

# THE SHUTTLE

October/November 2014



Mulanje Massif Plateau in Malawi



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

### October

12 9.40 Early Family Service  
10.30 Morning Service  
18 **No** Guild Coffee today  
19 9.40 Early Family Service  
10.30 Morning Service  
20 10.00 Bible Study  
21 7.30 Guild - Anne Laing on Beekeeping  
26 9.40 Early Family Service  
10.30 Sacrament of Holy Communion

### November

2 Articles for the November/December issue of The Shuttle should be submitted to the editors no later than today.  
9.40 Early Family Service  
10.30 Morning Service  
3 10.00 Bible Study  
7.30 Kirk Session  
4 7.30 Guild - How to Share  
8 7.00 Quiz Night  
9 9.40 Early Family Service  
10.30 Morning Service - Service of Remembrance

The Editors apologise to Jessica McCraw and Marjory McCardel on the misspelling of their surnames on the back page in last month's Shuttle.

## **REFLECTIONS**

We seem to be surrounded by news from home and around the world, which is both worrying and dangerous for so many people. It would not be the first time I have been asked how we, as those who profess the Christian faith, can live fully and confidently in the face of tragedies and violence?

The news has been full of the tragic death of Alice Gross, that beautiful young woman from London. The loss of innocence, potential life and a daughter is so unjust.

This last week, we have again received the news that another Britain who went to Syria to help, Alan Henning from Manchester, has now, along with David Haines of Perth, been beheaded by a group who are anything but Islamic. Long ago these men would have been called martyrs: people who were killed for things they stood for. Unfortunately, in the West the word martyr has more recently taken on slightly negative overtones, but its origin is not so. These men died because they were British, because they tried to help, because they could be used to get the kind of response which will mean more violence and bloodshed. Our hearts and prayers go out to both their families and the families of other foreign hostages, along with the thousands of Syrian and Iraqi families, who grieve over the loss of their loved ones.

At this time of Harvest, what is there to give thanks for? What has the Christian faith to say or do?

We know that there are many things - from family, to friends, as well as occupations, past-times and our democratic right, which should be open to all to decide their future. As people of faith, we should give thanks for that faith which guides and guards our lives. Faith teaches us that there is a depth and value in our lives, and every so often it is right to stop, even for a moment and be thankful for those things which give our lives value and depth and hope. We should also give thanks for the people who make our lives all the more vital.

The Gospel, as fresh today as it was 2000 years ago, reminds us again and again of the value we hold in this world and to God. It brings us back again and again to acknowledge and consider all that we have and can contribute to the world.

Again and again, the Gospel says, "Do not worry". We know that worries will always attend us, just like pollen on a flower. It is part of what it is to be human. The worries which St Matthew was concerned with are vital to all people - eating, drinking, and what we wear. St Matthew is concerned for life and concerned that people are focusing in on the material areas of life, rather than concentrating on their souls. He recounts Jesus preaching the sermon on the Mount and setting out his stall about the importance of God's Kingdom.

The theologian Paul Tillich characterised the most predominant modern worry as spiritual; that is, we suffer from emptiness or meaninglessness. So, the solution to Tillich's spiritual malady is not to worry, to give thanks and to fill our lives with things which give meaning and add value to life.

Harvest is when we acknowledge the abundance of all that we have, both materially and spiritually, and commit ourselves to share what we have with others. Harvest has been celebrated long before Christian times. Four thousand five hundred years ago, the Jews had a festival to celebrate gathering in their harvest of crops, to thank God for all kinds of blessings.

The Jewish Talmud, a book of wise sayings, says:  
"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief. Do justly, now. Love mercy, now.  
Walk humbly, now. You are not obligated to complete the work, but neither are you free to abandon it."

The Gospel also challenges us to make this similar kind of effort to pray and love our neighbours here, there and everywhere and to give thanks and live well. Living well and not worrying means that we need to work towards addressing issues and finding solutions to the challenges of the world - and doing so within the sphere of faith.

