

Murrayfield

PARISH CHURCH

Issue no.559



JUNE MAGAZINE

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JUNE MAGAZINE

Welcome to the
June edition of the magazine

Letter from the Session Clerk Team

In Keith's absence your introduction to this edition of the Magazine comes from the Session Clerks and I'm sure you join us in passing on our best wishes to Keith and Audrey and look forward to Keith's return soon.

So much has happened in the last few months. Our last magazine looked forward to Easter - and it was wonderful that in our journey through Holy Week we were able to worship together with both our ecumenical partners in MCT and our Grouping partners at Gorgie & Palmerston Place (now united as one congregation) and St Stephen's Comely Bank.

The Easter story resonates with our recent activities at Murrayfield. Keith's absence was unexpected and so, like the first disciples, we were left feeling unsure and apprehensive as we began to realise just how much Keith does for us in the congregation and how much we rely upon him. But with faith, prayer and the support and encouragement of so many of the congregation and others we have been guided to find our way. We are fortunate to have links with several "well known faces" whom we've arranged to lead worship in Keith's absence - our thanks to them - particularly Bill Taylor who with his historic connections with Murrayfield agreed to be our "interim moderator", appointed by Presbytery to oversee business and pastoral matters where required.

You can read in more detail in the following pages about what has been going on in the past few months, and what is planned. Many of these activities were covered in our 3-Year Plan which was highlighted in the last Magazine - our thanks to all who have provided feedback on it which will be taken on board as we look to implement it; and also to those who have been involved in putting those ideas into practice as we look to both grow our worshipping congregation and engage with our community. With the last census highlighting the drop in both Church of Scotland membership and the declining role of religion in today's Scotland, the need for us to engage with the local community is clear. As you read about what's been happening with Messy Church, our Fresh Start coffee morning, Christian Aid and so many other activities we can be encouraged that, despite the challenges we face, our local church in Murrayfield is so very active.



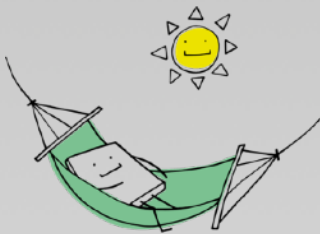
Over the summer along with our MCT partners we'll be welcoming back Esther from Ecludare and making plans for continuing our outreach in the months ahead. However some regular activities will take a break - some participants will be away so often things get a little quieter, but we also want to give those who are active in leading or helping with those activities a well-deserved break.

At Mark 6.30 we read "The apostles gathered around Jesus and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.' For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat."

We all occasionally need to recharge our batteries. Whether you are heading off to somewhere warm and sunny; to a quiet and tranquil place; having a change of routine; or just having some "me-time" - they all help. For some however that may not be possible - perhaps due to the cost, or health issues, or where they care for others, or where they feel alone and need a friend to share it with. Perhaps you can help them have some "me-time" too - praying for them or showing you care with a smile or a listening ear.

Over the summer period may you be blessed with the time to refresh.

Scott, Catherine and Fay.



General Assembly 2024: Special Supplement

Click on the image for Life and Work's free summary of the May 2024 General Assembly.



General Assembly 2024 video highlights

Video highlights of the reports and debates from each day of the General Assembly.

View by clicking on the image



christian aid

Week 2024

David Parkin

The week started with a joint Murrayfield Churches Together service at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church and ending with a talk and simple lunch at Murrayfield Parish Church.

We are so fortunate to have willing volunteers to assist in envelope delivery. Again we used the deliver only envelopes for volunteers to place their own hub address or specific church addresses for residents to return their kind donations. This year as an option, featured a new online giving page, which gave donors the opportunity to contribute either via a QR code or through the weekly Newsletter Christian Aid article. What message does this send to the community? Well it certainly displays the church is moving forward with more modern methods of collecting in a society where the use of cash is declining.

Whilst giving is an important part of Christian Aid week, listening to the stories and praying together plays a crucial part of the week. On Saturday 18th May, we were grateful for Rozelle Bosch from Christian Aid to provide a 25 minute talk and video display, giving an insight into the history of the organisation, update on current projects such as supporting the people of Ukraine via contacts on the ground and this years campaign focussing on



Burundi. What was so clear from the talk was how Christian Aid supports developing individual/ community growth, not by quick fix fund injections, but ensuring people in poverty have the means and opportunities to become self sufficient. That makes donations work hard and going that extra mile. We were treated to a simple lunch of soup and nibbles to close in fellowship.

