



# Murrayfield

PARISH CHURCH

Issue no.557



DECEMBER MAGAZINE

Part 2



# Murrayfield

PARISH CHURCH

## Contents

### Magazine part 2

The Bridge	3
The next Moderator	4
Thank You from Stewardship	5
Fairtrade	6
News from Stewart Gillan	7
TTT	10
MCT Faith Discussion Group	10
Cookers for Christmas	11
CrossReach Cards	12
Memory Lane Cafe	12
What's going on in the Centre	13
Cards for Good Causes	16
ECUDARE Bulbs	16
St Stephen's Comely Bank	17
News from Martha Dickson	18
A Tribute to Janis Curran	19
A Tribute to Christina Scott	20
Life and Work	22
Contact details	23



WINTER MAGAZINE



Image for Christmas card 2023 'Winterbild' by Paul Klee

# The Bridge

We are excited to invite young people to come along to the monthly youth events at Palmerston Place Church. These events began in November 2022 and are a wonderful example of the Church of Scotland congregations in our local grouping forming closer relationships, while also providing a safe and welcoming space for young people to meet other Christians.

"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.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to join in. Come along to the next "Bridge" event and experience the joy of connecting with others in our church community. We can't wait to see you there!



## The Bridge

*A monthly event for those ages  
10 - 18*

**At Palmerston Place Church**

**12 Palmerston Place, EH12 5AA**

**5pm – 6.45pm**

**Sunday 3rd December - Giving and Greed: Humility vs. Hubris**

**Sunday 7th January - Old and New : Why not value both?**

**Sunday 4th February - St. Valentine: Hallmark Holiday or Righteous Rebel**

**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 need to 'build together' says next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

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A minister who was discouraged from going to university and told that his Lanarkshire accent would hamper his life prospects has been announced as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson will take up the role on Saturday 18 May 2024 and spend a year as the Kirk's ambassador.



Rev Dr Shaw James Paterson in Strathaven Trinity Parish Church

Read more [HERE](#)

# Thank you for your generosity

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Thank you to each and everyone of you who already gives to Murrayfield Parish Church. Generosity is a central part of our faith. We believe that God is endlessly generous to us and that we are called to be generous in turn. The mission and life of Murrayfield Parish Church is only made possible because of the generous giving of our members, local community, and visitors.

Standing orders remain the most convenient and cost-effective method of regular givers and supporters. However, a gentle reminder, that as with all things in life, costs have increased for Murrayfield Parish Church and if you felt appropriate to do so we invite you to review your standing order please.

We believe that God is endlessly generous to us and that we are called to be generous in turn

If you would like to find out more about how to create a standing order for Murrayfield Parish Church, then please email the treasurer Lindsay Foulis [HERE](#).

## Leaving a lasting legacy

We are privileged if we can leave a mark of our passing, to be remembered by those people and causes we've cared for in life.

A gift in your Will to Murrayfield Parish Church is one of the most valuable and lasting ways you can continue to support our mission and our ministry. If you would like to create a legacy for your church, then please email the treasurer Lindsay Foulis [HERE](#).

Thank you

The Finance Committee  
Murrayfield Parish Church



This year in September I attended the Scottish Fairtrade Conference in Dundee. It was great to see so many supporters of fairtrade from all over Scotland. We were welcomed by the Lord Provost of Dundee. Murrayfield Parish Church was one of four churches represented at the conference. Along with a reception at the Scottish Parliament earlier this year, the conference has really helped strengthen our connection with Fairtrade communities around the country and beyond.

We met Fairtrade business owners, ethical campaigners, fairtrade educators as well as producers from Malawi and Rwanda. The producers were able to give us very positive stories about the impact Fairtrade has had on their communities.

**Look out for the Fairtrade Stall on Sunday 10th December in the main hall after the church service**

The theme of the conference was that our ethical decisions and choices give us the ability to change lives, and that small groups of people can have a huge impact. Scotland has been a Fairtrade nation for ten years and the, now well recognised, Fairtrade trademark has been around for thirty years. There is

much wider engagement globally with Fairtrade. It was interesting to reflect on how Fairtrade principles interconnect with other social justice movements and that these principles are closely intertwined with environmental issues. It was lovely to hear that faith organisations are recognised as having been at the forefront of the fairtrade movement, the movement started within churches with Christian Aid and Tearcraft being early adopters.

Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Fairtrade Stall, know that you are making a difference to improve the lives of producers around the world. Lots of you have kindly bought Christmas gifts and Advent calendars. I intend to have another stall on Sunday 10th December.



I believe Fairtrade Advent Calendars are mainly sold out now but it is possible to buy Christmas Gifts eg Chocolate Orange Christingle and 'Joy to the world' sharing boxes from 'The Meaningful Chocolate Company' you can shop [HERE](#)

Fairtrade roses are in lots of the shops at the moment and are always a welcome gift, Fairtrade flowers have a lower carbon footprint too! *Fiona Dinsmore*

Dear Friends

Listening to Faure's Requiem will not bring you closer to Gaza, but it might bring you closer to yourself. Hearing it as a lament not for one person but for hundreds, running to thousands since the 7th of October. Kyrie eleison, the voices sing. Lord have mercy. Yes, upon us all.

Many of you, in your encouraging messages of support as we made our way, Muriel and I, overland from Jerusalem to Amman, and then by air to Abu Dhabi and London, before reaching Glasgow at midnight on Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, gave thanks for our safe return and then added words that told us you knew it had not been easy for us to leave. Leave parishioners, partners, friends and colleagues behind – some of whom had chosen to stay, many more of whom had no choice.

We came out with volunteers from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, and three Methodist colleagues, Dave, Bea and Lynne. Praying prayers of gratitude and grief, and for a ceasefire, refusing to be told it was too early for such a prayer. A significant moment along the way was the short trip from the Israeli side of Sheikh Hussein bridge to the Jordanian side. For five shekels, and an exit doc, you bus it across the River Jordan. 'It is the wise decision,' said my friend Jim, drawing on years of experience as a chaplain to the forces. 'Often they are the ones that hurt most.'



The five travellers at Sheikh Hussein: Dave, Muriel, myself, Lynne and Bea.

I have arrived not all at once. Happy to see Sarah and the kids at the airport, but not happy to be home like this. I am forgetting where I left the keys. Letting cups of coffee go cold. Trying to find my way around our new flat – we had only just moved.

Watching the news out of Gaza and Israel, the Czech philosopher Jan Patočka came to mind. He spoke of those who are shaken by their experience in this world, and called for a new political community to be formed: the solidarity of the shaken. I used to think it a good idea, but for others, the shaken ones, to build. I no longer place myself outside it.

So, we are here. But how might we be usefully here? Muriel and I are keeping up with the St Andrew's community on our WhatsApp group and on zoom, checking in, telling stories, joining in prayer, comparing notes. Daily prayers at 7 in the morning in the immediate aftermath of the Hamas attacks on Israeli civilians have given way to Sunday Worship online at 10.00am Jerusalem time, and prayers at 7.00pm on Wednesdays. The blast at Al Ahli Episcopal Hospital shook us all up, sending us to prayer in extremis from different sides of the wall. We are a diverse congregation, which presents challenges and opportunities for understanding what we are going through respectively before the Lord. In its Statement, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, quoted the Apostle Paul to the Church in Corinth, 'We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed ... struck down, but not destroyed.'

Working with Kenny Roger and Rebecca McGonigle at Faith Action, and Carol Finlay and team, we wish to connect with you in the days and weeks to come. It is not possible to know how long the war will run, but at the moment it looks possible to plan visits and events in Presbyteries and congregations. We would love to meet you, check in, join in prayer, and see what we might be able to do together, including communicating with partners and colleagues in Israel, Gaza and Palestine, and advocacy with our governments here concerning their policy on the war and the protection of Christian communities.





# Muriel has listed the following prayer points in her letter, which I share with you:

- Pray for leadership to move beyond the current crisis
- Pray for all who have lost loved ones or have been injured
- Pray for a cease fire and humanitarian aid
- Pray for all those Israelis and Palestinians, displaced from their homes or who have lost their jobs overnight
- Pray for all those seeking to find ways to be a 'human' in the face of great humanity
- Pray for staff at the Scots Hotel, the St Andrew's House Hotel and Tabeetha School
- Continue to pray for peace with justice.

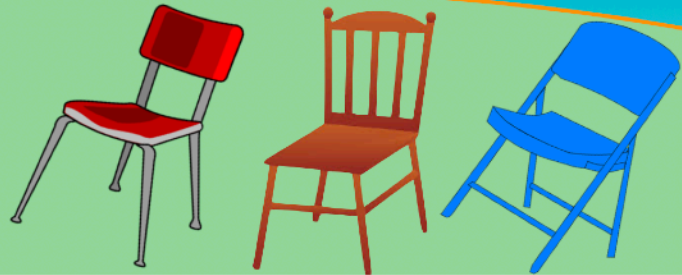
Through these days, may we be to each other in the power of the Holy Spirit, strength in need, comfort in sorrow, and companions on this journey of spiritual communion and mission partnership with our friends and colleagues in Israel and Palestine.

