farmers and workers worldwide. Explore our top Fairtrade Christmas gifts for 2025 and make sure you're making your gifts extra thoughtful this festive season.



Browse Christmas gifts [HERE](#)

FreshStart  
*Jennifer Paterson*

Did you hear? Our cookers for Christmas Appeal is live!

Many don't realise that when those who have been homeless get the keys to a new tenancy, what they're really getting is an empty shell - no furniture, no household items, and often, no white goods. Our Cookers for Christmas Appeal supports those moving on from homelessness by providing cookers and other essential white goods, helping to make their new house feel more like a home. We would like to say a huge thank you to those who have donated so far- your contributions will make a real, tangible impact in the lives of those in need. It only takes a few moments to make a difference this Christmas - visit the link below to learn more about the appeal, and donate today

Find out more [HERE](#)



Having a pre Christmas clear out? FreshStart urgently need the following household items for their starter packs.

Pots and Pans, Glasses, Crockery/Dinnerware, Duvets and Pillows

Goods donated should be new or nearly new, clean and in good condition. It is so important that the items given out really do offer a 'fresh' start and help to make the recipients feel valued.

# A Visit to South Korea

Margaret Ross

I recently visited Busan in South Korea at the invitation of the Presbytery of Busan South.

They were due to have some commemorative events celebrating the contribution of my great grandfather Rev John Ross. Back in the late 1800's he was a missionary in Manchuria which shared a border with Korea. The Korean gate was closed to foreigners at that time, other than Chinese merchants. John Ross befriended some Chinese and Korean merchants and learned Hangul from the Koreans. He persuaded them to help him to translate the Gospels of Luke and John into Hangul. He then persuaded the Scottish Bible Society to print copies of these books and the Korean and Chinese merchants smuggled them back through the Korean Gate, page by page, with routine letters written on the other side in case they were inspected at the border. It became known as the "Jesus Bible" and in this way, Christianity was first made known to the Korean people. It grew exponentially and South Korea now has a thriving Protestant Church and by far the largest Christian population in Asia<sup>3</sup>



The Ross family received an extremely warm and gracious welcome in Busan and we enjoyed sharing worship at various churches (not the 5am services thankfully), addressed the Presbytery meeting, visited a school, a university, an art gallery and a hospital and we were interviewed on the radio and by a local newspaper. It was very humbling to see and hear the gratitude, respect and affection they still hold for our great grandfather and to receive so many thoughtful and personal gifts from strangers. We visited a fascinating Christian museum at Dongnae Central Church which told the story of evangelisation of countries across the world and there we saw a copy of the original handwritten gospels that John Ross produced. We also met with descendants of a Korean man who had been baptised and made an elder by our great grandfather and whose family has greatly valued their Christian faith through the generations. They had flown in from Texas especially to meet us.

Koreans are energetic and committed church members and excellent singers so I will try to recruit some in Edinburgh for Murrayfield Parish Church!



# Murrayfield Churches Together: Faith Discussion Group

*Richard Nun*

The group has met for many years at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church on a Tuesday evening. We are a small number of people from each of the three Churches which comprise the Murrayfield Churches Together. We are evenly balanced between women and men all with considerable commitment to their own churches and significantly to one another. Most are 'retired' but, when free, those not retired do drop in whenever they can. This has included those directly involved in Christian Ministry within Murrayfield Churches Together.

A bi product of Covid has been that the Faith Discussion Group use Zoom to allow those who are no longer able to comfortably get together in person to continue to actively participate. As a consequence whatever the time of year, or the weather, the numbers participating are remarkably steady. Normally we have about twelve each week out of about eighteen interested participants.

Our role is to enhance our own faith by studying the Bible using a range of contemporary material to which all of us have access.

During the last ten weeks we have covered the first seven chapters of John's Gospel which has enabled us to dip our toes into Johns theology. The meaning of his message lies in and around and below each word of the text. It probes the ongoing challenge for all of us as we travel a journey of faith and its obvious that Jesus' message should have a fundamental impact on every part of our lives - not just what we do but why we do it and how. We will take this task further from the 6<sup>th</sup> of January through to Easter 2026. Discussions are lively and worthy of careful reflection so we may not ever complete it!