On behalf of the Christian Aid Murrayfield Churches Together group we are very grateful for your prayers,



donations and support during the Christian Aid Campaign this year.

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

Murrayfield Churches Together Joint Service

Rev David Scott (Saughtonhall United Reformed Church)

It was great to host Murrayfield Churches Together's joint service to mark the beginning of Christian Aid week in Saughtonhall United Reformed Church on the 12th of May. As always, there was a great sense of fellowship and joy, which was reflected in our hymn singing.



The service was built around Christian Aid's 2024 campaign, which focusses on Burundi, a small country in East Africa with big issues in a messed up world. Using the Christian Aid resources we were introduced to Aline, a 35 year old woman living in Burundi who persevered against the odds, persisting in faith, hope and love. On top of everything else going on

in Burundi, Aline faced extra personal challenges. However, through the work of Christian Aid Aline was given an opportunity. Aline joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid funded trainers where she learnt about Village Savings and Loan Associations, something she was determined to form for herself and others. These Village Savings and Loans Associations offer a way for community groups to manage, save and lend money. Aline was able to get a start-up loan and she began trading avocados and peanuts. She was also able to buy a bicycle to help transport her goods. Aline's business took off and her life was turned around. Having been previously abused and thrown out of her home by her former husband, Aline was reunited with her three sons who she hopes to support as they go on to university. Aline's now the chairperson of a Village Savings and Loans Association that she founded. She's using her experience to help transform the lives of 25 families who are building their own brighter future together. And this all began with support from Christian Aid

Love God, love neighbour. These are arguably the greatest words from Jesus that have influenced Christian tradition and should always underpin all we do, say and think, especially at the beginning of Christian Aid week as attention is drawn to the people who live in a small country in East Africa with many harsh realities.

Love God,
Love neighbour

We could just put money in an envelope or make donation on the Christian Aid website. Job done.

Or we could pause for a moment and think about what Jesus identifies as the greatest commandments and what it means to do so with the love that Paul articulates so well in 1st Corinthians 13:1-13.

Through the work of Christian Aid we are given the opportunity to put God's extraordinary love into action in ways that make a real difference for real people in real situations that otherwise we would know nothing about.

Love God. Love neighbour. Can you really have one without the other?

But for right now, until that completeness, we have three things to do to lead us toward that consummation: Trust steadily in God, hope unswervingly, love extravagantly. And the best of the three is love.

(1st Corinthians 13:13 - The Message)

Grace and peace.

The Revd. David M Scott

Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

You can view the Christian Aid joint service by clicking on the image .



Saughtonhall United Reformed Church Holiday Club

For more
information
Contact
David Scott
HERE

Saughtonhall United Reformed Church 85/87 Saughtonhall Drive, EH12 5TR



Holiday Club 2024



When? 10am to 12pm, Monday 1st to Friday 5th July
Where? Saughtonhall United Reformed Church
Who? Primary 1 - Primary 7 (including those due to start P1)

As a **Sporting Hero** in this year's Holiday Club, the children will be encouraged to appreciate the benefits of participation and trying their best knowing that they do not need to do so alone. We will do this through an organised daily programme of Bible and other stories, games, crafts and songs. Within the programme there will be time allocated for a snack and free play. The Holiday Club will have Olympic and French themes. Parents/ carers will be invited to join for the final half hour on the last day.

Places are limited so advance registration is essential.

Please call/text 07881 956315 for a registration form and/or if you require any additional information.

On registering a consent form will be sent out. This must be returned before the Holiday Club begins on 1st July.

There is a fully inclusive cost of £2/day (£1/day siblings).



Registered Charity SCO14175

Hello to everyone from The Murrayfield Club

Jenny Rowe, Project Co-ordinator



The team



At the end of March we wished farewell to Lesley Webster who retired from the project co-ordinator post after 8 years.

This has brought in the new team who are pictured above. From left to right we have Jenny Rowe, previously the senior support worker and now the project co-ordinator. Nicola Bhabutta and Karen Avey continue as our support workers and they are now joined by Wendy Holyer. Lynne Wright is our kitchen assistant and also volunteers around this at both the club and the Memory Lane Café, more of which later.

