

# THE SHUTTLE

## February / March 2016



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

# Meeting Matters

## Every Saturday

10 - 12 pm Morning Coffee : Cafe

## Every Tuesday

9.45 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

## February

14	9.50	Early Service
	10.30	Morning Service
15	10.00	Bible Study
16	14.30	Guild - Thistle Chapel - Charles Burnett - St Giles' Room
21	9.50	Early Service
	10.30	Morning Service
22	10.00	Bible Study
28	9.50	Early Service
	10.30	Morning Service & Celebration of Holy Communion
29	10.00	Bible Study

## March

1	19.30	Guild - Who cares about Rupert Bear - Prof A Murray
5	3.00	Kids Club... The Sheep Mystery
6	9.50	Early Service
	10.30	Morning Service
7	10.00	Bible Study
13	9.50	Early Service
	10.30	Morning Service
14	10.00	Toddler Church
	10.00	Bible Study
	7.30	Kirk Session
15	7.30	Guild - Project -
26	10.00	Easter Family Event

# Reflections

"And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to him. They appeared in glory and were speaking of his departure, which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. St Luke 9:29-31

The American theologian Markus Borg talks about the Gospels. He says that obsessing about what exactly happened or denying it could have happened or arguing or saying that it could happen because God can do anything, is a waste of time and energy. It is much more appropriate, as people of faith, to consider how those who remembered the event and the story, were affected by their experience and how it influenced the future faith story of the Church.

The Bible is an experience and an expression of faith; and so we shouldn't look on the Gospels, as either a biography or a documentary, in modern terms. In the story of the Transfiguration, up on the mountain, as Jesus met with Moses and Elijah and glowed and dazzled everyone was changed. Peter, James and John experienced this pivotal story in a final act before they all set off on their journey to Jerusalem, for the final confrontation with the Roman and Jewish authorities. Something happened up there on the mountain and why was it so important that Moses and Elijah were up there too.

How did they know it was Moses and Elijah and not just two men he met on the mountain? Peter, James and John would not have known what they looked at. They might have been greats of the faith, but it wasn't as if they had their profiles on the back of a five or ten shekel note! Their assumption was based on a strong foundation. It was a strong belief within Judaism, that Moses and Elijah would appear on earth at the dawning of the restoration of Yahweh's power on earth.

The mountain top experience showed Jesus to be part of the salvation story of Israel, by looking back, and once off the mountain, looked forward to the Cross and Resurrection. The light of Christ which dazzled from him, changed others as well and set them off on a new path. The mountain top experience showed that

Jesus being inextricably linked with God and links Peter, James and John as witnesses to the event and secures their important place within the story of the Christian Church.

Peter was the rock of which Jesus built the Church, but was also the one who betrayed him. James was the first apostle martyred, when he was decapitated by the sword and John was not martyred, but lived to be an old man, witnessing the blessings and the controversies of the early Church. Like Peter, these brothers had their flaws as well. They asked Jesus if they could sit at his right and left hand; a question which deeply upset the other disciples.

These men, fully human with their own strengths and very human weaknesses, also recognised the way in which things happen when God wants them to happen and when God's grace descends on us as it wills.

Spiritual highs come and go, but the real spiritual life is lived in the ordinary day-to-day. God is constantly present in our lives and our awareness of that presence, can be mostly a matter of perception, of trusting that God is indeed with us, not only in the moments of high feeling and intense spirit, but also through the yawning and lonely valleys of life. It is a matter of paying attention to God in the ordinary things we do, of looking for God's hand in the simplest of circumstances and responding to it.

During this season of Lent, when we are encouraged to take something up to help others, and to have a good look at who we are as people of faith and how we could be better, it is important to give thanks for those high points in our lives, which nurture us and keep us going, but also to remember and recognise the blessings in our daily lives and God at work day by day in and through us.

*Karen K Campbell*

**Bible Studies** continue on during Lent on a weekly timetable on Monday mornings at 10am until Easter and then will revert to fortnightly meetings.