The values which direct our interpersonal lives are challenged by the alternative deep personal relationship between God and mankind presented by Johns message. How do we reconcile our earthly values governed by our complex existence with the most important gift - the all encompassing love of God for us.



If you would like to find out more about the MCT Faith Discussion Group you can contact Richard Nunn [HERE](#)



# ECUDARE

## *Kath Anderson*

It has been an exciting and successful year for our MCT support for Esther's school and the women's projects.

The Elizabeth Forbes computer room has been finished and is now up and running with tables, chairs, wiring and computers and is being used by the whole school.

This has been funded by the legacy left from Betty Forbes and also from Murrayfield Churches Together Christmas funding from last year. With this funding we were able to help to complete the room and the purchase of more computers.

The women continue to work at making all kinds of goods for us to sell, bags, jewellery, aprons, etc, at the various sales we have done this year.

The sale at Roseburn school in June, CoGS and SURC also sold gifts over the summer have added a good few hundred pounds to our Ecudare account. We have just sent Esther £1.000 for the pre Christmas chapatti flour and food parcels for the families and elderly in the village.

The school has just had an end of year graduation ceremony. Children moving on to the next level, from preschool, lower school and primary - the school goes up to Junior Secondary. Some of the older children are moving on to Senior school.



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The school has just had an end of year graduation ceremony

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The 3 churches have commenced the selling of pots of bulbs, hyacinth or Tete a Tete daffodils. We hope they bring some spring cheer in the New Year. We will also be selling gifts from Ecudare pre Christmas in the three churches. We hopefully will run these sales every Sunday in December. We await the boxes from Esther.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Christmas when it comes and many thanks to everyone who has and continues to support our Murrayfield Churches Together Ecudare project.

It really does make a difference to the lives of the children, Families and Elderly.

Kath Anderson.



# ECUDARE Virtual Gifts

## ECUDARE VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS



**Ecumenical Day Care**  
&  
**support for women project**

The women continue to work at making all kinds of goods for us to sell such as bags, jewellery, aprons and other gifts. Look out for them for sale after the service throughout December. The school has just had a graduation ceremony with some children moving on to secondary school. Many families do not have enough money to buy school uniforms. Various items of school uniform will be available to buy as Christmas Virtual Gifts for 2025.



Why not buy a special meaningful gift for someone this Christmas?

A full school uniform per child consists of 2x shirts/blouses. 2x trousers/skirts. 2 pairs of shoes. 2x sweaters. 1 track suit. 1 games t- shirt . This will cost a family around £100 which many just can not afford.

I wish to support ECUDARE by donating the following gift(s):

Shopping List	Quantity	Total
Girls Set (2 Skirts, 2 Blouses, 1 Sweater)	£50	.....
Boys Set (2 Trousers, 2 Shirts, 1 Sweater)	£50	.....
2 Skirts & 1 Blouse	£30	.....
2 Trousers, 1 Shirt	£30	.....
P.E Uniform	£20	.....
1 Sweater	£10	.....
Pair of shoes	£10	.....
<b>Grand Total</b>		

**1. Payment ON-LINE: transfer monies to MEDET Account**

MEDET Account details:

**Sort code: 80-02-78 Account No: 06000319**

**Payee Name:** Murrayfield Ecumenical Development & Educational Trust

Create **Unique Ref. No.** using your initials with date and month of birth. (e.g. AMW2311)

**After Payment:** Send email to Steve Yates - medet@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk (Email Steve [HERE](#))

In email **Subject field** put 'ECUDARE MEDET online appeal' and Unique Ref No.

**Email information:** Include Name, Address, Post Code, Choice of gift, Total amount donated. Gift Aid instructions including confirmation a UK taxpayer.

**2. Please make cheques payable to : Murrayfield Ecumenical Development & Education trust.**

Registered charity No SC034138

**Gift Aid declaration: Please complete to enable us to claim gift aid**

Name .....

Address.....

