



Murrayfield

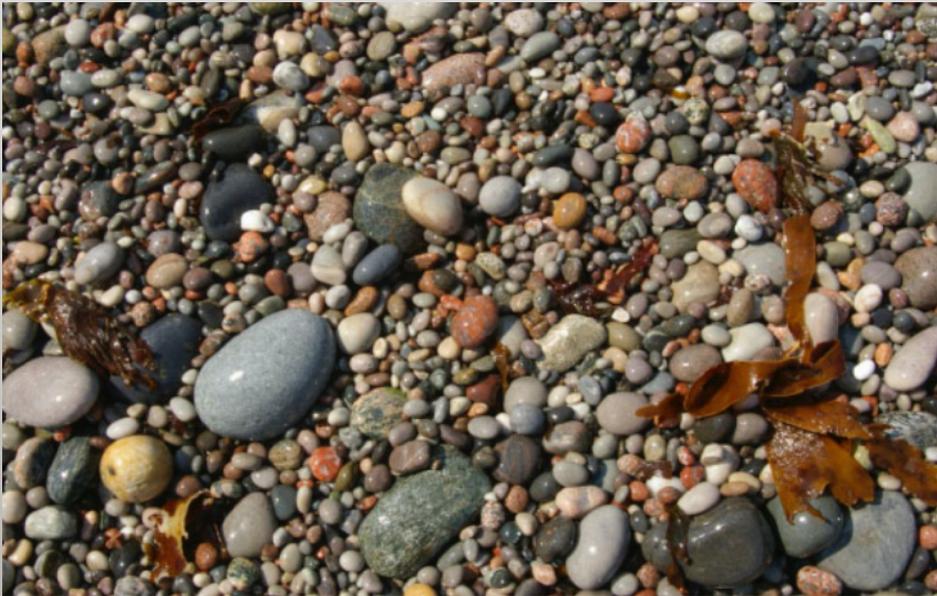
PARISH CHURCH

Winter Magazine 2021



LETTER FROM YOUR MINISTER

There are some big changes afoot in the wider Church of Scotland that are likely to affect the shape of both local congregations and Presbyteries. I wanted to provide you with an initial update on this fast-moving picture. You may already know that Church of Scotland ministers are funded from a central pot but called by local congregations and inducted by Presbyteries. This enables for ministers to be in place across the nation, from city to island, from affluent suburb to deprived housing estate.



The existing Presbytery Plan (2012 - 2022) allows for 78 ministers to be deployed in Edinburgh. This figure was originally determined by the General Assembly prior to the formulation of the Plan. The process of formulating a Presbytery Plan for 2022 - 2032 is now underway. To this end Edinburgh Presbytery has currently placed all congregations into local clusters of neighbouring congregations. Each

cluster has been asked to engage in conversations through representatives. The remit is to make suggestions as to how a future shape of ministry in the area might look.

One key piece of background is that there will be a significant reduction in terms of the centrally allocated number of ministers for each Presbytery. This is partly because of significant strain on the Church of Scotland's finances impacting the central budgets. As well as affordability there is an imminent shortage of ministers as 40% are approaching retirement. It is quite possible that these factors may necessitate a mind-shift away from the idea of one minister serving one congregation and may lead to new shapes in the way local church life is organised.

Some Presbyteries, like Aberdeen-Shetland and Lothian, have already agreed their Presbytery Plans for 2022-32. In both cases radical changes have been agreed. To give you a flavour [only for general illustrative purposes] it may be required for eg an existing cluster of 4 congregations with 4 ministers to operate in the future with 3 ministers co-operating more closely together and offering worship across the 4 congregations; and it may be that local appointments eg of youth and families workers or ministerial assistants are shared across congregations.

It has been obvious for quite a while that big changes would be needed across the Church of Scotland. I prefer to think about these things as an opportunity rather than as any sort of threat. Working together more closely with neighbouring congregations can potentially reduce duplication and also boost the strength and numbers involved in joint initiatives. I will keep you updated as the picture gets clearer and would like to ask that you pray for many positives to emerge from the re-modelling. As ever feel free to get in touch to ask me any questions.



Please bear in mind that Christ's church has always been 'on the move' through the centuries, under many different pressures, and through adverse circumstances. At times like this try to remember that the church exists only by grace and always needs to lean on God for its present activities and future direction. Please pray that we (locally, in Presbytery, nationally) will know the leading of the Holy Spirit so that we can work for the kingdom the way that best suits the needs and challenges around us.

Don't lose hope and keep the faith through the winter around us!

Your minister Keith

CHURCH BUILDING

THE CHURCH BUILDING IS CLOSED BUT THE CHURCH IS STILL OPEN



Due to recent restrictions the church building is now closed until further notice. Look out for the weekly news communications to keep up to date with future developments. The online service videos will continue to be available on Sunday mornings. Join in with the new series on Luke's Gospel. A new feature in the online services up until Easter will be the addition of a guest speaker. Guest speakers will be challenged to provide a 'two minute reflection' to complement the passage of the day.

Dial up Worship - an audio version is available by phoning 0131 546 4306



God is still at work - even if the church building is closed

RESHAPING CHURCH LIFE



Guidance from the Church of Scotland for the safe operation of church buildings, worship, events and support services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

[**READ MORE HERE**](#)

CHRISTMAS WASN'T CANCELLED!



