



St Andrew's and St George's West Diary and Newsletter November 2014



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

Waiting for.... A letter from Alistair McGregor	3-4
Worshipping God	4
CHURCH LIFE – November-December Diary	5-9
Announcements	9
REMEMBRANCE	10-12
Remembrance service and recording – TOGETHER WW1 Commemoration – McCrae's Battalion Service	
MALAWI Visitors from Malawi	13-14
MUSIC	
In Praise of Food Book Launch and Afternoon Tea	15
Autumn Concerts at STAGW	16
Time and all that jazz	17
CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	
Christmas Craft Morning – Glitter, Glue, Straw, Scissors...	18
The Very Fine Art of Making Things Up	19
NEWS FROM CHURCH GROUPS	20-22
Evergreens – Book Group – Sunday Discussion Group – Undercroft Café – New Letterhead – Flower Fund	
NEWS FROM THE WIDER WORLD	
Crossreach Week – Scottish Interfaith Week	23-24
Al Waleed Islamic Civilisations Series	25
Light Against Darkness Exhibition	26-27
FEATURES	
Dealing with Dementia	28-29
Speyside Way Walk	30-31
LOOKING FORWARD TO ADVENT	
Alight! Christmas appeal for volunteers – Amos Cards	32
Christian Aid Thanksgiving Service – EMMS Roadshow	33
Advent and Christmas at St Andrew's and St George's West	34-35
CONTACTS	36

Enjoy the newsletter - many thanks to all contributors. The magazine is published monthly, in advance, to keep our community in touch with what is happening and to reflect its many facets.

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

Waiting for ...?

Alistair McGregor

As I write this, our minister Ian Gilmour is on his sabbatical leave in Arizona and Arkansas in America, as he will be until 3rd November. So I am happy to write this as Interim Moderator in his absence and say in a very heartfelt way how much we are looking forward to his return.

Soon after he is back, at the end of November in fact, the season of Advent starts our build up to Christmas. Advent gets overlooked, even by the Church, because of the enormous publicity and marketing that surround Christmas. That's a pity. Because Advent is about waiting. And we can all learn from a time of waiting.

The trouble is that in our society we have now learnt – and now expect – that everything will come instantly. If it doesn't then it is not worth having. But in our saner moments we know that is not right.

Waiting!

What can we possibly learn from that?

Before the coming of Christ, waiting built up a sense of expectancy for the coming of the long awaited messiah. But for us, this Advent, there is still much to be said for these four weeks of waiting.

I would suggest we can learn three things.

First, Advent gives us a chance to think. What is Christmas really all about? God in Christ among us. Why such an amazing act by God? Which leads us on...

Second, to praise God for this, the greatest gift of all. And, thank God, there will be plenty of opportunities for worship in our church this Advent, as this magazine shows us.

And third, Advent tells us that there is hope, that with God all things **are** possible. We all need hope. We all have dark days. But Advent,

as we look forward and wait for Christmas and God's coming among us, tells us that really are new possibilities for the world, for Christ's Church and – yes – for us too. And that is well worth waiting for, and thinking about.

So as we all prepare for Christmas in the weeks ahead may we make space each day for Advent to thank God for the wonder that is about to come – however many Christmasses we have seen before! With my grateful thanks to you all, and every blessing.

Alastair McGregor, Interim Moderator

Worshipping God at St Andrew's and St George's West

Sundays

9-9.30am Communion,

9.45 – 10.15am Learning Together

11 -11.55 am Morning Worship

Monday - Friday

1-1.15 pm prayers (Tuesday Communion)

Communion

We celebrate Communion every Sunday at 9am; every Tuesday at 1pm and after Morning Worship on the last Sunday of every month. Everyone is welcome at our table.

Exploring Silent Prayer

A group meets in St John's Church, in the side chapel, from **3.30-4.15pm** on Tuesday November 4, 18 and December 9 All are welcome; you do not need any previous experience of such groups; we are all learners.

St Andrew's & St George's West Diary

November-December 2014

Sun 2 Nov	9am Communion: 9.45am All age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship Fellowship Lunch for TOGETHER Homelessness
Mon 3 Nov	4.15pm Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association
Tue 4 Nov	9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir
Wed 5 Nov	6.20pm for 6.30pm: BBC recording our Remembrance Service
Thur 6 Nov	12.30pm at St Cuthbert's Ecumenical Friends Sarah Kilbey : You shall not curse the deaf: a ministry with deafened and hard of hearing people
Fri 7 Nov	7.30pm QuizAid Christian Aid TOGETHER in the Undercroft, St Andrew's and St George's West
Sun 9 Nov	9am Communion: 9.45 am all age service 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 10.50am Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship
Mon 10 Nov	4.15pm Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association 6.30pm Architectural Heritage Society Lecture Fountains Abbey & Studley Royal Estate. Michael Ridsdale, Head of Landscape at Fountains Abbey and Studley Royal Estate, National Trust
Tue 11 Nov	9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir 7.30pm Remembrance Music and Reflection
Wed 12	2.30 pm Bereavement Workshop I
Thur 13Nov	12.30pm at St Cuthbert's Ecumenical Friends Charles J Burnett: Heraldry – the shorthand of history
Fri 14 Nov	6pm Alwaleed Event (at Royal College of Surgeons)
Sat 15 Nov	10am Christmas Craft Morning Children/Families 9.30am Faith and Cosmology (at New College) 7.45pm Georgian Concert Society
Sun 16 Nov	9am Communion: 9.45am All age worship