# OUR CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



## **We give thanks for the life and service of:**

Jane Thomson, a resident of the parish, who died on the 8th December 2015

Ann Reid Murie, a resident of the parish, who died on the 18th December 2015

Colin Woods, a resident of the parish, who died on the 27th December 2015

Margaret (Meg) Loudon, a member of the congregation, who died on the 7th January 2016

Margaret Antrobus, a member of the congregation, who died on the 17th January 2016

Helen McCallum, a member of the congregation, who died on the 5th February 2016

## **Easter Services 2016**

Services at 7.00 pm

24<sup>th</sup> March - Maundy Thursday : Hand Washing

25<sup>th</sup> March - Good Friday :

26<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Saturday : Taize Service

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27<sup>th</sup> March - Easter Day -

9.50 am Early Service

10.30 am Morning Service & of Holy Communion

# AROUND THE AISLES

## **Thank You !**

Following the generosity of the congregations at our services over Christmas we have been able to send a cheque for £676.46 to Save the Children which supports children and at our Gift Service we had over 80 Christmas parcels which were distributed to families in Craigmillar.

**SERENE** Beauty Therapy, who have been in temporary residence in St Kilda since they were flooded out last year, have moved back to their own newly decorated premises on Marchmont Road. We will all miss Sarah and Sheila's cheery faces and wish them a prosperous and dry future!! PS St Kilda has never been so fragrant.

Congregation members Anne and Charlie Laing report that "Its music time again: the Edinburgh G & S Society are will be performing "The Gondoliers" at the Kings Theatre during the week of 8th to 12th March. It promises to be a great show and well worth supporting."

Both Bettina and Judith report that they have 'an adequate sufficiency' of jam jars at present and thank everyone who has brought jars for the Kids Club and Butterflies Cafe.

**Anne Laing** has intimated that she will be standing down as **MSG's representative on the Marchmont Sciennes Community Council** after 22 years. If anyone would like to take up the gauntlet then please contact the Session Clerk or the Minister. The Council meets monthly on Wednesday evenings.

The **Christian Aid Committee** have started planning this year's fundraising activities and will be asking for your support for this important cause very soon

**Butterflies** was privileged to provide the catering for the Memorial Service for the late Very Rev William MacDonald in January at Mayfield Salisbury Church

We were also asked to mentor a group of sixth year pupils from George Heriot's School who were organising a Burn's Supper and Ceilidh at Central Venues, Tollcross. They planned, shopped, chopped, peeled and mashed cooked and served a meal for 65 in aid of CRUSE - a charity involved in bereavement counselling - and raised over £1400.00 for this great cause. Butterflies was delighted to be involved with this great bunch of young people.

Many of you will remember Ania Prokop who worked in the cafe and we have just heard that she is expecting her first baby in June. Congratulations are winging their way over to Melbourne where she now lives with her husband Joe.

### **Butterflies Plus**

Please remember to let the Cafe know if you have booked a place at Butterflies Plus and are unable to come - either phone on 447 4359 or email [butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk](mailto:butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk). You are very welcome to just turn up on the day even if you haven't booked.

**Recycling** is an issue for all of us now, including the church, and you might notice some new bins at the gates. With the introduction of new legislation the Cafe has to recycle all its food waste and we will soon be providing facilities for other recyclable items within the premises. More information will follow shortly.

The **Hall Development Committee** had a very productive meeting with Ian Riddell, the appointed architect, recently and will be visiting various other churches which have recently undergone development to look at various issues such as storage, lighting and furniture.

# **Facilities Management Committee**

Marchmont St Giles Church (MSG) ushered in a new era in January with the formation of a new committee – the Facilities Management Committee (FMC). The Kirk Session had approved the merger of the long-standing Property Committee with the newer Church & Centre Management Committee (CCMC); both of which had played increasingly important roles over recent years. The new FMC will manage all the property and related 'MSG fabric' activities, eg building surveys and repairs, as well as the running of the centre and associated room-hire and other usage.

The merged FMC supports the medium-term plans for the Church, which involve looking at optimising and maximising usage of the Church and the Church Centre for the benefit of the local community. We are very pleased that the majority of the members of the former committees agreed to continue their support for the new FMC, which will be chaired by the Minister, Karen Campbell.

## **Thank You**

Charlie Laing was the last Convener of the Property Committee and deserves a separate mention. Charlie was asked in 2005 by the then Session Clerk to cover the vacant Property Convener position, which had been held by the same convener for the previous 10 years. Charlie replied he would "...do it for 1 year, till you find a full-time replacement.". So, 10 years later, Charlie finally stands down, and has agreed to support the new FMC in a consultant-style role. Charlie has maintained a large file of contacts, invoices and other information regarding the management of the church buildings, as there are always issues to deal with; particularly as MSG stands on top of a hill and is unprotected from any direction the winds, or storms, choose to come from. The Kirk Session offers its thanks for Charlie's leadership of the Property Committee over the last 10 years.

