THE SHUTTLE

Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
February 2024



marchmont st giles
church of scotland

1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

February

11 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship

18 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship

19 20.00 Business Committee

25 10.30 Morning Worship at St Catherine's Argyle

March

3 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship
Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle

4 19.30 Kirk Session

10 9.30 Junior Church
10.30 Morning Worship

Front Page

The Christmas Post Box Topper on Marchmont Road with its solar lighting

Reflections

This month we enter the Season of Lent – lent which owes its name to an old English word lencten, meaning spring season. Lent lasts for 40 days beginning on Ash Wednesday, excluding Sundays. Christians were encouraged to take part in fasting and abstinence, imitating the 40 days fasting of Jesus in the wilderness.

In the early Church these 40 days were used by candidates for baptism to prayer themselves for the challenges of acknowledging their Christian faith. Fasting was strict for hundreds of years, much like our Muslim brothers and sisters, who today take time to do so as a sign of their faith during Ramadan. Fasting is not part of our culture in this day and age, but I have often wondered what was lost with the Reformation? Perhaps we could learn from the discipline?

There are still some branches of the Christian faith who still take the discipline of fasting seriously, although fasting even ceased in the Catholic Church during the Second World War, being replaced by the practice of only eating fish on a Friday. There are people in the Church of Scotland who have introduced the idea that rather than giving something up for Lent, like chocolate or alcohol, that we take something up, like an ancient practice of charitable giving or commitment to health.

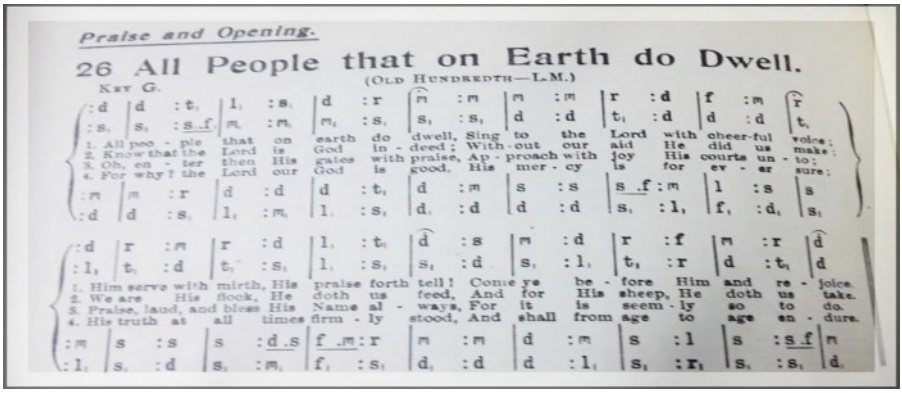
Another aspect of Lent has been the challenge to deny yourself, but to do so happily and without complaint. The tension between joy and sacrifice at this solemn time of the year can be quite a challenge and goes against our natural habits to complain when we lack. While giving up sweets for more healthy options is a noble endeavour, there should be more to Lent than losing weight. Lent should be encouraging us to grow closer to our understanding of Christ and how we live our lives by his example. Through this we will find joy and saying yes to others rather than our own needs.

Lent should be a conscious attempt to practice penitence and look forward to the Cross and Resurrection, while remembering that God loves us whether we make Lenten changes or not. Lent is a not only a time to deny ourselves; more than that, we need to welcome God into our lives in new ways, so that when we get to

Holy Week and Easter, we have a greater appreciation for the sacrifice God made for us.

I wonder what you might take up and do so with joy today.

Karen K Campbell



Praise and Opening.

26 All People that on Earth do Dwell.

(Old Hundredth—L.M.)

Key G.

