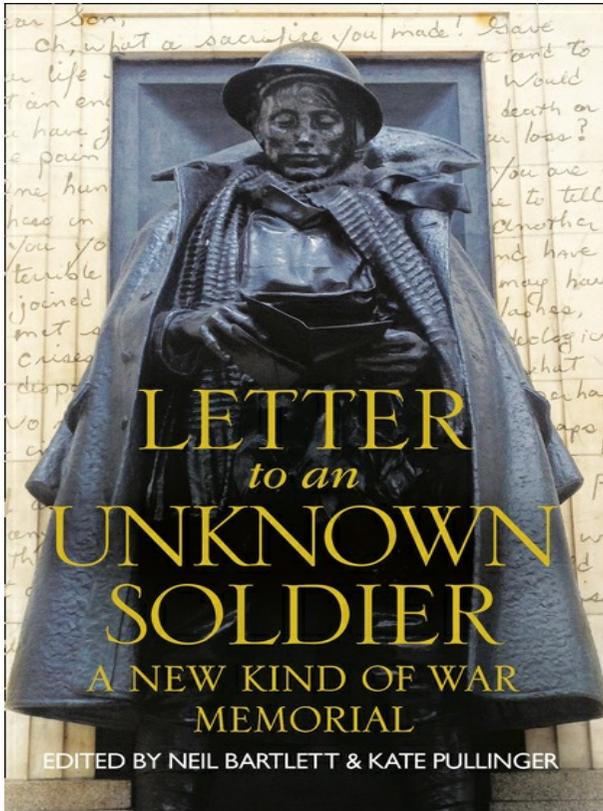




THE SHUTTLE

November/December 2014



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

Every Tuesday

9.45 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

Every Saturday

10.00 Guild Morning Coffee - all welcome

November

9 9.45 Early Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship : Service of Remembrance
11 10.50 Service of Remembrance
16 9.45 Early Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship
18 7.30 Guild Elizabeth Cumming - Scottish Colourists
23 9.45 Early Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship
30 9.45 Early Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship

December

2 7.30 Guild Arran Johnson - Prestonpans Tapestry
7 Articles for the December/January issue of The Shuttle should be submitted to the editors no later than today.
9.45 Early Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship
8 7.30 Kirk Session - **note change of date**
14 9.45 Early Family Service
10.30 Service of Nine Lessons & Carols

Front Page

On Platform One of Paddington Station in London, there is a statue of an unknown soldier; he's reading a letter.

On the 100th anniversary of the declaration of war - in a year crowded with official remembrance and ceremony - everyone in the country was invited to pause, take a moment or two and write that letter. All the letters which were received are published on www.1418now.org.uk with 138 specially chosen ones made into this book "Letter to an Unknown Soldier - a new kind of memorial" edited by Neil Bartlett and Kate Pullinger. A new war memorial - made only

Reflections

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

The Sermon on the Mount is Jesus' keynote speech. He is preaching to the gathered throng about his vision for God's Kingdom here on earth and what is required of each of us and how God expects us to live.

We are being told in the beatitudes that it is not just those who have died for faith who are entitled to be called blessed, or thought of as blessed. We are blessed, here and now, for the way we live our lives and aspire to live.

We are called to be peacemakers, we are called to be pure in heart, and equally when difficult things happen to us, we will be blessed. We will be blessed when we mourn or when we are persecuted. Christ is assuring us, that we live surrounded by God's grace and always within the sphere of his influence and care.

In the Middle Ages, when someone said to you, "God bless you", it was straight from the beatitudes, and it was because they feared that you might have the plague. Yet still we say it, as a blessing, not because we fear that they might give us a life threatening disease, but as a blessing. These 3 powerful words delight in health not death and recognise that God delights in life and health and wholeness and wishes his people to live in the light of this blessing.

On 1st November it has always been the tradition of the Church to pray for those who have died, whom the Church had sanctified because of great works and on 2nd November to pray for the souls of all Christians, who had died.

In the Middle Ages the poor people of the parish went around on 31st October, which was a Feast Day and were given meat and food in exchange for going to Church on 2nd November and praying for the souls of that family's loved ones, who were dead. It was called **souling**. The 1st and 2nd November were solemn Holy Days and people were required to fast on those days.

After the Reformation this **souling** and praying for the souls of the dead ceased, but the tradition of souling continued in a different name. From then on, there was **guising**. People literally **dis-guised** themselves and were given money and food.

From 1605 onwards the tradition was added to when children then went around and asked for a penny for the Guy, so that a bonfire could be paid for to remember the King James VI ,being saved from death after Guy Fawkes and his fellow conspirators were executed for trying to blow up the Houses of Parliament.

While Reformation theology regards all people of faith as Saints, as it says in the New Testament, it is still the habit of remembering the Saints on this day.