**Ian Moss**  
**Session Clerk**

## **Fa's deein'fit fan!**

During the recent perusal of a Church magazine in my native Aberdeen my eye caught sight of this headline - 'Fa's deein fit fan'

There then followed a list of all the duties which are filled each week to make services 'happen' and prompted the thought of the range of rotas one might have to consult when playing an active part in the life of the church, Beadle, Flower, Duty team, Coffee, Early Service, Reader, Sound Rotas not forgetting the work done in the course of the week by the Minister, Family worker, Organist and choir, Church Officer and Church administrator, the cafe volunteers helping Judith and Nicci, then there's the various committees who make things tick in the background, Finance as guardians of our Finances, Facilities Management overseeing the day to day operations, Pastoral Care looking after our spiritual needs. The Worship and Christian Education Teams and the Christian Aid team, working with our friends at the German Speaking Congregation to co-ordinate our local activities in support of Christian Aid.

Our Church and Church Centre offer a real focus for a wide variety of activities and organisations within our community and requires a constant 'eye on the ball' to ensure that events happen as seamlessly as possible since the centre can be in use seven days a week from early morning through to late evening.

All in all it is quite a team effort each and every week to ensure that our services and Church Centre are welcoming, stimulating, challenging and enjoyable. If you would like to contribute your time and talents to assist with any of these activities please contact the Session Clerk or the Minister.

## **Vacancies ! General Assembly – 21st to 27th May 2016**

If you are interested in serving as a steward at the General Assembly this year please contact Sandy Gemmill at [assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk). People are asked to undertake two hour shifts on one or more days (some people offer to do more than one shift). Duties involve checking passes and directing people to the appropriate places in the building and managing the flow of people at busy times.

Unfortunately no travelling expenses are paid. Teas and coffees and light refreshments are provided with a modest lunch allowance for those on duty over lunch time.



## **MOVING ON TO SPRING(?) IN THE GUILD**

In mid-November, we heard from Hugh Henderson, founder of Mission International based in Dundee.

The Haiti Project is the first of our two projects of the year, and aims to construct a building which will serve as school, community centre and church centre, and to help with health, literacy and worship in a very poor area.

After our December meeting we felt much better informed about a striking contribution to Edinburgh housing and architecture, when Rose Pipes told us the background to the Edinburgh Colonies.

Dr John Munro started our 2016 calendar leading us in discussion topic 'Working with Conflict' a thought provoking and helpful talk. Our second afternoon meeting of 2016 will be held on February 16th at 2.30 pm in the St Giles Room, when Charles Burnett will talk to us about the Thistle Chapel. Charles was formerly Ross Herald, and is a most interesting and informed speaker.

Our first evening meeting of the year will be held on March 1st, back in the Church Centre, at 7.30 pm, when the intriguing question, "Why does an old Professor care About a chap called Rupert Bear?" will be answered by Professor Alan Murray, who is by no means as elderly as he implies, and is another entertaining speaker.

The meeting at 7.30 on March 15th is about our second project to be covered this year; entitled All Friends Together, it is about helping churches to welcome people with learning disabilities, and to include them more in congregational life.

Please feel free to join us at any meeting, all are very welcome.

Remember Saturday Coffee is back in full swing (except for 20<sup>th</sup> February which is half term) and we look forward to seeing you then .

## A WARM MSG WELCOME TO OUR NEW STUDENT



Hello everyone, my name is Barry Hughes and I will be on a placement at Marchmont St Giles' for the next 6 months or so. I am training to be a full time Parish Minister in the Church of Scotland, having been an Ordained Local Minister for the last 4 years. I left my 'day job' with TSB Bank last summer in order to focus on transferring to full time ministry, and my placement here will enable me to learn some more about what happens day-to-day in the life of a busy parish.

I stay just outside Peebles in the Scottish Borders with my wife Gillian, our children Paddy (14) and Lydia (12) and our dog and two cats. Since being ordained I have spent a lot of time working with children and local schools in Peebles and it has been great to meet some of the children who come to Marchmont St Giles' each week and to get to know them too.

I am a keen runner and cyclist so you may see me around the church in my cycling gear from time to time! Everyone I have met so far at Marchmont St Giles' has been incredibly friendly and welcoming and I am very much enjoying my time here with Karen & the rest of the team.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible during the next few months.

