

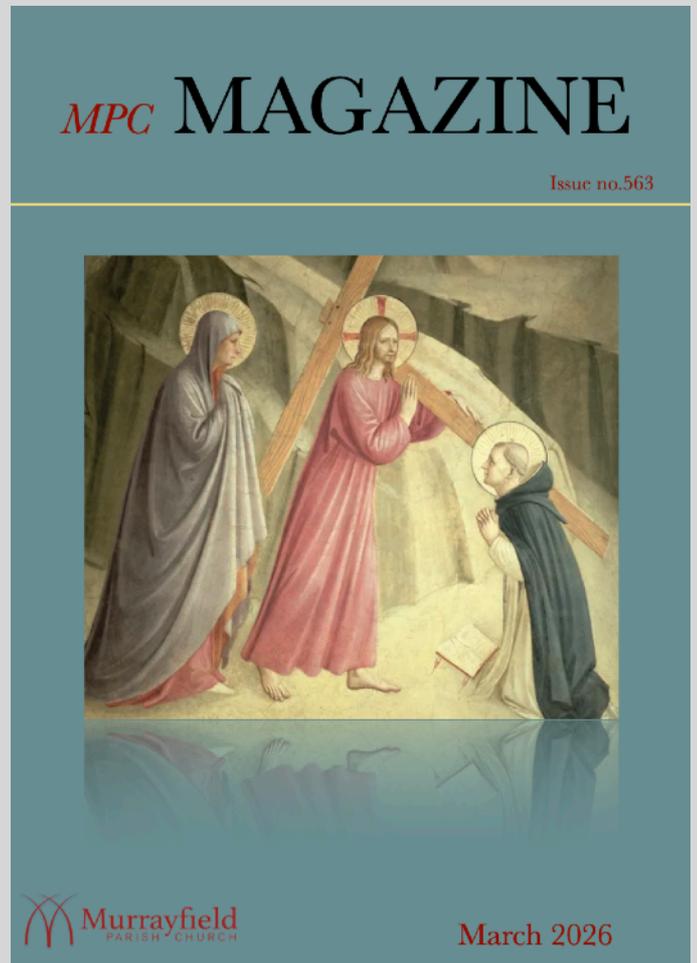
MPC MAGAZINE

Issue no.563



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**Welcome to the
March edition of the magazine**

Minister's letter

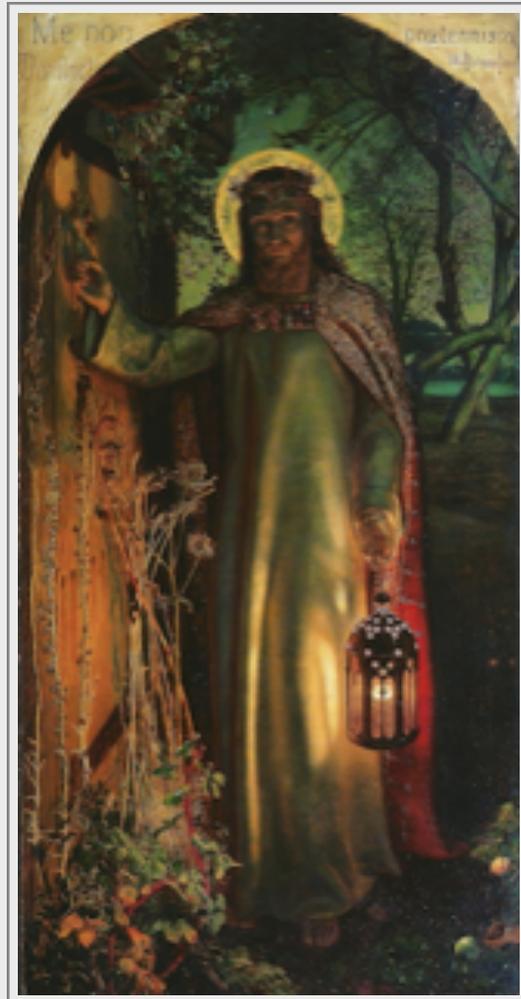
Rev Keith Graham

Those of you who worship regularly at Murrayfield will know that the Gospel of John is the basis for the current preaching series. The focus for the series is on the first twelve chapters of the gospel which comprise, very approximately, the first half of the narrative.

The series commenced on the first Sunday after Christmas, with a meditation on the Incarnation based on the Prologue in the first chapter of the Gospel of John, and it will conclude the week before Palm Sunday.

This first major part of the Gospel of John is sometimes referred to as 'The Book of Signs' given that it includes seven miracles of Jesus. The gospel writer describes these miracles as signs and presents them in a sophisticated manner so they speak beyond the events themselves and lead the reader into a rich symbolic universe. As well as these seven signs the first twelve chapters include various encounters with Jesus, some of which are friendly, and others hostile.

