The magazine of Blackford & Grange Parish Church Edinburgh

Winter

November - December 2026



Blackford & Grange Parish Church

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***Cover**: a selection of items knitted by the Mad Hatters and the Knit & Natter group. The adult beanies are destined for distribution to local homeless people via the Bothy charity, and the baby hats will go to premature and newborn infants in the Ukraine via Rotary International. Image: Elizabeth Clark*

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A message from Karen



At 11am on 11th day of the 11th month 1918, the First World War ceased. The War had left 1,000,000 British people, including civilians dead.

In 1919 the King responded to the national mood, by agreeing that the observance of the Armistice should be for the survivors and the widows and orphans at marketplaces in every town and village – a communal act of remembering of every person, of every faith and none: a time of silence and remembering. We have maintained the same pattern since then.

'They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them.'

The Cenotaph in Whitehall, which was erected for a victory parade in 1919, became the national focus of Britains remembering, and 1920, the Unknown Warrior was returned from one of the First World War battlefields and given a State funeral, as an emblem of the national loss, while all their loved ones remained abroad.

The Poppy, seen so often full of life and colour on the grey battlefields around the world, became Britain's symbol of remembering. Earl Haig established the Royal British Legion, to care for the men, women and families who live in the aftermath of war and to engage in Remembrance events.

At Remembrance I remember Irene, a Land Girl – whose war was spent on farms in East Lothian. She didn't talk about the back breaking work – she talked about legging it out the bedroom window one night to sneak off to the local American Airforce base

for a dance – and when she returned that night – she got into trouble for it.

I remember Jean who was in Bruges on VE Day and received the signal that the war was at an end.

Then there were two women, Maud and Caroline, who had won crossword competitions and were recruited for Bletchley Park and only began to talk about their war, when they lived with dementia – because they forgot that they had been told that if they mentioned their war work, they would go to prison.

I remember two men who found life too difficult, one who served in The Falklands and one in Afghanistan, each who needed support from many medical and social work professionals and charities to make life more tolerable.

I remember Ken, who was wounded at Monte Cassino. His unit went into a bombed-out building. Half of them were killed, but Ken was wounded. He was put on a stretcher, and they proceeded up the road.

As each mortar came in, the stretcher bearers dropped him and the stretcher on the road and dived into the gully at the side. This went on several times, until he pointed out that they were heading towards the enemy. So, they turned around and the whole palaver began again.

Soon he was picked up by an American jeep and taken to a US Field Hospital, where he was given Penicillin, and he always said that he was one of the first Brits, to get a drug that the Brits didn't have at the time and it saved his life. He was then shipped to a Hospital in North Africa.

One of the Queen Alexandra Nurses there was Sadie, who helped nurse him back to health. She was soon to leave Africa and travel with her unit through Sicily, onto Italy, France, and Belgium – and like Ken would witness unimaginable suffering. Sadie returned to Italy years after with colleagues from that time and they visited the graves of the boys whom they had nursed who died.

Sadie and Ken didn't see each other for 50 years, before they became next door neighbours in their retirement complex. Each with their own stories, memories and nightmares which never left.

Before Ken got home, for 10 weeks, Ken's wife had a telegram which read,

'missing presumed dead'. He used to say that this is why he did the shopping and cooking, to make up for the hell she went through.

Those who have experienced war, rarely talk about the horrors. When they do, they might tell funny stories, with all the horrors there in plain sight. You may have your own stories of family or friends who gave of their all in many battlefields around the world.

The Christian faith calls us to be the hand of hope and love when all seems lost – it is the very meaning of Resurrection – when all was gone – and Jesus' followers had come with oil to prepare his body for death and burial – he met them in the Garden and told them, 'do not be afraid' or when he broke the bread on the road to Emmaus and they recognised him and it galvanised them to realise that whatever we face – God is with us.

On Remembrance Sunday we pray for peace, in the name of the Prince of Peace, so that young and old can live fully and hopefully and be part of creating a world where people are free to walk down streets not fearing that drones might kill them, and children can play freely, and we can all live how we want.

Karen



Copies of the final issue of ReidOn... December 2025 – the final issue of the Reid's magazine, with its tree on the cover – are still available in the church.

Christmas tree lighting
at Reid Hub

Now that the clocks have changed, we really see a difference, and we know Christmas is just around the corner. It will soon be time to put up our Reid outdoor tree, and as in previous years, we need an audience to see it being switched on. This year the lighting ceremony will take place on ***Sunday 6th December at 6pm****. There will be carols, refreshments, Christmas pies & fun. Why not come along? Put it in your diary.*

Susan Mackay



Hello!

I'm Carol Christie, Probationer Minister. I started my probationary placement with you at Blackford and Grange at the beginning of September, and I'll be with you for fifteen months. Some of you might recognise me as I did my discernment placement at Reid Memorial back in 2022 and I've been back a few times to take services since then. I've enjoyed other placements in West Lothian, Dunfermline, and the Borders, but it's nice to be back in Edinburgh for my probationary placement.

I first felt a call to ministry a long time ago – over twenty years ago. I kept trying to ignore it, but God wouldn't let me. And so here I am, better late than never!

Brought up in Lanarkshire, I grew up in the church, going to Sunday school and Bible class, becoming a member when I was a student first time round, studying modern languages at Glasgow University. I put my languages to good use when I got my first job in Luxembourg – and that was also where I met my husband. When we came back to Scotland, I worked in Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Inverness mostly in financial services. I took a career break when my children were small, to look after

them and to do some writing and I've had short fiction and a children's novel published.

