

# THE SHUTTLE



November/December 2017



3 Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

## Meeting Matters

### Every Saturday

10 - 12pm Morning Coffee

### Every Tuesday

10.00 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

### Every Wednesday

12.30 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the Over 60s

## November

- 12 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Service of Remembrance
- 19 9.50 Family Service & Sacrament of Baptism
- 10.30 Morning Service
- 20 10.00 Toddler Church
- 21 7.30 Guild - Care for the Earth
- 26 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Morning Service

## December

- 3 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent
- 2.30 Blue Service

**Contributions for the next issue of The Shuttle to be submitted by today**

- 4 7.30 Kirk Session
- 10 9.50 Family Service
- 10.30 Service of Lessons and Carols
- 2.00 Christmas Craft Fundraiser
- 17 9.50 No Family service
- 10.30 Nativity & Gift Service

## Christmas Eve

- 24 9.50 No Family Service
- 10.30 Morning Service
- 4.00 Christingle Service
- 11.00 Community Carol singing
- 11.30 Watchnight Service

## Christmas Day

- 25 10.00 Christmas Day Family Service

## Front Cover

The photograph on this month's front page, taken by the Minister, shows the commemoration of Jimmy Spiers' grave at Dochy Farm Cemetery. (See page 4)

## Reflection

In August I travelled with Legion Scotland to Passchendaele for the Centenary Events for Scotland's involvement in the Battle in 1917. It was a great weekend with a service at the Frezenberg Memorial, which commemorates the Scottish and South African involvement in Passchendaele and I dedicated statues which were larger than life metal outlines of Scottish soldiers, looking like they were walking up the road at the site.



In the evening there was a Tattoo, which included bands from the Low Countries and the London Scottish Pipe Band and Isla St Clair, one of the Trustees of Frezenberg, sang as she had done earlier in the day at the Dedication.

On the Sunday we were very privileged to have been allowed in an underground bunker beneath the original church in Zonnebeke, originally at the centre of the Passchendaele battlefield. It sits in a beautiful park on the site of the battle and near Tyne Cot Cemetery. This bunker had not been opened in 100 years and remained intact. It was only to be opened for 100 days for the Centenary of the Battle and would then be filled in forever as its safety was precarious. It was fortunate that they didn't tell us this before we went down because the claustrophobic nature of the place, along with this fact was quite unnerving, although to stand underground feeling so uncertain reminded me that the soldiers who were there 100 years ago were in the safest place on the battlefield.



Shortly after our visit there, we drove up the road to Dochy Farm Cemetery where a former Rangers footballer, Jimmy Spiers, had died in the battle on 20<sup>th</sup> August. A former Rangers player came to represent the team there and I conducted a service to remember the man, alongside 200 or so people, from many countries, as well as a bus load from Leeds United supporters. It turns out that while Jimmy Spiers is almost unknown in Glasgow, he is still remembered in Bradford as the football captain who led Bradford City to win the FA Cup in 1911 on his first year with the squad. As it turns out it is the only time Bradford City has ever won the FA Cup and so Jimmy Spiers' memory is still part of the ongoing story of that team. His family came and said a few words, wreaths were laid and a special time was experienced.

After the service a man approached me and asked if I would say prayers at his grandfather's grave on the other side of the cemetery. He had been a London Underground driver and left his wife and 6 children to serve at Passchendaele, where he died in November 1917. With tears in his eyes, he told me the stories of all 6 children and his grandmother and how all 6 and their children had been well brought up and educated and were in professions, of which his grandfather would have been proud. This encounter reminds me that the effects of war and the affection and respect we have for those who paid the ultimate price continues long after their deaths. The effects of war spread out like a stone being thrown into a pond, and we can never be entirely sure of the consequences for good and ill that war has on those who come afterwards.

The memories of the trip to Passchendaele will last a lifetime, but more importantly the people I met, the stories they told and the people they remember will stay with me. At this time of year when we remember the Saints, Souls, soldiers and civilians caught in the grip of war, our own family memories combine with those of other families, so that together, not only as a nation but as a world, we can give thanks for examples of faithful living and of courageous dying so that together we may attempt to live in a world of peace, where we work to ensure war is a last resort.

Karen K Campbell

## **One Family's Story**

One hundred years ago a young woman, Annie, was widowed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> May 1917 as her 25 year old husband, Hector, was killed at Arras. She was left with 2 very young children who were being looked after by her mother while she did her bit for the war effort by planting trees for the Forestry Commission, as most of the men were away fighting in France.

