

WHO'S WHO @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|----------|
| Minister email | Rev Dr Karen K Campbell kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk | 447 2834 |
| Session Clerk email | Ian Moss sessionclerk@marchmontstgiles.org.uk | 662 9293 |
| Children & Family email | family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk | 447 4359 |
| Treasurer email | Jessica McCraw treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk | 667 4514 |
| Organist & Choirmaster | Robert Parsons | 557 1257 |
| Flowers email | Mhairi Wilson mhairi.m.wilson@gmail.com | 445 1835 |
| email | Shirley Farquhar sgfarquhar@yahoo.com | 447 9558 |
| Safeguarding email | Catriona Moss safeguarding@marchmontstgiles.org.uk | 662 9293 |
| Pastoral Care | June Wilson | 447 7572 |
| Rollkeeper | Gillean Hoehnke rollkeeper@marchmontstgiles.org.uk | |
| The Shuttle Editor email | Sue Wilson theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk | 662 1915 |

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 FEBRUARY 2020



MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH
AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW
Visit us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and
www.marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Meeting Matters

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------------|--|----------------|
| Every Tuesday | 10.00 | Prayers & Reflection | South Transept |
| Every Wednesday | 12.30 | Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the Over 60's | |
| Every Thursday | 12.30 | Bible Study | |
| Every Saturday | 10 am - 12 noon | Morning Coffee | |

February

| | | |
|----|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 9 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 11 | 2.30 | Guild: Homes for Heroes. |
| 23 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 25 | 2.00 | MSG Walking Group - |
| 27 | 10.00 | MSG Cares - Bereavement Support Group |

March

| | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 1 | 9.45 | High-Lites |
| | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 2 | 7.30 | Kirk Session |
| 3 | 7.30 | Guild |
| 8 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 15 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship - followed by Christian Aid Lunch. |
| 17 | 7.30 | Guild |
| 22 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 25 | 7.30 | MSG Cares - Bereavement Support Group |
| 31 | 7.30 | Guild |

And finally ...

A reminder to myself how important it is to check for errors before sending The Shuttle off for printing! (Editor)

Church Bulletin Bloopers

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be, 'What is Hell? Come early and listen to our choir practice.'

The sermon this morning, 'Jesus walks on water.' The sermon tonight, 'Searching for Jesus.'

Miss Charlene Mason sang, 'I will not pass this way again' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

The Rector will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, 'Break forth with Joy.'

Barbara remains in the hospital and needs blood donors for more transfusions. She is also having trouble sleeping and requests tapes of Pastor Nelson's sermons.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a good chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Bertha Belch, a missionary from Africa, will be speaking tonight at Calvary Church. Come hear Bertha Belch all the way from Africa.

The Associate Minister unveiled the church's new campaign slogan last Sunday; 'I Upped my Pledge - Up Yours.'

During the absence of our minister, we enjoyed a rare privilege of hearing a good sermon when J.B. Stubbs supplied our pulpit.

This being Easter Sunday, we will ask Mrs Lewis to come forward and lay an egg on the altar.

Front Page Photos by @SunshineOnLeaf on Twitter.

MSG Cares



Although grief is experienced differently by everyone, it is a shared human experience. Bereavement groups can be a place of comfort and healing for those who feel drawn to talk to others about their own experience of grief and hear the bereavement journey of others.

MSG Cares is a bereavement group of peer sharing over a cup of tea or coffee. A minister or a

member of the pastoral care team will be present or nearby should anyone need more support.

This group is for you, the grieving, whether your loss has been recent or years ago. No one knows better what grief is like than those grieving the loss of a loved one.

MSG Cares meets on the last Wednesday of each month at the church centre 10-11:30 am.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Julia Cato at jcato@churchofscotland.org

Julia

Before you go ... in case you missed Nicci's call for volunteers at Butterflies Cafe on page 7 - Help would be welcome from anyone who could offer two to three hours to volunteer at Butterflies cafe, even if it's only once a month. Please speak to Nicci in the cafe if you can help or email her at: butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Reflections



I have always been intrigued by the way the Bible from beginning to end talks about journeys in relation to the life of faith. From Adam and Eve being evicted from Eden, to Abraham, Joseph and Moses then later, Mary and Joseph, Jesus and his disciples – journeying has been a strong motif in the faith of his people.

If we are called to a metaphorical journey in our faith, some others over centuries have been called to journey far and wide to share their faith.