:d	d	:t,	l,	:s,	d	:r	m	:m	m	:m	r	:d	f	:m	r	
:s,	s,	:s, f	m,	:m,	m,	:s,	s,	:s,	d	:d	t,	:d	d	:d	t,	
1. All peo - ple	that on		earth	do	dwell,	Sing	to	the	Lord	with	cheer-ful		voice;			
2. Know that the	Lord is		God	in -	deed;	With -	out	our	aid	He	did	us	make:			
3. Oh, en - ter	then His		gates	with	praise,	Ap -	proach	with	joy	His	courts	un -	to;			
4. For why? the	Lord our		God	is	good,	His	mer -	cy	is	for	ev -	er	sure;			
:m	m	:r	d	:d	d	:t,	d	:m	s	:s	s	f :m	l	:s	s	
:d	d	:s,	l,	:m,	l,	:s,	d,	:d	d	:d	s,	:l,	f,	:d,	s,	
:d	r	:m	r	:d	l,	:t,	d	:s	m	:d	r	:f	m	:r	d	
:l,	t,	:d	t,	:s,	l,	:s,	s,	:d	s,	:l,	t,	:r	d	:t,	d	
1. Him serve with mirth, His			praise	forth	tell!	Come ye		be -	fore	Him	and	re -	joice.			
2. We are His flock, He			doth	us	feed,	And for		His	sheep,	He	doth	us	take.			
3. Praise, laud, and bless His			Name	al -	ways,	For it		is	seem -	ly	so	to	do.			
4. His truth at all			times	firm -	ly	stood,	And	shall	from	age	to	age	en -	dure.		
:m	s	:s	s	:d .s	f .m	:r	m	:m	d	:m	s	:l	s	:s f	m	
:l,	s,	:d	s,	:m,	f,	:s,	d,	:d	d	:l,	s,	:r,	s,	:s,	d,	

Recently the question was asked on social media'what is this?'

Answer Tonic Sol fa - a style of music notation using the letters for the notes of the scale.

As ever this prompted other searches on the internet or jolted memories such as Moody and Sankey - American evangelists who attracted vast audiences to their revivalist meetings in the USA and on their visits to Britain. In the late 1800s they visited Scotland on several occasions and at one point a link to Horatio Bonar -

November 1873 "Soon an invitation was handed the Americans, and after much prayer they set out toward Scotland. Both of them were a little bit nervous. Sankey knew that Horatius Bonar would be there, and this caused him some anxiety. There was no musician he respected more than Bonar. How would he ever be able to sing in his presence? More than this, Sankey knew that the Scotch people were deeply prejudiced against "human hymns" and that they had not had organs in their churches for three hundred years*. Moody, too, was a little fearful, because he knew that the Scotch preachers were great lovers of theology, and his own was a little on the sketchy side."

** It was only in 1880 that an organ was installed here at MSG.*

Lectionary

February

12: Psalm 110:1-4;

13: Job 19:23-27;

14: Ash Wednesday

15: Psalm 25:1-10;

16: Daniel 9:15-25a;

17: Psalm 32;

18: Genesis 9:8-17

19: Psalm 77;

20: Job 5:8-27;

21: Proverbs 30:1-9;

22: Psalm 22:23-31;

23: Genesis 16:1-6;

24: Genesis 16:7-15;

25: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

26: Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45;

27: Genesis 22:1-19;

28: Jeremiah 30:12-22;

29: Psalm 19;

March

1: Acts 7:30-40

2: Mark 9:2-8

3: Exodus 20:1-17

4: 1 Corinthians 3:10-23

5: Hebrews 9:23-28

6: Mark 11:15-19

7: Ephesians 1:3-6

8: Ephesians 1:7-14

9: John 3:1-13

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of

Rosemary Kinghorn, an elder of the congregation, who died on 10th February 2024.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

Thank you to all who attended our services over the Christmas period. As is our practice collections at this time of year are donated to charity, this year it was in support of Smile Train, a charity which works with surgeons to give children a smile after being born with a cleft.

The sum raised this year was £688 which will be sufficient to provide cleft surgery for four children and later support with speech, dental care and nutrition.