And in so doing we should use the gifts we have, our intelligence, our singing, our compassion, our spiritual ability to pray, our dreaming, our wealth, our hopeful attitudes and find a way to live lives of purpose and share God's love to try to change the world for good.

*Karen K Campbell*

## OUR CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



Double congratulations to Nathan Piper and Mhairi Reid and big sister, Rebecca, on the recent birth of Imogen and Naimh.



Congratulation to Dr Karen K Campbell on her appointment as National Chaplain to Legion Scotland (formerly Royal British Legion Scotland).



**We give thanks for the life and service of;**

Albert (Bert) Parrish, former Church Officer at MSG and fondly remembered, died at Letham Park Nursing Home on the 11<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

### Notes from the Kirk Session

Janet Allan, who is responsible for eldership training, has been invited to lead the November Session through the issues of Safeguarding.

The Stewardship and Fundraising Committee will concentrate on just Stewardship and a separate group will be appointed to cover Fundraising for Phase 2 of the proposed development of the church centre

Elders' districts have been rearranged due to new members joining and some elders wishing to take a less active role.

The Christian Education Committee are planning a series of film nights. Watch out for further details in intimations.

After some discussion it was agreed that the Christmas offerings will go to "Hearing dogs for the Deaf" which is a national charity and centre of excellence in training hearing dogs to alert deaf people to everyday household sounds and danger signals in the home, work place and in public buildings.

# AROUND THE AISLES

**Thanks** to all who brought items for the Harvest collection. They have been donated to the North West Food Bank in Edinburgh.

**Please note** that we will no longer be collecting plastic bottle-tops.

A **Bible Study** has started on Monday mornings at 10am in the Church and runs fortnightly until 15<sup>th</sup> December. The next session will be 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Christian Aid** benefited from a concert by "The Wild Myrtles" held at the German Speaking Congregation Church. Those who attended thoroughly enjoyed it.

The **Development Committee** are awaiting responses from various architects who have been approached with regards to Phase 2 of the future building plans for MSG.

If you have not replied to your **Senior Members' Annual Outing** invite then please contact the office asap and give them your response and choice from the menu.

If you are a **singer** and would like to sing with the choir over the Christmas period then please contact the organist, Robert Parsons (557 1257).

Following the Guild meeting recently you can follow **Novi Most** on Facebook and view the video they have produced recording the work they have done with young people across the faiths and backgrounds in Bosnia Herzegovina since the strife which destroyed much of the former Yugoslavia.

NOVI MOST International is a Christian charitable organisation and their vision is to equip young people in Bosnia and Herzegovina to enter their futures with hope and confidence and empower them to become the instruments of positive transformation in their communities.



## THE GUILD THIS AUTUMN

Towards the end of September, we heard about one of the two projects which we will be supporting this year, the Julius Project.

Scottish Churches Housing Action works with partner organisations in various parts of Scotland to lend support to vulnerable folk at turning points in their lives, for example befriending newly housed people. If you want to know "Why Julius?", look up Acts 27!

On October 7th, Katie McCraw (daughter of Jessica) brought with her two of her co-workers, Damir & Jasna Trbić; they told us about the encouraging work of Novi Most, which aims to break down barriers between young people of different ethnic backgrounds and religions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On October 21st we look forward to hearing about Anne Laing's bee-keeping activities, and on November 4th we will be tackling the discussion topic, How to share.

Further details of later meetings can be found in the 2014-2015 syllabus, which is in the leaflet holder on the wall in the Café, please pick one up. The Saturday Morning coffees continue weekly until December 20th - EXCEPT ON Sat. October 18th, the autumn break.

Everyone is welcome to come along to any of our meetings and, of course any of our Morning Coffees; we look forward to seeing you!



There are catalogues in the Church Centre for Christmas cards, calendars, etc with the proceeds going to Crossreach - the arm of the Church of Scotland which provide care and support to some of the most vulnerable in society.