On the other hand, all sorts of people travel to give their support and comfort to others in times of need.

In the midst of the bombing of Coventry in November 1940, the Mayor, John Mosely, had been in his post for only 5 days. For the previous two nights, the bombing had been fierce and that morning, as he was getting up and dressed, there was a knock at the door.

He had barely slept for two nights and during the day he had inspected the bombsites and helped with all the emergency planning and support which was needed. 75% of all buildings in the city were destroyed and 50% of all homes. Most people had to exist without water, gas or electricity. A survivor remembered the "total despair" she and others felt within the city.

The Mayor's wife was already downstairs, picking up glass from their windows, which had been blown in. She shouted to the visitor that the front door had been jammed shut in the bombing and they would have to go round the back. John opened the back door to discover the King standing there. Unannounced and with his lunch in his pocket, King George VI, made many journeys to the bombed out cities of the country to give support, encouragement and to raise morale.

The unshaven Mayor led His Majesty around the worst-hit areas, including the ruins of Coventry Cathedral. He did bring succour and acknowledgement, but by the afternoon, a rumour went round the city that a second attack was on the way. By night time, 100,000 people had fled the city for the surrounding countryside. Most of us now have no memory or experience of what it must have

Edinburgh Heritage: Grange Cemetery

been like to be bombed, or sleep in shelters, or not know what tomorrow might be like for our lives, homes or those of our neighbours. A long time ago now I spoke with a lady who grew up on the Isle of Dogs, now better known as Canary Wharf. She said that when she left her home each morning, she didn't know whether she would ever see her home or her family again.

This is the kind of world that many people and many Christians still live under today. Christians in Palestine still live with bulldozers driven on behalf of the Israeli Government, destroying their property, although no international agency seems to be able to stop them or challenge them effectively.

And now as we enter a new year, with more aggression taking place between nations, let us pray for Iranian Christians and Nazanin Zaghari-Radcliffe, imprisoned in Iran.

Let us speak peace unto nations and let us pray that our leaders do what is right.

Karen K Campbell

Front cover:

Photos taken at the Meadows by @SunshineOnLeaf on Twitter. On page 16 we start a monthly feature about Marchmont St Giles' Facebook, Twitter and Instagram friends, locally and worldwide. Find us on:



Marchmont St Giles' Parish Church



@Marchmont_St_G



marchmontstgiles

Walking through Grange cemetery you might stop and wonder at the artistic, symbolic and amazingly elaborate gravestones. When you hear about the lives of the people whose names are engraved on the stones, the cemetery becomes a colourful community of lively people who contributed to Edinburgh society from the early 19th Century onwards. Marchmont St Giles' tours of Grange Cemetery last year have been hailed a success by local people and further afield on Twitter:



Scottish Graveyards @ScottishGraves · 14h

For #MementoMoriMonday we enjoyed a wonderful guided tour of the Grange Cemetery today from the incredibly knowledgeable @revdrkcc, minister of nearby @Marchmont_St_G.

If you can make it along to future tour, you should! Thanks for recommendation @SecretEdin #MementoMori pic.twitter.com/Lvxu1T83JH



The series of tours, led by Rev Dr Karen Campbell, are the result of her extensive research into some well-known and some lesser-known names, with themes emerging of The Literary and the Musical, War and Warriors and Edinburgh Worthies. One of the Edinburgh Worthies was William Stewart Cruikshank whose construction company built the King's Theatre. During the construction the owners ran into financial difficulties owing money to architects, surveyors and lawyers but mostly to Cruikshank who then became the major shareholder of a new company

that owned the theatre, which opened in 1906. The theatre ownership later merged with the larger theatre company, Howard and Wyndham and this launched the theatrical career of Cruikshank's son, Alexander Stewart Cruikshank. Then later, his son, Stewart, followed his father as managing director of the King's Theatre.

Another series of tours is planned for Spring 2020. Look out in The Shuttle and on MSG social media for dates.

Marchmont St Giles' on Social Media

Being on social media connects Marchmont St Giles' to people locally, nationally and worldwide. Every month in The Shuttle there will be a focus on some of our Facebook friends and people and organisations we follow on Twitter and Instagram.



@SunshineOnLeaf is a local Marchmont Tweeter who posts beautiful photos of the natural world, many around Marchmont, the Meadows and Grange. Grange Cemetery often features in the photos. The photos show the importance of looking up into the trees and down into the leaves in order to spot the amazing variety of birds and butterflies to be found amongst the graves.



