

THE SHUTTLE



MARCH 2020

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH



Meeting Matters

Every Wednesday

12.30 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the Over 60's

Every Thursday

10.00 Prayers & Reflection South Transept

12.30 Bible Study

Every Saturday

10am - 12noon Morning Coffee

March

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 1 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 8 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 15 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 17 | 7.30 | Guild - CrossReach - Joining up the Dots |
| 22 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 25 | 2.00 | MSG Walking Group - |
| 29 | 01.00 | CLOCKS GO FORWARD |
| | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship - |
| 27 | 10.00 | MSG Cares |
| 31 | 7.30 | Guild - George Anderson (Beech Grove Garden) |

April

- | | | |
|----|-------|-----------------|
| 5 | 9.45 | High-Lites |
| | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 6 | 7.30 | Kirk Session |
| 12 | 9.50 | Junior Church |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship |

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Reflections

Well, Lent is upon us and, so it also seems, is the possibility of the Coronavirus. Financial institutions are planning for staggered work practices, with workers spending time at home, working remotely. Above China, satellite images show previous pollution levels to be massively reduced as whole areas are in lockdown. Travellers are separated in hotels and those who have returned from the North of Italy wait to see if symptoms appear.



What to do?

The Church of Scotland has issued advice and until we see what is happening, the Kirk Session has decided that during Communion on Easter Day there will only be individual cups and bread served. We will share the peace, but if you choose to shake hands please don't touch your face afterwards. Wash your hands with soap. On a normal Sunday I will offer you my hand to shake, but if for the next wee while, you'd prefer not to, then I won't be offended if you choose not to.

This may be overkill, but we want to respect sensible advice.

As we turn our face to Jerusalem and begin the pilgrimage towards the Cross and beyond into the garden of resurrection, we pray for those who are living with the challenge and pain of the virus. We grieve with those who grieve and rejoice with those who have recovered.

There is another aspect. We also remember the huge numbers of children who go to bed hungry this night and the shocking numbers of children who die each year for lack of food and basic health care. While we fear for our health, there are people dying for lack of bread.

Kate asked us on Sunday what we could take up this Lent to make this world a better place. Who can we smile at to help make them feel better? Who can we lift a burden from? What can we do to help?

This Lent, let us make a difference and be a difference in the world!

Karen K Campbell

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.

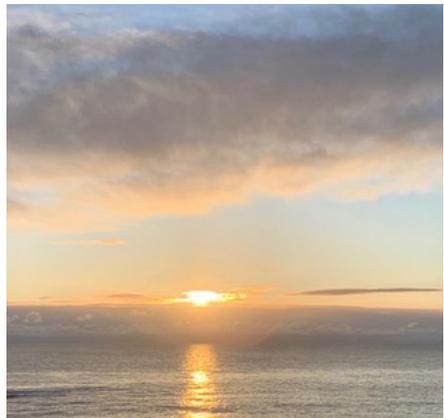


[@SeaSkyCraster](#) is a popular Tweeter who posts a photo diary each day of the sea and sky, taken from his window. He is Mick Oxley, [@mickoxley](#), an artist and gallery owner, who is based in the Northumbrian seaside village of Craster, a location that inspires much of his work.

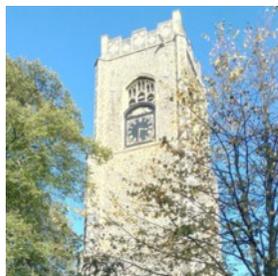
His photos, taken from the same spot each day, are so vastly different from each other; it's amazing how much one scene can change from day-to-day. Choosing five photos to include here has been really hard, because they are all so individual and beautiful. So, it's well worth looking at Mick's Twitter page to see his daily postings.

Mick started his working life as a P.E. Teacher, but due to ill health that began in the 1990s, had to consider a change of track.

