



Murrayfield

PARISH CHURCH

Issue no.554



MARCH MAGAZINE

Minister's Letter

Dear Church Member,

I am particularly looking forward this year to welcoming Spring. I am a lover of light and warmth and for that reason winter is rarely my favourite season! This winter has felt, for me, colder than normal due to rising energy costs for gas and electricity. The jump in the manse direct debit suggested by my energy supplier (after the expiry of a two year fixed tariff contract) was quite horrifying!

I am sure many of you likewise have experienced a significant rise in energy costs. For Audrey and I, this has meant a concerted effort to reduce consumption, in other words to turn the thermostat down and wrap up warm. For this reason I will especially glad this year for the world outside to warm up! As I write this the snowdrops and other flowers are beginning gradually to emerge which is always a welcome forbearer of Spring.



The church year has its own rhythms also in the familiar movement from Christmas to Easter and through to Pentecost. Some of you may have marked the onset of Lent by making pancakes on Shrove Tuesday. Perhaps others have decided to forgo something as a Lenten fast (or alternatively take up something a spiritual practice for the period, such as seeking to spread joy through an act of kindness each day).



This Holy Week and Easter we have a range of services as normal in collaboration with our partner congregations in Murrayfield Churches Together. These include Stations of the Cross in the garden (weather permitting) of the Church of the Good Shepherd on Tuesday of Holy Week; and a Maundy Thursday communion service in Saughtonhall United Reformed Church. Both these services offer something different which help us to reflect on Christ's Passion.

This year we also have some services with the three other Church of Scotland congregations with whom we have been asked to work together with (in the Presbytery Mission Plan). We are hosting here at Murrayfield Parish Church at Good Friday evening service at 7pm. This service will involve participation from some of the other ministers in the proposed grouping. Can I please encourage you to make a note in your diary and come along if you are able.

We will have our normal Easter Sunday service including the Lord's Supper when we celebrate the Empty Tomb. This year we are also invited to Palmerston Place Church in the evening for a 7pm service of praise. It would be great if we are able to have a cohort enjoying worship together there. Please also consider whether you can sign up for our Easter Choir this year (more info later in this issue of the magazine).



The Resurrection, by El Greco, c.1597

In the cyclical movement through the seasons we will inevitably end up beyond the summer and back into the grip of winter (grrr!). The movement in the church calendar also repeats each year yet it speaks of something which is not cyclical in nature. The events we look forward to praising the Lord for this Easter changed things for ever. The resurrection of Jesus is the harbinger of the coming kingdom which is a wellspring of hope for us in the church.

If you feel that this has been a hard winter, whether economically, or emotionally, or spiritually, then please try to hear the good news of the kingdom. Let the good news of a risen saviour once more touch your heart and lift your soul. Even if the church itself seems to be in a wintry period try to see beyond this and look out for the new shoots of the Spirit at work in our congregation and community.

Your minister, Keith

Holy Week and Easter Services

There will be a range of services over Holy Week and Easter

On Palm/Passion Sunday we are looking forward to an Easter play performed by some of the S-Club members.

On the Tuesday of Holy Week at 7pm there will be Stations of the Cross at the garden of the Church of the Good Shepherd.

On Thursday of Holy Week at 7pm there will be a communion service at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church. This will follow a Tennebrae format.

On Good Friday there will be a joint service with Palmerston Place Church, 7pm at Murrayfield Parish Church.

At 2pm on Good Friday there is Liturgy of the Cross service at The Church of the Good Shepherd.



On Easter Sunday we have a joyous celebration of the resurrection at 10.30am. As normal this will include the Lord's Supper. Plus a joint evening service with Palmerston Place Church 7pm at Palmerston Place Church.

MMM: TTT: WWW

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday groups for the retired age group

MMM : Managing Matters on Mondays @ Murrayfield Parish Church : Dove Room



Followed by refreshments and optional worship

money:course

For retired age group +

A seven week course
led by
Trevor Martindale
starting on
Monday 13th February
10.30am-12.30pm



A free course to help you manage your money
better and learn to budget, save and spend well.

budget. save. spend.

Interested? Contact Rev Carolann Birnie to book a place
07774864857cbirnie@churchofscotland.org.uk

MMM: Managing Matters on Mondays

It has been several weeks since our church started a new group focused on financial wellness called Managing Matters on Mondays. The group aims to help people manage their money more effectively in the face of the current cost of living crisis. Each week, we meet to discuss practical strategies for managing money. We also share stories and experiences, providing encouragement and support to one another.

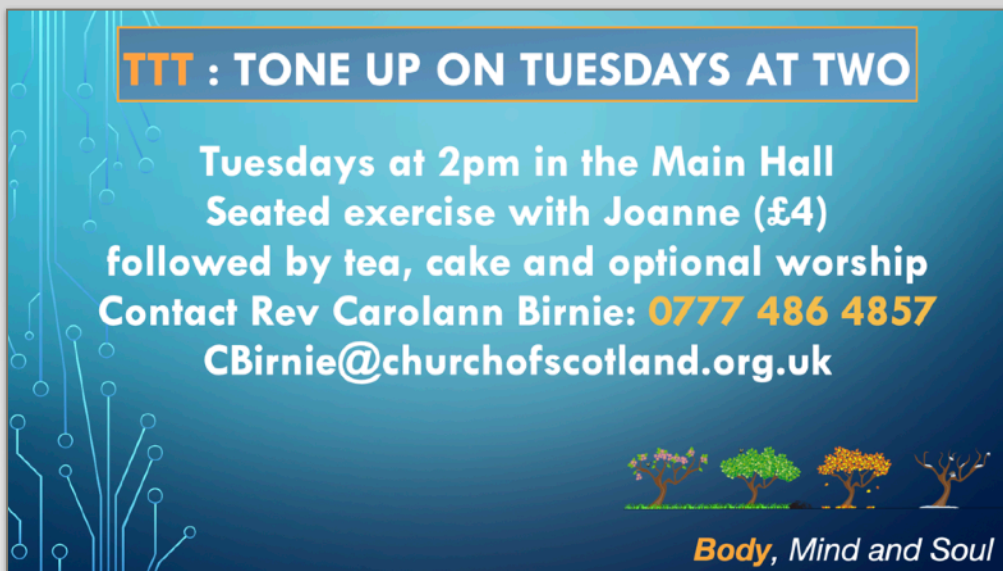
The course of meetings are structured around material provided by Christians Against Poverty (CAP). One of the most significant benefits of the group is to learn what strategies have been successful in helping thousands of people out of debt, and also just helped them save for a goal they never thought was possible. Each time has proven to provide a safe space to