Grace and peace to you,

Stewart

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

**Tuesdays at 2pm in the Main Hall  
Seated exercise with Joanne (£4)  
Followed by tea, cake and optional worship**



**The last meeting of TTT for 2023 will be on Tuesday 12th December. TTT will resume Tuesday 6th February 2024.**

## **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 last meeting for 2023 will be Tuesday 5th December. Look out for a start date for 2024 in the new year.

Contact Jim Paterson [HERE](#)





**YOU CAN HELP!**

## **Cookers for Christmas 2023**

## **Cookers for Christmas 2023**

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Cookers for Christmas raises funds to buy brand new cookers, washing machines, and fridge freezers throughout the year for people moving into their new tenancy or those who are struggling financially. The need, as with all of our services, has grown exponentially over the past year, with our funding struggling to meet the demand. By supporting the Cookers for Christmas campaign, you would not just be helping to purchase white goods for someone, you would be providing a hot meal for someone and their family, giving someone somewhere safe to store their food and allowing them to budget and eat healthily, and giving them dignity to be able to do a simple task such as wash their clothes.

**The need, as with all of our services has grown exponentially over the past year**

If you would like to support Cookers for Christmas you can make a donation [HERE](#)



Christmas shop

From CROSSREACH

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. 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. Visit the online store [HERE](#)

# Memory Lane Cafe

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

## The Murrayfield Club

MEMORY LANE CAFE



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  
 · 

Scottish Charity Number SCO23210



## **Murrayfield Parish Church Centre**

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

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

**In this edition we are delighted to  
highlight Acting Out**

## **Acting Out Drama School**

**Cultivating Creativity and  
Community at  
Murrayfield Parish Church"**

As the Founder and Director of Acting Out Drama School, I am thrilled to share the artistic journey we take every week within Murrayfield Parish Church, where we have found a home to nurture creativity and foster a vibrant community.

At Acting Out, we believe in the transformative power of the arts, and Murrayfield Parish Church serves as an inspiring backdrop for our endeavours. As part of our commitment to the local community and the creative arts, we offer a range of courses for adults every Wednesday evening, including:

- Public Speaking
- Beginners Drama
- Screen Acting

These are all tailored for adults seeking to explore and enhance their speaking or dramatic skills for fun, work, or just to see where it leads them. And all of these courses are set within the beautiful, modern and yet traditionally stunning space of Murrayfield Parish Church.

Our 10 year collaboration with Murrayfield Parish Church, has always been a strong one. We feel it reflects our shared values of inclusivity and community development and find working from here very inspiring.

During the last decade Murrayfield Parish Church has opened its doors to over 1000 of our public speaking and acting students and we believe the positive energy the church harnesses, feeds into all of our classes.

As such, we extend a warm invitation to the Murrayfield Parish congregation to join our classes and discover the



joy of self-expression through drama and acting or simply brush up on your public speaking skills with us. Whether you're a seasoned performer or someone eager to step onto the stage for the first time, our classes are designed to meet you where you are on your artistic journey.

To learn more about the exciting opportunities Acting Out Drama School offers at Murrayfield Parish Church, just visit our website at: [www.actingoutdramaschool.com](http://www.actingoutdramaschool.com). You can explore our classes, meet our passionate instructors, and embark on a journey of creativity, growth, and connection with us from January 2024 onwards.

It's been a pleasure to write this and thank you to everyone who makes it possible for us to work from Murrayfield Parish Church and to you, of course, for reading this.

Clare Cairns (Founder and Director of Acting Out Drama School)

# The Montessori School meets in the upper room in the church centre



Embarking on a new chapter in education, The Montessori School, Edinburgh is welcoming children aged 6-12 to join their unique and enriching learning environment based within the upper room at

Murrayfield Parish Church. This transformative endeavour for young learners is an expansion of the highly successful Montessori Nursery which has been providing outstanding Montessori early years education for over 30 years.

At The Montessori School, Edinburgh we follow the Montessori curriculum, taking a holistic approach to learning which aims to support the development of the whole child and recognises the importance of all aspects of development. We aim for pupils to develop a love of learning and to be self-motivated in their journey.

