



Murrayfield
PARISH CHURCH

Issue no.563

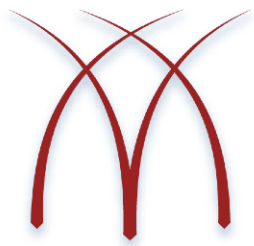
Extravagant Love

*...how wide and long and high
and deep is the love of Christ...*

Ephesians 3:18



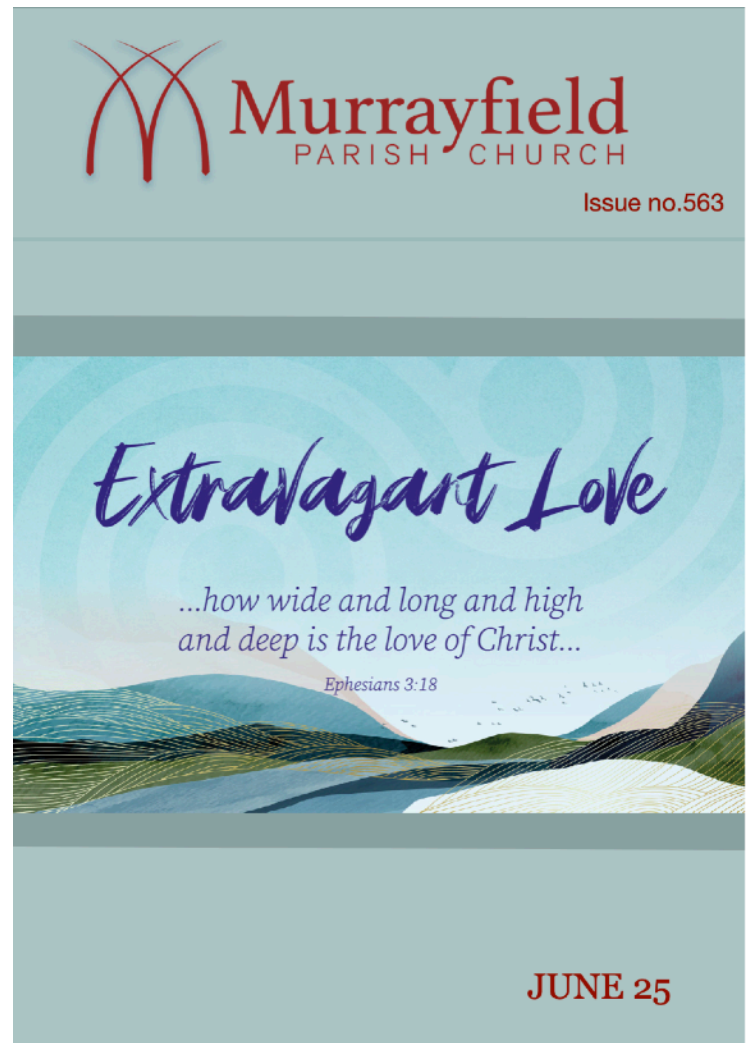
JUNE 25



Murrayfield
PARISH CHURCH

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**Welcome to the
June edition of the magazine**

Letter from the Session Clerk Team

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do".

In Keith's absence your introduction to this edition of the Magazine comes from the Session Clerks.

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.

We also worshipped with our Murrayfield Churches Together partners in May to celebrate Christian Aid, this year worshipping at the Church of the Good Shepherd to join them in their celebration of Good Shepherd Sunday, when in their denomination their Gospel reading would be the parable of the Good Shepherd. That theme resonates with the aims of Christian Aid (which is celebrating its 80th anniversary) - Jesus looked to care for all his flock including those who strayed and Christian Aid looks to express that love in practical ways by extending support to those in need without judgment.

Our own fundraising for Christian Aid included a coffee morning supporting both it and also Fresh Start - but while it did of course raise welcome funds for those charities it also provided opportunity for fellowship and outreach into our local community. And outreach is not just for the minister or the elders to do, but every one of us. At John 14:12 we read Jesus' words *"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes in me will also do the works that I do."* A challenge, but with God's help we all can do it.



Over the summer months we all tend to see our neighbours more as we spend more time in the garden, linger in the street or just enjoy the (hoped for) sunshine. We can all play our part in that outreach by expressing Jesus' love through our deeds and actions in our daily lives - a friendly smile, helping a neighbour, making time for a chat - and perhaps that could lead to an invitation to church or an event in our church centre.

Whatever you may be doing over the summer - heading off to somewhere warm and sunny; to a quiet and tranquil place; having a change of routine; or just having some "me-time" - may you be refreshed and inspired and feel blessed. 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 - you will be doing God's work.

Pastoral Assistant

Rev Douglas Nicol

Enhancing the lives of older people in Murrayfield

The first four months as Pastoral Assistant in the congregation have passed quickly! I've enjoyed meeting many in Church, in the community, and at home – thanks for the warm welcome I have sensed in all my activities.