discuss sensitive as well as more general financial topics and has helped to reduce the stresses and anxieties that are often related with financial issues.

There's also been some great times of social conversation over a cup of tea and some biscuits followed by short reflections where there is some opportunity to focus on God.

It's not too late to join the group if you're interested in coming along. We believe that we can learn more from each other about what it means to be great stewards of all that God has provided for us.

Trevor Martindale



Join Joanne for gentle exercise (£4 per class) then refreshments and good company at 2:45pm, then at 3:15pm 'Rest at the Well' our midweek pause for thought chapter and verse.

For more information contact Rev Carolann Birnie [HERE](#) or call 0777 4864857. *Come to one, come to all, and bring a friend. A warm friendly welcome awaits you.*

Worthwhile Wellbeing on Wednesdays

Good Grief: The Bereavement Journey (current course)



The current course 'Good Grief - The Bereavement Journey' is fully subscribed. The course is for anyone bereaved or for those who would like to learn more about how to support others who have experienced the loss of a loved one.

There are plans to run another bereavement course. If you are involved in pastoral visiting you may hear of someone who would benefit from the next course or you may know of a neighbour or friend. We hope to welcome people from our community. Please contact Rev Carolann Birnie [HERE](#) to register your interest or to refer someone who you think may benefit from Good Grief: The Bereavement Journey. The course starts with an informal introductory session for those interested in finding out more.

Have a look at the Bereavement Journey Video [HERE](#)

And coming soon

Worthwhile Wellbeing on Wednesdays *Healthcare Programme*

WWW : Worthwhile Wellbeing on Wednesdays

@ Murrayfield Parish Church in the Dove Room



~Eight week course
led by Synapse
starting
Wednesday 12th April
1pm - 3pm
followed
by refreshments
and optional worship

*Introduction to mindfulness: Taming pain : Ageing well through nutrition : Nurturing nature :
Superpower of sleep : Using gentle movement as a mindfulness support: Wonder of Blue Zones*

Contact Rev Carolann Birnie to book a place :07774864857 cbirnie@churchofscotland.org.uk



Drop in for any or all of these body, mind and soul sessions followed by tea and coffee and optional worship. These sessions will primarily be in the Dove Room but occasionally in the Stage Room in Murrayfield Parish Church Centre.

Led by three professional General Practitioners and a Nutritionist, this healthcare programme has been carefully designed to help the health and wellbeing of local parishioners and people in the community around Murrayfield Parish Church and Murrayfield Churches Together.

- 12/4/2023 Introduction to mindfulness (Jane)
- 19/4/2023 Taming pain (Barbara)
- 26/4/2023 Ageing well through nutrition part 1 (Alicja)
- 3/5/2023 Ageing well through nutrition part 2 (Alicja)
- 10/5/2023 Nurturing nature (Barbara)
- 17/5/2023 Superpower of sleep (Claire)
- 24/5/2023 Using gentle movement as a mindfulness support (Jane)
- 31/5/2023 Wonder of Blue Zones (Claire)

Mindfulness Sessions: will focus on being aware of what is happening, while it is happening, whatever that is, without judgement. Over two workshops we will discover the nature of our minds and how to encourage our mind, body and soul to feel more fully present, grounded and integrated which can lead to a greater sense of ease and wellbeing.



Taming Pain Session: chronic (persistent) pain affects around 30% of the population. Most long-term pain is "neuroplastic" in nature which means that the brain has effectively "learned" pain. New evidence gives us real hope that long term pain can get better, and our brains can "unlearn" pain. Come and hear about the evidence and science of pain and the central role of the brain.