Our teachers plan individually for each child, based on their ability and interests, and deliver small group presentations providing the opportunity for children to work collaboratively. Abstract concepts are taught using tangible Montessori materials which support depth of understanding. Pupils are not assigned homework and are assessed through teacher observation rather than formal testing. In our peaceful classroom, behaviour is managed respectfully using positive language and without rewards or punishments.

Choosing a Montessori environment has many benefits. We foster independence, empathy and a joy for lifelong learning while supporting the child to learn at a pace that suits them. This emphasis on self-directed learning in a multi-age setting not only encourages intellectual and emotional growth but also prepares the child to head out into the world with courtesy, respect, positive decision-making skills and confidence... skills that will never leave them.

To find out more contact the school: Tel 0131 346 8921 or visit the website [HERE](#)



# CARDS FOR GOOD CAUSES

## Cards for Good Causes at St John's Church, Princes Street

Now open selling Charity Christmas cards from over thirty charities.

Opening hours are 10-4 Monday to Saturday

(Closed 11-11.40 Wednesdays for church service)

Open until Saturday 16th December

Cards also available on line [HERE](#)

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## Bulbs for ECUDARE

Many thanks to all who made a donation to bulbs for ECUDARE. We look forward to seeing photos of the bulbs in full bloom and will share them in the Next edition of the magazine.





# News from one of our Church of Scotland Grouping Churches

## St Stephen's Comely Bank Church



**ST STEPHEN'S  
COMELY BANK**

### Hymns We Love

Every third Friday of the  
month  
12.30-2pm  
with a light lunch

**Friday 15th December**  
Hark the Herald Angels  
Sing

**Friday 16th February**  
And Can it Be

**Friday 15th March**  
The Lord's My Shepherd

**ST STEPHEN'S  
COMELY BANK**

**Charity Christmas Market**  
Ethical trees and locally produced craft gifts  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> | Friday 8<sup>th</sup> | Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December @ St Stephen's Comely Bank

**Saturday 2nd December 10:00-14:00**  
**Friday 8th December 16:00-19:00**  
**Saturday 9th December 10:00-14:00**

**Bethany  
Christian  
Trust**

**carling christmas trees**

**MORE THAN  
A TREE**

[caringchristmastrees.com](http://caringchristmastrees.com)

Sales open 30<sup>th</sup> October  
Click & Collect, Delivery and Walk-In options available

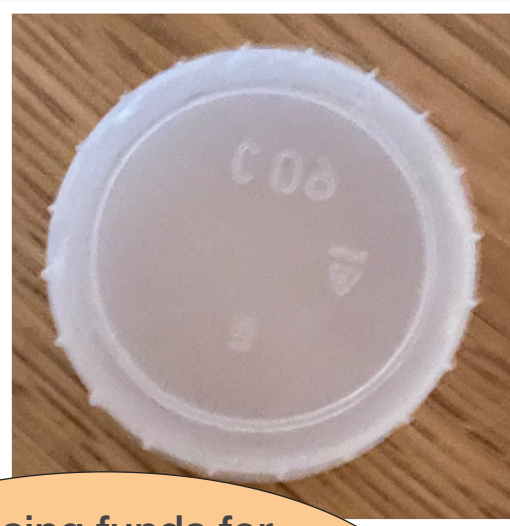
All proceeds from tree sales go towards supporting Bethany's work ending homelessness in Scotland.

**Bethany  
Christian  
Trust**

# Can you help?

## Plastic milk bottle tops

It is still possible to deliver milk tops of any and all colours to 6 Osborne Terrace as there is parking for cars on the bus route on the Donaldson's side at non-peak periods. If you have too many big bags to carry send an email to Martha [HERE](#) and I can open the gate to allow you to drive up to the wee hedge. Even if the bins are full, it is an open truck now that is used to collect them, so it does not matter if the bags get wet. Remember that the tops are now 1 mg lighter so we need more than 9.5 million to fill a skip and then we get the money for palliative care..



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



## Bras and Pants for Malawi

We are still collecting old used bras and new coloured pants as protection for girls in Malawi. The next trip delivering these is March.

## Poppy Scotland

Thanks to all my collectors, despite the delivery problems, and especially Scott Kerr for acting as a sub-centre. We managed to raise £4,400 plus the QR codes and texts so are not much below last year which is good considering many people were not able to give.