There was no War Widows' pension for her so she had to work to support her children and the youngest was 10 by the time she had enough money to get a house and for the three of them to live together. She took in lodgers, had 3 jobs and worked 7 days a week in order to keep their heads above water.

During WW2 she grew her own vegetables and kept chickens so that her lodgers had a fresh egg for their breakfast.

Her daughters both volunteered in WW2 - the younger as an ambulance driver with the Red Cross. They were frequently sent to meet the boats in Southampton and Portsmouth bringing back wounded British soldiers and German prisoners of war - often young boys aged 16 badly injured and scared but treated with care and dignity by the Red Cross. Meanwhile her husband was serving in the Royal Artillery in Burma and fortunately came through the war unscathed physically but never spoke of his experiences.

Neither daughter knew what it was like to have a father and Annie never remarried and was a widow for 60 years. Her health suffered as she struggled to keep going and she spent the last ten years of her life suffering from ulcers in her legs which never really healed.

Every year, her younger daughter and granddaughter placed a wreath at the war memorial in his memory - there was no grave, only a name. This year, a cross was placed at the War Memorial in Arras and a wreath was laid at the Inverness War Memorial in Hector's memory on behalf of his granddaughters.

The lasting effect of Hector's death still remains within this family and it should remind us that Remembrance is about people, families, loss and sacrifice.

## The Crosses

I stood there before the crosses  
glowing white in row on row  
Everyone a young life cut short  
as the names upon them show.

The dates they died below the names  
tell of wars now past and gone  
Passchendaele, the Somme, and Mons  
of battles fought, and lost or won.

History remembers, as it should  
these men who fought and died  
Whilst for their families left behind  
a dull sorrow tinged with pride.

The faces of boys held now in Sepia  
who died in days long gone  
yet living on in memories  
and hearts, still holding on.

Yet despite the hurt and grief here  
what with horror makes me fill  
Is that when I look behind me  
there are more new crosses growing still.

Bill Mitton



# AROUND THE AISLES

**Drivers** are needed to give lifts to church on Sunday mornings. Is this something you could do on an occasional basis? If so please speak to Muriel Anderson.

**Volunteers** are needed in various areas of church life eg coffee rota, Junior Church, Readers, Beadles, sound desk. Please speak to the Minister or the Session Clerk if you can help.

**Butterflies Plus Christmas Lunch** will take place on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> December. Please book your place soon.

**Butterflies Cafe** is delighted to have Kirsty Noble staying on with us as part of her volunteering for Guides and Duke of Edinburgh program and to help further develop her skills.

The monthly **Police Surgery** will be place in the Cafe on the 15<sup>th</sup> November at 11.30 so if you have any questions or concerns then please come and in and see the Community Police- they will be delighted to be of service.

The **Flower Convenors** will be available after church on the 12<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> November with the Flower Calendar for next year. Please see Shirley or Mhairi if you wish to donate flowers on a particular date.

Please continue to support **Richmond Craigmillar Church** by your donations of dried and tinned goods. They are hugely appreciated especially at this time of year.

The **Nativity & Gift Service** will take place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December and everyone is invited to bring a gift for a child. Please state whether it is for a boy or a girl and an approximate age range.

The annual **Blue Christmas Service** will take place on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December at 2.30 pm. Christmas is not always a happy time for some people and this short service provides an oasis of peace in the frantic h

# “MARCHMONT ST GILES’ AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY “



## Aviva Community Fund

As part of fundraising for the major project to upgrade our church we have made a bid to the Aviva Community Fund for funds to replace the very heavy doors to the Church Centre to improve access for all users.

The projects with the largest numbers of votes will be awarded funds. The number of votes cast on our behalf is gradually climbing but we still need more support from you and your friends. There is still a week in which to vote!! Replacing the door will not only improve accessibility but also our heating efficiency so makes us a bit greener!

You will have up to 10 votes and you can either place all your votes for Marchmont St Giles’ or spread them over other projects.

**Please vote for our project!!** To vote you require to register on the Aviva Community Fund website and the most successful route seems to be to follow this link <https://community-fund.aviva.co.uk/voting/project/view/17-4675>

**Please help our cause by encouraging as many of your friends as you can to vote for us, share it on your Facebook or Twitter pages and just spread the word whenever you can.**

## Fundraising

I cannot begin this report on our Fundraising events without first thanking Robert Parsons, our choir (in particular the soloists) and our visiting instrumentalists for the super concert they provided on Saturday 4th November. By my reckoning there was an audience of around 120 and some £700 was raised. This takes the amount raised by the choir to over £1,000. Many thanks again for the time and effort put in by Robert and his team.