My main role has been developing your project funded by the Tor Trust and I have been defining that as 'Enhancing the Lives of Older People in Murrayfield'. I've sought to do that in several ways:

1. Firstly by visiting when I've been using a list given to me by your Minister. A 'first round' of visits always takes longer than future ones ... for streets, parking, and entry doors have all to be discovered! My aim is to visit everyone on the list at least twice in the year, and I'm always willing to pay special visits as need be. Contact can be made through the Church Office, or directly on 07811 437075. I won't always be able to answer so please leave a note of your name and number if there is no reply.
2. Secondly, I've been supporting 'TTT' – and there's an article all about that elsewhere in our magazine.
3. Thirdly, I've been looking to the future of the project. Thanks to everyone who completed a survey form ... for the results have been very helpful. A visit to the Botanic Gardens was by far the most request, and I've arranged a visit there on Wednesday 25th June. Full details will be in weekly intimations and all are welcome as participants and helpers. The next outing will be in July to Edinburgh Zoo.
4. Fourthly, a 'Bereavement Journey' course for September has been set up, and I'm delighted that Dr



Fiona Dinsmore (a member of the congregation) is supporting this initiative. Full information will be in church weekly intimations.

Beyond these involvements I'm able to support the work of our Minister by offering to take some funerals and pulpit supply.

Thanks again for the welcome! – I'm looking forward to the coming months!



Joint Pentecost Service

**Parish Grouping
Joint Pentecost Service**
11:00am 8th June
**St Stephen's
Comely Bank**
**10 Comely Bank Road
EH4 1DW**
followed by Fellowship Lunch
ALL WELCOME

G+PP Church
Glasgow and Paisley Parish Church of Scotland

Murrayfield
PARISH CHURCH

**ST STEPHEN'S
COMELY BANK**



All welcome to this parish grouping joint Pentecost Service at St Stephen's Comely Bank Church. It would be great to see a good turnout from Murrayfield Parish Church. Please note that there will not be a service at Murrayfield that day.

Christian Aid *David Parkin*



This year Christian Aid week has concentrated on the plight of farmers in Guatemala. Their crops have particularly been affected by climate change, these days a familiar story affecting more and more communities globally. Christian Aid's fund raising campaign hopes to provide farmers the training to adapt to conditions and become self sufficient as a result. Murrayfield Churches Together volunteers have distributed envelopes to properties in and around the vicinity of Murrayfield. The Christian Aid service took place at Church of the Good Shepherd and included a very basic brunch of bread and cheese a poignant reminder of people who live on basic provisions. This year a coffee morning was held with a mixture of parishioners and local residents attending. The proceeds were split between Fresh Start and Christian Aid and we raised £225. A lovely way of bringing the community together.

I attended a Christian Aid service at St Giles' Cathedral marking 80 years from the charity's foundation. Rt Hon John Swinney addressed the worshippers highlighting the strong connection between government and charities like Christian Aid. The service involved global music, placards symbolising people's fight for justice over the years, readings, prayerful reflection and meeting fellow Christian Aid campaigners.

A special thanks to all the volunteers supporting Christian Aid week this year, monetary donors and your prayers in helping those people in need.

Visit the Christian Aid website [HERE](#)

General Assembly 2025

The 2025 General Assembly took place from Saturday, 17 May to Thursday, 22 May 2025, at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh. As the Church continues to navigate key issues and initiatives, the Church of Scotland 2025 General Assembly provided another opportunity for members to shape the future direction of its mission and ministry.

Read more and watch highlights [HERE](#)

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

View by clicking on the image



Moderator reflects on challenging yet inspiring General Assembly

“ This past week has been challenging but it has also been inspiring”

The 2025 General Assembly has come to a close and Church of Scotland members have been urged to go out into the world and make disciples. Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly, said God's love surpassed knowledge and is "wide and long and high and deep".



Traditional clapping out

She spoke ahead of an address by Lord High Commissioner Lady Elish Angiolini, the first practising Roman Catholic to represent His Majesty The King.

Mrs Frew said: "Remembering Jesus' words, I am with you always - no matter where you are, no matter what you're doing, no matter how you're feeling, I am with you always."

"Sometimes it can feel really hard. "For most of us, our whole Christian life has been lived out against the backdrop of decline - it can feel so dispiriting.

"This past week has been challenging but it has also been inspiring".

Read more [HERE](#)

Coffee Morning

Fay Forsythe

Having a clear purpose for a coffee morning, such as raising money for a charity or supporting a local cause, can provide a sense of meaning and direction. It can make it more engaging and rewarding for those organising and for those who attend.



Coffee Morning

The purpose can also help to attract more people to the event and can lead to a greater sense of community and connection.

For the coffee morning on the 17th May in the church centre we supported Christian Aid (a perfect choice during Christian Aid Week) and FreshStart, one of our church charities.

It was wonderful to welcome people of all ages from the church family and from the local community to enjoy coffee and home baking, visit the FreshStart and Christian Aid tables, purchase home baking (a big thank you to the 'Murrayfield bakers' - we were overwhelmed by the amount of baking donated!). There was a very popular plant stall (thanks to Tina Brown) and the children's craft table was in great demand allowing parents to 'enjoy a cuppa' whilst their children were kept busy!