## The MSG Quiz Night

Saturday 8th November 7pm (start)

in the Church Centre

Only £3 per head

(includes Refreshment-Prizes-Laughs)

Any budding Eggheads, Masterminds or Pointless Experts? Please don't hide your light under a bushel. Abandon all Trivial Pursuits and Come on Down Saturday night. Whatever your interests or ability there is a question for you! It is all for fun.

Make up your own teams of 4 or you can join one on the night.

If you can offer a lift or need transport, contact Muriel Anderson (445 2658) to arrange.

Tickets are on sale from various sources -

Carole (445 2116), Ann (667 8325), Irene (668 1976) or June (447 7572)

The phone lines are now open - Come and have a go!

Look forward to seeing you.

The Social Team





## **CHRISTMAS SHOE-BOX APPEAL**

Once again, Marchmont St Giles' Church is supporting the Blythswood Christmas Shoe-box Appeal – so before we all become involved with our own Christmas preparations, let's spare a thought for some of the most vulnerable and deprived people in Eastern Europe for whom a shoe-box filled with surprises really does bring joy and happiness.

Leaflets listing the items required and telling you how to fill your shoe-box are available in the Church Centre, and please note that the final date for shoe-boxes to be brought to the Centre is Friday 7th November. There will be a few empty shoe-boxes available for collection in the church office if you need one.

Even if you don't feel able to fill a whole shoe-box, there are other ways that you can help. It costs £2.50 to ship each filled shoe-box, so a donation to cover the cost of that would be welcome. Every filled shoe-box must contain toothbrush and toothpaste, soap, and hat/scarf and gloves, so perhaps you might like to donate some of these items – we will have a box in the Church Centre where you can deposit your gifts. For the children's shoe-boxes toy cars or small dolls are requested – so you might like to donate some of these items. However, please note that all of these items have to be NEW.

Thank you for your help with this – you will be bringing a little practical help and joy to people facing a level of hardship which it is hard for us to imagine.



## **This month we are looking at some more groups who use our premises**

**Marchmont Playgroup** has been a feature of Marchmont St Giles' for over 40 years and was originally set up by the Church. Although it is run now by the parents of the children who attend 3 days a week (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) the church still supports it by charging a minimal rent. The children enjoy lots of activities both inside and outside the hall and learn valuable social skills at the same time. Playgroup provides pre-school children with a safe and stimulating environment in which every child is valued as an individual and is about learning, playing, exploring and having fun.

The **Toddler Group** meet on a Thursday morning in Inchkeith/Inchgarvie from 10am - 12pm providing a safe place for little ones to play and also a welcome for mums and carers alike. Although called a "toddler group" this group is open to children from birth upwards and provides vital support to new mums (and grannies). This group comes under the aegis of the church and is a much appreciated space for its users.

**The Vienna Horns of Scotland** are an enthusiastic amateur group who meet regularly at MSG. Their aim is to promote the playing and understanding of the special qualities of the Vienna Horn in Scotland and to forge closer links with groups specifically dedicated to the Vienna Horn, above all the Wiener Waldhorn Verein (Vienna Horn Club of Vienna), founded in 1883 and the oldest horn club in the world.

**ELJC (Edinburgh Liberal Jewish Community)** meet regularly at MSG and are very much part of our family as we are part of their family. Butterflies are delighted to cater for ELJC and always look forward to their Seder Meal at Passover. They aim to provide a modern and relevant interpretation of Jewish life and practice and respect and embrace the diverse ways in which people express their Judaism and engage with it.

**Carers in the Community** is a group run by the Edinburgh City Council to offer support to carers. They meet on a monthly basis and, although a small group, we are delighted that we can offer accommodation to this vital service,

## **COSY - Church of Scotland Youth**

The National Youth Assembly is an annual residential event for young adults aged between 17 and 25 that have some connection with the Church of Scotland. Attracting folk from all over Scotland with different backgrounds it's a chance to get together, worship together, learn together, discuss together and party together.

