

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

Minister	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell	447 2834
email	kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Mr Ian Moss	662 9293
email	sessionclerk@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Children & Family	Mrs Bettina Hather	447 4359
email	family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Treasurer	Mrs Jessica McCraw	667 4514
email	treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Organist & Choirmaster	Mr Robert Parsons	557 1257
Flowers	Mrs Mhairi Wilson	445 1385
email	mhairi.m.wilson@gmail.com	
	Shirley Farquhar	447 9958
email	sgfarquhar@yahoo.com	
Safeguarding	Mrs Catriona Moss	662 9293
email	safeguarding@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Pastoral Care	Mrs June Wilson	447 7572
The Shuttle Editors	Charles & Judith Stewart	668 1970
email	theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	

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
is a registered Scottish Charity SCO09338

THE SHUTTLE

Summer 2017



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

Every Saturday

10 - 12pm Morning Coffee until 24th June

Every Tuesday

10.00 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

June

- 11 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Morning Service
- 12 7.30 Kirk Session - St Giles
- 18 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Morning Service
- 19 10.00 Toddler Church
- 24 10.00 Last Guild Morning Coffee
- 25 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Promotion Service & Holy Communion
- 28 12.30 Last Butterflies Plus for the Summer
- 29 10.00 Last regular session of Toddler Group

July

- 2 9.50 Family Service - last Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Service
- 9 10.00 Family Service - note later time
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 16 10.00 Family Service - note later time
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 17 10.00 Toddler Church
- 20 10.00 Toddler Time with songs and stories
- 23 10.00 Family Service - note later time
- This will continue until 20th August when Junior Church re-commences.
- 10.30 Morning Worship

AUGUST

- 3 10.00 Toddler Time Out and About - The Meadows
- 17 10.00 Toddler Group resumes
- 20 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 21 10.00 Toddler Church

Front Page

Some of the congregation who gathered on the steps of the church after our All Age Service on 4th June for the "Big Shout"

And Finally.....

There was this preacher who was an avid golfer. Every chance he could get, he could be found on the golf course swinging away. It was an obsession. One Sunday was a picture perfect day for golfing. The sun was out, no clouds in the sky, minimal wind and the temperature was just right.

The preacher was in a quandary as to what to do, and shortly, the urge to play golf overcame him. He called an assistant to tell him that he was sick and could not do church, packed the car up, and drove three hours to a golf course where no one would recognize him.

Happily, he began to play the course. An angel up above was watching the preacher and was quite perturbed. He went to God and said, "Look at the preacher. He should be punished for what he is doing."

God nodded in agreement.

The preacher teed up on the first hole. He swung at the ball and it sailed effortlessly through the air and landed right in the cup, three hundred and fifty yards away.

A picture perfect hole-in-one. He was amazed and excited.

The angel was a little shocked. He turned to God and said, "Begging your pardon, but I thought you were going to punish him."

God smiled.
"Think about it -- who can he tell?"



Communications

The Shuttle is taking its annual summer break over July and August and will return in September with a new series of informative articles about how the church works.

Marchmont St Giles' is a cog in the wheel that is the Church of Scotland and does not exist on its own.

Therefore it is important to understand the big picture of where the church, both at local and national level, is heading.

The magazine is available online to all on the church website - the address is on the back page - and if you cannot pick one up in the centre then please take the time to read the online version. The Editors work very hard, as do the regular contributors, to inform, entertain and communicate with the congregation in particular and the wider community.

Many people come from all over town to pick up a copy to read and pass on to friends and frequently ask permission to reproduce articles which have been included.

More and more often, people comment on important subjects pertaining to MSG and say "I don't know anything about it", "No-one has told me about it" and invariably the answer is "It 's in the Shuttle!!!" This is very frustrating and disappointing to the Editors and the contributors.

This is not just a church magazine - this is Marchmont St Giles' magazine, please tell us what you would like to be included and your contributions would be welcome.

BUT most importantly please, please **READ IT**.

More information on the church and wider church are available on the various websites and Facebook or Twitter feeds.

Next issue of The Shuttle will be published on Sunday, 10th September. All contributions by **3rd September** please.