**Aviva Bid.** Voting for our bid for funds to replace the front door to improve access to the Church Centre has not been easy!! On the opening days of bidding the site was virtually inaccessible. Aviva acknowledged this and announced a £200,000 boost to the fund. S

**Donating.** In response to some queries it has been agreed that should you wish to donate by cheque you may easily do so. Please put a cheque payable to "Marchmont St Giles' Church in one of the yellow envelopes to be found on the pews, mark the envelope clearly "**FUNDRAISING**" and either put it in the collection plate or hand it in to the office

**Website.** We are preparing a Fundraising Page to be added to the Church website and this will include a schematic drawing of the intended works, a calendar of future events. and various ways of giving to the fund in a tax efficient way. A link to the super video produced by Sonja Mitchell is on the front page of the website. Just click on "Heart of the Community" on the index and press the arrow to watch the video.

Plans are underway for the **Christmas Craft** afternoon planned for **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December** with Rosie Carmichael. You will be shown how to make 3 different items and refreshments will be served during the afternoon as well. Tickets will be on sale shortly with more details to follow.

The **Hogmanay Ceilidh** is being organised by the Fundraising Committee and tickets for this will also be available soon and there are plans afoot to hold a **Burns Supper** in the Church Centre on **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2018** so please make a note of these dates in your diaries.

## **Have you ever wondered what it means when we talk about OUTREACH?**

Outreach is not just about opening the doors on a Sunday and saying "Good Morning" - it's about supporting and caring for all our members, users, customers and community. Just because they don't come on a Sunday doesn't mean that they don't have a place here and it is important to remember that in many ways these people are the ones who bring us to life and create the buzz that is so often apparent as soon as you walk in the door - on a steady day it is a buzz and on a busy day it can be more akin to bedlam but **IT IS GREAT!!!**

Butterflies and Bettina, our Children & Families worker, work in close conjunction to identify people who need our support at difficult times in their lives and it is a responsibility which we all take very seriously.

The staff and volunteers of Butterflies Cafe spend a lot of time every single day supporting people of all ages in lots of different ways. Sometimes it's just a quick "Hello, how are you today" to literally letting a tired and desperate mum cry on your shoulder as she tells you intimate details of her life.

Recently we have been encouraging and caring for an older lady who has just gone through the trauma of a cochlear implant and , for the first time in 20 years, can hear her clock ticking and the birds singing. The joy on her face when she first told us that she was a good candidate for the implant and when she was "switched on" and could hear everything we said but also the fear and trepidation before making the decision to apply for the operation as she knew it would destroy what very little hearing she had left in one ear. A big decision and what a privilege for us to be involved!

It's about a 3 year old coming in and shouting "Nicci, Nicci, I need to show you my magazine (full of toys) whilst ordering his 'cubunger sandwich' and then telling her what Santa was bringing him for Christmas because he had been a good boy.

It's about sharing in a baby's first steps or supporting a bereaved person taking their first steps into the next stage of life.

What we have created at MSG is the envy of many other churches - not just for the great facilities we have and are looking to expand on but for the work that we do in the community and how people look on us as part of their lives.

If you are free why not come during the week, buy a coffee or lunch and see what we are about - it would be good to have more of the congregation come through the doors to meet our lovely customers - young and old - and support us in our outreach of the wider community.

Marchmont St Giles' means so much to so many people in this area because of the outreach and practical Christianity that we offer.

## **GUILD MEETINGS TILL CHRISTMAS (and beyond!)**

Our October meetings had our speaker from Street Pastors, and then Teri Peterson's leading of the meeting on love and what it means and should be. Both were thought-provoking, stimulating and much appreciated.

On **November 21st**, our meeting will focus on our **Care for the Earth**, with a speaker from Eco-Congregation Scotland, which is an ecumenical Christian organisation helping all the local church congregations safeguard Scotland's environment.

Then, all of a sudden, it's nearly Christmas, when we look forward to lunch on **Monday 4th December**, and our last meeting of 2017, on **December 13th**, which will be suitably Christmassy, and will doubtless include refreshments! Do come along!

Saturday Morning Coffees continue till Saturday December 16, and resume in the New Year on January 13th.

Our first meeting of 2018 will, as usual, be at **2.30** in the St Giles room, on **January 16th**, when **Simon Fairnie, of Musselburgh Museum, will deliver his talk, Fisherwomen, Part 1!**

## Family Focus

The work life for the Family & Children's worker always feels rather mixed at this time of year. We have had the flurry of new beginnings in August and September with starting schools, nursery, university and returning to work after parental leave or moving home. We have 'Harvested' and tried out some new ways of being Junior Church.