Let there be light



In the coming weeks we will undertake a project to improve the lighting within the church. The work will continue for about six weeks while our Sunday morning services are held in the Inchcolm Hall with the exception of 25th February when we will join St Catherine's Argyle for Morning Worship



The Arctic Cowboys

Late last year newspapers reported on an expedition to navigate the North West Passage, on reading an article a connection to Marchmont St Giles' was found. Mark Agnew, son of Crispin and Susie Agnew, is a UK adventurer notable for kayaking the Northwest Passage. Mark was awarded European Adventurer of the Year 2023.

Mark and three teammates kayaked the Northwest Passage. Mark, expedition leader West Hansen, Jeff Wueste and Eileen Visser, known as The Arctic Cowboys, were in two tandem kayaks, supported by their shore team Tom McGuire and Barbara Edington. They are the first people to kayak the entire Northwest Passage, and the first people to complete the route by human power, without the use of sails or motors, in a single season. They kayaked from Baffin Bay to the Beaufort Sea, the recognised boundaries of the Northwest Passage as defined by the International Hydrographic Organization. They experienced extreme cold and dangerous polar bear encounters as well as mountainous waves from time to time.

AROUND THE AISLES

Butterflies Plus Christmas Lunch was full to capacity and enjoyed by all.

45 diners enjoyed their Christmas lunch on the Tuesday before Christmas. Everyone expressed their appreciation for all the work the kitchen staff and volunteers do to provide the lunches at Butterflies Cafe year round.





The Christmas postbox topper 2024.





We had some very encouraging remarks as Karen and I installed it.

From older ladies, young mummies and teenager boys they all appreciated the work put into them and said how much they enjoyed seeing them.

As shown on the front page this topper also had some solar lighting fitted.

Sharon Ho

Plans continue for toppers throughout the year including a project to identify the locations of post boxes throughout the parish and roundabout. For the purpose of the project the boxes set into walls have been discounted .

1 Marchmont Road

2 Marchmont Crescent

3 Warrender Park near Margiotta's (Double box)

4 Blackford Post Office

5 Junction of Grange Loan/ Findhorn Place (Square Box)

6 St Albans Road/ St Thomas Road

7 Grange PO

8 Mayfield Road at AS Mini Market

9 Sciennes Road

10 Grange Loan/ Blackford Avenue

11 Fountainhall Road/ South Lauder Road

12 Falcon Avenue

Please advise if you know of any other boxes in the parish or nearby



On a less happy note than the fun and joy of post box toppers concerns have been voiced recently about potential Royal Mail plans to close the Edinburgh South Delivery Office on Strathearn Road. Local community councillors and Ian Murray MP have all raised these concerns with Royal Mail but there seems no definitive response thus far. The plans suggest an alternative Delivery Office as being Russell Road which even by car represents a challenge in getting there.

In recent times mail services have seen a huge drop in letters post through the use emails and social media while packets and parcels have seen huge increases from online shopping etc. Most customers would make use of the Delivery Office to collect missed deliveries or to return packages or the use of a newer service to post via the Delivery Office.

Oft times it's the older generation who remark on the decline in service standards during their lifetime sadly the age of customers who can now make such comments about Royal Mail would include many in early middle age and particularly over the last dozen years since privatisation which has seen some £2 billion paid out in dividend while services to customers declined across the country.

As one newspaper headline stated recently "Royal Mail delivers for its shareholders, but not for us"

Ian Murray MP has arranged an online petition against the local plans, we are seeking to have a copy in the church centre

A Church of Scotland elder who spent 17 years translating the Bible into Doric has addressed the Scottish Parliament.

Mr Gordon M Hay, who is also a member of Longside Parish Church and an organist, spoke during Tuesday's Time For Reflection, a weekly session which takes place whilst parliament is sitting, becoming the first to do so in Doric.

The Bible translation is the first time the entire text has ever been published in Scots or any of its dialects, and was recognised with a motion laid down by Jackie Dunbar MSP in June of 2023 which praised Mr Hay's "impressive dedication required to achieve this scholarly achievement" and "his contribution to promoting the Doric language and making religion more accessible".

Reflecting on the opportunity to speak in front of MSPs, Mr Hay said he was "honoured", particularly as his invitation from Ms Dunbar included a request that he read from the translation.