We were delighted to have Michael (a FreshStart volunteer) with us to host the FreshStart information table. After the event Michael said -

" It was great to chat to people who donated items for FreshStart and to let them know the impact it has. Many were taken aback at the scale of help required"



There was a great response to both appeals. A total of £450 will be shared between the two charities.

Thanks to all who helped and contributed to help to make it such a great morning. We're looking forward to the next one - watch this space for further details.

Thank you for your generosity

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.

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](#)

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

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 Group , Murrayfield Parish Church.

Summary of the Congregational Accounts

Year ended 31st December 2024

Income and expenditure 2024

Income from offerings and gift aid tax reclaims remained at a similar level to prior year. Income from renting out the church hall and spaces increased slightly in 2024 but will be impacted negatively in 2025 by the loss of regular rental income from the Murrayfield Club.

Significant legacies were received in the year and this allowed a designated fund to be set aside for works to be carried out during 2025 to the hall lighting and the church stonework. These works were identified as being necessary during the last quinquennial inspection.

Regular expenditure increased year on year due to inflation, largely driven by the hike in energy prices. The largest single item of expenditure is the Giving to Grow contribution which increased by 4.5% in 2024 compared to 2023. This figure varies from year to year depending on the level of assessable income in the most recent published accounts.

Fabric repairs & maintenance costs increased by 29%. The significant items driving the increase are organ repair, emergency repairs to the heating system and professional fees relating to the lighting and property work to be carried out.

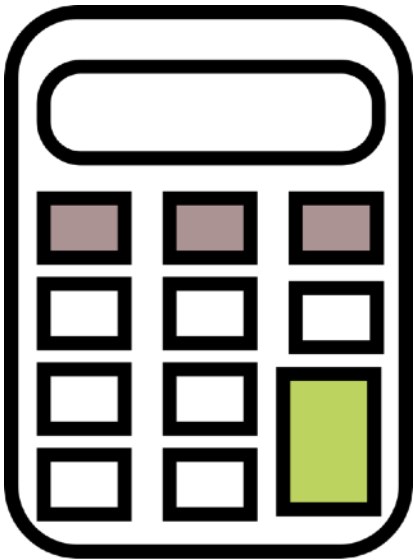
The 2024 account shows surplus income of £67,569 for the year, largely due to the £104k legacies received and some accounting entries. It is important to keep track of regular income and regular expenses and an analysis of those figures shows a position closer to breakeven rather than a surplus.

Assets

The total net assets figure at 31 December 2024 was £1,257,910 which represents an increase of 6.8% on the value noted in the 2023 account. The increase is largely due to investment portfolios increasing in value and the bank balance increasing as a result of the legacies being paid in.

The manse is held as a fixed asset at the same value year on year but the garage is held as an investment property and was revalued to reflect current market conditions.

Sufficient funds are held in the bank to cover more than 4 months of necessary monthly expenditure and the expected costs for the lighting and building work identified during the quinquennial inspection.



Stated Annual Meeting

Murrayfield Parish Church
Stated Annual Meeting
will take place on
Sunday 22nd June
after the service
in the Church Centre.



Families and Children Worker *Job opportunity!*



We have an exciting job opportunity for a

Families and Children Worker

Part time 0.5

Based at Murrayfield Parish Church

For more information/full job description

email the church office [HERE](#)

Or call 0131 337 1091

Murrayfield Parish Church

2b Ormidale Terrace

EH12 6EQ

www.murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Registered charity number SC005198



Please spread the word about this exciting role. It may be that someone you know would be interested and have the right background and skills.

Film Crew & S Club

Julia Hodgson

Film Crew has continued to meet monthly and hope that you had the opportunity to see and enjoy the short films they made for Christmas and Easter that have been shown in Church. They all work hard to produce a short film during these meetings. Last night we had a look at Paul's journeys and created a short film. During a break for food we asked those attending to provide their thoughts on Film Crew so far. Interestingly a lot of words beginning with 'F' came up immediately. Film, Food and Football being the first thoughts! However on further reflection Friends ,



Fellowship and Fun were added to the list. They

enjoyed the creative element that allowed them to express ideas and thought it was an interesting way to learn a bit more about the bible. Spending time with people of their own age was also important to them.

They then got creative and produced an acrostic having eliminated the idea of a Haiku. Here is the acrostic

F - Fellowship
I - inclusivity and interesting
L - learning
M - meeting up
C - creative
R - role play
E - energetic
W - work and words

A date for your diary -15th June 4pm-6pm

As an end of session celebration, we plan to an Open Evening for families - all are welcome whatever age when we shall have an opportunity to look at the films some of which have not been seen in Church. Activities to keep everyone amused will be available along with the all important snacks.

S Club

S Club has continued to meet on Sundays during the service with varying numbers of children attending for fun and fellowship. Each week we have a story highlighting an event in the bible and where possible relate this to topics covered that morning in church and in the lectionary.

There is always a worksheet that highlights the main point of the story and a craft session that allows things to become a little more messy and creative!

Games are played at the end of the session including some interesting ones made up by the children themselves. These are usually enjoyed by all - even if you are not always on the winning team! The children seem to enjoy S Club and are keen to participate in the activities.

