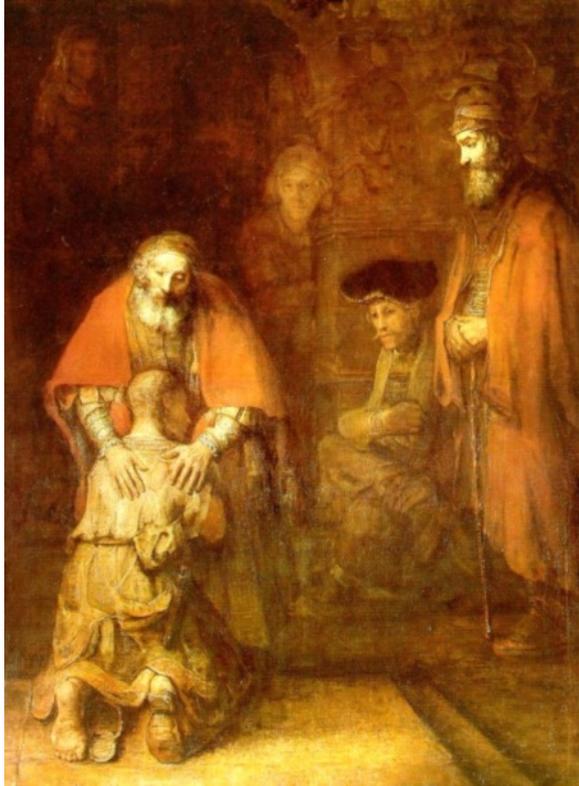


THE SHUTTLE

March/April 2016



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

Every Saturday

10 - 12 pm Morning Coffee

Every Tuesday

9.45 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

March

- 13 9.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship
14 10.00 Toddler Church
7.30 Kirk Session - St Giles
15 10.00 Bible Study
7.30 Guild - Prospects, All Friends Together
20 9.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship - Palm Sunday

Easter Services

- 24 7.00 Service of Hand-washing
25 12.00 Graveyard Walk followed by Soup Lunch
7.00 Joint Good Friday Service at MSG
26 10.00 Junior Church Easter Event
7.00 Taize Service
27 1.00 Clocks spring forward one hour to BST
9.50^{BST} Family Service - Junior Church in South Transept
10.30^{BST} Sacrament of Holy Communion

April

- 3 10.30 Morning Worship followed by Stated Annual Meeting
Articles for the April/May issue of The Shuttle should
be submitted to the Editors **no later than today.**
5 7.30 Guild - Medicins sans Frontieres
10 9.50 Family Service - Junior Church in South Transept
10.30 Morning Worship
17 9.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Worship & Baptism

Front Cover

Rembrandt : The Return of the Prodigal Son (*circa 1668*)

Reflections

"But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found. And they began to be merry.' St Luke 15:22-24

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is one of the most commented on stories in the Bible and has inspired the likes of Rembrandt to paint the stunning *Return of the Prodigal Son*, which currently resides in the Hermitage in St Petersburg.

However, as we turn our thoughts in this season of Lent to Holy Week and to Easter and the Resurrection of Christ, let me say a few things about the parable, which may influence your prayers and thoughts at this time.

Throughout the Christian centuries this parable has meant different things to different communities as each searched to find an authentic way to live out their Christian faith in their time and place. There is an ancient tradition where the younger son is interpreted as representing the person of Jesus. In this interpretation, as the younger son travels with his father's inheritance to a far land, Christians interpreted this to represent Jesus' journey, from a divine being into the far country of humanity.

As a result he becomes part of our human experience; in other words our *prodigal* existence. As humans we are often wasteful of God's extravagant love and unworthy of all that God has done in the Creation; we neither appreciate nor care for it as we ought.

On this journey Jesus ends up in a place that is Godforsaken; a place where he does not feed pigs but lingers forsaken on the Cross.

His homecoming occurs when he rises from the grave and he returns to the Father 40 days later. On his Ascension he is welcomed home and then leads us towards the Father's love.

The way this parable has been interpreted declares boldly just how far God is prepared to go to find us and welcome us home. God will journey in Jesus to the distant human country to include us and bring us home. This parable reminds the Church, not to become Pharisees and Scribes, who demand purity, but to see in the hearts of all, the possibility of Eternal Love at work in each of our lives, and to be open to God working through us, even in our broken and vulnerable humanity.

At this time in our history there is a huge social unrest all the way across Europe because of upheaval in war torn lands where many of our countries have been involved in one way or another. There are many stories of the clash of cultures, not only of Christian and Muslim, but also of Middle Eastern and European, and we are being challenged to consider the meaning of home and the people whom we are being invited to welcome to our homeland.