A Church of Scotland member since childhood, last year he was awarded a long service award marking 30 years as an elder.

Mr Hay's address in full:Presiding Officer, members of the Scottish Parliament, thank you for the invitation to share in today's Time for Reflection.

This comes from my having produced the first translation of the Bible in any variant of Scots, 640 years after the first English translation.

Let me share a couple of excerpts.

Firstly, why do we speak different languages? Genesis explains:

Noo, at ae time e hale warl aa spak e same tongue an e same wirds. 2 As fowk wannert aboot i the east, they cam on a bit o flat grun aboot Shinar an sattlt there.

3 They said tae een anither, "Come on, an mak a puckle bricks an fire them hard." Sae they hid bricks for biggin wi, an dubs tae haud them egither. 4 Syne they said, "Fat sorra idder, we'll bigg wirsels a gran toon wi a muckle tooer wi e tap o't raxin up tae hivven, an we'll mak a name for wirsels for fear we be scattert ower aa e warl."

5 Syne e Lord cam doon tae see e toon an e tooer att they fowkies hid biggit. 6 An he said, "Here they are, ae fowk wi ae tongue an

iss is jist e start o't, seen they'll be able tae dee onythin they wint. 7 Come on, we'll gyang doon an mak a mixter-maxter o their wirds an they winna ken fit een anither's sayin." 8 Sae e Lord scattert them awa fae there ower e hale warl an they stoppit biggin e toon. 9 Att's e wye it's caaed Babel cause e Lord made a babble o the spik o aa e warl;

and from Ecclesiastes:

Aathin his it's sizzon, an for ilka thing ye dee aneth e hivvens there's a time:

A time tae be born, an a time tae dee; a time tae shaav, an a time tae hairst; 3 a time tae dee awa wi, an a time tae mak aa better; a time tae pu doon, an a time tae bigg up;

4 a time tae greet, an a time tae lauch; a time tae moorn an a time tae dance; 5 a time tae scatter steens, an a time tae gaither them up; a time tae gie a bosie, an a time tae haud back fae gien a bosie;

6 a time tae sikk, an a time tae tine; a time tae haud on tae things, an a time tae fling awa; 7 a time tae rive, an a time tae sort; a time tae be quait, an a time tae spik oot;

8 a time tae loo, an a time tae hate; a time for waar, an a time for peace.

Words written some 2500 years ago but still very pertinent today.

This edition of the Bible can be found in the collection of National Library of Scotland. The Bible has been central to the development of the printed book and claims the position of the first book to be printed using moveable type. Demand for copies in the original Hebrew and Greek, and in Latin and vernacular translations drove the book trade across Europe. The National Library of Scotland's holdings provide evidence for all of these points.

Murdoch Nisbet produced a Scots version of the New Testament, translated from the Wycliffite Bible of John Purvey, between 1513 and 1539, but it remained in manuscript, known only to his family. Now published by the Scottish Text Society, it is available on the open shelves of the General Reading Room

The first translation of the New Testament into Scots from the original Greek was produced by William Lorimer and published posthumously.

The Tower of Babel

Genesis Chapter 11

Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, "If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel — because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth.

A Time for Everything

Ecclesiastes Chapter 3

3 There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: 2 a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3 a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build,

4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5 a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

6 a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7 a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak,

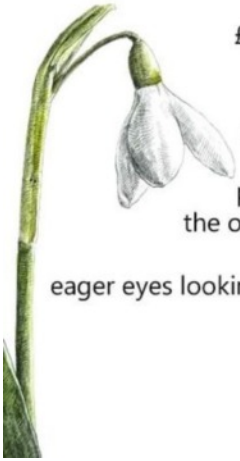
8 a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

The City of Edinburgh Council recently took decisions which will have far reaching consequences for those of of us living on the south-side of Edinburgh who rely on a car for mobility.

Plans to develop a tram line from Newhaven to the BioQuarter at Little France were approved subject to finance.

