



St Andrew's and St George's West Diary and Newsletter

September 2014



St Andrew's and St George's West : September 2014

A LETTER FROM IAN

Sabbatical, slavery and song	3-4
Worshipping God	5

CHURCH LIFE - Autumn Diary - Announcements	6-9
---	------------

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES UPDATE	10-11
-------------------------------------	--------------

REFERENDUM

TOGETHER Countdown to the referendum	12
Church and Referendum	12
Day of Dialogue	13
10 rules of respect	14

CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY

Prof Linda Woodhead – Theology Symposium	15
--	----

MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN THE WORLD

Malawi – forthcoming visit – Colby's graduation	16
Amnesty-Wider Horizons	17
External Causes Fund – call for nominations	18

NEWS FROM CHURCH GROUPS

Amos – Bereavement Workshops Book Group	19
Ecumenical Friends Lecture Series	20
Flower Fund	21

ARTS AND MUSIC

The buzz on the Fringe	22-25
Autumn music at St Andrew's & St George's West	26

HISTORY AND HERITAGE

Edinburgh's Gardens and Squares	27
Architectural Heritage Society Lecture Series	28

CITY CENTRE EVENTS

EIFA – Social in the Square – Take One Action	29
---	----

FEATURE : ISRAEL-PALESTINE

The Holy Land?	30-33
War in Gaza	34-35

SPIRITUAL LIFE Pilgrimage – Adventures in Faith – Prayer	36-38
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CONTACTS	39-40
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Enjoy the newsletter- many thanks to all contributors.

October issue: copy deadline Mon 22 Sep for publication Sun 28 Sep

November copy deadline Mon 27 Oct for publication Sun 2 Nov

December-January copy deadline Mon 24 Nov publication Sun 30 Nov

Looking forward

Sabbatical, Slavery and Song

In October I will be spending time in the US on sabbatical.

Firstly, thanks in advance to Alistair McGregor who will act as interim moderator and Tony Bryer who will lead some of the worship. Thanks also to the Kirk Session, who agreed the leave early this year. Every minister can take up to two weeks each year or can save it up to a maximum of three months. I have saved some time but thought five weeks might be a useful length of study break in October 2014, since November will be a big month this year with special commemorations marking the start of the First World War.

The second reason for heading off in October is that my destinations are extremely hot in summer, with the thermometer dancing around 115F. It would have been hard to acclimatise and concentrate in those conditions. I am glad to say Donna will be with me in Phoenix, Arizona, then Little Rock, Arkansas as I undertake the study. We have friends in both cities and look forward to seeing them.

On my return I will prepare a booklet on my findings and thoughts, but more importantly a reflective musical event with our choir which will explore the relationship between the horrors of slavery and the beauties of the songs from that challenging era. All going well this will be ready for springtime 2015.

This is a wide ranging topic. Some argue in the worldwide 'anti-trafficking movement' there are more people enslaved today around the world than there were in 1850! Slavery has many dimensions and some of the negative attitudes are still prevalent in the southern United States as we have witnessed this August in

Missouri. This may hark back to long standing tensions between whites and blacks, and unresolved 'power' issues from the slavery years.

The songs that were sung were many and varied but have at least three special characteristics:

1) they often have an Old Testament context, with a particular focus on the book of Exodus, in which Pharaoh's troops oppressed the Israelites, until Moses led the slaves on their lengthy journey to freedom. This story was certainly utilised as the most helpful one for enslaved African Americans.

2) songs were vital tools - sung at work to keep minds focussed during long, hot days in the fields. Then at worship and finally as part of the process of socialising at the end of the day. Often the same songs were sung in all three contexts. Different tempos were used to mark the mood, frequently the words were changed but never the melody. Thus singing was a major activity in the physical, social and spiritual life of the slave community.

3) certain of these songs held secret messages which the plantation owners completely missed. For example, a visitor might sing a song about Moses and the slave who was seeking freedom would pick up information from it about when to leave and how they would travel aboard the famous Underground Railroad. This was the railway which had no locomotives, carriage or even tracks, but which led to new life! It was common for a slave seeking to make an escape to sing 'Steal Away' on the evening before going on the run. Life was brutish and short, these songs were vital, inspiring thousands by giving hope of future freedom.

I am sure I will have much more to say and something new to sing when I return, however, before that I will look forward to worshipping and working alongside you during September.

**Live, love and enjoy your freedoms to sing and worship God,
Blessings, Ian**

Worshipping God

Be still and know I am God. Psalm 46

But with Christ, we have access in a one-to-one relationship, for, as in the Old Testament, it was more one of worship and awe, a vertical relationship. The New Testament, on the other hand, we look across at a Jesus who looks familiar, horizontal. The combination is what makes the Cross. Bono

The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him. Psalm 28:7

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Christ, so consider joining us Sunday by Sunday. You can attend Communion at 9.00am, the All Age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am or come to all three!

Sun 7 Sep	11am	Law and Love	Romans 13. 8-14
Sun 14 Sep	11am	Forest Sunday	Acts 17:22–28
Sun 21 Sep	11am	Wilderness Sunday	Romans 8:18–27
Sun 28 Sep	11am	River Sunday	Revelation 22:1–5
Sun 5 Oct	11am	Harvest Thanksgiving (All–Age Service) Psalm 19	



This Harvest Sunday 5 October, we will again support Fresh Start with generous gifts of food.

Fresh Start is an Edinburgh based charity that helps people who have been homeless get established in their new home. Supporters include over 100 Edinburgh churches.

