

# THE SHUTTLE



**Marchmont St Giles'  
Parish Church  
At the Heart of the Community  
February 2022**



**1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW**

## Meeting Matters

7.00pm Wednesday : Knit and Natter  
12.30pm Thursday : Lent Bible Study on Zoom  
(starting soon)

Email [kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk) for Zoom links

### February

- 13 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 20 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 27 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship

### March

- 1 2.00 Southside Guild at Craigmillar Park Church Hall.  
A talk about "*The Man who never was*".!  
The story of the Second World War man and the deception
- 3 12.30 Lent Bible Study starts on Zoom
- 6 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship  
Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle
- 7 19.30 Kirk Session
- 13 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship

### Front Page

First images of Spring : Snowdrops

## Reflections

Yesterday I saw my first snowdrops of the season. According to the Woodland Trust, snowdrops are not native to Britain and were not recorded as growing wild until the 18th century. They are thought to have been an ornamental garden plant from Europe, brought to Britain as early as the 16th century.

The flowering of snowdrops is a sign that winter is coming to an end and so the flower has often been seen as a symbol of hope and better times ahead. It also has an alternative name: Candlemas Bells, as it would often begin to appear on the 40th day after Christmas and would sometimes be used to decorate churches on Candlemas.

As the days gradually lengthen and the evenings reduce, there is a feeling that things might get better, but in the last month or so, news of increasing heating bills and food bills, give rise to concern and even fear about how things are to be afforded. We also seem to have a government incapable of understanding its own rules and guidance in terms of Covid and a potential war slipping in through the back door of Ukraine.

As people of faith prayer is required for the most vulnerable people in our community, for our leaders and decision makers and for ourselves. At the beginning of the year, many people take stock and wonder how they might improve their lives, but I would suggest that we don't need a diet regime. We will feel better about ourselves when we feel that we have joined in something greater than ourselves.

Throughout the Gospel, we have many examples of Jesus having a heart for people who are on the outside and he brings them in to the centre. He speaks to the woman at the well and heals the leper. He challenges the legalism which prevents people doing the right thing. He upsets the powerful as he will not play by their rules because, as he sees it, people always come before legalism. The Gospel is not for people who want to make their lives better, but for people who can't do anything about their condition, and to inspire those who can, to act and to pray. How can we join God in changing the world and the people of the world for the better?

We can begin by asking what weighs us down and what we need to get rid of and then find a way to release the burdens of others.

Larycia Hawkins teaches at the University of Virginia where she works with two projects: the Pluralism Project and the Race, Faith and Culture Project. Five years ago she worked at Wheaton College in Illinois, before they began formal proceedings to end the employment, as of one of their politic science professors.

She is a Christian, but in a Facebook post, she wore a hijab, to stand in solidarity of Muslims at the College, who were facing persecution, because of extremism. She said: "I stand in religious solidarity with Muslims because they, like me, a Christian, are people of the book, and as Pope Francis stated...we worship the same God." She had threatened their views and so they parted ways.

We know that actions have consequences, and I am glad for people like Larycia Hawkins who can give us an example of strength of character and faith, when we are sometimes fearful to act or to speak. We all need these role models in our lives and signposts along the way that good will succeed in the world – just like the first sight of the snowdrop.

Take care and best wishes,

Karen

## **CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS**

### **We offer our congratulations to**

Muriel Anderson's granddaughter, Robin, who gave birth to a son called Connor in December.

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

Dr Vera Williamson, a member of the Congregation, died on 16th December 2021

Mrs Jean Napier, an Elder of the Congregation, died on 1st January 2022

Mr Alexander Whitelaw, a member of the Congregation, died on 6th January 2022.

## **Notes from the Treasurer, Jessica McCraw**

Our financial year ended on 31 December and the preparation of the annual accounts is underway. Our aim is to have our income equal to our expenditure and in 2021 we achieved that.

During 2021 our total expenditure was just under £200,000. This equates to over £16,000 per month or approximately £540 per day. Those of you who have attended the Annual Stated Meeting will recall that costs include our Ministries and Mission contribution to the Church of Scotland, salaries for our employees, utilities, equipment and maintenance of our buildings and everything required to help the Church Centre, including the office and café to function. We cannot reduce these costs and in fact they are likely to increase during the coming year with the predicted increase in gas and electricity prices, plus planned maintenance work required on the building.

Our income streams are offerings and other donations, tax recovered on gift aid, rental income, dividend income from our investments, and during the pandemic we were able to access the Government's Job Retention Scheme which helped us to pay our employees while they were on furlough when our buildings were closed.