Then there are other issues, just as important if not more so to many people, and that is about our younger generation who may not be able to own a home at an age that previous generation would have expected to do so. Paying for university education and the cost of housing has excluded many people from that possibility. This has different effects, including children returning home after university because of their financial fragility. What does home and homecoming mean in this case?

As we seek as a congregation to be a home for everyone in our parish, may it be a home of light and welcome, a home where all are affirmed no matter what their age, experience, cultural background or other factors which might mark them out against us.

What does the parable and homecoming mean for us and are our hearts filled with love for people whom we might not readily identify with on first meeting. Will we be like the Pharisees, or the older son, or the father. How are we supposed to respond as Christians in this place, here and now?

Some stories are challenging and uncomfortable but lead us to exciting places where we can learn new things and have our lives enriched in the name of Christ. Jesus wants the Pharisees and us to join in that intentional walk towards home and the celebration of homecoming when we get there, with all those who want to find a home with God and in community with us this Easter and every Easter.

Karen K Campbell

OUR CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

Would you like to be a Rainbows Leader? Fiona Blackley, who has been the leader of the Rainbows group which meets at MSG, is moving down to London and is keen to find someone to take over from her to fulfil this fun role. Could you help? If so please contact fiona_blackley@hotmail.com

We wish Fiona every success in her new job and thank her for all her efforts over the years.

GUILD NOTES TILL EASTER



We very much enjoyed our February afternoon meeting with Charles Burnett who gave us detailed background and history as well as up-to-date news about the Thistle Chapel; he brought colour and pageantry into a very wild afternoon!

More colour, amusement and fascinating information were provided on 1st March by Alan Murray, clad in suitably Rupert attire. His talk brought back many memories and allowed a more mature look at the illustrative skills provided in the annuals.

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

On April 5th Pam O'Brien from Médecins sans Frontières will be our speaker.

Please feel free to join us for any meeting which interests you, all are very welcome.

Saturday Morning Coffees will continue till March 19th, so do come along and join us any Saturday from 10.00 till noon. After our Easter break, we recommence on Saturday April 16th.

A Prayer for Lent

Khaled Hosseini the writer of the book, The Kite Runner, wrote the following:

"I wondered if that was how forgiveness budded; not with the fanfare of epiphany, but with pain gathering its things, packing up, and slipping away unannounced in the middle of the night."

Let us pray
In this place
Where our friends
Our loved ones,
Once sat with us

Our forebears in faith
Prayed for us
And like us
Gave thanks for those people of faith
Who have gone before us

We come before you in prayer
O Creator, whom we call LOVE

Love Eternal
Love Incarnate
Love Close as our latest breath

Help us this day
To pack up our pain
And allow it to journey far away

May your forgiveness come home
To remain with us forever
That we may neither feel nor cause pain
But always to find ways
To encourage, promote and live in love.

May your Eternal, Incarnate, closely felt love
Forgive, instruct and encourage us
All the days of our lives
In the Season of Preparation
For the celebration of Resurrection
The bursting forth of new life in a garden
And all the days of our lives
And then forever in the garden of home
In Eternity. Amen

AROUND THE AISLES

Butterflies Cafe will be closed for Easter from 4pm on Thursday 24th until 10am on the 4th April.

Butterflies Plus will not be available on the 29th March but will recommence on the 5th April.

Please note that the email address for the Minister has been changed to kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk This is a directive from the 'Head Office' of the Church of Scotland and is for Data Protection reasons.

The **Stated Annual Meeting** will take place in the Church Centre after Morning Worship on Sunday 3rd April 2016 when there will be a short presentation of the annual accounts by the Treasurer.

Elders, please note the change of date for the March Kirk Session meeting - it is now the 14th March and will be held in the St Giles' Room.

Summertime begins on Easter Day this year so please remember that clocks will leap forward one hour.

Picking up on a recent Sunday theme : Good News - Bad News
Good News the **number 24 bus** service frequency is to be increased to three times per hour - Bad News it doesn't start until Sunday 10th April. However the good news outweighs the bad as the service will have additional buses in the evenings plus Sunday. And there's more - the Service **No 5** will have changes to timetable to improve efficiency at peak times and similar changes will take place on the **41** service! New timetable leaflets will be available soon on line at Lothian Buses website and on the buses from approx 3rd April. *No information is to hand as we 'go to press' about Sunday morning bus times*

Visit to Northern Iraq with Open Doors

In September of this year I was fortunate to join a trip to Northern Iraq along with other Christians from across the UK; we travelled with Open Doors, a charity which acts in support of persecuted Christians around the world, and the aim of the trip was to visit some of the refugee camps where refugees from the ISIS conflict are now housed.