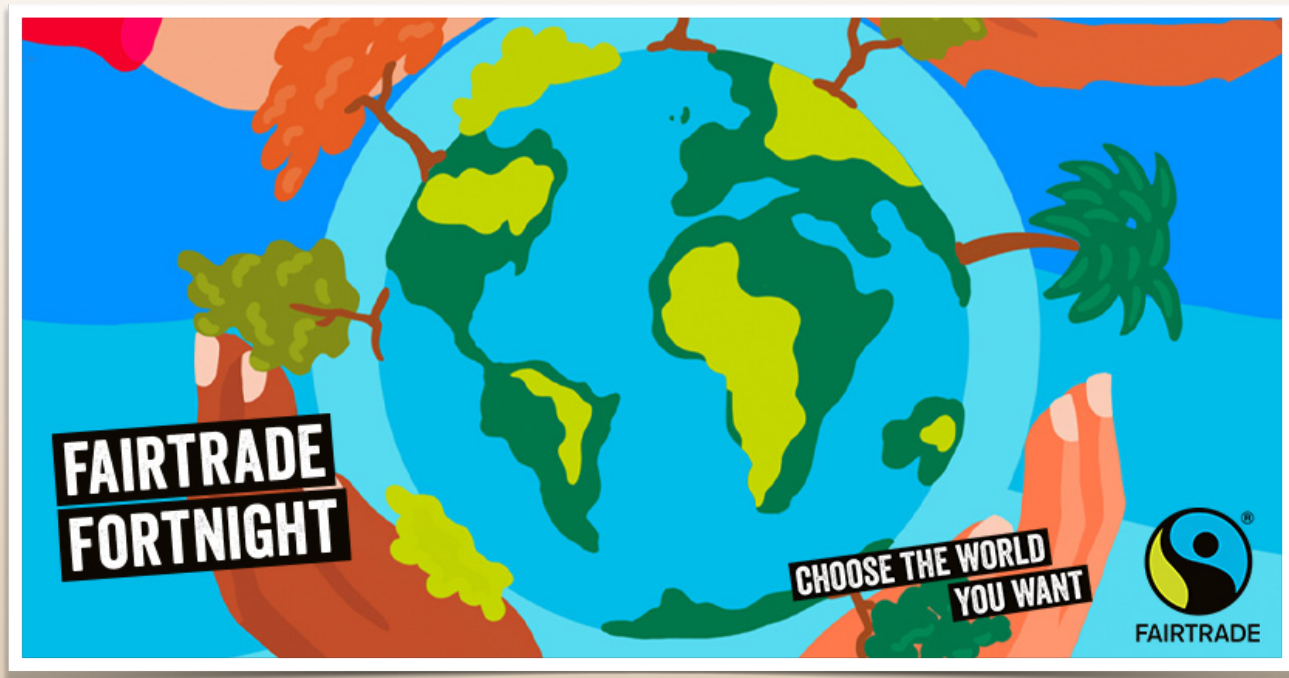
Nurturing Nature Session: for too long we have thought of ourselves as separate from nature and forgotten our role in the ecosystem of the earth and life. Nature is around us and in us. Science provides us with robust evidence that by engaging with the natural world we can positively enhance our health. Come to learn how about the science of nature and health and consider how you can make small changes in your daily life to foster positive engagement with nature.

Ageing well through nutrition sessions: eating a well-balanced diet is an important part of staying healthy as you age. It can help you maintain a healthy weight, stay energized, and get the nutrients you need. It also lowers your risk of developing chronic health conditions, such as heart disease and diabetes. Malnutrition puts you at risk of becoming overweight or underweight. It can weaken your muscles and bones. It also leaves you vulnerable to disease. During our nutrition sessions we will discuss the importance of specific nutrients to help you feel stronger and energized, allowing you to enjoy the golden years of your life.

Sleep Session: this session on sleep will explore the 'superpower' of sleep. We will look at the science of sleep, common issues and difficulties around sleep, and simple strategies to optimise our sleep.

Blue Zones Session: will look at 'blue zones', which are the five areas in the world where people live the longest healthiest lives. Scientists have researched these areas to identify what factors in the lifestyle and environment have helped these population live long fulfilled lives.

Contact Rev Carolann Birnie [HERE](#) for more information



Fairtrade Fortnight 2023 is taking place 27th February to 12th March 2023

This Fairtrade Fortnight, Fairtrade asks us to spread a simple message: making the small switch to Fairtrade, supports producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

Did you know?

Coffee, bananas and chocolate could soon be much more difficult to buy. Climate change is making crops like these harder and harder to grow. Combined with deeply unfair trade, communities growing these crops are being pushed to the brink.

But here's the good news. More people choosing Fairtrade means extra income, power and support for those communities.

By making the small switch to Fairtrade, we can all support producers in protecting the future of some of our most-loved food and the planet.

We will be supporting Fairtrade fortnight at Murrayfield Parish Church on Sunday 5th March. Visit the Fairtrade stall in the main hall after the service and sample a few fairtrade treats!

Visit the Fairtrade website [HERE](#)

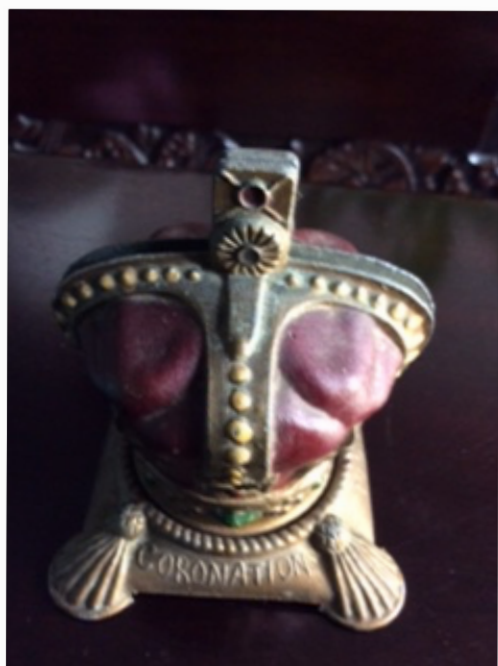
S Club Easter

Easter: Sunday 2nd
and Sunday 9th April

The S Club
Easter Play goes live
this year on Palm
Sunday!

Planning for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday are in the early stages. We hope that as many children as possible will be around to participate. Watch out for more details as plans progress.

Coronation : Sunday 6th May



To join in this historic event, there will be coffee and cake after the service. Some coronation activities will include, decorating crowns, Royal riddles and designing your own piece of memorabilia. This photo shows a piece of memorabilia from 1953 and is a crown bank! Could you design something more up to date? If you have any photos of other 1953 memories, we would love to have them to help make a display.

Day Retreat to Lindisfarne, Friday 23rd June

Together, we can make a difference

The vision of The Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities. The Church of Scotland is reformed and keeps on reforming.

This summer, many people will have the opportunity to go on holiday. To 'go away' from our daily routine can at times, be inspiring, especially when we come back realising that we must consider making some changes in our lives to improve our situation or circumstances.

