THE SHUTTLE

Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
December 2023 / January 2024



marchmont st giles
church of scotland

1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

December
10 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship - Nine Lessons and Carols
13 19.30 prayer Meeting - Vestry St Catherines Argyle
17 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship - Nativity with St Catherine's Argyle
19 12.30 Butterflies Plus - Christmas Lunch.
20 19.30 prayer Meeting - Vestry St Catherines Argyle
23 10.00 Christingle Making and Activities
24 10.30 Morning Worship
16.00 Christingle Service
23.00 Community Carols and Watchnight Service
25 10.00 Christmas Day Service
2
31 10.30 Morning Worship with Side Chapel Communion
January
7 10.30 Morning Worship - Epiphany
14 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship
21 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship
28 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship
February
4 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship

Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle

Front Page

Gifts for the children at Craigmillar

If anyone wishes to give a gift for a child in Craigmillar please bring them to the Church as soon as possible, wrapped with a tag, with the age of the child and if its for a boy/girl/unisex.

The gifts will be delivered to the school on Friday 15th December so please drop any donation as soon as possible to the church office.

Donations of food, toiletries, cleaning materials etc are always welcome and gratefully received for Fareshare at Richmond Craigmillar Church

Reflections

The Church lives with the continual tension between now and not yet. Christmas stuff has been in the shops since the end of August but for Christians Christmas does not begin until 24th December. Some people go away for Christmas and want to sing carols before they go while others don't want to sing them at all. Advent is the most important time when our focus should be on the waiting of generations for the Messiah to arrive and what it means to wait and expect. Then there are churches who sing carols all the way through and in some churches the decorations come down on 26th.

Whatever a Church chooses for December they are caught between a rock and a hard place.

It is no great stretch to acknowledge that 25th is based less on the actual historical birth of Jesus than on its proximity to the Winter solstice. It has long been acknowledged that Jesus was probably born in warmer times and the sacredness of the day is no greater or lesser than any other day. The sacred part is the Christian declaration that God is in Christ in radical vulnerability. God is doing a new thing and so hold onto your hats. And that is the challenge for us here and now. How do we get that same message out to a world who needs to hear about another way to live than we do now.

Advent lets us ponder the Gospel stories which do not simply jump into the Christmas story with the journey to Bethlehem. They begin with longing and waiting quoting the ancient prophets and we remember the long periods when the prophecies were not fulfilled as well as the times when faith is hard to maintain. Those times are at the heart of Advent.

The Christmas also has an important back story. God shows up later than wanted or hoped for. The decree from Caesar Augustus is part of the history of imperial domination but still they expect and wait

Luke describes Zechariah and Elizabethan aging and disappointed couple whose childlessness seem to represent Israel's lack of fulfilment.

Luke shows how young Mary's shock transforms into a song a faith and power called the Magnificat reminding us that sometimes anticipation and celebration sit together.

Matthew's story also reminds us of the longing and waiting. The Messiah comes and breaks the rules and the expectations of the faithful there and then. This is still a message we need to hear here and now.

And that is why Advent is important. Christmas has a story of anticipating waiting and struggling to hold onto faith. Before we can hear of the shepherds and magi first we must hear about people: the old who have lived with constant disappointment and the young who don't quite understand - yet. The manger must be empty for a while and we must sing of hoping and anticipation even if the shops are decking their halls and playing music that we know is reserved for that holy night and beyond.

Karen K Campbell

Moderator & Principal Clerk's New Year's Day Dook

Fundraising for Christian Aid

Christmas 2023: It's time to help young women shine!

Every woman deserves the chance to breakout of poverty. In Bangladesh, young women have been able to set up their own online business. Your gift could enable someone to shape their future. Christmas, will you help more young women shine?

On New Year's Day 2024, we've decided to brave the freezing cold waters at Broughty Ferry Harbour, in support of Christian Aid!

We're raising money to help more women let their light shine in their communities and lift themselves out of poverty.

Women and young girls in remote areas of Bangladesh, face the threat of enforced early marriage Through the help of Christian Aid's partners Aid Comilla, you can help more women in remotes areas of Bangladesh use their skills and knowledge to gain independence and ownership over their own income.