Time only permits a limited selection of passages from these twelve chapters to be read in church and preached upon. Choosing which passages to omit, and which to include, is a tricky business! The intention is to provide at least a flavour of this first half of the fourth gospel. The ancient tetramorph representing the four evangelists depicts St. John by an eagle which captures some of the soaring majestic quality of the multi-layered richly nuanced narrative.



In a happy coincidence the Murrayfield Churches Together Tuesday Faith Discussion Group has been studying the Gospel of John. The guide for that group has been 'John for Everyone' which is a volume in the popular level bible study material written on the New Testament by distinguished scholar and former bishop N. T. Wright (using the appellation Tom Wright). This would be an interesting read for further reflection on the gospel during the remaining season of Lent into Easter.

Another option for reading and reflection is a recently published work by the eminent theologian David Ford. His book Meeting God in John is described as 'A Companion for Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Beyond'. Like the Tom Wright book this is pitched as being a popular and accessible guide to the Gospel of John. It is also suitable as a bible study resource for those of you who are involved in the various active small groups in the congregation.

For the publishers links click on the book images. 

These books are easily sourced via the usual online retailers

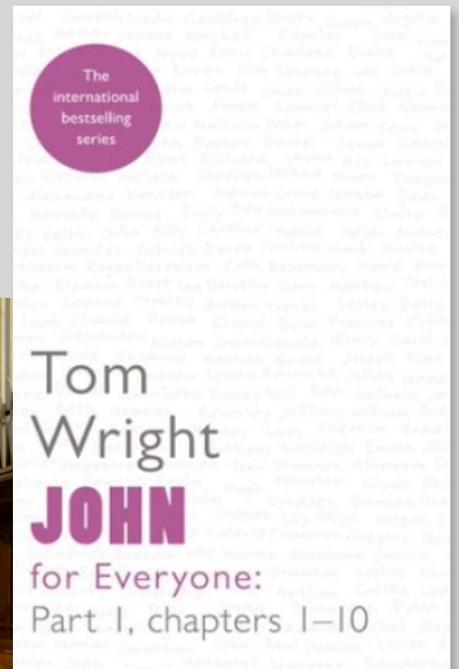
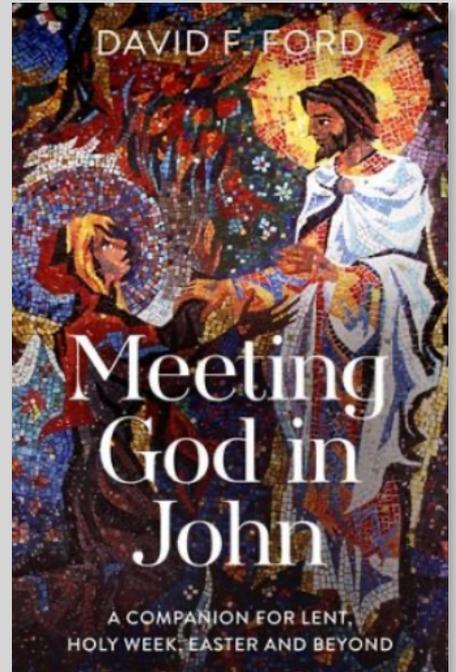
PS David Ford has a more comprehensive commentary for those of you who prefer something readable but more heavyweight (and it is gold standard).

One final suggestion as preparation for Holy Week and Easter is to listen to a musical setting based on John's Gospel. J. S. Bach's 'St. John's Passion' is the best known work in this category. The first version was written for a Good Friday service in Leipzig (where Bach was music director) in 1724. Around the same time, working in Hamburg, George Philip Telemann also produced a St. John's Passion with a different style. Altogether different is Arvo Pärt's sensational Passio.

As usual there are various Holy Week and Easter services in conjunction with Murrayfield Churches Together. For details please see the next page - page 5 .

With warm wishes

Your minister Keith



Holy Week & Easter Services 2026

Murrayfield Churches Together and the Church of Scotland Grouping



Palm/Passion Sunday 29th March

Murrayfield Parish Church 10.30am: We are looking forward to an Easter video performed and produced by the young people from S-Club Film Crew.

Saughtonhall UR Church 11am: Joint pastorate service with Duke St URC - held at Saughtonhall UR Church

The Church of the Good Shepherd 10am: with the blessing of palms

Holy Tuesday 31st March

The Church of the Good Shepherd at 7pm: Stations of the Cross in the garden

Maundy Thursday 2nd April

Saughtonhall UR Church at 7pm: Tenebrae Communion Service

The Church of the Good Shepherd 7pm: Commemoration of the Institution of the Eucharist



Good Friday 3rd April

Murrayfield Parish Church 7pm: A joint service with the CofS grouping churches and Murrayfield Churches Together

The Church of the Good Shepherd 10am: Stations of the Cross on Zoom.

The Church of the Good Shepherd 2pm: Liturgy of the Cross.

