

# THE SHUTTLE



May 2021

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

"THE GREATEST THREAT TO OUR PLANET IS  
THE BELIEF THAT SOMEONE ELSE WILL SAVE IT"  
-Robert Swan-



WORLD OF  
VEGAN



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**Meeting Matters**  
**on Facebook, Zoom and YouTube**

10am      Monday, Wednesday, Friday - Thought for the Day  
11am      Tuesday - Coffee'n chat  
7.00pm    Wednesday - Knit and Natter

See page 14 for information about all MSG's Zoom meetings

**May**

9    9.30    Junior Church on Zoom  
     1030    Sunday Morning Worship on Facebook Live/YouTube  
11   7.00pm Annual Stated Meeting on Zoom - see Minister's letter  
16   9.30    Junior Church on Zoom  
     10.30    Sunday Morning Worship on Facebook Live/YouTube  
23   9.30    Junior Church on Zoom  
     1030    Sunday Morning Worship on Facebook Live/YouTube  
30

**June**

6    9.30    Junior Church on Zoom  
     10.30    Sunday Morning Worship on Facebook Live/YouTube  
         **Closing date for Material for the next issue of The Shuttle**  
13   930    Junior Church on Zoom  
     1030    Sunday Morning Worship on Facebook Live/YouTube

**Front Cover:** As we mark Christian Aid week and read of the troubles faced by communities around the world with various climate issues and we look forward to COP26 in Glasgow later in the year take a moment to think what you could do to help God's Creation - our home

## Reflection

Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches.

St John 15



The General Assembly meets in 2 weeks time. The Church of Scotland has some important decisions to make and these are both strategic and financial.

For several years despite people placing themselves forward for Ministry, more Ministers have retired than have been called. Coupled with this, Presbyteries have not always been prepared to say the challenging thing to some Congregations. Rather than encourage them to work with other Congregations, they have allowed them to remain in vacancy with a Locum. This has meant that a great deal of work is now required to do what should have been done before.

There is no doubt that the Pandemic has meant that the Church of Scotland faces financial challenges like other institutions. Congregational giving is up but Covid has meant that hall rental income has plummeted and so this brings the need for decisions, at least in the short term, to cut our cloth. So for both reasons, the Church of Scotland will debate the need to reduce the number of posts which we can afford.

The cities will face the largest number of reductions in posts, both Ministers and other paid roles. Edinburgh is one of the few Presbyteries who are financially buoyant. Our congregation is one of those whose giving means that we pay for our own Minister and we contribute significantly to pay for other posts within the Church. Edinburgh has a particular challenge. That is that we need to reduce the number of posts without compromising healthy and mission focussed congregations. In Edinburgh it will mean that we will all have to share in the change and also in the mission.

For Marchmont it will mean that we will have to work closer with other Congregations and perhaps share. This means that in the next 18 months there will be lots of conversations with our neighbours and the Presbytery to discern a way forward. It can be an unsettling time, but we should not fear the changes which will come. Like the

vine in the story Jesus' told, it brings the possibility of new growth and exciting and joyful times ahead. We are able to change because the Eternal nature of God is unchanging. The rock on which we base our faith allows us to try different things and new things, bearing fruit and not fear.

So watch this space and as the Kirk Session engage in these talks for change we will keep you informed and also ask for your thoughts and ideas for the future.

Best wishes,

Karen

**Daily Lectionary**

<b>May</b>		27	Psalm 29
9	John 15: 9-17	28	Isaiah 2: 1-5
10	Psalm 93	29	John 15: 18-20.26-27
11	Deuteronomy 11: 1-17	30	Isaiah 6: 1-8
12	Mark 16: 19-20	31	Psalm 20
13	Acts 1: 1-11		
14	Psalm 47	<b>June</b>	
15	Deuteronomy 34: 1-7	1	Exodus 25: 1-22
16	Psalm 1	2	Numbers 6: 22-27
17	Psalm 115	3	Psalm 138
18	Numbers 8: 5-22	4	Deuteronomy 1: 34-40
19	Ezra 9: 5-15	5	1 Samuel 6: 1-18
20	Genesis 2:4b-7	6	Genesis 3: 8-15
21	Job 37: 1-13	7	Psalm 108
22	Exodus 15: 6-11	8	Revelation 20: 7-15
23	Acts 2: 1-12	9	Isaiah 26: 16-27
24	Psalm 104:24-34	10	Hebrews 2: 5-9
25	Genesis 11: 1-9	11	Psalm 20
26	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	12	Mark 4: 1-20

# AROUND THE AISLES

## **Stated Annual Meeting and Christian Aid Team Quiz**

On Tuesday night, Jessica will present the Accounts at 7pm via ZOOM and the Session Clerk will also talk about the last year.