The Murrayfield Club is held on a Tuesday and Thursday each week at Murrayfield Parish Church. The club provides a variety of very fun, stimulating activities for older members of our

community who are either living with the early stages of dementia, are frail, elderly or who are finding themselves isolated for various reasons. We have 10 places on each day and our focus is on having fun as a group, taking part in both physical and mentally stimulating games and exercises, having a natter over a hot drink and snack, enjoying lunch together and socialising.



Stimulating activities



Different themes

We have a different theme each week so that we are keeping things exciting and trying new activities out. Our themes include the Wild West, Olympics, Edinburgh Cinemas, Comedy Duos, Musical Hits and many, many more. We work with our club members to include any suggestions for new themes and activities and balance these so that everyone is able to take part. We are run by Murrayfield Churches Together and welcome each minister once a month to hold a short service with

the group which is also based around that week's theme.

We have also been holding the Memory Lane Café every Friday at Saughtonhall Church for over 2 years. This is a drop in dementia friendly café open 10am-12pm where you can come and relax, join others for a chat and meet new people. The café is £3 per person and you can have tea, coffee and a toasted snack and if you fancy there is always a game of dominoes or other table games available.

If you or anyone you know is interested in the finding out more about the club or the café please call Jenny on 07881288909 or email [HERE](#) .



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




Funded by



Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC023210

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Film Crew

Julia Hodgson

Film Crew had a successful season over the winter months and we hope you enjoyed the videos produced.

We held an open evening on Sunday 21st April with invitations to family and friends. On the evening, the group produced a trailer for S club

and Film Crew- more about that later in the year. A good time was had by all as can be seen by the pictures of the Unihoc game which involved family and friends. We were delighted to report there were no injuries on the night!

We enjoy a mixture of creativity based on religious themes as well as fun and games

The group will restart in September.



fun. We are planning a big finish to celebrate end of session and the Olympic games. As it is 100 years since Eric Liddle won his gold medal in Paris we thought we would take this opportunity to allow

S Club has continued throughout the year with time on a Sunday morning for bible stories, craft and

some competition after the service on Sunday 23rd June. Everyone is welcome in the hall to enjoy a picnic lunch and try their hand at some of our Olympic Pentathlon including Duck drop!, Flip the frog and Blow football. S Club will start again at the end of August. For more information contact Julia Hodgson [HERE](http://www.murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk)



Everyone is welcome to enjoy a picnic lunch!



Messy Church 2024

Messy Church Team

Messy Church values are about being Christ-centred, for all ages, based on creativity, hospitality and celebration. Messy Church is for everyone, every element aims to be relevant and accessible to all ages.

Messy Church has been running on the last Saturday of the month this year at Murrayfield Parish Church from January-May. There have been some months when other events such as international rugby games (playing havoc with parking), holiday weekends (people away) and even sunny days (families at the park!) that have clashed with Messy Church but the sessions have continued. Some months were better attended than others but continuity is essential to build relationships.

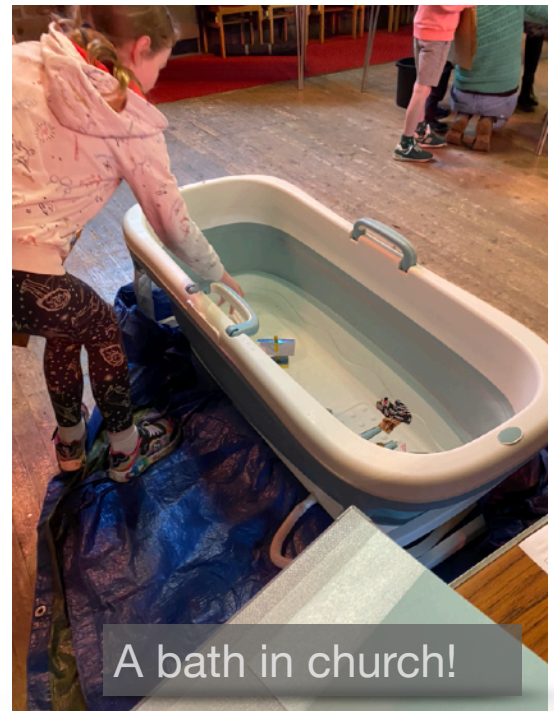
Messy Church would be impossible to run without the help of volunteers. Each month a 'messy team' meet to discuss the theme, plan crafts, think about the celebration (which is like a mini service) choose songs and decide what we're going to have eat- *hospitality is a key part of the session*. Volunteers host a variety of craft tables (there was even a bath in the church to float boats this term), they welcome, help with singing, prepare/serve the

meal, set up and put away tables along with other small jobs - a lot of work, but rewarding and great fun to work together to host a fun, organised event. If you would like to volunteer at Messy Church, please do get in touch with the church office [HERE](#)

Messy Church will be taking a break over the summer.