Easter Sunday 5th April

Murrayfield Parish Church at 10.30am: We have a joyous celebration of the resurrection. This will include the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

The Church of the Good Shepherd 10am: Easter Day Sung Festal Eucharist

Saughtonhall United Reformed Church at 12noon: Easter Communion Service at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church.

Popping up for Easter

Do you enjoy singing? We are hoping to have an Easter Choir again this year. The choir will sing during the services on Palm/Passion Sunday (29th March), Good Friday (3rd April) and Easter Sunday (5th April). There will be more information regarding rehearsals soon - look out for details in the Weekly News



The Church of Scotland General Assembly

Can you help with stewarding at the General Assembly?

Stewards undertake a vital role at the General Assembly to ensure the safety and comfort of those attending. Stewards provide a friendly welcome to the Assembly halls; ensure the security of proceedings by checking passes; are alert to security threats and disturbances and have a responsibility to ensure the safe evacuation of the Assembly Hall if required. Individual shifts last for three hours and volunteers can select the day or days upon which they would seek to help. A reasonably high level of fitness is required.

For more details please contact Neil Proven, Chief Steward [HERE](#)



Friday, 15 May to Monday, 18 May, 2026



Can you help with stewarding at the General Assembly?

S Club and Film Crew News

Julia Hodgson

S Club continues to meet on a Sunday morning to explore Bible stories and have some fun and fellowship. We are looking forward to seeing designs for the Easter Card Competition!

Easter Card Competition

Create an Easter Egg design for the leaflet advertising Easter Virtual Gifts. In Aid of ECUDARE.

Please give your entries to Julia or Sheena by 14th March
The winner will be announced after the service on 22nd March

First prize An Easter Egg!



Film Crew

After the successful Christmas production, Film Crew are busy preparing an Easter presentation for Palm Sunday.

Contact Julia Hodgson [HERE](#) if you would like to know more about S Club or Film Crew



Film Crew +



Dove Room 4pm-6pm for primary 7 and up

Through film-making, these sessions give our young people the time to creatively interact with the faith stories they are being taught. Film Crew is for Primary 7 and above and provides a bridge to encourage them in their faith. It takes place on the second Sunday of each month.



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) .

What is Magnitude?

SU Scotland

Magnitude is a five-day annual Christian youth festival for young people aged 11-18. Based in the breathtaking Lendrick Muir near Kinross, it is a week like no other: a space to encounter God, enjoy community and experience nature together. Our heart is to raise up a generation of young people who are secure in their identity and purpose in God's bigger story, united in living fearlessly as followers of Jesus and passionate about changing the world for His Kingdom.
Read more [HERE](#)



Job Opportunity

*Children and Families Worker
Murrayfield Parish Church*

We are looking forward to developing work with children and families. Please feel free to share this Job advert.

For expressions of interest, and further information, please contact:
Rev Keith Graham [HERE](#)



Children and Families Worker Edinburgh: Murrayfield Parish Church

(This is a part time post, the salary will be pro-rata based on the MDS scale of £30,274-£34,224 per annum)

Do you have the experience and skills to establish new initiatives for children and families based at Murrayfield Parish Church?

Expressions of interest are invited in a role freshly developing work with children and families in the congregation and parish of Murrayfield in Edinburgh. The local community is highly populated with families and there is a great opportunity for making fresh connections through a missional approach.

Key initial aspects of the role are :

- Setting up a group for parents and children of pre-school age with the intention of creating pathways for engaging with church.
- Providing opportunities for young people to socialise together and grow in faith
- Building on links with local schools
- Recruiting and working alongside volunteers

The post would suit someone:

- Experienced in ministry with children and families
- With a relational and friendly approach
- Able to work under their own initiative and plan activities

For expressions of interest, and further information, please contact
Rev Keith Graham kegraham@churchofscotland.org.uk

Thank you for your generosity

Lindsay Foulis

I am writing to you on behalf of the Congregation of Murrayfield Parish Church to thank those of you who have provided financial support during 2025. You will be fully aware from the Congregation's recent stewardship campaign that support from members is really valued. It enables continuing costs to be met. It also allows plans for the future to be implemented. Such continued support is much appreciated and essential if the work and aims of the Church are to be carried fulfilled. Accordingly, your continued commitment is very much appreciated. If your circumstances have changed in the meantime regarding your tax status regarding Gift Aid, could you please advise me.

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

Further, if at any time you wish to discuss anything else, I shall be very happy to chat or visit.

You can email the treasurer Lindsay Foulis [HERE](#) .

New Principal Clerk announced



The Church of Scotland has announced Rev Dr Alistair May as the next Principal Clerk to the General Assembly. The appointment will be confirmed at this year's General Assembly and will require Dr May to take an oath of office in front of commissioners.

Read the full article [HERE](#)

Looking Forward in Spring!

Douglas Nicol

I'm writing this article having just returned home from our third **'Thrive on Thursdays'** sessions. Having offered 'Wellbeing' sessions for the first two, the third was 'Thriving with the help of Technology' led by Gary Wallis who is the Minister in training attached to Murrayfield Church at present.

