THE SHUTTLE

Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
May 2023



Esther Salzi, pea farmer, Malawi

Member of a co-operative with Nandolo Farmers Association, supported by Christian Aid



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

14	9.30	Junior Church
	10.30	Morning Worship
15	20.00	Kirk Session - Hybrid meeting - in person and zoom
21	9.30	Junior Church
	10.30	Morning Worship
28	9.30	Junior Church
	10.30	Morning Worship
June		
4	9.30	Junior Church
	10.30	Morning Worship
		Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle
11	9.30	Junior Church
	10.30	Morning Worship

The Shuttle takes its name from the process formerly involved in producing our church magazine in the days when a PC was a police constable or perhaps a Privy Councillor.

The team who produced each part of the magazine would do their part and pass it on for the next bit and so on and where cut and paste actually meant cutting out and gluing! Hence the shuttling to and fro.

Finally it was ready for duplicating on a Reisiograph prior to distribution to the members of the church.

Today it is produced on a PC and printed on 'a state of the art' copier machine which has the ability to produce larger print copies as required. As part of our commitment to a greener future it is posted on our website as a pdf document where an archive of past copies is available and it is circulated by email to members instead of printing 150+ copies each edition.. A link is also placed on our Facebook page.

Please contact theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk or call 668 1970 if you require any other information about The Shuttle.

Reflections

Welcome to the month of May.

'May' has two special birth flowers: the Lily-of-the-Valley and the Hawthorn. The 'Lily-of-the-Valley' represents the return of happiness and sweetness whilst the 'Hawthorn flower' is a symbol of hope. Both flowers are symbols, which point to the future during challenging seasons in our communal and personal lives.





They are in effect symbols of Resurrection in the midst of this Season of Easter.





Two weeks ago, we mounted the Post Box Topper across the road at the Co-op. It was a piece of work which brought people together to support each other and have a bit of fun. The Coronation Topper was not meant to be offensive to anyone, but for some reason during the Coronation weekend, it went missing, not once, but twice. Despite a plea on Facebook, it has not yet returned at the time of writing.

There was some online abuse about the amount of money spent on the Coronation and why the Church should con-

centrate on reducing poverty. As you know Marchmont is committed to doing this, and the amount of support which goes to Craigmillar is excellent, but as we know we could always do more. I write this through gritted teeth for several reasons. The Topper was not meant to make comment on the Institution of Monarchy, merely to mark an event and to place a smile on the face of the passers-by.

The kind of poverty which we see now, could be alleviated with a political will which is not present at the moment, if they were so inclined. However, we have a situation that some of the most vulnerable people are supported, not by the Government but by Third Sector organisations, including Churches. Christ tells us that we will always have the poor with us, but that does not excuse a lack of political will and it is important that we hold those in power to account for their choices, while at the same time providing support to vulnerable people.

The scientist, Professor Anthony Costello, a former director of maternal and child health at the World Health Organization, published a book titled 'The Social Edge'. His argument is that we look to big, complicated and technological solutions but we should harness the simplest of human units, with a common interest to solve issues through facilitated conversations. He argues for a science of co-operation, after studying such groups in Bangladesh, India, Malawi and Nepal and shows their power and ingenuity.

He calls them "sympathy groups", which sit between the government state of services and the individual. We believe as a Parish and sympathy group, we are actively supporting people, while also being a physical place which offers a unique space, as well as solace, relaxation and friendship to encourage well-being and health. Costello's argument is exactly what Christian Aid seeks to embody and promote.

This week is Christian Aid week and the Book Sales in St Andrew's and St George's West and Morningside United offer books and other things to tempt you as we support this important charity, whose work reaches beyond these shores.

Next week the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland meets at the Assembly Hall and hears important reports about the financial condition of the Church and how we as Congregations and members can be the Church in the time.

Prayers please for these endeavours as Commissioners seek to make decisions for the future, as we emerge from Covid and plan for the next stage on the journey.

