



THE SHUTTLE

**Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
November 2021**



Unveiling of the permanent Cenotaph in Whitehall by His Majesty
King George V, 11 November 1920

marchmont st giles

church of scotland

1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

On Facebook Live, Zoom and YouTube

10am Monday, Wednesday & Friday
11am Tuesday Coffee and Chat
7pm Wednesday Knit and Natter

Email kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk for Zoom links

November

7 9.30 Junior Church
 10.30 Morning Worship
14 9.30 Junior Church
 10.30 Morning Worship : service of Remembrance
21 9.30 Junior Church
 10.30 Morning Worship
28 9.30 Junior Church
 10.30 Morning Worship

December

5 9.30 Junior Church
 10.30 Morning Worship

Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle

Front Page

The Cenotaph, Whitehall, London unveiled 11th November 1920. Originally intended as a small part of the Peace Day events of July 1919, The Cenotaph was designed and built by Edwin Lutyens at the request of the then Prime Minister Lloyd George

The Cenotaph - which literally means Empty Tomb in Greek - was initially a wood and plaster construction intended for the first anniversary of the Armistice in 1919. At its unveiling the base of the monument was spontaneously covered in wreaths to the dead and missing from The Great War. Such was the extent of public enthusiasm for the construction it was decided that The Cenotaph should become a permanent and lasting memorial.

On the Sunday nearest to 11 November at 11am each year, the service of Remembrance has changed little since it was first introduced in 1921, hymns are sung, prayers are said and a two minute silence is observed. Official wreaths are laid on the steps of The Cenotaph. The ceremony ends with a march past of war veterans; a poignant gesture of respect for their fallen comrades.

Reflections

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

During the month of November with the All Saints Service and Remembrance Service, I am often drawn back to remember people who have influenced my life. This year is the 20th anniversary of the death of Cosimo Presutti. He was an Italian man who slept on the West Door of St Giles' Cathedral for 30 years. He refused to speak English but understood every word and was a well-known sight around Edinburgh. He wore a dirty old coat and a flat cap and carried 2 Marks and Spencers' bags. He shopped there as well and would not receive handouts.

He had a family, which he had left in Italy in the 60s and travelled to Scotland where he did various jobs. Whatever brought him to the West Door is unclear. He could have stayed indoors but he preferred to be out and about. One Saturday evening he was attacked and burned by youths as he slept and the next morning when I arrived at the church, I was told he was behaving oddly. When I saw him, he pointed to his legs and when I realised, he had burns, a GP from the congregation took him to A&E. He was transferred to the Burns Unit in Livingston, where he spent a significant period recovering. As part of the police investigation, I was involved in getting him to share his story. He wouldn't speak to the Police, so I suggested a female officer. He wouldn't speak to her, but if she asked a question and I repeated it, he would answer. But he answered in Italian, and so a third person was in the room to translate. It was one of those afternoons I shall not forget.

When he recovered, he went to live in a retirement home and he still liked to go for long walks on the quiet roads outside Edinburgh and on one of those, a year or so later, in the half light, he was knocked down and died. He had a full St Giles' funeral in the church with the choir and a goodly congregation. By worldly standards he had not achieved much, but he had touched so many peoples' lives. His coffin was returned to his hometown in Italy where he is buried and a year or so afterwards, I met his daughter and heard her story.

Cosimo could be rude and challenging; he could smell to highest heaven; he was charming and had a contagious laugh and he probably attended more services in the church than any other person. The sadness of the nature of his death stayed with me and his absence from the church afterwards was acute. I learned that he was a complex character and too often we make assumptions about people based on being eccentric and antisocial, but their story is often more complex than we want or need it to be.

I am sure that each one of us has someone whom we remember at this time, on the lead up to the darkest night of the year. I am sure most of the people you will remember are close to you and loved by you. You will remember them for the quality of their love and care and for the ways you were blessed by their part in your life.

