

THE SHUTTLE

November 2020

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



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Phone: 0131 447 4359

www.marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Meeting Matters

Tuesday	8pm	Book Club
Wednesday	12.30pm	Butterflies Plus is not on at present
Saturday	10am - 12noon	Morning Coffee is not on at present

November 2020

8	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube
15	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube
22	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube
	19.00	Kirk Session on Zoom
29	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube

December 2020

6	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube
7	19.00	Kirk Session on Zoom
13	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube

Front cover: Poppy at Scone Palace Walled Garden

Reflection

Dear Friends,

In this Season of Remembrance we give thanks for the living and the dead. I was in the graveyard this morning filming some of the graves of the boys and men who died in the First and Second World War. These local people, most of whom are buried overseas were loved by those in this parish and we can only imagine the grief and ongoing sadness their families lived with at the time.



When I read out the names of those who had died in the last year last Sunday, I was acutely aware of those who had died directly or indirectly as a result of Covid. The last year has taken its toll on all of us and in the face of death, the normal rites and rituals which are so important have been curtailed or stopped and it feels all the more unfair and unjust.

There are so many people who have been affected and I often reflect on those families who lived during previous wars, who did not have the funeral and all its organisation and coming together of friends and families to mark the death. We have rites and rituals for a reason. It helps us assimilate and mark an important event, even if poignant, and its loss adds to our loss. However, at this time of Covid we still have the ability to gather small numbers together and to watch streamed funerals at home.

This Sunday we will stand in Church or at home and remember those who have died in time of war. We cannot perform the same rituals; there are to be no parades, or standing shoulder to shoulder this year. We cannot lay wreaths in the normal way, but we have recorded the laying of the wreaths and they will be in Church this year, as part of the Remembrance Service.

I am struck by the poignancy of Remembrance as the first one in 1919 occurred in the middle of the Pandemic of that time and the large loss of life which contributed to the grief of the time.

As it is now less than 8 weeks to Christmas, as Christians we acknowledge the presence of God in our midst even in the reality and pain of death. Jesus walks with us every step of the way; we are not spared pain and suffering but we live with the confidence that we are never alone. We are called to comfort the grieving and care for the hurting.

Elsewhere in The Shuttle you will see information and a request about the Christmas Gifts for Craigmillar. Could I also make a plea and that is for groceries for Craigmillar. The team at Richmond Craigmillar have an enormous job on their hands with the number of zero contracts workers and minimum wage workers who cannot make ends meet, as well as people who have worked all their lives on minimum wage, who have been sacked. The need is acute and recently there is less support forthcoming from all areas. If you could put an extra couple of things in your shopping and drop it off at the Church, it would be greatly appreciated. This is a small but important way that we can support some of the most vulnerable people in our city.

We will begin filming for an online Advent Calendar which will be on Facebook and YouTube each day of Advent from 1st to 25th December. Any help will be appreciated. I need people to read a lesson or say a prepared prayer to camera. No experience required but all ages are required.

As the days get shorter and we spend more time indoors, don't forget to phone someone who is on your mind. We all need to look out for each other through this winter and to remember we will get through this and we know that the Spring will come again.

Jesus said:

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly."

In our own way, may we reflect on the good things we have, and how we can be a blessing to others at this time.

Karen K Campbell

Butterflies Cafe



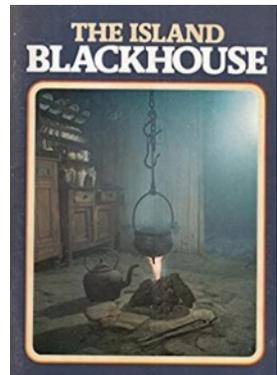
News from Nicci at Butterflies Cafe is that more tables and chairs have been added while maintaining social distancing so there is lots more room to sit and enjoy Butterflies fare.

The cafe is opening from 10am at the moment but this could be subject to change.

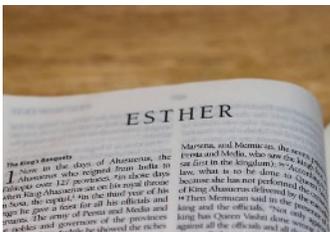
Nicci's social media post on Friday 6th November: One of the many nice things about working in a small cafe is that you get a chance to chat with folk. Last week a customer mentioned that their father wrote books about traditional life and skills in the Highlands and Islands. I ordered one and it arrived today.