Time for crafts



A bath in church!

Coming to church with younger children



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

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

Kath Anderson

Esther is coming to visit us in Murrayfield Churches Together.

We have exciting news from E cudare. Esther and her son Andrew are coming to an HIV/AIDS conference in Germany towards the end of July.

They are then coming to the UK and visiting friends and supporters in Swanland , Yorkshire. They will then travel to Edinburgh arriving on Monday 5th August!

They plan to spend that week with us in Murrayfield and depart on Monday 12th August for Nairobi.

We are very excited about their visit as it has been twelve years since Esther was last here.

We have most of her and Andrew's accommodation organised but if anyone would like to host Esther for a couple of nights, Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th August, please feel free to contact Kath Anderson and or Murrayfield Parish Church office to have a chat about it.

Fiona Dinsmore, our fairtrade representative will be looking after Esther and Andrew on Tuesday 6th August with a visit to the Traidcraft fairtrade organisation at St.Johns Church Centre, West End. They will be visiting the Church of Scotland's offices to see and speak with Carol Finlay and Ian Alexander on Thursday 8th August and a visit to the Saughtonhall drama show is also on their itinerary! There will be a joint Murrayfield Churches Together service on Sunday 11th August at Murrayfield Parish Church with a talk from Esther and hopefully some videos of the school and village. The service will be

followed by food and fellowship with the opportunity for an informal chat with Esther.

This is a great opportunity for us all to reconnect with our Murrayfield Churches Together E cudare project , for those of us who have met

Esther; to rekindle our friendship with her and for those who have not had the opportunity to meet Esther previously this is a wonderful time to get to know her. We can look forward to hearing about all her ongoing projects and challenges for the future. If anyone has any further suggestions for her itinerary please do get in touch via Murrayfield Church Office [HERE](#) or contact me Kath Anderson [HERE](#)



Tuesday 6th August :

Morning - Visit to the Murrayfield Club

Afternoon - Visit to the Traidcraft/Fairtrade Centre at the West End

Wednesday 7th August:

Morning - Morning Service at the Church of the Good Shepherd, followed by coffee and a chance for Esther to meet members of their congregation.

Evening - Saughtonhall play

Thursday 8th August: Meeting Carol Finlay , Church of Scotland

Friday 9th August: A day with Bill and Shirley Brown

Sunday 11th August Joint service with a talk from Esther at Murrayfield Parish Church 10.30am. Followed by a light lunch of sandwiches, tray bakes, tea and coffee in the main hall, Church Centre. Meet and greet Esther and her son Andrew.

Monday 12th August : Depart for Nairobi

Remembering an earlier partnership!

We recently heard from Emmanuel Kru. Emmanuel was instrumental in starting and maintaining the Murrayfield:Kwamebikrom partnership. We marked the drawing to a close of the partnership with a special service in November 2021. Emmanuel sends greetings and best wishes to the congregation. It was good to hear from him.

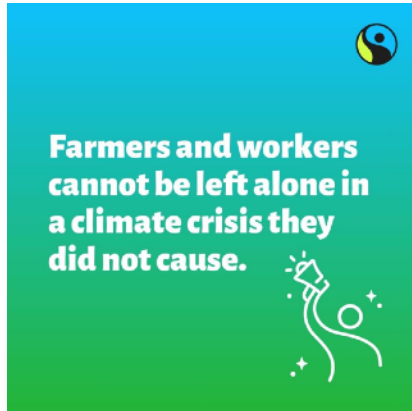


A date for the diary

MEETING NOTICE
Murrayfield Parish Church Annual
Stated Meeting will take place on
Sunday 30th June after the service.
All welcome to attend



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 more information contact Jane Smart [HERE](#)



This September we celebrate 30 years of Fairtrade. Fairtrade is the most recognised and trusted ethical label around the world. We can show that we care by standing up for farmers and

producers around the world.

There are two million farmers and workers in over 70 countries benefitting from being part of Fairtrade certified producer organisations. Buying ethically means you are enabling producers to receive a decent price and also helps them give back to their communities.