I've been an elder for twenty-five years and have had various roles in the church, including Sunday school teacher, mission committee convener, session clerk, and church administrator. And then for the last three and a half years I've been a candidate for ministry. I started out training as an Ordained Local Minister but transferred to what used to be called Full-Time Ministry of Word and Sacrament (a bit of a mouthful!) last year.

I live in Corstorphine with my husband and I have two grown-up children, a daughter, and a son. In my free time I like reading, writing, walking, swimming, knitting, and listening to music – although not necessarily all at the same time.

I'd like to say a big thank you for making me feel so welcome at Blackford and Grange and I'm looking forward to learning lots from you, as I continue to work with you and get to know you better over the next year or so.

Carol Christie

Advent Study

Do you ever wish you had more time to really prepare for Christmas? Do you ever find Christmas Day arrives before you've had the chance to do the build-up? Do you ever get to Christmas and think you're not quite ready for it? Come along to the Advent Study group where we will be thinking about what Scripture has to say to us about waiting, getting ready and preparing ourselves to celebrate God coming into the world.

Blackford and Grange Marchmont Hub in Inchkeith / Inchgarvie on **Tuesday evenings** at 7:30pm: 24th Nov, 1st Dec, 8th Dec and 15th Dec.

For more information speak to **Carol Christie**
or email **cchristie@churchofscotland.co.uk**

Following the



On a stormy day in September I travelled from Edinburgh to Iona. After pitching my tent I headed to the bay on the south coast where St Columba landed with a group of Irish monks in 563. As a symbolic gesture, I carefully reached out to touch the edge of the waves with my fingertips. The sea had other plans. An enormous wave crashed in and soaked me from the knees down. A fitting baptism for the start of a journey that will involve a lot of getting soaked and putting up with wet feet.

I was setting out on the first leg of a pilgrimage following St Aiden from Iona to Lindisfarne, a journey that I plan to complete in sections over the next few years, taking time out from work and family whenever opportunities arise. This initial leg was a short one. I had a day to explore Iona and then two days to cross Mull, before joining my family for a long weekend in Glencoe.

The next day was a return to summer. I bookended my day with services in the

Celtic Saints



Abbey and the Bishops House. Between these I climbed Dun I, splashed my face in St Brigid's 'well of eternal youth', explored the beaches and swam in the sea… I even managed to dry out my shoes.

The next day dawned wet and windy, and it was a bumpy ferry ride back to Fionnphort. The first proper walking leg of my pilgrimage was along the southern coast of Mull. There are no paths along the western end of the Ross of Mull and its very rough and boggy. Walking along the main road was not an attractive option either. So I got a lift to Pennyghael then walked to Carsaig Pier. From there I took a detour to the Nun's cave. St Columba banned women from Iona, so I thought that I should address this historical gender inequity. The cave is now home to goats, and its floor is thick with their droppings. But its array of carved crosses tells of earlier inhabitants and dates back to the time of the early Celtic church.

I then continued eastwards along the coast. The day was very wet, and the route

was very rough. It alternated between squelching through bog and scrambling over slippery boulders. The first river crossing went up to my calves, the second up to my knees, the third up to my waist. I was very glad of the sturdy stick I had found to hold myself against the current. Without it I would have been taking another sea swim, together with all my camping kit. Eventually I reached a land rover track and started to meet other walkers coming from Lochbuie. When they said that there was a community campsite, I thought that I might stay there. But on arriving at the roadhead I found only churned up mud and monster campervans… a very different take on camping! So I continued onwards to find a quieter spot in the woods beyond. The last day was drier and more straightforward, walking along Loch Uisg and Loch Spelvie then catching the bus along the final section of main road to Craignure, and the ferry back to Oban.

It was only a few days but gave me a great mix of solitude and company, prayerful reflection and challenging adventure, white sands and black cliffs, calm azure seas and raging slate-grey waves. But what I enjoyed most was meeting others and exchanging our travellers' tales, about where we had come from, where we were going, and why.

So where to next? Others following St Aiden have going inland- via Loch Awe to pick up the West Highland Way. But after reflecting on my first leg I think I might take an island-hopping route, working my way down the Argyll coast via Colonsay, Islay, Jura, the Mull of Kintyre and Bute then heading to Glasgow Cathedral to pick up St Kentigern's way. This is less "purist", with CalMac taking much of the strain. But it's probably a more accurate retracing of St Aiden's route, which would have been largely by boat (albeit a small coracle made of hides). And it would be more in the spirit of St Aiden. He was renowned for walking the roads so that he could talk about the Gospel with people he met on the way. Walking on modern roads offers very few opportunities to meet people. It mainly involves jumping into ditches as they whizz past in their cars and campervans. Ferries, however, offer great opportunities for conversation. So next time I find a few free days I'll be heading back to Oban with my tent to see where the ferry takes me and what conversations it leads me to.

Ruth Naylor

In Flanders Field

This poem by John McCrae was first published in Punch magazine in 1915. It soon came to symbolise the sacrifice of all who died in World War One. Today, the poppy remains an important symbol of all those who have sacrificed their lives in conflicts over the years.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly

Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.




St. Margaret of Scotland

St Margaret of Scotland
Feast Day 16th November

Some women have power, and some women are good. When a woman with power is also good, she can achieve an astonishing amount.

