

THE SHUTTLE

May/June 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

May

- 14 09.50 Family Service
10.30 Christian Aid Dedication Service
House-to-House Collection begins
- 21 09.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Service
- 21 1.00 Heart & Soul in West Princes Street Gardens
- 24 **NO Butterflies Plus**
- 28 09.50 Family Service
10.30 Morning Service - Katherine Taylor

June

- 4 09.50 Family Service
10.30 All ages Service
Video Team in to film
All items for the Summer issue of the Shuttle need to be in the hands of the Editors.
- 12 7.30 Kirk Session - **note** new date

Front Page

Mrs Margaret Kinnaird on the occasion of her 100th Birthday

Reflections

"Be shepherds of God's flock which is under your care, watching over them, not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be." 1 Peter 5:2

On 9th April I stood in the National War Memorial and led a service to remember the Battle of Arras and all the Scots who stood on that battlefield that day. There were more Scots there than had stood on the field of Waterloo and 7 times more than had been at Bannockburn. It was the biggest battle which the Scots had been involved in, during the First World War.

The casualties were enormous. Over 4000 British, Canadian, Australian and New Zealanders died each and every day of the battle; 1000 more casualties than each day at the Somme. While we don't recognise Arras in the same way now as then, it was the 39 days which defined the fighting spirit both of Canada and Scotland and affected each and every community in Scotland. Not one village or city was left unscathed, as the death toll mounted.

On 16th May which is the last day of the battle, I will conduct a short service at the Wallace Monument, with a poppy drop from the top of the tower to remember the 18,000 Scots who died in those 39 days.

I was deeply moved to stand in April with the families of men who had died at Arras and to think about the way events shape and colour a nation. These families shared stories of the struggle of their grandmothers and parents after the battle, to come to terms and to live in the aftermath of Arras.

It is the same with the things we experience in life, which may not be as life shattering or altering as the death of a father. Lives change and, not only the choices we make but what we are left with, takes us on different paths and experiences. Scotland is a land full of people who have, through change and renewal, made this rich and diverse country what it is today. Today more than ever, this country needs people of faith to be examples of good living; where everyone is valued and cared for, and no one is left behind.

We are in the grip of those who would adopt extreme positions and, as a broad church, it has always been our calling, to speak out

against extremism of many kinds, down through our history and to remind people who we have responsibility for in every part of Scotland, that building bridges is always better than erecting fortresses to keep whichever ideal we want to hold, pure.

More than ever we are called to show our care for this parish and to encourage people to move closer together and to seek mutual understanding of what is best for each and every one of us.

France voted last week and showed that the kind of extremism that was on offer has no place in a modern democracy. The opportunity to vote is a privilege and not something which should be taken lightly. As we host a polling station, pray for those who work on that day; who vote and who place their lives and qualities before the electorate for judgment as to whether they are the people we want to represent us in the Westminster Parliament in this momentous time in our history.

Karen K Campbell

COULD YOU SPARE AN HOUR ON A SATURDAY?

Do you ever wonder who sets up the church for services on a Sunday morning? No? Well that person could be you!

We need another two or three volunteers to help set up the church on a Saturday and although it does not take long there is some shifting of furniture required. It can also be done at a time to suit you.

We are very grateful to Jan for doing it most weeks but it would be great if we could have a small team who we can call on to do this job.

If you are interested in doing this, then please contact the Minister.

Congratulations

On Sunday 7th May we celebrated 15 years of Karen's induction as our minister. A basket of flowers and some of her favourite chocolates were presented to her by the Session Clerk and the children.

Below is a transcript of the presentation:

"Ladies and Gentlemen, Boys and Girls ,

Before we depart and reflect on the messages from today's service I have one more important piece of information to bring to your attention. It was not possible to include it in the Order of Service as that is written in advance by the Minister, and it is Karen I want to talk about just now.

Karen was ordained at St Giles' Cathedral, and then answered the call to Marchmont St Giles' and was inducted on 1 May 2002.

Under her guidance and leadership we have:

- expanded our worship; for example midweek services and prayers, Sunday school, kids club, and she was instrumental in the appointment of a family and children's worker, whom you all know in Bettina.

- expanded our outreach; as a forthright supporter of our church centre we welcome and provide comfort to many people at all stages of their lives

- we have an exciting future ahead of us as we look forward to developing the church and centre for modern requirements and Karen is at the forefront driving that change.