Actually, 'refugee' is not the correct term, and neither is 'camp'; the people we visited are all Iraqis, driven from their home cities of Mosul and Qaraqosh when ISIS arrived in August 2014, so they are Internally Displaced Persons, or IDPs; also we were told very quickly that their new homes are never referred to as 'camps' but as 'centres' or 'villages' and this reflects the fact that the people we met have now made their homes in these centres, albeit not in the best of circumstances.

In total there are some 120,000 Christian IDPs in Northern Iraq – we visited 7 different centres where they are now living. Typical accommodation now consists of 'caravans' (which have replaced the original tents) – the 'caravans' are, in reality, portacabins, each housing one whole family, sometimes 3 generations, and are tightly packed in specific areas – one such centre housed 8,000 people in a space not much larger than a few football pitches. Many of the centres are housed behind barbed wire, giving the impression of a prison camp – this is for the Christians' protection, since they are still only some 40 kilometres or so from the ISIS front line.

Many of the stories we heard were truly distressing – stories of families uprooted from their homes and businesses at 1 hour's notice, stripped of all valuables. Children have lost their education, families their livelihoods and homes, and all have lost their churches. However the faith of the Iraqi Christians is truly astonishing; we did not enter a single home where the cross was not prominent,

and the word 'Hamdullah' (I give all thanks to God) was repeated frequently in conversation.



The Church in Northern Iraq has responded magnificently to the crisis, giving people a material home and a spiritual home; however for this they need continual funding, this is what Open Doors (and other charities) are helping to provide.

Some IDP centres are very different – we visited one housing estate where families are housed in 3-bedroom houses. This sounded very comfortable, until we realised that each house is now a home to 4 families, one per room – around 20 people per house. The many children we spoke to were desperate to re-start their education and the Church has launched a Kindergarten at each centre we visited.

Most of all, the Christians we met asked why the west has forgotten about them; we see and hear much about the refugee crisis in Europe, but those still in Iraq (and Syria) are largely overlooked. Our trip was designed to help raise awareness of their plight.

We met many inspiring people on our trip, who have overcome hardships we could not even begin to imagine. Their stories were heartbreaking, their resolve impressive, their faith unshakeable. The priest who now helps to run one of the IDP centres right in the heart of a city in Northern Iraq spoke these words – words none of us will ever forget. "ISIS took our homes – now we live in one home together here. They destroyed our churches – now we worship together in one church. They took our land – but they will never take our Jesus." Amen to that.

To see more about Open Doors and its work please visit <http://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Barry

HOLY CORNER CHRISTIAN AID BOOK SALE NEEDS BOOKS

Preparations are underway for the successful and friendly Holy Corner Book Sale which will take place during Christian Aid Week, 14th - 21st May 2016. We need donations now of books - paperbacks, hardbacks, fiction, non-fiction, old and new - we happily accept all sorts of books!

Donations can be left Monday - Friday between 10am and 12pm at the side door of Morningside United Church, 15 Chamberlain Road, Edinburgh, EH10 4DJ. If you'd rather have your books collected please call 0131-229-0090 or 07754-264465 to arrange collection.

Further details available at the booksale blog; visit the Holy Corner Book Sale or the Christian Aid pages [Christian Aid Events](#)

Christian Aid Week : 15th - 21st May

Christian Aid week once again is approaching and once again I ask you all for your donation of time money and expertise. Your help is much valued and appreciated by many.

Date of envelope stuffing - 11th April @ 7.00 pm

Coffee Morning - 14th May

Dedication Service - 15th May - @ GSCC, Chalmers Crescent

Collecting House to House is a great way to reach out to our local community, chatting with our neighbours while helping transform the lives of our global neighbours.

We did so well last year with our House to House collection, due to the generosity of the collectors' time and I hope that we can rely on you again.

More information in next month's issue of The Shuttle

June Wilson

Family Focus

The song 'Four Seasons in one day' springs to mind as I write this; in terms of both the weather and phases of activity. Over the last 3 days (Saturday, Sunday and Monday) we have seen rain, hail, cold, relatively mild compared to the cold, snow, sunshine and blue skies. Just as we think spring has sprung, along comes another winter snap.

I feel my time has been similar over the past little while; planning progress then slipping back into treading water again. The inevitable winter colds and lurgies have had their say on Sunday morning children's group leaders and staff as well as the children themselves, so that numbers and locations of groups has been more than usually "flexible"! Our hint of spring in this quarter is that we have some fresh faces preparing to join the existing Sunday morning team which is very exciting. Thank you to the whole team; long standing stalwarts and fresh faces, for all you do and I am looking forward to the next phase after Easter.