Margaret of Scotland has been called 'The Pearl of Scotland,' but she began life in Hungary about 1045. She was born to the expatriate English prince Edward the Exile, and so was an English princess. The family returned to Wessex in 1057, when she was 13, and following the death of King Harold II at the Battle of Hastings in 1066, her brother Edgar Aetheling should have been King of England, but he was never crowned. Instead, the family fled north, to Scotland, where she was married to Malcolm III of Scotland by 1070. As a Scottish queen she went on to become mother of three kings of Scotland, and of a queen consort of England.

Margaret was a Christian, and became a good friend of Lanfranc, a future archbishop of Canterbury. Her biographer tells of how she read narratives from the Bible to her husband, thus helping to 'civilise' him. He was illiterate, but so admired her reading, that he had her books decorated with gold and silver. She was also credited with helping her youngest son, the future King David I of Scotland, towards becoming a just and holy ruler.

Margaret introduced the worship and practise of the Church of Rome into Scotland. She also wanted to help the many pilgrims travelling in Scotland, and so she established a ferry across the Firth of Forth, which is where the towns South Queensferry and North Queensferry got their names.

Margaret performed many charitable works for the poor, and she interceded for the release of English exiles who had been forced into serfdom following the Norman conquest. She also began the restoration of Iona Abbey.

In private life, Margaret spent much of her time in prayer, using a cave on the banks of the Tower Burn in Dunfermline as a place of devotion and prayers. St Margaret's Cave is still there today, covered beneath a municipal car park.

Margaret died in 1093, and in 1250 Pope Innocent IV canonised her. Her relics were dispersed after the Scottish Reformation, but at one time Mary, Queen of Scots, owned her head.



Profile of Terry (and Alison) Purkins

When Terry and I met for a coffee, I could not have foreseen the interesting and entertaining morning that was before me.

Terry Purkins was born in Newcastle upon Tyne in March 1941, three years later his brother joined the family. Mum and the two brothers lived with their grandparents. Their mother spent a prolonged period in hospital after contracting tuberculosis of the spine.

Terry was an intelligent child and thanks to his grandparent's influence and generosity, he was able to attend grammar school. Unfortunately, there was no money to further his education at university. However, Terry engaged in a 5-year engineering apprenticeship as well as studied 3 nights a week to gain a Higher National Diploma.

His talents were soon recognised, and he worked on a variety of research and development projects. These included a Which magazine project to determine the best functioning car battery, viability testing to freeze peas for Bird's Eye, creating instrumentation for the preservation of human eyes and the development of a cryostat for freezing blood at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge.

Prior to leaving Newcastle, in 1966 Terry worked on instrumentation to eliminate the tremor in Parkinson's Disease. A probe was introduced into a specific part of the brain at

minus 200^{0}C. The tremor stopped but with the removal of the probe, the tremor immediately started again.

Terry then relocated to the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh where his career spanned almost 35 years until mandatory retirement at the age of 60.

It's impossible to write a profile on Terry without mentioning Alison. They first met in a skiing class in Aviemore, on 9th February 1971 to be exact. They met again that same evening at a cocktail party, but Alison didn't remember Terry! They chatted all evening and discovered that they both lived in the same area of Edinburgh. Terry walked Alison back to her hotel room but got the door firmly shut in his face when he leaned in for a kiss!

Alison was an only child who lived with her father, her mother having died when she was 16. Because of his busy working schedule, Terry would often pop in for a coffee late at night. After three months Terry proposed when Alison made it clear that if he did, she would accept. They were married in March 1972 and bought a house in Roslin. Alison taught science at Craigroyston High School and was an accomplished pianist. They gradually furnished their home to their satisfaction in time for the birth of their son, Graham, in December 1976. Alison gave up work to become a full-time mum.

Meanwhile, Terry's work continued. He collaborated with the European Space Technology Centre in Holland which ended with a Skylark rocket launched from Sardinia. The flight produced two minutes of information useful for astronomy. Soon, he found himself working on instrumentation for a satellite experiment in conjunction with the University of Liege. On completion he was required to deliver it to Liege in Belgium. This turned out to be an arduous task, getting through customs, then delivering the instrument from the airport to Liege. The journey involved bribery and first-class travel and when he submitted his claim for expenses he expected an interrogation, but the accounts manager passed the claim saying, 'you couldn't have made it up.'

In 1978, Terry was involved as chief engineer in the construction of UKIRT, the United Kingdom Infrared telescope. This was built in Sheffield then located on the island of Hawaii. The officer in charge in Hawaii wanted Terry on site for a year but he refused as he had a 1-year-old son at home. After promotion and persuasion, Terry agreed to move to Hawaii and Alison had six weeks to organise the house move. Their first daughter,

Morag was born there on 4th July 1978. They ended up staying for two years.

While in Hawaii, Terry was approached by the BBC *Record Breakers* TV programme, as UKIRT was at that time the largest infrared telescope in the world. He worked closely with the entertainer Roy Castle, who some of the congregation will remember.

Shortly after, the Duke of Gloucester visited Hawaii to officially open the telescope. Later on Alison's father was horrified to learn that his daughter had discussed pregnancy with a member of the royal family!

On returning to Edinburgh, their second daughter, Fiona, was born in March 1980.

As Senior Project Manager, Terry headed up the building of scientific instruments for astronomy, covering justification of the case for government funding, costing the project under extreme scrutiny, and choosing the project team. Further interesting projects followed, among them, the adaptation of astronomical software to aid consultants to assess mammogram results and modify equipment to analyse toothpaste for preventative dentistry. Terry participated in multinational projects that were extremely complex and had a far reaching effect on world-wide astronomy.