St Andrew's & St George's West Diary

Autumn 2014

September 2014

Sun 7 Sep	9am Communion 9.45am All age worship 11am Morning Worship Fellowship lunch for the Christmas Tree Festival
Mon 8 Sep	Boys Brigade and Girls Association Bell Ringers
Wed 10 Sep	TOGETHER Countdown to the Referendum
Sun 14 Sep	9am Communion 9.45am All age worship 11am Morning Worship 12.30pm Volunteer Reception
Mon 15 Sep	Book Group Boys Brigade and Girls Association Bell Ringers
Wed 17 Sep	Amos AGM
Sat 20 Sep	Come and Sing! Pilgrim's Progress
Sun 21 Sep	9am Communion 9.45am All age worship 11am Morning Worship
Mon 22 Sep	Boys Brigade and Girls Association Bell Ringers
Tue 23 Sep	Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers)
Thur 25 Sep	Ecumenical Friends (at St Cuthbert's) Creative Writing workshops with Dalry Primary and Royal High (closed event)

Fri 26 Sep	Linda Woodhead seminar Festival Volunteers/Congregational party Sugar Flower Workshop Edinburgh Gardens & Squares (George Hotel)
Sat 27 Sep	Theology Symposium (at St John's) Sugar Flower Workshop
Sun 28 Sep	9am Communion 9.45am All age worship 11am Morning Worship
Mon 29 Sep	Amnesty Group meets
Tue 30 Sep	Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers)
October 2014	
Wed 1 Oct	Workplace Chaplaincy Celebration (closed event)
Thur 2 Oct	Adrian Shaw, EcoCongregation (at St Cuthbert's) Ecumenical Friends (at St Cuthbert's)
Sun 5 Oct	9am Communion 9.45am All age worship 11am All-age Harvest Service Fellowship Lunch for Mary's Meals
Mon 6 Oct	Architectural Heritage Society Lecture
Wed 8 Oct	Edinburgh Quartet Rush Hour Concert
Thur 9 Oct	Ecumenical Friends (at St Cuthbert's)
Sat 11 Oct	Georgian Concert Society
Mon 20 Oct	Book Group meets
Wed 22 Oct	Kirk Session
Thur 23 Oct	Sale of Art and Scottish Books for Christian Aid
Fri 24 Oct	Sale of Art and Scottish Books for Christian Aid
Sat 25 Oct	Sale of Art and Scottish Books for Christian Aid Coffee Morning with Antiques and Collectables for Christian Aid
Mon 27 Oct	Amnesty Group meets

November 2014

Mon 3 Nov	Architectural Heritage Society Lecture
Sat 8 Nov	Gaelic Mass
Sun 9	Remembrance Sunday Worship with the German speaking congregation, starting at 10.50am
Wed 12 Nov	Bereavement Workshop I
Sat 15 Nov	Georgian Concert Society
Sun 16 Nov	Sing out for the Homeless concert
Mon 17 Oct	Book Group meets
Wed 19 Nov	Bereavement Workshop II
Sat 22 Nov	Ruthwell Cross Pilgrimage Choir Fundraising Afternoon
Mon 24 Nov	Amnesty Group meets
Wed 26 Nov	Bereavement Workshop III
Thur 27 Nov	Lifecare Fundraising Concert
Sat 29 Nov	Rock Trust Sleepout
Sun 30 Nov	Advent 1: Heart of Christmas Music and Reflection

December 2014

Mon 1 Dec	Kirk Session
Sat 6 Dec – Wed 24 Dec	Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 7 Dec	Advent II Heart of Christmas Music and Reflection
Mon 8 Dec	Architectural Heritage Society Lecture
Fri 19 Dec	Carols at Six
Wed 24 Dec	Christingle and Watchnight Services
Thur 25 Dec	Christmas Day

Find our online diary under the **WHAT'S ON** tab on the website www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on/

Recurring events

Monday

1pm daily prayers
4-5.15pm Boys' Brigade and
Girls Association
7-9pm Bellringers practice

Tuesday

9.30-11am Little Ducks
Parent and Toddler Group
(Chapel)
10am-12 Circle Scotland
Choir (Sanctuary)
1pm Communion

Wednesday

1pm daily prayers
AA meets (Davidson Room)

Thursday

12.30-2pm Ecumenical
Friends (at St Cuthbert's)
1pm Daily prayers
7-9pm Choir practice
(Davidson Room)

Friday

1pm Daily Prayers

Sunday

9am, 9.45 am, 11am worship
Bellringers

Announcements

Deaths

Mrs Eleanor Wright
on 26 July 2014

John Fifer,
on 7 August 2014, beloved
husband of Averil

New members

Ms Angela Grant
on 14 August, 2014

Members leaving

Revd Colby Kumwenda
on 17 August 2014.

Colby is returning to Malawi
after completing his studies
at New College, Edinburgh



Angela Grant

Child, youth & family worker update

Angela Grant

It has been eight weeks already since I started at St Andrew's and St George's West as child, youth and family worker and I am loving my new post.

I have experienced warmth, kindness, support and happiness since starting from all at St

Andrew's and St George's West and I want to thank you all for that I feel at home, so much so I have transferred my church membership and am delighted to be a member.

It is wonderful to work in an environment where people care for children so much. I have been overwhelmed by the speed of the requested resources for the children arriving (cardboard tubes and yogurt pots)



A sculpture from our Art in the Courtyard family workshops



we are building a great collection! I also have been given donations of toys and craft equipment for the children which I am sure the children are very grateful for as am I.

The two organisations that are starting up soon in our church are **Boys Brigade and Girls Association** which starts on Monday 25 August 2014 and continues every Monday after that at 4.00pm-5.15pm and **Little Ducks (Parent & Toddlers)** starting Tuesday 23 September and continues every Tuesday after that at 9.30am-11.00am.

If you can spare time to help with either organisation please contact me. Please remember age or ability is no barrier; children can learn from us all.

Thank you all once again for your lovely welcome and support.