Lectionary

December
11: Psalm 27;
12: Isaiah 4:2-6;
13: Malachi 2:10-3:1;
14: Psalm 126;
15: Habakkuk 3:2-6;
16: Habakkuk 3:13-19;
17: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11
18: Psalm 125;
19: 2 Kings 2:9-22;
20: Malachi 3:16-4:6;
21: 2 Samuel 6:1-11;
22: 2 Samuel 6:12-19;
23: Judges 13:2-24;
24: 2 Samuel 7:1-11, 16
25: Isaiah 52:7-10
26: Luke 1:46b-55;
27: 1 Samuel 2:1-10;
28: Psalm 148;
29: Isaiah 49:5-15;
30: Proverbs 9:1-12;
31: Isaiah 61:10-62:3
January
1: Numbers 6:22-27
2: Proverbs 1:1-7;
3: Psalm 110;
4: Proverbs 3:1-12;
5: Proverbs 22:1-9;
6: Isaiah 60:1-6
7: Genesis 1:1-5
8: Genesis 17:1-13;
9: Exodus 30:22-38;
10: Isaiah 41:14-20;
11: Judges 2:6-15;
12: Judges 2:16-23;
13: 1 Samuel 2:21-25;
14: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20)
15: Psalm 86;
16: 1 Samuel 15:10-31;
17: Genesis 16:1-14;
18: Psalm 62:5-12;
19: Jeremiah 20:7-13;
20: Jeremiah 20:14-18;
21: Jonah 3:1-5, 10
22: Psalm 46;
23: Genesis 45:25-46:7;
24: Proverbs 8:1-21;
25: Psalm 111;
26: Deuteronomy 12:28-32;
27: Deuteronomy 13:1-5;
28: Deuteronomy 18:15-20
29: Psalm 35:1-10;
30: Numbers 22:22-28;
31: Jeremiah 29:1-14;
February
1: Proverbs 12:10-21;
2: Job 36:1-23;
3: Isaiah 46:1-13;
4: Isaiah 40:21-31
5: Psalm 102:12-28;
6: 2 Kings 8:1-6;
7: Job 6:1-13;
8: Psalm 50:1-6;
9: 1 Kings 14:1-18;
10: 1 Kings 16:1-7;

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

New Elders 2023

On Sunday 29th October the following members of the congregation were ordained into the Eldership and admitted to the Kirk Session of Marchmont St Giles'. Hannah Louise Chalmers, Lorraine June Mackenzie and Frances Ruth Naylor. All signed the Burgh Book as had Bruce Wilson Anderson, Tanya Louise Anderson and Sharon Ho who were ordained and admitted to the Kirk Session earlier in the year.

The Burgh Book is a unique historic document recording the elders who have been ordained in the Burgh Churches in Edinburgh for hundreds of years



We give thanks for the life and service of Mrs Diane Redhead (of Homeross House) who died on 19 November 2023, a member of the congregation and Ms Irene McDougall, (formerly of Homeross House) who died on Thursday 23 November 2023, a member of the congregation.

Defibrillator

In the September issue of The Shuttle we reported on the placement of a defibrillator at Marchmont St Giles' and since then we have been advised that it has been deployed on three occasions potentially saving lives in an emergency.

Locally the network of Defibrillators in the city, an initiative of the Order of St John Scotland has seen units located at St Catherine's Argyle, Whitehouse Grange Bowling Club on Hope Terrace, Warrender Swim Centre and more recently at the former Dog Aid Society office at the junction of Blackford Avenue/West Savile Terrace.

St John and the City Defibrillator Project

In Edinburgh, our volunteers run the St John and the City defibrillator project.

Launched in 2016, the project has seen dozens of defibrillators placed across Edinburgh and the surrounding area, including at Edinburgh Castle, one on each of the city's trams, and many other locations across the capital working with partners such as the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian.

AROUND THE AISLES

SCOTTISH WATER new sewer works at Marchmont Road
LATEST UPDATE - DECEMBER 2023
The works site will close down for the Christmas holidays from Friday 22nd December until Monday 8th January. However, the traffic management on Marchmont Road needs to remain in place due to the excavations in the road.
SEWER UPGRADE WORKS - MARCHMONT ROAD The area of roadworks southwards on the southbound carriageway were extended as of October 2023. We are currently tunnelling under Marchmont Road to connect the sewer pipes to the new tank on the Bruntsfield Links side. This has enabled us to work under a lane closure rather than a full road closure which has minimised disruption.
The extended section of the southbound carriageway of Marchmont Road will be closed until the end of March 2024. The closure will be in place between the junction with Melville Drive (A700) to the south of Warrender Park Terrace.
Traffic management will remain in place over the Christmas period.
The northbound side of Marchmont Road will remain unaffected.
Roseneath Place will remain open via Marchmont Crescent and Warrender Park Road.
The junction of Warrender Park Terrace and Marchmont Road will be closed with a diversion via Spottiswoode Street and Warrender Park Road.
Some parking restrictions will be in place near the working area.

