

THE SHUTTLE



May 2020

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



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW
Phone: 0131 447 4359

Meeting Matters

Wednesday

Butterflies Plus is not on at present

Thursday

12.30 Bible Study on Zoom *

Saturday

Morning Coffee is not on at present

May 2020

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 10 | 9.30 | Junior Church on Zoom* |
| | 10.30 | Sunday Morning Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube |
| 17 | 9.30 | Junior Church on Zoom* |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube |
| 24 | 9.30 | Junior Church on Zoom* |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube |

June 2020

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 1 | 7.00 | Kirk Session on Zoom * |
| 7 | 9.30 | Junior Church on Zoom * |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube |
| 14 | 9.30 | Junior Church on Zoom * |
| | 10.30 | Morning Worship on Facebook Live and YouTube |

* See page 17 for weekly events taking place on-line.

Front cover photo:

Our buildings may be closed but our work continues.
Come and join us online here:

The Church of Scotland's new website: www.thekirkonline.info

or

for Marchmont St Giles'

<https://www.facebook.com/MarchmontStGiles/live/>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCcaQLLtAmse-fsJ69zjz6LA>

Reflections

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.
St John 14:27



This week I went with a member of the Army Media Team into St Giles' Cathedral to film for VE Day.

75 years ago at the end of the War, the King, Queen and Princesses came to St Giles' to give thanks for the deliverance which had been achieved after 6 long years of war. As I stood in that place, I was aware of the momentous events which had been recorded there over hundreds of years, and could only begin to imagine, the diverse range of emotions which must have been felt that day, as people gathered to give thanks for peace.

Peace had been achieved at great cost and the news coming out of Europe of the Concentration camps finally confirmed why the War had to be fought. And so there was the bittersweet combination of thanks giving and sadness, which were evident that day and for many days after that.

On VE day the King made a speech talking of the constancy and courage, the sacrifice and endurance of those who had died and would not be alive to see the rejoicing.

Decades later I remember listening to stories of this congregation about their experiences during the War: stories of survival at the foot of Monte Cassino; nursing in North Africa and Italy; barely surviving on the Malaysian Railway as a prisoner of the Japanese; high jinks at American airforce bases as a Land Girl; flying fighters over Burma and not expecting to survive 6 weeks, let alone 60 years; serving for the Signal Corps in Bruges; country dancing in the Church Hall as Marchmont Crescent was bombed as the Luftwaffe returned from Clydebank; serving in Java clearing the Japanese out after the Surrender as well as many others.

Each person who lived through 1939-45 has their stories and lived with their fears; each person lost people they loved or knew people who had died and each person learned to return home and live a new normal.

Over the last couple of weeks it is clear that although we might not be living in a time of war, some of the psychological challenges from way back then, are very real here and now. Fear of the unknown and isolation, loneliness and worrying for our loved ones is an ever present reality. It is natural to have these feelings at times like these. So we must be kind to ourselves. We must learn, not only to find a way through, but also to acknowledge that we are going to have difficult days and we are going to wonder if it will ever end.

End it will: but we will not survive unscathed and we must look out for each other. And then one day soon, we will mourn for those who have died, comfort each other and help each other heal and we will learn to build on a new future.

The Church we will one day return to, will not be the same as we left. We have a set up now to stream services and we are reaching hundreds of people each week, with both the Thoughts of the Day and the Sunday Services. We will continue with the streaming as we begin to move back into the Church and find a new normal. At the moment I can only imagine who normally sits where, and as I conduct worship I can see in my mind's eye who is where, and as we slowly return and observe social distancing, I look forward to welcoming you back, and continuing to welcome the new people who watch each week, as well as the people who are now watching, who for differing reasons have not been able to attend recently.

Jesus promises us peace. Peace is hard won and peace has to be built on and made. It is not a point in space but an organic principle which is created, grown and nurtured. So let us think about how we want the peace to be and how we want to be part of creating our future.

We give thanks to God for walking with us every step of the way and for peace established and practised and created then and now.