Mick told us, *"Painting provided me with the solace of healing that I needed - the space to come to terms with new realities. Instead of focusing on my illness I looked to creation and new possibilities."*



We thank Mick for choosing one of his paintings - Elements: Sand Ripples, Dunstanburgh - for the front cover of this month's Shuttle. Here are more of his daily sea-sky photos showing the varied colours of nature:



Marchmont St Giles' Church befriended St. George's Church, Colegate, Norwich, [@SGeorgeColegate](#) in a Twitter New Year party in 2018 hosted by the online church [@DisabilityJ](#). The party linked people around the world, on-line, to see in the New Year together with fellowship and a lot of fun, particularly important for people who couldn't, through ill-health or disability, get out and socialise in person. It is what

[@DisabilityJ](#) do best! They will feature more fully next month. This month we feature our friends at St George's Church, an Anglican, medieval church with a Georgian interior, whose organ dates back to 1802. The peal of six bells in the church tower is rung after the service on most Sundays. The church stands at a busy crossroads in Norwich and, like Marchmont St Giles', is at the heart of their community.

Find us on Social Media



Marchmont St Giles' Parish Church



@Marchmont_St_G



Marchmontstgiles

News From The Guild



On Tuesday 11th February, after a quick syllabus shuffle, Ian Wattie stepped in to give us his illustrated talk on Nepal a few months early. We had tantalising glimpses of Mount Everest - a very long way away, and a very long way up! - and interesting pictures of the varying villages, with homes that might be of corrugated iron or stones slabs depending on altitude.

March presents a Botanical sandwich, with Heather McHaffie telling us about one of the Botanic's projects at the beginning of the month (March 3rd), and George Anderson of Beechgrove Garden fame at the end (March 31st). All welcome, remember!

In between, on March 17th, we will have a Guild speaker to give us the details of the second Project which we plan to support this year, the Crossreach project called Join up the Dots, which aims to tackle social isolation and loneliness.

NEW DATE - Please note that Kevin Gray's postponed talk about Homes for Heroes will take place on the same day as the AGM, Tuesday 14th April.

Eileen

Defibrillators

Edinburgh Presbytery are undertaking a survey called the Public Access Defibrillator Project. It is planned that every church will have a defibrillator.



Marchmont St Giles already has one inside the church centre but other churches in the Presbytery will have one placed outside. The plan is that in case of emergency - at any time day or night - the emergency services can direct an individual to access a nearby defibrillator, which they do by keying in a key code on the panel.

Development & Fundraising News



It has been quite quiet on the development front over the last couple of months as the Committee concentrate on getting funds in place together with Cornerstone. Many of the funding applications are a two stage process with the first level consisting of an introduction and description of our project and the second level being an expression of interest and invitation to apply for funds. There are several applications in progress with landfill trusts throughout Scotland as we go to print, and work is ongoing with funding application to names such as Peter Vardy, Charles Hayward, Wolfson and Salvesen.

The chairs have been returned to the supplier and the results of the survey will be taken into consideration by the committee when it is ready to place an order. The light has also been returned and although it was very impressive it was decided to seek a more moderately priced range and are waiting to hear from the electrical engineer.

There are a few pens still available so stock up before they are all gone – only £1.99!!

Judith

Guild Funding:

The Guild is supporting two projects this year. Seema Project began initially in 2014 with the aim of building a home for abandoned street children from the red light district of Pune, India and to build a rehabilitation centre for rescued victims of the sex industry. In red light districts globally, children of prostitutes are thrown out of brothels onto the street where they are at risk of exploitation.

CrossReach is the social care side of the Church of Scotland. "At CrossReach we offer loving care to people of all ages who are in need of a helping hand, supporting them to live life to the full whatever their circumstances. They have been at the forefront of high quality social care for almost 150 years. Today they are one of the largest providers in Scotland with experience across a broad range of services. CrossReach's remit is to provide social care services and specialist resources in Christ's name, to further the caring work of the church to people in challenging circumstances.

Ann

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

On 1st March the baptism took place of Arthur Robert Kirby, son of Laura and Bobby, who were married at Marchmont St Giles' seven years ago.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and congregation of Rev Peter Macdonald, Minister at Broughton St Mary's who died on 12 February 2020.

Holy Week and Easter at MSG'

Prayers at 10am during Holy Week Monday-Friday

Maundy Thursday: Handwashing Service at 7.00pm

Good Friday: Midday guided walk round the graveyard led by Rev Dr Karen Campbell

Joint Service with the German Speaking Congregation, St Catherine's Argyle and Morningside United Church at Marchmont St Giles' at 7.00pm

Holy Saturday: Church open for contemplation from 6.00pm then Taize Service at 7.00pm.