Designed to enable young adults to have a voice within the Church of Scotland, NYA consists of a series of discussions on topics ranging from fashion to politics, from tax avoidance to climate change and from social media to marriage. After the event feedback from the discussions is collated and alongside a report printed in the 'Blue Book', is presented to the following General Assembly by the NYA Moderator. This year's Moderator is Rachel Hutchison from Inverness. See below with "other" Moderator



For NYA 2014 the theme was 'My Father's House' and explored how we worship, how we think the church should be spending its money, how we can do ministry inter-generationally and how we can support Christians in the Middle East. Alongside all that there was the usual mix of small groups, workshops, worship, late night sessions and social stuff including a masquerade ball and other things to celebrate our 20th birthday.



## **The Man from Eldorado** : An African love story repeats itself

My grandmother Cathy Peat was an indomitable woman. Graduating in medicine in the mid-1920s in Aberdeen, Scotland, she found herself within a few years on a mission to deepest darkest Africa - literally.

The resonance is almost comic.

Dr Peat's first posting as a medical missionary was to Livingstonia - named after the great man himself - in northern Nyasaland, a tiny slip of a country at the bottom of the chain of the Nile lakes in central Africa, now known by its post-independence name, Malawi.



Lynne Haultain as a baby with Cathy

Like Dr Livingstone, Dr Peat was driven by a profound sense of social justice, stoked by her faith and Fabian thinking. She saw no barrier in her gender, and nor did the Church of Scotland, happy to send medical women to far-flung colonial outposts to spread the word.

I knew all this as a child and had visions of my grandmother hacking her way through the jungle in a pith helmet and long cream skirt to establish leper colonies and tend to malarial Africans. My images were borne of Kipling and Ladybird books about explorers, but in this case they were not far from the truth. Perhaps because of the strength of that image and the extraordinary lives she and her family led, I have always had an intense pride in the matrilineal inheritance, and last summer it was time to show my own daughter some of that legacy.

Against all odds, Cathy found her true love in Nyasaland. She had moved south to Mulanje, in the lee of one of the great massif plateaus of the Rift Valley, and become the mission doctor. The area was already well planted with tea by the early 1930s and there were a number of ex-pat families in the neighbourhood. Amongst them was a quiet, industrious Scotsman, Lewis Stewart, who had an estate called Eldorado. He was her perfect foil - reserved where she was voluble, calm to her feistiness, with the same capacity for very hard work. So the medical missionary and the tea planter were married in the Mulanje parish church. Hundreds came from all over the district for the celebration, and the singing and chanting continued well into the night.

Cathy was required to resign her post with the Church of Scotland when she married, so she promptly set up a clinic on Eldorado, and continued to practise medicine there for the next 40 years.

I had made the journey across the Indian Ocean many times as a child, landing in apartheid-era South Africa, then transiting to Malawi to visit my grandparents.

After my grandfather died, my grandmother returned to Scotland, and we stopped visiting when I was 12 years old. My husband, daughter and I made the same trip 38 years on to find inevitable change and some bizarre similarities.

I wanted to see Mulanje again - to see the tea and the mission and the graves. We found Tania, one of those old-school travel agents who can transform a journey with inside knowledge and thoroughness, in suburban Melbourne. I briefed her and started digging on the internet myself. I had no idea after such a long time whether Eldorado still functioned as a tea estate, whether the Church of Scotland still had a mission, and there was a haze, too, over where we might find the graves.

Sitting in my office one afternoon, I received a phone call from an excited Tania. "You won't believe what I've just read - the medical missionary in Mulanje is marrying the man from Eldorado!" she said. It was almost beyond belief, but completely true. Dr Ruth Shakespeare, the current medical director of the Mulanje Mission Hospital was indeed marrying Ken, who lives on Eldorado and works for the British company that now owns and operates the estate. Eighty years on, my grandparents' match was being replicated in exactly the same place.

Ruth, it turns out, took a five-year contract at the tail end of her career and met Ken at the Mulanje Golf Club.

I still have the first email I sent to her, headed "Amazing!" In her response, she explained that she lived at the mission in the same doctor's house as Cathy and many of the doctors in between. Ken is the finance director for the tea growers and lives on the estate in what is now a company house.