Small purchasing decisions in the supermarket when buying coffee, tea, bananas and chocolate make a huge difference.

We are a fairtrade church and Edinburgh is a fairtrade city. There is however always more to be done.

Producers are struggling from effects of climate change. Next time you are going to visit a friend or buy a small gift, think of fairtrade wine, fairtrade roses or some fairtrade chocolates. Not only are you giving a kind gift but you are gently promoting fairtrade!

Thank you all as ever for all of your support of fairtrade. You may have noticed that I have not had the stall in church for a while, my son's football schedule has made it a little tricky. I am however always available.

Our church is a member of the Edinburgh Fairtrade forum and I have been trying to share ideas with other church fairtrade reps.

If anyone would like to order any fairtrade items please don't hesitate to get in touch.

I hope to organise an event in the church over Fairtrade Fortnight in September.

You can contact Fiona [HERE](#)

Pop the date in your diary for an Afternoon Tea Event

On Friday 21st June, Murrayfield Parish Church will be hosting an Afternoon Tea in the Main Hall from 2.00–3.30pm. All are welcome! We would love to see you there if you are free that afternoon.

Please RSVP to the office by June 14th. Click [HERE](#) to reply. We look forward to hearing from you.





The Bridge

*A monthly event for those ages
10 - 18*

At Palmerston Place Church

12 Palmerston Place, EH12 5AA

5pm – 6.45pm

It is not cool for teenagers to go to church and claim to be a christian!

Young church families now find themselves a minority and young people can feel rather isolated and 'different' in an increasingly secular environment which at best treats the church and its members with indifference and as rather irrelevant .

It is not cool to go to church and claim to be a Christian!

Added to this our teenagers are very busy people all week, in the evenings and increasingly involved in serious sport development on Sunday mornings.

Jesus himself reminded us that our young people are very important and to be encouraged in their faith in Him. Timothy was young; Samuel in the Old Testament was a very young boy when God called him; as was David and of course Mary. So ...The Solution.

We started The Bridge in October 2022 to address some of the challenges.

We have been meeting on the first Sunday Evening of the month between 5pm and 6.45pm in Annan House at 10 Palmerston Place.

This is an event open to young people of Secondary school age connected with the four churches in our Parish Grouping of St Stephens, Gorgie and Palmerston Place, and Murrayfield Parish. It also includes St Mary's cathedral.

The programme has had a variety of themes for which we have games and activities, a special speaker and discussion and finishes with an evening meal (we know we have growing appetites to cater for!)

In November we have usually started literally with a bang ... fireworks and firepit 'Light in the Darkness' and finish in June with a BBQ. Other themes have included ,War and Peace: is violence ever the answer?Christmas: 'Giving and Greed' , The Bridge: building bridges not walls! Creation: Who cares?

This has been planned in this way because: Young people need companionship of their own age group.

They appreciate teaching which addresses the specific issues they face. They have a safe forum to ask questions and discuss important ideas. The issue of Sunday morning sport is addressed ... this issue presents a real conflict of priorities for Christian parents .

This has been a challenge to ourselves to break down congregational barriers against the background of the move towards unions and Parish Groupings.

It has been an encouragement for us as leaders for inspiration and pooling ideas as we plan and work together and it has given the young people a sense of a wider community of Christians and a new venture for their energy and creativity. Their enthusiasm is infectious and this should be captured for Jesus!

We know we need the commitment and encouragement of our congregations for the Bridge to continue and above all we need everyone's support by praying for our young people.

We are Magnitude.

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



Men's Prayer Breakfast

Bible, Chat, Prayer, Food



All welcome to the Men's Prayer Breakfast on the first Saturday of each month. Held in the Saltyard Cafe (158 Dalry Road. EH11 2HB) at 9am. For further info please contact George [HERE](#)

What's going on in the Church Centre?

In this edition we are delighted to highlight
Hannah Venet Pilates

HANNAH
VENET
PILATES

Teacher ~ Hannah Venet was first introduced to Pilates during her dance training and it has been an essential tool to maintain a healthy body and mind whilst in training and throughout her professional career. She completed her Matwork & Remedial teacher training with the Independent Pilates Teachers Association. Hannah has a wealth of experience working with a variety of people and bodies. Alongside teaching Matwork Pilates, since 2013 she has taught Gentle Seated Pilates, a class specially designed for those living with long term and chronic health issues. Hannah's classes are fun and rewarding with a focus on breath, moving with efficiency and deepening the connection between body and mind.