So today is our opportunity to say thank you to Karen for leading us during the last 15 years and we hope you will stay for many years to come.

Thank you Karen."

Ian Moss, Session Clerk



Family Focus May / June 2017

'Ask and you will receive'

Matthew 7:7



Junior Church is spending the next few weeks exploring prayer.

We started with the Lords' Prayer and learning some actions that help us remember it. We have also chosen a song, 'Bring it all to me' by Fischy music, to use each week that will help us focus. We hope to share these with the Sunday morning congregation too.

Prayer can be something that we discover, get in a habit with, drift from and re- connect with in various times and phases throughout life, but it can be hard to describe or get started. The assurance that we can talk to God anywhere, anytime (quietly in private, noisily together, regularly, one word 'arrow' prayers, longer talking aloud to God or joyful silence) can be hard to grasp if we learned a certain prayer a certain way. I hope that our children can know this assurance and, by trying out different prompts and styles of prayer, can feel able to pray anytime, anywhere.



Over the weeks we will be making prayer boxes that the children can pop notes, names or pictures in to prompt prayers. We have thought about 'STOP' (Sorry, Thank you, Others, Please) which can be remembered on our fingers. We will also be remembering that when we pray as individuals we can be joining many other people in prayer too. Whether that be the rest of the congregation

on a Sunday morning, the adults that meet for Reflective Prayers on a Tuesday morning (10-10.30am in the side- chapel following the Church of Scotland prayer handbook, all welcome), people that leave a prayer request in the Prayer Book (on the table in the Centre for anyone to use) or people somewhere else in the world.



Family & Children Prayer pointers for May / June

- Children and Families in our congregation and community
- Leaders be raised up for the Church to meet the needs of its children & young people
- Young people and students of all ages sitting exams or meeting deadlines
- Pentecost Service at Marchmont St Giles, 4th June 2017

Bettina

PROMISES! PROMISES!

An exciting evening for these young Beavers of the 44th Braid Marchmont Group as they make their promises.



The District Commissioner, David Colley, was in attendance with Barry Hughes who put the Beavers through their paces.

The District Commissioner and Barry would be delighted if any member (male or female) of Marchmont St Giles' would like to assist with this growing and enthusiastic group who meet on a Wednesday evening at 6pm at Marchmont St Giles'.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



A very happy 100th birthday to Margaret Kinnaird who celebrated this special birthday on the 16th April with family and friends. She is our cover girl for this month's issue.



Congratulations to Rosemary (Rosie) Hyde and Blaine Gordon John Keneally on the occasion of their marriage on the 8th April 2017 at Marchmont St Giles'. The weather was so idyllic that the whole Wedding Party enjoyed Prosecco and Canapes on the front lawn.



Congratulations to Emma Rachel Elizabeth Agnew and William Kenneth Mackay Baldry on the occasion of their marriage on the 29th April 2017 at Coulston Stables. Their Order of Service contained some excellent advice for a happy marriage " Never shout at each other, unless the house is on fire".



Congratulations to Alex Staniforth, partner to Nicci who works in the cafe, on being elected as a Councillor for the Green Party in the recent local elections. (See Guild page)

Come along to a "Grand night for singing", an evening of music and song to celebrate the arrival of summer, performed by the chorus of the Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society, including our own Charles and Anne Laing, with full orchestra on Saturday 27th May at 7.30 at the Queen's Hall. Tickets available from QH box office



We give thanks for the life and service of :

John Dickson, a resident of St Raphael's, who died on the 1st April 2017.

Jean Campbell, a member of the congregation and lately resident of Chamberlain Nursing Home, who died on the 14th April 2017.

AROUND THE AISLES

Butterflies Plus will not be available on the 24th May due to the commitments of Butterflies during the General Assembly week.

Elections - once again Marchmont St Giles' will be used as a polling station for the General Election on the 8th June.

Flowers We are delighted to announce that we have 2 new Flower Convenors (see back page) and from September onwards the rota of arrangers will be printed in the Shuttle. This will allow donors to see who is arranging their flowers and discuss any particular requests with them directly and arrangers can organise a swap if their allocated dates are not convenient.

Thanks to all who answered Anne Laing's appeal for Chile and donated knitted items, to those who donated books for the Christian Aid Book Sale at Morningside and dried food items etc for Richmond Craigmillar. Keep the items for Richmond Craigmillar coming - they are so appreciated.