Fact of the Day from The Island Blackhouse by Alexander Felton: People were living in stone built, heather and bere-straw thatched "Blackhouses" right into the '60s", with their chickens and cattle. Some were even wired for electric lighting.

You can follow Butterflies Cafe's Fact of the Day, Monday to Friday on Facebook and Twitter [@ButterfliesCafe](https://www.facebook.com/ButterfliesCafe)



October quiz



The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?

God

Quickly answered by Christine Macleod shortly after The Shuttle was published last month.

Remembrance

Lest We Forget

The Gardens of Remembrance were opened in Edinburgh and Glasgow in services filmed by Legion Scotland and led by Marchmont St Giles' Minister, Rev Dr Karen Campbell, Padre to Legion Scotland. You can join the services on Legion Scotland's Facebook page.



You can visit the Edinburgh Garden of Remembrance next to the Scott Monument.

Due to Covid restrictions, attendance at Marchmont St Giles' Remembrance Service on Sunday 8th November is by pre-booked seats only. If you have not booked a seat and wish to attend, please contact the Minister who can let you know if seats are available (contact details p.20). Although the uniformed organisations cannot be there in person to bear the standards and lay wreaths, they will take part as usual with pre-filmed footage as part of the service.



Legion Scotland invites you to join others around Scotland to observe the two minute silence at 11am on 8th November on your doorstep. So, if you are joining MSGs' Remembrance Service on Facebook Live on Sunday, be ready at 11am to step outside.



If you can't make it along to the Gardens of Remembrance in Edinburgh, Glasgow or Inverness, you can plant a virtual tribute on Poppy Scotland's Virtual Field of Remembrance by clicking this link: <https://www.poppyscotland.org.uk/virtualfield>

You can add a name of a loved one and your personal tribute then a remembrance cross, or another symbol of your choice, will be planted in their memory on the Virtual Field.

(All photos by Mark Owens of outtherephotography. Thank you, Mark)

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

We give thanks for the life and service of:

Janet Grant, a resident of Marion House, who died on 16th October.

Margaret Allen, a member of the congregation, who died on 30th October.

Children and Families

The children and their families continue to meet on Zoom at 9:30 on a Sunday morning before the main worship service. As always, it is a great time to catch up and learn about the Gospel together. It has been wonderful to see some children return, on occasion, to join us in person for the main worship service at 10:30. Whether on Zoom or in person, it is always a delight to see one another!

Christmas is not too far away, and planning is well on the way for yet another MSG Nativity play. This year the Nativity Play will be presented in a new way, so stay tuned for upcoming announcements on what you can expect and how you might become involved.

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 express our continued thanks to our Minister, Karen, for the time and energy she gives to keeping our congregation together and supported through this time of Covid and to let her know that all she does is hugely appreciated. Grateful thanks, too, to the wider team who, along with the Minister, have prepared the church in order to welcome people through its doors again, while continuing to live-stream the services for those who continue to worship at home.

Volunteers

We would be pleased to have more volunteers on Sunday mornings to clean and air the church before and after services. Please contact the Minister* if you are able to help. Also, Al, Andrew and Sue would greatly welcome volunteers to live-stream Sunday services. It will give you the opportunity to learn a new skill, with interesting and easy-to-use new streaming equipment and will give you a sense of achievement when a service is successfully streamed. Both of these are important tasks for the church. Cleanliness in times of Covid is vital and live-streaming means our church community can still be together without being in church.

Marchmont St Giles' Website

Please continue to click on The Shuttle: Community Extra on the home page of the MSG' website for updated information about Covid and our church and local community.

Our choir's singing is too good to keep to ourselves, so recordings of hymns and anthems are on MSG' website, Churches around Scotland are hearing our choir at their services and you can listen, and sing along, by clicking on Services then Hymns and Anthems.

Covid Restrictions

Scottish Government restrictions at Tier 3 for Edinburgh mean that the Minister is currently unable to visit people in their homes but continues to be in contact by phone and Zoom.