Postcode.....

**Please complete and return this form to:**

**ECUDARE Murrayfield Parish Church Office**

**2b Ormidale Terrace Edinburgh EH12 6EQ or hand to the Ecudare representative at your church**

# Sincere thanks to all who have responded positively to the Stewardship Campaign

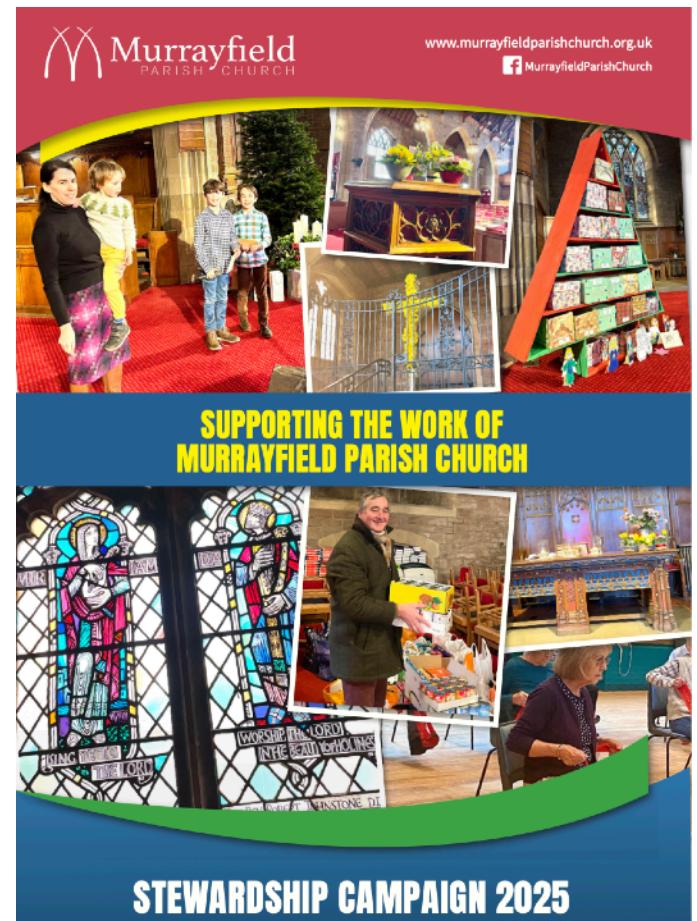
## *Lindsay Foulis*

As you are no doubt aware the Congregation ran a Stewardship campaign during October 2025. There were a number of reasons for this. Firstly, some time had elapsed since the last campaign which was run prior to the Covid pandemic. It is suggested by the Church of Scotland that a campaign should be run every three years. Secondly, as was detailed in the Stewardship documentation which was delivered to members, the congregation was running a deficit of around £26,000 with income from offerings declining over the last ten years. If we were able to increase our income from offerings, it would obviously assist in addressing this. However, an increase in offerings will also enable the Congregation to continue our mission work in the Murrayfield community with pastoral initiatives for older members such as TTT, WWW, and the employment of Rev Douglas Nicol as a pastoral assistant. In addition, it might go a long way to the Congregation being able to attract a families and youth worker.

At the time of preparing this article, it is too early to provide any indication as to the results of our campaign. However, at this stage I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who have responded positively to the campaign. Your responses will assist the Congregation in achieving at least some of the goals of the campaign.

In writing this article, I am fairly certain that there will be members who have not as yet responded to the campaign. I say this without any hint of admonition. I fully understand that we all receive so many communications in hard copy and electronic form these days. We often put them aside or save them fully intending to do something about it but somehow not quite getting round to it! The fact that the campaign has now ended does not mean your contribution will not be most welcome. It may just make the difference between all as opposed to some of the goals being achieved. So if you have not quite found the time to respond, have a read of the leaflet which was delivered during the campaign and consider if you would be able to assist. Go on, before Christmas is upon us.

Contact Lindsay Foulis (Treasurer) [HERE](#)



# Christmas Gift Collection

## *Colin O'Flaherty : HMP Edinburgh*

“It is impossible to measure the difference that your kindness and generosity has made to thousands of children”.