Despite the obvious abnormality of Christmas 2020 we were still able to keep things as close to the familiar pattern as possible.

CHRISTMAS APPEALS

GIFTS FOR PRISONERS CHILDREN SCHEME

Gifts for the children of prisoners were brought along to Sunday morning worship over a three week period in November. Many thanks to all who contributed gifts. Despite all of the Covid restrictions, there was an excellent response. The presents are always much appreciated. (see a letter of thanks on page 10)

CANS FOR CHRISTMAS

The church was open on Wednesday afternoons during advent for people from church and community to drop in with cans for Christmas. For some people it was their first visit to the church building and a great opportunity for us to offer a warm welcome to the community. There was time for those who wished to sit and enjoy quiet space for prayer and reflection, with rolling images on the screen and reflective music. The amount of cans and non perishable items donated was overwhelming!

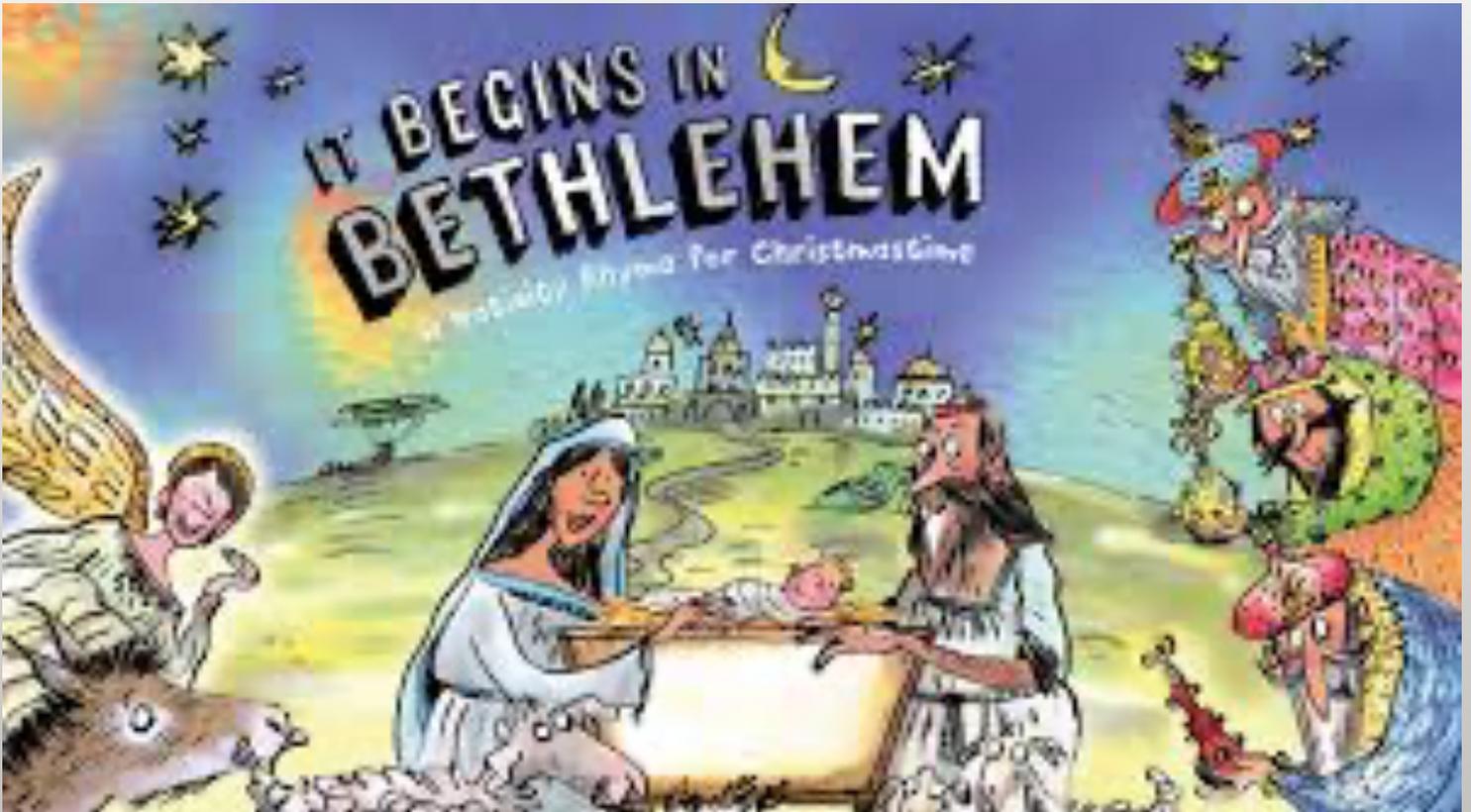
(see separate article on page 9)