Angela Grant



Question Time on the Referendum

Wednesday 10 September, 7.30pm
at St Andrew's and St George's West



As part of the final countdown to the referendum vote on the 18 September, Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together are offering the unique opportunity to ask questions of a selected panel which will include the **Revd Sally Foster-Fulton**, the **Rt Revd Richard Holloway**, **Prof George Newlands**, **Dr Doug Gay** and **Prof Kenneth Boyd** to discuss some key issues from a Christian perspective.

It would be helpful if questions were sent to the Revd Markus Duenzkofer of St John's, email office@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk, or by phone on 0131 229 7565 by the end of August.

The event will be free, but ticketed. Tickets available from the church office.



The Church of Scotland and the Referendum

3 September Referendum Debate

in St George's Tron Church, Glasgow, streamed live .

Finance Secretary John Swinney MSP and the Advocate General for Scotland, Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC, will participate in a dialogue chaired by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland Rt Rev John Chalmers.

21 September Service in St Giles

Service of healing and reconciliation at St Giles, Edinburgh

Day of Dialogue

Thursday 4 September, all day, come and go as you wish
Grassmarket Community Centre & Greyfriars Kirk

To register and find out more visit <http://collaborativescotland.org/day-of-dialogue/>



ABBREVIATED PROGRAMME

Open to all. Come and go throughout.

From 7.45 Conversations over Breakfast

8.15 Keynote Conversation 1 - Collaborating across Silos: Energising Scotland

- Dan Macdonald, Founder of N56, Chief Executive, Macdonald Estates
- Peter Lederer, CBE, Chairman of Gleneagles Hotel
- Josh Littlejohn, social entrepreneur, founder of Social Bite
- Jane Wood, Chief Executive of SBC

9.30 Dialogue and Workshops:

- Cognitive Traps: How our brains affect how we think - and decide
- Handling Differences: A live mediation between Yes and No.

13.00 Keynote Conversation 2 - Looking back and looking forward: Reflections about Scotland and the Referendum

- Rt Hon Douglas Alexander MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary
- Andrew Wilson, former SNP MSP and commentator

14.30 Dialogue and Workshops:

- Creative Futures: Imaginative ways to create a better Scotland, whatever the outcome
- Dr Alison Elliot OBE, chair Land Reform Review Group and Associate Director of the Centre for Theology and Public Issues, with others

17.45 Keynote Conversation 3 and Master Class:

- William Ury, Harvard, co-author of *Getting to Yes* and *The Power of a Positive No*, via video-link

19.30 Keynote Conversation 4 - Looking Forward: Constitutional Futures for the British Isles?

- David Melding AM, Deputy Presiding Officer of the National Assembly for Wales
- Conor Murphy, MP and former member of the Northern Ireland Assembly

22.30 Keynote Conversation 5 at Greyfriars Kirk - Looking back and looking forward: The Heart and Soul of Scotland's Future

- Alastair McIntosh, Author and Ecologist
- Rev Richard Frazer, Minister of Greyfriars Kirk

23.30 Committing to Respectful Dialogue and Reconciliation: Signing the Commitment and Midnight Vigil

For the full programme go to collaborativescotland.org/day-of-dialogue/

10 Rules for Respect

1. If you have a problem with me, come to me (privately).
2. If I have a problem with you, I will come to you (privately).
3. If someone has a problem with me and comes to you, send them to me. (I'll do the same for you)
4. If someone consistently will not come to me, say, "Let's go to him together. I am sure he will see us about this." (I will do the same for you.)
5. Be careful how you interpret me - I'd rather do that. On matters that are unclear, do not feel pressured to interpret my feelings or thoughts. It is easy to misinterpret intentions.
6. I will be careful how I interpret you.
7. If it's confidential, don't tell. If you or anyone comes to me in confidence, I won't tell unless a) the person is going to harm himself/herself, b) the person is going to physically harm someone else, c) a child has been physically or sexually abused. I expect the same from you.
8. I do not read unsigned letters or notes.
9. I do not manipulate; I will not be manipulated; do not let others manipulate you. Do not let others manipulate me through you. I will not preach "at you." I will leave conviction to the Holy Spirit (she does it better anyway!)
10. When in doubt, just say it. The only dumb questions are those that don't get asked. Our relationships with one another, at the end of the day, are the most important things so if you have a concern, pray, and then (if led) speak up. If I can answer it without misrepresenting something, someone, or breaking a confidence, I will.

Thanks to Clephane Hume at St John's, one of our TOGETHER clergy, for sharing this.

What do you think? How do you practice respect?

Professor Linda Woodhead

**Friday 26 September 1- 4pm,
St Andrew's & St George's West**

Linda Woodhead MBE MA DD is Professor in the Sociology of Religion in the Department of Politics, Philosophy & Religion at Lancaster University. She is best



known for her work on religious change since the 1980s, and for initiating public debates about faith. She has been described by Matthew Taylor, head of the Royal Society of Arts as 'one of the world's leading experts on religion.'

Professor Woodhead will come to StAGW, 13 George Street, to offer her reflections on the recent research she has undertaken on the church in the UK, on Friday 26 September between 1.00pm and 4.00pm.

There will be a cost of £10/head. Teas and coffees will be provided. Please speak to Ian Gilmour if you would like to attend.

St John's Theology Symposium

Saturday 27 September 10am-4pm at St John's

New Testament scholar Professor Larry Hurtado FRSE will lead an investigation entitled, 'How on Earth did Jesus become a God?'

Including lunch, lectures and discussion.

All welcome - to register please contact Revd Dr Stephen Holmes stephen.holmes@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk

News from Malawi

Rev Dr Billy Gama and Mrs Shamim Gama from Mulanje in Malawi will be visiting Edinburgh around the weekend of 11/12 October. Rev Dr Gama is the new Abussa (Head of Mission) at Mulanje and is visiting Northern Ireland and Scotland. We hope to have a ceilidh for them in the Undercroft on Saturday 11 October and they will be taking part in worship on Sunday 12 October.