Advent

Please let the Minister* know if you could read a lesson or say a prepared prayer on camera for MSG Advent calendar which will be on Facebook, YouTube and Twitter daily from 1st to 15th December.

Minister's weekly email:

If you would like to receive the Minister's weekly email please let her know.* It's a good way to keep up-to-date with MSG and Butterfly Cafe news.

*Email: kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church of Scotland News

Scottish Interfaith Week - Global Faith Engagement. Scottish Interfaith Week, which this year runs from 8-15 November, provides an opportunity for interfaith groups, faith communities, schools, organisations and local communities across the country to celebrate Scotland's religious diversity.

As part of the celebrations, this year there is a fantastic opportunity to connect with interfaith activists from across the globe during the 'Connecting Globally: Interfaith Engagement in an Interconnected World' for more information go to <http://scottishinterfaithweek.org> . The online event will have award-winning guest speakers from Israel, the USA and New Zealand.

Kirk welcomes Nuclear Ban Treaty. The Church of Scotland has welcomed the news that 50 countries have now ratified the Nuclear Ban Treaty. This means that nuclear weapons will be banned in the same way as chemical and biological weapons, land mines and cluster bombs. The Church has consistently opposed the possession, use or threat to use nuclear weapons for over 30 years and has explicitly backed the Nuclear Ban Treaty. It has also called on the UK Government to disarm its nuclear weapons and to support the Treaty process.

Coronavirus Diaries: The Life and Work feature, Coronavirus Diaries, focusing on the situation of one of our overseas partners, is published each Wednesday. Rev Dr Kenneth Ross, who previously wrote from Malawi at the start of the pandemic, provides an update - but says it is the situation in Scotland which is upsetting his plans. Read his Coronavirus Diary. <https://www.lifeandwork.org/features>

From Elder Statesman to Elder Churchman. Only weeks after the Right Rev Dr Martin Fair was finally installed into office his successor as Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church Scotland has been named. Former Liberal Democrat leader in the Scottish Parliament and Deputy First Minister Jim Wallace has been named as Moderator Designate. Lord Wallace of Tankerness is the first Orcadian and only the second elder to become Moderator. Ordained as an elder in what was St Bernard's Church in Stockbridge, Edinburgh in 1981, he has been a member of the Session of St Magnus Cathedral since 1990.

"As an elder, I hope my year will be a source of encouragement to other elders and members of congregations who already play a very full part in the life of their church and communities" he said following the announcement.

Charles

Caring for and sharing with Craigmillar.

The donation of bags of shopping with foods and toiletries continues week on week and is gratefully received at Richmond Craigmillar Parish Church. The FareShare project supplies those who are struggling to make ends meet and clients of the service are able to make a selection of 15 items including fresh and tinned goods and bread. They are asked to pay £2 if they can in but often folks are unable to do so. We heard recently of some families who had no food at home save for what they had got from FareShare.



Our caring in Craigmillar extends to the local schoolchildren. In recent years our collection at the Gift Service in December has gone to the Primary School. This year is the same but different. To allow for a suitable period of quarantine it will be necessary to have the gifts in the Church before Sunday 13th December. Please annotate the gift with a note of the age range and gender for the gift.

CrossReach - the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland provides healthcare services in support of a variety of needs for all ages. An appeal earlier this year raised over £275,000 which has been used to supply PPE to keep staff, residents and users of CrossReach services safe. However the ongoing nature of the pandemic has put considerable strain on the finances and there is a further plea for financial assistance.

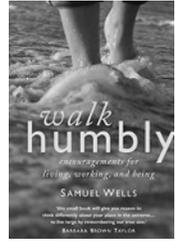
If you are able to make a one off contribution or give on a regular basis your donation will be gratefully received.

You can send a cheque or use the online justgiving page. Remember too that as a taxpayer you can enhance your donation at no cost to you by using *giftaid*.

Charles

Book Club

MSG's Book Group is halfway through Sam Wells' *Walk Humbly: Encouragements for Living, Working and Being*. Although a relatively small book, each of the eight short chapters are packed full of food for thought.



The Book Group meets on a Tuesday evening on Zoom and often find ourselves in deep and lively conversation. Sam Wells urges us to slow down, reflect and to be present to the mystery both within us and surrounding us. Here are a few reflections on our Book Group experience from those who gather on a Tuesday evening:

I've appreciated time in the week to pause, reflect and ponder some of the big questions the book asks of us - how to be kind, how to be gentle and how to balance essence and existence.