As we journey along the road of life, we might wish that the road could be different. Perhaps most of us waste time and nervous energy wishing that things were better. If only I'd taken that road instead of this road. If only I'd started with a different set of circumstances. If only...

Sometimes, we end up simply putting up with our own difficulties in life and in church. Whatever is troubling us, wherever we are in our journey of life and faith we may not like it and would therefore hope to transform it.



The good news is that because nothing can separate us from God's love, we are reminded that our life's journey can be transformed by His love. When any life is transformed into something better, we realise that a wonderful indestructible hope remains with us.

Having led another congregation on a pilgrimage to the Holy Island of Lindisfarne, I can share with you the fact that everyone came home delightfully refreshed. Perhaps this pilgrimage is something that you would like to do?

A pilgrimage is a meaningful journey to a sacred place. The essence of this journey is made in a spirit of searching, with an openness to what the journey could teach us. Pilgrimage is a timely challenge that teaches vital lessons about situations and the opportunities for connection and transformation as individuals, as a church family and as a community where everyone belongs. Jesus himself was willing to go away for a while to rest and reflect. He demonstrated the vital principle of working from a place of rest. Wherever and however you rest this summer, may you be refreshed by the journey remembering that there is nothing that can ever separate us from God's love today, tomorrow, forever.

If you are interested, contact Rev Carolann Birnie [HERE](#) or call 07774864857. More information to follow.



Cutting
Edge
Theatre

2023 EASTER PLAY NEEDS YOU!

The 2023 Easter Play will take place on 8th April 2023
from 2pm to 3.30 pm.

We are actively looking for volunteers to help us as cast and crew.

CAST

If you are interested in being part of the cast, then simply turn up at one of our **Wednesday rehearsals 7-9 pm at GDS Diadem 537- 539 Gorgie Road, EH14 1TA from 11th January 2023**. No experience is required: speaking and non-speaking roles are available.

CREW

If you are interested in volunteering for our crew, we need help in the following areas: stewarding, catering, construction, sound and costume.

The Easter Play only happens each year thanks to a large number of volunteers. We would love to expand this production and see it established as an event that is supported by the local churches, making it one of the largest free Christian events in our city.

For more information, send us an email [here](#) or contact us on Facebook Messenger @EasterPlayEdinburgh

We look forward to welcoming you!

A VERY SPECIAL WAY TO CELEBRATE EASTER





Hyacinths are blooming!

Hyacinths look glorious when they are in full bloom, with highly fragrant flowers that bloom in dense clusters. When the flowers open they look like tiny starfish in a range of pastel colours and this visual appeal is one of the reasons why people love them. The ECUDARE Hyacinth pots didn't disappoint, as you can see from these photos sent in by members of the congregation.

The funds raised from donations to support this initiative raised £480! This helped to provide pre Christmas chapatti flour and other food parcels for families for the Christmas period. Many thanks for your support.

Thank you for supporting the ECUDARE project.



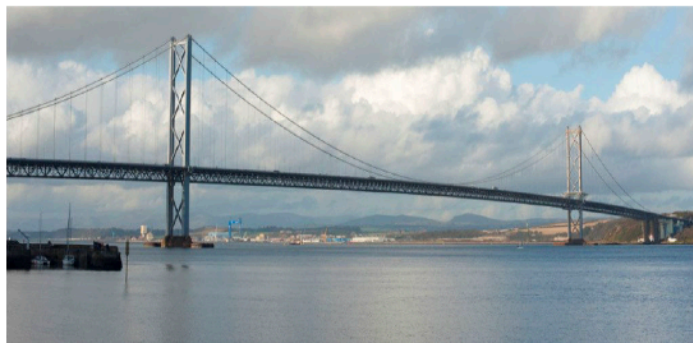
The Bridge

As we move into March, we're excited to invite young people to come along to the monthly youth events at Palmerston Place Church. These events began in November 2022 and are a wonderful example of the Church of Scotland congregations in our local grouping forming closer relationships, while also providing a safe and welcoming space for young people to meet other Christians.

"The Bridge" is a relaxed and fun space where you can come along with someone you already know from Murrayfield, or where you can meet new friends. Each month follows a regular format of fun games, engaging discussions, and great food, with a different theme of focus each time.

If you're a young person looking for a community where you can connect, grow, and have fun with others your age, we invite you to join us. The events are open to all. You'll find warmth, acceptance, and a chance to explore your faith in a supportive and inclusive environment.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to join in. Come along to the next "Bridge" event and experience the joy of connecting with others in our church community. We can't wait to see you there!



The Bridge

*A monthly event for those ages
10 - 18*

At Palmerston Place Church

12 Palmerston Place, EH12 5AA

5pm – 6.45pm

Sunday 5th March - Creation Who Cares?

Sunday 2nd April - Why a Cross?

Sunday 7th May - New Life

Sunday 4th June - BBQ

Sunday 5th March - Creation Who Cares?

Sunday 2nd April - Why a Cross?

Sunday 7th May - New Life

Sunday 4th June - BBQ

For more information contact Trevor Martindale [HERE](#)



Annual Awards

COLIN O'FLAHERTY (HMP Edinburgh)

COMMENDEE 2022-23: Colin receives a Commendation as an Officer and role model at HMP Edinburgh for over 30 years, promoting recovery, family support, and rehabilitation, and leading the annual Christmas Gifts scheme for prisoners' children. To his Governor, "people like Colin are a dream in any workplace".

It is difficult to measure in words the difference these gifts make to families

Steven McCann, Colin's Initial Nominator and Second Line Manager, is Head of Offender Outcomes at HMP Edinburgh, where Colin's been a Regimes Officer for the last 15 years. He explains the vital role Colin has played, for over two decades, in leading on the Christmas Gift scheme at HMP Edinburgh. Working with dozens of stakeholders and churches, planning starts in the spring, and Colin manages all of the logistics. As Steven says: 'It is difficult to measure in words the difference these gifts make to families. The support for the gift collection over the years has helped thousands of families and children in the local area. Many of these children would not have had any presents to open if not for Colin's dedication to the scheme.'