	10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 7pm Sing out! for Scottish Churches Housing Action
Mon 17 Nov	10.30am Book Group meets (Undercroft Chapel) 4.15pm Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association
Tue 18 Nov	9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir
Wed 19	2.30pm Bereavement Workshop II
Thur 20 Nov	10.30am Evergreens Coffee morning, Undercroft 12.30pm at St Cuthbert's Ecumenical Friends Mark Wilson: My last visit to India?
Sat 22 Nov	2.30pm In Praise of Food Choir book launch & tea 2pm Glitter, glue ... BIG Advent calendar workshop
Sun 23 Nov	9am Communion: 9.45am All age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship Light Night on George Street
Mon 24 Nov	12.30pm Amnesty Group meets 4.15pm Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association
Tue 25 Nov	9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir
Wed 26	2.30pm Bereavement Workshop III 6.30pm Faith Exchange, Undercroft
Thur 27 Nov	1.15pm Chris Harding + Tim Cais in concert 12.30pm at St Cuthbert's Ecumenical Friends Hanne Gormley: The Edinburgh German Church 12.45pm at St Cuthbert's McCrae Battalion Centenary Service 6pm Alwaleed event (at ECA) 7.30pm Worbey and Farrell concert for LifeCare
Fri 28 Nov	Rock Trust Under 21 Sleepout Fri-Sat
Sun 30 Nov	9am Communion: 9.45am All age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 12 noon Communion 1.30pm Advent 1: Music and Reflection

December 2014

Mon 1 Dec	4.15pm Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association
Tue 2 Dec	9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir
Wed 3 Dec	40 Christmas Trees arrive in George Street!
Thurs 4 Dec	Workparty to set up Christmas Trees 12.30pm at St Cuthbert's Ecumenical Friends Margaret McGregor: Advent Reflection
Fri 5	Christmas Tree Festival D- Day (Decorating Day) 6pm Christmas Tree Festival launch
Sat 6	Christmas Tree festival opens to the public. Thereafter open Monday – Saturday 11am - 4pm. Late opening Thursday until 9pm
Sun 7	9am Communion: 9.45am All age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 12 noon Communion 12 noon Fellowship lunch for choir funds 1.30pm Advent 2: Music and Reflection 6.30pm Christian Aid Thanksgiving Service
Mon 8	Christmas Tree Festival 6.30pm Architectural Heritage Society Lecture Margaret Stewart – City Vistas: Lord Mar's Plans for London, Paris and Edinburgh in the 1720s
Tue 9 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival 9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir
Wed 10 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival
Thur 11 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival late opening until 9pm
Fri 12 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival 7.30pm Sunday's Child EMMS Roadshow
Sat 13 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 14 Dec	9am Communion: 9.45am All age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship – Lessons and Carols
Mon 15 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival 10.30am Book Group 4.15pm Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association

Tue 16 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival 9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir 7.30pm Christmas with the Choral
Wed 17 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival Faculty of Advocates Carol Service
Thurs 18	Christmas Tree Festival late opening until 9pm 2.30pm Evergreens
Fri 19 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival 6pm Carols at Six
Sat 20	Christmas Tree Festival Christmas Supper Undercroft
Wed 24	Last day of Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival 5pm Christingle 11.30am Watchnight Service
Thurs 25	11am Morning Worship

Find our online diary under the **WHAT's ON** tab on the website www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on/ . Please advise any changes, errors and omissions to comms (at) stagw(dot)org(dot)uk
Thank you!

Changes and corrections October magazine

The **Christian Aid TOGETHER Quiz** will now take place on Friday 7 November here at STAGW (not Sat 8 Nov at St John's)

The **Gaelic Mass** previously advertised on 8 October has been postponed

The **All-Age Advent Calendar Workshop** has moved from Sunday 23 Nov to Sat 22 Nov

Every week

Monday

1pm daily prayers
4-5.15pm Boys' Brigade and
Girls Association
7.30-9pm 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
10.30am Sunday Discussion
12 noon Bellringers

Every month

First Sunday

12 noon Fellowship Lunch
Dry goods for Fresh Start

Third Monday

10.30-12 Book Group

Third Thursday

10.30-12 Evergreens

Last Sunday

12 noon Communion

Last Monday

12.15-1 Amnesty Group

Announcements

Deaths

Mrs Jean Bradley
on 4 September

Weddings

**Anna Wightman and
Alexander Hawksley**
on Saturday 4 October

Members leaving

Mr Alistair Campbell
on 3rd October

Remembrance 2014 at St Andrew's and St George's West

Sunday 9 November 10.50am
Morning Worship together with the
German speaking congregation.

This will be the 35th anniversary of our first
joint service (see press cutting right)

BBC recording

Wednesday 5 November

6.20pm for 6.30pm

(for broadcast 9 November)

please come and take part in the
recorded service to make this an
authentic experience for everyone
taking part, and for everyone listening
on Sunday 9 November.



Bright Sparks

The children of Bright
Sparks are making felt
poppies for
remembrance. You can
see them displayed at

the front of the church on Remembrance
Sunday and these will be on sale for a
donation for charity after the service in the
Undercroft.

