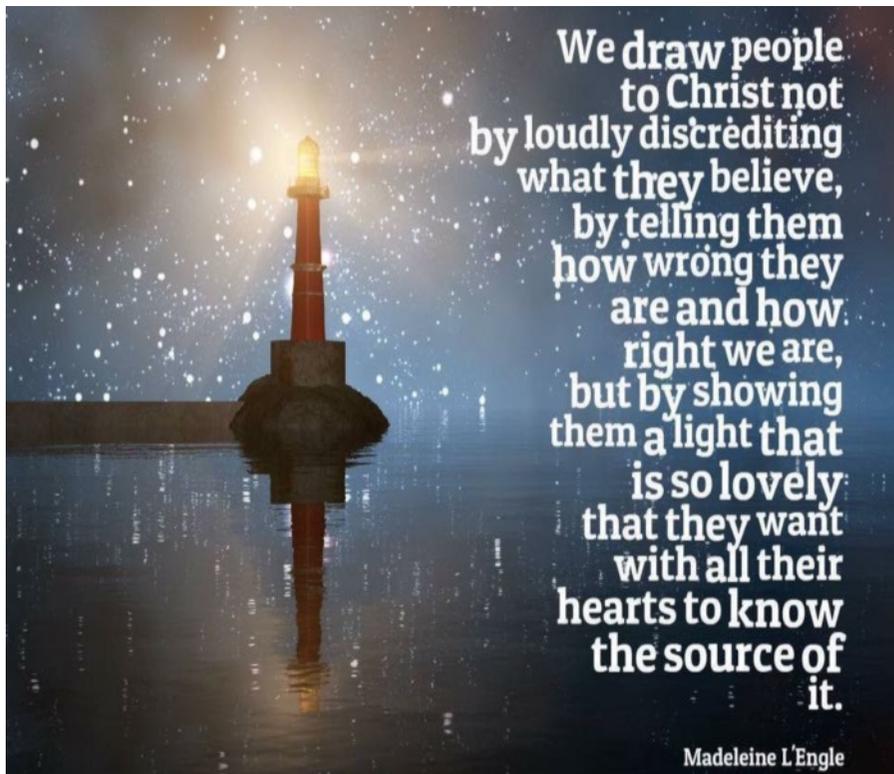


THE SHUTTLE

WINTER 2016



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

Every Saturday

10 - 12pm Morning Coffee (except 24/12 to 07/01)

Every Tuesday

10.00 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

- 11 9.50 am Early Family Service
- 10.30 am Nine Lessons and Carols
- 13 7.30 pm Guild - More Christmas Celebrations
- 18 10.30 am Nativity and Gift Service
- 19 10.00 am Toddler Church Nativity
- 23 10.30 am Christingle Preparation

Christmas Eve

- 24 4.00 pm Christingle Service
- 11.00 pm Community Carol Singing
- 11.30 pm Watch-night Service

Christmas Day

- 25 10.00 am Family Service

Hogmanay

- 31 7.30 pm HOGMANAY CEILIDH (see page 9)

January 2017

- 1 10.30 am Family Service
- 11.30 am Holy Communion Side Chapel
- 7 2.30 pm Junior Church and families Epiphany Party
- 8 9.50 am Early Family Service
- 10.30 am Morning Epiphany Service
- 15 9.50 am Early Family Service
- 10.30 am Morning Service
- 16 10.00 am Toddler Church
- 17 2.30 pm Guild - Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam - Myra Wattie.
- 21 2.30 pm Kids Club
- 22 9.50 am Early Family Service
- 10.30 am Morning Service
- 29 9.50 am Early Family Service
- 10.30 am Morning Service

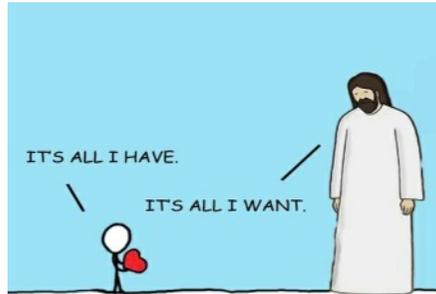
February

- 5 9.50 am Early Family Service
- 10.30 am Morning Service
- Contributions for the February issue of The Shuttle

Reflections

These are world famous words which Christina Rossetti wrote when asked to write a Christmas poem:

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd
I would bring a lamb.
If I were a Wise Man
I would do my part,
Yet what can I give Him?
Give my heart.