Karen K Campbell

Lessons Now and In the Future

Our P7 topic this term has been WW2, including exploring air raid shelters, rationing, reading 'Good-night Mr Tom' by Michelle Magorian, evacuees and VE day. One task was to compare life during WW2 and now during lockdown. I thought about how in WW2 there was food rationing for ingredients and resources and now we have to ration space and time to go outside and buy food and limit how many toilet rolls and hand soaps we can buy. How, at the moment, we are restricted in how long to be outside and in WW2 there were air raids where people had to be in shelters and there were blackouts. Also, how people's roles changed during the war to compensate for the number of people in the services and those who died, and now we are asking retired and training health workers to help the NHS. Jobs that were low paid, and so sometimes looked down on now, are being recognised as important work such as postal workers, refuse collectors, shop workers etc. Even haircuts are a topic of conversation now that we can't go out to get them and people are cutting their own or their family's hair (including in my house!). In WW2 women particularly tried to look their best to 'carry on' as normal. Even drawing lines on the their legs to look like stockings when they couldn't get them. I wonder how people will learn about this time in lessons in the future?



Lego Anderson shelter complete with bunk, gramophone & newspaper inside and covered in a vegetable patch.

Joel Hather

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

We give thanks for the life and service of:

May Campbell. Member of the Congregation, who died on 16th April.

Nancy Sharp, Member of the Congregation, who died on 25th April.

MARCHMONT ST GILES' WEBSITE

Please check the website regularly for updates in **The Shuttle Community Extra, Families** and **Wellbeing boxes** which have lots of useful info about shops, entertainment, things to do with kids, etc. If you want to suggest other shops doing deliveries, entertainment ideas or anything you think might be of interest to others then please email/message judithstewart@btinternet.com

VE DAY SERVICE

Karen conducted a VE Day Service of Remembrance in St Giles' Cathedral which was broadcast along with a Tribute Concert on 8th May. It can be viewed on the Facebook pages of Legion Scotland and Poppy Scotland.

#Lest We Forget.

HELPING TO MAKE MSG TICK

Here we would usually have a rota of Who is doing What When to help MSG run smoothly. Instead, this space can be used to say, Congratulations to Karen on the 18th anniversary earlier this month of her induction as Minister of Marchmont St Giles'.

Also, thank you to all in the MSG congregation and community for keeping the church together and connected, locally and worldwide.

Our building may be closed but our work continues. We're still here and we're still active. Help and support is here for everyone. If you need a mask, let us know. If you want to talk, we are here to listen and share. If you think we can help, tell us. Phone and email contacts on the back page of The Shuttle.

News From The Guild

If you "Zoom", please try logging in on Thursdays at 7.00 p.m., when you may meet up visually with members of the Ladies' Club and others, for a blether. Call Ann McGhie in case of difficulty: 667 8325.

In view of current hardships, the Guild has sent £150 to the congregation of Richmond Craigmillar.

Ann has let me know that she still has some goodies in stock - marmalade, raspberry and strawberry jams and apple jelly (phone: 667 8325).

Tanya will be happy to hear that an assortment of octopi are being knitted for CrossReach, by an assortment of people.

When the lockdown started, several Easter chickens were unadopted, so they sat in my bay window in the sun till after Easter, no doubt to the amusement of passers by. (There's still a few in the Centre)

All good wishes to every one, (including Echo, who sometimes sees me on his way home from Blackford Hill).

Finishing with a snippet stolen from the Moderator, "Strengthen us, so that we may carry on our lives as best as we are able, looking out for others, showing love in action, being faithful in prayer, and bringing encouragement, hope and peace; always trusting in you."

Eileen

Christian Aid Week

10th -17th May

Our yearly Christian Aid Service with The German Speaking Congregation and Morningside United Church will take place on Sunday 10th May at 1030am on MSG Facebook Live and later on our YouTube Channel.

To donate to Christian Aid, please phone their donation line: 020 7523 2046

or go to their website:

www.christianaid.org to send an e-Envelope with your donation.

Suzanne Fischer



Photo by Jeremy Knowles

On 25th April the anthem during the service - Handel's I Know That My Redeemer Liveth - was sung by Suzanne Fischer, a soprano with Deutsche Oper (German State Opera) and Glyndebourne.