Easter Day: Early Service (field at top of Midmar Drive) at 7.00am, followed by bacon rolls at Morningside United Church

Family Service at 9.50am

Sacrament of Holy Communion at 10.30am

Easter egg hunt around the neighbourhood over Easter weekend, organised by Rev Stuart Irvine and Julia Cato. Further details to be announced.

The Edinburgh Passion

“The Edinburgh Passion”, a real time Easter story is being told across Edinburgh from Thursday 9th to Sunday 12th April 2020. This large scale, community-wide project aims to give 63 continuous hours of artistic expression of the story.

Help is being sought in the following ways:

- Be part of the community cast - no experience needed. Just turn up at Edinburgh Elim Church, 18 Morningside Road, EH10 4DB. Everyone welcome.
- Volunteers to be stewards and to be part of the coordinating team, working on logistics 11th April.
- Joining in an informal walk - Friday or Sunday.

Churches will be open from 6-7pm on Saturday 11 April for a period of quiet reflection - no service - anyone can walk in and sit in a quiet space and leave or stay and join the Taize service.

Journeying through Lent with the Psalms.

During Lent, A Time for Reflection is Thursdays at noon, and is an opportunity to press the “pause” button on our hectic lives. A Time for Reflection during Lent is a 20-minute led service during which we will read a psalm, reflect, pray and sit in silence together.

Lent Bible Study

For our Lent Bible Study we are reading *Not a Tame Lion: A Lent course based on the writings of C.S. Lewis* by Hilary Brand. The book is based on three films: *The Chronicles of Narnia’s, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* and *Prince Caspian*, and *Shadowlands* with the aim of bringing ideas from C.S. Lewis’s writings to a wider contemporary audience.

Each week, the book ties one of the sayings of Jesus to a film clip and offers material to be read before each session. There are a range of discussion starters and questions with topics “ranging from the challenging – suffering, God’s absence, hell – to the distinctly unfashionable – sin, judgement and the devil.”

As always, we take a serious but casual approach to our studies together. There’s no need to have seen the films or read the book. You are welcome to join us for the discussions and reflections.

For more information, please contact jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk

Julia

Family Focus.

Mark 12:30-31

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹ The second most important commandment is this: 'Love your neighbour as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment more important than these two."

A few weeks ago two new children started coming to Junior Church on a Sunday. They are a brother and sister who live locally and had heard about the 9.50am family service at Marchmont St Giles' and were keen to come along to find out what it was about. They have been back on several occasions and have settled in well, as they get to know the other children. What has been encouraging is to see how welcoming and supportive the other children have been towards them. Then have taken the time to get to know the brother and sister and to make they feel included in all the activities. Even the youngest child has made them feel part of the MSG family. The children are living out the words that Jesus spoke to his disciples by showing love to their neighbour, even though they may have just met them.



A Lent Challenge for the children and the adults too.

At the start of Lent we have set the children a challenge for the different days of the week. Rather than give up something we have asked them to take up the following activities:

Monday – Smile at someone

Tuesday – Say please and thank you to someone

Wednesday – Do something nice for a friend

Thursday – Tidy some toys away

Friday – Ask your parents is there is anything you could do to help around the house

Saturday – Tell someone how nice they look

Sunday- Enjoy an activity with your family.

As we go through Lent we will be checking on how the children are progressing with the activities and the reaction they have had from people. Perhaps some of the adults would like to join in the challenge?

Kate

Church Structure



As mentioned in the February issue, the Kirk Session is a court of the church at the parish level and all committees answer to the Kirk Session which is made up of elders who are also trustees of the church and its assets as required by the Church of Scotland and Scottish Charity Register.

The Business Committee is made up of the Minister, Session Clerk and the Treasurer and two conveners representing Mission and Outreach and Fellowship and Worship. The Minister, Session Clerk and Treasurer are ex officio members and can attend meetings of other committees. This committee's remit is to draw up the agenda for Kirk Session meetings.

Finance Committee: It is becoming more common for the treasurer's duties to be shared or for there to be a church finance committee to provide support and guidance to the treasurer. Having a finance team in place is likely to provide a more robust system of accountability, spread the workload and provide reassurance to church members and external parties alike. It also makes it easier to find a new treasurer who will not be daunted by the size and responsibility of the role.