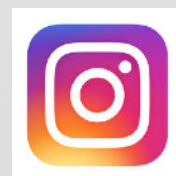
Advanced Class 10.15am ~ In this class we a focus on further developing our Pilates technique, moving efficiently to strengthen, mobilise and challenge the body whilst deepening the connection between body and mind. This class is suitable for those with a year or more of Pilates experience, perfect for those looking for a dynamic and fast paced class.

Intermediate 11.30am ~ In this class we build on the fundamental principles of Pilates at a gentler pace. Developing core strength, flexibility, coordination and dynamic alignment. The class is suitable for those who are newer to Pilates or have an injury or health condition that they are working with.

Limited places available. To book in contact Hannah: [HERE](#) or call 07814 696 742



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



For many people, life is difficult. Faced with various physical, emotional and social challenges, we aren't always equipped to cope on our own. But at CrossReach we believe that with the right support, at the right time, every person can flourish and every life can be fulfilling.



Crossreach has produced a very helpful booklet about their work specific to our presbytery. You can view the booklet [HERE](#)

TTT: Tone up on Tuesdays at 2!



Join Joanne for 'Move it or lose it' gentle exercise at 2 pm on Tuesdays in the Main Hall £5 per class, followed by refreshments and good company at 2.45 pm then at 3.15 optional worship.

Come to one, come to all and bring a friend.

The last class for this term will be on Tuesday 25th June. We will then have a summer break.

Lesley Webster's Retirement

Jenny Rowe Project Co-ordinator of the Murrayfield Club

The Murrayfield Club have bid a fond farewell to their project co-ordinator Lesley Webster who retired at the end of March.

Lesley has been with the club for eight years and along with her team, has brought joy to many older members of our community with the running of the social lunch club.

Those eight years have seen some challenges with the likes of the covid, which brought about a complete change to the way the club could run. This was met with great ideas of how to adapt and still serve the community both during and after the pandemic with the introduction of the Friday Memory Lane Café over 2 years ago.

Now it's time for Lesley to spend quality time with her family, spoil her grandchildren, relax on holiday and never set a morning alarm again.

We wish Lesley all the best in her retirement and thank you once again to those who were able to



Lesley with Rev David Scott

come along to her retiral morning, we know that Lesley was really touched and had a great time.

Bible Buddies!

Catriona Parkin



We have explored the power of the Holy Spirit through readings and helpful follow-up discussion. We will continue to meet over the summer - the second Tuesday of the month at 8pm. No preparation required. If anyone would like to join us, even just for a one-off session, please contact Catriona Parkin - 07963279311

Jennifer Paterson

On Saturday 11th May we had a **Coffee Morning in aid of Fresh Start in the church hall**. It was a great success in that it was well supported and it was a very friendly gathering. We enjoyed coffee and tea along with delicious home baking. Many people brought new or nearly new goods to be donated to Fresh Start to help people successfully develop new tenancies when coming out of homelessness. A £2 suggested donation charge raised £283.

Jen McQuistan, who works for Fresh Start, came along with her two young children. She spoke a little

of her work, and it was lovely to see her children enjoying the craft table.

A big thank you from all the organisers, including Fresh Start, to everyone who supported the coffee morning. The new and nearly new donations were much appreciated and will help give the best chance to those needing a Fresh Start, and the money raised will be used in the same way.

You can contact Jennifer [HERE](#)



Find out more about FreshStart [HERE](#)



Heartwood Quartet

Saturday 8th June at 11am



Mendelssohn Quartet op 44 no 2

Mozart Quartet no 23 K.590

Followed by refreshments

At the Church of the Good Shepherd,

13a Murrayfield Avenue, Edinburgh EH12 6AU

Admission by donation raising money for

Kidney Research UK

The Church of the Good Shepherd is a charity registered in Scotland no. SC000357
Kidney Research UK is a registered Scottish charity no. SC039245.

Other recitals for the diary - at the Church of the Good Shepherd

Saturday 6 July at 11am - Organ Recital by Andrew Adair, playing Bach, Willan and transcriptions

Saturday 14 September at 11am - Organ recital by Chris Dyter (formerly organist at the Parish Church)

Admission free, but donations welcomed. All recitals are approximately an hour, followed by wine and soft drinks.