After retirement, Alison and Terry travelled widely and in 2022, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in Dunkeld Hotel, with Fiona, Graham, his wife Sarah, and their two sons, Morag and her husband, Billy and their four children.

Alison had a lifelong interest in Girl Guiding and received the British Empire Medal for 50 years of service. Some of the congregation will remember the large tents being prepared and loaded for the annual camp of the 27a Group at Reid Memorial Church. Terry was roped into driving minibuses and a lorry for the camp until health and safety kicked in. Eventually the professions were used to transport the huge amount of equipment.

Sadly, Alison died earlier this year after suffering from Rheumatoid Arthritis for many years. Hearing Terry talking of his admiration and pride of his beloved wife was lovely but not surprising. Equally, the respect and love that he has for his children and grandchildren is unmistakable.

Thank you, Terry for all that I learned in the morning I spent with you. A truly remarkable man.



Reid buildings update

At its meeting on Tuesday 3rd November, Presbytery granted permission for the sale of the Reid Memorial buildings, having previously received confirmation that the Kirk Session would not challenge this aspect of the Presbytery Plan. At its meeting in September, the Kirk Session took the view that the building should be put on the open market, and we await the Church of Scotland General Trustees, who legally own the buildings, progressing the matter.

A few days before the Presbytery met, the Session Clerk and the Minister met with representatives of a group seeking to engage in a Community Buy out of the building. The group will be treated with the same consideration and respect that any other prospective buyers will be when the property is marketed, and they have been informed of this.

A Limited Company has been established – The Reid for The Community Ltd - and sources of funding are being researched. A Community Benefit Society application is awaiting approval. The Scottish Land Fund has indicated that a feasibility study is likely to qualify for their support. Other funders are also stepping forward.

The representatives informed the Minister and Session Clerk that a public meeting held in October was attended by 230 local people and they think there is interest in the halls continuing to be available for community use.

If you would like to contact the steering group, or find out more about the proposals, please email - **reidsteering@googlegroups.com**



Kirk school Matron who died in the Holocaust recognised at Auschwitz

The name of a Scottish woman who died in the Holocaust after refusing to abandon Jewish children in her care has been added to a special memorial wall at Auschwitz.

Jane Haining, the matron of a Church boarding school, is recognised in a renewed section of the Auschwitz Birkenau Memorial and Museum's main exhibition, which is devoted to hundreds of prisoners for whom no registration photographs were taken.

Originally from Dunscore in Dumfries and Galloway, Miss Haining was the

matron at the Scottish Mission School in Budapest, Hungary from 1932-1944. It had around 400 day and boarder pupils aged from six to 16 years old, a mixture of Jewish and Christian girls.

Miss Haining helped keep the children safe for more than four years after the war broke out in 1939 until she was betrayed by the cook's son-in-law, whom she scolded for taking scarce food meant for the girls, some of whom were orphans or abandoned by their parents. She was determined to stick to her post and had repeatedly ignored Church of Scotland requests to return home, saying: 'If these children need me in days of sunshine, how much more do they need me in days of darkness?'

Miss Haining was arrested by German officers in April 1944, and former pupil Agnes Rostas said her haunting last words to sobbing children were: 'Don't worry, I'll be back by lunch.' But the kind-hearted Scot never returned to the school. She was transported along with Hungarian Jews to Auschwitz on 14 May 1944. Miss Haining was 47 and it is widely accepted that she died in a gas chamber and her remains remain on the Auschwitz site.

Pop-Up Cafe Election Day

We received a thank you letter from Claire Bolt at St Columba's Hospice for raising £811.00 towards their charity:

'We really appreciate your support and please pass on our thanks to all who contributed. With your support we can continue to adapt our services to meet the needs of our community. Whether that's providing counselling and bereavement services or participating in research studies., we are committed to responding to real challenges and building a sustainable future for hospice care'.

Services

Sunday November 8th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship, Remembrance Service**
Sunday November 15th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Thursday November 19th 2:00pm	**Mid-week worship at Reid Hub**
Sunday November 22nd 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Sunday November 29th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Sunday December 6th 10:30am	**Nativity, Round Table Communion**
6:00pm	**Christmas tree lighting at Reid Hub**
Sunday December 13th 10:30 am	**9 lessons and carols**
Thursday December 17th 2:00pm	**Mid-week worship at Reid Hub**
Sunday December 20th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship, Carols and Mince Pies**
Thursday December 24th 4:00pm	**Christingle Family Service**
11:00pm	**Community Carols**
11:30pm	**Christmas Eve Service**
Friday December 25th 10:00am	**Christmas Day Service**
Sunday December 27th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Sunday January 3rd 2027 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Sunday January 10th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Sunday January 17th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Thursday January 21st 2:00pm	**Mid-week worship at Reid Hub**
Sunday January 24th 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**
Sunday January 31st 10:30am	**Sunday Worship**

Communion Dates

December 6th (round table), **January 3rd** (side chapel)

Blackford and Grange Kirk Session
September 2026 Presbytery Report

Presbytery has met once for ordinary business, on 8th September 2026, since the last report to the Kirk Session.

Congregations

Newington Trinity: Presbytery sustained the call from Newington Trinity to Rev Dr MaryAnn Rennie, minister of Dunfermline Abbey. The service of induction at Newington Trinity will be at 7.00pm on 30 September 2026.