*Thank you for supporting all of the above  
Martha Dickson*



# A tribute to Janis Curran : 7th October- 5th February 2023

## Memories from Dr John Crispin

The Murrayfield Ghana partnership was very important to Janis and she became a staunch supporter. The partnership, which lasted over twenty years, linked Murrayfield Parish Church with Kwamebikrom, a village of over 3,000 people situated in the Western part of the Ghana rain forest.

It was during the planning process for our February 1999 trip to Kwamebikrom that Janis first volunteered to be one of Murrayfield's travelling team. On that return journey it was suggested that she should sit in the window seat on the plane as the views of the Sahara were spectacular. Why did she refuse? She had a fear of heights!! That fear did not defer her however from returning to the village a further 5 times, with her last trip being in 2010. She was particularly pleased when her son, Daniel, joined the visiting group in 2008.

Janis became a good friend and travelling companion to all who had the privilege to travel with her to Ghana; she was quietly competent, empowered by her experience in children's welfare. Her presence as a caring member of Murrayfield's congregation with her ability to relate to many people in Kwamebikrom of all ages did a great deal to cement the friendship between our two communities. She was very much part of the Murrayfield team.

We have a series of pictures of her walking about the village, always elegant, and often in traditional Ghanaian dress. Walking about in the village was an activity that was dear to her heart; she was then able to talk to the people and show a genuine interest in their daily lives. She was never happier than when she could join the visiting teachers from Roseburn Primary school and spend a day in the Edinburgh Unity Presbyterian school talking with the children.

Janis was always active in supporting any fund-raising projects carried out by Murrayfield's congregation on behalf of Kwamebikrom, giving of her time and talents without complaint. Whenever Murrayfield hosted visits from members of the Presbyterian Church of Ghana or from Kwamebikrom itself, to Edinburgh, she was always happy to play her part.

I asked Bill Brown, our Minister at the time, and someone who had been a travelling companion, for his thoughts on Janis's contribution to the partnership and I quote from his reply:

"As in her professional life, it was her compassion which shone through. She had a real empathy and sensitivity which enabled her to get close to people. This extended well beyond a listening ear and kind words, to practical support for some individuals which she sustained quietly over the years.

I am sure that is why she kept wanting to return, each time being encouraged by the changes and improvements in people's lives. She stands out as one who truly embraced the concept and content of the Murrayfield Ghana partnership and, as in her daily profession, she changed lives for the better". We can only echo his words.

# A tribute to Christina (Ena) Scott : 20th November 1925- 2nd November 2023

## Memories from Dr Jane Crispin

Ena was a unique Lady. Murrayfield Parish Church was her Church from age three years until her death. Ena would have been 98 years old on her birthday 20th November 2023. There were six different ministers during these years. J. Rosie Brown and HG Budge are but names to most of us but Ena knew them all, George Sangster, Clarence Musgrave, Bill Brown and now Keith Graham.

Ena was a well known lady in Murrayfield Parish Church and was always immaculate with a ready very open and welcoming smile for those she knew and new people coming to our Church for the first time. Ena became a member of MPC in her teens and became a Sunday School Teacher in 1969. When I joined her as a teacher in 1978 she, Doreen Dakers and Moira Simpson were already there. Norman Robb was superintendent at that time. Ena was very popular with the children and other teachers.

Ena served on the Congregational Board before becoming an Ordained Elder in 1978. She was Board Convener for 7 years. When Ena was inducted as an Elder she was only the sixth Lady Elder to be ordained in Murrayfield Parish Church. Ena then served on the congregational Board as one of the elected elders to the Board and was on the Hospitality sub committee of the Board. She was always there when help was needed with hospitality and attended and helped at fundraising coffee mornings, sales of work and other Church events. Each Christmas Ena was in attendance to hand out mince pies after the Watchnight services over very many years.

Ena was assiduous in carrying out her pastoral care as a District Elder and was a regular visitor to those in residential care. To quote one of our members "Ena was a great organiser". Ena ran the Lighthearts with members from Murrayfield Parish Church but also Saughtonhall Church and the community. This was a group of friends in retirement from 1986 for very many years. It involved arranging a lady to run a Keep Fit Class, ensure lunch was made, initially by the ladies themselves, then by Dove Cafe volunteers such as Edith Connor, Mary Murray, Sheila and Gordon Miller and Margaret Harris. Ena had many willing helpers. After lunch had been enjoyed, she organised a quiz.