The Marchmont woodpecker



A painted lady butterfly



A robin



@Marchmont_St_G on Twitter follows @ScottishGraves who post photos, epitaphs and stories from Scotland's historic graveyards. They share Karen's enthusiasm about the stories behind graves, recognising that they are "an oft-overlooked treasury of Scottish cultural heritage." We are delighted to meet social media friends in person and were pleased to meet @Scottish Graves when they joined our Grange Cemetery tours last year.

Shuttle Editors

The start of 2020 brings changes to The Shuttle. Judith Stewart's retirement from her job as Butterflies Cafe Manager (page 6) and as co-editor of The Shuttle with her husband, Charles, leaves a hard act to follow.



In joining Charles as co-editor, I have something to admit. I've always thought this was called The Shuttle because the tower of Marchmont St Giles' Church looks like a space shuttle! Judith reminded me a shuttle was the name in the 1960s for an unusual apparatus in large stores and banks that sent messages between departments; different departments *communicated* by means of

a pneumatic tube system, which could send cash in a shuttle under high pressure and at high speed from a till to the accounts room. Who remembers them and the noise they made in shops such as Jenners, Menzies, Bread Street Store?

So, The Shuttle is a means of communication. In my work as a speech and language therapist I've learned that listening is as important as speaking, so as well as reading The Shuttle we hope you will contact us with ideas for topics to include in its pages, comments and opinion about what you read and news about the church, its centre and the wider Marchmont community (email: theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk).

As well as keeping you up-to-date with all the activities happening in the church and centre and with MSG's building development during 2020, The Shuttle will be introducing you to some of the people in MSG' church and community, starting this month with an overview of the structure of the Church of Scotland on page 9 written by Judith and an introduction to our Session Clerk, Ian on page 12. Other ideas brewing for future features in The Shuttle: intergenerational exchanges of news, pages geared to children and teenagers, book reviews and choir news. We hope in all that we write that The Shuttle will reflect God's love into the heart of the community.

Sue Wilson

Butterflies Cafe

Retirement

On the 20th December 2019, Judith Stewart retired after thirteen years as Manager of Butterflies Cafe. Under her management the cafe has flourished. It has been described by regular visitors as 'home-from-home' which sums up the welcoming and relaxing atmosphere in which people have enjoyed Judith's fresh home-baking and wonderful lunches.



Judith was presented with vouchers for dinner and afternoon tea at Prestonfield House Hotel and a butterfly brooch to show appreciation for all she has done in the cafe and the church centre over many years. I'm sure all the readers of The Shuttle and all who come into Butterflies cafe will join us in letting Judith know how much she will be missed and in wishing her and her husband Charles, a retirement full of travel, fun and fulfilment.

Thank You from Judith

Sincere thanks to all who contributed so generously to my retirement gifts which were much appreciated and will be enjoyed throughout the next few months. Retirement is a new, exciting (hopefully) chapter in life and it is my time to make the journey after 13 happy, sad, exhausting, scary, laughter-filled and unforgettable years as Manager of Butterflies Cafe. I have made many friends over the years and look forward to keeping in touch with them in the future and wish Nicci every success in her new role as Manager and ask you to support her as she forges a new path for the Cafe. **Judith**

Walking Group

Marchmont St Giles' walking group offers fellowship, exercise and a chance to explore the local neighbourhood to all who come along. The walks take place on the last Monday of every month, starting at the church at 2pm and all are welcome. Sandie Christie has established these successful outings, putting creative energy into planning and organising enjoyable routes, including the coffee stops and bus routes.

At the end of January, six cheerful walkers set off to walk through the Hermitage, motivated by thoughts of afternoon tea and perhaps a cake somewhere along the way. Due to the muddy conditions underfoot there was a slight diversion to the route. We walked alongside Blackford Pond where we spotted a heron perched on a log, then we followed the path to the big field at the Hermitage. Onward along Hermitage Drive, we were disappointed to find the Lodge Cafe on Braid Road closed but happily climbed the hill to enjoy tea and cakes at The Braid Hills Hotel where we took time to admire the view on the bright and sunny winter's day. We



chatted and shared some of our holiday plans for the coming year. Sandie had organised a bus route back but as it was mostly downhill we walked back to the church and explored parts of the Cluny area we'd not seen before. It was an outing enjoyed by all.

The next walk will be on Monday 24th February when we will head again to Blackford Pond, then in March a trip is planned to Portobello beach.