Property

Approval was granted to **Blackford and Grange** to sell the former Reid Memorial Manse at 20 Wilton Road. **High Kirk**: St Giles' to install a ramp to provide access to The Thistle Chapel; to install an accessible WC; to provide educational facilities and related works at a projected cost of £1,068,877; and **Greyfriars St Cuthbert's** to install replacement windows at the former Greyfriars manse, 12 Tantallon Place at a cost of £33,682.

Miscellaneous

Rev Charles Robertson: Rev Dr Scott Rennie paid tribute to Rev Charlie Robertson, former minister of Canongate Church, who died on 16 July 2026. **Presbytery Mission Co-ordinator**: Rev Kenneth Brown resigned as Presbytery Mission Coordinator as of 31 August 2026. **Study Leave**: Rev Dr Karen Campbell was granted study leave from 1 to 31 October 2026.

Greyfriars St Cuthbert's: Rev Andrea Price, Elaine Wood DCS and I have been appointed as the Vacancy Advisory Panel.

Charities to be supported at Christmas: Suggestions were invited for local charities to be supported by Presbytery. **Fresh Start:** A request was made for congregations to support Fresh Start's Cookers for Christmas appeal.

In drafting this report, I have, as usual, concentrated on matters which relate directly to, or may affect, Blackford and Grange and/or nearby congregations or which I think may be of general interest.

Bruce W Anderson 16.9.26

What's on November and December

Organ Recital, Reid Hub

Saturday November 21st 10:30am for refreshments: 11am for organ music
Saturday December 19th 10:30am for refreshments: 11am for organ music

Pop-Up Cafe, Reid Hub

Friday November 27th 11am – 2:30pm
No pop up café in December
Friday January 29th 2027 11am – 2:30pm

Mid-Week Service, Reid Hub

Thursday November 19th 2pm followed by coffee
Thursday December 17th 2pm followed by coffee

Christmas Craft Fair

Saturday December 5th 10am – 2pm at Reid Hub

Reid Hub

Every Tuesday at 10am **Knit and Knatter** in the Green Room *[see rear page]*
Every Wednesday 10am – 11:30am **Toddler Group** Friendly and fun Toddler group meet during term time from in the large hall. All carers and under school age welcome. Cost £3

Marchmont Hub

Every Tuesday at 12:30am **Butterflies + Community Lunch** all welcome
Every Wednesday at 2pm **Mad Hatters**
Every Thursday 10am – 11:30am **Toddler Group** Butterflies Baby and Toddler group meet during term time in Inchcolm Hall. All carers and under school age welcome. Cost £2.

Advent Study Group

Blackford and Grange Marchmont Hub in Inchkeith/Inchgarvie; **Tuesday evenings at 7:30pm 24th Nov, 1st Dec, 8th Dec, 15th Dec.** For more information speak to Carol Christie – or email **cchristie@churchofscotland.co.uk**

£1.7m investment to help CrossReach expand north addiction service

CROSSREACH
Care you can put your faith in

More people across the Highlands and Islands will be able to access potentially life-saving addiction services following a £1.7 million investment.

The funding from the Scottish Government will be used by CrossReach, the Church of Scotland's social care arm, to buy Cale House in Inverness.

CrossReach plans to redevelop the building, adding six additional residential rehab beds providing up to 24 places a year. Cale House will also offer two detox beds providing up to 26 placements a year, and 14 supported move-on beds for those in the latter stages of recovery.

Residential rehabilitation is recognised as making a huge difference for anyone struggling with alcohol or drug use.

As well as its three facilities in Inverness, CrossReach has a track record of residential and recovery service delivery in Glasgow, as well as community-based recovery services in Dundee.

Crossreach Christmas Collection

Crossreach- care you can put your faith in. Each year Crossreach circulates a catalogue of their Christmas Cards and calendars and other gifts to help raise funds for their many and varied caring services.

Their card collection is always varied and reasonably priced. There are also a small number of calendars and other Crossreach gifts to consider. I will be putting copies of their catalogue in the entrance to the Church. I hope that you will pick one up and order some of the beautiful cards or calendars or both!

Ordering is either by sending off the order form in the catalogue or by phoning your order to Crossreach on 0131 454 4374 – they do respond quickly so you can avoid the Christmas rush!

Anne Black

Daily Lectionary

Readings November - January

November

1st	**Revelation 7:9-17**	11th	**Matthew 24:29-35**	21st	**Matthew 12:46-50**
2nd	**Psalm 128**	12th	**Judges 2:6-15**	22nd	**Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24**
3rd	**Acts 13:1-12**	13th	**Judges 2:16-23**	23rd	**2 Timothy 2:8-13**
4th	**Matthew 15:1-9**	14th	**Matthew 12:43-45**	24th	**Zechariah 11:4-17**
5th	**Joshua 5:10-12**	15th	**1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**	25th	**John 5:19-40**
6th	**Joshua 8:30-35**	16th	**Romans 2:1-11**	26th	**Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19**
7th	**Matthew 24:1-14**	17th	**Exodus 2:1-10**	27th	**1 Thessalonians 4:1-18**
8th	**Amos 5:18-24**	18th	**Matthew 24:45-51**	28th	**Matthew 24:15-31**
9th	**Psalm 78**	19th	**Psalm 100**	29th	**Isaiah 64:1-9**
10th	**Nehemiah 8:1-12**	20th	**Isaiah 40:1-11**	30th	**Micah 4:1-5**