Our congregation continues to develop and greatly value our strong ties with Malawi and Mulanje in particular. Dr. Ruth Shakespeare, Medical Director of Mulanje Mission Hospital is likely to be in Edinburgh at around the same time. Further opportunities to meet them will be announced in the church notes nearer the time.

Celebrating Revd Colby Kumwenda's graduation





Amnesty Group – good news

Amnesty has good news to share about some people on whose behalf we have campaigned in 2014.

Meriam Ibrahim has been freed from death row in Sudan and managed to escape the country.

Li Yan's death sentence has been overturned in China.

Mikhail Kosenko, one of the Bolotnaya Square protesters whom we sent greetings cards to in December, has been released in Russia.

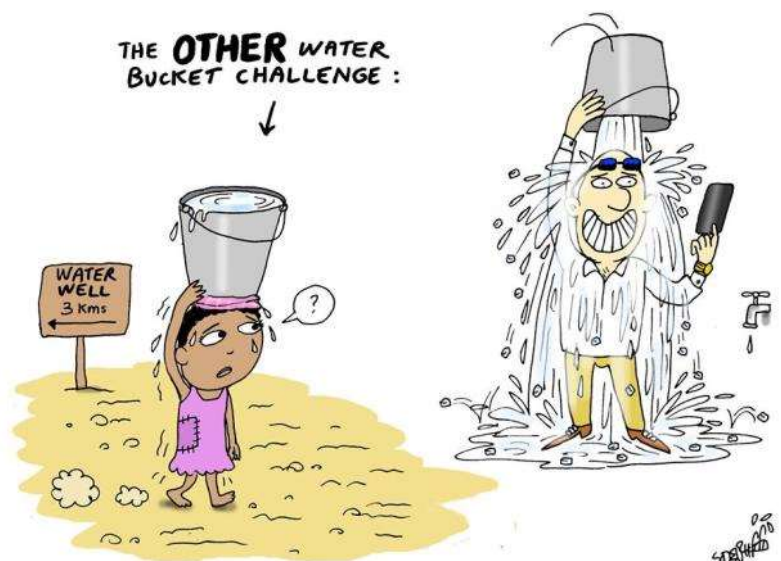
Everyone is welcome to join us at our monthly lunchtime meetings. 12.15-1pm on the last Monday of the month in the Undercroft Café.

Wider Horizons Group

Wider Horizons are working on St Andrew's and St George's West next Eco-Congregation application and are preparing to lead 11am Morning Worship on 12 October, with an environmental theme.

EcoCongregation Event
2 October 2.30pm
St Cuthbert's Edinburgh

Adrian Shaw of
EcoCongregation Scotland
will speak on Fracking.
All welcome



The External Causes Fund

Ruth Forrester, on behalf of the Wider Horizons Group.

When the Vodafone telephone mast was installed on the church tower it was decided that the income generated should be used to support good causes – either overseas or in Scotland. We usually have several thousands of pounds to allocate each year. Last year we used this money for:

- **Solar power project at Mulanje hospital**
- **Basic health care for prisoners in Mulanje prison** (for 3 years)
- Two student bursaries at the **University of Livingstonia, Malawi**
- **Streetwork** (Charity caring for homeless people in Edinburgh)
- **500 miles** (Edinburgh charity providing prosthetic and orthotic devices for disabled people in developing countries)
- **Edinburgh Direct Aid** (Charity sending aid to Bosnia, Syria, Turkey and Gaza)
- **The Forgiveness Project** (to bring the exhibition to Edinburgh)
- **The Koestler Trust** (Prison arts charity in the UK)

Members of the congregation are again invited to nominate good causes that we should support. Please tell us

The name of the charity/good cause

Brief reason for the recommendation

Amount suggested (if appropriate)

Your name

If you have a **material interest** in the charity – e.g. you, or a family member is a director or trustee – you must disclose this as well.

Nominations are open until 30 September 2014, to allow sufficient time for the Wider Horizons group to review proposals and bring recommendations to the Kirk Session.

Please pass or email your nominations to Arthur Chapman (arthur@newcurioshop.com) who convenes the Wider Horizons Group, or to any member of the Wider Horizons Group or hand into the church office for Arthur's attention. Closing date 30 September 2014.

Amos Scripture Care Trust

The Annual General Meeting of the Trust will be held on Wednesday 17 September 2014 at 7.30pm in the Lammermuir Hall, Parish Church of St Cuthbert, 5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh. There will be a brief report on the work of the Trust, together with presentation of the accounts. Anyone interested is invited to join us for this informal social occasion, at which coffee will be served. It would be helpful to know if you intend coming to the meeting. If so, please let Alan Mackinlay know.

Amos is a registered charity *Scottish Charity No SC023471*.

Bereavement Workshops

Rev Tom Gordon is running three workshops on bereavement in November – Wednesdays 12, 19 and 26 November 2.30-4pm. If you are interested in attending please contact the office.

Book Group

We resume on **Monday 15th September** at 10.30 am in the chapel. The Book Group meets monthly on the third Monday of the month.

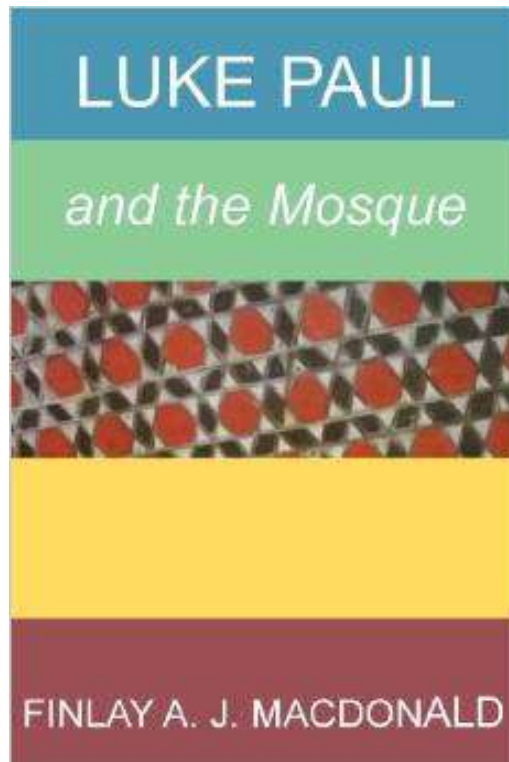
We will be reading **Luke Paul and the Mosque** by Very Rev Dr Finlay Macdonald.