Dearest Friends,

For Forty years there has been a link between Murrayfield Parish Church and His Majesties Prison Edinburgh.

The link between the two, is the Edinburgh Prison Christmas Gift Collection.

The congregation of Murrayfield Parish Church have supported the gift collection since the prison chaplain the Rev John Murie asked for your help in nineteen eighty-five.

Murrayfield is one of sixteen Parishes across Edinburgh and the Lothians that have supported the gift collection for Forty years.

It is impossible to measure in words the difference that your kindness and generosity has made. Thousands of children have experienced the joy of opening a Christmas present on Christmas morning because of you.

You have my personal thanks.

Colin O'Flaherty (Prison Officer)

We are still collecting gifts for the children of prisoners for 2025. Donations can be handed in at the church on Sunday 7th December between 9.30 and 10.30am. Please do not wrap the gift. It would be appreciated if you place it in a bag with wrapping paper. Many thanks!

# Christmas Gifts *for children of prisoners*



 **Murrayfield**  
PARISH CHURCH

**Supporting HMP Edinburgh Gift Scheme**



# Edinburgh Food Project

## *Tamsin Wake: Fundraising Assistant*

I hope you and everyone at Murrayfield Parish are doing well. My name is Tamsin and I'm part of the fundraising team at Edinburgh Food Project. I wanted to say thank you for all you've done to help local foodbanks. Your parish has been a wonderful supporter over the years, and we're so grateful for your kindness and generosity. The total donations from your community amount to an impressive 3,526.1kg, which is about the weight of a hippo! Your congregation and team make a real difference, providing emergency food parcels to those across Edinburgh who are struggling to put food on the table. In 2024, gifts like yours helped ensure 19,734 food parcels contained enough breakfast, lunch and dinner over three days, supporting 5,726 people in need. Many of the people you have helped are experiencing homelessness or insecure housing, or have a disability or long-term health condition. Many are families with children. As the holiday season approaches, bringing with it festive lights, Christmas trees, songs, and fun, there will be thousands struggling to provide for their families, being forced to turn to foodbanks. Your donations make a huge difference to people in difficult circumstances.



We have once again been collecting canned food, dried goods and cash to be given to the Edinburgh Food Bank and Edinburgh Women's Aid. There is still time to donate. Donations can be handed in at the church on Sunday 7th December between 9.30 and 10.30am.



JEAN-LOUIS KLEIN & MARIE-LUCE HUBERT

### CANS FOR CHRISTMAS

Supporting Edinburgh North Food Bank  
and Edinburgh Women's Aid



Please donate cans/non-perishable goods for  
the Food Bank

or cash for Edinburgh Women's Aid  
by bringing them to

Murrayfield Parish Church  
on Sunday 30th November and

Sunday 7th December  
from 9.30-10.30am

or bring to the coffee morning at the Church Centre on  
Saturday 29th November, 10-12 noon

Registered charity number  
SC005198

2b Ormidale Terrace, Edinburgh, EH12 6EQ  
[www.murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)

# Community Coffee Morning Supporting Cans for Christmas and the Prisoners' Gift Scheme



It was wonderful to see so many not just of our church family but also the local community at our coffee morning on Saturday 29th November. Our

Cans for Christmas Appeal and our support for Gifts for Prisoners' Children have run successfully for many years. The idea to hold a coffee morning to support the initiatives is to invite people to drop off donations on a Saturday and we could give them the chance to have a cuppa and chat while they do so. Both aims were achieved - there was a great response of donations to both appeals and there was a really good turnout. In addition to the donations of non perishable foods for Cans for

Christmas and gifts for prisoners' children, £436 was raised for Edinburgh Women's Aid.

The children's craft table was in great demand - And it was lovely to see such a range of ages all getting on together in the Church Centre. Thanks to all who helped and contributed to help make it such a great morning. We're looking forward to the next one - watch this space for further details.