During 2021 we took part in the National Giving Day (which I wrote about last year), and all monies were very gratefully received. However due to the closure of our Church Centre our rental income was substantially lower in 2020 and 2021 than in 2019 which was the last 'normal' year. In fact, in 2021 rental income was less than one third of that in 2019.

I am grateful to everyone who donates, and especially want to thank those who made donations via the website, or set up a standing order because they could no longer give in person. I would also like to thank all those who revised their standing orders or online donations during the last year. If anyone wishes FWO envelopes for 2022 please could they get in touch (details on last page of Shuttle). If anyone wishes to set up a Standing Order, and you do online banking, our bank details are listed below, or if you wish a paper copy of a standing order mandate to take to your bank please ask.

Standing orders do not incur charges or costs to the Church but donating via the website or the card machine on a Sunday does. These costs are small, e.g. if you give £10 via the donate button on the website the Church receives £9.51. If you give £10 using the card machine the Church receives £9.83. I mention this in case anyone wishes to change they way they give.

Please consider completing using **Gift aid** form, if you have not already done so, if you are a UK tax payer as this increases any donations you give by 25%. If you would like a form please ask the treasurer.

Bank of Scotland: Sort Code 80-02-77:

Account number 00479646

Account name – Marchmont St Giles’ Parish Church

Please support our café which is run as part of the Church now. Every cup of coffee helps!

## Lectionary

### February

- 13 St Luke 5: 1-11
- 14 Psalm 120
- 15 Ezra 1: 1-11
- 16 2 Corinthians 1: 12-19
- 17 Genesis 43: 16-34
- 18 1 John 2: 12-17
- 19 St Luke 12: 57-59
- 20 St Luke 6: 27-38
- 21 Psalm 38
- 22 1 Samuel 24: 1-22
- 23 Leviticus 5: 1-13
- 24 Acts 10: 1-8
- 25 Deuteronomy 9: 6-14
- 26 St Luke 10: 21-24
- 27 St Luke 9: 28-36
- 28 Psalm 35: 11-28

### March

- 1 Ezekiel 1:1, 2:1
- 2 Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17
- 3 Exodus 5: 10-23
- 4 Acts 7: 35-42
- 5 Ecclesiastes 6: 1-13
- 6 Deuteronomy 26: 1-11
- 7 Psalm 17
- 8 Zechariah 3: 1-10
- 9 Job 1: 1-22
- 10 Genesis 13: 1-7, 14-18
- 11 Philippians 3: 17-20
- 12 St Matthew 23: 37-39

# AROUND THE AISLES

The donations of food, toiletries etc for **Richmond Craigmillar Church** continue to arrive and are relayed regularly along with any cash or cheque donations which are sent in. They are extremely grateful for our continuing support and are very concerned about the current news of food price increases and huge increases in energy prices in the offing and the impact this may have on their local residents. Please continue your support - *mony a mickle maks a muckle*

We can but hope that those who hold the nation's purse strings will take appropriate action to mitigate the effects on all us at a time when it seems that energy company shareholders are in a preferential position to normal consumers.

**Volunteers** are always welcome in Marchmont St Giles'. As we tiptoe towards resuming life with some semblance of normality thoughts in the church turn to the various tasks which together make the church tick. From operating the sound & video, meeting and greeting, helping with the Family church, coffees, helping with the flowers or singing in the choir or assisting in the cafe there's plenty opportunity to help the life of the church all through the week, please give your name to Karen or to David Beattie, Session Clerk if you can help. *Many hands make light work.*

The next meeting of the **Southside Guild** will take place at Craigmillar Park Church Hall on Tuesday 1st March at 2 pm when there will be a talk on "The Man who never was" ! All welcome



**Do you remember the Coronation?**  
Please share your memories in The Shuttle



**Last weekend saw the Accession of The Queen following the death of her father King George VI on 6th February 1952 .**

On a trip to Kenya 'she climbed the ladder to the treehouse as a princess, overnight her father passed away and she came down the ladder as a Queen', in the words of her Lady in Waiting, Lady Pamela Hicks.

Over the next fourteen months extensive arrangements were made for the Coronation to be held in Westminster abbey on 2nd June 1953.

THOUSANDS ATTENDED THE CEREMONY The Coronation service took place at Westminster Abbey and lasted for about three hours. There were 8,251 guests in attendance. The ceremony was comprised of six parts: the recognition, the oath, the anointing, the investiture (which includes the crowning), the enthronement, and the homage.