Reflections

The Word of Life

The Word was in God and the Word was God

I have been a Commissioner at the General Assembly and during each act of worship a different word was used as a reflective tool for us to consider our discipleship. The words we considered were GRATITUDE, WATER, WITH, LIGHT, HOSPITALITY and LOVE.

In our discipleship journeys we all live in God and these words allow us to think about who we are as individuals and as communal beings, in the many different communities to which we belong. Here at Marchmont St Giles' we not only practice these qualities in our personal lives, but also in our corporate life in the way we care for our parish but also in our attitudes and hopes for our wider world. We are called, not only to offer gratitude but also to receive it; water drenches us in the promises of our baptism; we are called not just to do Christianity, but to be Christians with people throughout the world; the light of the world encourages us to let our light shine, but also to seek where the light might be shining and join in; hospitality is a God given responsibility and command when we see the number of times Jesus shared meals with others and we are called to offer that profound sharing with others and love which knows no bounds and does not set rules for those we can or should not share love with. These words brought home to me the blessings we have as a congregation, but also what we can do and be for others.

This month we welcome The Rev Teri Petersen from Illinois in the United States as she completes a familiarisation process as she transfers into the Church of Scotland from the PCUSA. Teri will be with us for 6 months before she seeks a Call and I hope that you will make her as warmly welcome as you can. It takes courage, not only to change your position but also your country as well, and I wish her well as she learns the idiosyncrasies of Scotland and the Church of Scotland as well.

On 5th June I will be travelling to France and Belgium for a flying visit, to take part in the Menin Gate service on the evening of the 5th and to visit Arras on 6th. I will endeavour to photograph some of the resting places of members of the congregation while I am there and look forward to writing about it on my return.

Our Explorer Scouts are also visiting Ypres on 1st July and will lay a wreath on our behalf at the Menin Gate; importantly connecting the past with young people today and us with them.

Young people are also only too aware of the sacrifice which is made when people would do us harm. The atrocity in Manchester has brought home to everyone the depths to which some people will go to try and achieve their aims. Young people from our parish have been involved in the events of Manchester and the schools in the area are being supportive and if there are issues going forward, they will be able to encourage them to receive professional support.

Our thoughts and prayers are with all people who have been effected by the events of Manchester and all places where indiscriminate violence and hatred ends or radically changes the lives of innocent people.

Our prayers wrap the world in our love; the love which Jesus Christ called us to embody and to live out in the world in His name. Let us be the Word of Life to the whole of life through our prayers and in the very act of being a Christian.

Karen K Campbell



James Brash Murray

Many of us will have entered the church and passed our Eagle Lectern but how many have given it any thought or pondered on its history.

It is a memorial to the lives of William Lawrie Murray, who served as an Elder in West St Giles' for 25 years and of his son, James Brash Murray, killed in action 21st May 1916, aged 27, one of the many young men from this parish who served in WW1 and whose stories are being researched for our church history.

GUILD NOTES, 2016-2017

We are **bold**.

We are **strong**.

We are **the Guild**.

The Guild thanks warmly all who have encouraged and supported us in the past Session.

At a recent Guild committee meeting, it was decided that, further to the £1895 mentioned in last month's Shuttle, the amounts for some of the recipients (including Bolivia's solar ovens) should be increased. This is only made possible by all who attend the Saturday Morning Coffees, allowing us to give away substantial sums at this time of year. These coffees continue (10 till noon) until June 24th, and will recommence in September.

Look out for our new syllabus for 2017 - 2018 which features some very interesting talks and projects which your Guild are supporting.

We wish all Shuttle readers an enjoyable summer season, and look forward to a new session of the Guild in September; meanwhile, join us at our remaining morning coffees! You are always welcome.

Thank you again for your support. □

Community News

Chris Mitchell who owns one of our neighbouring businesses, Cork and Cask, is organising a wine tasting event with some of his suppliers at MSG on the afternoon of Saturday 26th August. Chris plans to promote local businesses and the best of living and working in the Marchmont area - including ourselves. It is an opportunity for us to promote our Church and Centre and show the local community our plans for the future.

Grassmarket 'Soup Kitchen' transformation

The Grassmarket Community Project soup kitchen has been transformed into Open Door Meals as part of their Dignified Food Programme to address the stigma attached to free food distribution and help foster a positive community approach to eating and sharing together. They now serve a free high quality nutritious dinner in a relaxed and positive atmosphere every Monday 5 to 7pm.