Remembering can bring pain but it can also remind us of what a wonderful life we have and the amazing people we have been privileged to have shared it with. This time of year can be challenging but it is also a time when we can give thanks for so much. Christ offers us the comfort that while our burdens can be challenging, His comfort is with us in the most challenging situations and with Christ we may find rest for wearied souls.

Karen K Campbell

FreshStart - Helping people make a home for themselves

In February 2020 FreshStart got the keys for their proposed Community Hub amid high hopes for bringing their plans to fruition to provide a Welcome Space, shop, Pantry and meeting room then the Pandemic happened. In June they opened The Pantry which offers a dignified alternative to food bank usage and for only £3.50 per week members receive an amazing £20-25 worth of goods. The associated shop offers a range of low cost home wares to help people make a house a home. The next stage is to complete the kitchen which will provide a variety of cooking sessions for small groups to supper clubs,

Last year they were able to supply 108 cookers, fridge, freezers and washing machines to people in need across Edinburgh and they are once again running their Cookers for Christmas campaign to be able to meet future needs in setting up a home.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of

Mr Brian Adair, a member of the congregation who died on 1st November 2021.

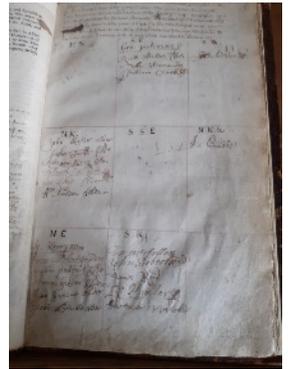
Ordinations

It has been a busy time for Ordinations recently with our former Student Katherine Taylor ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and inducted to the charge at Tranent Parish Church on 28th October.

Here at Marchmont we had the ordination on 31st October of four new Elders to join the Kirk Session, namely Dianne Beattie, Janet Wake, Sandy Wake and Sue Wilson. We wish them well in the service of the church.

At the conclusion of the service the Burgh Book was signed, this book has recorded the signatures of elders of churches in Edinburgh for more than three centuries.

The opening page of signatures from 1700.



Daily Lectionary

November

14 1 Samuel 1:4-20
15 Psalm 13
16 Daniel 8:15-27
17 Zechariah 12:1-13
18 Psalm 93
19 Ezekiel 28:20-26
20 Daniel 7:1-8, 15-18
21 2 Samuel 23:1-7
22 Psalm 76
23 Ezekiel 29:1-12
24 Ezekiel 30:20-26
25 Psalm 25:1-10
26 Nehemiah 9:16-25
27 Nehemiah 9:26-31

28 Jeremiah 33:14-16
29 Psalm 90
30 2 Samuel 7:18-29

December

1: Isaiah 1:24-31
2 Malachi 3:5-12
3 Malachi 3:13-18
4 Luke 1:68-79
5 Malachi 3:1-4
6 Psalm 126
7 Isaiah 19:18-25
8 Isaiah 35:3-7
9 Isaiah 12:2-6
10 Amos 8:4-12
11 Amos 9:8-15

AROUND THE AISLES



The Guild - The District Guild continues to meet and is now planning a Christmas Party to which you are warmly invited to be held on 6th December at 2pm in Craigmillar Park Parish Church

You are asked to bring a small wrapped gift. There's no need to book ahead.

Thank you! The recent Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £250 during the Doors Open weekend

Opportunity knocks! If YOU would like to have a go at singing in the choir - or you think you may know someone else who would - please don't be shy to come forward and have a shot at it. We can train you up, support you in all sorts of ways (music, recordings, tapes of your particular voice part, etc. to take home).

Catriona and Myra, are good examples, both developed their singing voices and became highly-valued members of the choir over time. So, if you enjoy singing, why not give it a go? Have a chat with any of the existing choir members; or come and speak directly to me.

Robert Parsons, 07766 491402, robertsoundsdivine@gmail.com

Christmas Gifts - You are warmly invited to bring gifts for children aged 5-12 to the church centre by 9th December at the latest. The toys will be delivered to Niddrie Mill Primary School for distribution to the children there in time for Christmas .