Gary gave a fascinating introduction to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and showed everyone how to use bus websites, especially 'Lothian Buses' and 'Citymapper' - the latter giving 'live' bus times in cities around the world.

We began the session today by asking everyone present to share what they enjoyed about this time of year. Lots of thoughts were shared such as lengthening days, Spring flowers, and future plans. After the dark (and wet!) days of Winter everyone is looking forward.

As Pastoral Assistant in our congregation I'm doing that too! In early March I'll be meeting with some office bearers to discuss future plans, and these will certainly include further 'Wellbeing' sessions, another Bereavement Course, and summer outings. All ideas are welcome, and if you have thoughts to share please be in touch. I can't promise that everything suggested will be taken forward, but all ideas will be seriously considered.

What I do promise is to visit those whose names are given to me. If you know of someone who should receive a visit or the offer of Home Communion please let me know.



As always, you can contact me [HERE](#) or 07811 437075, and if phoning please leave a message with your name and phone number so I can respond.

I trust that like those of us who met today that you are looking forward to the coming Spring! Let's make the most of coming days!

Douglas

Thrive on Thursdays

Well-being Workshops 



The Dove, Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Thursdays @ 2pm

*An exciting variety of sessions:
with time for chat, refreshments and optional worship.
Look out for more sessions coming soon!*

Contact - office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

0131 337 1091

or Rev Douglas Nicol -

douglas.nicol@churchofscotland.org.uk

0781 143 7075

 **Murrayfield**
PARISH CHURCH

Registered charity number SC005198

The Meaningful Chocolate Company

Fiona Dinsmore



This year it's worth remembering Fairtrade and, looking forward to celebrating Easter, what could be better than buying a Fairtrade Easter Egg ?

This egg is the only one that tells the Easter story, is Fairtrade chocolate, and supports charitable causes.

Meaningful Chocolate's sugar comes from cooperatives in Paraguay and Belize. Most of the cocoa from cooperatives in the Ivory Coast (Kuapa Kokoo Co-operative Cocoa Farmers and Marketing Union Limited Ghana). Beans are also sourced from cooperatives in the Dominican Republic, Peru, Panama and Ecuador. The chocolate for the eggs is then blended using a Belgian recipe.

Thanks to the work of the Meaningful Chocolate Company there has been an increase in Fairtrade chocolate sales .

In the last 10 years £460,000 has been donated to charitable projects and they make sure to pay Fairtrade Premium fees to farmers allowing them to invest in their community buying everything from school books and solar panels to providing fresh water.

If you would like an Fairtrade Easter egg please don't hesitate to get in touch. Thanks in advance to all for your ongoing support of Fairtrade

Contact Fiona [HERE](#) Visit the Meaningful chocolate company [HERE](#)

Earth Hour

Join the biggest hour for Earth

Since our beginnings in 2007, Earth Hour has been known for the symbolic "lights off" in support of our planet. Over the years, we've stepped things up, breathed new life into our movement and mission to create the Biggest Hour for Earth. Hour invites you to switch off and spend 60 minutes doing something - anything - positive for our planet.



Just 60 minutes? Yes, just one hour. It may not seem like much, but the magic happens when you, and those like you in Asia and Africa, North and South America, Oceania and Europe - supporters in over 190 countries and territories - all Give an hour for our one home, creating the Biggest Hour for Earth.

Join us again on Sunday 28th March at 8.30pm and get ready to celebrate 20 years of impact!

Read more about Earth Hour [HERE](#)

At CrossReach we offer services which are delivered through specialist teams in Children and Families, Adult Care and Older People Services. We offer a person-centred approach which aims to empower people of all ages to live life to the full.

For many people, life is difficult. Faced with various physical, emotional and social challenges, we aren't always equipped to cope on our own. There are a number of different ways that you can get involved to help the work of CrossReach. Find out how you can support us to make a difference to the lives of people across Scotland [HERE](#).

The Scottish Parliament elections take place on Thursday 7th May.

CrossReach continue to relate to and engage with public policy decisions which impact them as a provider of social care. Their election priorities are set out in this leaflet. Read [HERE](#)

If you are looking for Easter cards, you can find a selection to purchase on the Crossreach online shop [HERE](#)



Read about the work of CROSSREACH [HERE](#)



Fresh Rooms



Gardening



Pantry



Starter Packs



Advice & Info



Cooking



White Goods

Thank you to everyone who has left donations recently in the Fresh Start box in the vestibule of the church. Fresh Start are always very appreciative. Donations totalled £14,350 for the Cookers for Christmas appeal 2025. Many thanks to those who made donations to this too. As Fresh Start say not everyone enjoys a Merry Christmas. For those with little or no money, purchasing a cooker can be an unaffordable luxury. Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas Campaign helps those in need by providing cookers and other essential white goods.

