

Murrayfield

PARISH CHURCH

Issue no.555



JUNE MAGAZINE

Letter from the Minister

Dear Church Members,

As you know from previous updates, Murrayfield is being asked to go into a Parish Grouping with two other congregations, these being the (soon-to-be) united charge of Gorgie-Dalry-Stenhouse & Palmerston Place, and St. Stephen's Comely Bank. At present, GDS and Palmerston are working towards their union which involves agreeing a basis of union and having a congregational vote, prior to this all being brought to Presbytery.

Whilst the focus for these two congregations is necessarily on their union it was still regarded important that an initial meeting was held with ourselves and SSCB. This first meeting happened on Sunday 4th June and was attended



by eight representatives from each of the four congregations. Our folk who participated were Catherine Campbell, Scott Kerr, Fay Forsythe, Jane Smart, David McGuffie, John Crispin, Ellenore Foulis, and myself.

The meeting was held at Slateford Longstone church and was facilitated by Rev John Young from Liberton Kirk. Also present were Stewart Weaver (convenor of the Presbytery's Deployment Group) and Rev Nelu Balaj and Helen Hannah (members of the Deployment Group). John started the meeting off by explaining the close working of Liberton Kirk with some of its neighbouring congregations over a period of the last twenty years.

Whilst the Mission Plan for Liberton is a union with team ministry it was still very interesting to hear about the benefits and principles of joint working. One thing that stood out was John Young's encouragement that a covenant be developed that could complement any eventual Basis of Parish Grouping. He advocated this as a helpful way to establish and develop good relationships alongside the more formal/legal documents and processes.

After John's introduction we split into smaller groups to look at themed areas of congregational life. These areas were: local mission, world mission, youth, pastoral care, discipleship, property/finance, worship. communication. The meeting was a very helpful first gathering of people from the existing four congregations. Lots of work will need to be done, and many steps taken, but this was a positive start with a good atmosphere.

John Young read to us a couple of short parables from Matthew's Gospel at its 13th chapter: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it."

I think this is a fine way to conclude this letter for it reminds us of what is truly significant in life and reminds us why the work of the church is so important. In the midst of all the machinations of Presbytery Planning it is easy to lose sight of the immense value of the kingdom of God for our own lives as individuals and for the communities we serve as a parish church. May we be encouraged that we are blessed with the gift of such life transforming treasure.

Your minister, Keith



From the joint Good Friday service last April with all the churches from our Parish Grouping

MMM : Managing Matters on Mondays (10.30am–12.30pm)

For those of retirement age +



This is our free wonderful digital awareness support group for those of retirement age plus, which has been **fully subscribed** and fully enjoyed by all attendees.

We have been able to ask questions about phones, tablets, laptops, how to shop online, internet safety etc., and all of our questions so far have been answered.

In this relaxed atmosphere we, as a group have been able to receive person centred digital support from *People Know How*, a time for friendships and refreshments followed by a time for worship.

This current course ends on the 3rd of July. If you are interested in joining the next session, do let Carolann know and she will book you a place. Date tbd.

Recognising Scams

Cyber Criminals may contact you via email, text, phone call, or social media. They will often pretend to be someone (or an organisation) you trust.

They might contain bad spelling or grammar, come from an unusual email address, or feature imagery or design that feels 'off'.

What is phishing?

When a person sends a fake text, email, or pop-up message to get people to share their personal information, passwords, or financial information.

Helpful recourses from MMM

Connecting Scotland website : Scottish Government website where learners can find out the basics about using the internet — Click [HERE](#).

Learn My Way website : Free courses on how to use the internet — Click [HERE](#). And a specific course on being safe online and keeping your device and personal information safe — Click [HERE](#).

mygov.scot website : Scottish Government guide to staying safe online — Click [HERE](#).

NHS Inform website: Scotland's National Health Information Service — Click [HERE](#).

Mind to Mind website: NHS website with practical tips on how to cope with pressure, stress and anxiety — Click [HERE](#).

Digital Wings website : Information regarding financial wellbeing, banking online, shopping online, making payments, fraud, and scams — Click [HERE](#).