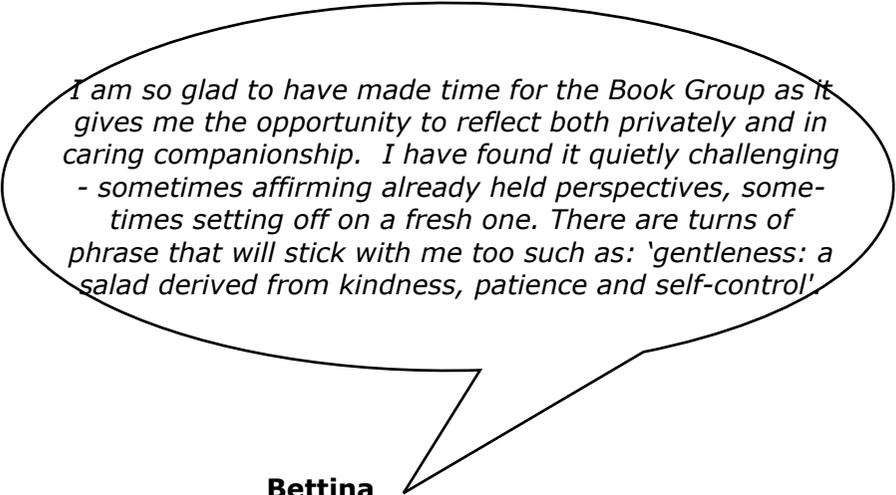
Sonja

Book club has enabled a precious moment for thought and reflection; something which I have missed a lot since March. Hugely grateful [...] to the group, for the shared exploration of what it means to 'be humble', in all its aspects.

Helen

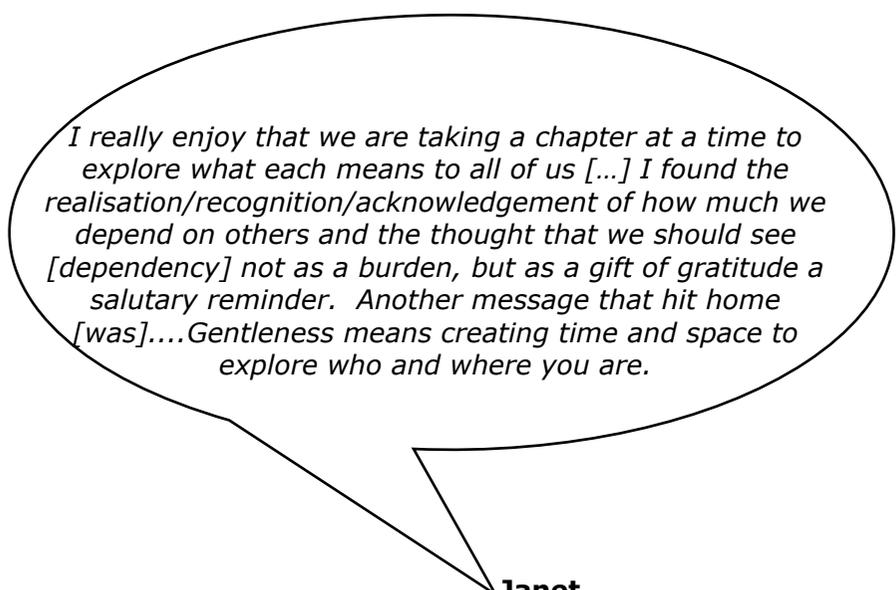
Always surprising how one sentence can strike a different note with individual people - result always stimulating.

Eileen

A large, hand-drawn speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the name Bettina.

I am so glad to have made time for the Book Group as it gives me the opportunity to reflect both privately and in caring companionship. I have found it quietly challenging - sometimes affirming already held perspectives, sometimes setting off on a fresh one. There are turns of phrase that will stick with me too such as: 'gentleness: a salad derived from kindness, patience and self-control'

Bettina

A large, hand-drawn speech bubble with a tail pointing towards the name Janet.