SCOTS AND GERMANS UNITE TO HONOUR WAR DEAD

Sunday Express Reporter

FOR the first time the
congregations of a
Scottish and a German
church will hold a joint
Remembrance Sunday
service to pay homage
to the dead of two world
wars.

The service, which has
been welcomed by church-
men, will be held at St.
Andrews and St. Georges
Church, in Edinburgh.

Members of the St. Andrews
congregation will be joined
in worship by members of
the German Speaking Protes-
tant Congregation.

Surprised

The service is the idea of St.
Andrews minister the Rev.
Andrew Wyllie.

Last night he said: "After
40 years I am surprised that a
service of this sort has never
been done."

He added that it was foolish
to preserve animosity for
ever.

Pastor Hake Schroedr,
minister of the German
church, said: "I was
delighted when Mr. Wyllie
approached me about the
service and the members of
my congregation were very
pleased when they heard
about it.

"It is right that we should
make contact with Scottish
groups and Scottish church
workers."

Imaginative

The Rev. William Johnston,
convenor of the Kirk's Inter-
Church Relations Committee,
also backed the service.

"It is a very imaginative
thing to do to bring these
two congregations together
after all these years," he said.

Wing Commander John
Pollington, deputy general
secretary of the British Legion
in Scotland commented: "It
is a welcome move. After all
we are Nato allies.

"Some of the older genera-
tion might be a little bit
against it, but I am sure the
younger generation would
welcome the service."

Sunday Express
4 November 1979

World War 1 Commemoration

Tuesday 11th November

Tony Bryer

The Together Churches Ministry team have planned a reflective event on November 11th to commemorate the centenary of the start of the first World War.

By holding in on Armistice Day, to give the day its proper title, we intend it to be an occasion to look forward as well one for remembering.

The evening will include readings, meditations, and music around the themes of Remembering, Repenting, Reconciling and Rejoicing in Hope. All three church choirs will be performing appropriate pieces of choral music, ministers from all the churches and the German Church will be taking part.

Also present will be representatives Consulates of those nations who were caught up in World War 1. All have been invited and we hope that many of them will be able to be with us.

The Commemoration begins at 7.30pm in St Andrew's & St George's West, and all are welcome.

However, if you would like to be at the refreshments which will be served afterwards, please sign up on the list available on Sunday, or let the office know.



McCrae's Battalion

www.mccraesbattaliontrust.org.uk

A service in commemoration
of the centenary of the Raising of this
Battalion in the Parish of St Cuthbert
will take place in St Cuthbert's church
on:

Thursday 27th November at 12.45pm
(Entry from King's Stables Road
or Lothian Road)

All are welcome to this community event

Organised by OASIS (an outreach of St Cuthbert's Church)
in partnership with *business matters*, Workplace Chaplaincy
Scotland & McCrae's Battalion Trust.



Dr & Mrs Gama at David Livingstone's birthplace in Blantyre

Visitors from Malawi

Alison Campbell

Rev Dr Billy Gama and his wife Shamim spent 5 days in Edinburgh in October on a visit organised by StAGW. Dr Gama is the new Head of Mission at Mulanje Mission Station, and works alongside Dr Ruth Shakespeare, our missionary partner and the Medical Director of Mulanje Mission Hospital. Ruth was also with us for the weekend and it was such a joy to see her again.

Billy, Shamim and Ruth took part in services with us and at St Cuthbert's and attended many events including a meeting with the Africa Committee of World Mission, a very informative meeting in the Undercroft (where we also welcomed Alastair Nelson of Linda's Fund) a meeting of the Livingstonia/Blantyre Fellowship, a trip to

the David Livingstone Centre in Blantyre, and a lively ceilidh. They were endlessly energetic and keen to listen as well as talk – only defeated by a very lively Strip the Willow at the ceilidh!

Our support

Ruth said that our donations in several areas had been of great help. Pearson Soka, the Hospital Administrator, is about to finish his MBA and hopes to come to Scotland on a 3 month scholarship next year to a local hospital. A weekly clinic has been started in the local prison. Solar panels have been installed for the men and women's wards and thanks to Jer Ryder Jones, our joiner, an insulated ceiling has been put on the baby nursery.

Continuing needs

However the needs remain enormous. In particular we heard about the challenges facing the secondary school from Mrs Gama who teaches there – no flush toilets, one book to 5 students, shortage of teachers mainly because of a lack of houses for them, 4 students to a desk etc.

Dr Gama spoke of the increasing need for support for all aspects of the Mission – health work, schools and the prison. He is clearly an outstanding person with a formidable grasp of the problems and possible solutions in Mulanje, and a fearless honesty about the difficulties that Malawi faces, not least in accountability and openness.

How we can help

We will shortly produce a plan for further fundraising and hope to work with Stockbridge Church, our Together partners and Fortrose Academy and schools elsewhere to produce significant amounts of continuing help for all aspects of Mulanje Mission. Meanwhile we continue our 3 year funding for the prison health work.



in praise of food

afternoon tea & book launch

Saturday 22 November 2.30-4.30pm

Choir News

On Saturday 22 November St Andrew's and St George's West Choir will launch *In Praise of Food*, a new cookbook of their favourite recipes. You are invited to come to St Andrew's and St George's Church for a lavish Afternoon Tea and to be entertained by our musicians. All profits from the day will go towards the Choir's 2015 tour to Germany. Tickets £5 (to include afternoon tea) are available from the office and from Mary Margaret Scott.