ECUDARE VIRTUAL GIFTS

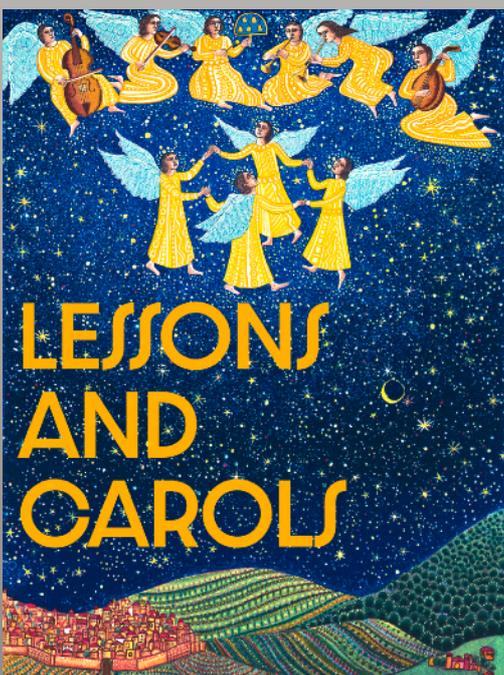
This year the virtual gifts really were 'virtual' with the opportunity to buy gifts by accessing online information. Esther and the women from the ECUDARE project were delighted with the support from Murrayfield Churches Together (see more information on page 22&23) We are delighted to let you know that we are sending £2,500 to Esther this week.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE CHRISTMAS APPEALS

Our *Not-Normal* Christmas Services looked like this



On the 13th December members of S Club (with amazing help from parents) wowed us with their Nativity Video - 'It Begins in Bethlehem'. The filming was all done at home as a family effort and when it was all stitched together the end result was amazing! Well done to everyone involved.



Service of Lessons and Carols on the 20th December included pre recorded readings from members of the congregation. The readers entered into the Christmas spirit by wearing festive jumpers and many sat in front of their Christmas tree to read. It was different but in a good way!

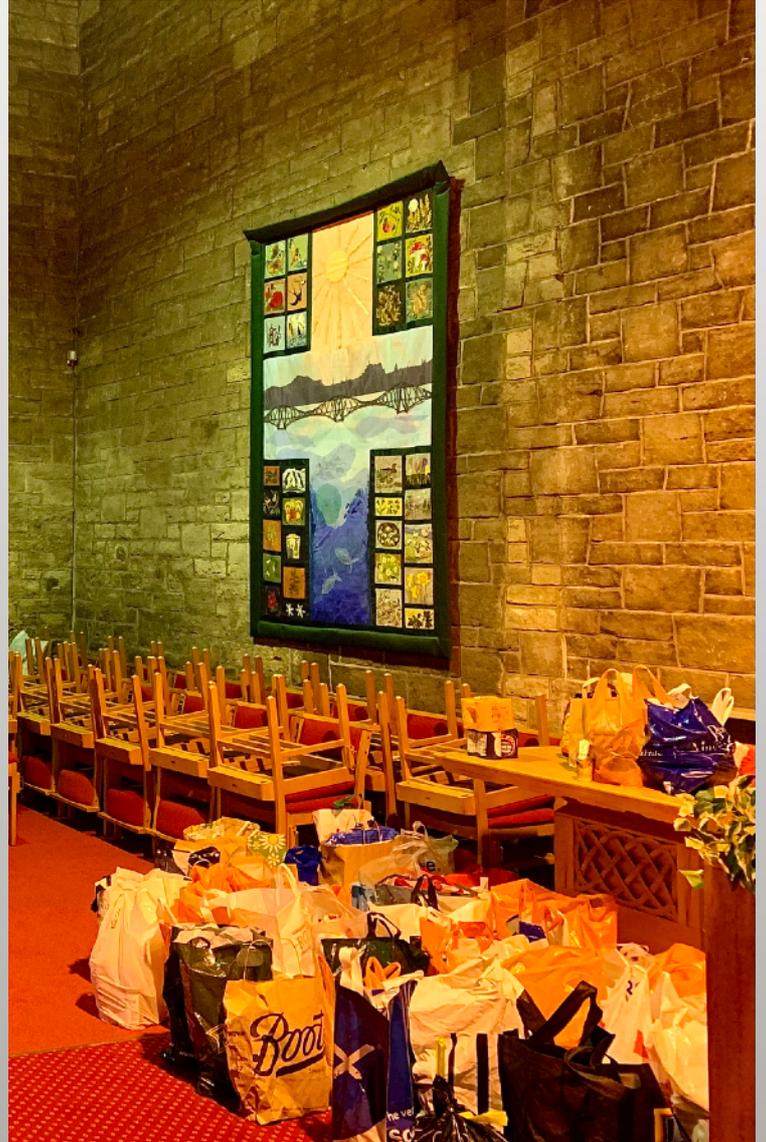
We missed being able to sing the carols which is obviously a big part of the service but we were able to enjoy listening to a variety of Christmas music and live music from our organist Justin.

This year there was a Christmas Eve and a Christmas Eve Eve service! The same service on both days allowing more people to attend because of the maximum of fifty people allowed at a service. It was certainly very different from the usual packed church but it was a special service for those who felt it wouldn't have been the same without the tradition of attending a Christmas service. The Christmas Day Service was fully booked and we gathered together, to celebrate the birth of Jesus, albeit in a socially distanced way!