Blue Service Thursday 2nd December at 2pm in the church. All welcome

Astley Ainslie Community Trust has now published its full Feasibility Study for the site. The study was carried out professionally by Oliver Chapman Associates who will have representatives at the AGM next month to speak about the study.

This will then mark the start of the community consultation phase of the process. More details below

<https://www.aact.scot/feasibility-study>.

A Century of Remembrance and Service.

The Cenotaph

Annual remembrance services take place at the Cenotaph throughout the year. These include the regimental parade held by the Royal Tank Regiment on the Sunday following Remembrance Sunday. This is the closest to Cambrai Day (20 November), the anniversary of the Battle of Cambrai in 1917, that was one of the earliest massed deployments of British tanks.

On Anzac Day, 25 April, a Wreath Laying Ceremony and Parade is held at the Cenotaph at 11 am, followed by a Service of Commemoration and Thanksgiving at Westminster Abbey. An annual parade and service is also held by the Combined Irish Regiments Association to commemorate the war dead of the Irish regiments that were disbanded on 12 June 1922 after the First World War. This parade is now held on the Sunday in June that follows the Queen's Birthday Parade.

The Belgian Parade at the Cenotaph has taken place yearly since 1934 on the Sunday preceding the Belgian National Day (21 July). Belgium is the only foreign nation that is allowed to parade its troops in uniform and carrying arms in central London. The War Widows Association of Great Britain hold their Annual Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph on the day before Remembrance Sunday.

The Cenotaph had been designed to commemorate the British Empire military dead of the First World War, but this was later extended to include those that died in the Second World War. The dates of the Second World War were added in Roman numerals on the sides of the memorial (1939—MCMXXXIX; and 1945—MCMXLV), and the memorial was unveiled for a second time on Sunday 10 November 1946 by King George VI. The memorial is now also used to remember the dead of later wars in which British servicemen and servicewomen have fought.

Did you know that the sides of the Cenotaph are not vertical - if extended the lines would meet at a point 1000 feet above ground while the base is not horizontal either. It is actually part of an arc of a circle whose centre is located 900 feet below ground level. This concept is known as 'entasis' and can also be found in use of Stones of Remembrance also designed by Sir Edward Lutyens.

THEIR NAME LIVETH FOR EVERMORE



The Stone of Remembrance, Florence Cemetery, Italy

The Stone of Remembrance was designed by the British architect Sir Edwin Lutyens for the Imperial War Graves Commission (IWGC). It was designed to commemorate the dead of World War I, to be used in IWGC war cemeteries containing 1,000 or more graves, or at memorial sites commemorating more than 1,000 war dead. Hundreds were erected following World War I, and it has since been used in cemeteries containing the Commonwealth dead of World War II as well. It is intended to commemorate those "of all faiths and none", and has been described as one of Lutyens' "most important and powerful works", with a "brooding, sentinel-like presence wherever used"

The geometry of the stone structure was "based on studies of the Parthenon". Each stone is 3.5 metres long and 1.5 metres high. It was designed using the principle of entasis. This involved incorporating subtle curves into the design, so that the stone does not have straight sides, but has circular lines that if extended would form a sphere 1,801 feet and 8 inches in diameter. The effect of the stone monument has been attributed to its geometry: "...its curious power and symbolic strength derive from its careful proportions and the application of a subtle entasis to all its surfaces.

By the time of the War Graves Commission 1937 report, some 560 Stones of Remembrance had been erected for World War I cemeteries and memorials in France and Belgium alone.

The phrase inscribed on the stone, one of several suggested during the design phase, was proposed by the British author, poet and Nobel laureate Rudyard Kipling, whose only son had died in the war. Kipling's role was to advise the IWGC (now CWGC) on inscriptions and other literary matters, and the phrase used on the Stones of Remembrance is a quote from the Wisdom of Sirach.