“imaginative and enjoyable”

“informative and reflective”

“a valuable book and a brave one”

Everyone is welcome to join the group – if you would like more information please speak to **Veronica Crerar**



Ecumenical Friends 2014-2015 Programme

Ecumenical Friends meet at 12.30pm on Thursdays at St Cuthbert's Church Hall, organised by Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER. Bring your own sandwich lunch - tea and coffee is provided. Everyone is warmly welcome. Entry £1.50.

25 Sep	Marcus Dünzkofer	Whoever you are or wherever you find yourself on the journey
2 Oct	Tom Cuthell	My Faith Journey
9 Oct	Alison Wilkinson	Back in Africa
16 Oct	Justin Taylor	South Africa, past and present
23 Oct	Murdoch MacKenzie	The other side of Lesslie Newbiggin
30 Oct	Ecumenical Friends Forum	What do we stand for? United together in our differences
6 Nov	Sarah Kilbey	You shall not curse the deaf: a ministry with deafened and hard of hearing people
13 Nov	Charles J Burnett	Heraldry – the shorthand of history
20 Nov	Mark Wilson	My last visit to India?
27 Nov	Hanne Gormley	The Edinburgh German Church
4 Dec	Margaret McGregor	Advent Meditation
8 Jan	Isobel Reid	Mamie Martin, a glowing brand
15 Jan	Walter Dunlop	The history of St Andrew's Jerusalem
22 Jan	Matthew Ross	ACTS
29 Jan	Mary Moffett	Faith in older people
5 Feb	Swarup Bar	News from Kolkata
12 Feb	Simon Barrow	Ekklesia:Christian Political Think Tank
19 Feb	John Ross	Habitat for Humanity
26 Feb *	Fiona Bennett	The Story of Augustine United Church
5 Mar *	Carol Finlay	Mary Slessor and her legacy
12 Mar*	John Munro	Lent meditation
<i>Meetings * on 26 Feb, 5 & 12 Mar will be held at 1pm in St John's.</i>		

Flower Fund

Catherine Reid

As some of you may know, I am Convener of the 'Church Flower Group'.



In June 2011 this group only numbered five people. There was an appeal for help and, after some gentle persuasion, the group increased to seventeen ladies, which was a very good response.

Each person on the list buys her own flowers and arranges them each weekend. This has been the practice for the past twenty years. However, now, encouraged by our Minister, we should like to go one step further and have a Flower Fund, supported by the Congregation. We should like to have flowers in the entrance, which makes it look more welcoming. We should like to be able to plan special flowers for special occasions. A flower fund could help to cover the cost of Oasis and other flower arranging requirements.

Most churches have a system whereby money for flowers can be given to the Flower Fund as a general donation. Alternatively donations can be earmarked for special days. If you have a special date on your calendar you may wish to arrange your own flowers; alternatively someone on the flower list would be delighted to do this on your behalf.

I think most people would agree that flowers each week do greatly enhance our beautiful building – to the glory of God.

If you would like to contribute to the Flower Fund either by cash or cheque, this can be handed either to me or to Veronica Crerar. Alternatively the money can be handed in to the Church Office. Cheques should be made out to St. Andrew's & St. George's West. If you would like your donation to be used on a particular Sunday, please specify this.

Catherine Reid (Flower Convener)



The Buzz on the Fringe

Mary Scott

I don't know if it was the new banners clearly advertising, from both ends of George Street, the church as a Fringe venue, our redesigned brochure, a social media blitz, the quality of food in the cafe, the beauty of our building or just the content of our programme, but it seems to me that we have had more people than ever attending events at the church this Fringe. Crispin Longden will be summarising the final attendances later, but the place has been buzzing.

Many of our regulars had bigger audiences than in previous years and 4 performances – 2 by Edinburgh Music Theatre and 2 by Big Band Swing – sold out completely. Some of the newcomers to our events attracted very respectable audiences too and have pledged to return next year. We also cooperated with Just Festival to host two acts including the Dloko High School Choir who proved increasingly popular, and who sang at our 11am service on the 17th August.

Running the church as a Fringe venue is a year-round experience – taking bookings and deposits in the autumn and winter months, completing the online entries for the Fringe brochure in the early spring, preparing copy for our own brochure in late spring, finalising performance programmes and the volunteers rota in the summer and all the time responding to requests and queries by email and phone.

It is a process I greatly enjoy, but it would be impossible to complete without the support of the enthusiastic volunteers, to whom I am extremely grateful; they staff the advanced box office and provide front of house cover for each performance.

I am sure the rest won't mind if I single out Cathie Donaldson, Alison Bruce and Crispin Longden; Crispin in particular copes with all the financial reckoning once the performances are over. It must be a major headache trying to reconcile advance, front of house and Fringe Box Office sales, I'm glad that someone else has volunteered to do it!

We are also privileged to have had Sophie Bryer as our Fringe Assistant as she has grown in confidence and has been able to take on more responsibilities this year. She will be starting at Glasgow University after the summer, and we wish her well in her studies.

Mary Margaret Scott

Critic's choice

Township Voices

Songs come from places in the heart reserved for the deepest faith and it shows in their performance. By the end I was in floods of tears. As Choir Master Musa says, "we can bring music, and music brings joy and happiness." And that is Dloko High School Choir's gift to the Fringe.