If you're thinking of joining us for a walk and would like more information contact Sandie Christie on 623 0119, preferably before 11 am. **Kate**

Photo by Sharon Ho.

AROUND THE AISLES



Calendar fundraising. A big thank you to Erin, Holly, Iona, Joel and Ye eun for their hard work in producing the Pets of Marchmont St Giles' 2020 calendar which raised £400 towards the Church Development Fund. We are extremely grateful to Scotmid who funded the cost of printing with a Community

Grant.

- **Guild Fundraising.** The Guild raised £49 through sales of Christmas boots. The money will go to the Seema project in India and to Crossreach.
- **The church treasurer reports** that during 2019 low-level fundraising for the church development amounted to £5052. Of this nearly £2000 was from the sale of goods in the Cafe such as jam. The remainder was from personal donations, the Meadows Festival, a family ceilidh, money spinner, the bookstall and a penny jar.
- **The Flower Convenors** would like to invite any "budding" flower arrangers to come forward, stressing that there are 8 on the rota so you would only be required to arrange once every couple of months.



Christian Aid Lunch. After the service on Sunday 15th May at Marchmont St Giles' there is a soup, bread and cheese lunch to raise funds for Christian Aid. All welcome to come along to

enjoy the food and good company and to support a very good cause.

New Butterflies' Manager



Nicci Owens, who has worked at Butterflies Cafe for 10 years has been promoted to Cafe Manager. We wish her congratulations on her new appointment.

A call for more volunteers:

Nicci would welcome more volunteers at the cafe, anyone who could offer two to three hours even if it's only once a month.

Please speak to Nicci if you can help or email her at: butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

New Butterflies Cook.

Nicci is joined by Jacqueline Malkani who will cook for the Butterflies Plus lunch for over-60s on Wednesdays and will work in the cafe all day on a Friday. Welcome to the Butterflies team, Jacqueline.

News From The Guild



We thank Jim Byers from The Royal Bank of Scotland for his talk to The Guild 14th January on a very important subject: Fraud and Prevention. His outline of how to prevent fraud left us all feeling more aware of how to avoid being a victim of fraud and so, more confident about keeping ourselves safe. This was the first Guild meeting of 2020. We look forward to our February and March meetings:

- Homes for Heroes by Kevin Gray on 11th February
- Projects at the Botanics by Heather McHaffie on 3rd March
- The Crossreach Project on 17th March
- Celebrity, George Anderson, well-known from the Beechgrove Garden gives a talk on 31st March

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

We give thanks for the life and service of:

Mr Douglas Brown, a resident of the parish, who died on 9th January 2019.

Mrs Anne Robb, a member of the congregation, who died on 25th January 2019.

Mrs Annie Barr, a resident of the parish, who died on 5th February 2019.

Minister's appointment to new Forum

The Minister has been appointed by the Church of Scotland to be Vice Convener of the new Faith Nurture Forum. This Forum not only replaces the former Ministries Council and Mission and Discipleship Council, but also seeks to enact the new radical plan for the Church of Scotland in the way the whole Church will work. The Forum consists of only 15 people compared to approximately 90 people before. The hope is that they will make policy and release the staff to serve local Congregations and Presbyteries, and reduce the top heavy bureaucracy of yesteryear. We will see what the next year brings but Karen is excited to be in at the beginning and is delighted that she only has to serve for two years.

Helping to make MSG tick

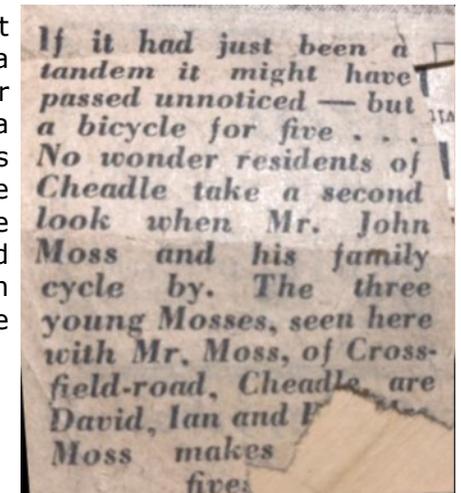
An A4 version of this calendar and contact details is available from the Office.