Bank of Scotland Academy website : Budgeting basics, banking basics, money and mental health, save money on utilities and services — Click [HERE](#).

How to use Facetime (Apple) : Click [HERE](#).

How to use WhatsApp Video Call : Click [HERE](#).

Calm app: This is one of the most popular mindfulness and meditation apps.

Headspace app : This a science backed app in mindfulness and meditation.

My Possible Self app: This is a mental health app using clinically certified content from Priority Healthcare to help reduce anxiety, stress and low mood.

Sleep Cycle app: Track sleep from bedtime to morning and get a detailed analysis of your sleep pattern.

Duolingo app : Free app for learning a new language through quick, bite size lessons.

Lothian Buses app : The travel app you need to get you around Edinburgh.

(Please note that some apps are free, some have a trial time, and others require you to subscribe. If you subscribe to an app, remember to unsubscribe after the trial.)

TTT : Tone up on Tuesdays at Two (2–4pm) (some spaces still available)



For those of retirement age +



These weekly exercise classes (seated for those who need to be) are great fun to tone up your body mind and soul. If you have not been before, do come along and try a little exercise to strengthen your muscles and work on your balance. The first class is free, thereafter £4 per week. After the class, we settle into a lovely space of friendship and refreshments before the optional worship of pause for thought. For more information, contact Carolann.

WWW : Worthwhile Wellbeing on Wednesdays (1–3pm)



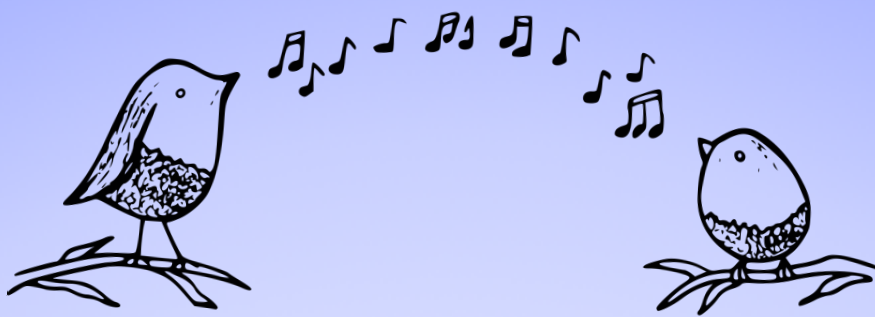
For those of retirement age +



Our first body, mind, and soul eight-week course has now finished and was a great success with the course being **fully subscribed**. Those who attended benefitted from excellent advice from three GPs and a nutritionist. The first hour was a presentation from a health care professional. This was followed by time for friendships and worship.

We will be running this course again so, if you are interested, please do let Carolann know as spaces are limited.

And, if you have any ideas or preferred topics for the presenters, do let Carolann know.



**SAUGHTONHALL UNITED REFORMED
CHURCH.**

85/87 Saughtonhall Drive

Present a Concert by

**SPRINGWELL GOLDEN VOICES
CHOIR**

Including some old favourites.....



Saturday 17TH June 2023 3pm



**Tickets £5 including
refreshments.**

Tickets available from Irene Davies Tel: 337 9232

E-mail: irenedavies81@gmail.com

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



'Fun with Faith'



Saturday 24th June

from 3.00pm to 4.15pm

As our 2023 Holiday Club will run from 3rd to 7th July,
the next 'Fun with Faith' event on the 24th June
will be a taster session
for children and parents/carers.

As a **Circus Star** in this year's Holiday Club, the children
will be encouraged to appreciate that
in the variety of talents we all have,
God loves each one of us just as we are.



Registered Charity SCO14175

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



Holiday Club 2023



- When? **10am to 12pm, Monday 3rd to Friday 7th July**
- Where? Saughtonhall United Reformed Church
- Who? Primary 1 - Primary 7 (including those due to start P1)

As a **Circus Star** in this year's Holiday Club, the children will be encouraged to appreciate that in the variety of talents we all have, God loves each one of us just as we are. We will do this through an organised daily programme of stories, games, crafts and songs. Within the programme there will be time allocated for a snack and free play. On the Thursday morning we will receive a visit from a Circus School who will give the children an opportunity to try various circus skills. Parents/carers will be invited to join for the final half hour on the last day.