Then at 7:30pm we will be joined by local Congregations to take part in a Quiz in Teams for Christian Aid and to raise money for that great charity.

You are invited to come onto ZOOM for the Stated Annual meeting and/or the Quiz for Christian Aid.

May 11, 2021 07:00 PM London

The Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85198189142>

Meeting ID: 851 9818 9142



## Christian Aid Week in Scotland



Christian Aid Quiz 2021 : On the theme of Rivers this year the quiz can be downloaded from the church website here - <http://marchmontstgiles.org.uk/christian-aid-quiz-2021/>. All you have to do is print it, work out the clues and send your completed form to the Christian Aid team by the end of the month or pop it into an envelope and post to the church or email [marchmontgrange.christianaid@gmail.com](mailto:marchmontgrange.christianaid@gmail.com) . Some paper copies will be available in the black box outside the church

Whereas, in Scotland, we are fortunate enough to be surrounded by 30,000 freshwater lochs, lush countryside and thriving agriculture, in Kenya the climate crisis is causing more frequent and intense droughts. This climate crisis hurts us all. But people living in poverty fight the worst of it every day. From drought to flooding, climate change robs people of control over their lives. Extreme weather means people struggle to survive without a reliable source of water.

Your gift could help a community build an earth dam, so when the rains do come, they will have the water they need to live. A reliable source of water will help families withstand long drought or relentless rainstorms.

Christian Aid Week begins on Monday 10 May, and every envelope and every gift matters. You can make an online donation through the church website or here <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week>

# CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

## We give thanks for the life and service of:

Miss Cathie Murray -a member of the congregation who died on 18th April 2021, a great servant of the church and dearly loved sister of Margaret MacKenzie.

### Together for our Planet: Faith Communities & COP26



Interfaith Glasgow and Interfaith Scotland are teaming up to present an information and discussion event on Monday 24 May from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Glasgow will take centre stage for the United Nations Climate Change summit (COP26) this November, as countries come together to negotiate the future of our planet at the biggest conference the UK has ever hosted.

This is a unique opportunity for faith communities in Scotland to foster unity and apply their faith in local action together.

Join to find out about COP26, why it matters to Glasgow, Scotland's faith communities, and the world, and how you can get involved. Hear from inspiring speakers and discuss your thoughts with people from other backgrounds about how you and your faith community can take action.

You will learn about:

- Why action on climate change is so important
- What COP26 is about and how faith communities can make a difference
- What COP26 will look like and how your faith community can help welcome the world to Scotland
- Scottish Interfaith Week coinciding with COP26 and the interfaith actions you can get involved in

Places are limited so please book soon to avoid disappointment.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/together-for-our-planet-how-faith-communities-can-engage-with-cop26-tickets-152337996047>

## **Grasping The Nettle**

Tracing one's family history has a new popularity, not least as represented in the popular TV series 'Who Do You Think You Are?' and following the myriad of clues and evidential jigsaw pieces that can be uncovered can lead to some astonishing – and sometimes uncomfortable revelations. Slave traders and pirates have been known to appear as blots on a family's lineage.

But science can yield information not just about individual families but the whole human race! The Wonderwerk Cave site in South Africa is one of very few places on earth where human activity can be traced back continuously across millennia - according to Science Alert. The oldest evidence is reported to be 1.8 million years old. Remnants of stone tools in particular represent a significant landmark in the development of tool technology.

Meantime BBC news is reporting the discovery of an ancient grave representing what appears to be the earliest known funeral of a child which likely took place 78,000 years ago. The remains of the three year old boy child were found in a cave in Kenya. What a complex web of archaeological intrigue is woven by science.

Meantime the Bible gives its own account of human genealogy, beginning with Adam and Eve – two individuals not only well adapted to life in a garden, and with defined responsibilities for the natural world, but with clear God consciousness too.

Who were they really and how might this Genesis narrative sit alongside the scientific story? That was the nettle being grasped this week by GTN in the second of two sessions led by Professor David Fergusson of Cambridge University. So what was the result? The answer will soon be available for you to see for yourself in the Watch section of the GTN website- itself a jigsaw of investigative evidence in the quest for information about the relationship of science to theology and the existence of God. [www.graspingthenettle.org](http://www.graspingthenettle.org)

From Encyclopaedia Britannica (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1788-97) on Longevity  
"Immediately after the Creation, when the world was peopled by one man and one woman the ordinary age was 900 and upwards. Immediately after the flood when there were three persons to stock the world, their age was cut shorter, and none of those patriarchs but Shem arrived at 500.