Chris Harding and Tim Cais in concert

Thursday 27 November 2014 1.15 - 2.15pm

Our music assistant Chris Harding performs at St Andrew's and St George's West with cellist Tim Cais. The programme for piano and cello includes

Cello Sonata in B flat major, Op. 45 - Mendelssohn

Cello Sonata in C major, Op. 119 - Prokofiev

Two Pieces for Cello and Piano – Webern

The Choir at Advent and Christmas

The choir will sing a programme of contemporary and traditional music for Advent and Christmas, including Advent Music and Reflections at 1.30pm on the first two Sundays of Advent. **Please see the last two pages of this magazine for an Advent preview.**

Autumn Concerts

at St Andrew's and St George's West

Georgian Concert Society

Saturday 15 November at 7.45pm

This concert series continues when The Flautadors Recorder Quartet Flauti di Camera presents a programme of 18th century music. Tickets £18, Conc £16, Students/unwaged £5 from Queens Hall Box Office tel 0131 668 2019 and online at thequeenshall.net.

Sing Out!

for Scottish Churches Housing Action

November 16 @ 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

with Brightons Praise Group and Organist Robin Gardiner

Refreshments in the Undercroft Café

Retiring collection for the work of Scottish Churches Housing Action

Worbey and Farrell Concert for Lifecare

27 November at 7.30pm

Steven Worbey and Kevin Farrell, graduates of the Royal College of Music, push the boundaries of the piano to illuminate music of every style – classical, popular and contemporary. They have achieved over a million hits on YouTube and performed all over the world in their role as a solo act and with the world's leading symphony orchestras. This concert will raise funds for LifeCare, and Edinburgh based charity which works with elderly people with dementia and their carers.

"incredible"

"prepare to laugh with joy..."

Tickets £15 from LifeCare, 2 Cheyne Street, Edinburgh, EH4 1JB 0131 343 0940 and online at www.lifecare-edinburgh.org.uk/events
Concession tickets available for £12 but only direct from LifeCare.

Time... and all that jazz

Laura Shepherd muses

One Sunday morning recently – and certainly not for the first time – Ian preached an excellent, and very telling, sermon. We were considering the best uses of the precious gift of the time that God has given us. I nodded eagerly to myself when Ian mentioned lists to written regularly. “I do that!” I thought, almost smugly....

Until I realised that there is a world of difference between Ian’s lists and mine. He adheres faithfully to his nightly-written list of tasks-to-do, because he’s a quietly well-ordered man; I do nothing of the sort! Oh, for sure, some tasks on my list are ticked off and scored out. But many of them remain undone and are added to the next day’s list until my conscience pains me so much, that they just disappear altogether, never to reappear on another list.

But I heard another homily that morning. I was finishing a wake-up cup of coffee and listening to Radio 4 before setting off for George Street in the bus. The Morning Service was broadcast from a little town in Wales and it was their annual Jazz Festival service. The minister mentioned the late, great George Shearing, who had sat at his piano and announced to the audience “Now, I’d like to start with Beethoven’s Moonlight Sonata And see where we go from there!” And go from there he did, playing the most wonderful variations on the beautiful theme of the first movement.

“And that,” said the preacher, “is jazz – God’s gift to us.

He went on to say that, of course, in life we must have plans. We need some structure to mould our lives around. “But” he added “We must also be ready for when plans go awry and life lands us with situations undreamt of. That’s where we can take lessons from jazz and with God’s help be ready, like George Shearing, with some improvisations. And often such improvisations are amazingly clever and at least as good as the original theme.”

Perhaps, after all, the keynote is flexibility and not strict, rigid order. Now, there’s a plan!

Children and Young People at STAGW

Christmas Craft Morning for Children and Families

Saturday 15th November 2014 10am -12.30pm
Davidson Room £5 per adult/child (Includes
craft materials and Lunch)



Register with Angela Grant
(Child, Youth & Family Worker)

Email: [angela.stocks1975\(at\)btinternet.com](mailto:angela.stocks1975(at)btinternet.com) or Tel 0131 6611794

Numbers are limited to 15 people in total. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Please register by 8th November 2014. All are welcome!

Glitter, glue, straw, scissors...

Saturday 22 November 2- 4pm
in the Davidson Room , FREE

a creative afternoon of making
angels
shepherds
stars
hearts

for the BIG
Advent Calendar
(back by popular request)

Speak to Katie McNeill via the office if you're coming





Royal High School Pupils with author Marianne Wheelaghan

The very fine art of making things up

Helen Cox, Education Group Convener

Creative writing is most popularly understood to be writing that comes from the imagination, is original and self-expressive. The purpose of creative writing is to both entertain and share human experience. It is the very fine art of making things up, in the most attractive, apt and convincing way possible.

On 25th September the Education Group welcomed a second year English class from Royal High School to participate in a creative writing workshop session, presented by Marianne Wheelaghan, known to us at STAGW for her inspiring novel *The Blue Suitcase*. During the workshop, pupils were engaged in discussion centred round where ideas for stories originate from and given guidance to enable them formulate plot and character development to expand their writings.