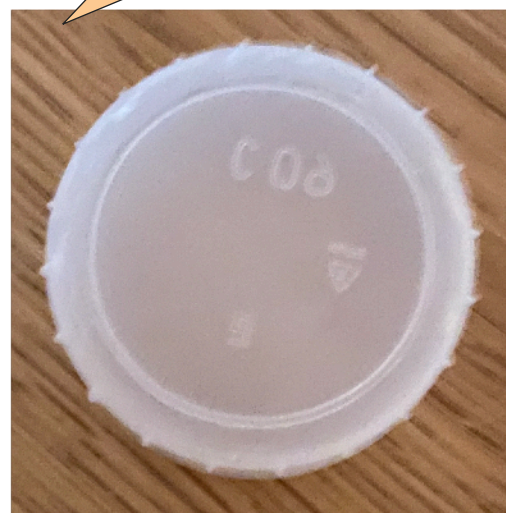
Please save milk bottle tops!

Martha Dickson

The collection continues for all colours of plastic milk bottle tops. A big Thank You to all who pop tops in to 6 Osborne Terrace bins in front of the two windows in the front garden or the church. You can park on Donaldsons' side of the road at non-peak periods. We now need more than 9.5 million tops to fill a skip - which is when we get paid, as the new clear plastic tops are 1gm lighter than the old tops. Thank you again. It is such an easy way to raise money for palliative care

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

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



Do you play a musical instrument?



might be interested. Please contact one of the session clerks [Scott](#), [Catherine](#) or [Fay](#)

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

If you're not a musician you may know of someone who is, and think

Reading lessons and leading Prayers of Intercession on Sunday mornings

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



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

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

LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

JUNE 2024
£3.50

IN THIS ISSUE

The true measure of fatherhood
Biblical fathers

Our presbyteries
Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles

'We genuinely care about people'
Work of Railway Mission

Letter from the Holy Land
Quarterly update from Church's Mission Partners

'Fundamental to who he was'
New book on James Clerk Maxwell and faith

and much more all for £3.50



JUNE 2024

The true measure of fatherhood:
Biblical fathers

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A tribute to David McGuffie 1949-2024

Long term member and elder at Murrayfield Parish Church

Gavin David Whyte McGuffie was born on the 19th November 1949, in Ayr. The only child of Torrance and Myra McGuffie, he was christened Gavin David but always called "David". He spent much of his childhood between Newton Stewart and Galston and this area of the Country was always special to him. He attended Kilmarnock Academy, where his favourite subject was Geography. He was from a very small family, but was especially close to his cousin, Maureen. He would always refer to her as being the sister he never had despite the fact that he was significantly younger than her. By his own admission he must have been somewhat of a pain as poor Maureen ended up with her young cousin sitting in between her and her husband to be at the cinema!

David's Father, Torrance, was a Bank Manager and Galston was the final Branch that he managed. That meant it was always a special place for David, so much so that the family bank accounts were still linked to this Branch until it closed in 2020. David's dream job would have been to be a stockbroker but given the family history in banking it was only natural that this is what he would end up doing. He initially joined the British Linen Bank on leaving school, and eventually Bank of Scotland took them over in early 1971.

In 1972, David moved to Edinburgh with his job in the Bank of Scotland. After a couple of years of flat shares in Comely Bank, he then purchased a flat in Howe Street which he lived in until he was married. During these early years in Edinburgh, David made many new friends through his job, friendships that are still in place to this day.

In 1979, David attended a party at a flat in Edinburgh at which he met Margaret or as he always referred to her "Maggie" Dent. After six weeks, and the "floating of a question" in the Bank of Scotland car park, they were engaged to be married. On the 20th September 1980, David and Maggie were married at St Martin's Church in Edinburgh, with a reception being held at Prestonfield House. They moved into a house in Blinkbonny Avenue and it was here that they decided they wanted to start a family. In February 1982 their daughter Rachel was born, followed 14 months later by the birth of their son Jonathan, always referred to as Johnny. In 1986 the family moved to Abinger Gardens and so began David's journey in house renovations. The new family home was a "do-er upper" and needed a lot of structural and cosmetic work. David was always a dab hand at DIY and would turn his hand to anything, from spending hours stripping back fireplaces and bannisters, to wallpapering and painting.