Becca's Story

For two years, Becca was living in a small room in a hostel where privacy was a luxury. The hostel was a temporary shelter, but for Becca, it felt like an endless chapter of her life. The hardest part was the lack of basic amenities—a cooker, a fridge, even a place to prepare a proper meal. She relied on ready-made food, eating mostly cold meals that provided little nourishment or comfort. Becca had found herself homeless after a series of unfortunate events. A sudden job loss, followed by the breakdown of a relationship, had left her without a home. During this time, she became pregnant with her first child and more than ever needed somewhere she could feel safe, warm and call home.

One morning, Becca received the news she had been hoping for—a flat had become available, and it was hers if she wanted it, she felt a mix of relief and excitement but also anxiety and fear. Moving into her own place was a dream come true, but the flat was bare, with no cooker, fridge, or basic household essentials and with little finances how would she turn it into a home for herself and her baby?

Thankfully Becca's support worker referred her to Fresh Start and we were able to help her turn her empty property into a home. Within the first week of her new tenancy, we delivered and fitted a cooker and a fridge freezer to her new flat along with a whole van load of essential Starter Pack items such as bedding, crockery, curtains, towels, and pots/pans. The first time Becca turned on her new cooker, she was filled with a sense of gratitude. She hadn't cooked a proper meal in so long, and now she could finally prepare the food she loved for herself and her baby. She made a simple dinner—just pasta with a homemade sauce—but it tasted like a feast. With her fridge now humming in the corner, she could store fresh vegetables, dairy, and leftovers. It might seem like a small thing, but for Becca, it was life-changing.

With Fresh Start's help, Becca was able to move beyond mere survival. Her flat, once empty, began to feel like a real home. With a safe place to live and the means to cook and store food, Becca's mental and physical health improved. She felt stronger, more confident, and ready to take on new challenges. Becca's journey wasn't easy, but with the support of Fresh Start, she turned a new page in her life. Becca now looks to the future with optimism, knowing that she has the strength to rebuild her life, one step at a time.

Becca said 'I now feel that I'm able to eat and store food without worrying. I feel comfortable in my home and feel content that I'm able to live not worrying how I'm going to cook and I can save money storing food and not have to buy milk every day. If it wasn't for Fresh Start, I don't know what I would have done it has had a big impact. If I didn't get the support, I would have been depressed and stressed it has really helped my mental health. Thank so much to you all!

Read latest FreshStart newsletter [HERE](#)

Murrayfield Churches Together: Faith Discussion Group

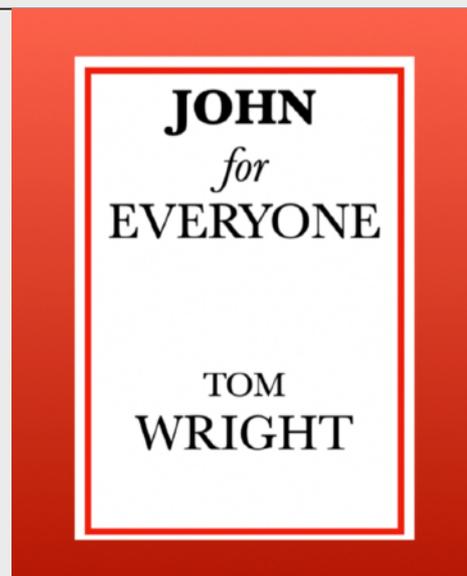
Avril Henney

The MCT Discussion Group meets from October to April at 7.30pm on Tuesday evenings at the Upper Room in Saughtonhall United Reform Church. This year we are doing an in-depth study of the Gospel of John. It has been helpful to use study materials developed by the Biblical Scholar, N. T. Wright, and to share our unique insights on what the Bible passages mean and to explore practical applications of the Gospel of John to modern life. Both Richard Nunn (Saughtonhall Church) and me, Avril Henney (Church of the Good Shepherd), act as facilitators directing the discussions of the Group.

We would be delighted if you would join us on Tuesday evenings during Lent as we approach Jesus' Passion. You can either join us in person at the Saughtonhall Church or digitally in a Zoom meeting. If you would like to join us on Zoom.

Please email Liz Wilson

[HERE](#) who will send you a Zoom joining code.



Interested in joining a Small Group?

Find the right group for you



Would you like to join a small group? There are three established small groups at Murrayfield Parish Church. Please contact the church office [HERE](#) for more information.

ECUDARE

Kath Anderson

Thank you to Everyone who has supported our MCT Ecludare project this Christmas. We have had various sales of African gifts and everyone has been so generous in buying lots of the various gifts for family and friends for Christmas presents. Lots of very bright colourful bags of all shapes and sizes. We have also had the virtual gifts for school uniform and you have also been generous in your support. We are in the process of sending £1,900 to Esther . £500 for various school uniforms and the rest for fruit trees outside the homes of the Elderly in the village , these will hopefully grow and mature and supply fruit to them for many years, some for themselves and others to sell . Also for the purchasing of chickens, supporting themselves and being able to sell the eggs. Esther says *"This will make a transformation to our families . Both projects are very thoughtful and sustainable gifts for us and I can't thank you enough for your continued support."* Esther sends her love and thanks to everyone in MCT. We are going to be organising buying a virtual Easter egg for Ecludare. The children from Sunday club will design an egg and we will let you know how to donate nearer Easter time. Many Thanks for your ongoing support.