| Helping make Marchmont St Giles' tick : Diary 2020 | | | | | | | | |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------------------|----------|--------------|---------------|-------------|
| | FLOWERS | BEADLE | SOUND | WELCOME TEAM & Leader | | READER | COFFEE | COMMUNION |
| 26-Jan | Charles S | Jessica | Andrew | 5 | Muriel | Karen | Joan Smith | Quarterly |
| 02-Feb | Joan E | Andrew N | Andrew N | 6 | Carole | Andrew N | Charles S | |
| 09-Feb | Shirley F | Jessica | Jessica | 1 | David B | Crispin A | Eileen | |
| 16-Feb | Jessica McC | Charles S | Charles S | 2 | Mike | Stephen C | Joan Wareham | |
| 23-Feb | Dianne B | Mike / Anne | Andrew N | 3 | Jessica | Angie D | June Wilson | Round TC |
| 01-Mar | Mhairi | Ian | Andrew N | 4 | Ian M | Jessica | Ann McGhie | |
| 08-Mar | Ann A | Mike / Anne | Andrew N | 5 | Andrew N | Eileen | Helen Bennet | |
| 15-Mar | Charles S | Charles S | Charles S | 6 | Carole | Lorraine M-L | Liz Mack | |
| 22-Mar | Joan E | Andrew N | Andrew N | 1 | Andrew | Angie D | Jessica M | |
| 29-Mar | Jessica | Jessica | Jessica | 2 | Mike | Charlie L | Frances Brown | Side Chapel |

My elder brother, David would go on this as it allowed pedaling to support the others. In between Dad and Mum on the handlebar was a child seat. I would go on this, but as much as it did not require any effort to pedal, it required good balance and a good grip, as Mum and Dad's legs were rotating up and down and it was easy to get knocked off.

Unfortunately we do not have any 'action' photos, but this single photo appeared in the Stockport Messenger about September 1967. There isn't a date on the paper but comparing it to other family photos I think I am about 6 years old. The article (which is still attached to the photo in the newspaper) reads:

"If it had been a tandem it might have passed unnoticed - but a bicycle for five? No wonder residents of Cheadle take a second look when Mr John Moss and his family cycle by. The three young Mosses, seen here with Mr Moss, of Crossefield Road, Cheadle are David, Ian and Pat. Mrs Moss makes the total five."



Ian Moss, Session Clerk

The Role of the Session Clerk in the Church of Scotland.

The formal part of a session clerk's 'job' is focused on the meetings of the Kirk Session, supporting the minister (or interim moderator) in preparing/keeping minutes and agendas, ensuring that due notice is given of the meetings and dealing with correspondence on behalf of the church.

The Session Clerk is one of the key roles in any church, the hub around which the life of the church revolves. While many church congregations may make the job a joint task here at MSG we have a number of people filling on specific areas of the Session Clerk's remit. Volunteers to assist are always welcome.

A Bicycle Made for Five!

When I accepted the privilege of becoming Session Clerk at Marchmont St Giles, seven short years ago, I recall in my original personal bio I mentioned that all five of my family used to go to church on a Sunday together. By bike. But not on individual bikes. Just on one bicycle. Not a bicycle made for one, but a bicycle made for FIVE!

The local rag, The Stockport Messenger, sent a reporter round to photograph and report on us. My dad was a prolific photographer so it wasn't until recently that I stumbled upon a photo and report amidst thousands of his photos.



I grew up in Cheadle Hulme, Cheshire. There were several churches in the village and, as dad was a lay preacher, we attended most of them on the occasions when he was invited to take the service. The one we went to most frequently was the Congregational Church on Ladybridge Road, right alongside the main express railway line from London to Manchester. This was about a mile from home and, as there was a big valley and a hill in between, I think

dad reckoned we could not manage that hill on our own bikes, so he devised an ingenious plan. He had bought a tandem before kids came round so that Mum and Dad could go on outings together. He also liked to go out on his small motorbike and had a sidecar so mum could travel too (a bit like Arthur and Olive in "On the Buses"!)

So the solution was like this: Dad would sit on the front seat -steering and lights (note the Brylcreem!), Mum would sit on the rear seat - backup and managing the kids. The sidecar would be fastened to the pavement-side of the tandem. My sister, Pat, would go into this as it required no effort, and was the safest seat. A single wheel extension was added to the rear of the tandem, so there were now three wheels in a row.

The Who, What, Why, Where, When of the Church

When Sue agreed to take over as Co-Editor of The Shuttle, she commented that she didn't know who's who and how the hierarchy of the church worked and she was probably not alone in this so it was decided to explain the intricacies of "How It Works".