Places are limited so advance registration is essential. To register use the QR or go to www.saughtonhall.com. You can also 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 3rd July.

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



Registered Charity SCO14175



Our thanks to Maureen Gilleade!!!

After 20 years of service to the church, Maureen Gilleade retired from her role as Church Manager at the beginning of April. We would like to thank Maureen for her service in that role and for her continued volunteer work. Maureen has been an amazing asset to the church, and her hard work and dedication have been very much appreciated. Jessica Linde is now in the role as Church Manager.



Thank you to everyone who came along to and helped out with our Coronation celebration on Sunday, May 7th!





ECUDARE FUNDRAISER

SONGS, STRAWBERRIES AND SPARKLES



Saturday 1st July 2023

2pm till 4pm

**Church of the Good Shepherd
13a Murrayfield Ave.**

Tickets by donation.



If you have any questions, contact Kath Anderson via dk7anderson@gmail.com

ECUDARE Project Questionnaire



ECUDARE was started in 2003 by Murrayfield Churches Together (MCT) to provide quality of life and holistic care for women and their families who are living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS. It has a Christian ethos. It is based in Ngong, one of the poorest areas of Kenya to the south west of Nairobi. It is led by Esther Wanjohi who also established a pre school and primary school which over the years MCT has supported ECUDARE.

The MCT ECUDARE Group is considering the continuation of support for ECUDARE (which is mainly, but not exclusively, through two fundraising campaigns per year) for a further five year period and would like to ask the congregations of each church a few questions which will help to inform these discussions and future plans. Responses are anonymous. Thank you!

The questionnaire can be accessed by clicking [HERE](#) or by scanning the below QR code with your smartphone via the camera app.



A message from Esther of the ECUDARE Project

We received the below message and photos from Esther at Easter time :

Helping the needy, vulnerable and the aged has been the tradition of *Ecumenical Project and Esther Preparatory School* over the years.

This Easter season, the teachers and grade seven students joined us to share love with the aged and vulnerable. It was an occasion characterised by songs, prayers, and goodwill for everyone.

May God continue blessing the aged for they form an integral part of our society. I take this opportunity to appreciate all our friends and partners who have continued to support our programs.

Easter is a moment to reflect on the sacrifice of Christ and the hope in His resurrection for strong Faith. Let this God given festive season fill you and your loved ones with peace, joy and hope.

Happy Easter to you all 🙏



A message regarding Fairtrade from Fiona Dinsmore:

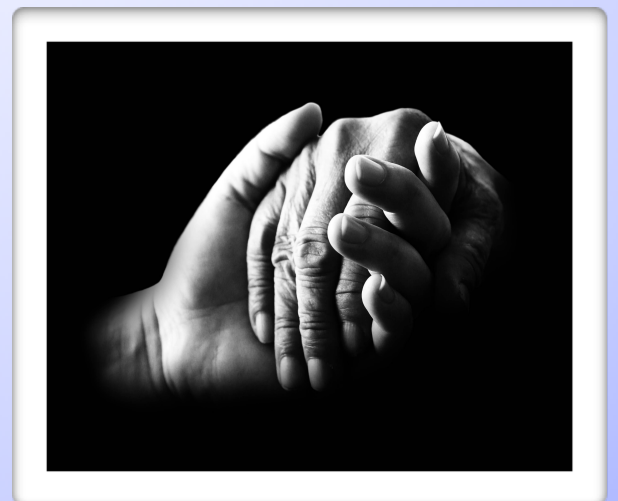
“This past month, I attended a Fairtrade reception at the Scottish parliament representing Murrayfield Parish Church. The event was hosted by Colin Smyth MSP and well attended with lots of MSPs and Fairtrade supporters from all over the country. We were all thanked for our support of Fairtrade and encouraged to keep going and to be ‘active global citizens’ pushing for a fair deal for farmers and developers around the world.

Thanks so much to all of you for continuing to support Fairtrade.”



Please let us know if you know someone who has gone into hospital!