But now into this mix has been added the practise of remembering the dead of the Wars. I opened the Poppy Garden in Princes Street Gardens on Monday and if you have the opportunity to go and spend a few minutes there, you will find that it is very moving. The service was attended by many people, including representatives of the Services, the Government and the Public who had either served or who had relatives who had served.

There are poppies there to remember people who have died nearly a hundred years ago or only a year or so ago. They are united in death by a common purpose, to do their job and get home again. It was a very moving service, and one that has only occurred for a few years. Remembering and giving thanks has taken on a new meaning, with different practises since the beginning of the 2nd Gulf War.

In the 1960s academics and others were asking at what point would Remembrance events stop? Rather than that, somewhat in the way that Hallowe'en has changed and developed and still continues to do so, the habits around Remembrance also continue to change and develop.

I think that it is within the psyche of the human spirit that we need to remember and continue a connection with those who have gone before us, those who have suffered for the faith, often in the case of many of the saints, and those who have paid the ultimate price in the time of war.

It is more open now, but men and women who have returned from war have always paid the price for their experiences. What they have done and seen and heard and touched, and the friends and comrades they have seen suffer and die, live with them for the rest of their lives. Trauma is a normal reaction to an abnormal experience and those who live with their experiences today, experience the same pains as those who returned with similar experiences 100 years ago.

We have a responsibility to pray for them and try to make this society a place and a people who respond appropriately to their vulnerabilities, even if we cannot understand the experiences they have been through.

And for Christians, this commitment includes belief that we are all loved by God and under God's care, concern and blessing. Remember that we are all capable of blessing and being blessed and in this time, let us pray for blessing on the people who suffer and the people who grieve and the people who try to be peacemakers, as well as many others.

Karen K Campbell

OUR CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



Rosa Madeleine Bailey, daughter of Drs Jenny and Paul Bailey and wee sister to Caitlin and Amelia (Millie), was baptised on Sunday 25th October 2014



Congratulations to Rev Dr Karen K Campbell on her appointment as Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery. She will take up this appointment in February 2015.

Welcome to Bettina Hather in her new post as Family & Childrens' Worker. (See page 13)



We give thanks for the life and service of:
Martin Fearn, late of Sr Margaret's Place, a resident of the parish, who died on the 19th October 2014

AROUND THE AISLES

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Blythswood Box appeal. Over 30 boxes were delivered from Marchmont St Giles'.

By the time you read this the **rose window** in the church should have been repaired and returned.

Would all **Elders** please note the change of date for the December Kirk Session from the 1st to the **8th**.

The **Kirk Session** recently attended an interesting training session on **Safeguarding** and were given much food for thought.

Sue Undy, our Administrator, has taken over the hours worked by Bettina and the office will be open from **9am - 12pm Monday to Thursday**.

A short **Service of Remembrance** will be conducted by Rev John Munro on **Armistice Day at 10.50am**. The Minister will also be taking a Service of Remembrance at St Raphael's which is always much appreciated.

Going for a Song??

Songs of Praise is filming in Edinburgh on the evenings of 26th and 27th November from 7pm until 10:30pm. We are searching for choirs, singing groups and singers to come along on both evenings to sing some hymns. 7 hymns on the first night and 7 on the second. These performances will then be used across a number of episodes - a great showcase for Scotland!

Choirs and groups can contact me directly to join the congregation. The venue is St Peters Episcopal Church in Lutton Place.

Marie McDonald
07926962537

THE GUILD TILL CHRISTMAS



We had a fascinating evening with Anne Laing on October 21st, hearing about the joys and problems of bee-keeping; we trust they are all cosied in now for the winter.

Joan Smith reports "On 4th November, Eileen led us in a meeting on How to Share, which is the discussion topic for the year. A good and thought-provoking evening ensued as we considered the many ways of sharing, from material resources to time and talents (not to mention jelly babies, chocolate raisins and Smarties!)"

On 18th November, Elizabeth Cumming will still be speaking to the Guild, but on the topic of the Scottish Colourists, NOT as shown in the syllabus. Arran Johnston will be telling us about the Prestonpans Tapestry on 2nd December. Some of you may have seen this amazing work three years ago in St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place or in Haddington.

After a Christmas lunch on December 9th, we will hibernate till January 20th at 2.30, when the Minister will speak to us about Support for the Services. Except of course, that Saturday Morning coffees continue weekly until December 20th, and restart on January 10th. Hope to see you there!

News from the Marchmont and Sciennes Community Council

A fun event for the official lighting of the community Christmas tree at the junction of Marchmont Crescent and Warrender Park Road will take place on Saturday 6th December between 3 and 5.30 pm. Carol singing with music provided by the local Primary Schools, small eats (kindly provided by Butterflies Cafe) and mulled wine. Come and join us!