Murrayfield Parish Church has supported the Christmas Gift Scheme since 1985.

[Read more about Colin's commendation HERE](#)

MCT Faith Discussion Group

The Faith Discussion Group considers different topics to do with faith to try better to understand what faith is and how it affects us both as individuals and as a community. All are welcome to our meetings, including doubters and sceptics.

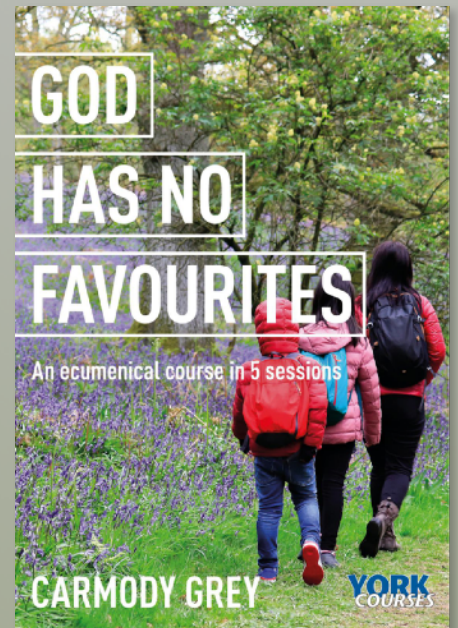
Meetings are on Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm, in the Upper Hall at Saughtonhall United Reformed Church, 85/87 Saughtonhall Drive, Edinburgh EH12 5TR. There are four meetings left in March. The last meeting takes place on Tuesday 28th March. MCT Faith Discussion Group will then resume for the Autumn term in October. Look out for the start date.

7 March — God Has No Favourites — Neither Jew nor Gentile

14 March — God Has No Favourites — Neither male no female

21 March — God Has No Favourites — Neither slave nor free

28 March — God Has No Favourites — What is a Christian?



All welcome to join in!

Contact Jim Paterson [HERE](#)

Burns Supper in the Church Centre

A Burns supper in partnership with Palmerston Place, St Stephen's Comely Bank and Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse churches took place in the Main Hall, Church Centre on Friday 27th January . A successful evening with fine food and great entertainment was enjoyed by all.



Messy Church : Help to spread the word!

Please pass on to family, friends and neighbours...

Murrayfield Parish Church

Saturday 25th March

Crafts

Celebration

Food!

3.30-5.30pm



Afternoon Tea

Afternoon Tea

Friday 9th June

Main Hall

Church Centre

1.30 - 3.30pm



What happens to the Cans for Christmas donations when they are collected from the church?

Many thanks to everybody who supported our annual Cans for Christmas appeal. The Church was open a Saturday before Christmas and a couple of Sunday mornings before our weekly services in December to receive the goods. People were very generous. A large van from the [Edinburgh Food Project](#) who operate 7 foodbanks across the city, collected all the items and the volunteer helpers assured me that our donation is still one of the largest they receive.



We were also delighted to be able to donate £300 in money donations (£375 after Gift Aid) to [Edinburgh Women's Aid Group](#)

An extra thank you to those who delivered the MCT Christmas card to parish households as this displayed all the key information as to how to donate to our Cans appeal. Every year a few volunteers for various reasons are unable to deliver the cards and so we are always very happy to receive new offers of help. We always try to give our helpers a street near to home!

Please contact Catherine Campbell [HERE](#) if you can offer to help with the Cans for Christmas appeal 2023!



Cookers for Christmas



The Cookers for Christmas appeal raised £28,949, which is fantastic, and many thanks go to those who donated to this appeal. To think of someone in a new home, making a 'fresh start' for themselves, but unable to cook there for the lack of a cooker is difficult.

PROVIDING THE MEANS FOR A HOME COOKED MEAL...

Thank you very much also to those who have left bed linen, tins of food and other household items in the box at the vestibule of the church; it has all been very much appreciated by the Fresh Start base in Pilton.

I asked Fresh Start recently if there was anything in particular they are in need of just now and they asked for:

- Small electrical items;
- Hoovers
- Microwaves
- Small lamps
- Irons
- Ironing boards
- Radios
- CD players.

Helping people to make a home for themselves

The need for bedlinen continues. Curtains are also required, these need to be in a clean and reusable condition, though not necessarily newly dry cleaned. If you are spring cleaning or redecorating soon it may be that you will have items you no longer require that would be welcomed by Fresh Start. Please feel free to leave in the box at church or, if they are not suitable to be left there, email me [HERE](#) Fresh Start are in the process of organising some fund raising events and will let us know more about them soon. Visit the Fresh Start website [HERE](#)

Jennifer Paterson



What's going on in the Church Centre?

In this edition we are delighted to highlight Jo Jingles a music group for under fives and Zumba a dance class suitable for all ages!

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

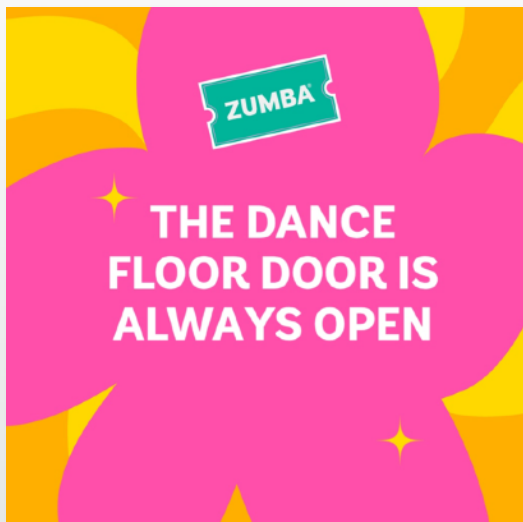
Jo Jingles

Jo Jingles has been running in Edinburgh and Murrayfield Church for nearly 25 years.