Christmas is an opportunity to incorporate our faith in both word and action, as a reflection of the love for those closest to us and also the stranger, in the face of the most vulnerable.

Giving gives full meaning to the Christmas Spirit of shepherd, wise men, angels and the Eternal Spirit of God. Each gave of what they had to the birth and to celebrate God on earth, the Incarnation. But as we look out and pass by the rank materialism which seems to increase year on year, it is a challenge to each of us to achieve a balance, between excess to keep up appearances and a Scrooge-like mentality; neither which serves our souls nor the Christian faith well at all.

To catch the real meaning of the spirit of Christmas, we need only drop the last syllable, and it becomes the Spirit of Christ. So, in the same way that the shepherd gave a lamb and the wise men took part in the story of salvation; how do we give of our hearts?

We too must make that journey to the place of the birth; each in our own way finding a path to experience the miracle of birth and the promise of God with us – Emmanuel – in our lives. Some of us make that journey early in life, while others take a little longer, but God calls us to stand by that manger and behold the glory of God. That glory is not surrounded by fine palaces and official announcements heard by great crowds, but in stables, in mangers, by heavenly heralds to lowly, smelly shepherds.

Christmas usurps our expectations about worldly power and invites us in to experience the Eternal Spirit of God through vulnerable situations and people. Yet still the message was proclaimed; still the people found a fulfilling meaning for their lives, as countless generations have done; still what was proclaimed 2000 years ago has a resonance for us here today. So we should not be shy and allow the secular world to have the final say nor dictate how we should be allowed to express our faith.

My colleague Liz Henderson in Richmond Craigmillar, has worked with the community there for many years, and before that in Granton. Both of these communities have very vulnerable people there. Liz has said that poverty has, until the last 2 years, always somehow been managed within families there. Now she is seeing families beyond breaking point and no longer able to cope. She has, as I do, significant issues with Foodbanks; we both think that they are a middle class short term solution to a problem of poverty, which should not exist in a wealthy country like ours and should require government action to end the evils of this poor system. Foodbanks should not need to exist, if we take the care of the vulnerable seriously.

However, Liz does work with vulnerable people in difficult circumstances to aid them when they most need it. No referrals are required, no proof of need, just the commitment that the Church will be with them when they need help most. Liz and her team will accept basics foods, nappies and food for pets and as such we are placing a box in the Centre, like a reverse Advent Calendar to place gifts in at this time. As well as local support, the Offerings accepted during the Christmas Services are going to be given to the work of Mercy Corps, which has its European Headquarters in 40 Sciennes. Mercy Corps is a global humanitarian aid agency.

What can I give Him? Give my heart by loving those closest to us and opening it to help the most vulnerable in our midst and the midst of places most in need of care and a little joy and peace at this Christmas.

Karen K Campbell

See Page 7 for more info on the work of Mercy Corps

AROUND THE AISLES

Butterflies Cafe was delighted to once again donate mince pies and shortbread to the Marchmont Sciennes Community Council's tree lighting ceremony on the 3rd December. The Cafe will close for Christmas on Thursday 22nd December at 3pm and will reopen at 10am on 9th January 2017.

Heard in the cafe recently, one of the customers saying to the staff when they were having a bad day "You're always here for us and we are here for you as well" - no wonder we look forward to coming to work!

Butterflies Plus' Christmas Lunch is on Wednesday 14th December at 12.30. There are still some places left and we would be delighted to see you there. This will be the last lunch until the 11th January 2017.

The Church Office will close for the holidays from the 22nd December until the 11th January 2017.