Free to a good home

These chairs are available free of charge to a good home. They are in need of some TLC and need recovered. Please contact the office if you are interested.

Easter Services - Thanks to all who helped and attended the Easter Services. They were very meaningful and helped prepare us for Easter day.

All the children had a very busy time preparing and making their crafts and enjoying an Easter Egg Hunt.



Help us show what makes Marchmont St Giles so special!

We are creating a video to showcase the role of "Marchmont St Giles' at the Heart of the Community" to support our fundraising campaign. The video will play an important role in winning the support of donors such as trusts and foundations by showcasing how we support different groups through our Church and the Church Centre.

The video crew, a very polite and friendly bunch, will come along to film the children's service and some of our activities on Sunday 4th June. After the service has ended, they will film in the cafe and then we would like to gather together as many members of the congregation as possible on the church steps to make a shout out to support Marchmont St Giles at midday. We'd love to have as many people possible from the congregation represented, so please do stay and get involved.

We fully appreciate that not everyone likes to be filmed, and there is no obligation to participate. We will have permission slips on the day to sign if you are happy to be featured. We very much hope to have a big section of the congregation involved to help make the video as big a success as possible.

If you have any questions, please contact Sonja Mitchell on 07771 695 372 or sonjamitchell1@gmail.com

PROGRESS ON PLANNING APPLICATION

After informative meetings with representatives of CARTA and then Ian Riddell, our appointed architect, the final reports are being prepared to enable us to apply for Planning Permission with Ecclesiastical Exemption.

An application has been made to Edinburgh City council for permission to remove two diseased rowan trees at the South gate.

Meetings are being arranged with various consultants in order to ensure we take advantage of all the expertise available to us.

We now await formal approval from the General Trustees.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

The Church of Scotland will hold its annual General Assembly from 20-26 May 2017 at the General Assembly Hall on the Mound in Edinburgh. More than 730 commissioners from congregations across Scotland and beyond will come together to take part in the event, a unique mix of debate, tradition and worship.

Over the course of the week they will be joined by more than 150 people from associated partners and other organisations who work with the Church. The public gallery is open each day for any members of the public who are interested in observing the proceedings.

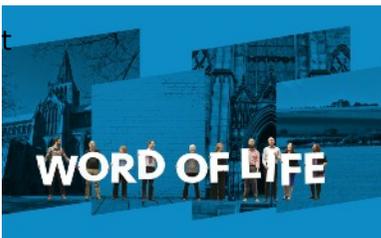
First held in 1560, the General Assembly is the Kirk's highest court, made up of commissioners who are generally ministers, elders and deacons, as well as youth representatives and around 40 international emissaries from partner churches around the globe. The General Assembly considers reports from each of the Church's councils, discusses issues of national and international importance, and makes decisions that help set the Church of Scotland's direction for the coming years.

Decisions made at the General Assembly can have an historic and long-standing impact on the future of the national Church. However, the Church of Scotland values thoughtful, well considered decision making, and seeks consensus whenever possible, so contentious issues are usually debated for several years before a final resolution is reached.

The theme for this year's General Assembly and Heart and Soul is 'Word of Life'; a rich, multi-layered theme that invites each one of us, whether we are at the heart of faith or on the fringes of faith, to think about what, for us, those words might be: hope, welcome, peace, mercy, kindness, love and so many more. Whilst the words will adapt and change throughout our life journey of faith, they will

help us understand and give texture to the focus of our faith, Jesus of Nazareth, the embodiment of 'Word of Life'.

(The "Blue Book" contains all the reports for Commissioners.)



FORTH BRIDGE ABSEIL TO RAISE FUNDS FOR CROSSREACH

For many involved in the life of the Church of Scotland, the weekend after the closing of the General Assembly is a day of restorative relaxation (or lying in a darkened room!)

But a group of key figures who are retiring or completing their service with the Church will this year swap the sofa for safety gear – and a 150 ft abseil down the iconic Forth Bridge, joining a team of staff and supporters to raise money for the Children and Family Services of CrossReach, the social care arm of the Church.

The Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and former Moderator, the Very Rev Dr John Chalmers said he was tempted by the thrill of sailing down the side of the iconic 127-year-old rail bridge (for a second time!) on Sunday May 28, just after the Assembly closes.

