

MPC MAGAZINE

Issue no.565



Contents

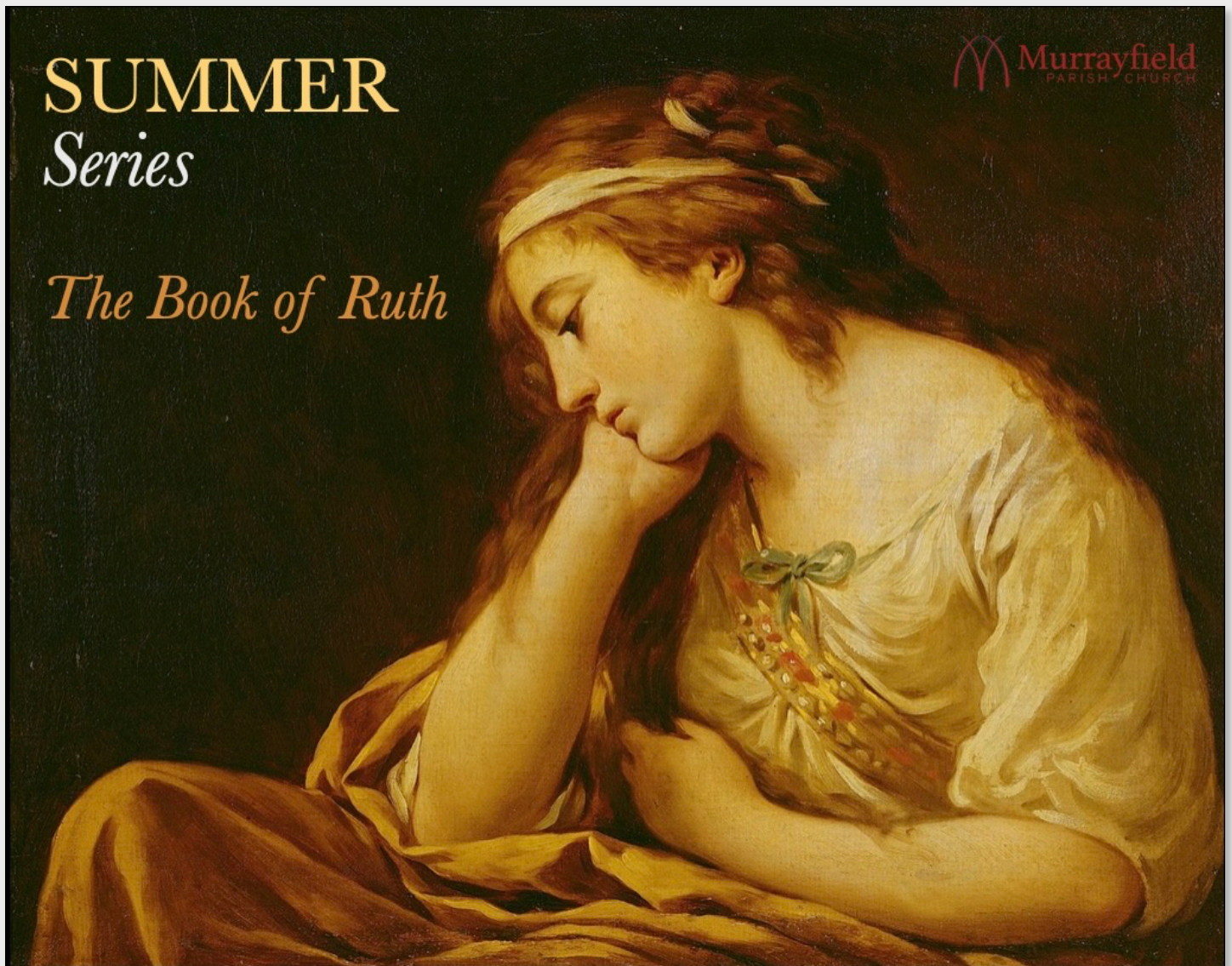
Minister's Letter	3
Ministry candidate	5
Harvest lunch	6
Vivid Vision	6
S Club & Film Crew news	7
Magnitude	8
Job opportunity	8
News from ECUDARE	9
Stewardship update	10
Coffee morning (date for diary)	10
Pastoral Assistant update	11
FreshStart	12
Fairtrade Fortnight	12
MCT Faith Discussion Group	13
Small House Groups	13
Various adverts	14
The Murrayfield Club	15
Memory Lane Cafe	16
Christian Aid	17
Soul Food (St George's School)	18
The Bereavement Journey	18
Rent our Halls	19
Puppy Yoga	19
Singing	20
Saughtonhall adverts	20
Contact details	21

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**Welcome to the
September edition of the MPC magazine**



It has been a real joy to preach through the Old Testament book of Ruth over the course of July and August. The Hebrew text of Ruth was part of my Old Testament honours course in my Divinity degree. I even remember reading, back then, a really obscure book which was a recommended - it was titled - 'A Philological Commentary and Formalist-Folklorist Interpretation'. (You can be assured I didn't refer to it this time around!). Since that close study of the Hebrew text of Ruth I have always thought very fondly of the book.