Local musicians play live music and board games are available. Attendees are invited to a free community cinema after the meal as well as daily activities programme. Free haircuts are offered every 6 weeks and a free Pet clinic is provided for qualifying applicants.

Volunteers and donations are needed to help run the service and musicians to play at the meals. They also have a scheme where you can buy a voucher to help support this service or provide a hot nutritious meal to someone begging, isolated or in difficulty. For more information please contact: info@grassmarket.org

The Formers have landed!

As reported in the last issue of The Shuttle, three formers in the Church of Scotland were intending to mark their retirement from office in a hair raising way by dropping off the Forth Bridge and abseiling onto the beach below. The two Very Reverends John Chalmers and Russell Barr, former Moderators and former Crossreach Chief Executive Peter Bailey completed the task accompanied by a number of other Crossreach staff/supporters and raised over £12,000 in aid of Crossreach.

This was John Chalmers' second charity abseil, having previously dropped off the Titan Crane on the Clyde. As Moderator he made the first Moderator's Challenge, Climbing Munros in support of Christian Aid, then Angus Morrison made Loch Leven cycle challenge for StARS (St. Andrew's United Church of Cairo, StARS was one of the first organizations in Egypt dedicated to improving the quality of life of refugees, asylum seekers, and vulnerable migrants) followed by Russell Barr's Golf Challenges in aid of Crossreach, it leaves one to wonder what challenge the current Moderator might develop in the next eleven months!

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

hello.

Welcome To Rev Teri Peterson, an ordained Minister of the PCUSA who will be working with us over the coming months on a familiarisation program in order to apply for a post as a Church of Scotland minister. Teri has already been initiated into the work of Butterflies and helping in the kitchen(See page)

Congratulations to Allan Chihana in Malawi.

Allan was a Theology Student in Malawi when the late Marjory Turnbull made contact with him. He has kept in touch during his career and family life and now faces new pastures.

He will shortly be moving from his position as Parish Minister at CCAP Mpata to NW Malawi, to his new charge at Chisenga in the Wenya Presbytery, where there is a sense of excitement already as it will be his first manse with electricity and a motorbike!

We wish him well in his Ministry and look forward to hearing from him in the autumn once they've settled in.

Congratulations to Barry Hughes on passing his Theology Degree. Barry will soon be starting his probationary period at Tron Kirk Gilmerton & More-dun Church with Rev Cammy MacKenzie.

We intimated last month that Alex Staniforth (Nicci's partner) was elected as a Councillor for the Green Party. He has now been made a Baillie, one of six appointed to provide support to the Lord Provost in his various engagements and has his own bit of "bling" to wear in the shape of a chain of office.

C
O
N
G
R
A
T
U
L
A
T
I
O
N
S

AROUND THE AISLES

Butterflies has just had one of its busiest periods of work in its history with over 20 outside catering events in the last 4 weeks.

A huge *Thank You* to Nicci and all our volunteers without whom we could not offer service, support and care to our customers.

We will be on holiday from Monday 24th July until Monday 14th August.

Butterflies Plus will end on the 28th June for the summer and will re-commence on the 6th September. Many thanks to all of our customers and volunteers and please tell your family, friends and neighbours of the good value and company this service provides.

Maintenance Week - our annual maintenance week will be from the 24th July and Dave Alexander, our Church Caretaker, has a list of jobs which need to be done and will welcome your help and support any morning that week.

Thanks are due to everyone who volunteers in any way, be it arranging flowers, visiting, beadling or making coffee. We couldn't achieve what we do without you!! However, we are still needing volunteers for various areas eg beadling, setting up the church on a Saturday and people to work with Bettina and our youngsters.

After the recent theft of copper and damage to one of the CCTV cameras, we have been given the go-ahead to replace the stolen covering and change the position of the camera. The copper will then be recoated with SMART WATER™ which has a code unique to us and is a condition of our insurance cover.

Thanks to all who helped /took part in the highly successful **All Ages Service** on June 4th. The beautiful red Heart which was created at the craft table will have pride of place in the cafe. Coffee and decorated cakes were enjoyed by all after the service and having our photos taken for the video.