Lucy Ribchester, festmag

Akiko Okamoto

"It would be hard to find a piano recital in this year's Festivals better than this afternoon's with Akiko Okamoto.

Barnaby Miln, Edinburgh Guide

Duo Aulos

For fun and innovation in music look no farther than Duo Aulos – aka Laura Cioffi and Clara Galea, alto and soprano in St Andrew's and St George's West church choir. From their first bluesy piece to the last ragtime, they were totally relaxed, mellifluous and charming. Highlights were Stuart Murray Mitchell's Malta suite, and the final encore for flute and wine bottles!

Alison Campbell, STAGW



Local artists who exhibited work in the café during the festival to raise funds for International Voluntary Service

Sophie Bryer

festival assistant, shares her favourite festival things

- sheer variety of shows- jazz, classical, song
- coffee in the café!
- really friendly people
-and Alastair McGregor. What a guy!

Festival Volunteers' Party

- **25 September**
- **from 7pm**
- bring and share supper in the Undercroft
- please let the church office know if you are coming



Full house at our first Fantoosh Fringe Event, run by Creative TOGETHER and raising funds for Christian Aid.

Autumn music and concerts at STAGW

Save the date: 22 November 2014

St Andrew's and St George's West Choir will be hosting a very special afternoon of tea, seasonal music and more.

Come and Sing: Pilgrim's Progress

Sat 20 September

Come and Sing Vaughan Williams' Pilgrim's Progress with Edinburgh Grand Opera and raise funds for EMMS.

Singers: rehearsal 2pm, ticket £10, music hire £5

Concert: performance 7.30pm, audience ticket £5.

Edinburgh Quartet 2014/15 Rush Hour Series

Wednesday 8 Oct 5.30-6.30pm

Leipzig: Mendelssohn – String Quartet Op 44 No 1 and J S Bach – Excerpts from The Art of Fugue

EQ investigates various influences on the music of Mendelssohn.

Further concerts on 11 February and 20 May 2015

£10/£9 EQ friends, students and children free.

Georgian Concert Society 2014-15 Series

Sat 11 October 7.45pm

The Society of Strange and Ancient Instruments

Nine Daies Wonder

Sat 15 November 7.45pm,

The Flautadors Recorder Quartet *Flauti di camera*

Tickets £18 (£16 concessions/£5 students/children/unwaged)

per concert available through the Queens Hall Box Office

Further concerts in the series on 31 Jan, Sat 28 Feb, Sat 21 Mar

History and heritage

Garden History Society in Scotland Edinburgh Gardens and Squares Conference

Friday 26 September 2014



‘The Scottish Enlightenment as Manifested in the Gardens and Squares of Edinburgh’s New Town’

The conference is timed to coincide with Doors Open Day weekend when many of the gardens will be open to visitors. The venue is the George Hotel, George Street, Edinburgh, with an evening reception hosted by the Royal Bank of Scotland in Dundas House overlooking St Andrew Square.

***Tickets £60.00 including lunch, available from Hazel Johnson on 0131 668 8683 or
online through Historic Scotland’s website:
<http://conservation.historic-scotland.gov.uk/home/events>***

Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland

Winter Lecture Series 2014-2015

The Forth & Borders group present a series of evening lectures covering a range of topics on Architectural History and Conservation and Garden History.

Monday 6th October 2014 – **A Scottish Architect Abroad: Robert Lorimer's work in England and further afield.** **Simon Green** will explore this topic to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Lorimer's birth.

Monday 3rd November 2014 – **Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate.** **Michael Ridsdale**, Head of Landscape at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate, National Trust, will speak about the multi-disciplinary management of this world heritage landscape. Joint lecture with the Garden History Society Scotland.

Monday 8th December 2014 – **City Vistas: Lord Mar's plans for London, Paris and Edinburgh in the 1720s.** **Margaret Stewart**, Lecturer in Architectural History at Edinburgh College of Art, will introduce us to these fascinating plans.

Monday 2nd February 2015 – **Craigievar: Fifty Years in NTS Care.** **Ian Gow**, Curator at the National Trust for Scotland since 1998, will tell us about this fine example of Scottish baronial architecture.

Monday 2nd March 2015 **Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning.** **Prof. Pamela Robertson**, Professor of Mackintosh Studies and Senior Curator in the University of Glasgow's Hunterian Art Gallery is currently principal investigator on a major research project and will address us on recent research.

Monday 13th April 2015 – **Who's looking out for our historic buildings?** A round table debate on the challenges to be faced under new planning legislation. We will hear from representatives of different disciplines with opportunities for contributions and questions.

Lectures will take place at 6.30pm on the dates indicated above at St Andrew's and St George's West Church, 13 George Street, EH2 2PA

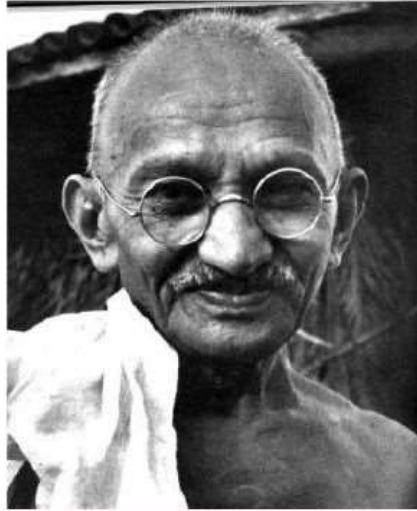
Admission £5.00 (£2.50 Students).

Members may attend all six lectures for a discount price of £25.

Non members are warmly welcomed.

Local events

**International
day of
Non-Violence**



"There are many causes that I am prepared to die for but no causes that I am prepared to kill for."