I must admit that the book was more of a challenge in terms of sermon preparation than I had anticipated. Nonetheless I found it rich rewarding on a personal level. I hope that some of you who were able to be at worship over summer also found the series an encouragement in your faith. The story functions on different levels. On one level it is a charming love story which doesn't even, on first glance, really seem to mention God. Ruth and Boaz come together in unusual circumstances, and both model loving-kindness in their interactions.

On another level the book of Ruth is a parable of God's love. We see, in the story, the hand of God quietly working in the background. The only two explicit mentions of God's activity are in relation to the cessation of the famine (with which the story opens), then in Ruth's conceiving her son (with which the story closes). Yet throughout the story there is a clear sense of God at work, and of God's compassion. Often God works through the actions of the human characters. This is a great reminder for us to discern how we might be channels of God's peace in our own lives.

The book ends with a genealogy. In doing so it becomes clear that this love story between Ruth and Boaz has greater significance in the grand sweep of God redemptive plans for the world. Another genealogy opens the Gospel of St. Matthew and in it Ruth's name is preserved as a link in the chain of God's faithfulness. Ruth and Boaz never knew what came, in the fullness of time, from their modelling loving kindness. This is a great encouragement for us to persist in our service to Christ through the church even when we can't immediately see the signs of fruitfulness.

The book of Ruth is very short. I would encourage you to read it through. If you were at church over the summer you can reflect again on how the Gospel of Jesus is witnessed to in this Old Testament love story.

If you weren't able to worship over the summer you can read the story with fresh eyes asking God to speak to your heart.

The significance of Ruth was not lost on Michelangelo and his assistants when they worked on the frescoed ceiling and walls of the Sistine Chapel. Preserved there, for millions of pilgrims over the years, is Ruth holding her baby son, a child of promise.



Let me introduce myself

Kirsty Nicholls

I am a Candidate for Full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Church of Scotland and am about to begin my third year studying Theology at the University of Aberdeen. I have a particular love of systematic theology and theological reflection, especially exploring how the bigger questions of Christian faith connect with the experiences of everyday life. I love finding those connections between what we believe and the ordinary moments of grace, hope, relationship and belonging in which we might glimpse something of God.

I am particularly interested in pastoral care and healthcare chaplaincy, and in creating worship that is thoughtful, accessible and rooted in the realities of people's lives. I am fascinated by the ways theology can help us make sense of our experiences, while also leaving room for mystery, uncertainty and questions.

Before beginning my journey towards ministry, I spent more than 20 years working in journalism and communications. I trained as a broadcast journalist and worked in television for ITV and the BBC, particularly in documentaries, news and factual programming. I later moved into communications and the charity sector, including roles with Fathers Network Scotland and international healthcare charity EMMS International.

Throughout my working life, I have been fascinated by people and their stories, and that continues to shape my approach to ministry. I am especially drawn to listening well, walking alongside people through times of change, uncertainty, illness and loss, and exploring how faith can speak gently and meaningfully into ordinary life.

At the heart of all of this is a belief that God is often encountered in unexpected and everyday places. I love noticing the small moments of grace, connection, kindness and joy through which we glimpse God's presence among us, and finding ways to share and celebrate those moments together.

Away from studying and ministry, I am wife to Rich and mum to Jack and Tom, aged 11 and 10, and family life is a very important part of who I am. We also have two cats, two dogs, and a tortoise!

I am delighted to be joining Murrayfield Parish Church for my next placement, and there is a lovely family connection too: Rich's mum and dad were married at Murrayfield nearly 56 years ago! It feels very special to be returning to a place that has been part of our family's story for so many years, and I am really looking forward to getting to know everyone and becoming part of the life of the congregation.



Harvest *Lunch*



All are welcome after the Harvest Service on Sunday 4th October to enjoy Harvest Lunch in the Main Hall, Church Centre.