Student Placement

Scott Kerr

Thank you and au revoir

At the end of April we said thank you and au revoir to Fadeke Laoshe (Fadz) as she finished her six month placement with us as part of her training for the ministry. Currently studying for a postgraduate diploma in Theology in History at Edinburgh University, Fadz joined us at Murrayfield for practical experience of service as a Church of Scotland minister.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to see her progress during her time with us - leading us in prayer, giving an all-age talk and preaching a full sermon. Her official requirement was to spend 10 hours a week on her placement with us on top of her University studies, but while taking part in the service on a Sunday morning was when many of us would see her she was also busy "behind the scenes". Fadz also helped at fundraising and outreach events, but one of the most important ways she supported the work of the congregation was in organising and leading (with the help of a band of volunteers) a Youth Alpha course attended by several of the teenage members of our church family over 5 weeks, drawing on her five years' experience as a youth worker.

Fadz will now continue her studies and as part of that will have two more placements, her next placement being at the Tron Kirk Gilmerton and Moredun, a very different parish to Murrayfield. We are sure she will be an asset to the congregation there as she was to our church family in her time with us. As we hear of reductions in the number of churches and shortages of ministers, it is wonderful to be able to play our part in helping prepare those wishing to enter the ministry. Our best wishes and God's blessing on Fadz as she continues her studies and training.



Magnitude : brought to you by SU Scotland

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

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

We are Magnitude.

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



Holiday Club 2025

The Clubhouse

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



Holiday Club 2025

When? 2.00pm to 4.30pm,
Monday 30th June to Wednesday 2nd July

Where? Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

Who? Primary 1 - Primary 7 (including those due to start P1)

In this year's Holiday Club **All Are Welcome**. The children are invited in to The Clubhouse, a place where everyone is welcome no matter who they are, where they come from and whether or not they know they already belong. In the Clubhouse we will think about how we welcome others and how God welcomes us. We will do this through a structured programme of Bible stories, games, crafts and songs. Within the programme there will be time allocated for a snack and free play.



Places are limited so advance registration is essential.

Please call/text 07881 956315 for a registration form and 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 30th June.

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



Registered Charity SCO14175

The Murrayfield Club

Jenny Rowe

It's been a whirlwind few months for the Murrayfield Club which has taken us to the bright lights of STV News and the rather swish surrounds of Murrayfield House.

Having seen our news piece about the disinvestment of funding, we received an extremely generous donation from the Colin Weir Charitable Foundation which enabled us to continue enhancing the lives of our more vulnerable community members. At the start of April we moved premises to the nearby Murrayfield House Care Home, where we now run the Murrayfield Club from, using two of the rooms within the home. It was all hands on deck for the big move and the members have settled in very well and have been able to use the gardens, courtyard and ballroom. Over these last two months our themes have included Edinburgh Cinemas, Easter, Game Shows, Youth Organisations, Famous Scots, Record Breakers and My Home Life.

We have action packed themes running right through the year so if you know someone, maybe even

yourself, who would like to join our club then please get in touch. We currently have spaces available so please just call or email Jenny on 07881288909 or email [HERE](#). You can see more of what we do on our website [HERE](#) or find us on Facebook for photos and videos by searching for The Murrayfield Club.

Our monthly live music continues at the Memory Lane Café which is held every Friday 10am-12pm at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church. You can join us here to chat with others over a hot drink and toasted bun, play table games if you like and enjoy the monthly live music. The next music dates are;

Charlie Gorman performing Friday 20th June.

Jason Sweeney performing Friday 4th July.

Charlie Gorman performing Friday 29th August.

Kim & Lissa performing Friday 5th September.

We would love to have you join us so please come along or get in touch if you'd like to know more.





Activities in the Ballroom



Record breakers!



The BIG move



MURRAYFIELD CHURCHES
TOGETHER
**THE MURRAYFIELD
CLUB**
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
THURSDAY 3RD JULY 2025
3PM

To be held at the
Church of the Good Shepherd
13A Murrayfield Avenue
(option of attending remotely)
Refreshments will be provided

COPIES OF THE AGENDA, ANNUAL REPORT
2024/2025 AND ZOOM DETAILS CAN BE OBTAINED
FROM THE SECRETARY: [HERE](#)





Memory Lane Cafe

All welcome every Friday 10am - 12pm

£3 per person

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
NHS • EDINBURGH •

Scottish Charity Number: SC023210
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Murrayfield Churches Together

Tone Up On Tuesday at Two

Jane Smart (Pastoral Group Convener)

This group has now been exercising, socialising and worshipping together for several years, in fact since before Covid. It was originally formed as one of a number of initiatives to engage our older members and community friends and it has continued to offer all three of these goals. It is supported by a small team of willing volunteers, to whom we give thanks.

The session begins with a seated, or standing if you are able, exercise session led by Joanne who is a 'Move It or Lose It' trained instructor. This is a great way to do what it says on the tin – move it or lose it. Great music to exercise to and all levels of mobility are catered for.

The members then move on to a much appreciated socialising time over tea/coffee and a sweet treat – lots of chat and some good friendships have been made.

