

THE SHUTTLE

APRIL/MAY 2018



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

Every Saturday

10 - 12pm

Morning Coffee from 21st April

Every Tuesday

10.00

Prayers & Reflection South Transept

Every Wednesday

12.30

Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the Over 60s

April

8 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Morning Service

15 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Morning Service

16 6.30 Envelope Stuffing for Christian Aid

7.30 Non-business Kirk Session - **note change of date**

22 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Morning Service

29 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Morning Service

May

6 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Morning Service

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

12 10-12 Christian Aid Coffee Morning & Sale

13 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Dedication Service for Christian Aid at GSCC

20 9.50 Family Service

10.30 Morning Service

Front Cover

The front cover picture is of Rev Susan Brown who has been appointed Moderator Designate for 2018-2019. See pages 11 and 12 for further details.

Reflections

Shortly after Christianity was made legal by the Emperor Constantine in the 4th Century, he called the Church leaders together in Nicaea, which is in modern day Iznik in Turkey.

Amongst other things, the 2 main things that first Church Council agreed, was that Christ was God and the date of Resurrection; it was that important. But to make sense of the mystery of Easter, we talk in symbolic terms.

In St John's Gospel, the writer talks a lot of seeing, and hearing. There are 3 different words for seeing in Greek; to look, to wonder and to understand – all the same word in English. For Mary, it took her a while until she worked through to the 3rd and she was able to fully "see" Christ in her midst, when she walked in the Garden on that Easter morning. The Christian myth of Resurrection invites us in to see and hear and touch more of the mystery of God.

C.S. Lewis spent years discussing the place of mythology and symbolism in Christianity. On the night of September 19, 1931, when he invited JRR Tolkien to dinner, he finally reconciled the relationship between Christianity and secularism. He wrote later that he could reconcile the idea of the dying and reviving god, written in a secular setting as long as he didn't read it in the Gospels. He finally accepted the true myth of Christ, where Christianity is God expressing Himself through what we call 'real things' namely, the actual incarnation, crucifixion, and resurrection.

We also celebrate with eggs. Through the symbolic rolling of the stone, we enter into the truth of God and we communicate that to the world by re-enacting the moment when Christ burst from the tomb.

In almost all ancient cultures eggs had been held as an emblem of life. In Judaism, the egg which is eaten after being dipped in salt water represents new life and the potential of the people of God. In Medieval Europe, the Christian tradition was that eggs were not eaten during the 40 days of Lent. All of the household's eggs were eaten by Shrove Tuesday. The Easter egg tradition celebrated the end of the privations of Lent and a prized Easter gift for children and servants. There is a myth about Mary Magdalene where she went to the Roman Emperor and greeted him with "Christ is risen",

whereupon he stated, "Christ has not risen no more than that egg is red". The egg immediately turned blood red and she went on to tell him about Christianity. Another legend concerns Mary, the Mother of God, who gave eggs to the soldiers at the cross and asked them to be less cruel and she wept. Her tears fell upon the eggs, colouring them.

The first stories to be told by the disciples were the Resurrection stories; all others came second to those. Whatever happened on that first Easter, their experiences led a group of grieving, bewildered and fearful people, to turn around and come back to Jerusalem and then to turn their lives around and find strength and confidence and go and share the love of God with the whole world.

Whatever questions and doubts we have about what happened between Good Friday and Easter morning, if we want scientific facts then we might never be satisfied. However, if we look to the experience of the disciples, as well as the symbolism and myth through which they told their story, then we will find truth. Truth comes in many forms and the truth of the Gospel is that God empowered these people to share their story and change the world in the most important event ever.

Karen K Campbell

Helping to make Marchmont St Giles' tick

	Flower Arrangers	Beadle	Coffee
April			
8	Charles Stewart	Jessica McCraw	Frances Brown
15	Jessica McCraw	Andrew Noble	June Wilson
22	Joan Ellam	Andrew Noble	Eileen Dickso
29	Dianne Beattie	Jessica McCraw	Joan Smith
May			
6	Mhairi Wilson	Mike Affolter/Anne Laing	Jessica McCraw
13*	Anne Arthur	Andrew Noble	Helen Bennett
20	Judith Stewart	Charles Stewart	Charles Stewart
27 ^t	Shirley Farquhar	Jessica McCraw	Gillian Hoehnke

AROUND THE AISLES

The huge amount of work put into the **services and prayers** throughout Holy Week were very much appreciated by those who attended them.

The **Seder Meal** on Maundy Thursday gently followed the Haggadah (a book which tells in fourteen steps the story of the Jewish experience in Egypt and of the Exodus and revelation of God and is used by our friends in the Liberal Jewish Community). It allowed us to view the story from a different perspective and the singing was a joy to hear - '*There's no Seder like our Seder*' and '*Don't sit on the Afikomen*' were sung particularly well!!