If you are coming along with children there will be a children's table with fun activities.

Please pop the date in your diary!



Vivid Vision

A vivid vision for The Church of Scotland

The future of the Church of Scotland lies in God's hands. We believe this to be true, and so we look to the time ahead with faith.

We also believe we each have a significant part to play in the future of the Church of Scotland and so we give ourselves to listen, learn, plan and act.

The Faith Action Programme Leadership Team (FAPLT) spent time discussing and praying, sharpening and clarifying, to create a picture of what this future might and could look like. It is a picture from their perspective. What does it look like from where you are?

Their Vivid Vision is captured in this film. It is a picture of what might be as we follow the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit in witnessing to Christ in our nation and beyond.

Click on the image to watch the video.



S Club and Film Crew News

Julia Hodgson & Sheena Douglas

S Club is up and running again for Fun and Fellowship. We look forward to meeting up again and hearing about summer activities. We plan to continue with our usual mixture of bible stories, craft and games.

Film Crew

Film Crew will start again on Sunday 13th of September from 4-6pm in the Dove. We hope to produce some memorable short films for the congregation. Any children from the top of the primary or secondary school age are welcome to join us.

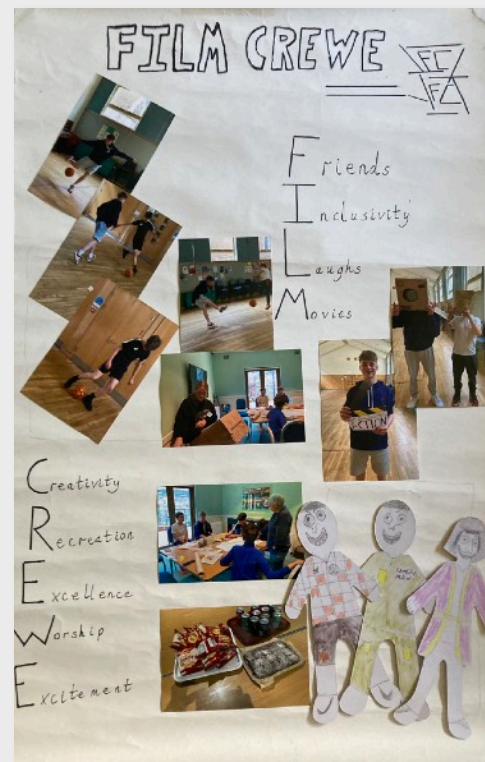
Contact Julia Hodgson [HERE](#) if you would like to know more about S Club or Film Crew



Family Picnic

Having had such a beautiful summer we were hoping that the fine weather would last until Saturday 29th of August for our family picnic. Fun and games were planned for all with provision for a wet weather programme!

Breaking News - A great day was had by all at the picnic and the sun shone! No wet weather programme required!



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 happened at Magnitude 2026?

SU Scotland

The sun shone brightly for Magnitude this year, Scotland's Christian youth festival, which took place Saturday 18th-Wednesday 22nd of July. More young people attended than ever before, with over 1,900 stepping into the opportunity to encounter Jesus and be empowered to live out his calling on their lives. Together with youth leaders and volunteers, there were 2,700 onsite across the five days. Read more [HERE](#)

Look out for Magnitude 2027 and pass on to young people you know.



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 (Part-time)

Edinburgh: Murrayfield Parish Church

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

Applications are invited for 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.

The two key aspects of this role are:

(1) **Toddlers and Young Families Work:**

Setting up a group for parents and children of pre-school age with the intention of creating pathways for engaging with church

(2) **Youth Work:**

Providing opportunities for young people to socialise together in a church setting and grow in faith together

Applicants may apply for appointment to both aspects of the role or to only one aspect.

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

The normal hours of work for the full post are 4 half-days per week, including attendance at weekly Sunday morning worship.

The salary is pro-rata based on the Ministries Development Staff (MDS) scale of £30,274-£34,224 per annum.

To apply or for further information, please contact: Rev Keith Graham
kegraham@churchofscotland.org.uk

ECUDARE

Ecumenical Day Care for Women & Children



We have wonderful news from our ECUDARE project. At the end of last term, the talented pupils triumphed at the regional music competition, qualifying for the prestigious national Music Festival at Kibabii University in Bungoma.

Competing against top schools from across the country they performed brilliantly and were place third overall. This is a great achievement for the children and a testament to their hard work and dedication.