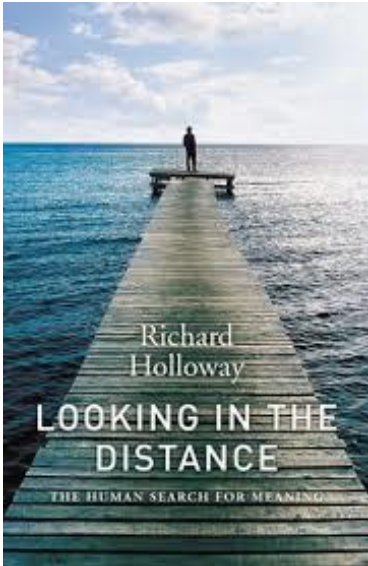
By the end of the workshop, pupils produced draft copies of their stories to be completed on return to school. The pupils' collective work will be entered into the Pushkin Prizes Competition in December, 2014. All first and second year classes from schools in Scotland are invited to submit their creative writing folios for an opportunity to receive one of ten awards.

The Education Group look forward to continuing our partnership with the Royal High School. In due course, we will display the stories in Church, in anthology form.

News from church groups

Evergreens Group

Evergreens meet on the third Thursday of the month. Our next two meetings will be **Thursday 20 November 10.30am-12 noon** in the Undercroft, a drop-in coffee morning in the Undercroft. On **Thursday 18 December from 2.30pm** our traditional visit to the Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival, with stories and carol singing led by Brigitte Harris, followed by a Christmas tea in the Undercroft. Further information available from **Veronica Crerar**.



Book Group

We are about to start reading Richard Holloway's *Looking into the Distance: The Human Search for Meaning*. New members always welcome!

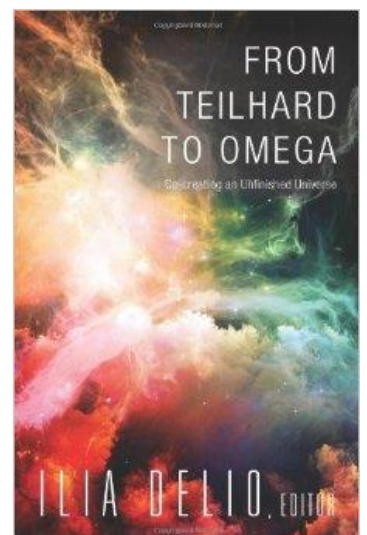
We meet on the third Monday of the month at 10.30am, usually in the Undercroft Chapel.

Veronica Crerar

Sunday Discussion Group

For 2014-5 we are studying from **Teilhard to Omega: Co-Creating an Unfinished Universe**, edited by Ilia Delio. Our discussions start at about 10.25am – and end at about 11.15am and we usually meet in the Davidson Room.

Everyone is welcome to join us
Arthur Chapman



Undercroft Café



Edmund5
Mid Wales

Senior Contributor



22 reviews



Reviews in 14 cities



24 helpful votes

“Souperb”

★★★★★ Reviewed 25 October 2014

We had just been on a bus tour around Edinburgh & were told to go to The Dome for food - we got to The Dome & ecked at the menu prices. Crossed the road & saw the Undercroft Cafe directly opposite.

We went down to the cafe & soon realised we had found a delicious gem in the heart of Edinburgh.

Lovely staff.

I had the Macaroni Cheese & my husband had the Courgette & Almond soup with crusty bread.

So very reasonably priced for such fabulous tasting food.

I also indulged in a cheese scone - divine.

I insist everyone eats here - so cosy

Enjoyed immensely - Thank You

Visited October 2014

★★★★★ Value

★★★★★ Atmosphere

★★★★★ Service

★★★★★ Food

Many thanks to the kind visitor who took time to give our hospitality a five-star review on travel website TripAdvisor

New Letterhead and Stationery

We have a new letterhead (a digital template) and hard copy compliments slips and blank business cards.

If you require any of these for church business please contact the office.



Flower Fund – an update

Catherine Reid

Following our appeal for the Flower Fund in September we are making good progress. Thanks to all who have contributed so far. If you are still thinking about supporting the fund, or considering it for the first time, please read on.

In June 2011 the Flower 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.

Again, many thanks to those who have already donated generously.

Catherine Reid (Flower Convener)

CrossReach Week 2 - 7 November 2014

Katie McNeill

Sunday 2 November is the first day of CrossReach week, when John Chalmers, Moderator of the Church of Scotland is inviting the whole Church to join him in celebrating and supporting the social care work being done by the Church of Scotland.

As the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council, CrossReach's offers the best possible support to the people who use its services across Scotland. They are keen to encourage a closer connection with the wider Church, and greater local church involvement in supporting its mission.

There are over 70 Cross Reach services across Scotland. Here are some of their projects

The **Sunflower Garden** is a CrossReach project in our parish, which supports children affected by addiction in their families.



In 2013 The Sunflower Garden celebrated their 10th birthday at a concert in St Andrew's and St George's West

Rainbow House supports people recovering from addiction.

The Daisy Chain Early Years Project uses play-based interventions to improve the lives of vulnerable children in Govanhill.

The recent **partnership between Cameron House**, which offers enhanced support for people who have dementia, and their **local Gaelic primary school (Bun Sgoil Gàidhlig Inbhir Nis)**, giving Gaelic speaking residents the opportunity to informally chat with the participating children, was awarded "Best Innovation in continuing care" in September 2014 at Scotland's Dementia Awards.

Cunningham House, a hostel on Edinburgh's Cowgate, supports people to find their own place to stay.