Safeguarding: The Safeguarding Co-ordinator ensures that all individuals undertaking regulated work are safely recruited and that appointments are ratified by the Kirk Session and are recorded in the Congregational Register. Catriona Moss is our Coordinator and reports to all the business Kirk Session meetings and also organises all training requirements for staff and volunteers.

Facilities Management Committee (FMC) has delegated authority to look after the day to day running of the church, centre and cafe including property, admin, maintenance and pastoral issues. Staff members submit reports on their specific areas giving an overall view of their remit with issues arising from the weekly staff meetings.

The Pastoral group meet regularly under the guidance of June Wilson and the Minister. This group regularly visit members and friends of the congregation and assist the minister in caring for her people.

The Development Committee has delegated authority to manage the development project and deal with the Architects, Surveyors, and fundraising. They report to the Kirk Session and seek approval at each stage of the project.

Communication covers The Shuttle, social media, telecoms and all IT issues.

Outreach covers children's gifts donated at Christmas, items for Richmond Craigmillar and its Fair Share Thursday program and many other donations throughout the year.

Fellowship & Worship cover the various services over the year and ensure there are welcome teams on duty, beadles, coffee makers and everything is in place for worship. The Minister is in charge of all aspects of the service and worship.

Christian Education covers the work done with our children and teens and works closely with the Minister and Family & Children's Worker. Our Reader and Probationer provide prayers and Bible study under the direction of the Minister and the committee provide support to all those involved.

Judith

Mahatma Gandhi knew my father; father knew Mahatma Gandhi” By: Sir Crispin Agnew

The Minister's sermon on 16th February, referring to Mahatma Gandhi and the Salt March and Protest, reminded me that my father, Sir Fulque Agnew, had met and worked with Gandhi at the time of partition and before his assassination. After WW2 my father went to India with a view to working in India. During the war my father had been with the Friends Ambulance Unit and in India began to work with the unit again on relief work.

My father had a connection to Gandhi through his Aunt, Emily Kinnaird who with her mother, Lady Kinnaird, had been instrumental in working with the Indian Female Normal and Instruction Society. Emily Kinnaird also worked as a missionary in India. She had become a friend of Gandhi in the 1930s. so when my father arrived in India, he made contact with Gandhi. My father's meetings with Gandhi are recorded in his many letters to my mother now published in *Witness to Partition: India and Pakistan 1947-48*. He also had meetings with Gandhi with Horace Alexander, a prominent Quaker whom my father already knew from his time with the Friends' Service Unit, who was also a personal friend of Gandhi. My father wrote on 12/10/1947 about having breakfast with Gandhi:

"We went before eight as H.A. said during breakfast was the best time to catch him alone. The Mahatma was having his bath. Soon he was supported in, wearing his loin cloth. When the Mahatma saw Horace, he called to be led to him, smacked him playfully and pretended to be most angry that Horace had not come to see him since several days. Gandhi sat on his mat; Horace and I on the floor and all three of us exchanged friendly banter for the next few minutes. Then Gandhi's breakfast was brought in - a bowl of vegetables and a glass of hot milk which little by little was mixed into the bowl for him. I suggested I ought to leave. "High time indeed", replied the Mahatma, "if you abide by strict English custom. But if you don't mind seeing an old man eat you can stay". I am glad I did because he ordered excellent breakfasts for H.A. and me with the first toast and butter I had tasted for weeks.

Then Gandhi began to talk seriously. I was surprised and disappointed to find that he was almost as biased and partisan as anybody else. He lectured me that it had been criminal of Jinnah and the Pakistan Government to assume power when they were incapable of positive authority (maintaining law and order) but only a negative authority (stirring up strife).



I asked whether, with feeling as it was, an Indian Government would have been capable of "positive authority", had there been no partition? "At the time, perhaps not", replied Gandhi, "but subsequent events have shown clearly the iniquities of Pakistan and the right and justice of India. Pakistan started the trouble. India has and is doing her best to re-establish order, Pakistan to make more trouble and bloodshed". Then Horace cut in and began a terrific argument against war or talk of war. Horace continued to plead a doctrine of peace while several of Gandhi's followers entered to argue in favour of a "just" war. Then Nehru arrived and the conversation changed."