Best wishes,

Karen K Campbell

Lectionary

May
15: Psalm 93;
16: Deuteronomy 5:22-33;
17: Deuteronomy 31:1-13;
18: Acts 1:1-11
19: 2 Kings 2:1-12;
20: 2 Kings 2:13-15;
21: Acts 1:6-14
22: Psalm 99;
23: Numbers 16:41-50;
24: 1 Kings 8:54-65;
25: Psalm 33:12-22;
26: Exodus 19:16-25;
27: Exodus 20:1-21;
28: Acts 2:1-21
29: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b;
30: Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29;
31: 1 Samuel 2:1-10
31: Numbers 11:24-30;
June
1: Psalm 8;
2: Job 38:12-21;
3: Job 38:22-38;
4: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
5: Psalm 29;
6: Job 39:13-25;
7: Job 39:26-40:5;
8: Psalm 33:1-12;
9: Genesis 14:17-24;
10: Genesis 15:1-20;

Services at Marchmont St Giles' - with all the audio visual gizmos available to us we are able to record our services on CD or DVD or send an email ith the lessons and sermons



By switching a hearing aid to T it is possible to hear any sounds broadcast on the church public address system.
There are a few points for users to be aware of to get the best outcome.

Sit closer to the walls rather the centre of the sanctuary;
Carry out regular maintenance on the aid and tubing;
Change the batteries frequently;
Check for earwax, local pharmacies can assist with that.

Marchmont St Giles Summer Fair

Saturday 15th July from 11:00

Made possible with the help of volunteers from Meadows Explorer Scouts, 44th Braid Scout Group, Marchmont St Giles Congregation & the local community.

Music, children's indoor play area.

Entry to market; Free

Afternoon tea tickets;

Adults; £10, Under 12s; £5, Under 3s; Free

Family ticket (2 Adult, 3 Under 12s); £30

Booking recommended.

For further information;

0131 447 4359

butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Vegan and gluten free options available.
If you have any food allergies or dietary requirements please advise us when ordering.

AROUND THE AISLES

Or along the bus routes!
Lothian Buses have announced that a number of bus routes will have revised timetables and routes across the city. Locally to us the 41 service will change from 28th May, it will become the number 9 service and have its route changed, starting as usual at Kings buildings on a 20 minute frequency it will follow the route we know until Potterrow when it will turn right into Nicholson Square and on through to Nicholson Street/South Bridge. From South Bridge it will travel over North Bridge, Leith Street, Broughton Street to Canonmills, Pilton then terminating at Muirhouse.
On Saturdays and Sundays the frequency will be 30 minutes.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of

Mrs Helen Gray, who died at the age of 105, on the 6th May 2023, a member of the congregation. Funeral 11.30am, 12th June 2023, Warriston Crematorium.

Mr Kenneth MacKinnon, father of Michelle and cseanair *(grandfather)* to Iona, who died on 24th April 2023 Funeral 1.00pm, Monday 15th May, Warriston Crematorium.

Lily of the Valley, also known as May lily, or May bells.

With a fresh, green scent that practically embodies the arrival of spring and stems lined with small, delicate bell-shaped flowers practically made for small bouquets and nosegays, lily of the valley flowers have long been associated with royalty and are used as symbols of love, motherhood, and purity.

France's Charles IX began the tradition of giving lily of the valley flowers for luck every May Day, and the flower was part of Queen Elizabeth's coronation bouquet in 1953, Kate Middleton's bridal bouquet in 2010, and has been a regular part of the floral displays at Buckingham Palace for the entirety of Queen Elizabeth's reign. It was her favourite flower

What is special about the lily of the valley?

Lily of the valley is steeped in legend. Some believe the small flowers actually formed from Eve's tears as she left the Garden of Eden, and the flower is mentioned several times in the Bible .

It's often seen at royal weddings, and not just in Britain. It's the national flower of Finland (and was the national flower of Yugoslavia), and in France, on May 1, for La Fête du Muguet, lilies are given to those you love as a symbol of luck and happiness. Perfume makers from Estée Lauder to Dior and more have used lily of the valley's unique scent in their perfumes. It's even the subject of a Queen song! *(see opposite page)*

What do lilies of the valley represent?