After a well deserved three week holiday, the pupils are now returning to school to begin the new term.

Esther who runs the project sends her heartfelt gratitude to everyone for your continued prayers and financial support which helps to make these opportunities possible.

Look out for our next fundraiser! Details will be coming soon for the Annual Bulb Sale.



Stewardship Campaign 2025

Lindsay Foulis (Treasurer)

“Thank you to everyone who responded to the Stewardship Campaign”



Comparing the first two quarters of 2025 and 2026, offerings are up 7.3%. This is welcome. Of the offerings provided under Gift Aid, 15 givers increased their contributions in the last quarter of 2025. This results in not simply an increase in the offerings received but also means that the tax recovered under the Gift Aid scheme also increases. A bit of a 'win, win'!

Staying with Gift Aid, if you give regularly and are a tax payer, but do not at present 'gift aid' your offerings, I would encourage you to do so. Sometimes it can be difficult to increase your regular giving. However, if your offerings are gift aided, they effectively are increased in real terms by the church being able to claim the tax you pay on the offering. In short, the church as opposed to the government receives the tax you have paid on your offering. I am always welcome to discuss the question of gift aid. If you wish to do so, please get in touch with me [HERE](#) or call 07800951551.

Coffee Morning (date for the diary)

Supporting Cans for Christmas and Gifts for Children of Prisoners'

On Saturday 28th November , 10am - 12 noon the Church Centre doors will be open for the community to drop in for coffee and delicious home baking and an opportunity to bring along donations for Cans for Christmas and Christmas gifts for the gift scheme, which we support annually,. Please pop the date in your diary and if you can please spread the word to friends, neighbours and family - we would love to fill the hall and enjoy one of our most popular coffee mornings.

Hope to see you there!



We've been on our travels!

Douglas Nicol

'I loved every bit of it. The train, the lunch, the shop, the house, the gardens, just everything. It was just so good.' – a quote from one of the 'thank you' messages that came to me after our last outing on Thursday 20th September to 'Abbotsford' the home of Sir Walter Scott.

We had travelled on the Borders train line from Edinburgh to Tweedbank, and the Head Gardener at 'Abbotsford' had kindly brought the courtesy coach to the station to give us a lift to the remarkable house – the first in Scotland to have gas heating and lighting. In the photograph the Murrayfield Group can be seen enjoying lunch in the Ochiltrees Restaurant with 'Abbotsford' in the background.

Travelling as a group meant that we benefitted from group discounts, and the return train journey and house admission was only £25 each! Mind you, we all made up for these savings by spending generously in the gift shop!

Our next two outings are on Wednesday 9th September for a tour of Greyfriars Church and Kirkyard, and on Monday 26th October for a tour of the Scottish Parliament building.

TTT on Tuesday afternoons and 'Thrive on Thursdays' both start up again in September, and I'm aware of regulars at both who have really missed the gatherings over the quieter summer months. There are also thoughts of a Bereavement Course later in the Autumn, and if you or anyone you know would welcome an invitation please do not hesitate to be in touch.

In September I'll be arranging Home Communion for those unable to come to Church, and I'm always pleased to hear from any who would like me to call ... usually with the District Elder ... to enjoy the fellowship of worship at home.

I'm continuing to keep in touch with all who welcome a call, but if you – or someone you know – would like a visit please let me know. As always, you can email me [HERE](#): or phone 07811 437075, and if phoning please leave a message with your name and phone number so I can respond.



My late parents always holidayed in the North of Scotland in September because they enjoyed the purple heather of our Scottish hills. They also said the weather was often more settled! Whatever you plan ... and whatever the weather ... I trust that you enjoy a fulfilled Autumn 2026!

Douglas.



Fresh Rooms



Gardening



Pantry



Starter Packs



Advice & Info



Cooking



White Goods

FreshStart

This organisation works with people moving on from homelessness providing essential household goods. More detailed information can be accessed on the website [HERE](#)



A box labelled for Fresh Start is in the vestibule of the church for contributions to be deposited. Whilst most of the contributions are in the form of cans of food and the likes of cereal, tea, and biscuits, together with toiletries, access to the website shows that other things are welcomed.

The box is taken to the centre monthly and all contributions are gratefully received by Fresh Start.

Read the Freshstart newsletter [HERE](#)

Fairtrade Fortnight
*During Fairtrade Fortnight 2026
we're asking you to Do it Fair
for People, for Planet and for Fair Pay.*

Following the success of another Fortnight, we are happy to confirm that Fairtrade Fortnight 2026 will take place Monday 21st September - Sunday 4th October 2026.