William Robertson VC, OBE



Born in Dumfries in 1865 William Robertson joined the Army at the age of 19 enlisting in the Gordon Highlanders. After serving in India for some years he was posted to South Africa landing just two days after the Boer ultimatum to Britain. Injured during the defence of Ladysmith less than two weeks later where his actions led to the award of the Victoria Cross he was returned to England. He received his Victoria Cross from Queen Victoria at Windsor Castle, just over a month after his gazetting, on 25th August 1900. He was also awarded the Freedom of the Royal Burgh of Dumfries for his actions. He also received the Queen's South Africa Medal with clasps for Ladysmith, Elandslaagte and Cape Colony.

During the Great War, Robertson, who was too old to fight (despite wanting to), was a Recruiting Staff Officer in Edinburgh, for which he was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel and awarded the OBE. Robertson retired from the Army following the Great War.

After his retirement he became honorary treasurer of the newly founded Royal British Legion Scotland and later was the first Chairman of Lady Haig Poppy Factory then located in a wood chopping factory in the grounds of Whitefoord House on the Canongate.

The Factory had a Council, a Committee of Management and a Ladies Committee chaired by Lady Haig herself. Both she and Colonel Robertson devoted a great deal of their time to factory matters even going so far as to play the role of Sandwich Men, advertising sales of work along the length of Princes Street.

Colonel Robertson at the age of 82 finally resigned as Chairman of the Council having served 20 years during which time he tackled many tasks to promote the work of the Lady Haig Poppy Factory and its shops where a wide range of goods were on sale. He died on 6th December 1949, aged 84, in Edinburgh. He was laid to rest in Portobello Cemetery, Musselburgh, near Edinburgh. His medals are held by the National War Museum of Scotland at Edinburgh Castle.

Currently the Factory produces 5 million poppies and 10,000 wreaths annually .

When you go home..., the story behind the Kohima epitaph

Kohima is a hill town on the India-Myanmar border that between April and June 1944 saw some of the bitterest fighting of the Far East campaign, as British, Indian and Gurkha units, sustained by supplies dropped by the RAF, met and defeated a Japanese offensive intended to disrupt the planned Commonwealth advance into Myanmar and even enable a Japanese advance into India. The 2nd Division's war memorial in the Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery at Kohima bears the epitaph that has become synonymous with the battle:

*When you go home, Tell them of us and say
For your tomorrow, We gave our today*

Although now commonly called the 'Kohima epitaph' these words were not written to commemorate Kohima, but were composed at the end of the First World War by a Cambridge classicist turned wartime code-breaker.

John Maxwell Edmonds was born in Stroud in 1875. Recurrent bouts of polio delayed his graduation from Cambridge until 1898, after which he spent some years as a schoolmaster before returning to Cambridge as a lecturer in classics in 1908. He would spend the rest of his life teaching and researching at Cambridge, apart from what his Times obituary coyly described as 'absence in connection with military intelligence during 1918-1919'.

In fact, both Edmonds and his wife, Ethel, spent that 'absence' in London working for the War Office's code-breaking bureau, M.I.1(b). His exact role in M.I.1(b) is unknown, Ethel worked on the diplomatic ciphers of Scandinavian countries. They remained in M.I.1(b) until the summer of 1919, by which time it had been decided to combine M.I.1(b) and the Admiralty's 'Room 40' into the Government Code and Cypher School, the forerunner of GCHQ.

In February 1918 The Times published four epitaphs composed by Edmonds, including one titled 'On Some who died early in the Day of Battle':

*Went the day well? We died and never knew;
But well or ill, England, we died for you*

that would be much used in newspaper in memoriam notices and provided the title of the 1942 Ealing film 'Went the day well?'

By August 1919 Edmonds had composed a dozen epitaphs. Nine of these appeared in Inscriptions Suggested for War Memorials published by the

Victoria and Albert Museum in December 1919, including one intended 'For a British Graveyard in France':

*When you go home, tell them of us, and say
"For your to-morrows these gave their to-day".*

In 1920 all twelve were published by a small London press as Twelve War Epitaphs. To Edmonds' chagrin this printing changed what he considered the much more correct and effective 'tomorrows' of his original manuscript to the singular 'tomorrow', the version that became general usage. Modern renditions have moved even further from Edmonds' original, with the second line often given as 'For your tomorrow we gave our today', a reflection of the words now usually being spoken as an invocation rather than read as a memorial inscription as Edmonds originally intended.