On **Easter Sunday**, the church looked lovely with all the flowers and a huge **Thank You** to Shirley and Mhairi, our flower convenors, and their helpers for all their efforts.

Also the 20th and 27th May and 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th July are free at the moment so if those dates are special to anyone, they may want to consider donating the funds for the flowers on one of those Sunday's? It's lovely to have flowers in the Church but most importantly, they are very much appreciated by the people who receive them after the service. People donate for a number of reasons from remembering loved ones to celebrating Birthday's and Wedding Anniversaries. Anyone who would like to reserve a Sunday can contact either Shirley or Mhairi.

The Guild

As mentioned in last month's issue of The Shuttle, our last meeting of the session is on 3rd April, when we will hope to agree distribution of around £2000; then Myra & Ian Wattie will tell us about Vietnam, People and Places.

We would like to thank all who have joined us at meetings and morning coffees, helping us to be able to give as much as possible to and raise awareness of the Guild projects and other good causes. Later in the year, the money will be sent out, after some slight adjustments to the April figures, when we have had some more income from coffees. More details in a later issue of The Shuttle.

Blessed are those who have eyes to see.



Hanging out our dirty washing in public? Certainly in public as we live in a tenement and our back garden can be viewed by hundreds of our neighbours. But the washing clean — or as clean as well used dusters can be. Something in the combination of colours caught my eye, in a way that one duster on the line would not. The colours complement one another.

I have learned to wake each day expecting moments which could be dismissed as ordinary or trivial, but which open my mind. They come suddenly without advance notice. I remember a day years ago when we lived in Kenya. We had not been in the country long, and I was trying to get some official document at a government office. I had been standing in a queue for a long time. I turned to the stranger next to me and said. "This is such a waste of time." "Bwana", he said with a grin, "I am not wasting time, I am saving it." That was 35 years ago and I can see the scene now. I remember feeling like my mind was turned inside out. This man was at rest whereas I was being eaten up with frustration about all the things I could be doing with the time. Over and over again in Africa, I was taught this lesson of how to be present in the moment, holding this very moment as a precious gift in my hands.

For me, this is a hard lesson, being present in the moment. It takes daily practice. One of my phrases is, "Hurry up, I haven't got all minute!" I am constantly thinking ahead. R S Thomas's poem, *The Bright Field*, says that life is not about 'hurrying on to a receding future, nor hankering after an imagined past' but of turning aside like Moses whose attention God caught through the simple device of a burning bush. Just think, if Moses had been looking at his smart phone, he might not have seen the bush, nor stopped to find his life changed; except that God would have found another way to get his attention.

Back to the washing line. A friend said it reminded her of Tibetan Buddhist prayer flags, which are traditionally used to bless the surrounding countryside. I wonder if someone in the tenements looked on them that way as a blessing for the hundreds of flats looking on to the back green.

A line in George Herbert's Prayer 1 talks of 'heaven in ordinary', seeing God in all things. His poem, The Elixir, which is in the hymnbooks, begins, 'Teach me, my God and King in all things thee to see...' I see the phrase, 'all things' and think that this goes far beyond seeing a pattern of colour on a washing line. Being open to the moment can also mean being moved to do something by the sight on TV of suffering, starving children in Bangladesh, or Syria or on the streets of our cities. 'Blessed are your eyes because they see, and ears because they hear.' Matthew 13:16

John Munro,

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 13TH - 19TH MAY 2018

Monday 16th April

Help with **envelope stuffing** would be much appreciated at 6.30pm in the church centre

Saturday 12th May

The Annual Fundraising Coffee Morning and Sale will be held from 10am - 12pm and help on the day would be gratefully appreciated. As in previous years there will be a luxury hamper to be raffled as well as lots of goodies to buy. Contributions for the hamper, the baking stall and coffees would be very welcome. Contact Frances Brown for more details. The annual quiz will also be making its appearance.

Sunday 13th May

The **Christian Aid Dedication Service** will take place at the German Speaking Congregation Church at 11am.

Sunday 19th - Saturday 19th May

If you can help **deliver** envelopes around the parish then please speak to Eileen Dickson. It has been decided not to collect the envelopes this year as people are being asked to drop their donation into the church or hand them into designated shops which will be intimated nearer the time.

The Year of Young People 2018 - Continued

In the spotlight this month: MSG's very own Tanya Anderson (CrossReach GIRFEC Development Advisor), and her new creation, CAL. CALAMARI SHANARRI is a tool to introduce the Well-being indicators to **Getting It Right For Every Child - SHANNARI - Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, Included**). I'm looking forward to seeing how we can use this in our church and community. Knitters at the ready!



Background to CALAMARI SHANARRI (CAL):

"GIRFEC is important for everyone who works with children and young people, as well as many people who work with adults who look after children. CrossReach provides introductory training to all their services on the key issues addressed by GIRFEC and the well-being indicators."