Further on in that letter my father wrote: "Gandhi suggested I go as an accredited representative of the Indian Government to Bahawalpur State to report back upon the situation and to try to arrange for the evacuation of Hindus. Tens of thousands of Hindus were marooned in pockets and in imminent danger of being set upon and murdered. No Indian would be accepted or trusted as an intermediary but I might be. I agreed. Gandhi told me to fix everything up with V.P. Menon, but warned me that Menon was overwhelmed with work and a most difficult man to catch and nail down. Gandhi gave me a permit which gave me entry into any Government office or Minister's room and told me to go ahead."

As a result of the chaos at the time nothing further came of this mission. My father was working with Lady Mountbatten as recorded in his letter:



"Meanwhile I am seeing Gandhi most days, Nehru pretty often, keeping tag on Menon; also organising services and welfare in two refugee camps in Delhi, each with about 80,000 Muslims; as well as arranging for the dispatch of Indian personnel, equipment and stores to the Punjab. H.A. flew to Lahore and was away several days during which I attended Lady Mountbatten's conferences in his stead. At one of these some points were brought up

which suggested that not a few widely published camps and arrangements for hordes of refugees were in fact non-existent. Lady M. asked me to make a tour of inspection of the Punjab and to report back to her directly. I am to start as soon a plane can be found, arrangements for transport in the frontier region can be made, and other representatives from India and Pakistan who are in the field can be contacted so that as many of us as possible can meet and exchange notes."

Again this mission came to nothing. My father recounted that on one of his visits to Gandhi, it was Gandhi's silent day so my father wrote on his slate "good morning" or words to that effect to which Gandhi wrote back "it is my silent day not yours; you may speak".

My father's type 1 diabetes, developed in Cairo while with the Friends Ambulance, began to play up and eventually he left India for South Africa in 1949. In South Africa, where my mother's family had been resident since the 1850s, my parents ended up as Registrar and Head of the Geography Department respectively at Fort Hare University, which was founded in 1916 by Scottish Christian missionaries. Fort Hare was Nelson Mandela's alma mater. My parents remained there until 1960 when they were deported for anti-apartheid activities when the government took over the university. In 1964 my parents returned to Africa when my mother took up the appointment of Professor of Earth Sciences at the new University of Malawi.

Gandhi and the Salt March and Protest

The minister's sermon, which Crispin mentioned at the start of his piece, referred to the Salt March of 1930 when Gandhi challenged Britain's monopoly on the salt trade in India, using his policy of non-violent opposition. The sermon- part of which will be summarised here -outlined that since the 19th Century, Indian people living by the coast were forbidden from the manufacturing or selling of salt. They were required to buy it at very high cost from British merchants. Salt was a nutritional necessity and essential for the preservation of food in the hot weather.

Gandhi saw the salt laws as an inexcusable evil. In his homespun shawl and holding his wooden walking stick he set off on foot from home with a few dozen companions beginning a 24 day trek overland to the seaside town of Dandi. Large crowds gathered and thousands joined him on his 240 mile march. When he arrived at the sea, Gandhi committed a symbolic crime by picking up a block of salt. He won the right for locals living on the coasts to once again produce the mineral from the sea.



Photo by Douglas Reid,
of salt at the Dead Sea.

On the eve of his campaign, Gandhi set the tone for the protest saying, 'Mass civil disobedience will not come if those who have been hitherto the loudest in their cry for liberty have no action in them. *If the salt loses its savour wherewith shall it be salted.*' He quoted St Matthew Chapter 5.

The sermon ended calling us to be the salt of the earth, as Matthew does in Chapter 5. '*You are the salt of the earth*', Jesus tells us. Like salt we can add flavour to our's and others' lives, create an interest in what we believe in and preserve good things for the future. (*You can find and listen to the sermon on MSG Facebook page.*)

AROUND THE AISLES



Monday Meanders with the Walking Group:

30th March Portobello - Beach Cafe - 42 bus

27th April - The Royal Mile - Parliament Cafe - 41 bus.



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.



The hammer has been removed from the church bell for some TLC in the coming weeks, so the chime will be missing for some time.

Additionally, at the end of March, scaffolding will be appearing around the tower. This is so Galliford Try can continue the work in the tower in relation to a base station to provide communication for the neighbourhood. Access will not be hindered to either of the church doors.

Please note, all contributions to The Shuttle must be with the editor by the first Sunday of each month at the latest.

And finally ...



WHO'S WHO @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

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Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Church Centre Office

(Monday - Thursday 9.00am - 1.00pm)

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