Finally, a short act of worship, now led by Douglas our Pastoral Assistant, which includes a reading, homily and prayer.

I asked the members for some sound bites on their thoughts about being TTT members and this is what they said:

Exercise – *my body knows if I have missed a week; anyone of any ability can benefit*

Socialising – *friendly; helpful companionship*

Worship – *it grounds you; it's the icing on the cake*

We will continue to meet until 1st July and then have our summer break. Anyone is welcome for any or all parts of the session and if new folk want to join us, whether congregation or community, please contact [Jane Smart](#) or the [church office](#) for further details.



Dear Friends,

The sight of Pope Francis' plain-deal coffin set amid the architectural splendour of St Peter's and the liturgical finery on display in its Square at his funeral lives on in the memory. Its otherness, its holiness, honed against the dissembling hypocrisy of some and open hostility of others who had gathered to pay their respects, proclaimed a humility of spirit and of strategy that cut through all virtue signalling.

As I listened to the coverage, my mind returned to the Requiem Mass for Pope Francis celebrated in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem two days after his passing. In a spirit of thanksgiving, His Beatitude Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Latin

Patriarch of Jerusalem, led prayers for the eternal repose of the Pope's soul, proclaiming the resurrection of our Lord ten feet from the entrance to his tomb. It was there that the altar had been placed, laid simply with white cloth and bowls containing wafers. When the sacrament had been consecrated, it was the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Adolfo Tito Yllana, who brought the bowl of wafers in our direction.

Four days before, he had been one of thousands blocked by police from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for the Holy Fire ceremony of the Orthodox Church, its most sacred ritual.

Many were remembering that in his Easter address, only three days before, Pope Francis had pressed Israel and Hamas to 'call for a ceasefire, release the hostages, and come to the aid of a starving people that aspires to a future of peace.' He had kept up a daily telephone contact with Holy Family Church in Gaza, we learned, deeply appreciated by its members and all those sheltering within its walls, some 500 people – whose homes had been destroyed, severely damaged, or had other people living in them by now, according to reports received from Palestinian colleagues.

Condolences followed in the Latin Patriarchate, where I, following forty minutes of conversation- rich queuing, brought greetings on behalf of St Andrew's Church of Scotland Jerusalem & Tiberias, assuring Cardinal Pizzaballa of our prayers through these days of trial, united as we are in the Spirit of God, in the name of Jesus Christ. As I left, I found myself praying that Pope Francis' wide embrace, from prisoners to presidents, would be granted a long legacy. That it would continue to guide and inspire the Church, the body of Christ in the world, crucified and risen, in its witness to the truth, justice and healing of Christ.

Why might it not? Focussing on Jerusalem, I must return to Holy Saturday. As mentioned, it was marked by sharp conflict as Christians sought and were denied, in their thousands, access to the Old City to receive the holy fire, symbolic the resurrection of Christ, following its emergence from his tomb in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Speaking of it with our reception manager at the Scots House Hotel, he directed me one of our accountants, a Scout Leader, to hear what had happening to his Scouts on Holy Saturday.

'Every year it is bad,' he said. 'This year was the worst. Unbelievable. It was miserable.'

He had been at the New Gate with his young family. 'The police blocked us. They were even blocking priests! Here, I can show you.' We watched a video

showing two priests being pushed back. One of the priests, dressed in black with a long white beard, managed to get past the police by ducking down, leaning forward, and twisting his way in.

They got as far as Christian Quarter Road, but were blocked while still a long way from the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. Not wishing to endanger his family, the Scout Leader did not push it. He then said: 'A Scout officer, one of the Greek Patriarchate Scouts, had a gun pointed to his head. This was on the roof of Holy Sepulchre.' Continuing, he said, 'It started on Thursday night. We were going, the Scouts, from Gethsemane to Gallicantu. At Zion Gate the Israelis who were there started spitting on us and shouting abuse. We started to pray louder. The police came and started pushing us and then they attacked us. They said: any person who shouts will be struck. I said, 'Then stop those at Zion Gate, they are doing the shouting!'

The actions of soldiers and police on Holy Saturday, using force to refuse Palestinian Christians entry to worship in the Old City on the Saturday of Holy Week, was widely condemned by Church Leaders and by diplomats present for the ceremony, some of whom had themselves been blocked at one stage from entering the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The freedom of Christians to come together in worship in Jerusalem during Holy Week, like the freedom of Jews to gather to celebrate during Passover, and the freedom of Muslims to come together in prayer and fasting during Ramadan, is at the heart of the recognition of sacred sites and spaces in the City. To deny this freedom to Christians is to consign our holy sites to the status of points of archaeological interest, or, worse, of 'facts on the ground' seen to be in need change, as the aggressive push continues to annex the whole of the Old City and East Jerusalem for Israel.

As coverage of the funeral continued, the Pope's coffin front and centre, I saw a statement from the Rev Dr Munther Isaac of Bethlehem decrying the hypocrisy of world leaders who had gathered, paying lip service but not respect to the Pope, sticking to generalities about peace and the poor. His post condemned them for their silence on the Pope's commitment to the people of Gaza and to ending the war. Such silence betrayed their complicity in the destruction of Gaza and killing and displacement of its people. In her own Easter message, given at sunrise on the Mount of Olives, Lutheran Pastor Rev Sally Azar had spoken of the pain of her people at Easter.