The family have such happy memories of the years in Abinger. It was during this time that David began to get involved with Murrayfield Parish Church. He also joined both Edinburgh Academical and Edinburgh Wanderers rugby clubs. Rugby was something that David always enjoyed. He, allegedly, played a bit at school but he loved watching Accies, Wanderers and Scotland. He also passed his love of rugby on to both of his children. Some of their favourite memories are of going to the matches at Murrayfield with him. It was quality time that they always cherished, These years also saw David continue his love of travel. As Maggie was never a fan of flying, this meant many epic family car journeys for the four of them, from Edinburgh through France, Germany, Switzerland and Italy to name but a few. It is worth noting that Maggie's fear of flying was quickly overcome once Johnny had relocated to Australia!

In 1994, David moved to Elgin as Grampian Regional Marketing Manager for the Bank of Scotland. The family moved to a new home called "The Hill" in Forres, with Rachel staying at school in Edinburgh and Johnny moving to school in Moray. David thoroughly enjoyed life in Moray where he joined the Yacht Club in Findhorn and both he and Maggie made many new friends in the area.

In 1997, David was offered a new opportunity as Director of Private Banking for the Edinburgh Office. This played to his skills. I think everyone here knew David as a “people person” and so managing the banking requirements for high-net-worth individuals really was a job made for him. During his time in Private Banking, David also had a team that he loved working with and really valued.

Moving back to Edinburgh meant trying to get back to Murrayfield as David never really wanted to live anywhere else in the city. The family moved to Murrayfield Avenue and again undertook significant renovations to turn the house into a proper family home. In 2004, David and Maggie were on the move again and bought “The Coach House” in Succoth Avenue. Initially this was under a pretence of “downsizing” but within ten years they were adding on an extension!

Although David had spent more than 30 years in the Bank of Scotland, when approached about making a move to Adam & Company in the later part of his career, he jumped at the chance. Once again this gave him the opportunity to expand his network and make new colleagues and friends.

In 2008, David was diagnosed with prostate cancer. In his typical positive style he never wavered from making a full recovery. Thankfully he came through this health scare and by late 2010 he had decided that it was time to start thinking about retirement from the Bank. This allowed David and Maggie to spend more time travelling and socialising with friends and family and for David to get involved with some new interests. In July 2012, he was appointed as Chairman of John Smith & Company (Edinburgh) Ltd, a role which he thoroughly enjoyed and held until his death. It was very important to him to always keep busy, even after retirement. Joining the New Club and Murrayfield Golf Club as a social member were great ways for him to continue his love of socialising, and entertaining. He loved attending supper parties with friends, film nights at the New Club, Monday morning coffee with the boys at the Golf Club, Wednesday lunches with the New Club lunch group or even just having a glass of something and a catch up with friends.

In late 2020 David and Maggie decided that the time to downsize had come and so, after a year in rented accommodation, they moved back into Succoth Avenue to one of the flats at Succoth Heights. They were both so glad to have made the move and David thoroughly enjoyed getting to know many of his new neighbours.

David was a generous, positive, proactive and kind man. He always sought to find the good in a situation, no matter how bad, and would take charge as needed to make things happen. In fact, he liked to be in control! Most of all, he was always the first person to try to help others, particularly to help those closest to him. The family were overwhelmed by the kind words of so many of those who knew him and the word that has been used time and time again is that he was a Gentleman.

The most important place for David to visit was Tasmania, Australia. When Johnny moved there permanently in 2007, it became his “go to” place. In January 2010, Johnny and Isobel were married in Tasmania. In May 2012, he became a Grandpa for the first time when Lottie was born and in January 2016, grandchild number two, Bill, was welcomed into the family. He had so many wonderful trips to see them. In January 2019, Rachel and Ryan married at Dundas Castle and David and Maggie were, as always, wonderful hosts.

David's daughter Rachel says “Dad's death is still so surreal. It seemed only right and proper to try and sum up what he meant to us . That is virtually impossible to do but suffice to say, we could not have had a better father. He always put his family first and was the person that we knew we could go to about anything. He always told us he loved us and was proud of us. He was a go to for advice on everything from career plans to buying houses. Our family will not be the same without him”.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are deeply saddened to announce the following deaths

David McGuffie : 1st March 2024

Miss Helen Ure : 26th April 2024

Mrs Margaret Wardrop: 15th May 2024

Please keep the families and friends of David, Helen and Margaret in your thoughts and prayers

STAFF ARRANGEMENTS



Church office: Maureen Gilleade

Organists : Justin Nash and Andy Elders

Cleaner: Kerry MacLean

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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.