BREAKING NEWS **Fresh Start**

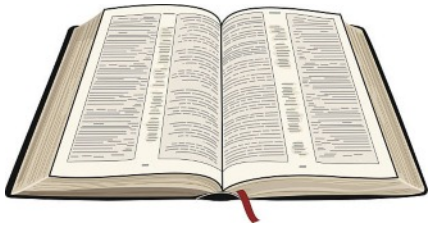
We need your help
Our shelves are literally empty and in desperate need of
Dinner plates Side plates
Bowls Glasses/tumblers Towels
for our essential starter packs. If you have any spare and in good condition that you no longer use, please drop them off at our warehouse at 22-24 Ferry Road Drive, Edinburgh EH4 4BR. We are open Monday-Thursday 9-4pm and Fridays 9-1pm.

Volunteer Vacancies

In 2024 Christian Aid Week will take place from 14th to 20th of May. This year Christian Aid Week will focus on the cost of living crisis faced by many people around the world. Locally the **Christian Aid book sale** will take place at the Morningside United ChurchHoly Corner. Watch this space for more information regarding other events dates and donations.

Butterflies Plus is looking for a couple of volunteers (male or female) to support the three teams currently running it. Duties involve being part of one of the teams and being available from 11.30 to around 2pm on a Tuesday every third week. We set up the tables, serve a two course meal to around 15 to 20 enthusiastic customers then clear up. A rewarding job.

If you would like to give it a go please contact the Church Office.



We will be joining St Catherine's Argyle for joint prayer meetings during Advent, to pray for our church families and for the world. The meeting times are as follows:

Thursday 7th December - Skye at MSG - 7.30pm to 8pm

Wednesday 13th December Vestry at St CA - 7.30pm to 8pm

Wednesday 20th December Vestry at St CA - 7.30pm to 8pm

We hope you can join us - in body or in spirit.

Matthew 18:20

"For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them"

Church of Scotland in Israel and Palestine

As we have watched the news coming from Israel and Palestine over recent weeks we have been devastated by the impact that the events have had on Israelis and Palestinians alike.

The events of 7 October and the subsequent crisis in Gaza are clearly major news but we have also become increasingly concerned about the situation in the West Bank where violence is also spreading rapidly.



An aerial view of St Andrew's Church in Jerusalem

The Church has a connection spanning more than 150-years with Israel and Palestine both through a physical presence with the Scots Hotel, the St Andrew's House Hotel, St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias and Tabeetha school and through our partnerships with churches and development organisations who are working in political and religious arenas for justice with peace in the region.

Around 160 local staff are employed by the Church in Jerusalem, Tiberias and Jaffa.



The Church Centre lived up to its name as 'The Gathering Place' on Saturday 9th December despite the best attempts of the Edinburgh weather to discourage visitors who turned up en masse to the Christmas Fair and Afternoon Tea. With jazz music supplied by 'After the Rain' and 'When and If' , stalls of various types selling a wide variety of goods from greetings cards, sweets, soaps, knitted/crocheted goods, honey, books of local interest and numerous gift ideas visitors would have had no shortage of interesting items to see/buy. Several of the stall holders were raising funds in aid of a variety of charities.

Grateful thanks to all the volunteers, young and the young at heart for their help to make the day a success.



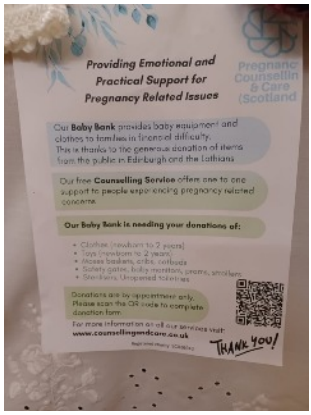







EDINBURGH'S
SOUTHSIDE




Providing Emotional and
Practical Support for
Pregnancy Related Issues
Pregnancy Counselling & Care (Scotland)
Our Baby Bank provides baby equipment and clothes to families in financial difficulty. This is thanks to the generous donation of items from the public in Edinburgh and the Lothians
Our free Counselling Service offers one to one support to people experiencing pregnancy related concerns
Our Baby Bank is needing your donations of:
Clothes (newborn to 2 years)
Toys (newborn to 2 years)
Moses baskets, cribs, cotbeds
Safety gates, baby monitors, prams, strollers
Steriliser, Unopened toiletries
Donations are by appointment only. Please scan the QR code to complete donation form
For more information on all our services visit:
www.counsellingmidcare.co.uk
THANK YOU!