I think of us Palestinians today—women, men and children, who walk with grief in our bodies. We, too, know the sour taste of violence, occupation, loss, exile. We know what it is to look for peace and see only tombs. To search for justice and see only stones rolled into place. She then spoke of the sweetness of the power of resurrection, declaring, 'But this morning, Mary becomes our witness. This city becomes our witness. And Jesus—risen and radiant—becomes the first fruit of a promise that cannot be stolen or buried.'

Returning to Scouts, when the Pope's funeral was over, his coffin on its way to Santa Maria Maggiore, an interview in Saint Peter's Square with teenaged Scouts, girls and boys, revealed their strong connection with the one they called Papa Francesco. 'He changed our view of the pope, from someone who is higher than us to someone who is as human as us.' Not long after, his remains were welcomed at Santa Maria Maggiore by those whom he had chosen to bid him a final farewell, drawn from the poor and homeless of Rome, and from migrants and refugees in Rome, with whom he had formed a working relationship during his papacy.

This of course made for a good deal of nervousness in leadership circles in his Church, and still does by all accounts as Cardinals turn their attention now to the

question of his successor. By the time you read this I expect we will know their name, and have a clearer sense of what to expect regarding Francis' legacy.

Why should we care? The question of a leader's legacy in the Church is related to that of Jesus himself, we might agree, a question that searches us all. Prompting the thought that Jesus was not an easy experience for his own followers. Nor were they for him. Only with difficulty did they make it from the cross to the empty tomb, having scattered at Jesus' arrest. Scenes of his resurrection appearances to them in Jerusalem witness to their fear and doubt, yet also to a reigniting of their faith, having received from Jesus the Holy Spirit. The portal through which they recognise the risen Jesus is provided by his wounds. 'He showed them his hands and his side,' we are told (John 20.20). Thomas' doubt, and then belief, is focussed on these wounds. They send us back to the violence of the cross, even as his risen body itself testifies to the power of resurrection. The humanity of Jesus is not eliminated by the resurrection; he continues to be incarnate in this world, in solidarity with a broken and suffering humanity, Jew and Gentile. It is this Jesus who – assuring us that he still is, and that he is still for us in all our difference and difficulty with each other – calls us to himself, and sends us out as his Father sent him. Out to engage in the risky work of holiness – binding up the broken, speaking truth to power while vulnerable to that power, seeking to engage our higher faculties in the making of peace. God being our helper, having initiated the divine-human relationship at creation and rebooted it countless times since, sealing it in Christ.

In Pope Francis we witnessed both cross bearer and care giver. Let us give thanks for him, and take heart from his tough-old-bird faith and his witness to our Lord's disarming love and healing justice.

Grace and peace to you all, Stewart

Your support is making a difference!

A massive thank you for all of your support with 'The real Easter egg' campaign.

Murrayfield Church has supported the wonderful work of the Meaningful Chocolate Company. We placed and sold orders of £372 in the run up to Easter. This enables the company to support numerous charitable causes, developmental and educational projects.

Your support is making a difference.

Fairtrade remains the 'go to' ethical label for shoppers.

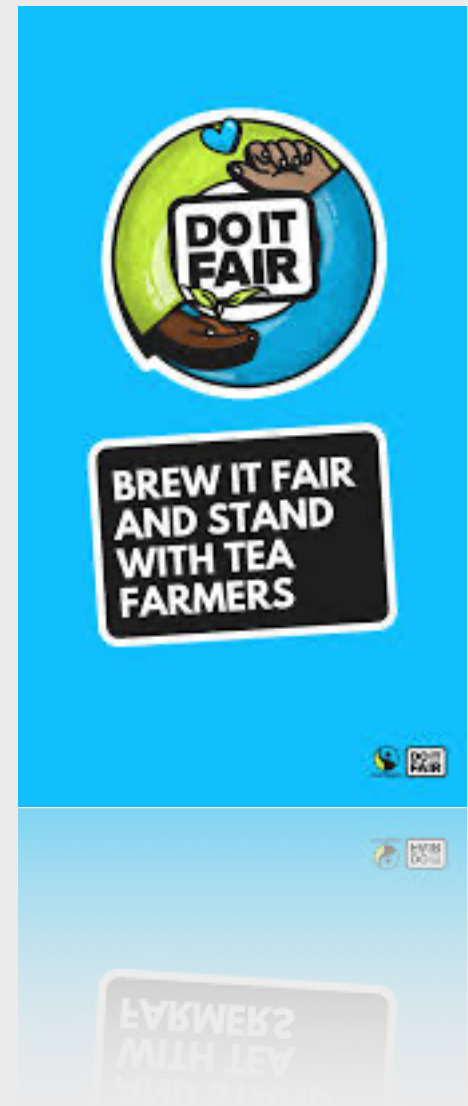
There is a growing public demand for transparency, fairness and sustainability in how products are made and traded.

Shoppers know that when they choose Fairtrade they are standing with farmers and workers to create a fairer world.