Ena was in charge of the finances. When the members were younger retirees, Ena and her friend Betty Hurley organised days out, by bus to many places including Perth, for the ladies. Ena and Betty encouraged others to "volunteer" to come and help on those occasions. Ena and Betty organised the Lighthearts' Christmas lunches in local hotels. However, when they were less able, the Christmas lunches were held in Murrayfield Parish Church hall...more willing volunteers to cook and to serve, play the piano and lead Carol singing.

Ena organised the Indoor Monday morning bowling club, again over very many years and she made sure no one spent too long over coffee .....the bowling was the priority!

The Forth Road Bridge walk was another of Ena's and the Lighthearts' projects, to raise money for Christian Aid. No one was allowed to opt out of their fund raising , everyone when asked just signed the form and supported the charity. When the other ladies no longer felt able to do the walk, due to their health deteriorating, Ena found others to accompany her. She also enjoyed attending the Christian Aid quiz evenings and was a keen and knowledgeable contestant.

Martha Dickson recalls that for many years Ena organised, distributed and kept track of collections on behalf of of the Blind Society via Sooty, Sweep and Basil Brush models outside the shops at Shandwick Place and Roseburn. Ena was one of the volunteers at The Abbeyfield Residential house...Mill House in Roseburn. She accompanied them on outings as a helper and was a regular visitor to the residents.

When a Junior Choir was mooted and established in the 90s responsible adults were required. Ena volunteered and attended every practice and every Sunday when they sang as a choir.

Murrayfield Parish Church ran services in Struan lodge Care Home where Ena was Regular helper. She also helped hand out hymn books in Murrayfield Care home when she became a resident there. She loved those services, especially when unable to attend Murrayfield Parish Church. Her first love however, was to attend morning service at her beloved Murrayfield Parish Church, which she did until she became too infirm to travel safely by car from the Care Home.

You will have gathered that Ena was an invaluable church member, elder and friend to so very many until her health deteriorated after her 90th Birthday - this she celebrated with her many friends from Murrayfield Parish Church and other friends with an afternoon tea.

She was a very generous supporter of Murrayfield Parish Church finances as well as giving of her time and talents so freely. Ena had the foresight to be able to decide where she would like to spend her last years when unable to care for herself. She chose to put her name down for Murrayfield House Care home, having visited all the others in the area. The Staff at Murrayfield House Care Home were very fond of Ena and she of them. This meant that she was cared for with love and affection over her increasing physical and mental deterioration until her death on November 2nd having suffered stroke a few days prior to this. Rest in peace Ena after a long and very full life where your faith meant that your Church was always centre stage.

# 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](#)



**LIFE AND WORK**  
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

DECEMBER 2023  
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

Reaching out at Christmas Churches and charity support for local communities	View from the pulpit Team ministry in Aberdeen	'Nothing is impossible with God' The Moderator urges readers to 'listen for the Spirit' during Advent
'We must care for the vulnerable' Why campaigning for those living with HIV and AIDS matters	Letter from the Holy Land Reflection on the message of the birth of the Prince of Peace	and much more all for £3.50

## CHRISTMAS 2023

**Reaching Out at Christmas:** Churches and charities supporting their local communities

**Letter from the Holy Land:** The Rev Muriel Pearson reflects on the message of the birth of the Prince of Peace

**'Nothing is Impossible With God':** the Moderator urges readers to listen for the spirit during Advent

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

**'We Must Care for the Vulnerable'**  
Marking World AIDS Day on December 1, a Bolivian campaigner living with HIV talks about her work

**A Labyrinth Ministry**  
In his final column as Sanctuary First minister, the Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the power of journey

**'Christian faith is rooted in the physical'**  
The Rev Dr Richard Frazer links physical wellbeing to spiritual health

**Sharing 'the fragrance of His love'**  
A young Church member who moved to Scotland from Nigeria last year shares his story

**The Art of Peacebuilding**  
Concluding her series of Bible studies, Ruth Harvey reflects on the place of 'voicewalkers'

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Every month our 52-page full colour magazine is packed with features, news and opinion on Christian life within Scotland and further afield.

Subscribe [HERE](#)

## DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are deeply saddened to announce the following deaths

Mrs Patricia Webster - 29th August 2023  
Mrs Sylvia Wilson - 10th September 2023  
Mr Norman Inglis - 10th October 2023  
Miss Christina Scott - 2nd November 2023

Please keep the families and friends of the deceased in your thoughts and prayers



## 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)

## STAFF ARRANGEMENTS



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



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.