Suzanne - Suzy - sang in Marchmont St Giles' Choir while in her second year of studies in Music at Edinburgh University. Suzy says, 'I sang at MSG when I was already in my second year of studying Music at The University of Edinburgh, although I disappeared to do Erasmus Exchange at the State University of Milan for my third year and gladly came back to MSG during my fourth year (and a little bit afterwards).'

Suzy's memories of MSG: 'I have lots of memories of Robert's amazing descants, Karen's sermons and generally a fantastic bunch of people singing in the choir stalls and having coffees with the congregation after. We also had some epic dinner parties full of laughter at Robert's.'

After leaving Edinburgh: 'I was rather set on becoming a professional singer but I was still very much at the beginning of my professional development, I knew I had a lot to learn and wanted to find world-class mentors and learn more languages, so I went to Berlin via Vienna and Turin to study with some of the world's top opera singers to hone my craft. In 2013 I was fortunate enough to win a place at the Hanns Eisler Academy of Music in Berlin (I was the only singer accepted for the Masters programme of four hundred applicants - so was alone in my year!).

I kept plugging away, practising and practising and my instrument improved and slowly the opportunities came; I've sung at the Deutsche Oper Berlin, State Oper Berlin, Glyndebourne Festival, Longborough Festival, English Touring Opera, Iceland Opera (as the Queen of the Night in The Magic Flute, on live TV broadcast! - THAT was nerve-wracking) and I've also won prizes at major international competitions.

Recently I was understudying a lead role in Cendrillon/Cinderella at Glyndebourne and the lady I was understudying called in unwell, so I had a couple of hours notice before 'going on' as the Fairy Godmother. Another amazing adrenaline rush.

That said though, I have always had an over-riding passion for singing in an ensemble, and although I have accomplished a lot as a soloist, I have the most fun and am happiest with colleagues around me, so I recently took the decision to take a position as a chorister at the world-class Deutsche Oper Berlin. I feel very fortunate to weather the current crisis as an employee of a state institution, rather than my former status as a freelance artist.'

Dream roles: 'My favourite operas are anything Mozart, and dream roles are the Marschallin in Richard Strauss' Der Rosenkavalier and Fiordiligi in Mozart's Così fan Tutte.

Asked about Berlin where she lives now, Suzy said: 'Berlin is a wonderful city. It's hard to describe, but it's a city where you can arrive and suddenly feel at home. As if everyone is allowed to simply be themselves and nobody judges, or expects you to behave in a certain way. You're 60 and you want to go to a nightclub? Nobody would shrug.



Photo: Najade in Strauss' 'Ariadne auf Naxos' with Loughborough Festival Opera, taken by Matthew Williams Ellis.



Ginevra in Handel's Ariodante
with Tristan & Assocs Berlin.

You're 20 and you want to go to the opera or to the Berlin Phil for under €20 per ticket? There's something on every night. Berlin is scarred and riddled with history, it acknowledges it and atones for its past. You can't hide from the scars, instead the city wears them openly and challenges its residents and tourists to reflect on the past.

There are huge open spaces, incredible parks, lakes to spend a sunny afternoon. I honestly couldn't imagine living anywhere else now!

Thank you, Suzy, for taking time to let us know about your international career and your life and work in Berlin. Thank you, too, for singing the anthem so beautifully during our recent Sunday service.

Visit Suzy's website: <https://suzannefischer.co.uk/> to read more about her career and to view videos of performances of works by Britten, Mozart, Rachmaninoff and more.

You can also see Suzy singing in the MSG Choir in videos from 2008:

O Vos Omnes by Tomas Luis De Vitoria

<https://youtu.be/443UbEYvrdI>

Look at The World by John Rutter

https://youtu.be/3-6_pIWPbgI

David Vivanco who sang in the choir at the same time as Suzy reminds me about the Japanese lady who, after seeing MSG's 'Look at The World' video on-line, came over to visit especially to sing with the choir and whose trip was reported in a previous issue of The Shuttle.

Sue

From Butterflies Cafe

22nd April was the 50th anniversary of the first Earth Day, a day when we're encouraged to think about the planet and environment. With this in mind we're going to focus on the veggie sandwich special.