Equally vexing to Edmonds was the popular belief that he had merely translated Greek originals - while he acknowledged that he had been influenced by the style and brevity of classical Greek epitaphs, his were original compositions.

Source - James Bruce, Researcher, GCHQ Authorised History

Alexander Davidson Stuart MC served in 7th Battalion Seaforth Highlanders and is commemorated on the Tyne Cot Memorial. On the award of the Military Cross the citation stated " For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of a company. He took over the front line under most trying conditions and a heavy barrage fire, setting a fine example to his men."

Reported in The Haddingtonshire Courier of 26th October 1917

'Roll of Honour. Lieutenant A. Davidson Stuart, Seaforths - Killed. Lieutenant A. Davidson Stuart, Seaforth Highlanders (killed in action), was the youngest son of the late Mr Alexander Stuart and of Mrs Stuart, 76 High Street, North Berwick. Lieutenant Stuart, who was thirty-one years of age, was employed previous to the war as an architect in London, in connection with the General Post Office. He was gazetted Second-Lieutenant in June 1915, and has been mentioned in dispatches. In notifying his death, the Colonel stated that he was commanding his company during an attack of the German line, and was killed after gallantly leading a completely successful attack on a German strong point

Commemorated on the North Berwick War Memorial, the North Berwick High School Memorial and on the St. Andrew's Blackadder Church Memorial.

One Man's War

An interview with (Ronnie) J B Stuart, first published in May 1985 in the magazine of Blackadder Church, North Berwick.

MH VE Day's 40th Anniversary has recently been celebrated. Where were you on 8th May 1945?

JBS I was on the outskirts of Wismar, a seaport on the Baltic, now in East Germany.

MH Why were you there?

JBS At that time I was with the 6th Airborne Division. We had previously crossed the Elbe in the final push to meet up with the Russians advancing from the East. It was in the lead up to the unconditional surrender of the German forces and the end of hostilities in Europe.

MH Could we go back to the beginning of it all? When did the war start for you?

JBS I was called up to the 4th Battalion Kings Own Scottish Borderers in January 1940.

MH When did you first see action?

JBS After Dunkirk and as part of the 52nd Lowland Division we were sent across to France (2nd Expeditionary Force) to reinforce the French forces which were being driven back after the fall of the Maginot Line. We landed at St Malo and made our way to Paris. We were just short of the city when France capitulated! We then had to make our way back to the coast. Fortunately one of the Padres was Nevile Davidson (then later Very Rev Dr Nevile Davidson) (Ed - son of the manse at North Berwick) who knew the countryside from his pre-war travels and he observed that the French Liaison Officer was leading us back to the enemy lines! Eventually we got back to Cherbourg, embarked and sailed for Blighty just as the Germans were entering the port.

MH Did you get back to France during the war?

JBS Yes, twice. The second time I was with the 21st Army Group who landed at Normandy on D Day. We landed on Sword Beach which was to the right of the Normandy Beach landings as you look at the map.

I had now transferred to the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers (REME) and was with the Mobile Anti Aircraft, Royal

Artillery as a telecommunications mechanic servicing mobile radar. My radar training was in 1942.

MH What was it like waiting to go that second time?

JBS Well we had been at a satging camp at Horsham before that - practising. We boarded the landing craft two days before D Day and sat on deck in the pouring rain all keyed up to go. Circulars from Montgomery and Eisenhower kept up morale during this time. We'd a grandstand view all the time of the aircraft going over. I must say I felt proud at the time to be involved. The planning was down to the last detail. We sailed at dawn on a calm morning and landed in the evening. We stayed overnight on Sword beach near Ouistreham, a small port. We had all out rations - iron rations. We gradually advanced to Caen then Dieppe on via Boulogne into Belgium. It was slow to start but gathered momentum, we were part of the liberation of Belgium in 1944.