Look out for a Fairtrade Stall in the Main Hall, Church Centre after the service during Fairtrade Fortnight. Date to be confirmed.

Visit the Fairtrade website [HERE](#) to find out more about Fairtrade Fortnight 2026

Murrayfield Churches Together: Faith Discussion Group

Richard Nunn



Faith Discussion Group

Reframe

connect everyday life, work, and culture
to the grand story of God's mission

Begins Tuesday 29th September

Meeting every week in the
upper hall at SURC from
7.30-9pm or via Zoom

To email for more
information →



Contact Richard Nunn [HERE](#) for more information

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.

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 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*



**TTT will be up and running again from
Tuesday 8th September. All welcome.**



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](#)

TODDLER TIME!

WEDNESDAYS

10:00
-
11:30

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

FOR BABIES,
TODDLERS &
THEIR GROWN-UPS!

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

Old Friends
& Newbies
Welcome!

Call 0131 337 7936
For More Info!

**GDS
CHURCH**

190-192 Gorgie Rd.
EH11 2NX

Thrive on Thursdays

Well-being Workshops

**The first session for Autumn 2026 will take place on
Thursday 10th September @ 2pm
'Gardening' with Gillian Dinsmore**



**The Dove, Murrayfield Parish Church Centre
Thursdays @ 2pm**

*An interesting variety of sessions:
with time for chat, refreshments and optional worship.
Look out for the next series of well-being workshops*

Contact - office@murrayfieldparishchurch.org.uk
0131 337 1091
or Rev Douglas Nicol -
douglas.nicol@churchofscotland.org.uk
0781 143 7075



Registered charity number SC005198

The Murrayfield Club

Jenny Rowe, Project Co-ordinator

Thanks to generous donations we have been able to provide live music at the Murrayfield Club and the Memory Lane Cafe

We've been enjoying a great musical atmosphere at the Murrayfield Club in the last few months with thanks to some new very generous donations. These donations have enabled us to provide live music sessions at both the club and the Memory Lane Café for the rest of 2026 which has lifted everyone's spirits. Music is magic for our members, café goers, visitors and residents of the home where we run the club from also. We love to invite as many people along to enjoy the wide selection of songs which the musicians bring and the atmosphere just keeps getting better with each show. We've had a great variety of musicians including Charlie on guitar being accompanied by our very own Mina on piano, Kirsten and Matthew who brought a more operatic show to the club. They were so popular and something different and so the audience asked to book them for Christmas as they enjoyed them both so much. We've also been enjoying the wonderful A Fyne Pair, two very funny and talented gentlemen who bring historical instruments and good banter, Danny Feelgood who got a whole room up and dancing and the melodic tones of Kim & Lissa who brought a more intimate and soothing session.



It is just fantastic to share the music experience with the groups and to see and feel the benefit that they bring to everyone.



We invite everyone to join us for our Memory Lane Café sessions which run every Friday 10am-12pm at Saughtonhall Church. Our live music sessions at the café will be;

Glenkinchie Band – Friday 18th September

Cloud Nine – Friday 2nd October

Geez A Break presents *Puss in Boots* - Friday 20th November, 11am **(to register interest in the pantomime please contact Jenny [HERE](#)**

Fiona & Duggy Big Christmas Party – Friday 4th December.

For more information please contact Jenny on 07881288909 or email Jenny [HERE](#) or follow us on Facebook at The Murrayfield Club.

Jenny Rowe



A purple poster for the Memory Lane Cafe. At the top, a circular logo features the text "MEMORY LANE CAFE" in orange, with a cluster of blue forget-me-not flowers below it. The main text in white reads: "Join us at the *Memory Lane Cafe* every Friday 10am-12pm. Meet new people, enjoy friendly chat and refreshments. £3 per person." Below this, it says "Held every Friday at Saughtonhall Church. 87 Saughtonhall Drive. EH12 5TR. For more information call: 07881288909". The poster features two cartoon characters: a man in a green jacket and brown trousers on the left, and a woman in a green jacket and yellow dress on the right, holding a small brown dog. At the bottom left, it says "Funded by Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership" with the NHS Lothian logo and "The City of Edinburgh Council". At the bottom right is the "Murrayfield Churches Together" logo. The website "reallygreatsite.com" is at the bottom center.