The ceremonial route was planned so that as many people as possible could see the procession which featured thirty thousand servicemen on parade. Some lucky people were able to watch the proceedings on televisions (in black and white) but at that time TVs were few and far between., most folks had to wait and see the Coronation in Pathe news or similar at the cinema.

I was just two months old at the time of the Coronation so have no memories but please share your memories of that time and record your version of social history in forthcoming issues of The Shuttle, pictures too if possible.

## A meditation based on Psalm 46 verse 10

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Peace be still.

Peace be.

Peace.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Peace be still.

Peace be.

Peace.

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am.

Be still and know.

Be still.

Be.

Peace be still.

Peace be.

Peace



The traditional hymn '*Abide with me*' has been replaced with the Indian patriotic song '*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*'.

Indian politicians and musicians are clashing over the decision to drop '*Abide with Me*' from the Indian Beating Retreat Ceremony.

As of 29 January 2022, the Indian patriotic song '*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*', which translates from Hindi to English as '*O' people of my country*', has replaced the British Christian hymn at the ceremony on the eve of the anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi.

Composed in Scotland in 1847 by Anglican Minister, Henry Francis Lyte, *Abide with Me* has been played at the Indian Beating Retreat ceremony on Republic Day since it began in 1950. The melody we most associate with the hymn was written by the English music editor, William Henry Monk 14 years later.

'*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*' was composed by Kavi Pradeep and C. Ramchandra in 1963 to commemorate Indian soldiers who died during the Sino-Indian War the year before.

Lyte wrote the '*Abide with Me*' while he was dying of tuberculosis, and the lyrics are drawn from the Bible verse, Luke 24:29,

*"Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."*

The last but one verse comes from the Bible again, but this time 1 Corinthians 15:55, which says,

*"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"*

The hymn went on to have great success after the minister's death two months later and became a favourite of both King George V and King George VI. Due to India's colonial past, the song also became a fixture in the country's own ceremonial repertoire.

Why has '*Abide with Me*' been dropped?

This isn't the first time that the hymn has been dropped from the Indian Beating Retreat ceremony. In 2020, it was missing from the programme for the ceremony, but due to the backlash it was put back into the line-up last minute.

Last year, '*Abide with Me*' was the only non-Indian tune played during the Beating the Retreat. Government officials have told

various media outlets that the change for 2022 to '*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*' was part of an "ongoing process of decolonising India".

It has been widely reported that the hymn was a favourite of social activist, Mahatma Gandhi, and his grandson has said in support of the hymn "The words are universal, the tune human".

Writing in the Hindustan Times, Gopalkrishna Gandhi said, "I do not believe the authorities can be so impervious to the song's aesthetic, spiritual and human appeal, so insensitive too to the feelings of those who love the hymn. Gandhi loved it."

What have the reactions been?

Based on the reactions across social media and broadcast platforms, there are some who disagree with '*Abide with Me*' being removed from the Indian Beating Retreat ceremony.

India's military traditions are intrinsically linked to the country's colonial history. Some argue this means that music with colonial roots such as '*Abide with Me*' should be replaced, while others suggest the tune is too important to the country's history to remove from play.

The song '*Ae Mere Watan Ke Logon*' commemorates Indian soldiers who died during the Sino-Indian War in 1962 and is considered to be one of the country's most popular patriotic songs.

Congress' Priyanka Chaturvedi asked whether in order to "re-write a new India", was it "important to let go of precious traditions?"



## Meet Ron.....



Ron, 102, has made a name for himself as 'the nicest, most humble man'.

Born on 29th November 1919, Ron was brought up in the West Coast of Scotland in the charming village of Plockton. The youngest of seven, his family were very close and all helped out growing their own potatoes, working around the house and making special memories playing music together, usually the accordion or fiddle.

Ron's father made his living as a crofter, but was so much more than that too. It gave Ron an appreciation for hard work that he then took with him in to his career as a joiner.

This changed however when Ron was drafted into the army at the start of WWII. It was a horrendous time as Ron was captured soon after landing in Singapore and spent the rest of the war as a prisoner of war in Japan, a time, Esther his niece relates, 'he didn't talk about until he came home in 2019'. She went on to tell some of the stories and how his experience as a joiner was a useful skill set to have in prison as it meant he was able to get more rice for his work, perhaps to keep him strong to do more work for them..

After the war he returned to his native Scotland and found himself in Lethen Estate, Nairn. Sometime later he met his wife to be, Pearl Stewart of Dulsie who originated from Canada.

They married and spent many years in Nairnshire together, eventually moving back to Canada in 1958. In Canada he was a member of the Forres and Nairn Society, playing the accordion and mouth organ and taking part in all the highland country dances in the area.