To keep things local, and reduce our carbon footprint, let's go with a solid Scottish produce for our sandwich. Hang on, isn't all the best Scottish food kinda meaty? Good old haggis, fine Scottish salmon, Angus beef, Scotch Lamb, wild venison... You're forgetting about Scotland's great cheeses! Caboc, Crowdie, Clava Brie, Cromal, Cromag... What's with all the Cs, folks? There are so many other cheeses to choose from that are local specialities; https://www.cookipedia.co.uk/recipes_wiki/Category:Scottish_cheeses

A bit harder to come by right now, with farmers markets being closed. But supermarkets do have some local selections. You might be lucky enough to live near a Cheese Monger. Fraser Mcleod's, near Butterflies is open, Monday-Saturday. Grant's got some great cheeses! Alternatively, there are online stockists of cheese; creameries, food sites and veg delivery schemes.

Caboc might be an odd one in a sandwich, but you could always leave out the coating or have it on oatcakes. Plain and simple; there's not much simpler than a cream cheese sandwich. And because the likes of Clava or Crowdie are a cut above your supermarket cream cheese, even having it without any accoutrements is something special. But you can still have it with a nice chutney or some salad. Cream cheese and cucumber is a classic for a reason.

Something a bit different; cream cheese and cucumber is all well and good, but what about a creamy Scottish soft cheese and early season Scottish strawberries? A drizzle of honey, a splash of balsamic, some cracked black pepper and you have a sunny day between two slices of bread. It's like a savoury cheese cake.

I don't think you want to crowd out the flavour of these special cheeses with too many additions, but some salad leaves, crunchy red peppers and cucumber would jazz it up to just the perfect degree.

Nicci

Family Focus

Make a joyful noise unto the Lord! (Psalm 100) springs to mind as we gather for our Early Morning service on Zoom at 9:30 on a Sunday morning. As the families log on and we say our good morning's, our voices become a cacophony of chatter. Eventually the children overcome their shyness and join in as well!

From the comfort of our homes we come to our new online meeting place just as we are. We see pyjamas, super hero costumes, hats, and bare feet upside down waving at us. We get glimpses into each others' kitchens, back gardens, bedrooms, hallways, dining room tables, and one family even tuned in once from inside a den made of beautiful scarves from different parts of the world.

We've learned a lot of things creating this new space for our Early Morning Service together. Reading Bible stories works best with everyone's "mute" buttons on while they listen to the reading of the story. The gift is always the "unmuting" and discovering the stories afresh together through the eyes and ears of the children.

We enjoy sharing what we've been up to during the week and supporting one another in our struggles. Singing together over Zoom doesn't work so well, praying together does! We share in prayer what we are grateful for and what we need God's help with.

Because singing together over Zoom isn't great, we are currently listening to songs together via YouTube links shared on Zoom and discussing them. Stay tuned for more on this as we explore our group's different cultural backgrounds!

If you and your family would like to join us, or if you know of a family who might like to, please be in touch:

jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk

Julia

Opposite page: *Congratulations* to Amelia on growing a beautiful bean plant, Elizabeth for playing the flute virtually along with 'We Make Music Rainbow Project' and for raising £1200 by cycling, to Elizabeth, George and William for cheering our heroes, to Joel for a great piece of work on WW2 and growing an amazing crystal.

(NB for those of us who didn't instantly recognise the crystal it is Monoammonium Phosphate with some added food colour)

**The many things our young people have been keeping busy with during Lockdown...
(Quiz question: Bottom left - where in Edinburgh is this?)**



Thank you to Marchmont Folk from FairShare at Richmond Craigmillar Church



Rev Liz Henderson, Minister of Richmond Craigmillar Church phoned Karen, this week to say thank you for the generosity of Marchmont folk who have enabled people in her parish to eat. Liz has kindly allowed us to print in The Shuttle, her talk to her own church this Sunday, based on psalm 31, which gives an insight into FairShare and the people helped by donations:

As you can probably imagine, lockdown has been a fairly pleasant experience in the Manse. Being able to note the daily changes in the flowers and plants in the garden is a joy in itself. Having a little extra time to enjoy the Spring feels like a luxury, but every time I come here to the church I'm faced with a different reality.

We're surrounded here by tins of tomato soup, bread, vegetables, tins of tuna ... just so much food. Every day we put it into bags and people come to the church to pick up food. Later in the day we deliver the bags to the people who aren't able to come and collect them.