It was certainly a not-normal Christmas and we had to think 'out of the box' but there were special touches such as families recording the lighting of the advent candles at home. Seeing members of the community walking to the church with their cans for Christmas somehow felt how it should be - the church in the heart of our community



CANS FOR CHRISTMAS



Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the very successful Cans for Christmas 2020 appeal. This year the Church was open for private prayer on several Wednesday afternoons in December and this also offered the opportunity to drop off donations. It was good to welcome in people who had never visited the Church before. The response was amazing; in fact the van driver from the Edinburgh North

West Foodbank said it was the biggest uplift he had ever done from a church! A cash donation of £250 was also made to Edinburgh Women's Aid for them to buy foodstuffs. A special thank you to the card deliverers, those who helped to load the van and those who helped with the Wednesday stewarding.

women's aid
until women & children are safe

A LETTER OF THANKS

Dearest Friends,

I will begin with thanking you all personally for your help and support.

The difference the gift collection makes is impossible to measure in words. But believe me when I say, it makes a difference to the lives of so many children. Children that without your kindness and generosity, may not have had any gifts to open on Christmas morning. That is how important the gift collection is. The thirty fifth Edinburgh Prison Christmas gift collection, has to have been the strangest collection I have had to organise. I have to say it has to be the most satisfying collection. Last September-October, I was not even sure if we would be able to have a gift collection. Through your kindness and generosity, we were able to help eighty-eight families and one hundred and seventy-eight children. My thanks to you and your congregations for the wonderful gifts that were donated. Arranging gift collections in the middle of a pandemic was I know not easy and I appreciate the extra work by everyone that went into making this year a success. The gift collection was perhaps more important this



year, due to the circumstance's we all find ourselves living in. The contact between prisoners and their families has been difficult. At times visits at the prison have had to be cancelled. Virtual visits are taking place, when families cannot travel to the prison due to covid restrictions. My very special thanks go to the staff in the visitors centre at the prison. Without their help I would not be able to organise the gift collection. They took the gifts that you very kindly donated and distributed them to the partner's and children of those in the care of Her Majesties Prison Edinburgh. When required the

visitors centre staff delivered the gifts themselves. I would like to thank the Governor of Edinburgh Prison David Abernethy and Deputy Governor Morag Stirling for their support.

I hope you all had as pleasant a Christmas as was possible in the circumstances. I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very prosperous new year.

Kindest Regards Colin O'Flaherty

S Club - What's been happening over the past year?

We have continued to do our best to keep going during the pandemic and the restrictions it has brought. Since March a weekly newsletter, S Club News and Views, has gone out to families with primary age children and Beverley has sent activities to S Club juniors.

News and Views aims to keep the children engaged with the church and usually includes awful *jokes and riddles, a Bible story and an activity sheet and a craft to try at home. This is sent out on a weekly basis and is available on the church website.

This is last week's craft, which was making a theatre out of a cereal box to illustrate the story.





This is our origami star, which was one of the Christmas crafts. When we were able to meet in the church the children who attended used the same material with the craft adapted to be done in church. This meant ensuring that we were in line with current restrictions and that each child attending had their individual set of materials.

At the end of February we had started filming our story for Palm Sunday. Thanks to the efforts of the families, children and Fay we managed to complete it and share it with the congregation on line. The traditional nativity play proved to be challenging but again with great improvisation and imagination of our families they were able to film their parts of the story at home and send to

Fay for editing! It is difficult to believe that Easter is again in our thoughts and the challenge is on again to film from home.

We have also had Zoom events in the form of quizzes and treasure hunts. This allows the children to see each other and enjoy a bit of fun. It was great to see them in church when it was possible. Another Zoom even is being planned and everyone is welcome to attend. The link is sent out in the church news prior to the event.

Quest continues too, Andrew is in contact with our older children mainly on Zoom but when possible face-to-face taking account of the relevant restrictions.

* example of an awful joke – Q. What do you call a sleeping bull? A. a Bulldozer!

Quest Evenings - Upcoming Programme

I am excited to announce a new series of youth evenings which will be running in this coming term. We will have fun games, chat and activities as well as exploring the parables that Jesus shared and how they may relate to us today.

On Sunday 7th February we will have some fun quizzes from 7.30 - 8.30pm, and be looking at the parable of the Treasure and the Pearl. These will be run on zoom until further notice.

For more information email Andrew [HERE](#)



Sunday 21 Feb - We will be playing some jackbox games, and looking at the Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Sunday 07 March - We may be back in person or playing some fun online games, and looking at the Parable of the Friend at Midnight

Sunday 21 March - Again depending on restrictions we could be in person, but if not we may play some more jackbox games. And looking at the Parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector
Please encourage young people to join in with these fun get togethers.

LIGHTING PROJECT

CAN YOU HELP TO REACH THE TARGET

If you have already donated to the lighting appeal - thank you! If not you may have been considering donating but haven't quite got there yet? Maybe it has been on your 'to do list' but with so much going on in these extreme circumstances you haven't got around to it.

The church lighting has reached the end of its life and is in a sorry state. Unfortunately this is not a luxury project and is now essential for two key reasons: it is impossible to source some of the components of the current lighting system and the need for emergency lighting. We have now reached £15,000 but still have a further £10,000 to reach the target. Buy a light bulb today for your family for £100 and help to put the light back into our beautiful church building. You can pledge your £100 [HERE](#) and pay later - but please if possible by the end of February. Ways to pay are by direct bank transfer or cheque. It's that easy ! If you would like to buy more than one lightbulb even better!!