The Guild look forward to enjoying an evening of Christmas celebrations on Tuesday 13th December and after the 17th will take a well earned rest from making coffee on Saturdays until the 14th January when they look forward to welcoming you all again. Their first meeting will take place on the 17th January at 2.30pm in St Giles and the topic will be Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam by Myra Wattie.

Please remember to save your **Christmas card stamps** which the Church of Scotland can use to raise funds. Please leave a centimetre border around the actual stamp and hand them into the church office for collection.

Gillian Hoehnke has agreed to take over as Roll-keeper. She has a pigeon-hole in the office so messages can be left there for her.

Desmond O’Dea, who has been our Church Officer for the last 7 years, is leaving us at Christmas for pastures new. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Des for all his efforts on our behalf and to offer him our best wishes for the future.

Life and Work, the independent magazine of the Church of Scotland is currently published monthly and is available on subscription. Due to rising costs, the price will go up to £2.50 per issue and the 2017 annual subscription will be £30.00 with invoices being included in the January issue so no need to take action until then. If any reader wants to cancel their subscription, could they please leave a message at the Church Office.

As a new development in this electronic age the L&W team are developing a full online version of the magazine and this is currently being trialled. This small change means we can support the environmental goals of The Church of Scotland while creating significant financial savings that will be reinvested into the valuable work of the Church. Watch this space for further details

The Shuttle Editors will also be taking a holiday and will be back in February and look forward to your contributions/articles. All are very welcome. Finally we would like to wish a young 92 year old lady in Cumbria, whom we have heard is a big fan of The Shuttle, a very Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2017.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all those who help, support and volunteer in any way to make Marchmont St Giles’ run so smoothly. Maybe you help out in the Cafe or in Butterflies Plus, maybe you beadle or arrange flowers or read a lesson, maybe you give lifts to people or make the coffee on a Sunday but whatever you do to help - you are a *STAR*

So please don’t think “Somebody else will do it” - instead contact the Minister or the Session Clerk and see where you can use your talents.

We couldn’t do it without you



Our **Nativity and Gift Service** takes place on Sunday 18th and it is our custom to bring a **new** gift for a child who might otherwise have no presents at Christmas. Please wrap and label your gift for a boy or girl and what age it is suitable for and the Outreach Team will take them to Craigmillar where they will be given to the local schools for them to distribute.

This Advent at Marchmont St Giles', we are collecting basic foods, nappies, toiletries and pet food for Richmond Craigmillar Parish Church, who distribute to the most vulnerable people in their community. There is a big box in the church centre where donations can be left or they can be handed into the cafe or office and we will take them down to Richmond Craigmillar where they will be greatly appreciated. So next time you are shopping pop that extra item or two into your basket. **Please help us support them if you can.**



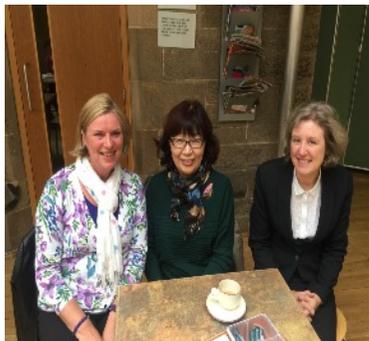
Mercy Corps is a global humanitarian aid agency which has its European HQ based locally at Sciennes. This year the collections from our Christmas services will go to support the work of Mercy Corps.

Poverty! Conflict ! Disaster! Right now, children and families in some of the world's toughest places need you. With your help, Mercy Corps is on the ground in more than 40 countries helping families survive emergencies, overcome adversity and transform their communities.

From helping earthquake survivors in Nepal and providing life-saving supplies to Syrian refugees, to supporting farmers around the world and sending girls to school, it's supporters like you who help save and improve people's lives every single day.

A Well Travelled Visitor

Recently the choir at MSG was joined by a new member for one service, who had travelled half way round the world from Japan to sing with them. Keiko Sato had a liking for the John Rutter anthem 'Look at the World' and had found a version online on YouTube performed by our choir and had thoroughly enjoyed it. Keiko contacted our Organist Robert Parsons and arrangements were put in place for Keiko to travel to Edinburgh to join the choir in singing 'Look at the World'.