There's a story behind each bag and we are privileged that people share those stories with us. I've always said that nobody should have to tell us why they need food, but lots of people do. Obviously these stories are confidential but they bring home to me just how difficult it is for people to have to go to someone else and ask for food.

'I didn't want to have to phone you', 'I'm really sorry to have to ask again', 'We didn't know what else to do'... that's the kind of things I hear. And when I was listening to Jim read the psalm I was thinking, that the stories that I hear are filled with the sound of lament.

Families who live week to week, proud managers of small incomes not wanting to have to ask for help. I was chatting to someone in homeless accommodation and I asked him do you have any family at all, and he said, "You'll find most of the homeless don't have any family, it's part of who we are!" So many stories; the Government box that didn't arrive, the person from the six in a block flats who said to me, "We're all struggling up here but we share what we have and help each other out."

If charity is love then love is listening and if you listen hard enough you sense the pain, the hardship and often, the injustice.

Listen to how the psalmist talks about his sadness

*"Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;
my eye wastes away from grief,
my soul and body also."*

Lockdown in the Manse is all too easy; each bag of food reminds me that for some people this is an enormous struggle. One of the recipients of the fresh food that we gave away at the end of the week texted me this message and she says it's okay for me to share it with you. "Liz, thanks from all in Craigmillar, we are eating 2nite thanks to you all."

The psalms of lament encouraged people to write or talk or sing what they felt and encouraged the listener to listen.

People of faith, I believe, should always have more than food to offer. I think we're called by God to listen in humble silence to the lament, to listen so hard that we hear the hurt and the injustice contained therein and to take it to God in prayer. I imagine the recipients of our bags might find that last bit a little odd, but it's what Christians do. We pray and prayer changes us and often the one for whom we pray as well. Lots of difficult situations won't just go away but I believe in the God who hears our cries of lament.

And in the end to offer the potential of the strength and courage that comes through believing.

The psalm finishes,

*Be strong, and let your heart take courage,
all you who wait for the Lord.*

**Rev Liz Henderson,
Minister of Richmond Craigmillar Church**

FairShare at Richmond Craigmillar Church

We are extremely grateful to everyone who has dropped contributions off at the Church Centre door for FairShare.

Richmond Craigmillar Church have asked us now to consider making a monetary donation as well as contributing food and toiletries, including nappies and sanitary products, to FairShare.

FairShare gives out bags of food which include some fresh dairy items and the safest way for them to access these items is to order from the wholesalers to protect the chain of delivery according to Health & Safety regulations. Cash or cheques would be gratefully received if posted through MSG Church Centre letter box or sent to: Rev E Henderson, 5 Old Church Lane, Duddingston, Edinburgh EH15 3PX.

Donations can be left at the front door of the Church Centre and we would be very grateful if you let us know when you've dropped something off so we can collect it. We can also come and pick up donations.

Please contact: chasstewart01@gmail.com or message the Facebook page if you need items picked up.

Judith

Richmond's Hope



Richmond Craigmillar Church also provides a service called Richmond's Hope which supports children and young people aged 4-18 years who have been bereaved. It was set up by the church to work with people of all faiths and none in a way that respects and supports their beliefs about life and death.

Have a look at their website for more information and for contact details:

<https://www.richmondshope.org.uk/>

AROUND THE AISLES

- Monday to Friday on Facebook-Live at 10am there is a Thought for the Day from Karen, Kate and Julia
- Tuesdays at 11am, if you are able to join Zoom, there's a coffee morning. Make a cup of tea or coffee and join in for a chat.
- Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom there's a Knit and Natter meeting. You can sew or knit or join the meeting just to chat. For either of these meetings email Karen to receive the Zoom joining code: kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk
- Thursday at 1230am you can join the Bible Study led by Julia on Zoom. For the coming weeks we will be looking at The Book of Acts. All welcome to join this informal gathering. Email Julia if you would like to receive the Zoom joining code in an email: jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk
- The Sunday Service is broadcast live on Marchmont St Giles' Facebook Page and also on the MSG YouTube Channel. There is coffee on Zoom after the service at 1130am.
- As Eileen mentioned in Guild News, Ann has home-made jam and marmalade for sale to support the Church Development Fund. You can phone her on: 667 8325 to order some, and make payment at a later date.
- If you know of anyone who would like to receive a paper copy of The Shuttle (normal size or Large Print), let us know. Charles can print and deliver to anyone who cannot see it online. Also we have CDs and are preparing DVDs of the services available to anyone without internet access, call 668 1970.