December

1st	**Micah 4:6-13**	12th	**Habakkuk 3:13-19**	23rd	**1 Samuel 1:19-28**
2nd	**Micah 5:1-5a**	13th	**John 1:6-8, 19-28**	24th	**Isaiah 9:2-7**
3rd	**Hosea 6:1-6**	14th	**Psalm 125**	25th	**Luke 2:1-20**
4th	**Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13**	15th	**2 Kings 2:9-22**	26th	**John1:1-14**
5th	**Mark 11:27-33**	16th	**Malachi 3:16-4:6**	27th	**Luke 2:22-40**
6th	**Isaiah 40:1-11**	17th	**2 Samuel 6:1-11**	28th	**Matthew 2:13-28**
7th	**Psalm 27**	18th	**2 Samuel 6:12-19**	29th	**Psalm 148**
8th	**Isaiah 4:2-6**	19th	**Psalm 89:1-4**	30th	**2 Peter 3:8-13**
9th	**Malachi 2:10-3:1**	20tth	**Luke 1:26-38**	31st	**John 8:12-19**
10th	**Habakkuk 2:1-5**	21st	**Luke 1:46b-55**		
11th	**Habakkuk 23:2-6**	22nd	**1 Samuel 1:1-18**		

January 2027

1st	**Luke 2:15-21**	12th	**Acts 22:2-6**	23rd	**Jeremiah 20:14-18**
2nd	**Proverbs 1:1-7**	13th	**John 1:29-34**	24th	**Mark 1:14-20**
3rd	**Jeremiah 31:7-14**	14th	**Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18**	25th	**Genesis 12:1-9**
4th	**Psalm 110**	15th	**Acts 13:16-25**	26th	**Psalm 46**
5th	**Luke 6:27-31**	16th	**Matthew2 5:1-13**	27th	**Mark 3:13-19a**
6th	**Matthew 2:1-12**	17th	**John 1:43-51**	28th	**Deuteronomy 3:23-29**
7th	**Psalm 29**	18th	**Psalm 86**	29th	**Deuteronomy 12:28-32**
8th	**1 Timothy 4:11-16**	19th	**Acts 5:1-11**	30th	**Matthew 8:28-9:1**
9th	**Luke 5:1-11**	20tth	**Genesis 16:1-14**	31st`	**Mark 1:21-28**
10th	**Mark 1:4-11**	21st	**Jeremiah 19:1-15**		
11th	**Genesis 17:1-13**	22nd	**Jeremiah 20:7-13**		

Sing-along-a scripture attracts one million song plays

This is listening to the Bible, but *not* as you've known it. For a new website which offers 38,048 individual recordings of chapters of the Bible being sung, in 16 different genres, has become a smash hit worldwide. In only the first two weeks of its existence, it has seen one million song plays from its 3,600 hours of produced scripture music.

All in all, TheSinging.Bible offers the equivalent of five months of continuous listening, without repeating a chapter. It is free to use and does not need to be downloaded. Listeners in 194 countries are enjoying the Bible in mix of musical styles, including country, hip-hop, hard rock, opera, sea shanty, barbershop quartet, Latin, and reggae. The music has been described as "human-led and AI-assisted."

The scripture is in an edition of the Berean Standard Bible. While the music plays, the full text of each chapter is displayed on screen. Thus, you can hear Jonah chapter 1 in sea-shanty style, while St John's Gospel is given in a thundering hard-rock style. Visit: **thesinging.bible/home**

Tea For Tabeetha

An enormous 'thank-you' to everyone who, in whatever way, helped raise £560 for the work of Tabeetha School. What began as 'tea and a scone' grew into a full afternoon tea, with tasty savoury and delicious, sweet treats. To accompany the good food there was music and good company – a happy afternoon all round. The money raised will be used by Tabeetha, to help with STEM resources for pupils across the school. They told us that many of their pupils are Arabs and that 'in Israel the Arab population is significantly underrepresented in STEM fields for both study and work. An interest in, and aptitude for, STEM subjects start young, and we want to encourage that through new resources.'

Tabeetha thank you letter:

Dear Blackford and Grange Church members

On behalf of Tabeetha School, Jaffa, I would like to thank you for your generous donations during your recent Tea for Tabeetha event. We are currently raising funds to go towards maths manipulative resources for the primary school. Your support helps provide students with practical ways to learn the basics of mathematics through hands-on learning and discovery. We are truly grateful for your investment in their education and future.

With thanks, Rebecca McGonigle, Secretary to the Tabeetha Board of Governors.

Dorothy Anderson (Christian Education Committee)
Lindsay Wood (World Church Group)

Fundraising at the Reid Hub

This year has seen the numbers attending our Pop-Up continue to grow and we now regularly put out 14 tables and on occasions have added a couple more. Our customers are mainly from the local community who regularly come along and sometimes bring visiting relatives and friends. St Raphael's Care home are regular customers also and we can move tables about to accommodate wheelchairs. Last month there was 18 from the home including carers. It is lovely to see strangers sit together and chat and often make new friendships, especially if they live alone and don't see many people. Customers always ask about the next cafes and events and have been very supportive to our recent changes.

Since January we have been able to support various local charities as listed below: **January** Children's Hospice £636 • **February** St Salvador food bank £616 **March** Edinburgh Young Carers £635 • **April** Christian Aid £733 **May** Election Cafe for St Columba's hospice £765 • **May** Redhall Gardens (SAMH) £551.50 • **June** Age Scotland £655.50 • (No cafe July and August) • **September** Social Bite Homeless Charity £588 • **October** 30th will be Newington Food Bank **November** 27th charity to be confirmed • **December** 5th is our Christmas Fair in the Reid Church.