"Children enjoy interactive play, colour, creativity and fun. Art and music are used frequently in many of our services, especially with children and young people. To start to encourage our clients and staff to learn more about GIRFEC and make it a common terminology in everyday activities, an interactive tool was needed."

The eight legs (and the name) stand for the eight well-being indicators. Anyone can make an octopus and CALAMARI can be used with groups of children, young people and adults and indeed all ages mixed together. The indicators are useful tools to help focus on individual strengths & weaknesses.

Family Focus 1 'Wild Lent Worship unpacked!

26 people spanning generations, equipped with wellies/walking boots and a sense of adventure came together to explore Lent through creation, reflection and fellowship around and about Blackford Hill on a Saturday afternoon.

I had been inspired by the resource 'Wild Lent' by Rachel Summers and we had a great experience. The sun shone, the sky was blue, the birds sang. The people walked around 4 locations for activities, foraged for 'treasure' objects and created, beginning and ending each with a reflection and prayer.

We began with finding our Palm tree twin? Using our hand we traced some lines on our palms with pen then tried to find tree branches that were a similar pattern then set off in 2 groups to find journey sticks or make sculptures.

We came together half way through to make giant nests; as a group choosing and collecting sticks, branches, leaves. How many children, then how many adults, can we get in the giant nest we made?



We made sculptures; some with shadows some 'bug houses/playgrounds'.

We finished with cake, bubbles and some of the party tree climbing! Many in the group would like to do something similar in another season, so look out for that and come along!

Thanks to those who have lent walking sticks and poles as visual aids throughout Lent for the various groups!

Here's to spring!

Bettina

Family Focus - Easter Part 2

'Three Donkeys and a Centurion' - not a film, but the costumes we used to help tell the story of Palm Sunday through the various points of the week to Good Friday in Junior Church. Also that morning we made cross bird feeders that anyone coming to the church or centre may still be able to see hanging on the tree in the front garden, depending how much snow we get and how desperate the birds are!

The Saturday Easter event had a marvellous atmosphere, meeting new folk and sharing fellowship:

34 of us, aged 2 to who-knows-what-vintage, bread -making, egg decorating & crafts and tea cake tomb building (tasted delicious!), followed by foot washing and sharing bread and 'wine' in the chancel.

Easter Day was an Alleluia morning indeed!



Teen group and Early Service both welcomed new friends and the Communion service, including the egg hunt/ sprint/ scramble, was truly inter generational.

Many thanks to Marchmont St Giles' Guild for the Real Easter Egg Company sharing eggs & story booklets that we used.

Many thanks to all those who helped lead, prepare and clean up from the Easter event, and indeed all through Holy Week, to make us the warm, welcoming and open family that we are!

Alleluia!

Bettina

Moderator Designate Rev Susan Brown 2018-2019

Rev Susan Brown, minister of Dornoch Cathedral, will step into the 12-month role in May, succeeding Right Rev Dr Derek Browning. The 58-year-old says she is "deeply moved and honoured" to be chosen as the Church of Scotland's ambassador for 2018-19.

"Being Moderator will not be about what I can do, but about what God wants to do," she said. "I am conscious that it is both a great privilege and a great responsibility - one I can only undertake at God's prompting."

Rev Dr George Whyte, Principal Clerk of the Church of Scotland, welcomed Mrs Brown's appointment. He said: "I was delighted to hear of Susan's nomination. She brings great personal qualities and a wide range of ministerial, community and family experience to the post. I look forward to working with her throughout the year."

A Highlands' perspective

Mrs Brown brings 32 years of experience as a Highland minister to the role. Her first parish was at Killearnan on the Black Isle. She spent 13 years there before moving to Dornoch Cathedral.

"When you're in the far north you are much more likely to be at the heart of everything and that's very important to me. In the Highlands you will find the church at the heart of the community and the community in the heart of the church."

50 Years of Women in Ministry

Mrs Brown will take up the role of Moderator 50 years after the first woman was ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. Mrs Brown was the first woman to serve in both Ross and Sutherland Presbyteries and the first woman to be Moderator of both.

"Along the way I have been faced with some people who find it difficult to accept a woman minister, but my belief is that everyone has their own story and I just let people have their stories as I get on with my story. I am passionate about being a minister and I happen to be a woman."

WWI Commemorations and the Year of Young People

As well as her ambassadorial role she will also take part in the centenary commemorations for the First World War.

"In looking back on this milestone anniversary, we need to let the past remind us of the huge toll war exacts and we need to learn from the experience of those young men and women who paid a price beyond asking," she said. "The fact that 2018 has also been designated the Year of Young People provides a poignant reminder of the connection of the past, the present and the future."