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



CrossReach 2022–2023 Impact Report Out Now



“It has been another extraordinary year for CrossReach.

We are extremely proud of the achievements of our talented workforce, our dedicated volunteers and the hard work and efforts of our supported people and those within their families and networks.

Together we have seen a year of joyful transformations, hope for better days ahead and at the heart of everything, we have seen love in action every single day.

We give thanks for all those who are engaged with the work of CrossReach.

Please take time to read our Impact Report or watch our short video and share with those who may like to find out more about what goes on at CrossReach.”

Click [HERE](#) to read the report. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.

Moderator pays tribute "from the heart" to longest serving female minister



Right Rev Sally Foster-Fulton with Rev Jean Montgomerie

The Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has paid tribute "from the heart" to the longest serving female minister, Rev Jean Montgomerie, stating "we stand on the shoulders of giants".

On 11 January, 1973 Ms Montgomerie was one of the first women to be ordained as a minister of Word and Sacrament within the Church, and was also the first to convene a committee of the General Assembly.

"Jean also told me whilst we were having coffee that the General Assembly passed the act allowing women to be candidates for ministry on Wednesday and her application was mailed on Sunday," Mrs Foster-Fulton added.

Addressing commissioners Mrs Foster-Fulton praised Ms Montgomerie as a trailblazer, saying: "Thank you for hearing that call and saying 'I hear you' and it is for me, and being brave enough."

"Thank you from the General Assembly, thank you from both the charges that you so wonderfully led, Kelman Memorial in Peterculter and Forfar St Margaret's. Thank you for convening the board of ministry. Thank you for serving this church so beautifully, and you continue to do it. So thank you."

Reflecting on her 50 years in ministry, Ms Montgomerie said: "It's been absolutely amazing to get this far.

"I believe the church has given me a lot of support during that time. There has obviously been lots of ups and downs but by in large it's been a good journey.

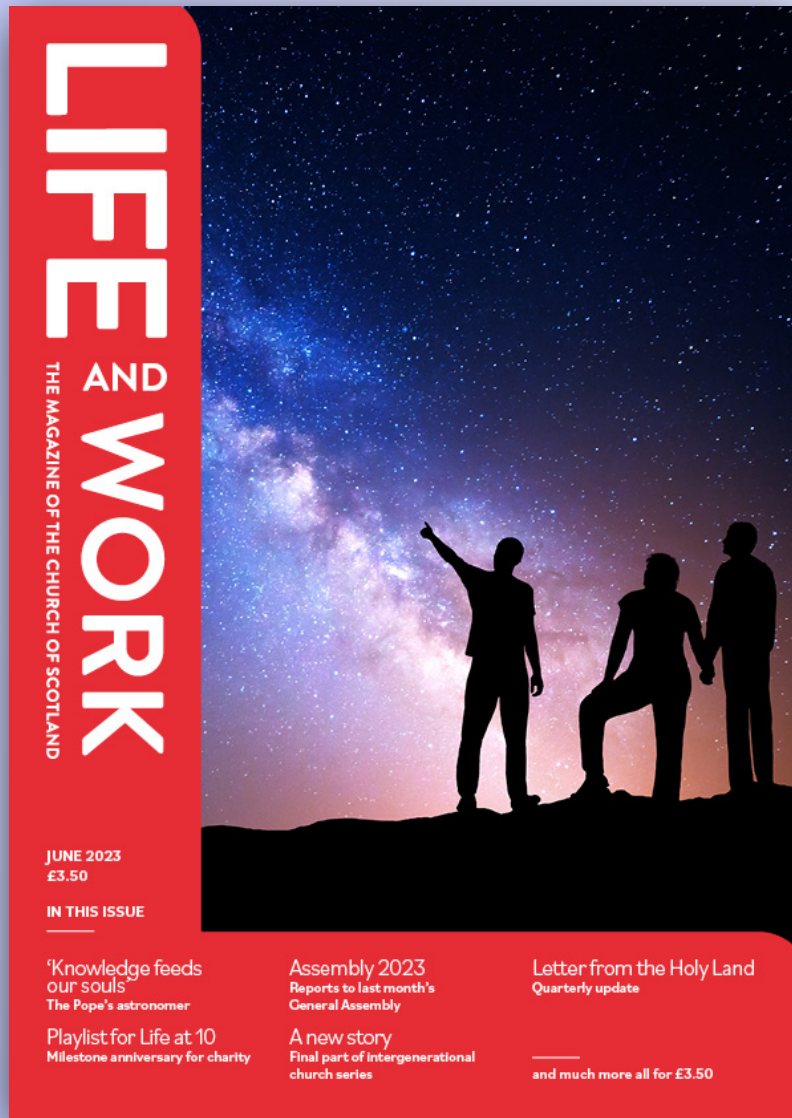
"The highs have been preaching and pastoral work. Now I'm retired I still enjoy preaching, although it takes a lot out of me."