The current focus of the Fairtrade foundation is tea. Brew it fair campaign encourages us to think about our favourite cuppa. We drink 100 million cups of tea in the UK. Millions of people work hard to nurture and grow our tea leaves. Many producers however face poverty, unsafe working conditions and many face the threat of climate change.

Is your brew fair? How much better does your cuppa taste knowing that the producers can be empowered to make positive change in their lives and communities.

Heartfelt thanks to all of you for your ongoing support of Fairtrade. We will be having an event to celebrate Fairtrade fortnight in September. I will keep you posted



DO IT FAIR FOR A FAIRER WORLD

Visit the fairtrade website [HERE](#)

At Easter time Esther had a lunch and celebration day with the women. They enjoyed a meal together and a day of singing and fellowship together. Esther gave them all food parcels to take home. They all had a wonderful day together.



Celebration day with the women



The Elizabeth Forbes Computer Room

The new Elizabeth Forbes Computer Room

Esthers says “ *This new facility is more than just a building; It is a beacon of hope and a testament to what can be accomplished when we all come together in faith and unity*”

In March the building of the new Elizabeth Forbes computer room was finished. In the building there is also space for a daycare room, a small hall for dancing/ ballet and other activities and the computer room/Lab.

The computer room has to have a few more things done in it before it is ready for use and we are about to send some funds to Esther to complete the room and purchase some more computers. This is money very generously given by Murrayfield Churches Together .

The computer room will be used not only by the school children but by the community as well.

Thank you to everyone that supports our MCT project of Ecludare , your generosity makes a huge difference to the lives of the everyone involved .



The Ecludare committee are having a table at the Roseburn school Summer Fair on Saturday 14th June, 10am -2pm. We will have some goods for sale that the women have made. Bags of different sizes, aprons, some fun bucket hats and some beaded wear.

Roseburn Primary School

SUMMER FAIR

Saturday 14th June 2025

10am-2pm

ECUDARE

Adults £1, children 50p

The ECUDARE group will be hosting a table at the Summer Fair selling goods made by women of the ECUDARE project.



Church Centre Lighting Project

Maureen Gilleade

The Lighting Project for the Church Centre recognised the need for the lighting to be replaced as existing units are now obsolete. This included bringing emergency lighting up to current standard.

The work for this Project has now been completed. There are, however, a few minor snagging issues which need to be addressed. By the time this magazine is distributed these should be resolved. A few members of the congregation have been commenting on the sensitivity of the lights in the toilets. This is one of the snagging issues which will be being dealt with and resolved.



What's going on in the Church Centre?

In this edition we are delighted to highlight : Tai Chi

'Gather the tiger in your arms and return to the mountain'

'Gather the tiger in your arms and return to the mountain'

You can find out what this means along with many other phrases and names, if you come along to the Tai Chi classes held in Murrayfield Parish Hall on

Wednesday mornings. Classes are taught by Harriet Devlin , the daughter of Gerda Geddes, who was the first non Chinese to teach the Tai Chi in Europe in the 1960's. Harriet's parents lived in China after World War II and her mother was fascinated by the slow dance like movements that she saw people practising in the parks and fields early in the morning and she was determined to learn and to understand what it was all about. The family had to leave China and moved to Hong Kong where Gerda learned the Tai Chi from a number of teachers . Tai Chi is many things - it can be a martial art, a slow moving meditation, or a general health exercise and it is very relaxing and rewarding to learn.



The symbolism and meanings of the movements are every rich and are rooted in Chinese literature, art, poetry and philosophy. The imagery can be interpreted as a life journey which confronts all the difficulties and rewards of a full life- but the movements can be quite challenging to learn. Harriet went on to study the Tai Chi Yang Style Long Form and has been teaching it for many years. She has classes on Wednesday mornings but the summer term will finish in July and there will be new beginners classes starting at the Church Hall in September. If you are interested and would like to find out more please do contact Harriet by email - [HERE](#) - or contact Maureen Gilleade at the [Church Office](#) for times, dates and the cost of classes.

RENT OUR HALLS

Our fabulous modern centre is perfect for business, leisure, community or social use. It's ideal for clubs, classes, conferences and meetings and is hugely popular for parties and fundraising functions.

Contact : office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk
0131 337 1091



Fancy a trip to the Royal Botanic Garden?

Meeting at the Botanic Gardens reception at 2.20pm.

Programme :

2.30pm 'Pilgrimage round the Gardens' led by Alan Baker, Reader at St. Ninian's Church , Stockbridge, followed by refreshments that can be purchased in the cafe.

When requested lifts can be arranged to the Gardens and mobility scooters are booked for use in the Gardens.

There is no charge for the activity.

Please let us know you are coming by contacting Douglas Nicol on 07811 437075 (please leave message if no reply) or leaving a message at the Church Office.

A trip to the Royal Botanic Garden Wednesday 25th June

All welcome!



Email the church office [HERE](#)

A date for your diary -15th June 4-6pm

As an end of session celebration, we plan to have an Open Evening for families - all are welcome whatever age when we shall have an opportunity to look at the films some of which have not been seen in Church. Activities to keep everyone amused will be available along with the all important snacks.