- We enjoy leading music and lovely classes for children under 5 and their grown ups, weekly during term time on a Monday morning.
- We have held many success Edinburgh Fringe shows in August.
- Our classes help to develop speech, language and dexterity.
- We have a varied selection of programmes and yet we follow the same layout so that the children learn to follow and develop many skills.
- We use instruments and props but plenty of movement also, lots of interaction!

- It's a great class to share with your little one and can build confidence to even the shyest of little ones. Visit the Jo Jingles website [HERE](#) for our full schedule of classes or check out our social media pages on Facebook or Instagram



“Zumba is a fitness program that involves cardio and Latin inspired dance.” This is true, however I like to think of Zumba as a massive dance party! Somewhere you can come for an hour and be completely free, be yourself and have fun. Since training as a professional dancer I have had jobs both teaching and performing which has meant that I get to do what I love everyday and now I get to share my love of dance to my participants, every week, at Zumba. We dance, we laugh and we sweat... lots!! Zumba is for everyone and anyone. Just come as you are and shake what you’ve got!

You get to have an hour to yourself, to be yourself and take time for you!



I love seeing how everyone progresses. Zumba improves coordination, stamina and confidence massively. This is very clear in every class I take as I can see first hand the way Zumba is positively impacting the people in my class. Zumba is an amazing cardiovascular workout, you get your blood pumping while enjoying the music and having a great time. You get to have an hour to yourself, to be yourself and take time for you. No judgment, just feel good vibes. If you would like to join the party feel free to drop me a message!

Contact Amy [HERE](#)

Virtual Gifts for ECUDARE

We are delighted to let you all know that we are now able to send Esther £2,000.

This is thanks to all for your generosity in giving to the hyacinth bulbs, the virtual gifts and the various advent service collections. A Big Thank you also to Wester Coates Nursery for their very generous donation of £190 from their Nativity in the church before Christmas.

Esther has just sent us a letter telling us of their ongoing difficulties with drought and being able to feed themselves.

The school has just been working with children going on to junior and secondary school most of them in their locality. There is always the ongoing struggle with making sure they have uniforms, text books and food.

They are always so grateful for our financial support.

Thank you for supporting
Virtual Gifts for ECUDARE



A message from Esther:

We are fine here, there is a lot of work both from the school and from the women.

Lots of the women are up and down taking their children to Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary schools. It's a very difficult season because pupils in high school must pay a lot of money to be admitted. On another note we started our group therapy and table banking today with the elderly ladies and we will resume for all other groups next month.

Thanks for your continued support.

May God bless you 🙏

Esther

CROSSREACH News and Prayer Diary - new editions out now!

CrossReach News



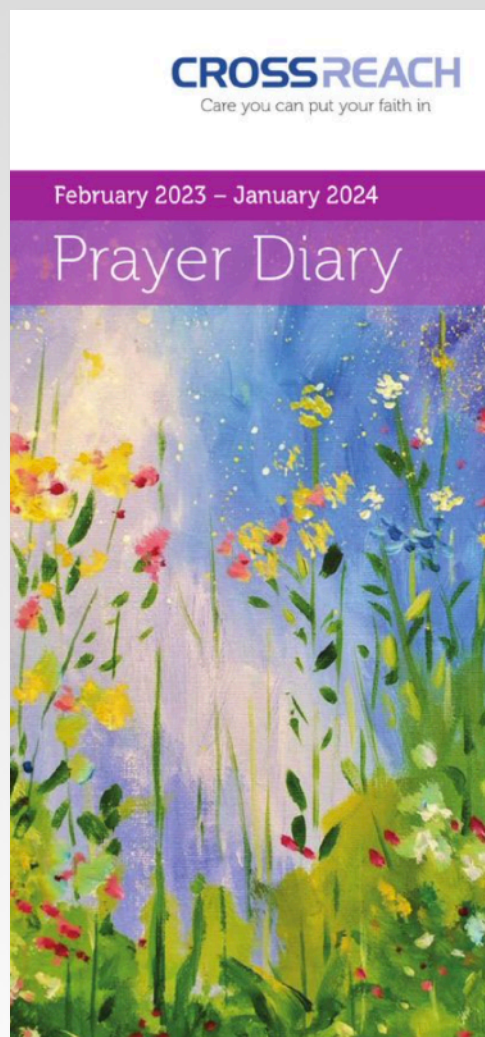
The January 2023 edition of CrossReach News is out now!

With a special focus on listening and learning together, the new edition features articles from CrossReach services across Scotland. There's also highlights of our annual Moderator's Time with the Rt. Rev. Dr. Iain Greenshields, including links to videos of his time with services.