Called to ministry at 15

Mrs Brown grew up in Penicuik, Midlothian where her father was a miner at the Bilston Glen colliery. However, Mrs Brown and her sisters were encouraged to attend Sunday school at Penicuik North Kirk.

During her teen years when other young people stopped going to church, Mrs Brown persisted and she was just 15 when she felt the call to ministry. She says she still feels proud to be a parish minister. "It's a great privilege and also a great responsibility to be a minister," she said. "You see people at their most vulnerable and at their most ecstatic".

A life of service

Her husband, Derek Brown, is chaplain at Raigmore Hospital in Inverness, and lead chaplain for NHS Highland. The couple have two children— Simon, 30, a novelist who has just won a Scottish Book Trust New Writers Award - and Hannah, 27, a social anthropology graduate.

In addition to her parish ministry, Mrs Brown has served the Church nationally as vice-convenor of the Ecumenical Affairs committee and is currently vice convenor of the World Mission Council. In 2011, she also became one of the select few ministers to be appointed as a Chaplain in Ordinary to HM the Queen.

Walking alongside people

"My theme during the year will be walking alongside people," she says. "When you walk alongside people, you listen and you exchange stories. It gives us a chance to talk more deeply than when we are face to face.

"Your faith is supposed to be a whole body experience. It's not just your head or your heart, it is every part of you. It's body, mind and spirit."

THE WAY FORWARD.....

The Right Rev Derek Browning has just opened an exciting new modern community hub at Queen's Cross Church in Aberdeen. Several comments which were made by their minister, Rev Scott Rennie, and the Moderator are worth considering as we are about to start Phase 2 of our development.

Rev Rennie said: "The church halls will be viewed by people from all walks of life as a place for them 'to go as I am'. It will provide a non-threatening space for people to see a community that exists within the wider local community and make connections and relationships with people".

The Moderator said: "It shows faith in action and hope turned into reality, while making such a positive statement about the future"

Dr Browning went on to say: "There are those who want to write the story of decline and retreat about the Church. But what I have seen around the country is a re-thinking of what the Church needs to be in the 21st century. The Church, like many other organisations, is re-imagining what it can be to meet the needs of the communities it continues to serve. No one-size-fits-all pattern will meet all needs, which is why it is wonderful to see many different responses, including this redevelopment at Queen's Cross".

In many ways Marchmont St Giles is a step ahead of Queen's Cross and has been "re-thinking" where we need to be in the community. As the Very Rev John Chalmers, past Moderator, Principal Clerk and now Mediator within the Church of Scotland, said to the General Assembly it is not just about a couple of hours on a Sunday - it's also about the other 6 days a week. Marchmont St Giles' has truly taken this to heart and this is why we are in the throes of Phase 2 plans.

However there is no room for complacency as there is always more work to be done, more groups needing our space, more mums and more vulnerable people who need our support and we would love you to come and help us in our journey. Everyone is welcome.

See the next page for current news about fundraising and the build.

Fundraising and Development News



The Committee recently had an excellent meeting with Jeff Breen from Cornerstone, our appointed professional fund-raisers. Now that we have full planning permission they are ready to start fund-raising in earnest on our behalf. There is money available out there but it is essential to present the applications to our best possible advantage. We have also been doing some research into funders which we have passed on to Jeff.

As previously mentioned the Committee aim to raise £100,000 towards the total required for the build. Marchmont St Giles and its friends, users and supporters have already been busy and to date the Treasurer is very happy to report that there is already £17,836 in the kitty so nearly a fifth of the way there.

If you wish to make a donation then the treasurer will be delighted to hear from you - you can put money in a yellow envelope and sign it to get Gift Aid on it, leave an envelope in the Office marked FAO the Treasurer or get in touch with Jessica directly.

The Committee also had a very productive meeting with the Architects and the plans are now with the other consultants who will produce an estimated cost for the works. Toilets have been occupying a large part of our thoughts recently and we are very pleased with the solutions which Glen and Liz from DRD have come up with to meet our requirements.

The Facilities Management Committee are already thinking ahead as to how we can ensure all users are kept informed as there will be some disruption during 2019 while the work is in progress and they are very conscious of juggling the users needs and our availability during this time both for the groups but also to maintain our income levels during the build. The FMC is also looking at acquiring core (regular) business which will be ready to start as soon as possible.

There is a large scale copy of the latest plans available in the office if you would like to see the design and we would be happy to have your comments.

And finally.....

Clever Johnny

It's said that young kids are funny, clever and always tell the truth. Without thinking, they can say the most amazing things – at home as well as in school.

Being a teacher and working with kids isn't all sunshine and rainbows though – it can also be quite frustrating, but dealing with that is simply part of the job.

But when this boy kept giving silly answers to an easy question, the teacher completely lost it.

However, she wasn't expecting his last reply...

Teacher: "If I gave you two cats and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a cat!"

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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Church Centre Booking Enquiries

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