I really enjoy that we are taking a chapter at a time to explore what each means to all of us [...] I found the realisation/recognition/acknowledgement of how much we depend on others and the thought that we should see [dependency] not as a burden, but as a gift of gratitude a salutary reminder. Another message that hit home [was]....Gentleness means creating time and space to explore who and where you are.

Janet

For further information about the Book Club contact Julia by email: jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk

We Will Remember Them

Anyone who knows the islands of the Mediterranean cannot fail to be impressed by the country/archipelago known as Malta; and in particular its resolute and determined people - the Maltese. Every seafaring nation knew Malta was a strategically important island - midway from East to West, and from North to South - and with the deepest and largest natural harbour in the Med it could accommodate massive naval fleets and control the seas around it. Over millennia it has been subjected to marauding raids and occupation from the Phoenicians, Egyptians, Romans and Moors.

In more recent times the Knights of Malta built hospitals and prepared fortifications and kept the Ottomans at bay in the 16th century, only for Napoleon to conquer it and empty the churches of all their gold in 1798. The Maltese managed to get word to Britain to come to their rescue, and Nelson sailed a task force into Valletta harbour and kicked the French out. Malta became a British Protectorate in 1813, and eventually gained its independence in 1964, subsequently joining the EU in 2004. However, through all history, perhaps its most famous period was when it stood defiant against the might of the German and Italian airforces in World War 2. King George VI subsequently awarded the entire island population the George Cross and this is proudly displayed on the Maltese Flag to this day. (Flag origins:

<https://www.knowingmalta.com/blog/it-is-red-and-white-it-is-malta>



Ian's dad, second from the left, on the ship from Malaya

My Dad first encountered Malta in 1948, at night, when he was being shipped out to Singapore and Malaya for his National

The captain of the ship called for all hands on deck to pay respects to Malta as they sailed past. The island was about 20 miles away, but everyone could clearly see all the lights on the island and ships at anchor as there was no longer a curfew. He vowed he would go back one day. And so it was, 30 years later Mum and Dad took a package holiday to Malta and they stayed at a guest house called the Point de Vue. This building was previously used as an RAF Officers Mess and still had bullet holes from strafing in the doorway. It was situated across from the fortified former capital of Malta, Mdina, where they met several lovely people who became lifelong friends. (Mdina and Rabat:

<https://www.maltauncovered.com/malta-island/mdina-rabat/>

They preferred to travel in the Autumn as it can be stiflingly hot - 40 degrees Celsius in Summer. All the drivers in Malta used to drive "in the shade", rather than just "on the left", and with the myriad of potholes, the dodgems at the local funfair was a walk in the park compared to getting about by car on the island. They introduced traffic lights in the '70s, but they were optional! Likewise speed limits, and MOTs. And all the old and unwanted Bedford, AEC, Leyland and Ford buses made in Britain were exported to Malta, where they were all painted orange, individually decorated indoors and operated on local bus routes run by a single family - for decades - using the same bus. Aviva Buses took over all the routes when Malta had to comply with EU exhaust emission directives. Good for the environment and health; shame about losing one of the quintessential things about Malta. (Bus Photos:

<https://www.alamy.com/stock-photo/malta-bus.html>

Like Britain, Malta celebrates Remembrance on the 2nd Sunday in November at their National War Memorial just outside Valletta City Gates. It is very well supported as it is not possible to forget - the bombed Opera House remains a ruin just inside Valletta as a tribute to those who fell.

In 1985 Mum and Dad were attending the outdoor Service when one of the flag-bearers nearby was taken ill. Dad went to help the man and once he was sat down and safe asked if he could help - and ended up marching the flag back to barracks and joining the others for a beer once it was over.