Mahatma Gandhi

Edinburgh Inter-Faith Association's Annual Lecture

Tuesday 30 September at 6pm in the City Chambers

The EIFA Annual Lecture will be given by historian and author Antony Copley. Followed by a question-and-answer session and performances by local musicians and a Civic Reception hosted by The Lord Provost of The City of Edinburgh.

Free but ticketed see eifa.org.uk/peaceday



Social in The Square

**Friday 12 and Sat 13 Sep
in St Andrew Square**

A two day festival of creative activities, cookery demos storytelling, live music and dance.

All provided by Edinburgh's social enterprises.



The Holy Land?

Rev Alastair McGregor reflects on a stint as locum minister at St Andrew's Jerusalem

As I write this, towards the end of July, sitting in the comfort of our own home, with peace all around, I cannot get out of my head that, in Gaza, the news tells me that over 600 Palestinians, mostly women and children, have been killed. In that small enclave the size of East Lothian houses are being smashed to rubble, water is running out, electricity is an infrequent luxury and food and medical supplies are all dangerously low.

It all started (this time!) not long after I had arrived in Jerusalem to do 6 or 7 weeks as locum minister in St Andrew's Memorial Church there, pending the arrival of their new minister in September. Three Israeli teenagers were kidnapped in the Hebron area south of Jerusalem. The search for them created mayhem in the city of Hebron and around. The



St Andrew's Church, Jerusalem.

The cross installation was inspired by the burning bush, designed by a Palestinian artist and made by young folk from L'Arche Community. Photo by Margaret McGregor.

problems escalated when the trees were found dead, leading to settlers burning alive a young Palestinian in revenge. Which in turn led to a great increase in the firing of rockets into Israel, which by the law of tit for tat led to the invasion of Gaza “to destroy the missile firing sites and the hidden underground tunnels into Israel.” Though it is hard to see how a line of tanks firing randomly into a packed city and in the process blowing the top floor off a hospital building can have anything to do with tunnels or missile sites!

Meanwhile further north – in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Galilee things have been calmer. But there is always a tension in the air and it is difficult to describe a situation as “normal” when you turn a corner in the road, as in south Jerusalem, only to be faced by two police cars and six heavily armed police and soldiers checking cars and passengers at random. And most could never look at the twenty foot high concrete wall which separates neighbour from neighbour, householder from his own garden, and families from each other and describe that as “normal life.”

Yet in spite of it all, life continues. At Tabeetha School in Jaffa, run by the Church of Scotland, children of all ages and ethnic backgrounds learn and play and work together. And at their end of term prizegiving ceremony or their closing School Assembly marking the year’s end, nothing looked other than perfect – until the air raid siren.

In the beautiful St Andrew’s Church, which was erected in 1930 as a memorial to the many Scots soldiers who died in the First World War in Palestine, life too goes on, though I have never before had to give out a notice at the start of a service that *“There is no air raid shelter in the church; the stairwell is the most secure area. So if the siren goes, anyone who wishes to make their way there is welcome, however the Service will continue until the final blessing.”*

Full marks though to all at the World Mission Council and the mission staff in Israel/Palestine who operate the Churches of

Scotland in Jerusalem and Tiberias and Tabeetha School. They deserve all our gratitude.

One of the most used phrases which I heard, especially when visiting the Left Bank and especially from our fellow Christians there, was “Please tell people back home not to forget us.”

Being a Minister has its uses and I was able to get through the Wall far more easily than any Palestinian and took the chance to visit many of the co-operatives in the Left Bank where Palcrafts buys its products. It's a great way of giving support and encouragement and of helping the Palestinian community to maintain its identity and its tradition. And although there are many times when one is overwhelmed by a sense of helplessness, and on occasions, hopelessness, at the unending spiral of violence, persecution and nastiness, that was never a reason which Christ accepted as justifying inaction.

So I would like to end with a request: a plea to all who have read this – to get involved. How? The ways are numerous but here are a few.

PLEASE PRAY. Pray for a just peace to the Israel/Palestine conflict and especially, for a just peace to the current war by land, sea and air on Gaza, and please pray for all those on both sides of the conflict who are suffering and those who are striving to bring practical aid to them.

PLEASE GIVE. There are so many ways to do this. Make a donation to charities such as Christian Aid, Medical Aid for Palestinians, UNICEF, Embrace the Middle East (formerly the Bible Lands Society.) Your gifts really do make a difference. And nearer to home (and I have to declare an interest as Chairman) 200 yards along George Street at 123 George Street is the Hadeel/Palcrafts shop selling goods from Palestinian co-operatives. Every sale boosts the life of a Palestinian family.

And lastly, **PLEASE ACT.** It is so easy to wring one's hands and say "What can I possibly do?" But letters can be written to people such as one's Member of Parliament asking them to speak out. Petitions are frequently circulated by charities asking for your signature. There are events, there are demonstrations. At a time like this neither the churches nor individual Christians should be silent. It was Edmund Burke who in the eighteenth century said

"All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good people to do nothing."

It is still true today.
Alastair McGregor



Boat-altar at a new ecumenical centre at Magdala on the Sea of Galilee. Photo by Margaret McGregor

War in Gaza

Veronica Crerar

You may hear people say there are faults on both sides in the Gaza war, and there is some truth in this, but you must remember that the people of Gaza have been mercilessly



and illegally persecuted by the Israelis, since 1967, and in some cases earlier. The Israeli response to out- breaks of frustration is invariably disproportionate and often contrary to international law.

Surely no-one in the UK can have been totally unmoved by the terrible events in Gaza over the last few weeks. At Hadeel, however, we have been deeply distressed by the reports we have received from so many friends and colleagues in Gaza and the West Bank, spelling out exactly what this has meant to them.

Two years ago, a group from Hadeel travelled to Palestine to meet our producer groups, to hear about their problems, to see new products and generally to keep in touch. We managed to get permits to enter Gaza for a few hours. One of the groups we visited was Atfaluna, a wonderful charity which provides medical care, education and training for deaf children and adults. We were hugely impressed by the efficiency, the innovation and the compassion of this organisation, providing, in the midst of horrendous obstacles, a service which any charity in the UK would have been proud of.