Rainbows



Nine years ago this week I was in Armenia at an International Nursing Conference and carrying out some Workshops with an organisation called PRIME. I'd been there twice the year before

for a total of three weeks so I knew some of the people I would be staying with. The first thing anyone asked me when I say I've been to Armenia is, 'Where is it?' Geographically it is at the top of Iran, to the right of Turkey but more importantly. It is mentioned in the Bible. In Genesis Chapters 6 through to 9 we read the story of Noah and the flood. Chapter 8:3-4 *The waters receded steadily from the earth. At the end of 150 days the water had gone and the seventeenth day of the seventh month the ark came to rest of the mountain of Ararat.*

The mountain came under Turkish control during the 1920 Turkish Armenia War but the Armenian people are still proud to say it is theirs. The closest I came to it was on a visit to the town of Ararat, which is on the border with Turkey. You have a good view of the mountain, where it is supposed; remnants of the ark may still be found.

During this time of lockdown it has been lovely to see so many rainbows depicted in so many windows in so many different places. They remind me of my time in Armenia but more importantly the promise God gave to Noah in Genesis 9:15-17

***15** I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life. **16** Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."*

***17** So God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant I have established between me and all life on the earth.*

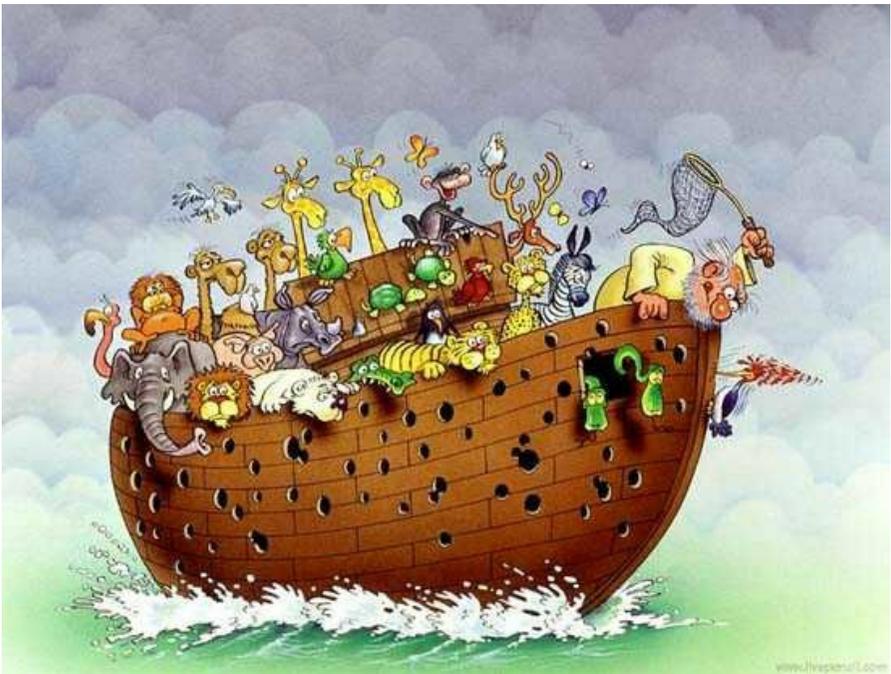
It is a reminder that God is the same yesterday, today and forever and despite what we are going through just now, He is with us always.

Kate

And finally ...

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark:

- Don't miss the boat
- Remember we are in the same boat
- Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark
- Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big
- Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done
- Build your future on high ground
- Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs
- When you're stressed float for a while
- Remember the ark was built by amateurs, the Titanic by professionals
- No Matter the storm; there is always a rainbow waiting



WHO'S WHO @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

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Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Note that the church office is currently closed
but emails are monitored

Marchmont St Giles' Parish, Church of Scotland
is a registered Scottish Charity SCO09338