## Bible Study and Companionship - Women's Home Group

*Juliet Brown*

We are a group of women of all ages who meet monthly on Thursdays for bible study and companionship. We are currently studying Fruitfulness on the Frontline, a book by Mark Greene, which combines biblical insight with humour and practical steps to help us consider how God works through us in our daily lives.

Our evenings are relaxed and informal - as well as focusing on our bible study, we also make time for some social chat accompanied by tea and biscuits!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday 11 December. If you would like to get involved or would like some more information please contact Juliet Brown. email [HERE](#) or by phoning 07941 937 629.



**TTT : TONE UP ON TUESDAYS AT TWO**

**Tuesdays at 2pm in the Main Hall**  
**Seated (and some standing) exercise**  
**with Joanne**

*Followed by tea,  
cake and optional worship  
£5 weekly*



TTT will be taking a Christmas break and resumes Tuesday 13th January. Don't forget to pop the date in your diary!

## **MCT Faith Discussion Group**



Murrayfield Churches Together Faith Discussion Group will be taking a break over the Christmas period and will resume Tuesday 6th January 2026.



## **easyfundraising**

Easyfundraising is a great site where you can help Murrayfield Parish Church raise funds by doing your everyday on-line shopping. Over 4000 big name retailers are included, such as Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, Asos, eBay, Boden and M&S. Every time you shop, we receive a small donation to say "thank you". It's completely free and millions of pounds has been raised for causes just like us. We want to raise as much as possible - so please sign up today [HERE](#)

## **Cake & Chat**



Cake and Chat falls on the last Sunday of the month after the service. If you enjoy baking and would like to bake for a cake and chat Sunday, please add your name to the list at the back of the church for 2026! For more information contact Jane Smart [HERE](#)



Visit the ECUDARE Christmas Gift stall in the Church Centre after the service each Sunday in December

# What's going on in the Church Centre?



## Our Church Centre is a hive of activity! There is so much going on.

### Monday

Morning - *Bridge, Yoga with Toni.*

Evening - *SPADA (Historical European Martial Arts), RSCDS (Royal Scottish Country Dance Society)*

### Tuesday

Morning - *Yoga with Gilly*

Afternoon - *Pilates with Lin, TTT ( Tone up on Tuesdays at Two), Pilates with Charlotte*

Evening - *SPADA (Historical European Martial Arts, EDGAS ( The Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society)*

### Wednesday

Morning- *Tai Chi*

Evening - *Rainbows, Acting out*

### Thursday

Morning - *WWW ( Wellbeing Workshops & Worship, Pilates with Hannah*

Evening - *SPADA (Historical European Martial Arts), RSCDS (Royal Scottish Country Dance Society)*

### Friday

Morning - *Yoga with Claire*

Afternoon - *Karate, Kumon (tutoring for children)*

Evening - *Brownies*

### Saturday

Morning - *Kumon (tutoring for children)*

Montessori School also meet every week day in the Upper Room.

Our halls are also available for hire for children's parties and meetings. Please see our website for further details [HERE](#) or email [HERE](#) or phone the church office 0131 337 1091.

# The Murrayfield Club

*Jenny Rowe, Project Co-ordinator*

## “Fun in the Sun”.

It was smiles all round for our trips out to the Kelpies at the Helix in September where we were lucky enough to enjoy trishaw rides around the site before having lunch in the sun. The volunteers from CWAS (Cycle Without Age Scotland) were absolutely fantastic and so generous with their time and knowledge, taking the Murrayfield Club members out for 45 minute rides around the lagoon, through the fountains and up and around the Kelpies.

There was so much to see across the site and such a great way to get around for our group with such a dedicated and friendly team from CWAS. We then enjoyed our picnics and got the whole café singing Happy Birthday to our very own Karen Avey. All of the members have highly recommended the trishaw rides and we look forward to going again next year when it warms up.

This month we've stayed indoors as the temperature drops and visited Dobbies for lunch and a bit of Christmas shopping. With so much to see in one place this turned out to be a very stimulating and successful set of trips with lots of wonderful gifts purchased.

We're now gearing up for our first Christmas in our new home and looking forward to our Christmas Party & Fundraising Raffle at the Memory Lane Café on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December.