Christian Aid Week 2017

14 - 20 May

On behalf of the Christian Aid Committee I wish to thank all of you who have given your time, monies and donations to the Coffee Morning and collection.

We have collected the massive sum of £3751.60 which will help bring security and comfort to refugees fleeing from terrible violence in war ravaged countries.

I have many people to thank;
the Explorer Scouts for delivering to the tenements, running up those stairs (back in the day we would have given you a run for your money!);

Fiona Brown for preparing the Quiz, I found it extremely difficult and many congratulations to all who finished it. (Eds - there's still time to pick up a quiz and give your brain cells a wee workout in support of Christian Aid). Please return your quiz forms no later than 16th June ;

Frances Brown, once again, organised a very successful Coffee Morning - thank you Frances and all who donated baking and goodies for the raffle;

our friends at the German Speaking Congregation once again have been very generous and have given their time and donations; my final thank you is to the band of faithful helpers who delivered and collected the Christian Aid envelopes. I think you are great and a massive thank you to each and every one.

For sixty years people like you have made the vital work of Christian Aid possible.

Well done

June Wilson

Bordeaux suggested a modicum of red wine might help delay the process somewhat!

On the morning of the final day business centred around General Trustee Reports, Housing and Loan Report, Pension Trustee Report, Hymnary Report and the report of the selection of Nomination Committee for the Moderator.

At 3pm the Moderator's final speech took place, which was followed by the Lord High Commissioner's Address, The National Anthem, Dissolution of the General Assembly and the Benediction.

J W Mair, Commissioner for Marchmont St Giles', 2017

Heart and Soul 2017

Following the Assembly Service in St Giles' and the Gaelic Service at Greyfriars Church folks from 'a' the airts and pairts' came together in West Princes Street Gardens to celebrate the richness and diversity of the Church of Scotland. Tents and stalls along the Avenue either side of the Ross Bandstand offered information, hospitality, mementos (see card below from Dalgety Bay) and opportunities to make or renew friendships on a blustery but mercifully dry afternoon, given the rain of the previous day!

From Buchan to Whithorn churches told their story of their varied journeys in faith. Parishes which have been without a shepherd for more than a dozen years such as Crimond (23rd Psalm) & Lonmay but continually strive to meet the needs of their parishes.

Various departments and Councils of the church were represented offering opportunities to discover from staff present what they can do to support us in our local mission but equally what we can do to support the church in its wider mission from World Mission to MAF who had one of their (tiny) aircraft on display (about the size of a Mark 1 Mini with wings attached! Cessna 152). It was still on active service until just a few years ago.



The afternoon was attended by many thousands including the Lord High Commissioner and the Moderator and ended with a service at the Ross Bandstand where flags representing the Presbyteries of the Church of Scotland added some colour to the afternoon.



Fundraising News



Our first fundraising event took place on Saturday 27th May when six soloists, younger members of the choir, accompanied by Madeleine Sjostrand and conducted by Choirmaster Robert Parsons presented "Songs of Love - Love of Song", a concert of songs celebrating Love in all its multifarious forms. The wide programme was much appreciated by the audience and raised over £450 for our project to refurbish the church and extend the Centre to provide more available space to meet the growing needs of the users of our premises.

To date the funds raised including the concert, a donation and surpluses from the café amount to £20,000 towards our target of £100,000 to be raised from our own efforts. As soon as we receive planning permission for the alterations Cornerstone will commence approaching major funders. We hope that many more of the current user groups will take the opportunity to arrange events and help us reach our target.

If you were in church on Sunday 4th June you will have seen filming of the various "break out" sessions and taken part in our "Big Shout" for keeping "Marchmont St Giles' at the Heart of the Community". This is part of a short video showing the numerous activities which take place within the Church and Centre and will be used to promote our fund-raising ventures both locally and further afield.

Events which will take place later in the year include a car washing Saturday with our Venture Scouts, a Harvest Supper and a Craft Demonstration in December.

If you have any ideas or can offer help and support for fundraising events please contact one of us:

Sandy Wake - thewakes@blueyonder.co.uk

Sonja Mitchell - soniamitchell1@gmail.com

Tanya Anderson - tanya1anderson@yahoo.com

(The image of the heart held by hands will be the logo for the fundraising campaign which is being run to raise funds for the development.)