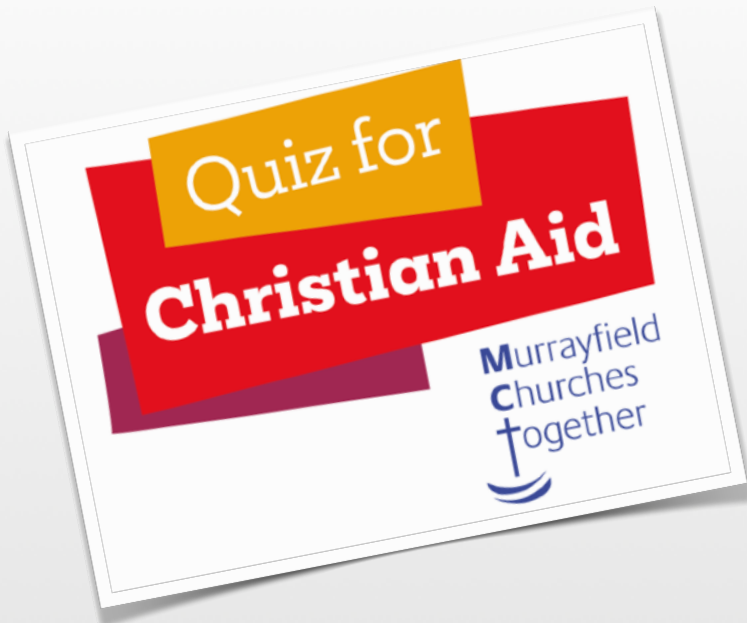
Prayer Diary

Our Prayer Diary contains weekly prayer requests provided by staff and people who use our services and can serve as a guide, as you support us in prayer. Available to read online or to download

[HERE](#)



Test your general knowledge at the Christian Aid Quiz!



@ Saughtonhall United Reformed Church

Sunday, March 5th, 6.45pm

Teams of four!

Refreshments.

A fun event in support of [Christian Aid](#)

Contact David Parkin [HERE](#).

Suggested minimum donation £5

Bring cash along to play the raffle!



**Could you be the next
Christian Aid
Coordinator? A
rewarding role
assisted by a group of
experienced
dedicated volunteers?**

The role of Christian Aid Coordinator involves meeting with the MCT Christian Aid group, who are experienced, a few times a year to discuss and plan a programme of events.

Examples of previous events are :

- Coordinating Christian Aid Week which includes door to door collections and a Christian Aid service with a retail collection (led by the minister)
- A Christian Aid Quiz
- Organising any emergency appeals that arise.
- Liaising with volunteers

If you are interested in this exciting role and would like more information, please contact David Parkin . David will be delighted to hear from you. Contact David [HERE](#)

Moderator preaches for a congregation of 16,000 people



The Moderator of the General Assembly preached in front of nearly 16,000 people at a Presbyterian church in South Sudan.

Rt Rev Dr Iain Greenshields was given a rapturous welcome at Nyakuron-West Church in Juba when he and the Church of Scotland delegation arrived at the large tent venue. The First Vice President of South Sudan, Riek Machar, was in the congregation and gave an address, urging people to embrace forgiveness and reconciliation.

Dr Greenshields, Principal Clerk, Rev Fiona Smith, and Rev Ian Alexander, who leads the Church's international partnerships work, and members of the Presbyterian Church USA also met with local church leaders.

The colourful and lively service was one of three major events that the Moderator took part in today as part of an historic ecumenical Pilgrimage of Peace alongside Pope Francis and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The three spiritual leaders worshipped at different churches as per their faith traditions this morning but appeared together at Freedom Hall to meet and address people who have been forced to flee their homes and live in displacement camps.

Dr Greenshields, Pope Francis, and Most Rev Justin Welby later led a large open-air prayer vigil for peace and an estimated 50,000 people attended. Read more [HERE](#)

The Church of Scotland General Assembly



STEWARDS REQUIRED

Saturday 20th to Thursday 25th May 2023

The Church of Scotland, General Assembly is held each year, in the Assembly Hall on The Mound, Edinburgh. This gathering of over five hundred Ministers, Deacons and Elders is the highest court in the Church. It meets, for a week, receiving reports from the various committees and groups within the organisation and makes decision that have far reaching consequences for the future of the Church locally, nationally and internationally.

We are seeking stewards to help us ensure the event runs smoothly. Duties will include controlling admission, directing those attending and being able to control evacuation of the building safely. The stewards will have the opportunity to network with many colleagues from the Church and view the proceedings chaired by the Moderator. In 2023 the Assembly will be held from Saturday 20th to Thursday 25th May.

Stewards, who should be physically fit, will be asked to cover one or two of three shifts during the day for as many or as few days as you wish. Shifts are flexible and can be arranged to suit your availability.

More information [HERE](#)

If you have questions or are happy to volunteer for this event, please get in touch [HERE](#)

Do you know about the flower ministry?

I'm sure that you have admired the beautiful flowers in church on Sunday mornings. After the service the flowers are delivered to members of the congregation and friends in the community who are perhaps ill, bereaved or celebrating a special occasion. If you would like to donate flowers this year please add your name and choose a date on the rota at the back of the church. It might be a date that is special to you. If you need more information please contact Tina Brown, she will be delighted to hear from you.



Contact Tina [HERE](#)

Would you like to join in with the Easter Choir?



Do you enjoy singing? After the success of the Christmas Choir we are hoping to have an Easter Choir to sing at the Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday services. Rehearsals will take place 19th and 26th March and before the service on Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. Look out for further details in the Weekly news. All welcome to join in.

We are invited as neighbours to: St Anne's Guild

If you think you might be interested in joining in, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Membership is open to both men and women and you do not have to be a member of St Ann's to come along. All welcome!

7th March, 2.30pm : 'Pontius Pilate', Wimp, loose cannon or calculating political operator Margaret Williams

Tuesday 21st March 2.30pm: A.G.M. + Pot Luck Supper

Spring Theatre Outing, Summer Outing and Summer Drop-in coffee mornings dates to be arranged.



- **St Anne's Fan Club (10.30am - 12 noon)**

10th March : "Church of Scotland past, present and future" – by Editor of the Church of Scotland Yearbook - David Stewart

24th March : 'Malta' - Dorothy Wilson

14th April : 'Corstorphine transport Through the Ages' -Ian Anderson

28th April : 'Corstorphine Community Organisations - Becoming Involved - Tommy McLean

12th May : 'A Ugandan Wedding' - Liz Pitcairn

26th May: A.G.M. & Jazz Concert - Brian Weld

- **Caring and Sharing @ St Anne's**

March 17th: Making your money go further Rebecca Caulfield

March 31st: Coping with pain Rebecca Caulfield

April 7th : Café celebrating Easter

April 21st: Café style meeting

May 5th & May 19th - to be confirmed



If you would like to find out more on any of the above please contact Martha Dickson (member of Murrayfield Parish Church) email Martha [HERE](#). If anyone is able to offer a lift the second or sometimes the last Tuesday evening or the first Tuesday of the month, in the afternoon, from January to March please contact Martha.