Marchmont St Giles'

Christmas



10TH DECEMBER
9 LESSONS AND CAROLS
17TH DECEMBER
NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS EVE
4PM
CHRISTINGLE
11:00
CAROLSINGING
11:30
WATCHNIGHT
CHRISTMAS DAY
10AM
HOGMANAY
10:30
EPIPHANY
10:30

For more info, visit www.marchmontstgiles.org.uk


Butterflies Plus
Christmas Lunch At Marchmont St Giles
Tuesday 19th December at 12:30pm.
£12 for 3 courses.
To book phone 0131 447 4359
or email butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk
Starter;
Roasted Winter Vegetable Soup
or Prawn Marie Rose Salad
Main;**
Christmas Dinner Pie
or Asian Roast Salmon
Roast Carrots, Parsnip and Potatoes
Dessert;
Christmas Pudding in Brandy Sauce
or
Christmas Trifle
Tea or Coffee and a
Chocolate
**A vegan option is available.
If you have any food allergies or dietary requirements
please speak to staff when booking.

Christmas Collections at MSG

Each year the Kirk Session at Marchmont St Giles' nominates a charity to support from the givings made at our services over Christmas. This year the charity **Smile Train** has been nominated.

Smile Train is the world's largest cleft-focused organisation, with a sustainable and local model of supporting surgery and other forms of essential care. Over the last 20+ years, they have supported safe and quality cleft care for 1.5+ million children and will continue to do so until every child in need with a cleft has access to the care they deserve.

In addition to life-changing surgery, their local medical partners provide essential care, such as speech therapy, emotional support, nutrition services, and orthodontic care, to ensure that children have the opportunity to lead full and productive lives.

When Savannah was born with a cleft her mother, Anna, scoured the city for any help she could find but met only dead ends and shut doors.

Eventually Anna found what she had been searching for — and more than even she had ever dared imagine. A local social worker pointed her to Smile Train partner care centre Mabuhay Deseret Foundation, where he assured her Savannah would receive all the cleft treatments she would ever need, 100 % free.

Cruelly the Covid Pandemic intervened before action could be taken. Her family refused to give up helping her however they could, and neither did the team at Mabuhay Deseret. They constantly checked in on them, offering any advice they could for keeping physically and mentally healthy during those trying times.

Perhaps their most healing intervention was the promise they made: They would always be there. As soon as it was safe, Savannah received the cleft surgery she so needed.

With their help, Savannah gets to look in the mirror every day and see a bright smile. And an even brighter future.





And finally …….

They call us ”The Elderly”

We were born in the 40-50-60’s.
We grew up in the 50-60-70's.
We studied in the 60-70-80's.
We were dating in the 70-80-90's.
We got married and discovered the world in the 70-80-90's.
We venture into the 80-90’s.
We stabilize in the 2000’s. We got wiser in the 2010’s.
And we are going firmly through and beyond 2020.
Turns out we've lived through EIGHT different decades...
TWO different centuries… TWO different millennia…

We have gone from the telephone with an operator for long-distance calls to video calls to anywhere in the world.
We have gone from slides to YouTube, from vinyl records to online music, back to vinyl, from handwritten letters to email and Whats App.
From live matches on the radio, to black and white TV, colour TV and then to 3D HD TV.
We went to the Video store and now we watch Netflix.
We got to know the first computers, punch cards, floppy disks and now we have gigabytes and megabytes on our smart-phones.
We wore shorts throughout our childhood and then long trousers, Oxfords, flares, shell suits & blue jeans.
We dodged infantile paralysis, meningitis, polio, tuberculosis, swine flu and now COVID-19.
We rode skates, tricycles, bicycles, mopeds, petrol or diesel cars and now we drive hybrids or electric.

Yes, we've been through a lot but what a great life we've had!
They could describe us as “exennials”; people who were born in that world of the fifties, who had an analogue childhood and a digital adulthood.
We've kind of “Seen-It-All”!
Our generation has literally lived through and witnessed more than any other in every dimension of life.
It is our generation that has literally adapted to “CHANGE”.
A big round of applause to all the members of a very special generation, which will be **UNIQUE**.

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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