Based in the same building, **the Rankeillor Initiative** supports people who are in recovery from substance misuse by for example, offering supported accommodation to people when they move on from residential rehabilitation programmes.

We pray you will be inspired by what CrossReach is doing in local communities across Scotland, and we encourage you to be part of it. On Sunday 2 November more information will be available – in CrossReach week leaflets which are being provided for every Church of Scotland parish.

Scottish Interfaith Week

23-30 November

A week of events throughout Edinburgh organised by the Edinburgh Inter Faith Association

On **Wednesday 26 November 6.30-8pm** St Andrew's and St George's West will host a Faith Exchange, a fun activity where people have a chance to move around tables and ask questions of someone from another faith. Come along and find out what other faiths think about the big questions.

Please visit <http://www.eifa.org.uk/category/events/> for full listings.

The Alwaleed Centre Autumn Semester Events **2014**

The Transfer of Science and Philosophy across Religious Boundaries in the Middle Ages

Friday 14th November 2014, 6pm - 8pm, King Khalid Building (Hill Square), Royal College of Surgeons [FIND VENUE](#)

Professor Charles Burnett of the Warburg Institute, University of London, is one of the world's leading scholars working on the history of science in the Islamic World. In this special lecture, delivered in the stunning surroundings of the Royal College of Surgeons' King Khalid Building, Prof Burnett will explore what happens when a scientific or philosophical work is translated from one religious culture to another, specifically from pagan Greek to Islamic Arabic and from Islamic Arabic to Christian Latin. This event is FREE but ticketed. Click [HERE](#) for tickets.

Followed by a reception.

Telling stories: Collecting Contemporary Middle Eastern Art at the British Museum

Thursday 27th November 2014, 6pm - 8pm, Edinburgh College of Art, Lauriston Place, [FIND VENUE](#)

Venetia Porter is Curator of Islamic and Modern Middle East Art at the British Museum. She curated the British Museum exhibitions 'Word into Art: Artists of the Modern Middle East' (2006) and 'Hajj: Journey to the heart of Islam' (2012). In this lecture, Venetia will explore the process by which contemporary art from the Middle East is both acquired and displayed at the British Museum. This event is FREE but ticketed. Click [HERE](#) for tickets.

Followed by a reception.

For more information visit: www.alwaleed.ed.ac.uk

If you have any questions, please get in touch: thealwaleedcentre@ed.ac.uk



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THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH
The Alwaleed Centre

Light against Darkness: An Exhibition of Syrian Refugee Children's Art

Alison Bruce

At first glance the drawings look charming.

Blue sky. Sunshine. Soft colours.

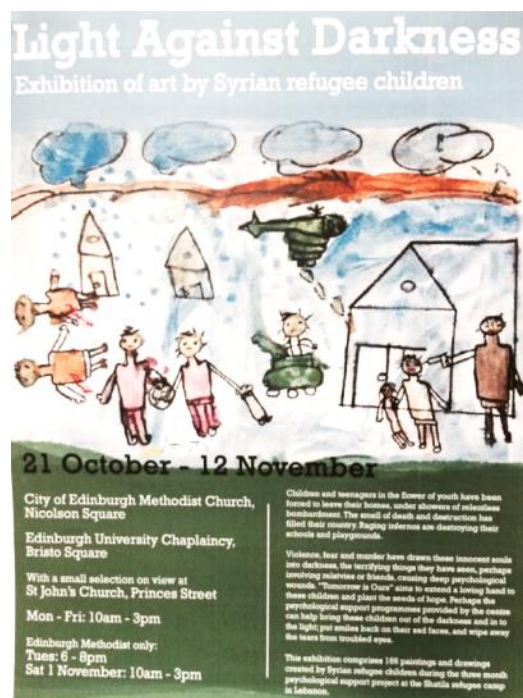
But look closer and a different picture emerges. Here, a tank fires at a human huddle with predictable consequences. There, a helicopter pilot aims a missile at a family. Their house already lies in ruins.

A century after the "Great War for Civilisation", the atrocities of war are alive and kicking. While WW1 war wasted a generation of European youth, the current conflict in Syria, Palestine and throughout the Middle East is also creating a lost generation of children and young people impoverished by war and ready to be radicalised by rival factions.



and flowers bloom. In this created world, evil does not have the last word.

Can making art offer a different path? Can it transcend a dark reality and transform broken lives into something beautiful?



But as you move further through this exhibition – there are 160 paintings, made over a period of months by children in a refugee camp working with professional artists – the darkness begins to lift.

Families reunite, grannies smile, little girls dress up as princesses




The great artist Henri Matisse made his best and simplest work at the end of his life. His paper cut outs, enjoyed by over half a million people at the Tate Modern in London this summer, radiate joy and movement. Yet much of this uplifting work was born out of darkness as the occupying German army requisitioned his house and as his health failed. Creating, working with form and colour, became an act of defiance.

So at this time of year when we remember both the dead and the living, it is almost an act of prayer to spend some time with these paintings from Syria. It is an opportunity to reflect on the eternal co-existence of good and evil, and on how to nurture the light that overcomes darkness.

Light against Darkness: An Exhibition of Syrian Refugee Children's Art runs until 12 November, Monday - Friday. 10am - 3pm at the City of Edinburgh Methodist Church, Nicolson Square with outposts at Edinburgh University Chaplaincy, Bristo Square and St John's Church, Princes St.