Esther sends her love and thanks to everyone
in Murrayfield Churches Together

Christmas Gift Collection

Colin O'Flaherty : HMP Edinburgh

Dearest Friends,

I hope all of you had a lovely Christmas and New Year.

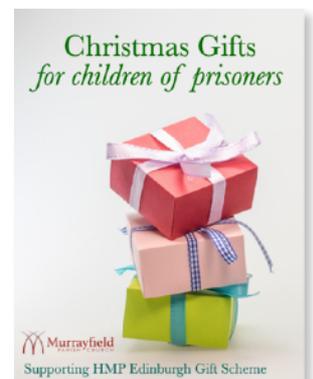
Thank you so much for your support for the fortieth Christmas gift collection. Here are the numbers of how many children received gifts. Two hundred and forty seven children received Christmas presents. Over a hundred of these children received some of their Christmas presents at one of the six Christmas parties that took place in the visit room. Organised between the family contact officers and the Barnardo's at the visitors centre.

Remaining gifts have been retained by the visitors centre and will continue to be given out throughout the year so the number of children will increase. We achieved our aim-which is the same every year, that every child that passes through the doors of the prison visitors centre receives a Christmas gift.

Here is a note from Patrizia from the visitors centre.

"We gave extra presents to the families that were more in need as we did in previous years. Also several families were unable to visit before Christmas, so we are still donating presents to children. Thank you so much to everyone who donated the gifts for the children. All children were over the moon for the presents received"

Thank you again for your support.



Cake & Chat

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 2026! For more information contact Jane Smart [HERE](#)

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*



Messy Church

**The Ascension of Jesus
after His resurrection**

All invited to find out more!

Sunday 25th May

**3pm-4.30pm
Gorgie Church
(190 Gorgie Road)**

G+PP Church
Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church of Scotland
SCN: SC004291

Contact

Reuben.addis@churchofscotland.org.uk



FOR FAMILIES & ALL AGES!

WEDNESDAYS

**TODDLER
TIME!**

**10:00
-
11:30**

**FOR BABIES,
TODDLERS &
THEIR GROWN-UPS!**

*Whatever the weather,
we'll be here so you
can come and
play!*

**Old Friends
& Newbies
Welcome!**

**190-192 Gorgie Rd.
EH11 2NX**

**Call 0131 337 7436
For More Info!**

**GDS
CHURCH**

GORGIE DAIRY STEENHOUSE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
IS A REGISTERED CHARITY NO. SC009146



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](#)

A date for the diary



**On Friday, 19th June, Murrayfield Parish
Church will be hosting an Afternoon Tea.
Look out for details nearer the date.**

Murrayfield Parish Church Centre

Rent our halls!

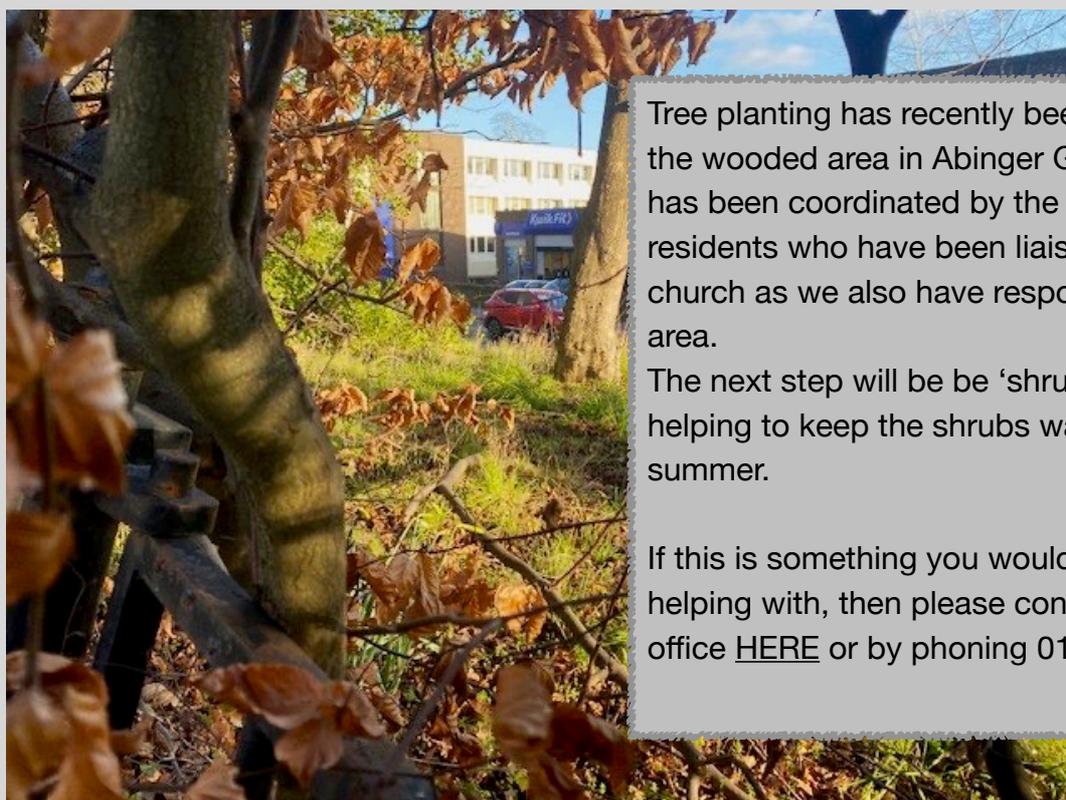
Our halls are available for hire for a wide range of activities, groups, children's parties meetings and much more.