All these amounts raised were possible due to the hard work of our volunteers. Without their help we could not run these cafes. At times due to illness, holidays etc. our helper numbers have been low so would appeal to anyone who might like to help to contact Sheena Richardson or Katrina Russell. We would love to hear from you. We hope to continue for as long as possible but obviously, at this time, our future is uncertain but we will keep you posted.

I just wanted to express my gratitude to everyone who has supported us and look forward to welcoming you to our future events. Blessings.

Katrina

Stewarding Rota

1st Nov	Anne McGhie, Paul Braithwaite	**6th Dec**	Helen Fallas, Lindsay Wood
8th Nov	Nan Braes, Linda Farrer	**13th Dec**	Helen Fallas, Elizabeth Clark
15th Nov	Colin Clark, Sheena Richardson	**20th Dec**	Anne McGhie, Linda Farrer
22nd Nov	Jessica McCraw, Irene Taylor	**27th Dec**	Nan Braes, Colin Clark
29th Nov	Janet Wake, Paul Braithwaite	**3rd Jan 2027**	Janet Wake, Joyce Rosie

Readers October – January 2027

1st Nov	Colin Clark	**27th Dec**	Elizabeth Clark
8th Nov	Lindsay Wood	**3rd Jan 2027**	Bruce Anderson
15th Nov	Irene Taylor	**10th Jan**	Janet Wake
22rd Nov	Al Mitchell	**17th Jan**	David Beattie
29th Nov	Linda Farrer	**24th Jan**	Linda Farrer
20th Dec	Paul Braithwaite	**31st Jan**	Sonja Mitchell
24th Dec	Carol Christie		

Died in the services

Little Alex was staring up at the large brass plaque that hung on the side wall of the church. The plaque was covered with names, and they seemed to fascinate the youngster. 'All those names,' he said to the minister. 'Who are they?'

'Well, they were people who used to go to this church," explained the minister. "This is a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the services.'

Soberly, they stood together, staring at the large plaque. Little Alex's voice was barely audible when he asked, 'Which service, the 9 o'clock, or the 11 o'clock?'

Coffee Duty

1st Nov	Lindsay Wood, Sharon Ho, Anne Jones	**6th Dec**	Sharon Ho, Michelle McKinnon Rae, Gill Brown
8th Nov	Ann McGhie, Irene Taylor, Gill Brown	**13th Dec**	Nan Braes, Irene Taylor, Liz Mack
15th Nov	Jessica McCraw, Nan Braes, Liz Mack	**20th Dec**	Jessica McCraw, Lindsay Wood, Michelle McKinnon Rae
22nd Nov	Sharon Ho, Michelle McKinnon Rae, Anne Jones	**27th Dec**	Marion Quigley, Sharon Ho, Irene Taylor
29th Nov	Marion Quigley, Lindsay Wood, Ann McGhie	**3rd Jan 2027**	Nan Braes, Sharon Ho, Anne McGhie

Dear Lord,

At this dark and dismal time, when the year is closing down, our lives get busier and the world more confusing, we can sometimes become discouraged and low in spirits.

Help us to be thankful for each day that You have made, recognising each one as a gift from You, to be treasured and lived fruitfully.

May we welcome Your powerful, healing light into our hearts and lives – Your light, which no darkness can dim. Help us to follow you and walk in the light, this winter and always.

In your name, Amen.

What bishops do

We were celebrating the 100th anniversary of our church, and several former pastors and the bishop were in attendance. At one point, our minister had the children gather at the altar for a talk about the importance of the day. He began by asking, 'Does anyone know what the bishop does?' There was silence. Finally, one little boy ventured: 'Isn't he the one who moves diagonally?'

Christmas CRAFT FAIR

Saturday 5th December
10am – 2pm

Reid Hub
(formerly Reid Memorial Church)
West Savile Terrace
EH9 3HY



Blackford and Grange Church of Scotland.
Registered charity SC009338.

Southside Faith Care

Scottish Registered Charity No. SC052304 Later Years Re-imagined

ACTIVITIES/TIMES 2026	OCT	NOV	NOTES
TUESDAYS	**DATES**	**DATES**	
NEW Reminiscence Series **13:30 - 15:30 (fortnightly)** 1. Childhood: Games & Toys 2. Leisure & Recreation 3. An Evacuees Experience of WWII	20	3 17	**Newington Trinity Priestfield** **2 Marchhall Place, EH16 6QR** Speaker: Doreen Carmichael
CRAFTS **13:30 - 15:30 (monthly)** **Newington Trinity Priestfield**	13	10	Bring along your home craft projects or try something new and blether.
WEDNESDAYS			
NEW Keeping Yourself Safe **10:30am-12 noon** 1. Doorstep Crime-Rogue Traders* 2. Fire Safety in the Home** 3. Misleading Energy Marketing* 4. **Festive Season Scams*** **2nd December 2026**	21*	4** 18* 02/12*	**Opportunities to seek guidance from the experts** Trading Standards* Scottish Fire & Rescue Service** **Blackford & Grange Church** **3 Kilgraston Road, EH9 2DW**
THURSDAYS			
Sporting Memories - weekly **10.30am - 12 noon** **Newington Trinity Priestfield**	1, 8, 15, 22, 29	5,12, 19, 26	If... *"folks you know don't like talking about sport, but you do, well, this is for you!"*
Walking Tennis - weekly **14:00 -15:30** **Priestfield Tennis Club,** **2-4 Kirkhill Road, EH16 5DE**	1,8,15, 22,29	5,12, 19, 26	*"Walking Tennis gives me 5 "F's"... FUN, FITNESS, FRESH AIR, FOCUS & FRIENDS!"* (Jane, 81yrs)
NEW Digital Support **13:30 - 15:30 (fortnightly)** **Morningside United Church** **15 Chamberlain Road EH10 4DH**	1,15, 29	12, 26	With *Tap into IT.* Helps you to keep connected. Remember to charge up and bring your phones/tablets/ laptops!
FRIDAYS			
Man Friday - weekly **10:00 – 12:00** **Newington Trinity Priestfield**	2, 9,16 23, 30	6, 13, 20, 27	*"We are here for the chat, the banter and the biscuits!"* Come along and join us!
CHRISTMAS PARTY	**Tuesday, 1st December 2026 13:30 - 15:30**		
Newington Trinity Priestfield – ALL WELCOME – Festive Food and lots of fun!!!			