The exhibition is organised by Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre with Children's War Museum and Najda Now, supported by World Mission Council of Church of Scotland, Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together and Just Festival.

 <h1 data-bbox="279 1612 742 1814">Faith <i>and</i> Cosmology</h1> <p data-bbox="255 1848 742 1948">• A day conference open to all, exploring the relationship between modern cosmological science and religious belief.</p> <p data-bbox="87 1915 223 2027">Saturday 15 November 0930-1630 New College Edinburgh</p> <p data-bbox="279 1982 726 2027">Registration: £10 (free to students)</p>	<h2 data-bbox="798 1601 1013 1646">Speakers</h2> <p data-bbox="798 1680 1420 1881">Prof Bernard Carr (Astronomy) Dr Peter Bussey (Physics) Fr Andrew Pinsent (Theology) Jamie Boulding (Theology)</p> <p data-bbox="798 1915 1348 2016">http://www.ed.ac.uk/schools-departments/divinity/</p>
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Dealing with Dementia

Nick Evans

“I get confused””My memory is terrible these days”. With these words, Dorothy began to give us an insight into her dementia as she starred in a short play during the 11.00 Service on Sunday 31st August. Of course, she was a fictional character, but many of us know someone with dementia, and many more of us will do so in the future. Over 70,000 people in Scotland will be living with dementia by next year, including people in their thirties and forties.

As a member of a welcoming and inclusive congregation, you and I will meet people with dementia. Some of them will be members as well.

How should we react?

The other star of the play, Abigail, reacted by smiling, giving her name, shaking hands, welcoming Dorothy, listening, asking a few gentle questions and inviting her to have a chat over a cup of coffee. In a word, she showed Christian love for the other person.

Churches which do this have been described as “Dementia friendly churches”. These churches “.....include and welcome people with dementia. They offer people with dementia respect and dignity, and promote knowledge and awareness about dementia within the local community. While people with dementia have diminished ability to think and remember, in many other ways they are like anyone else. People with dementia are loved by God and are able to enjoy a relationship with God, other people and the wider creation.

Dementia friendly churches contribute to the development of dementia friendly communities and enhance the well being of people with dementia and their family carers”. (Source: Mind and Soul, *exploring Christianity and mental health*, 10 Tips for Creating Dementia Friendly Churches).

Drawing on the lessons of the play, here are some things we can do to become dementia friendly:

- Be positive about what people with dementia can do (don't make negative assumptions);

- Give support to someone with dementia as they try to make decisions;
- Listen attentively to what a person with dementia is saying (it will make them feel valued and respected);
- Watch what someone with dementia is saying with their body language and facial expressions;
- Avoid correcting what is said by people with dementia;
- Always assume that people with dementia know what you are saying;
- Show people with dementia love (we all flourish when we are shown love);
- Encourage people with dementia to be creative; and
- Support everyone with dementia to worship God.

Like Dorothy, everyone with dementia has difficulty remembering what has happened and working things out. They often find themselves excluded from the roles and relationships they had with other people and the local community. Like Abigail, we can help to include them in the life of the church and the city centre community.

The Education Group will be considering how best to take forward this important topic.

Thanks are due to Bill Clinkenbeard for his play “The Dementia Friendly Congregation”, and to Mind and Soul, whose material has been borrowed and adapted for this article.

For more information see:

http://www.mindandsoul.info/Articles/355251/Mind_and_Soul/Resources/Articles/Dementia/10_tips_for.aspx

Scottish Dementia Working Group <http://www.sdwg.org.uk/>

There is a list of other sites at

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/topics/health/services/mental-health/dementia>

Nick Evans, Education Group

Speyside Way 2014

Mary Margaret Scott

When Judy and Arthur Chapman and I set out from Aviemore Station on noon on the 15th October,

we expected to get some cold and wet weather, but in fact we were pleasantly surprised; it was mild and gloriously sunny.



Our first 17 miles took us through silver birch and pine forests, across heather moors and along disused railway lines to Boat of Garten – we were lucky to see the Strathspey Railway steam train carrying its enthusiasts from Aviemore – then Nethy Bridge and on to Grantown. Our first night's accommodation was a bunkhouse run by the Craggan Outdoor Centre in Grantown with, fortunately, a co-op store near at hand to stock up on breakfast and lunch supplies for the next day.

"I only went out for a walk and finally concluded to stay out till sundown, for going out, I found, was really going in."

John Muir

Day 2 was a 14½ mile stretch to Cromdale and Ballindalloch Station. Much of the track was through beautiful pine woodland, although there was some agricultural land outside Cromdale. This part of the route was notable for the number of squeeze gates we had to negotiate, sometimes as many as three together.

We also had a couple of steep-ish climbs but the views across the Spey Valley made it worthwhile. Our accommodation that night was a fabulous bed-and-breakfast place, run by a retired couple from Somerset. They ferried us to and from the station and also to and from a hotel for dinner. As for the breakfast!!

Day 3 saw us walk 12 miles to Aberlour and Craigellachie all along a disused railway line right beside the Spey. We passed several distilleries but none of them was open to the

public, so there was no temptation! A pleasant lunch stop at Aberlour gave us time to get supplies again, before the 2 miles to our next overnight stop in Craigellachie. Again this was a good B&B with views across to the Thomas Telford Bridge. We visited the Fiddichside Pub – a tiny pub run, in what seemed to be the living room of his house, by an 80+ year-old man. His ‘till’ was a drawer in the counter.