Barry

## Family Focus

Sometimes I find that words are not enough to describe or express the range of experiences and feelings that go with my role.

Here are some picture highlights of the winter months:

### The Nativity Service



Our church family loosely illustrated in a church Children's Address: 'Now we are One body' 1 Corinthians 12: 12-27 (ably assisted by Mr Potatohead!)



The planter outside the café door, planted by the Early Service families led by Helen who helps with the garden, for our Church family and local community to enjoy with their coffee.



And here are some things to look forward to:

**'Kids Club'**

**The Sheep Mystery**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 3.00 pm-4.30 pm**

Marchmont St. Giles' Church, Inchcolm Hall  
1a Kilgraston Road, EH9 2DW  
Registered Scottish Charity SCO09338

Book Now! £1 per child

*Bible theme, challenges, crafts, fun & games for P1 - 2's & P3 - 4's.*

**Spread the word and watch this space !**

And

Toddler Church on the Chancel



Join us on 14th March.

# Around the Church of Scotland

## Download CrossReach News now!

The first CrossReach News of 2016 is now available. This edition spotlights our Adult Care Services. You can read about how best to welcome people with learning disabilities in your church, learn about why safeguarding is important for everyone and take a look back at CrossReach Week 2015 in words and pictures. 'Me and My Job' features Allan Marshall from Morven Day Services in Kilmarnock. You can download CrossReach News in either English or Gaelic at: [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk). Christmas Card Competition

**CrossReach** is now inviting entries for our 2016 Christmas Card Competition. Any supporter of CrossReach can take part and the closing date is Sunday 27th March. Competition guidelines and details of where to send your entry can be found in the Church Centre. And if you would like to be added to our free mailing list to receive future editions, please email: [bdd@crossreach.org.uk](mailto:bdd@crossreach.org.uk)

**New Appointments** : in recent weeks the Church of Scotland has made some new senior appointments:

The Rev Dr Martin Scott will take over as Secretary to the Council of Assembly

Ms Mary Macleod has been named as the new Solicitor of the Church and Law Agent of the General Assembly.

Mrs Anne Macintosh has been appointed as the new General Treasurer.

The **Communications Team** at '121' regularly trawl all sorts of media from print to online, Radio and TV recording stories featuring the Church of Scotland in all its diversity, keep up to date with this link

[http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news\\_and\\_events/church\\_in\\_the\\_news](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/church_in_the_news)

## **And finally....**

There was a farm, where lived farmer John with his wife Molly. They hold pigs, cows and many animals in their farm. Also there lived a little mouse.

One day the mouse looked through small crack in the wall and accidentally saw how the farmer was opening some package. The mouse was curious what food may it contain and discovered that it was a mousetrap. The mouse was determined to run around the farmyard and warn all the animals regarding the danger.

First of all he met the chicken. „There is a mousetrap in the house!“ – the mouse declared with despair. But the chicken answered with indifference: „It does not concern me, as this is a danger for you, but not for me. It cannot bother me“. Then the mouse raced to the pig and the cow and told them about the mousetrap. But the pig and the cow where not impressed too. They said that from them there is no reason to worry about this and promised to pray about the mouse.

Sad and depressed, the little mouse returned to the house.

In the night the farmer's wife Molly heard a sound of a mousetrap. She hurried to see what was in it, but due to the darkness she did not see that it was a poisonous snake, whose tail was caught by the trap. Suddenly the snake bit Molly.

The farmer rushed with her to the hospital. Later, when they returned home, Molly still had a fever. John remembered that it is good to treat a fever with chicken soup, so he went to his farmyard to bring the main ingredient, the chicken.

Whereas Molly's sickness continued and many friends came to visit her, the farmer butchered the pig so he could feed all the visitors.

Unfortunately, as time went by Molly became weaker and weaker and one day she died. Many neighbours, relatives and friends have arrived to the funeral. John had to slaughter the cow to feed all of them.

The mouse has been watching all that was happening with great sorrow.

Remember, when we learn that someone is facing difficulties or danger, all of us can be at risk. It is better to help and encourage one another and don't leave anyone alone with his problems.

## WHO'S WHO AT MSG

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

### Church Centre Booking Enquiries

#### Church Centre Office

(Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm)

Email : [office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk](mailto:office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk)  
**0131 447 4359**

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