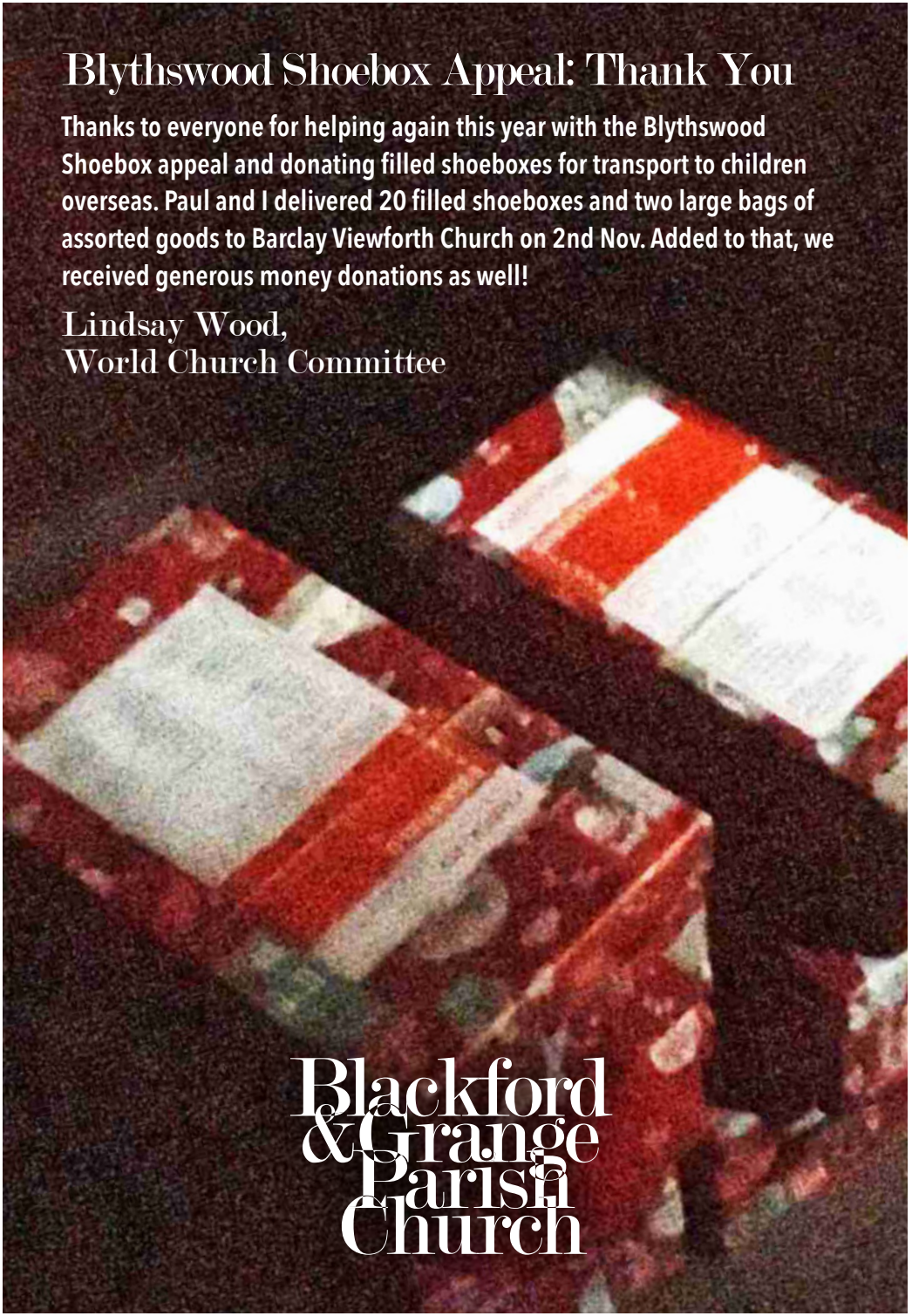
Contact: Roseanne : 07587 014948 | Activities Co-ordinator | Tues – Friday | 9.30-4
Su : 07478 543510 | Development Lead | Tues – Thurs | 9.30-4

OFFICE: Newington Trinity Priestfield, 2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW
hello@southsidefaithcare.org | www.southsidefaithcare.org

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal: Thank You

Thanks to everyone for helping again this year with the Blythswood Shoebox appeal and donating filled shoeboxes for transport to children overseas. Paul and I delivered 20 filled shoeboxes and two large bags of assorted goods to Barclay Viewforth Church on 2nd Nov. Added to that, we received generous money donations as well!

Lindsay Wood,
World Church Committee



Blackford & Grange Parish Church