Fundraising concert for Seafarers UK

The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Edinburgh and the Band of the Royal Marines are joining forces once again in a concert at the Usher Hall on Tuesday 25th November at 7.30pm. Come and support this enjoyable evening of light music. Tickets from Usher Hall Box Office.

Some of the ways Guilds have celebrated Guild Week, which this year is from 16th to 23rd November. We shall be looking at these, so look out next year!

Last year, Guilds;

Conducted Guild dedication service at morning worship
Took part in morning worship/dedication service
Served lunch/refreshments after service
Set up display board with Guild information
Held a tea party/afternoon tea
Ran a coffee morning/Christmas Fayre
Held an open afternoon/evening
Held a joint meeting with other Guilds
Held soup and sandwich/sweet/high tea/lunch day
Visited local sheltered housing, nursing home, housebound members
Went on a Guild/theatre outing
Joined in the Communion service with Presbyterial Council
Organised a speaker from one of the projects
Ran a fundraiser/silent auction for the projects
Held a Songs of Praise/concert/games evening
Created a floral display in church
Put article in local paper about GW events
Distributed 16 days booklet
Gave to Food Bank
Took part in a joint church service with youth organisations
Took part in Shoe-box appeal
Took part in a Guild week quiz/wore Guild badges
Held a collection for Philippines disaster appeal
Showed Annual meeting DVD
Held a social/film event/evening
Baked cakes and handed out to congregation
Knitted prayer shawls and prayer squares for congregation/soldiers

OOPS! The ending of the Mulanje article from last month's issue.

As there are several Esdaile Old Girls in Marchmont St Giles' to this day I mentioned the story to them and a picture of Lynne's aunt appeared this week from the Esdaile archives, courtesy of Joan Wareham (nee Stephen).

Charles Stewart, Edinburgh

One of the 138 letters which make up the book "Letter to an Unknown Soldier". The remaining 21,301 letters are available to read on www.1418now.org.uk

Daddy

I miss you so much. I wish I could click my fingers and have the war over with; and for all the brave soldiers to return home to their families and friends. I wish that everyone who had died in the war could be magically brought back to life- like aunt Sally's husband down the road from us. I wish that you could be able to watch me in my school play or that you could stop mummy crying.

I cry too, but I don't cry because I miss you like mummy does. I cried when I didn't get picked for the main role in our school play and I cried when Charlie pushed me over and i grazed me knee however I don't cry because i miss you. I don't cry because I know in my heart that I will see you again; so why waste the tears when people like aunt sally need them more.

I want you back with me and mummy but I know you have to do your job and i am so so so proud of you and when you can finally come home I'm going to give you the biggest hug ever! I remember when you told me that you were going to war, I was so shocked and sad. I remember you picking my head up and saying "always keep your head up no matter what baby" and gave me a kiss. In that moment you made me felt safer and happier; all of my anger turned to pride.

Thank you daddy,
love nathalie.

p.s always keep your head up

Nathalie Stocks
14, Student, Bromley

I would like to dedicate this to my Dad who was stationed in Afghanistan. He died seven months ago ands I miss him more and more every day.

McCrae's Battalion

www.mccraesbattaliontrust.org.uk

A service in commemoration
of the centenary of the Raising of this
Battalion in the Parish of St Cuthbert
will take place in St Cuthbert's church
on:

Thursday 27th November at 12.45pm

(Entry from King's Stables Road
or Lothian Road)

All are welcome to this community event

Organised by OASIS (an outreach of St Cuthbert's Church)
in partnership with *business matters*, Workplace Chaplaincy
Scotland & McCrae's Battalion Trust.

It all started in 1914 with the tabloid press of the day targeting professional football. The critics first attacked the men watching football on a Saturday afternoon before turning their venom on the players calling them "shirkers and cowards, content to hide at home while better men risked their lives at the front". Indeed the game in Britain was on the point of being stopped by the Government until its reputation was saved by the enlistment of 13 Heart of Midlothian players in the 16th Royal Scots. The Battalion is perhaps better known by its affectionate name, McCrae's Battalion, after its charismatic Colonel, Sir George McCrae. It is also known as the Sporting Battalion because the example of the Tynecastle men was followed by 500 supporters and ticket holders - along with 150 followers of Hibernian - signing up. Other professionals also volunteered from Raith Rovers, Falkirk and Dunfermline. Around 75 clubs were represented in total along with rugby players, hockey players, strongmen, golfers, bowlers and athletes of all persuasions. This "football sensation" captured the country's imagination and led to the Battalion being raised in record time at a meeting in the Usher Hall on Friday 27th November 1914.