North Bridge and South Bridge will be closed to cars, as will King George IV bridge and the Mound. Travel from the south side to the city centre and the north side of the city will be via Lothian Road - if vehicles are compliant with the Low Emission Zone (LEZ). Vehicles which are not LEZ compliant will need to take a much wider sweep east or west of the LEZ with the east side being difficult as there may be plans to change access to and through Holyrood Park

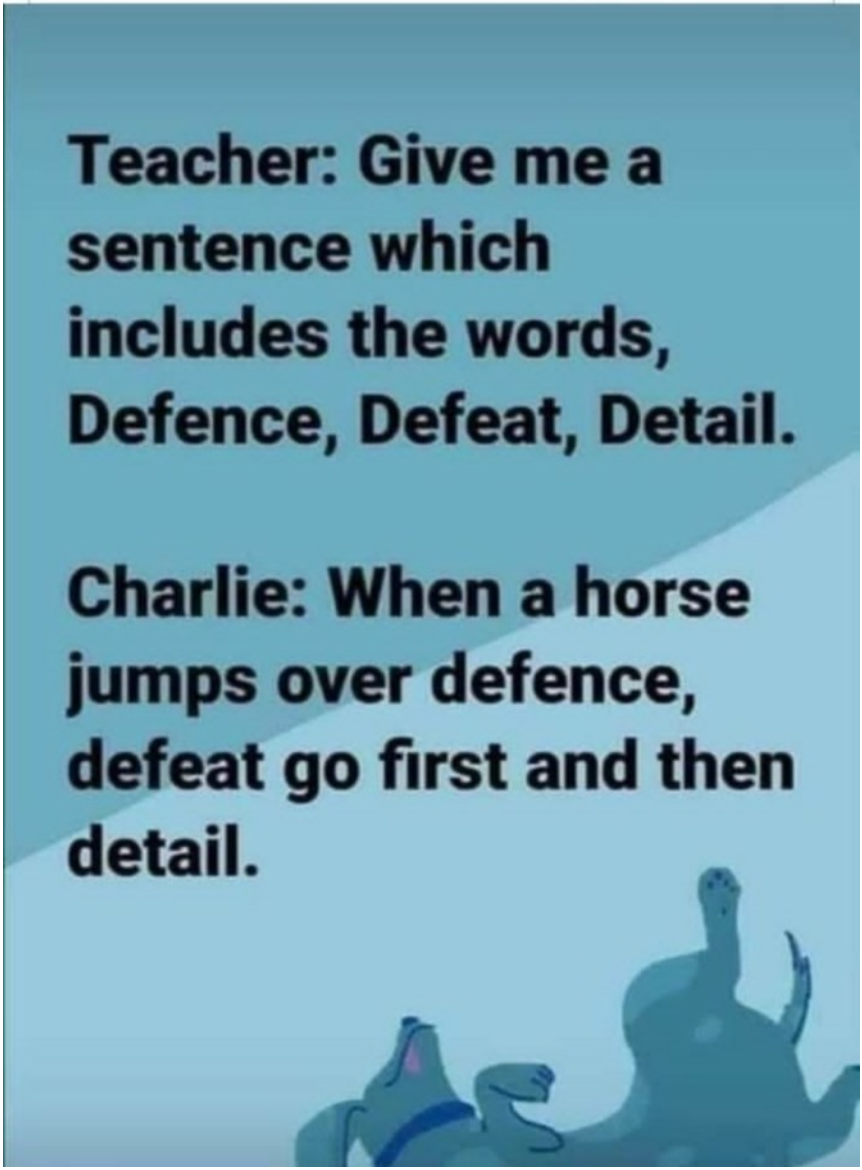
February



fed up of being bundled up
peak snowdrop, early crocus
will there be proper snow for sledging this winter?
time to start flirting (lots of love)
the birds getting noisier
£1 daffodils in the supermarket
rooks roosting
swans in flooded fields
pancake day (Lemon & sugar)
calpol
primroses, aconites, hellebores
the official start to hot cross bun season
fresh piles of molehills
eager eyes looking for hopeful signs that the warmth is coming
longer days

And finally …….

Smile and the world smiles with you!



MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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