In an email on her return home Keiko wrote ;"Look at the world" led to to the special place of full of nice people of Marchmont St Giles' Church.

I was very happy and felt easy because Catriona was with me all the time after the service. She is very beautiful. I love all the photos you took but most of all I love the photo of Catriona, Katherine, and myself. I was out of tune in high part, and I knew singing in choir was a little difficult. I have to listen to others voices and make harmony. I'll take a voice lesson twice a month like Catriona.

Nativity in a Box

Many thanks to all who knitted our fabulous new Nativity sets - one was given to Richmond Craigmillar Church who were absolutely delighted. The other one adorns our church centre and has been a real topic of conversation with all the folks who come into the building. It will pack back into the box for easy storage afterwards.



NEWS FROM THE KIRK SESSION

A warm tribute to the late Sandy Wishart.

It was decided to remove the carpet from the chancel area of the church due to its poor condition and also to allow more flexibility to move the pulpit and the grand piano which had been gifted so generously by the Murray family in memory of their Mother. A concert is to be held in the New Year as a tribute to Moira.

The ongoing issue with the floor in Inchcolm is being investigated.

The report from our Local Church Review (see page 16) was very encouraging and will be reported at Presbytery in the New Year.

Hall Development Committee

The Hall Development Committee continue to work behind the scenes in discussion with the Architect and '121'. An enlarged set of scale plans will be available for all to see in the New Year. Costs are being carefully considered and this will dictate the finished design.

Fundraising Campaign

A quotation has been received from Cornerstone Fundraising and is being considered.

Many thanks to all who voted for our project on the Aviva Community Funding campaign. Unfortunately, on this occasion, we were not successful but we learnt a lot and are much better prepared for the next time and at the same time raised the profile of our work and mission to be at the heart of the community.

The profits from the Hogmanay Ceilidh will go to the Development Fund.

A pamper evening is being planned for the Spring and a Christmas Demonstration is also booked in for November.

Butterflies is going to be working with Event Management students from Edinburgh University on a project and the profits from this event will be added to the funds.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

from

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 11th December

9.50 am Early Family Service
10.30 am Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18th December

10.30 am Nativity and Gift Service

Monday 19th December

10.00 am Toddler Church Nativity

Christmas Eve

4.00 pm Christingle Service
11.00 pm Community Carol Singing
11.30 pm Watch-night Service

Christmas Day

10.00 am Family Service

Sunday 1st January 2017

10.30 am Family Service
11.30 am Holy Communion Side Chapel

Sunday 8th January 2017

9.50 am Early Family Service
10.30 am Morning Epiphany Service

HOGMANAY CEILIDH

FOR ALL THE FAMILY

WITH DAVID VIVANCO
AND NEIL ON THE ACCORDION

AT

MARCHMONT ST GILES'
PARISH CHURCH



SATURDAY 31ST DECEMBER
7.30-10.00PM

TICKETS £7.50 UNDER 12'S £3.00
FAMILY TICKET £20 (2 ADULTS AND UP TO 3 KIDS)

INCLUDES PATE, CHEESE, OATCAKES
AND SOFT DRINKS

BYOB

A REASON TO CELEBRATE

Three former Moderators of the Church of Scotland have been awarded for outstanding contributions to the work of the Church and public life.

Dr Alison Elliot OBE, already one of the most decorated people in Scotland, has become just the third person ever to receive a Lifetime Achievement Award in the Scottish Public Service Awards. The Church elder and academic was the first woman to serve as Moderator and chaired the Scottish Government's Land Reform Group. The rare and prestigious award was presented to Dr Elliot in a ceremony held Monday evening in the Scottish Parliament. Created in 2014 through a partnership of the Parliament, the Scottish Government and Holyrood magazine, the awards recognise excellence in our public life. Dr Elliot will be following Sir Harry Burns and Sir Neil McIntosh).