In the second century we find that none reached 240: in the third none but Terah that came to 200 years; the world by that time so well peopled, that they had built cities, and were cantoned out into distant nations.

By degrees as the number of people increased their longevity dwindled, till it came at length to 70-80 years and there it stood and has continued to stand ever since the time of Moses

This is found a good medium, by means hereof the world is neither overstocked, nor kept too thin, but life and death keep a pretty equal pace."

World Population	
1800	1,000,000,000
1900	1,600,000,000
2000	6,143,493,823
2020	7,794,798,739

Source

<https://www.worldometers.info/world-population/world-population-by-year/>

## **Butterflies cafe**

Open now

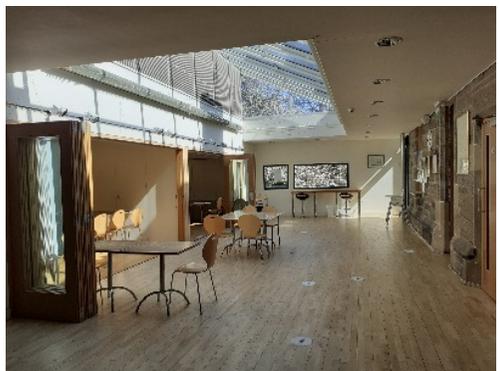
Monday to Friday

10am to 2pm

Teas, coffees & soft drinks

Light meals and snacks

All welcome



## **General Assembly 2021**

Watch this year's General Assembly which is due to be held from Saturday 22 May until Thursday 27 May, with commissioners and other attendees joining together remotely from across Scotland and around the world.

As in October 2020, the Assembly will be live streamed so those who are not commissioners can still watch the proceedings through our website.

The Blue Book reports (i.e. overviews of each Forum or committee's work over the last year, as well as their future plans) are available to read on our General Assembly pages.

You can also keep up to date with all the goings-on each day through our news coverage, Facebook and Twitter pages.

### **Church of Scotland Investors Trust to announce dis-investment from oil and gas**

After years of passionate debate, the General Assembly will hear that the Investors Trust of the Church of Scotland has disposed of all its oil and gas shares, completing a switch over two years into sectors with better investment prospects.

This year's General Assembly will look at what the Church of Scotland can do to reduce our impact on the planet. In addition, the Assembly will consider ambitious plans to move the Church to net zero carbon by 2030.

In its report the Church of Scotland Investors Trust explains that this was the final stage in a process of reducing investments in oil and gas companies, which its managers believed would find difficulty in transitioning to sustainable energy businesses.

Brian Duffin, Chairman of the Investors Trust said: "From the outset, the Trust has committed to supporting the UN Paris Agreement and is signing up to the new 'Net Zero' agreement announced last week for asset owners and fund managers globally.

"Climate Change is an enormous challenge for all of us, from governments to individuals, and church investors should be in the vanguard of change.

"Acting together, investors can accelerate changes in corporate strategy and build sustainable economies, but must also be responsible stewards of God's creation."

Any future investment in the oil and gas sector would require "agreement between the Church of Scotland Investors Trust and the Faith Impact Forum that there was good evidence that its strategy and implementation was aligned with the stringent targets set by the Paris Agreement".

The Assembly will also be asked to approve the creation of a special committee of five people to make recommendations on how ethical considerations can be applied to investing.

During a year when Scotland will host the COP26 UN Climate summit, the Faith Impact Forum will make proposals for how the Church could work towards net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

The Faith Impact Forum's climate change proposals are just part of a range of proposals aimed at building "a just and green future".

Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, convener of the Faith Impact Forum said: "We need to listen to the voices of young people in Scotland and throughout the world. We need to listen too, to the voices of our partners who are bearing the devastating brunt of the consequences of the climate emergency. We need to take seriously their fears and their suffering.

"It is challenging in so many ways but we are called to care for the gifts God has given us - and the alternative is to deny God's love for all his hands have made.

"I am not sure we have much choice. For love's sake."

Bringing the Church to net zero by 2030 will mean reviewing energy consumption across the Church and including goals to reduce carbon emissions in future planning.

The Scottish Government is currently calling for the whole country to be carbon-neutral by 2045, and part of this will include legislation that will affect how congregations operate.

The Forum will ask the Assembly to encourage congregations to hold public meetings to discuss what a just and green future following the pandemic means to the people in their area.

Commissioners will also be asked to urge congregations "to prepare for COP26 UN Climate summit, by using the Climate Sunday prayer and worship resources and consider how they can respond in prayer and action". The summit is scheduled to take place in Glasgow between 1 - 12 November 2021.

This year's General Assembly will bring forward prepared legislation which could ultimately allow Ministers of Word and Sacrament and Deacons to conduct same sex marriages.