They had a fantastic life together, building their own house, had two gorgeous dogs, and spent time dancing together at the weekend "he was a very contented man" Esther says.

They lived together for many happy years, until sadly Pearl passed away in 2014. It wasn't long after this that he then lost his son, Stuart, to cancer at the age of 60. As you can imagine it was another incredibly difficult and isolating time for such a

family man. Being with family and loved ones is so important to Ron, so when his daughter in law, Mary, decided to move to the UK he decided at the age of 99 that it was time to return to land of his birth.

Ron travelled to the UK with his grandson, Mark where his nieces and others met at the Airport and took him directly to Whinnieknowe, the CrossReach Care Home, at Nairn where he had a warm welcome.

To give him the best support, Esther had been looking at care homes and found Whinnieknowe, a local home which she was able to secure for him.

It has been such a difficult time for Ron with so many changes let alone going into lockdown isolation just ten months after moving back to Scotland. He was really hoping to reconnect with people he knew from his past but found many are sadly now gone.

Even so, Ron was home in time to celebrate his 100th birthday with all his loved ones around him.

“We had a huge celebration for him turning 100, that was our last big party before COVID and the first lockdown just 3 months later” said Sarah, the Activities Co-ordinator at Whinnieknowe.

The introduction of lockdown and isolation meant he was unable to get out for exercise, speak to people and do things that he can talk to family about. Because of that, his mobility reduced and didn't really have anything to talk about which was hard for the family to see. Even through this Ron carries on.



Whinnieknowe is also involved with a project from Eden Court Theatre in Inverness, *'In your shoes'* which takes in Nairn, Aviemore, Tain and Thurso where people come together across the generations to share their stories through the medium of dance. Pupils at Nairn Academy are all set to visit residents at Whinnieknowe.

Using a combination of music from the 40s and 50s and Scottish music "In Your Shoes has really brought people together, as they've been able to find out what dance has meant to young and old.



# The Church of Scotland

## **We're seeking new Assembly Trustees**

If you feel that you have skills and time to offer or have previously held a trustee position or have experience of settings in which non-executives work alongside others, then we would be delighted to have an application from you.

Applications close 12 Noon on Monday 28 February.

Find out more and download an application pack:  
<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/vacancies-and-volunteering/become-an-assembly-trustee>

## **Elsie Inglis**

Elsie Inglis was a pioneering woman doctor who spent much of her life in Edinburgh. She founded hospitals for poor women, campaigned for the vote, and even set up entirely women-run hospitals on the front lines of the First World War. The War Office initially told her to “go home and sit still” – but Dr Inglis didn’t listen! She was so celebrated by the end of her life that she lay in state at St Giles’ Cathedral before her funeral in 1917, and the streets of the city were lined with tens of thousands of mourners saying farewell.

And yet in Edinburgh there are more statues animals than women so now there is a campaign to raise funds for a statue of Elsie Inglis. The Statue for Elsie campaign is working to put that right!

Along with a host of other fundraising events, this official walking/wheelchair friendly tour is helping to raise £50,000 to commission a statue of Dr Inglis for the Royal Mile. You can learn about Elsie Inglis and the Edinburgh Seven. £2 from every ticket sold will go to support this cause – not only to celebrate Elsie’s legacy, but to raise the very first statue of a named woman in Edinburgh city centre. For more information follow the link :-

Elsie Inglis Walking Tour <https://bit.ly/3HJFwFt>

And finally

## “Why English Is Hard to Learn”

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We'll begin with *box*; the plural is *boxes*,  
But the plural of *ox* is *oxen*, not *oxes*.  
One fowl is a *goose*, and two are called *geese*,  
Yet the plural of *moose* is never called *meese*.

You may find a lone *mouse* or a house full of *mice*;  
But the plural of *house* is *houses*, not *hice*.  
The plural of *man* is always *men*,  
But the plural of *pan* is never *pen*.

If I speak of a *foot*, and you show me two *feet*,  
And I give you a *book*, would a pair be a *beek*?  
If one is a *tooth* and a whole set are *teeth*,  
Why shouldn't two *booths* be called *beeth*?

If the singular's *this* and the plural is *these*,  
Should the plural of *kiss* be ever called *keese*?

We speak of a *brother* and also of *brethren*,  
But though we say *mother*, we never say *methren*.  
Then the masculine pronouns are *he*, *his*, and *him*;  
But imagine the feminine . . . *she*, *shis*, and *shim*!



— Anonymous

# MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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Office opening Hours : Tuesday to Friday 10am to 3pm

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