Murrayfield
PARISH CHURCH

LIGHTING APPEAL



**Make your pledge
today!
Be the proud owner
of a lightbulb and
help to put the light
back into our
beautiful building.**

If you feel like you would like to contribute please either:

- enclose a cheque in an envelope marked 'Treasurer-Lighting' and send to the office (NB only the Treasurer will open this) or
- make a payment by digital transfer and email the Treasurer [HERE](#) noting this transaction.

account number 00818749

sort code 80-02-78.

Thank you for supporting Murrayfield Parish Church and helping to make a difference

EDINBURGH CHURCHES WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER CITY OF EDINBURGH COMMITTEE



“Build on a strong Foundation”
Friday 12th February 2021

The material is written by the Christian Women of Vanuata bible studies

More Positive Teaching Mathew Chapter 6.

SPEAKER - Revd. David Coleman BA, BTh, PGDip
David is the Eco Chaplain.

Bible Study material can be downloaded from the Scottish Wdp Website
wdpscotland.org.uk

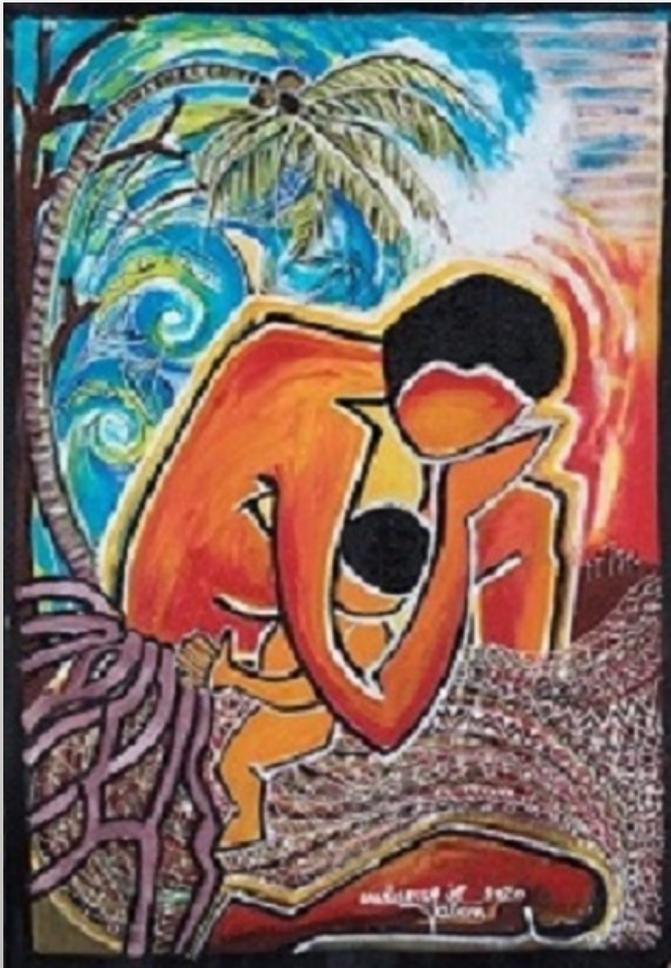
The meeting will be via Zoom from 10.00 am until Noon
ZOOM LINK

Meeting ID: 859 9764 0710
Passcode: 498083
One tap mobile

+44 131 460 1196,,85997640710# United Kingdom

Find your local number <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85997640710>

TEN DAYS OF PRAYER



There will be ten days of prayer from the 23rd February contributed by the national leaders of ten denominations focusing on Vanuatu with a member of the Scottish Committee providing the final prayer. This can be found on the web

wdpscotland.org.uk

Edinburgh Churches World Day of Prayer Service

Will be held on Friday 5th March, by Zoom, and this year will be at 2.00 pm from the Augustine United Church on George Fourth Bridge.

Please visit www.wdpscotland.org.uk for the zoom link nearer the time.

The Service will be available on the web: and facebook after the Service.

The "offerings" can be gift aided cheques to Suzanne Foster Treasurer of WDP Scotcomm Delnapot, Blacksboat, Banffshire, AB37 9BQ. The Bank details are Royal Bank of Scotland 83-06-08, 00697438 for those on line.

If any problems or if anyone cannot find answers on the web I shall try my best to help.

Contact Martha [HERE](#) or phone , 0131-337-4078.

*Dear Lord, keep us under the shadow of your mercy
in this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may rejoice in your comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.*



PRACTICAL WAYS TO DONATE TO CHURCH

Thanks to all of you for your continued giving to the church. Please bear in mind the difficult financial circumstances due to lack of incoming rental.



At Murrayfield the closure of the church centre leaves us with a large shortfall which typically accounts for approximately 25% of our income.

We are also missing out on the weekly giving on the plate at Sunday services.

Do you normally put cash on the offering plate?

Would you consider sending a cheque for the weeks missed?

You can also make a donation on the website - [Donate Here](#)

or

You may consider setting up a standing order



COFFEE CATCH UP AND CHAT

Zoom Coffee Catch up & Chat



Just bring yourself and a coffee!