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 Lothian
The City of Edinburgh Council

Scottish Charity Number: SC023210
reallygreatsite.com

Murrayfield Churches Together



Christian Aid

David Parkin

Christian Aid exists to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty

We enjoyed a good campaign during Christian Aid week at Murrayfield Churches Together in May, receiving a lot of kind donations and prayers.

So what has happened in Christian Aid since?

Money from Christian Aid Week is still coming in and will continue to do so. In Scotland £500,000 has been raised and at a UK level £3 million.

The Christian Aid website displays the story of man named Martin who used a patch of ground to grow vegetables in Nairobi using techniques trained out through the funding they received under the banner Beacon

of Hope. Skills such as growing using cone gardens, trough gardens, sack gardens and hydroponics. Schools close by are visiting the small patch of ground and using the land as a classroom to teach the next generation of growers.

Other ongoing work in the Christian Aid community where funds can be directed to includes bringing community to women affected by war in the Middle East and the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of

Congo. For further information please visit the Christian Aid website.

Christian Aid are so thankful for the support Murrayfield Churches Together has provided to support the vital work in transforming lives for the better.

Visit the Christian Aid website [HERE](#)

St George's School

Soul Food

St George's School in Edinburgh hosts a monthly *Soul Food Community Meal* for over 60's on Fridays 16.00-18.45. A free meal and an exceptionally friendly place to be!

Soul Food is always more than a meal.

[READ MORE](#)

Community Meal

Join us for monthly gatherings
of
good food & connection

- Friday, 4 September 2026
- Friday, 9 October 2026
- Friday, 6 November 2026
- Friday, 4 December 2026
- Friday, 8 January 2027
- Friday, 5 February 2027
- Friday, 5 March 2027
- Friday, 16 April 2027
- Friday, 7 May 2027
- Friday, 4 June 2027



ST GEORGE'S
EDINBURGH

Meal Time:
16:00 - 18:45



Seven Sessions

The Bereavement Journey

@ Murrayfield Parish Church

A place to talk

A course is being planned for the autumn term (dates to be decided). Please contact Rev Douglas Nicol. Email Douglas [HERE](#) or phone 0781 143 7075 or you can contact the church office if you would like to find out more information.

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.



Puppy Yoga Scotland

Yoga with puppy cuddles



Puppy Yoga Scotland offering exciting puppy yoga sessions in Murrayfield Parish Centre, the sessions are one hour long offering the perfect mix of gentle yoga and irresistible puppy cuddles. Our trained team guides you through relaxing stretches while playful pups roam freely, offering snuggles, affection and plenty of smiles. It's a calming, joyful experience designed to lift your mood, help you unwind and leave you feeling refreshed.

Find out more [HERE](#)

Leading singing on Sunday mornings

David Parkin

My voice is my password. This is the phrase used by the majority of financial institutions to allow access to an individual's account information when telephoning companies.

The same can be said about music. We sometimes need leading voices to unlock some of the worship songs as a congregation both familiar and unfamiliar to us, that helps absorb the context and words which assist us on our faith journey.

We have been introduced to new songs over the recent past and having a lead can really help us feel comfortable and confident about how a hymn is meant to be sung. Some of the modern worship songs have rhythms that are sometimes not what we may be used to.

If you enjoy singing and feel like helping to lead the worship songs, please do not hesitate to contact the office [HERE](#). If you don't want to sing on your own, you may want to partner with a current singer and the church will be more than happy to accommodate.

When we sing we are not by any means providing a performance, but helping to lead and steer the worship songs. If you would like more information please contact, the [office](#), [Rev Keith Graham](#) or have a chat with any other current leading singers or myself.



Saughtonhall United Reformed Church



 Saughtonhall URC

Healthy Little Foodies

Introducing food to your baby
Guidance and Q & A with our
Early Years Nutritionist

Weaning - 2nd September

Fussy Eaters - 9th September

12pm-1pm

Saughtonhall United Reformed Church
85-87 Saughton Drive, EH12 5TR

Entry is free but please book a place
at tots@saughtonhall.com





Tots@Saughtonhall

Wednesday

9 - 11.30am

@Saughtonhall URC

warmly welcomes babies and children
up to three years old together with their
parent or carer

If you would like more information please contact
tots@saughtonhall.com



For more information contact Tots [HERE](#)

Deaths



We are deeply saddened to announce the deaths of the following church members

Isalinn Darling 12/05/26
William Hughes 20/06/26
Elizabeth Greenhill 15/08/26
T Millar Watt 30/08/26

Please keep their families and friends in your thoughts and 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



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



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.