Paying tribute to Ms Montgomerie earlier this year on the anniversary of her ordination, Rev Shuna Dicks said: "It is on behalf of the women that followed in your footsteps that I add my gratitude for showing that women could and should lead in the Church of Scotland.

"Please never forget the role you have played through your example in encouraging many more of us to follow our calling." **To read on the Church of Scotland website, click [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](#).



“Knowledge Feeds Our Souls”

Interview with Brother Guy, one of the Papal Astronomers.

Letter from the Holy Land

In the start of a regular series from the Church of Scotland’s ministers in the Holy Land, the Rev Muriel Pearson reports on an event bringing together bereaved Israeli and Palestinian families.

Assembly 2023

Four pages of reports to the Assembly

The Procurator and Service

The outgoing Procurator to the General Assembly, Laura Dunlop KC, reflects on her 18 years in the role.

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Dr Marjory MacLean reflects on what two and a half years in Orkney have taught her about the things that matter in worship.

Playlist for Life at 10

A milestone anniversary for the dementia charity supported by many churches.

Regulars :

- The Rev Dr Martin Johnstone on leadership
- The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church
- John L Bell on worship
- Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer
- Bible Study by Ruth Harvey

Our subscription service offers you the convenience of having *Life and Work* magazine delivered direct to your door or any digital device; you can also arrange a gift subscription.

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

Click [HERE](#) to subscribe.



26th Dunedin International Folk Dance Festival



7-9 July 2023

*Featuring music & dance from
Scotland, Belgium & Spain
Performances in Edinburgh & Stirling*

Friday 7 July: EDINBURGH Performance, Grassmarket*

Scotland, Spain, & Belgium will be performing in Edinburgh's Old Town in Grassmarket 1-2.30pm—free (donations welcome).

Saturday 8 July: EDINBURGH Performance, Ross Bandstand, West Princes Street Gardens*

Scotland, Spain, & Belgium will be performing at the Ross Bandstand in the Gardens by Princes Street with Edinburgh Castle as a backdrop, seating will be available. 1.30-3.00pm—free (donations welcome).

Saturday 8 July: EDINBURGH Festival Showcase + Ceilidh

*Magnusson Centre, Edinburgh Academy,
42 Henderson Row, Edinburgh EH3 5BL*

Scotland, Spain, & Belgium will be dancing in this indoor event. Concert will run 7.30-9.30pm with an interval then we'll push back the chairs to enjoy some ceilidh/social dancing until late! Tickets £10 full price; £5 for under 18s. To guarantee your place, book tickets by clicking [HERE](#) or by using the QR code.



Sunday 9 July: STIRLING CASTLE, Queen Anne Gardens

Scotland, Spain, & Belgium in their last performance together in the stunning location of the Queen Anne Gardens at Stirling Castle Parade 1.30pm; Performance 2-3.30pm. Not to be missed! (Stirling Castle admission is required £17/£14/£10.50, family ticket options are available too).

**weather permitting—see our Facebook page for updates by clicking [HERE](#).*

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are deeply saddened to announce the following deaths :

Mr James Moncrieff : 31 March 2023

Mr Ian Hutton : April 2023

Mrs Elizabeth (Betty) Hurley : 25 April 2023

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

STAFF ARRANGEMENTS



Church Manager : Jessica Linde

Organists : Justin Nash and Andy Elders

Cleaner : Kerry MacLean



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