St Anne's Guild Coffee Morning

"Our Guild Coffee Morning is on Saturday, 11th March from 10.00 am until 12 noon at St Anne's Church, Kaimes Road in aid of our projects at home and overseas. Coffee, tea and home baking for £2.50 (children £1) and stalls with baking, books, plants and jewellery will be available for purchases. Thank you.

Contact: Liz Aitken [HERE](#)



The Murrayfield Club

MEMORY LANE
CAFE



Every Friday
10am to 12pm

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

Join us for conversation and home baking
A warm welcome awaits

Want to know more? - Call 07881 288909

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Murrayfield
Churches
together


Scottish Charity Number SCO23210

Drop in to the
Memory Lane Cafe
on Friday mornings
10am - 12pm.
All welcome!

Knitting needles at the ready!



St Anne's Guild are still busy knitting 'Hats for Seafarers' here in Scotland. Imagine being left in charge of these tankers on your own with no fuel to heat or make electricity, or your ship cannot come into port and turn around back to warmer climes!! You have no warm clothes, no means of communicating with your family and the ship has run out of food and fuel. The Mission to Seafarers helps with all these problems and more and the

'beanies' are a great help to warmth. Perhaps you would like to help and enjoy knitting or maybe you can donate wool, or a donation towards the postage if you are not a knitter.

We are also collecting old bras and new pants for Malawi. The girls can use the parts to make new bras if the bras is too worn. Wearing these underclothes can sometimes prevent the girls being raped, as men still believe having sex with a virgin will cure them of AIDS.

We have saved 65 tonnes of milk bottle tops from the landfill

We continue with our collection

of all colours of plastic milk tops with the money mostly going to the various sections of Marie Curie, Macmillan Nurses and the Lavender Trust. After many enquiries about whether the new white/transparent milk tops should be collected I can confirm they are more needed than ever, especially as they are lighter. Sadly three white tops weigh only four gm while three green ones are five gm which means we shall have to double our efforts to collect more than the 9.5 million currently needed to fill a skip before we receive the money for palliative care which up till now has been mostly shared by Marie Curie, Macmillan Nurses and the Lavender Trust after the initial collection for the Borders General Hospital.

Sadly too, 6 Osborne Terrace in Edinburgh - where I have six wheelie bins in front of my two lounge windows has acquired double red lines with the planned cycleway. You can contact me by email [HERE](#) if you have a large load and need to park, otherwise folk are just parking in Devon Place to the east of my house.

Please do not empty loose tops into the bin. I have left bags in the first bin and tops can go into the furthest away bin that has space. We have saved 65 tonnes from the landfill, and given £15,500 to charity. Please keep up the good work. Thanks, Martha



Our thanks to Jane Smart!

Jane Smart reached the end of her term of service as joint session clerk and retired from the role at the end of last year. We would like to thank Jane for her dedicated service over the last eight years with only a short break from a previous three year term. Jane has been an amazing asset to the team and her hard work and dedication has been very much appreciated. Jane remains as one of our Kirk Session members, Hospitality Convener and has taken on the role of Presbytery Elder. We look forward to continue in sharing Jane's talents in the future.

Scott Kerr and Fay Forsythe have joined Catherine Campbell to form a new Session Clerk Team. We wish Scott and Fay well in their new roles.

Thank You!



Please get in touch if you hear of someone in 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.



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](#).



Connecting to God in Nature

Thomas Baldwin learns about the growth of groups taking church outdoors.

Intergenerational Church

In the third of the series, Suzi Farrant and Darren Philip consider mutual relationships and learning

Joyful Generosity Amid Uncertainty

The National Stewardship Team reflects on exercising Christian stewardship in times of economic challenge

Being Open to Change

The Moderator explains why the Church has to be prepared to change

'Let Justice Roll'

Ruth Harvey considers the call of the prophet Amos that justice is a matter of extreme urgency

Plants of the Bible

Jackie Macadam looks at the plants, food and scents of the Bible

View from the Pulpit

The Rev Shuna Dicks offers an 'encouragement for creative thinking'

Youth Column

Rebekah Lennon explains why she made a Profession of Faith on her 16th birthday

Regulars

The Rev Dr Martin Johnston on leadership
The Very Rev Albert Bogle on digital church
John L Bell on worship

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

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DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS



We are deeply saddened to announce the following deaths

Mr John Smith : November 2022
Mr Alastair Kiltie : 25th December 2023
Mrs Florence Graham : 10th January 2023
Mr Richard Mowat : January 2023
Mrs Myra Murray : 29th January 2023
Mrs Elizabeth Forbes : 31st January 2023
Mrs Janis Curran : 5th February 2023
Mrs Mary Murray : 18th February 2023

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

STAFF ARRANGEMENTS



Church Manager: Jessica Linde / Maureen Gilleade (handover period)
Organists : Justin Nash and Andy Elders
Cleaner: Kerry MacLean



CONTACT DETAILS

Church Manager Maureen Gilleade/
Jessica Linde can be contacted
on 0131 337 1091
office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk

Minister Keith Graham can be contacted on
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Ministerial Assistant Rev Carolann Birnie can be
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cbirnie@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk Catherine Campbell can be
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Session Clerk Scott Kerr can be contacted on
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Session Clerk Fay Forsythe can be contacted
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