Lily of the valley has represented different things across the centuries. In the Victorian era, it symbolized a return to happiness. In ancient times it was associated with humility and purity, as well as the goddess Ostara (from whose name we get our modern Easter. It's also been associated with the Greek god Apollo, who is said to have created it so his nymphs would have a soft carpet to walk on. In contemporary times it is associated with motherhood and happiness, but most formally with spring, especially May.

Lily of the valley's scientific name is Convallaria majalis. It's a cool-weather woodland plant, native to Europe and northern parts of Asia, and is related to asparagus — though it is most definitely not edible.

What does the Bible say about lily of the valley flowers?

When the Bible refers to lilies, it's not talking specifically about Convallaria majalis. In fact, it's possible that the Bible is not even referring to more traditional types of lilies. Because flower names have changed so much over the years, and because different translations often compound confusion, it's difficult, if not impossible to know for certain which specific flowers are being referred to, and at one point "lily" was a name that simply meant a showy flower.

Convallaria majalis, in fact, was named lily of the valley at some point in the 16th or 17th century as a reference to Song of Solomon 2:1-2, which reads *"I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys. As a lily among brambles, so is my love among the young women*."

But that's not the only time the word lily appears in the Bible. Matthew 6:28 has, perhaps, the most famous reference to lilies. It reads: *"Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow, they toil not, neither do they spin."*

That same phrase, *"lilies of the field"* appears in Luke 12:27. The Songs of Solomon have a number of references to lilies. In 5:13 it reads: *"His cheeks are like a bed of balsam, Banks of sweet-scented herbs; His lips are lilies dripping with liquid myrrh."*

In 4:5 it reads *"Thy two breasts are like two young roes that are twins, which feed among the lilies."* and in 7:2: *"Thy navel is like a round goblet, which wanteth not liquor: thy belly is like an heap of wheat set about with lilies.*

I am forever searching high and low
But why does everybody tell me no?
Neptune of the seas, an answer for me, please
The lily of the valley doesn't know
I lie in wait with open eyes
I carry on through stormy skies
I follow every course my kingdom for a horse
But each time I grow old
Serpent of the Nile, relieve me for a while
And cast me from your spell and let me go
Messenger from Seven Seas has flown
To tell the king of Rhye he's lost his throne
Wars will never cease, is there time enough for peace?
But the lily of the valley doesn't know"
Songwriters: Freddie Mercury



For thousands of farming families in Malawi, pigeon peas are a route out of poverty. The mighty pigeon pea is drought resistant, so thrives in the dry fields of southern Malawi. It's an essential part of the diet of millions of people around the world.

This Christian Aid Week we share the challenges experienced by communities in Malawi. Covid, climate change, conflict in Ukraine and the cost of living crisis mean that in Malawi, soaring costs of food and essentials are crushing dreams, keeping people in desperate poverty.

But there is hope

Together with our partners, we empower vulnerable communities to find practical and sustainable ways out of poverty, including giving them the skills to:

- grow crops (like pigeon peas!) that are more resilient to the climate crisis
- restore soil fertility
- increase harvests
- learn business skills
- join co-operatives to earn more for their crops.

Esther Saizi, 54, joined her local pigeon pea programme run by Christian Aid partner, Nandolo Farmers Association, in 2019. By selling her peas as part of a co-operative she was able to earn much more for her crops. 'I was able to sell the pigeon peas at a better price with a better market,' she explains. 'It provided financial stability.' With her peas, Esther can bake delicious bread, support her daughter's dreams, and send her beloved grandchildren to nursery.

There is hope

And finally …….

Grateful for :

1	Early wake-ups	=	Children to love
2	House to clean	=	Safe place to live
3	Laundry	=	Clothes to wear
4	Dishes to wash	=	Food to eat
5	Crumbs under the table	=	Family meals
6	Grocery Shopping	=	£pp to provide for us
7	Toilets to clean	=	Indoor plumbing
8	Lots of noise	=	People in my life
9	Endless questions	=	Childrens' brains growing
10	Sore and tired in bed	=	I'm still alive!

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