Could I send a picture of my grandparents' house and would she let us know if it was the same one where Ken lives? My parents have a painting of the house, built by my grandfather in the 1950s and which

drinking tea, watching it gush off the roofing and turn the driveway into a red river.

“Yes,” came the response from Ruth, the same house, the same verandah and some of the same trees. Would we like to come and stay?

We met at the mission hospital one steamy afternoon in January - still largely the same set-up Cathy presided over 80 years before, but the medical issues are very 21st-century. Between the mission and the district hospital down the road there are about 180 beds and four or five doctors - for a catchment of half a million people. The population grows about 3.6 per cent per annum - so far in excess of the impoverished country's capacity as to be almost absurd. Upwards of 13 women a day give birth at the Mulanje Mission Hospital. The AIDS infection rate is stuck at somewhere around 22 per cent of the population, and access to antiviral drugs and family planning can be haphazard.

On the upside, though, polio is gone, malaria still kills but not in the numbers it used to, and leprosy is a thing of the past - results Cathy could not have imagined. The challenges for Ruth and Cathy are so different, but require the same immense fortitude and practicality to respond.

Ruth and Ken were married recently. They had more than 2000 guests from the district for the wedding celebration, and all night singing. Imagine that ...

Lynne Haultain, Melbourne

*This first appeared in the Sydney Morning Herald and online.*

This story led to another 'Amazing' email, then another. Searching for family history about my great uncle, Lewis Stewart and Mulanje I found Lynne's article quite by chance. Like Lynne, Mulanje had always held a sense of intrigue in my childhood, another great aunt had stayed in a house called Mulanje, outside Peterhead. Through social media I made contact with Lynne, and in one of her replies she advised that her mother and aunt had been educated in Scotland! She floored me by completing the detail, the school was the Ministers' Daughters' College and that they had worshipped in the Grange Church in the 50's and had sung in the choir. 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

# And finally....

Imagine that you had won this prize in a contest: Each morning your bank would deposit £86,400 in your private account for your use. However, this prize has rules:

1. Everything that you didn't spend during each day would be taken away from you.
2. You may not simply transfer money into some other account.
3. You may only spend it.
4. Each morning upon awakening, the bank opens your account with another £86,400 for that day.
5. The bank can end the game without warning. At any time it can say, "Game Over!" It can close the account and you will never receive a new one.

What would you personally do?

You would buy anything and everything you wanted right?

Not only for yourself, but for all the people you love and care for. Even for people you don't know, because you couldn't possibly spend it all on yourself, right? You would try to spend every penny, and use it all. Because you knew it would be replenished in the morning, right? Actually this is not a game, it is for real – and you are already an active participant.

Each of us is already a winner of this prize. We just can't seem to see it. For the prize is time.

1. Each morning we awaken to receive 86,400 seconds as a gift of life.
2. And when we go to sleep at night, any remaining time is NOT credited to us.
3. What we haven't used up that day is forever lost.
4. Yesterday is forever gone.
5. Each morning the account is refilled, but the bank can dissolve your account at any time WITHOUT WARNING.

So my friend, what will you do today with your 86,400 seconds?

# MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell	447 2834
email	karen@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Mr Ian Moss	662 9293
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<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Jessica McCraw	667 4514
email	treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
<b>Property Convenor</b>	Mr Charles W Laing	668 2595
<b>Roll Keeper</b>	Ms Lorna Bain	668 1581
email	rollkeeper@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Mr Robert Parsons	557 1257
<b>Sunday Kidz Club</b>	Mrs Joan Wareham	346 4058
<b>Flower Convenors</b>	Miss Cathie Murray	668 3711
	Mrs Moira Murray	229 1283
<b>Safeguarding Co-ordinator</b>	Mrs Catriona Moss	662 9293
<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Mrs Marjory McCardel	667 7426
<b>The Shuttle Editors</b>	Charles & Judith Stewart	668 1970
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## Church Centre Booking Enquiries

### Church Centre Office

(Monday - Friday 9.30am - 12.00)

Email : [office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk](mailto:office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk)

0131 447 4359

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