You are invited to join in with a coffee catch up on Tuesday 16th February at 2pm. Bring a coffee and catch up with familiar faces! If there is enough interest this could become a weekly event. Interested? Just grab a coffee on the 16th and click on the link below.

ZOOM LINK - [HERE](#)

Dial by your location
+44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

WOMEN'S GROUP

The women's group is meeting by Zoom alternate Thursday evenings, and at present we are working our way



through a study guide called "Finding rest in a busy world" which seemed very appropriate. Each study has readings from old and new testaments, the one that set the tone for last week's study was from Psalm 91: "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust". Anyone who would like to join with us on a Thursday evening between 8 and 9.30 pm for conversation, reading and prayer, is very welcome.

Nobody is an expert, we all learn from each other.

Homework is not required and there is no register! Get in touch with Alison by text on 07753840016 or email Alison [HERE](#) if you'd like notice of when and how to join in.

SUNDAY EVENING GROUP



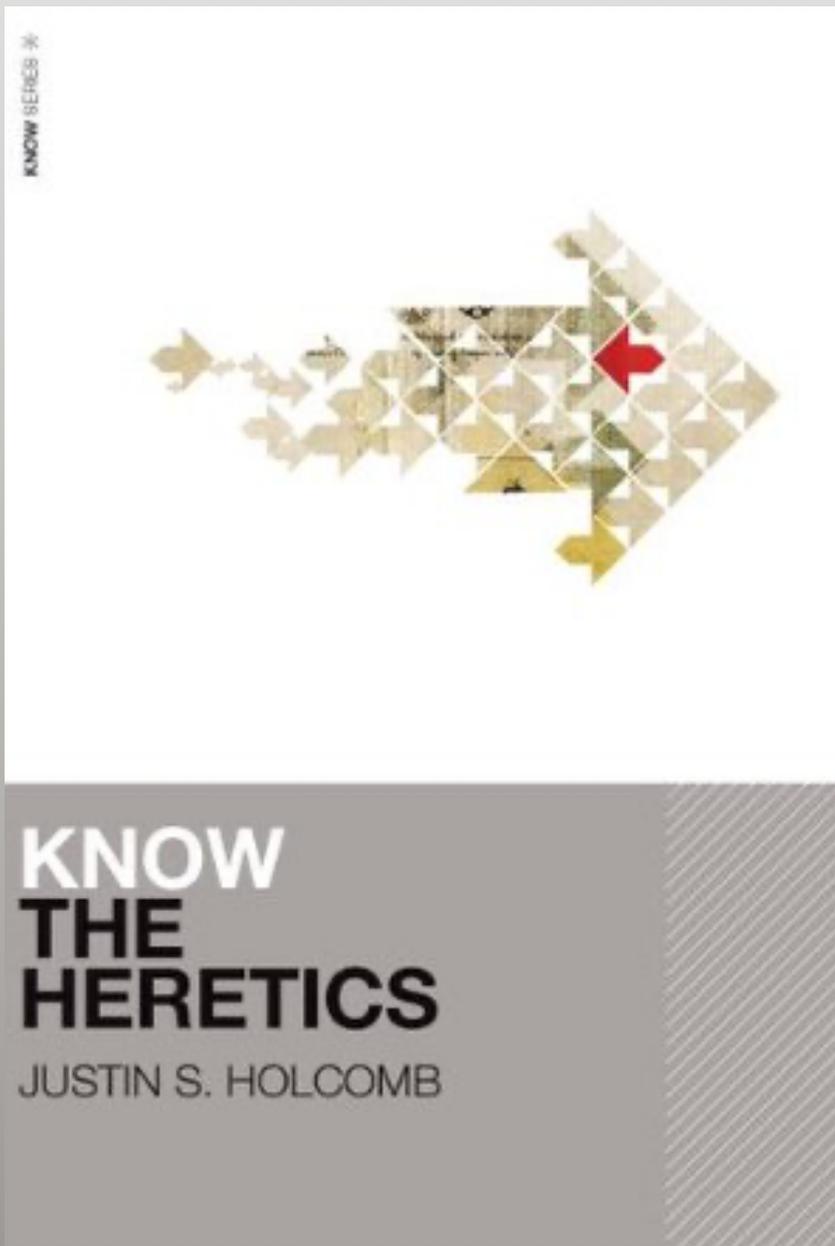
We meet fortnightly on Sunday evenings at 6.30pm (currently on Zoom), but in the Dove when things return to normal! We have been working our way through the New International Version of the 'Books of the Bible' but will be moving on to a new topic on the 7th March (to be decided) Each fortnight you are encouraged to do some reading on the study topic and one of the members usually leads the discussion. There are currently six in the group, but we

would welcome additional members. Anyone interested should contact

David Holton [HERE](#) or 337 5805 or Bill Hughes [HERE](#) or 346 8578 for more information.

MCT STUDY GROUP

The MCT Faith and Discussion Group meet for their winter session on Tuesday evenings, from 12th January remotely by Zoom.



The course Know the Heretics introduces us to some of the major heresies in Christian history, outlining not just the false teachings but also the orthodox response to each one and their on-going contemporary relevance. It can be seen that heretical beliefs helped to define what is orthodox and so aid our better understanding of our faith today. We will look at 2 different heresies each week. Each session has a brief video introduction.