Hall Development News

Have you seen the 3D plan of the proposed alterations which is on the glass wall of the "Fishtank" at the Church Centre entrance?

IT IS SUPERB!!!

A huge "Thank You to Jon Mengham" who has produced this fantastic poster showing the planned redevelopment of the South end and the alterations to the church. This will be on display permanently and has already attracted a huge amount of positive comments from users and visitors alike.

The Committee is awaiting confirmation to apply for permissions from the General Trustees and have prepared a report for CARTA who will be meeting later this month and will be addressing our application. They look in particular at the plans for worship and are very excited by the imagination and flexibility we have incorporated into the design - this is helped by the theology of the Church of Scotland which states that the church is the people NOT the space.

The next meeting of the Committee will be on the 25th June and if anyone has queries or concerns about the plans then please contact a member of the committee who will be delighted to answer your questions or will take your concerns to the meeting. There is still a degree of flexibility within the plans and there are decisions which will not be confirmed until further on in the build as is normal in any building project.

Members of the Committee are as follows:

Catriona Moss	(Chair)
Karen Campbell	
Jon Mengham	
John Lewthwaite	
Andrew Noble	
Sandy Wake	(Fundraising Convenor)
Judith Stewart	(Secretary)

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

20th to 26th May 2017

2017 marks the 500th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation when in 1517 Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses against indulgences to the door of the castle church in Wittenburg, Germany setting in train a series of events which led to the splintering of Western Christendom. The impact of Luther's Reformation extended throughout Europe and beyond, and its consequences can still be felt today.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland is held in May each Year. The Lord High Commissioner is appointed by HM The Queen and this year it was HRH The Princess Royal, Princess Anne who attended daily.

On Saturday morning the Moderator the Very Rev Dr G Russell Barr handed over to Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, to continue as Moderator till the end of Assembly.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was held on Monday 22nd with elements handed to the participants by 44 commissioners. It was commented by the Moderator, The Right Rev Dr Derek Browning, that this was the year when everything seemed to go as planned which delighted the Commissioners involved. In previous years this has not always been the case!

The day after the Manchester bomb tragedy the Crown Prince of Jordan Hussein bin Abdullah spoke of the UK being made of sterner stuff and should not be turned into cowering citizens afraid to go out and enjoy themselves. There will be more atrocities over time but one day peace would reign over the world and we must do everything by diplomacy to ensure this comes to pass. He was very concerned over the failure of the Israel/Palestine situation and hopes for an early solution here.

On the fourth day the Guild, which celebrated its 130th year, had reported that there appeared to be a missing portion of middle-aged attendees and would have to strive to rectify this.

On Thursday, our own Minister, Rev Dr Karen Campbell, as Convenor of the Safeguarding Committee presented the Report to Assembly. The Scourge of Dementia in Society, for which there is no cure was also discussed though the august University of



Hello! I'm Teri Peterson, recently arrived from Chicago.

I'm an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA), transferring to the Church of Scotland. Part of that transfer process is a period of familiarisation, joining in the work of a parish and its minister – a time to learn about the culture, traditions, church law, history, and the life of the church in society. I am very grateful to Karen and to all of you for being willing to take on this American in Edinburgh!

I am originally from the Pacific Northwest (I grew up in the states of Oregon and Washington), but I've lived most of my adult life in the Chicago area, with a few years spent in Atlanta and in Cairo, Egypt. I was ordained to Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2006 on Reformation Sunday (the last Sunday of October) and have served two suburban congregations, the first for just over six years, and the second for about four and a half.

I have loved Scotland ever since my first visit in the summer of 2000, and am excited to finally fulfil my dream and call to move here. My cats, Ollie and Andrew, moved here with me as well, and we are living in Musselburgh for the familiarisation period.

I love meeting people and hearing stories, reading, exploring new places, and trying new (vegetarian) foods. Worship is one of my favourite parts about church life, and I also really enjoy teaching and studying together. A few years ago a friend and I wrote a book about spiritual practices for people who are too busy for spirituality (Who's Got Time: Spirituality for a Busy Generation*) and I love working with people to create new ways to connect with God in the midst of our lives. In the Old Testament, Isaiah is my favourite book, and in the New Testament, I love Mark's gospel best!