Please see our website for further details [HERE](#) or email [HERE](#) or phone the church office 0131 337 1091.



The Wooded Area in Abinger Gardens

Planting of shrubs - looking for green fingered volunteers!



Tree planting has recently been completed in the wooded area in Abinger Gardens. The work has been coordinated by the Abinger Gardens' residents who have been liaising with the church as we also have responsibility for the area.

The next step will be 'shrub planting' and helping to keep the shrubs watered during the summer.

If this is something you would be interested in helping with, then please contact the church office [HERE](#) or by phoning 0131 337 1091

The Murrayfield Club

Jenny Rowe, Project Co-ordinator

The Pat Tait Exhibition

What a wonderful Tuesday the Murrayfield Club were treated to at the end of February with an invite to celebrate the work of our very own Pat Tait. Pat has a fantastic talent for crafts, particularly embroidery, cross-stitch, blackwork and hardanger. With the help of her loving family a great number of us got to see a wide variety of intricate work at WHALE Arts, where Pat has attended for many years creating beautiful works of art.

After a morning of live music at the club and then a hearty lunch, we hopped on the bus with the dedicated Thomas to spend the afternoon at Pat's exhibition. She was joined by many familiar faces all wanting to celebrate her achievements with her which was just so lovely to see. There were lots of sales of art works including amongst our own members and staff, something special to keep made lovingly by a friend (Jean with her new piece, right).

After hearing of these works through conversations with Pat, it was great to see them up close and in person. With such a wide range of subject matter from historical figures, pets, beautiful churches and family moments it was fascinating to see just how involved each one was and how they generated conversation between people. We feel very fortunate to know Pat and to be able to learn from her and if you ever get the chance to see her work then please do!

We currently have space available at the Tuesday group of the Murrayfield Club. Should you or someone you know be interested please just get in touch with Jenny on 07881288909 or by emailing [HERE](#).

We also welcome everyone to join us at the Memory Lane Café held every Friday morning 10am-12pm at Saughtonhall Church, 87, Saughtonhall Drive. EH12 5TR

We look forward to seeing you soon.



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 • LEITH
Scottish Charity Number: SC023210

Murrayfield Churches Together

reallygreatsite.com

Christian Aid

David Parkin

Over the past year we have seen adjustments of country budgets to accommodate changes in the United States political global ideology. Foreign aid is one particular area, which is being cut by the US administration. This will be particularly hard to accept for people in countries that relied on a foreign aid programme. Smaller donors such as

Christian Aid continue to offer hope through prayer and giving in times of shifting priorities.



Saughtonhall are hosting our annual quiz on Sunday 8th March, which is always a very entertaining evening enjoyed by everyone that takes part. All proceeds will be donated to Christian Aid. This is an Artificial Intelligence free zone.

As we look forward to Christian Aid week this year from 10th to 16th May the campaign focusses on small urban farming under the banner Beacon of Hope. This is a partner programme of Christian Aid whose work involves training residents in built up areas to grow their own food and make a living from doing so. With our donations tools, seeds and plots plus training on compost production, pest management and business skills are all examples of what can be provided. This will lead to generational learning as a result with children inheriting the skills.

So on behalf of Murrayfield Churches Together Christian Aid Team we seek your prayers and kind donations to support this valuable work and look forward to working with you in the months ahead.

Prayers for Peace in the Middle East



Prayers for Peace
in the Middle East

On the 24th of each month, we gather online to pray for a just and sustainable peace in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory. Each month we are joined by a partner who shares their lived experience of the region.

Find out more [HERE](#)

A prayer for all those affected in the Middle East



Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. (Matthew 5:9)

The Church of Scotland is deeply concerned for all those affected by the unfolding situation in the Middle East. Following the attacks by the USA and Israel on Iran, and Iran's response, which has brought destruction and anxiety to the wider region, we lament the onset of war in this precious part of the world and urgently pray for an immediate cessation of fighting.