He has been joined in the CrossReach team of staff and supporters by the outgoing Moderator, the Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr and the retiring chief executive of CrossReach, Peter Bailey.

Dr Chalmers, who also retires from his post at the end of the Assembly, says: "This is the last day after my last General Assembly as Principal Clerk and I need something to replace the thrill of the debate!

"I also care passionately about the work that CrossReach is doing in Christ's name across the whole of Scotland and I'd be thrilled if you would support our team with a donation."



Donations for the team can be made at:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/John-Chalmers3

Guild Roundup for Session 2016-2017

At our Business Meeting, we had the novel experience of welcoming a new member to the committee - Ann McGhie has volunteered to step in as Treasurer, giving Joan Smith a welcome break from worrying about the Guild's money, which she has been doing for 11 years!



Thank you so much, Ann, and Joan - thank you for all your hard work, and for staying on as a committee member. From the accounts, it seems exciting to mention that our income was boosted by £157 for the sale of Easter chickens; thanks to all who knitted, to all who bought, and to all who consumed.

This year it was agreed to allocate for donations a grand total of £1895. £500 was set aside for each of the two Guild projects which we are supporting this year, Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia, the project which is providing solar ovens, preventing deforestation and giving women time to do other things than collecting firewood; and Care for the Family's project, Let's stick Together, aiming to support new mums and dads in the early years of parenthood.

Smaller amounts were reserved for other good causes represented by various speakers throughout the year - Médecins sans Frontières, Open Doors (which supports persecuted Christians all over the world), and Rosslyn Chapel. Donations were also made to Marchmont St Giles' Church funds, and to others who have helped the Guild during the year.

As we expect to raise more money before the end of June from the Saturday Morning Coffees, the meeting agreed to give the committee permission to increase some of the sums already allocated. More news later.

So many thanks go to all who support the Saturday Morning Coffees; this is much appreciated, and vital in allowing the Guild raise awareness of projects and give donations in all these different directions.

After our Business Meeting we had a lively visit from Alex Staniforth, who shared with us a most enlightening and entertaining walk down the Royal Mile. Since then, after the May 4th election, Alex has become a Councillor for Craightonny and Duddingston - congratulations from Guild members!

We wish every one an enjoyable summer, but hope to welcome many of you to the Saturday Morning Coffees which continue till June 24th, so do drop in!

HOOF IT TO HYDERABAD CHALLENGE



EVERY STEP COUNTS...

Help us to walk the 8000km or 12,106,000 steps from Scotland to Hyderabad

TAKE PART FOR A CHANCE TO
WIN TWO FLIGHTS TO INDIA 

Scottish Love in Action have launched the **Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge** and it is now open for registration.

Help SLA to virtually walk the 5000 miles, 8000km or 12,106,000 steps from Scotland to Hyderabad in India and raise money for their **GIRLS' LIVES MATTER** Appeal.

During the month of June 2017 SLA hopes you will walk, run or cycle a minimum of 10km or 15,133 steps which will contribute towards their aim to walk the equivalent distance from Scotland to Hyderabad.

The joy of this is that it is up to you on how you want to challenge yourself, there is no set date or set place; you set the place, the distance and the pace and have the chance to exercise that Fitbit. Every step counts, every step gets us a step closer.

Visit the Hoof it to Hyderabad Challenge information page on the SLA website at www.sla-india.org to find out more and to register. Registration costs only £5, don't wait until June, sign up now!

Win two flights to India

All participants will be entered into a prize draw and one lucky winner will receive two return flights to India generously donated by Virgin Atlantic.

On Easter Monday Irvine Welsh, a long-standing ambassador for SLA, kicked off our Challenge by walking the first mile of our 5,000 mile target down the Royal Mile from Edinburgh Castle to Holyrood Palace accompanied by young SLA supporters.

And finally.....

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, a State Police Officer sees a car puttering along at 22 MPH.

He thinks to himself, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are five old ladies — two in the front seat and three in the back – eyes wide and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "You weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit?" she asked. No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly... Twenty-Two miles an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly. The State Police officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the route number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error.

"But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone in this car ok? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't muttered a single peep this whole time." the officer asks.

"Oh, they'll be alright in a minute Officer. We just got off Route 119."



MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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Church Centre Booking Enquiries

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

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