If you would like to join in or find out more information contact

David Marwick

Contact David [HERE](#)

ECUDARE UPDATE



"We had a great day yesterday with women, we shared Christmas packs with them, Thank you for your generosity and greetings to MCT brothers and sisters. It has been great serving the Lord together.



Thank you for making a lot of women to smile over the Christmas season.



This lady cried tears of joy when she got her package . It was very moving. We cannot thank MCT enough.

Greeting's from Ecadare family Kenya!

My family is well. Debbie and Andrew have gone back to school. Daniel and myself are very busy settling pupils at school. We reopened school last week and we have had a real marathon of training our children how to sanitise, how to mask, how to wash hands and how to keep social distance. It's most difficult task that I have had to do in our school since its inception.

We are grateful to God for good health for the women, our staffs and for our pupils.

I thank MCT from the bottom of my heart for your continued support to the families in Kenya during the Covid-19 season. I'm hopeful that we will get some funding to support many of these families to bounce back in their small businesses.

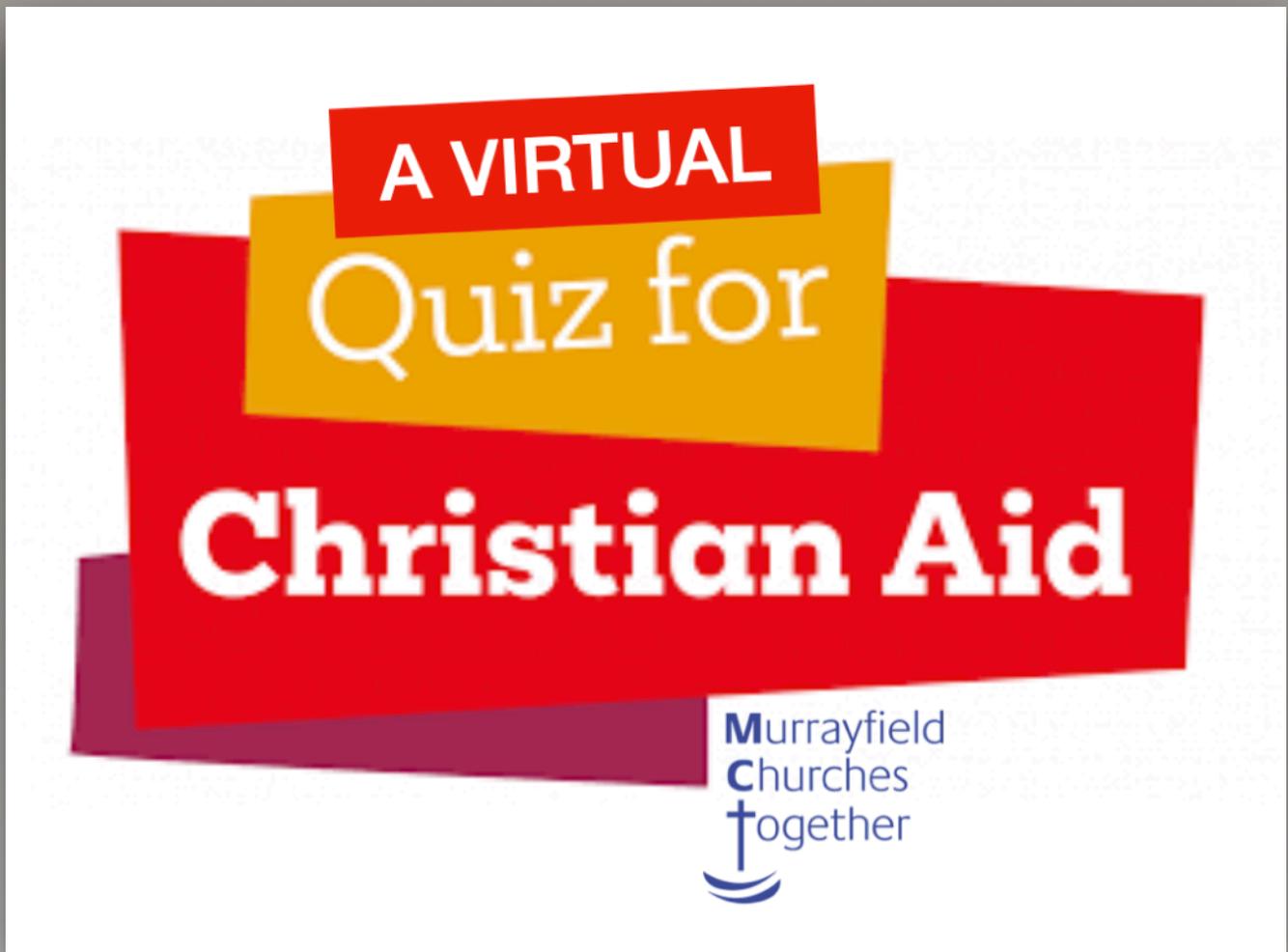
I pray that God will protect us from the dreaded Covid-19 virus and that we will have a great year.

May God bless You and keep you

Safe from Covid-19.

Warm regards to all our partners and friends and MCT brothers and sisters.