If adoption of the newly drafted legislation is agreed by this year's Assembly, it will then be shared with all presbyteries for their consideration under the Church of Scotland's Barrier Act 1697.

Under this new proposed Act, brought forward by the Kirk's Legal Questions Committee, ministers and deacons would be one step closer to applying for a license to become authorised celebrants for same sex marriage ceremonies.

However, under the over-arching terms of the committee's proposed legislation, no-one would be required to participate in the solemnisation of, or be involved in the arrangements for, a same sex marriage unless they explicitly wished to do so.

Rev Dr Grant Barclay, the convener of the Legal Questions Committee, said:

"The committee recognises that there are diverse views on the subject of same-sex marriage. We are committed to ensuring that any resulting debates on this subject are held in a spirit of humility and grace, that the tone and tenor of discussions are civil, and that people are respectful of those who hold opposing views.

"The proposed Act makes clear that no-one who does not wish to be involved in the celebration of same sex marriage shall be required to do so, and this principle of protection and accommodation runs throughout the committee's thinking in drafting the legislation.

"Following presentation of this draft legislation, it is for the Assembly to decide what, if anything, to do with it. The Legal Questions Committee offers no theological view on the issue, and it shall be for the Assembly to determine what steps are now taken."

This comes following the 2017 General Assembly, when the Legal Questions Committee was instructed to undertake a study of the matters which would require to be addressed in any proposed future legislation. Following that year's Assembly, a sub-committee was formed on same sex marriage. Members have since met regularly and, following a debate at the 2018 General Assembly, were instructed to prepare the proposed legislation being presented this year.

If adoption of the draft legislation is agreed by the Assembly, it will then be shared with all presbyteries for their consideration under the Church of Scotland's Barrier Act 1697\*, with all responses to be returned to the Principal Clerk by no later than 31 December this year.

A copy of the full draft legislation and supplementary report is now available on our website.

### **Barrier Act 1697\***

In the ecclesiastical law of the Church of Scotland, the Barrier Act of 1697 is a measure which compels the General Assembly to consult the wider Church before innovating in the areas of worship, doctrine, discipline or church government.

It is a provision which prevents the General Assembly from making core innovations which might profoundly affect the polity of the church without first referring these to the presbyteries. A matter which falls under the Barrier Act must first be passed by the General Assembly, then be referred in the form of an overture to the presbyteries and ratified by a majority of these, before being returned to the General Assembly of the following year and passed again there. This is intended to prevent rash decisions to the long-term detriment of the church.

Important matters which fell under the Barrier Act in recent years include the ordination of women, which was passed in the 1960s, and the proposed union with the Scottish Episcopal Church, which failed to receive the support of the presbyteries in the 1980s

# Keeping in touch in lock-down

- Sunday -Family Service on Zoom at 9.30am
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday on Facebook-Live at 10.00am there is a Thought for the Day from Karen and Kate.
- Tuesdays at 11.00am, 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 Knit and Natter. You can sew or knit or join the meeting just to chat.
- 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.
- For either of these meetings email Karen to receive the Zoom joining details: [kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk)
- We are grateful for the supply of Seasonal jams and Marmalade by Ann McGhie and Chutneys by Cathy Campbell available for sale in the church centre.

**The Shuttle** is published online between February to July and September to December on the second Sunday of the month. Paper copies are sent in the event of having no access to the internet. It is printed in A5 and is also available in large print on A4.

Contributions of articles and photographs for inclusion should be sent to The Editor, [theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk](mailto:theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk) no later than the first Sunday of the publication months

- Space limitations may govern the need to edit contributions.

## **And finally**

### The Ripple Effect

Like stones thrown into the pond,  
they may be small  
but the ripples reach well beyond  
our expectations,  
so it is, with each small act of kindness;  
The ripple effect is boundless

Kindness comes in many forms  
But however 'dressed',  
Its benefits are twofold  
For both the giver and receiver are blessed.

Today, you could be involved,  
this phenomenon can be bestowed  
upon or by, young and old,  
rich or poor, we each hold a manifold resource,  
to be given away, every day.

You may not be aware  
of how far the ripples of what you share,  
helps those your act of kindness is given to,  
what matters is the willingness to risk  
Throwing a 'pebble' or two leaving the ripples,  
their task(s) to accomplish.

From a selection of poems 'Hopeful Hearts' written by Becky Hall.  
A poetic journal of Lockdown - Phase 1 to Phase 5  
25 March 2020 - 20 June 2020

# WHO'S WHO @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

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## Church Centre Booking Enquiries

### Church Centre Office

Currently closed

**Email : [office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk](mailto:office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk)**

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