Rt Rev Rosie Frew, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has written a prayer.

Loving God

We come before you in sorrow

For once again we are a world affected by war

So many lives disrupted

So much destruction

So much needless loss

So much fear and uncertainty

So much grief and pain

Forgive our inability to live at peace

We pray for peace and unity

Not just the cessation of hostilities

And the laying down of the weapons of war

But the costly, just peace that transforms hearts, structures, and lives

We pray for those in power

For wisdom and courage for world leaders

A willingness to negotiate

For blessed are the peacemakers

We pray for one another

That we would be true to Christ

Who calls us to be peacemakers

Who calls us to pursue justice

Who calls us to love both neighbour and enemy

We pray for safety and security

For residents and visitors across the Middle East

For our church staff and students in the Holy Land

We pray for comfort and compassion

For all those who are grieving

For all those who are afraid

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God.

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

PRESBYTERY OF EDINBURGH AND WEST LOTHIAN

JOB DESCRIPTION

Title of the Post: Presbytery Administrator (part-time 25 hours per week, worked over five days). The post is fixed-term, for a period of three years.

Responsible to : Presbytery Clerk

Managing: No staff management responsibility

Date: February 2026

Main Purpose of the Post: Working alongside colleagues to provide efficient and effective administrative support to the Clerk, Depute Clerk, office-bearers and members of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian, ensuring the smooth running of Presbytery's affairs.

Read full job description [HERE](#)

Applications should be sent by email [HERE](#)

and must be received by noon on Monday 9 March 2026.

St Stephen's Comely Bank - Job Vacancy



 **WE ARE HIRING** 

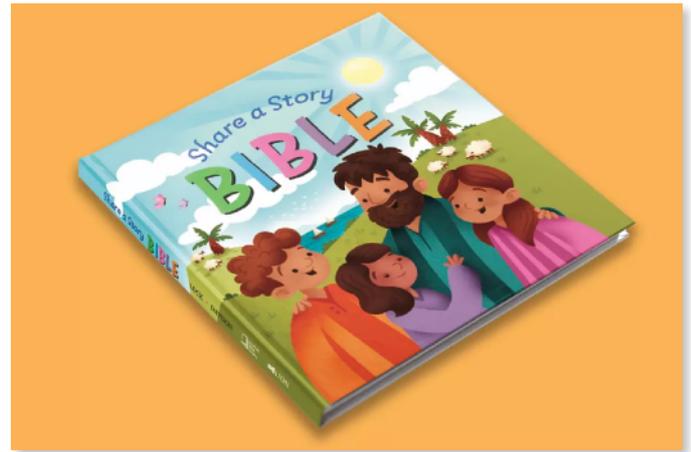
Family Outreach Worker

ROLE: To reach and support families in our community
DETAILS: Part-time, one year contract (renewable)
INFORMATION & APPLICATION :
sessionclerk@comelybankchurch.com
APPLICATION BY 17:00, FRIDAY 20th MARCH

Bible for Bairns

Martha Dickson

Our Guild, which joined with St Anne's Guild meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 2.30 pm and at 7.30 pm on the last Tuesday. We are supporting the Bible Society's 'Bible for Bairns' a new project where every baby born in Scotland on their first birthday will receive a free picture bible, with a more age-wise book the following years, with an Early Reader Bible on their fifth birthday.



The idea is that the parents will get involved at bedtime and can talk to the baby about the picture and children will get used to looking and even reading the stories as they get older. We hope this will be as successful as the project with New Testaments, for older children, where often the parents read the Testaments on their own never having any contact with Bible Stories. The school children around Scotland watched screens in a big trailer - computers had just arrived - and then were able to discuss the stories they had seen and take a personal New Testament home.

Find out more [HERE](#)

or contact Jen Robertson [HERE](#)

Tots: for parents/carers, babies and children

Saughtonhall United reformed Church

A promotional poster for "Tots@Saughtonhall". The background is orange. At the top, the text "Tots@Saughtonhall" is written in large, bold, blue letters. Below this, "Wednesday" is written in red, "9 - 11.30am" in black, and "@Saughtonhall URC" in blue. To the left is a brown teddy bear, and to the right is a girl with red pigtails wearing blue overalls and pink shoes. Below the text, it says "warmly welcomes babies and children up to three years old together with their parent or carer" in red. At the bottom, it says "If you would like more information please contact tots@saughtonhall.com" in black. A QR code is located in the bottom right corner.

Deaths



We are deeply saddened to announce the following deaths
Mrs Katharine Richardson: 3/2/2026
Mrs Ruby Boyd 2026
Please keep Katharine and Ruby's family and friends in your prayers

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



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.

CONTACT DETAILS



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

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

Pastoral Assistant Douglas Nicol can be contacted on 07811 437 075
Douglas.Nicol@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk Catherine Campbell can be contacted on 0131 445 2662
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