In a historic first the **Very Rev Sheilagh Kesting** has been invested as a Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great by Pope Francis. The award, in recognition of her many years of ecumenical work, is seen as a tangible sign of the good relations between the Church of Scotland and the Roman Catholic Church. It is the equivalent of the papal "knighthood" awarded to men. Sir Tom Farmer is one recipient in Scotland of this rare honour. Dr Kesting is the first Church of Scotland minister to receive the award and the Roman Catholic Church says it has only been awarded once before to a non-Catholic woman in the United Kingdom.

The **Very Rev Dr John Chalmers** was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Aberdeen which recognises his contributions as a 'distinguished Scottish churchman'.

Dr Chalmers said: "I feel particularly honoured to be recognised in this way, but I regard this as an award that has only been made possible because of the hard work and support of colleagues, family and friends who have encouraged me and allowed me, over the years, to enjoy a wide ranging involvement in church and public life.

Dr Chalmers, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland since 2010, has just announced he will retire after the next General Assembly in May 2017.

KEEP CALM - CHRISTMAS IS COMING

Great excitement as we take delivery of a wonderful gift from the family of Moira Murray who have donated her grand piano to Marchmont St Giles'. Robert is hoping to use it for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service on 11th December.



The Christmas Banners have been adorned with an angel which was made at the Advent Craft evening held on the 8th December. A lovely time was had by all surrounded by glitter, sequins, angels, cakes, cards, mock cocktails and nibbles. The grand unveiling was followed by beautiful Christmas poetry read around the advent wreath.

The intrepid David Beattie is seen here at the top of the tree being directed by the younger members of the Beattie Family as to where the angels and the tinsel should be positioned.

Some concerns were expressed as the ladder was shoogled with Dad at the top!



Family Focus

December 2016

Advent and the preparations for Christmas are taking many forms this year.

Early Service made an Advent candle tray to help us mark the weeks until Christmas and be a focus to pray with.

Junior Church made advent calendars to take home including a helpful or kindness task for each day such as smiling at someone on the bus or helping tidy up at home. They also have a scripture verse for each day too culminating in a candy cane on Christmas day.

The Bible Study group are using a Celtic Advent devotional and we use that for Tuesday reflective prayer too.

An extract of this devotional also made it into the 10+ group last Sunday, as it tied in well with the Advent Candle lighting in the morning Service as we lit the Peace candle.

Together these strands and the many instances around, within and outside our regular Church family, give me a sense of excitement, 'joined-up-ness' and appreciation for our Church family and our community.



There are also the practical preparations for all the various services. The Nativity Service (Sunday 18th December); an all-age cast complete with costumes, rehearsals and hilarity.

Toddler Church nativity, Christingle-making for the Christmas Eve service, the Hogmanay Ceilidh and the list goes on.

I would like to take this opportunity to say 'Thank You' to the Junior Church team who shepherd (almost literally at times!), nurture and share with our children and young people; duties may come around almost weekly at the moment and we may not always see the outcome of the seeds of Faith we plant, but let us be assured that we are playing our part in God's plan for them. I also feel those children are playing a part in God's plan for us as adults and the wider Church family by their presence with us, their ideas, insight, curiosity and energy. They challenge us to question and try to explain our beliefs and why we have them which has the ability deepen, refresh or challenge our Faith too. So 'Thank You' to them too.

We are blessed to all be part of such a Family.

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.

Deep peace of the Prince of Peace to you.

Deep peace to you.

Adapted from an Ancient Gaelic Rune as read from 'Journey to the Manger' Celtic Devotional by Jean McLachlan Hess

Wishing you a peaceful Christmas and New Year,

Bettina



Dates for the New Year:

Saturday, 7th January
Junior Church and families Epiphany Party 2.30 pm

Monday, 16th January
Toddler Church 10 am

Saturday, 21st January
Kids Club 3 pm-4.30 pm

Local Church Review

Marchmont St Giles'