The Director of Atfaluna, Naim, wrote on 17th July, 2014

Dear Friends,

I couldn't find the words to describe what happens in Gaza. It is a barbaric war, a crime against humanity with all the

meaning of this word. Imagine how you will feel when you see the missiles and huge bumps drop down everywhere around you and you smell the gunpowder and feel that you will be killed at any moment. You look to your children and think you will see them tear apart by Israeli bombs in front of your eyes. You see 42 families including women and children were killed without committing any guilt. To see your people migrate after they migrated many times and no-one in the world act to stop this crimes. The Israel missiles completely demolished my brother's home, which is beside my home. Thank God no-one injured. It is one of thousands homes and other civilian buildings demolished till now. Thank God again that most of the beneficiaries and staff who live at the Shijaia neighbourhood left it safely. ASDC through Atfaluna restaurant, started three days ago, to distribute hot meals adequate to 1000 individuals daily selected from the very long list of displaced people.

*Best wishes
Naim”*

We sell beautiful embroidery, ceramics and other crafts from the Atfaluna sheltered workshops at Hadeel, but do not expect to receive any deliveries for a very long time. This loss of income and need for rebuilding will mean that the services Atfaluna are able to provide will be greatly reduced.

Another very enterprising and successful embroidery group which we visited was the Idna Ladies, in the village of Idna in the West Bank - not Gaza. We received the following message dated 22nd July from a friend in Bethlehem, who visits Idna on our behalf.

Dear Carol,

*Idna ladies are fine, I am fine too.
Idna village had closure long time, now open.*

But IDF soldiers are coming to village every night around 2am to 5am. Soldiers come from back of village looking for Hamas member. When soldiers are outside one of houses, just ruin doors, look for man who is Hamas member.

One house has broken doors, soldiers came to search a man, even husband who died long time ago.

Yesterday at Mount Olives had clash, Idna as well.

I went to village last week was quiet. I hope to go village next Monday, will see.

The war in Gaza is being used as a reason for harassing people in the West Bank.

We also received the terrible news that one of the young women engaged in the Palestine Tapestry Project, which we had heard about at our AGM last year, and who was pregnant with her third child, was killed in an air strike along with her two young sons as they ran for safety. Her husband was seriously wounded.

Some of the messages are too horrific to reprint here, but all of these people just want to get on with their lives and do the best they can in already appalling circumstances and they have not been given the chance.

Hadeel has set up an appeal to raise funds to help Atfaluna and Sulafa, our other producer group in Gaza, run by the UN.

If you would like to contribute, you can donate on line through our website www.hadeel.org, or by post or in person at the Hadeel shop, 123 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4JN. Cheques should be made payable to Palcrafts, the charity which owns Hadeel.



Thank you.
Veronica Crerar

Pilgrimage



Ruthwell Cross Pilgrimage

Saturday 22 November

We are organising a pilgrimage to Ruthwell Cross in Dumfriesshire. This will be open to everybody – not just church members. More details coming soon.

Speyside Way Walk

Wednesday 15 - Saturday 18 October

A small group from STAGW are planning to walk along the Speyside Way from Aviemore to Spey Bay. This is for fitness, fun and fellowship rather than spiritual exercise but anyone is welcome to join us. Contact **Mary Scott**

*“ we are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road
we are here to help each other walk the miles and bear the load”*

Adventures in Faith

Alison Bruce

How's your spiritual life?

Flourishing? Or

Perhaps you'd like to explore but you're not sure where to start?

I'm going to let you in on a secret.

Adventures in Faith is a great resource from the Diocese of Edinburgh highlighting all kinds of different spiritual paths, always in the Christian tradition. How about...

A guided meditative walk for autumn? (23 Oct)

A Festival of Prayer? (8 Nov)

A weekend of Ignatian Spirituality (3-5 Oct)

Longer courses and study days in prayer and reflective living run throughout the autumn/winter too.

Events are open to everyone. There's usually a small charge, sometimes not-so-small charge, but bursaries can be available.

And of course there is **Nitekirk**, 8.30-11.30pm on the third Friday of every month, usually at Greyfriars but sometimes at their partner churches Augustine or St Columba's by the Castle. It's "a place of peace in Edinburgh's heart"

Interested? You can find details of all these and more in the Adventures in Faith newsletter at www.edinburgh.anglican.org

Shy with computers?
Smile at one of these ladies with an iPad and ask for help...

<http://www.edinburgh.anglican.org/>
<http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/>
<http://www.reflectivespaces.org.uk/>
<http://nitekirk.org/>

So – happy exploring!



Disclosure

**Prayer is like watching for
The kingfisher. All you can do is
Be there where he is like to appear, and
Wait.**

**Often nothing much happens;
There is space, silence and
Expectancy.**

**No visible signs, only the
Knowledge that he's been there
And may come again.**

**Seeing or not seeing cease to matter,
You have been prepared.**

**But when you've almost stopped
Expecting it, a flash of brightness
Gives encouragement.**

Ann Lewin

Thanks to PT for sharing this.

**St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847 www.stagw.org.uk**

Office open Mon - Fri 9am - 4pm
Church open Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm: Sat 11am-2pm
Undercroft Café Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm

Sunday worship 9am, 9.45am, 11am
Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

Minister Rev Ian Y Gilmour

Joint Session Clerks George Burgess
Katie McNeill

Joint Treasurers John Innes
Allan Sim

Director of Music Brigitte Harris

Church manager Jean Howard (Monday-Thursday)
0131 225 3847
churchmanager@stagw.org.uk

Church secretary Joyce Garland (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday)
0131 225 3847
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TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West
Christina Bowen, Frances Cooper and James McNeill (secretary)

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