The next year Dad was invited to be a flag-bearer and this time went with his medals, cap and white gloves. Here's a link to Royal British Legion - Malta:

http://www.rblmalta.org/RBLMALTA/Remembrance_Day.html

There are 365 churches in Malta and Gozo - that's right, one for every day of the year - mostly Catholic churches, and Malta has remained for years the country with the highest percentage of practising Catholics. The whole island came to a halt when Pope John Paul II visited in 1990 and 2001. But, there IS a Church of Scotland congregation in Malta. To give its full title: St Andrews Scots Church, Malta : A Union of Church of Scotland and Methodist Congregations in Valletta - the only ecumenical partnership between them in the world - which reflects their origins, going back over 150 years. It is well worth a visit : www.SaintAndrewsMalta.com

We visited "Malta's International Church" on Sunday 12 November 2017, and it felt very familiar! We used CH4 for all 5 hymns: 161 O God our help; 259 Beauty for Brokenness; 807 Offering and Doxology; (to tune 468 Blaenwern): "By a monument of marble"; and 528 Make me a channel of your peace. We had the stirring sounds of the bagpipes whilst the wreaths were laid, followed by a lament. It was a lovely service, but that was only half of it. We broke for coffee for just 10 minutes, then the Minister gathered everyone - about 30 of us - behind the piper (Maltese Army Sergeant) as he piped us through the streets and Sunday crowds of Valletta, to the same National War Memorial where Dad had paraded over 30 years before. Here the Minister said words to remember those from the Church and local community who had given their yesterday, so we could live our today. Very touching. Always emotional with the skirl of the pipes. And as we go our own way to live our lives, trying to be mindful that many, many people had 'paid it forward' so we can enjoy our holidays.

We will remember them.

<https://www.legionscotland.org.uk/Event/remembrance-sunday-national-event-2020>

Ian Moss

From The Church of Scotland on Facebook and Twitter

The Listening Project

Through 'The Listening Project' the Church of Scotland is looking to hear from everyone who is 16 and older across the Church on their experiences of faith and Church during the Coronavirus pandemic.

Regardless of your connection or involvement with the Church, and whether you have a big story to tell or simply something small to share, The Listening Project wants to hear from you.

Fill in the survey, which is confidential and only takes a few minutes, on The Church of Scotland website: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk> or if you do not wish to fill the form in online you can order an alternative form by emailing: ListeningProject@churchofscotland.org.uk

Explore Your Call to Ministry

The Church of Scotland's Faith Nurture Forum is planning a series of Discernment webinars to encourage people to consider their own personal journey into one of the recognised ministries of the Church of Scotland, i.e. Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Ordained Local Ministry, the Diaconate, and the Readership. Are you considering exploring your own personal journey into ministry? Church of Scotland's next Discernment webinar takes place on Wednesday 11 November from 12:30-1:30pm. The host is Dave Kendall, Chief Officer of the Church of Scotland.

Sign up for your free place now. To receive an invitation to join this or any of the other webinars, contact the recruitment team at: ministry@churchofscotland.org.uk

AROUND THE AISLES

- Tuesday and Thursday 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. Tuesdays at 8pm, The Book Group (see p12)
- 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 12.30pm 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
- As we welcome people into the church for our Sunday Services, we will continue to broadcast the services live on Marchmont St Giles' Facebook Page and also on MSG YouTube Channel. There is coffee on Zoom after the service at 1130am.
- 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, let us know. Charles can print and deliver to anyone who cannot see it online.

November Quiz

Thank you, Rix for this month's quiz question.



Where in The Bible is a sundial mentioned?

And finally



Our *And finally* comes from The Guild this month, from a book called, *The Laugh Shall be First* by Rev Dr James A Simpson.

The Rev. Blair Monie offered the following preface to a prayer he once gave at a Church meeting:

'Lord, I am so happy about how well I have done thus far today. I have not gossiped. I have not been rude. I have not been pushy. I have not been a know-it-all. I really am glad about that. But now I have got to get out of bed ...'

WHO'S WHO @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

Minister	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell	662 9353
email	kkcampbell@church of scotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Ian Moss	662 9293
email	sessionclerk@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Children & Family		447 4359
email	family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Treasurer	Jessica McCraw	667 4514
email	treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Organist & Choirmaster	Robert Parsons	557 1257
Flowers	Mhairi Wilson	445 1835
email	mhairi.m.wilson@gmail.com	
	Shirley Farquhar	447 9558
email	sgfarquhar@yahoo.com	
Safeguarding	Catriona Moss	662 9293
email	safeguarding@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Pastoral Care	June Wilson	447 7572
Rollkeeper	Gillean Hoehnke	
	rollkeeper@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
The Shuttle Editors	Charles Stewart	668 1970
	Sue Wilson	07966 736323
email	theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	

Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

0131 447 4359

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