7th November 2016

Karen Campbell became the minister of Marchmont St Giles' in 2002. She speaks of having almost three different ministries during these fourteen years. The congregation in 2002 saw itself as a small elderly congregation with a plan to develop their building. That plan has worked in a big way! The plan centred on a church café that was to be more than just a place to have tea and coffee after church; there is now a centre manager in place and the café is open every day, available to all sorts of groups and individuals. The church has created a space in Marchmont where very little other community space exists and the community has walked through the doors. There are some 40 and more groups who now use the building in one way or another; these are listed in the other papers. The Church centre and café is a place to build relationships. It is a focus for service to the community and is becoming a place where people find a soft-entry into the life of the church. It is a place where people feel welcome, where they are listened to by the volunteers and where relationships are built and developed.

The Kirk Session has recently appointed a Families and Children's worker and Bettina interacts with young mums in the café and at the school gate. The once elderly congregation now has a flourishing group of families, with a growing impetus behind it, changing the face of the congregation. Upside Down Church is an example of the congregation's willingness to do something different from time to time: on that Sunday, the congregation left the sanctuary to do other activities and the children stayed behind to worship; that willingness to do things they might not otherwise have done is to be applauded.

The congregation has a new plan to create more space and flexible space. They plan to build a new hall to create more space for the community - "we are not doing this for us; we are doing it for everyone, for the community" - and also to redevelop the sanctuary by removing the pews and creating a more flexible space for worship. Alongside the plan for the building, there are plans to

develop a more flexible approach to worship, but that will be something of a journey of discovery for everyone as they build on all that the congregation currently enjoys about worship in Marchmont /St Giles'.

The visiting team met a minister and Kirk Session who obviously get on well together, with a great deal of mutual affection and support. They have achieved a great deal in the time that Karen has been minister and plan to achieve a great deal more, building on the good work already done. They are building good relationships within the community: Karen is involved in many aspects of community life by her personal ministry, ministry that is challenging and at times difficult. The Kirk Session is looking to continue to develop the church as the hub and heart of the community; in many ways it already is that hub and heart of Marchmont; their plan is to build on that and develop it further. We wish them well.

Kate Anderson, James S. Dewar, Maggie Lane, John Urquhart

Tristan Moxey Fund for Children and Families

On 30th April 2010, a beautiful second son and brother Tristan was stillborn. His family's lives were turned upside down. But from this tragic event something wonderful happened - from unexpected corners people emerged, some barely known, some complete strangers - bringing comfort, solace and love. This support enabled the family to learn ways of coping with their loss.

The parish churches of Marchmont St Giles' and Colinton played a huge part in this, MSG being the place where Tristan's funeral service was held and where his parents have found comfort and quiet reflection in the Side Chapel in subsequent years and at Colinton where Tristan now rests. His family feels a strong bond to both churches.

In the light of this experience the family has set up the Tristan Moxey Fund in part as a gesture of gratitude to both churches for their support, in part to have a continuing connection with the churches but mostly to leave a lasting legacy in Tristan's memory. The fund will receive an annual donation of £600, targeted towards activities in the two churches which provide support for children and families.

And Finally... **A Christmas Mistake**

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating, and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas, was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then.

Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise. So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor. Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song.

Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title.

Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads. Those in the front row - centre stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter c. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love."

The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small, quiet, girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W".

The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W".

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together.

A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen.

In that instant, we understood - the reason we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos, there was a purpose for our festivities.

For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRIST WAS LOVE"

And, I believe, He still is.

~00~

And Absolutely Finally...

What do sheep say at Christmas?

Wool-tide Bleatings! or A Merry Christmas to Ewe!



Merry Christmas

and

A Happy New year

to all our readers from the Editors.



MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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Treasurer email	Mrs Jessica McCraw treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	667 4514
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Robert Parsons	557 1257
Flowers	Miss Cathie Murray	668 3711
Safeguarding email	Mrs Catriona Moss safeguarding@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	662 9293
Pastoral Care	Mrs Marjory McCardel	667 7426
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Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Church Centre Office
(Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm)

Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

0131 447 4359

Marchmont St Giles' Parish, Church of Scotland
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