It starts with the Church of Scotland, based at 121 George Street as the overall head. The Church of Scotland's governing system is Presbyterian, which means that no one person or group within the Church has more influence or say than any other. The Church does not have one person who acts as the head of faith, as that role belongs to God and its supreme rule of faith and life is through the teachings of the Bible. The national Court is the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland which is held every May with representatives from each church attending over a rolling three year period.

Presbyteries - At district level, the court is a presbytery. They consist of all the ministers in the district and an equal number of elders, along with members of the diaconate (a form of ordained ministry, usually working in a complementary role in a ministry team in both parish and industry sector contexts). Meetings are held throughout the year and various committees report to Presbytery just like the Kirk Session which keeps the lines of communication open right throughout the church.

Parishes - At a local level, the court is a Kirk Session. Kirk Sessions oversee the local congregation and its parish, and consist of elders presided over by the minister. There are various committees which are answerable to the Session and help to look after the work of the church and also our buildings. Next month's instalment will look at the individual committees and their remits.

It is important to remember that it is not only about individual churches but to recognise our place in the big picture - we are one of many spokes in a big wheel. Churches need to open their hearts as well as their doors and welcome everyone - we are so lucky to have a church centre which is so well used by so many people in the wider community and where people feel they belong to our church family however tenuously. The affection and trust which is offered to all, be it a stranger or a member, who walks through our doors 7 days a week is practical Christianity at its best so let's look in our hearts to make sure that we are doing what God wants us to do.



Family Focus February 2020

The Nativity Service took place on 22nd December 2019. The children acted wonderfully, the small band of musicians played beautifully and the choir sang to their usual high standard.

Sadly, during the service we said goodbye to Bettina, who has been our Family Worker for seven years. We will

miss Bettina's welcoming smile and her wonderful Sunday School sessions and are grateful that in recent years she established a Summer Holiday Club which has been well-attended and thoroughly enjoyed by the children and by adult volunteers and which has set up links for joint working with Hillary, the Family Worker at Mayfield Salisbury Church. We wish Bettina well in her new job as Family and Youth Outreach Worker at Gorgie, Dalry, Stenhouse Church of Scotland. We are pleased that Bettina's children, Joel and Amelia, continue to be part of Marchmont St Giles'. **Sue**

A time of Change

Managing change is always a challenge. Who doesn't like the comfort and assurance of things running along smoothly? This period of waiting for the appointment of a new Children and Family Worker could be looked upon as an opportunity to get out of our 'comfort zone' and become more involved with the work that goes on with the children on a Sunday morning. It has been a real encouragement to see how people have come forward to volunteer to prepare and deliver the material to the Sunday School.

The children are following the same theme as the main service and I'm always impressed with how much they take in, even the 'wee' ones. One of the five year olds likes to have adventures. She decided that she would like to share one of them with the other children. With the help of her mother, she brought quite a unique snack in for the children to try, edible crickets, spice flavoured. We checked before hand that none of the children had any allergies and were given the choice to eat them. They all tried them and some asked for more. This was to help the children understand how some families in poorer part of the world have fewer choices of what to eat than we do. I tried them. They were very tasty, if a little crunchy. Please continue to remember the children in your prayers. **Kate**



Bible Study

"What are you looking for?" Jesus asks two of John the Baptist's disciples. They had been discretely following Jesus, curious about this newly baptised rabbi (teacher). Now that Jesus

had seen them and posed the question, they gave an answer. In response, Jesus simply invites them to "Come and see..." This interaction is found in the Gospel according to John.

What are you looking for? is also a question we may ask ourselves when we open the Bible. It is a question Jesus gently poses in any moment of our lives. Our lives and faith journeys are each as unique as they come, and so our answers will be just as diverse.

Bible Study, is one way to delve deeper into Jesus' question to those who are curious: *What are you looking for?* The Bible is thousands of years old and is full of fascinating, challenging, inspiring, troubling and celebratory stories.

MSG's Bible Study is offered every Thursday at 12:30-1:30. It is an informal gathering of folk who are curious about the Bible and its stories. All are welcome! No knowledge of the Bible is required, nor is regular attendance. We explore the Bible's stories together, their relevance for us today, and enjoy a blether and often share a good laugh.

At the moment, we are following the lectionary, meaning we are discussing the Bible readings heard and preached on during the Sunday service prior to the Thursday we meet. Beginning on Thursday, 27 February we will begin a Lent Bible Study concluding on Thursday, 9 April.

Come and join us – we would love to see you! If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk

Julia