We currently have spaces available at the Murrayfield Club so please do get in touch if you or anyone you would be interested.

You can call Jenny on 07881288909 or email [HERE](#)



## Dobbies for lunch and Christmas shopping



**MEMORY LANE CAFE**



Join us at the *Memory Lane Cafe*  
every Friday 10am-12pm.  
Meet new people, enjoy friendly  
chat and refreshments.  
£3 per person.  
Held every Friday at  
Saughtonhall Church.  
87 Saughtonhall Drive.  
EH12 5TR  
For more information call:  
07881288909



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Murrayfield  
Churches  
Together

## Rev Gordon Kennedy is Moderator Designate for 2026-27

Mr Kennedy said: "Being Moderator provides an opportunity for me to meet lots of people whom I wouldn't usually get the chance to meet in the Church, to learn from them and be encouraged by them".



Rev Gordon Kennedy.

An Edinburgh minister has been named as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. Rev Gordon Kennedy said he is happy to have the full support of his family as he prepares to be the Church's new ambassador at home and abroad next May, succeeding Rt Rev Rosie Frew. The 62-year-old has served as the minister of Craiglockhart Parish Church since 2012.

Read the full article [HERE](#)



“We think a Christmas card is a perfect way to stay in touch with your loved ones, show them you are thinking of them and supporting a fantastic cause all at the same time”. (CrossReach)

We have a great selection of cards, calendars, gifts and accessories so why not have a look around our online shop. 100% of the profit CrossReach receives from the sale

of items goes towards our life enhancing, life changing and life saving services. If you haven't bought your Christmas cards yet - visit the online store [HERE](#)

## Cards for Good Causes

The Cards for Good Causes Charity Christmas shop at St John's Episcopal Church, 1A Lothian Road , Edinburgh EH1 2AB is open for all your Christmas needs. We sell Christmas cards for over fifty national and local charities, plus a wide range of gifts, and everything you need to wrap your presents.

Open: Monday to Saturday 10am - 4pm until 17th December



## Milk Top Collection

*Martha Dickson*

The Guild throughout Scotland has been collecting milk tops for palliative care for many years. I have been a collection point for many, even from the north of Scotland when ministers have brought tops down with them as they came to the Church of Scotland General Assembly here in Edinburgh. As I do not have everyone's address or email address I want to let you know that sadly our uplifter, storer, sorter and deliverer to the polymer factory has died suddenly on the holiday of his lifetime to Canada and America. The three ladies who worked with him in the Borders have been unable to find a large storage place, nor a man with a van, let alone other helpers!

It is with great regret that we have to say to those who normally leave tops in my wheelie bins at 6 Osborne Terrace in Edinburgh, that there will no longer be a collection. Thank you everyone for your help over the years. All the churches have collectors who have gone beyond the norm. A **big thank you** to them.

# Deaths



We are deeply saddened to announce the following death of church member  
Mrs Ray Grant  
Please keep Ray's family and friends in your prayers

## CONTACT DETAILS



Church office - Maureen Gilleade can be contacted on 0131 337 1091 office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Minister Keith Graham can be contacted on 0131 337 1364 kegraham@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant Douglas Nicol can be contacted on 07811 437 075 Douglas.Nicol@churchofscotland.org.uk

## STAFF ARRANGEMENTS



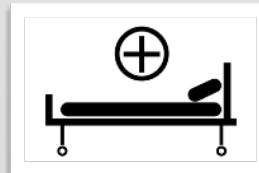
**Church office:** Maureen Gilleade  
**Organists :** Justin Nash and Andy Elders  
**Cleaner:** Kerry MacLean

Session Clerk Catherine Campbell can be contacted on 0131 445 2662 catherine@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Session Clerk Scott Kerr can be contacted on scott@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Session Clerk Fay Forsythe can be contacted on 07708 400 589 fay@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Click on the images below to visit our Facebook page and the website



If you know of a member or friend of Murrayfield Parish Church who is in hospital, please contact the church office so that a visit can be arranged.