I'm looking forward to getting to know you and doing Christ's work together, and hopefully beginning to understand the culture of both Scotland and the Church, and seeing what the Spirit is doing here in Marchmont!

* Ed <https://www.amazon.com/Whos-Got-Time-Spirituality-Generation/dp/0827243057>

Family Focus Summer 2017

Thank you to all who have worked with children and families this last session and I look forward to the next chapter! It is a pleasure to work with you in this congregation.

The next couple of months will see the Junior Church Team and I look at how we can work more specifically with the 9-11 age group and provide enough hands to make our youngest 'Caterpillar' group work so parents can leave the 2 years + children to worship themselves or lead groups.

I will also be looking to the bigger, longer term picture for our Families & Children work as I head to the 3 year mark of my post in the autumn!

I have had many requests to keep some groups running for pre-school aged children during the summer as families without school aged children can suddenly find themselves without any groups when school finishes.



Hence ***MSG ToddlerFest***!

19th June (Monday, 10- 10.30am) TODDLER CHURCH
29th June (Thursday 10am-12 noon) MSG TODDLER GROUP :

Last regular session until 17th August

17th July (Monday, 10- 10.30am) TODDLER CHURCH
20th July (Thursday 10am-12 noon) TODDLER TIME

(MSG Toddler Group with story and singing)

3rd August (Thursday 10am -12noon) *TODDLER TIME OUT & ABOUT *

(MSG Toddler Group @The Meadows with games etc. BYO drinks, picnic & rug but some snacks provided. Older pre-school children welcome. Meet at smaller gated play area on North Meadow Walk towards the back of the Meadows)

17th August (Thursday 10am-12 noon) MSG TODDLER GROUP:
Weekly group resumes

21st August (Monday, 10- 10.30am) TODDLER CHURCH

Not to be outdone, we are hoping to have a **new line up on Sundays for 9-11** year olds from September as well as have enough leaders to revisit Kids Club or similar for younger primary ages, which has been off the menu this last few months.

Summer Sundays

Junior Church promotion Sunday, 25th June -

Where we celebrate the time we have spent together this last year and some children move to new groups

Early Service will continue on Sundays throughout the summer at its holiday time of **10am** in the Church Centre.

Junior Church will finish on Sunday, 2nd July and resume Sunday, 20th August. There will be an activity area during the Morning Service for children during these weeks.

Prayer pointers

- For Junior Church as they celebrate their time together this year and for the next phase after the holidays.
- Thanks for all the people that have supported and nurtured our children and families in the congregation this session.
- For holidays, rest days and refreshment
- Children/ Young People preparing to start nursery, school, new schools, high school, university and careers.
- Those awaiting for exam results or markers to progress further in careers or education

Happy Summer!
Bettina

Inside Information

The Shuttle's main purpose is to communicate information about Marchmont St Giles', the wider Church and local community to everyone, both members of the congregation and the community.

So next session the Editors plan a series of articles which will look at the work of all the Committees - their remits and policies. They all report to the Kirk Session and to kick this series off we are taking a look at the make-up of the Kirk Session.

The Church is governed by courts:

national level is the General Assembly

district level is the Presbytery

local level is the Kirk Session.

Kirk Sessions oversee the local congregation and its parish and consist of elders presided over by a minister (Moderator) with the minutes of the meeting being taken by the Session Clerk.

Elders are appointed by the Kirk Session and provide spiritual and pastoral care as required, work on various committees and, on a legal note, are the Trustees of the individual charity eg MSG is SCO09338 and this number is on all our orders of service, newsletter & emails. Elders also have a duty of care to oversee the use of financial assets in a prudent manner and to put in place appropriate policies and procedures covering areas such as Charity Law, Health & Safety, Data Protection, Safeguarding and Employment Law.

Meetings are held 6 times a year with 4 business meetings which have decision making powers and 2 conference meetings which cover topics of local interest or as instructed by the Church of Scotland.

Committees report on a regular basis and include Finance, Facilities Management, Mission & Outreach, Communications, Christian Education and Fellowship & Worship. Reports are also presented by the Rollkeeper, Safeguarding Co-ordinator, Health & Safety Rep and Presbytery Rep.

In the September Issue we will look at the Business Committee and a typical KS agenda.