Film Crew +



Open Evening

TTT : TONE UP ON TUESDAYS AT TWO

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

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



TTT will run until 1st July.

**Afternoon Tea
Friday 20th June
2pm - 3.30pm**



On Friday, June 20th, Murrayfield Parish Church will be hosting an Afternoon Tea in the Main Hall from 2.00–3:30pm. We would love to see you there

All are welcome!

Please RSVP to the office [HERE](#) by June 13th .

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



Cake 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](#)



Coming to church with younger children

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

Volunteering



We would love to hear from you if you would like to find out more about volunteering at Murrayfield Parish Church. There are so many ways to get involved and volunteering roles can be matched to your skills and to the time you have to spare. Contact one of the session clerks or Keith Graham [HERE](#)

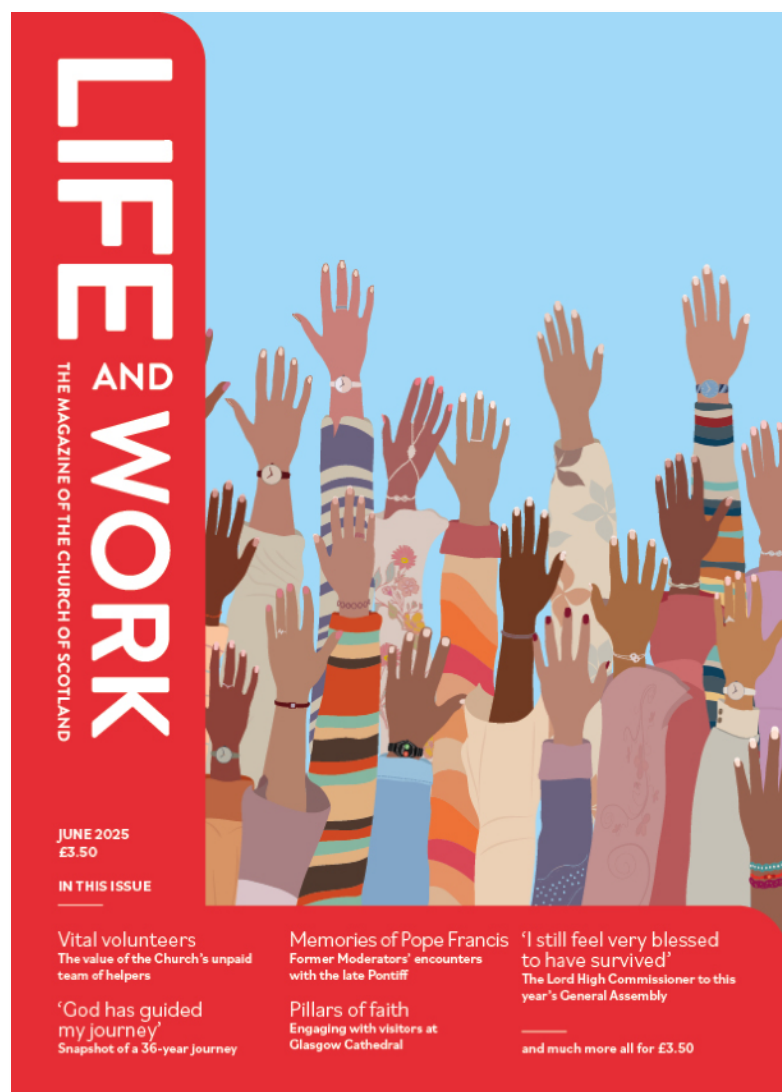
Please save milk bottle tops! *Martha Dickson*

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

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 Donaldson's 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](#)

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](#)



June 2025 IN THIS ISSUE

VITAL VOLUNTEERS

- The value of the Church's unpaid team of helpers

'GOD HAS GUIDED MY JOURNEY'

- Snapshot of a 36-year journey

MEMORIES OF POPE FRANCIS

- Former Moderators' encounters with the late Pontiff

PILLARS OF FAITH

- Engaging with visitors at Glasgow Cathedral

'I STILL FEEL VERY BLESSED TO HAVE SURVIVED'

The Lord High Commissioner to this year's General Assembly

Plus: official update from the Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles - all for £3.50

And much more....

Life and Work, the 146-year-old magazine of the Church of Scotland, is to cease publication later this year. Proposals will be brought to next year's Assembly for a new publication as part of a full communications strategy.

As Life and Work is due to close later this year, please do not buy a subscription. You are still welcome to purchase a single issue.

Deaths



**We are deeply saddened to announce
the following death**

Mr Ian Gardiner 15th May 2025

Please keep Ian's family and friends in your
thoughts and prayers

**If you would like to
donate flowers this year
please add your name
to the flower rota at the
back of the church**



STAFF ARRANGEMENTS

Church office: Maureen Gilleade

Organists : Justin Nash and Andy Elders

Cleaner: Kerry MacLean

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



CONTACT DETAILS

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

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

Pastoral Assistant Rev Douglas Nicol can be
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Douglas.Nicol@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk Catherine Campbell can be
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catherine@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

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

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

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