Our next phase of growth, as well as 2 upcoming Baptisms and our littlest members of the fortnightly Bible Study (see below), are some of the children's group team are coming with me to a Creative Learning workshop hosted by the Presbytery to inspire and challenge how we use learning styles in our children's groups. I am looking forward to sharing this as a team, not just me telling them about it afterwards.

Staying with the weather imagery, we are basking in the sunshine of achievement (not personal achievement but a team effort) of the latest Kids Club. It was a delight to welcome a good number of children (and meet their families) to 'The Sheep Mystery' to explore the Lost Sheep story with Cecil the Sheep: magnifying glasses included. Special thanks to the young helpers from our extended church family for carrying the event along. Their involvement is a credit to their families and home churches.

Our next Kids Club is on Saturday 28th May so I will need to get my rest in ahead of then! No rest or over wintering scheduled just yet, though, as Easter is soon upon us and we are building on last year's format to hold another Easter family event. Egg boxes and spare bonnets at the ready please!

Lastly, for those who may be in the Autumnal phase of life (or who are not already booked for innumerable commitments on Monday and Tuesday mornings!), our littlest members of the congregation would like to have some folk to keep them company during Bible study and maybe the Tuesday prayers so that their grown-ups can take part. Not a sole-charge gig, more of a second pair of hands. Pram pushing on the spot and humming not compulsory, but proving quite effective recently. Get in touch with me for further details.

The next Toddler Church is on Monday 14th March, 10 – 10.30am.

Easter Family event: Saturday, 26th March,

10 am – 12 pm:

All about Easter; the story so far, reflection, bread making, egg decorating, crafts and maybe a bonnet or 2!



All welcome.



Bettina

RECYCLNG - HOW CAN WE PLAY OUR PART

We have all got used to recycling at home and now we need to extend that to other areas of life eg church. Recently we have had our rubbish bins changed and can recycle all food waste, plastics, tins, paper, cardboard, garden waste and glass. However that still leaves us with quite a bit of non-recyclable rubbish and only 1 grey household sized bin which is collected fortnightly with no excess allowed.

So here is a list of what we can recycle:

Food - red bin in kitchen

All food waste including teabags and coffee filter papers & grounds but no napkins

Tins, plastic food packaging, glass, cardboard - cream bin in kitchen

Small bits of cardboard packaging can go in here with larger pieces on trolley opposite kitchen door or in green bins at front gates

Paper - box under desk in office or cream bin in kitchen or green bin at front gates

Flowers - brown bins at front gates

Parking!

Concern continues about the indiscriminate parking in the church grounds. The concern is a twofold nature - Safety & Emergency Access and the financial impact on church resources.

Our aim is to minimise traffic movement in the grounds so as not to compromise safety and maintain the integrity of our church grounds. All group leaders from Playgroup to Yoga have been advised of the church parking policy : **Authorised users and Blue Badge only**. Despite this group users can be seen driving into the church grounds creating a hazard for the many children using our facilities, indeed our original parking signs were child sized but were driven over and damaged so many times that it became too expensive to replace them. The other concern is the financial impact of repairing pot holes caused by car tyres and replacing gravel ground into the surface, an unacceptable level of expense is involved in this activity when the funds could be better employed in the mission of the church.

Easter Services 2016.

Everyone is welcome at our Easter services

24th March

Maundy Thursday - Hand-Washing and Holy Communion 7pm in the Church.

25th March

Good Friday - Graveyard walk, Midday followed by soup in Butterflies Cafe.

Good Friday - Joint Service with the German Speaking Congregation 7pm in the Church.

26th March

Easter Saturday - Taize at the foot of the Cross Service 7pm in the Church

27th March

Early Service 9.50am and Easter Day Service and Holy Communion 10.30am

Childrens' Activities over Easter

26th March

Easter Crafts, bread-making, stories and games 10am - 12noon

27th March

Easter Sunday Family Service with activities in South Transept afterwards during the 10.30 Service

3rd April

Please note there will be no 9.50 Family Service or Junior Church

10th April

Family Service at 9.50 and activities in the South Transept during 10.30 Service

The bread which the children will make on Easter Saturday will be used during the Sacrament of Communion on Easter Sunday.

And finally...



One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purpose of showing him how poor people live. They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" the father asked.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me, what did you learn from the trip?" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the front yard and they have the whole horizon.

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight.

"We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, but they grow theirs.

"We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.

Then his son added, "Thanks Dad for showing me how poor we are."

WHO'S WHO AT MSG

Minister email	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell kkcampbell@churchofscotland.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
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Robert Parsons	557 1257
Flower Convenors	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 - 1.00pm)

Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

0131 447 4359

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