Esther



Jim Paterson from COGS has just kindly offered to help us run an MCT quiz for Christian Aid. It will take some organising but watch out for further information.

Best Wishes Liz Sudlow

Visit the Christian Aid web page [HERE](#) for Christian Aid news.

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

A LETTER FROM THE MODERATOR

Dear friends,

Perhaps as never before in recent times, folks have 'tried praying'! The global pandemic has raised so many questions, not least about our vulnerability and mortality, that many people have found themselves wondering about deeper matters and not least that which is usually referred to as 'spiritual'. There are some

The logo for 'trypraying.org' is displayed on a teal rectangular background. The word 'trypraying' is written in a lowercase, sans-serif font, with 'try' in black and 'praying' in white. A small black dot is positioned to the right of the 'y' in 'praying', followed by the text '.org' in white.

within the Christian fold who adopt a somewhat sneering, cynical attitude in response. Much as they criticise those who worship at Christmas by asking: "Where are they on the other fifty-one weeks of the year?", they contemptuously dismiss those who have turned to

prayer in recent times, suggesting that looking for God in an emergency is shallow and infantile and hardly worthy of a response.

I take a different view. An entirely different view.

Should those who are genuinely seeking be dismissed and put off, or encouraged? If there is even a mustard-seed worth of faith, shouldn't it be fed and nourished?

The trypraying initiative has grown significantly through the years and now has a significant degree of 'brand recognition'. Its simple seven-day format offers a challenge, but one that seems attainable to those who may be doing no more than enquiring. And just as importantly, trypraying has now built up a considerable case history; that is, people who have tried praying and have met with significant responses.

I can't imagine that there's a better year for congregations to have a go with trypraying. I'm delighted to commend it to you and offer my encouragement to those who make it happen, that it may be a blessing to the whole Church at this time:

www.trypraying.co.uk

www.thereishope.co.uk

Every blessing,

Rt Revd Dr W Martin Fair

Moderator

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

NEW MEMBER OF STAFF

Introducing Ramona who has been doing a great job of cleaning the church building and centre.



Hello everybody!

I'm Ramona, I'm from Italy but since I visited Edinburgh I fell in love with this city, so here I am!

I'm enthusiastic to meet new people and to enjoy new experiences. I'm passionate about my work and I'm pleased to be part of this community.

Other arrangements for staff....

Maureen Gilleade has now returned to work on a part time basis and Fay Forsythe is continuing to run communications.



KEEPING CONNECTED

KEEPING MOTIVATED IN THESE STRANGE AND UNPRECEDENTED TIMES



When we think about going to church we think about going to the building, but the church is really the people and us being a church family. With the building closed and us not being able to meet up with each other we now have to make an effort to keep connected. One of the easy ways we can do this is to make a phone call to someone. So if you have been thinking that you really should give a particular person from our church family a call then why not do it today and if you don't have anyone's phone number from church feel free to give me a call on 0131 312 8468.

Take care and keep safe and connected.

Blessings from Chris Goudie

Pastoral Care Coordinator

LIFE AND WORK

During this challenging period, Life and Work is committed to helping keep our Christian community connected. The magazine continues to be published and distributed to our loyal readers. If you need to contact our team please email editorial enquiries to magazine@lifeandwork.org or all other enquiries to admin@lifeandwork.org.

February 2021

From The Editor EDITORIAL Follow the Editor on Twitter @LifeWorkEditor WHO could have predicted the year that was 2020? As the Lenten journey to Easter started at this time last year, who could have imagine...

PRAYER PRAYER O Lord our God If we should forget you in this month of Solmonath* we only need to look to the sky. The February stars tell your story. The Snow Moon shines out your glory. Sparkling Al.....

LETTERS Evolution debate Cartoon: Bill McArthur Many thanks for this extensive correspondence. Guy Douglas asks whether "evolution is a threat to Christian faith".

The Big Question This month's question is: 'how do you heal, spiritually?' Paul Cathcart, DCS, Deacon at Glasgow: Castlemilk "I'm a reflector by nature, so I need to have done something in order to reflect o...

Don't slip back The Very Rev Albert Bogle reflects on the lessons learned from social distancing for the Church. 2020 will be remembered as the year that brought about a great deal of sadness, hurt and change

My life is in Christ The Rt Rev Dr Martin Fair considers the difference between passions and the meaning of life. MODERATOR Callum - with the see you Jimmy hat and wig and with me in Slovakia



DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are sorry to announce the following deaths

Georgene Spittal 28th December
Brian Tosh 23rd January

Please keep their families in your thoughts and prayers



CONTACT DETAILS

Our church manager Maureen Gilleade can be contacted
on 0131 337 1091
office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

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

Our session clerk Jane Smart can be contacted
on 0131 337 1581
jane@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Our session clerk Sheena Douglas can be contacted
on 0131 343 2664
sheena@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Our pastoral care co-ordinator
Chris Goudie can be contacted
on 0131 312 8468
clg0ud13@yahoo.co.uk

CHURCH OFFICE



The church office is closed but you can still get in touch!

Call 0131 337 1091

Or email

office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Messages are picked up daily

Please do get in touch if you or someone you know needs help in this time of lockdown.