We, in the City of Edinburgh, have an interest in this Battalion not just because past members of our families may have served in the Battalion and belonged to our churches (as is the case in St Cuthbert's) but also because the 1350 men who signed up after the meeting in the Usher Hall, 100 years ago on the 27th November 1914, made their way, on foot, down Lothian Road, past St Cuthbert's to sign up in Castle Street. Additionally the Padre to the Battalion was the Reverend James Black, later to become the Minister of what was then St George's West, now St Andrew's and St George's West and who subsequently in 1938 became Moderator of The General Assembly of Scotland.

The men left to go to war from Waverley Station and crossed to France in 1916. On the 1st July they took part in the infamous opening day of the Battle of the Somme. They were selected to assault the most dangerous part of the enemy position, a fearsome network of barbed wire and entrenchments, bristling with machine guns. In spite of this they took every objective and achieved the deepest penetration of the German line anywhere on the front that dreadful morning. In the process they lost three quarters of their strength.

Family & Children's Worker - Bettina Hather

I am excited to let you know that I am starting this week in post as Family & Children's Worker at Marchmont St Giles' Church. I will be working 20 hours each week including each Sunday morning. To begin with, I will be working in and around church over Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings plus any evening meetings etc, so do pop in and say hello!

My email address family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk is now live. I am also contactable via the Church Centre number 0131 447 4359 on the above days.

My role is varied but includes Early Service and Sunday groups, supporting and resourcing the volunteer team, connecting with groups and families using the Church Centre, establishing new projects for children and families and whatever else may come to us over time!

For those of you who don't know me, I moved to Edinburgh last spring with my husband Tim and our children Joel (6) & Amelia (3). I come to the post with a background of qualifications, training and experience in Health & Social Care, Counselling and Playwork.

I worked as a Children & Families worker in a Women's Refuge for 6 years, then in Mental Health and my last post was as a Community Development Worker in a United Reformed Church connecting the church with the community and the groups of the church with each other. I was also a volunteer in the Children & Youth work team in my home church for many years encompassing Sunday School, kids clubs and leading a midweek preschool service.

I bring this experience to this new post with fun and enthusiasm and with the aim of building on the warmth, success and church family here now for the benefit of our existing family and to connect with others in our community.

I aim to be in touch soon to organise some 'get-together's' for us all to take stock of how things are now, share ideas and plan to go forward. Do get in touch before if anyone wants to meet up to say hello or have any questions.

I look forward to working with you and see you on Sunday!

2015 Church of Scotland Education Prizes Launched

Stevenson Prize

The Stevenson Prize is awarded to schools demonstrating excellence within the field of Religious Observance, and particularly where the work of pupils has helped build a sense of community, an understanding of spiritual development and helped to celebrate shared values. The theme this year is 'Chaplains and War'.

Moderator's Medal

The Moderator's Medal is awarded to groups or individuals whose entry shows creativity and thought in expressing issues relating to spirituality, faith and belief. The theme this year is 'Peace'. Entries are welcomed from any young person(s) regardless of his/her faith or religious tradition. Entries can be connected with a school, youth club, church youth group, boy/girls brigade etc.

For further details and information on how to enter visit the education pages of the Church of Scotland website.

Church makes initial submission on further Scottish devolution

The Church of Scotland has made its initial submission to the Smith Commission on further devolved powers for Scotland. Convener of the Church and Society Council, Rev Sally Foster Fulton says of the process, "This is more about making a difference in relation to poverty, health, education and all the other aspects of human flourishing than it will be about a transfer of powers from one parliament to another."

The interim submission can be read here - the full submission from the Church of Scotland to the Commission, which is led by Lord Smith, will be made by the end of the month. Recommendations are due to be published by the end of November.

And finally....

As you get older you find out that true happiness is not in how much you make or how many degrees you have or how big your house is or how fancy your car is. It's finding peace and joy and a calmness in your life that will soon become the most important thing to you. Your family are what matters to you, love is what matters to you. Things that are of quality, not of quantity.

facebook.com/LoveQuotes Sayings

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

Minister email	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell karen@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	447 2834
Session Clerk email	Mr Ian Moss sessionclerk@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	662 9293
Children & Family email	Mrs Bettina Hather family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	447 4359
Treasurer email	Mrs Jessica McCraw treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	667 4514
Property	Mr Charles W Laing	668 2595
Roll Keeper email	Ms Lorna Bain rollkeeper@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	668 1581
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Robert Parsons	557 1257
Sunday Kidz Club	Mrs Joan Wareham	346 4058
Flower	Miss Cathie Murray Mrs Moira Murray	668 3711 229 1283
Safeguarding email	Mrs Catriona Moss safeguarding@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	662 9293
Pastoral Care	Mrs Marjory McCardel	667 7426
The Shuttle Editors email	Charles & Judith Stewart theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	668 1970

Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Church Centre Office

(Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 12.00)

Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk
0131 447 4359

Marchmont St Giles' Parish, Church of Scotland
is a registered Scottish Charity SCO09338