MH Do any names spring to mind from this time?

JBS Well there was once a chap I met Jimmy Hunter who landed after me on D Day +5. We got talking and I discovered he knew my cousin Peter Williamson, a Paisley chap. We were together through Belgium. Later I introduced him to my cousin's daughter and they were married. I've kept in touch with him.

MH Where did you go after Belgium?

JBS We came back to London just before Christmas 1944. We were at Petersham over Christmas being taught radar for mortar- you used it to discover the source of the mortar fire. Then I joined the 6th Airborne Division near Salisbury. We had a session in Wales, the Brecon Beacons in fact, training. That takes us up to April 1945.

MH When did you go back for your third visit?

JBS In mid April we were sent by boat to Ostend. From there we went over the Rhine up to the River Elbe. Then on to Wismar as I said earlier.

MH What lasting impressions do you have of your war service?

JBS I suppose it is very similar to that of any man or woman who was in the forces during that period. I was no hero but was one of the fortunate ones who came back. I am sure there are many others (even in Blackadder) who had a more exciting time than I had.

MH I suppose during all the time you spent in France you'd be too busy to do any sightseeing?

JBS I have to admit we managed a visit to the Bayeux Tapestries in the Cathedral.

MH What was your worst moment?

JBS When we were being shelled. You never knew what was going to happen.

MH You must have wanted to forget a lot of what you saw?

JBS Yes. There were some terrible atrocities en route to Wismar. The Americans were on our right side, going up. The Russians were unpleasant and erratic - capturing our men when we advanced too far. Even the German civilians were afraid of the Russians. They pleaded with us to stay when we had to fall back to the demarcation line agreed with the Allied Chief of Staff. But that wasn't possible.

MH Can you remember where you were when word came that the war was over?

JBS We were in a house if I remember correctly. We heard it on a radio - a signal I mean. The ordinary Germans were glad and handed over their weapons. Than goodness we never came in contact with the SS.

MH You must have had some moments when you thought the war would never end?

JBS No. You always had the feeling you'd get the better of them.

MH What did you do after VE Day?

JBS I returned to Wilton, Wiltshire and packed ready for India. Then Japan surrendered and demobbing eventually started and I ended up at Brayton, near Selby, where I met Kath, my wife, who was serving with the ATS there.

MH Mr Stuart, thank you for sharing your experiences with us.

Note

Ronnie J B Stuart was the father of Liz Mack, (a member of the MSG congregation) and Alexander Stuart was JB's uncle.

The picture on the right shows the Monument to the Women of World War II erected in Whitehall, 2005 to remember the huge service and dedication of women in the War. At its unveiling a flypast of five helicopters and two fast jets were piloted by female crews.



And finally

Church Chuckles : Church-Related Diseases

- Frontophobia - A morbid fear of the front few rows in church. The patient is struck by an attack at the church door and collapses into the nearest back seat.
- Sermonic throat A dreaded choking caused by the start of a sermon. The patient unwraps a sweet slowly and noisily which often results in a complete cure.
- Double auricular clearance -A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and exit the other without any intermediate absorption. The condition is particularly acute during the preaching of a sermon.
- Response paralysis An infliction which causes a person to remain completely silent when it is announced that a key position in the church needs to be filled.
- Methodological Arthritis. Where a church is stuck in doing things the way they've always done them. Change (that is, movement) is painful, and it's seemingly easier not to take a step forward. What these churches often don't recognize is that standing still is also risky.
- Congregational Myopia. The congregation with this condition is near-sighted, focusing on themselves only. They have no vision for the future, and they fail to see that their current direction will likely lead to further disease and decline. Ask the leaders what their hope is for the church five years from now, and their description will sound strangely like the church in its current state.

An Irish Blessing

May God grant you a sunbeam to warm you,
A moonbeam to charm you,
a sheltering angel so nothing can harm you.
Laughter to cheer you, faithful friends near you
and whenever you pray, heaven to hear you.

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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