I have joined in with Beavers (6-8 year olds) and Explorer Scouts (14-18 year olds) this term to get to know them better. That was a lesson in extremes (in terms of size and noise levels!) and now there are a few weeks of celebration (Holly and Lucinda Anderson's Baptism), Remembrance and planning ahead to Advent and Christmas.



I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Catherine to our Sunday team. She is the daughter of Shirley in our congregation and is helping us on Sundays as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are delighted to have Catherine with us and we hope to be as useful to her as she is to us!

Bettina

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin, 5, and Ryan, 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, 'Ryan, you be Jesus.'

## Children & Families Calendar November/December 2017

### November

- 19 10.30 Morning Service &  
Baptism of Holly and Lucinda Anderson.
- 20 10.00 Toddler Church
- 25 3.00 - 4.30pm Provisional Kids Club TBC

### December

- 10 10.30 Lessons & Carols Service with Children's  
choir piece (for school aged children that  
wish to participate; check rehearsal times)
- 16 9.45 -11am Nativity Rehearsal in church
- 17 9.50 **NO EARLY SERVICE**  
10.30 Nativity Service: All welcome even if you  
have not been involved in rehearsals as  
there will be extra costumes and non-  
rehearsed involvement too.
- 18 10.00 Toddler Church Nativity: aimed particularly  
at toddlers & pre- school to get involved in  
the story
- 24 Christmas Eve:  
9.50 **NO EARLY SERVICE**  
1 0.30 Morning Service  
4.00 Christingle Service. Come dressed as  
Nativity characters and help tell the story!  
11.00 Community Carol singing in church  
11.30 Watchnight candle lit service.
- 25 Christmas Day:  
10.00 Morning Service
- 31 9.50 **NO EARLY SERVICE**  
10.30 Morning Service

## HALL DEVELOPMENT NEWS

The Committee has met to consider the appointment of a replacement architect for Ian Riddell, who has intimated his intention to retire at the end of this year.

Following Ian Riddell's notification that he intended to retire the Committee has considered three options:

- a) Continuing with Ian Riddell but on different terms
- b) Appointing DRD Architects Ltd
- c) Re-tendering

The Committee reviewed each option and the most competitive one was to appoint DRD who have working alongside Ian Riddell for some time and the Session was asked to approve the appointment of DRD Architects to take over the project. This was approved.

We have received written advice from the Solicitor to the Church of Scotland to say that there is no need to go through a second tender exercise and it would be appropriate to proceed with the appointment of DRD Architects Ltd should the Kirk Session approve that. It was suggested that we may wish to ask DRD to provide references from other clients and we have since received satisfactory references as requested.

### **Flower Rota November to January**

November

12<sup>th</sup> Ann Arthur      19<sup>th</sup> Dianne Beattie      26<sup>th</sup> Judith Stewart

December

3<sup>rd</sup> Jessica McCraw    10<sup>th</sup> Shirley Farquhar    17<sup>th</sup> Joan Ellam

24<sup>th</sup> Charles Stewart

January

7<sup>th</sup> Mhairi Wilson      14<sup>th</sup> Ann Arthur      21<sup>st</sup> Dianne Beattie

28<sup>th</sup> Judith Stewart

And finally.....

## **A CAT GOES TO HEAVEN**

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, 'You have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask.' The cat says, 'Well, I

lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.



A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, 'All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?'

The cat yawns and stretches and says, 'Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!'

# MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

<b>Minister</b>	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell	447 2834
email	kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk	
<b>Session Clerk</b>	Mr Ian Moss	662 9293
email	sessionclerk@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
<b>Children &amp; Family</b>	Mrs Bettina Hather	447 4359
email	family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Mrs Jessica McCraw	667 4514
email	treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
<b>Organist &amp; Choirmaster</b>	Mr Robert Parsons	557 1257
<b>Flowers</b>	Mrs Mhairi Wilson	445 1835
email	mhairi.m.wilson@gmail.com	
	Mrs Shirley Farquhar	447 9958
email	sgfarquhar@yahoo.com	
<b>Safeguarding</b>	Mrs Catriona Moss	662 9293
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<b>Pastoral Care</b>	Mrs June Wilson	447 7572
<b>The Shuttle Editors</b>	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](mailto:office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk)**

**0131 447 4359**

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