“Walking is man’s best medicine”
Hippocrates

Our final day should have been 18 miles to Spey Bay, but as the Chapmans had to get a train back from Inverness that evening, we decided to end the walk at Fochabers, although I went on to complete the last 5 miles on the 20th. This section started through a magnificent beech and birch wood but then climbed steeply again to enter a large pine forest. From here we caught our first glimpse of the Moray Firth and had our hardest and most sustained climb.

We also had our first real rain – a 15 minute downpour just as we stopped for lunch. We were very grateful to my sister and brother-in-law for meeting us at Fochabers, taking us to Elgin and refreshing us before the Chapmans left for the Inverness bus.



Highlights of the walk for me had to be the weather, the scenery and the Ballindalloch B&B! No blisters, but a few bruises remain.

Mary Scott

Alight! Christmas

The Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival needs you!

Please come and welcome visitors to our Christmas Tree Festival. Last year over 3000 people of all ages enjoyed the sparkling trees in our sanctuary and £4000 was raised for local charities. To allow this to happen again we need **lots of volunteers** to offer hospitality and guide our visitors through the forest.

Much assistance from the strong and able-bodied is required for the setting up of the trees on Thursday 4 December. Tree sponsors come to decorate their trees on Friday 5 December. It is good to be able to welcome and assist them.

The Festival then runs from Saturday 6 to Wednesday 24 December (except Sundays) from 11am to 4pm with some evening events. We will welcome nursery children for half hour programmes presenting the Christmas story through word, puppets and song. Please indicate if you would like to be a storyteller, musician or helper at these sessions.

Help forms will be available in the vestibule from Sunday 2nd November or from Mary Godden via the Church Office. Completed forms should be returned to the box in vestibule or emailed by **Sunday 23rd November**.

Please help even for one or two sessions! It is good fun!

Amos Cards for Christmas

There is a selection of Amos Scripture Care Trust laminated cards with a Christmas theme available in the sanctuary for folk to uplift. The display stand is on the west side on top of the cupboards. Members might like to include an Amos card with Christmas gifts or cards, where appropriate.

YOU ARE INVITED TO...

**Service of Thanksgiving for the work of Christian Aid
Sunday 7th December 2014 at 6:30pm**

At St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George Street,

An evening service of thanksgiving for the work of Christian Aid
led by head of team, Kathy Galloway.

A chance to celebrate the work of our partners around the world and
to thank our supporters who make it possible.

Tea and Coffee will be served after the service.

This is an open invitation to everyone in your Church and community
– please pass it on through intimations
and by word of mouth.

UK registered charity no. 1105851 Company no. 5171525 Scot charity no.
SC039150

Sunday's Child Roadshow

Join healthcare charity EMMS and singer **Eloho Efemuai on Friday 12 December** for a special evening of live **gospel** music and inspirational stories as we get into the festive spirit. We will be joined by **Dr. Cornelius Huwa** who will talk about our work on providing compassionate healthcare and pain relief to cancer sufferers in Malawi. All proceeds from tickets and donations raised on the night will be matched by the UK Government's Match funding scheme.

Venue: St. Andrew's and St. George's, 13 George Street, Edinburgh,

Time: Doors open 7pm, concert 7:30pm- 9:15pm.

Tickets: £5 available by calling 0131 313 3828 or events@emms.org

To find out more please visit: www.emms.org/sundayschild

Advent and Christmas at STAGW

Alight! Christmas

**The 5th Edinburgh
Christmas Tree Festival**

Friday 5 December
decorating day and launch

opening hours
Monday – Saturday
10am-4pm
Sat 6 – Wed 24 December

Thursday Lates
until 9pm, with music

free entry
donations welcome
for this year's charities

Edinburgh Women's Aid,
Palcrafts/Hadeel and
Waverley Care

part of the
Decorate Edinburgh
Christmas Tree Trail

Choral Music

for Advent and Christmas

Mary, the Rose
Sunday 30 November 1.30pm

Advent Music and Reflection
Music by Michael Praetorius,
Hugo Distler and Andrew
Carvel, sung by the Choir of St
Andrew's and St George's West

Angels from Heaven
Sunday 7 December 1.30pm

Advent Music and Reflection
Music by David Willcocks, Max
Reger and Will Todd
Sung by the sopranos and altos
from the choir
Flute – Laura Cioffi
Directed by Brigitte Harris

Carols at Six
Friday 19 December 6pm

Join the Choir and Orchestra
directed by Brigitte Harris
for festive music by
Bach, Rutter and Willcocks
and favourite carols
for all to sing

free entry
donations for EWA, Palcrafts
(Hadeel) and Waverley Care

Advent and Christmas at STAGW

Concerts and Events at STAGW in Advent

**Sunday 7 Dec
Christian Aid Service
of Thanksgiving**

**Monday 8 Dec
AHSS Lecture**

**Friday 12 Dec
EMMS Sunday's Child
Roadshow**

**Tuesday 16 Dec
Christmas with the Choral**

**Wednesday 17 Dec
Faculty of Advocates
Christmas Carol Service**

**Friday 19 Dec
Carols at Six**

Special Services for Advent and Christmas

Sunday 30 November
1.30pm Heart of Christmas
Music and Reflection

Sunday 7 December
1.30pm Heart of Christmas
Music and Reflection

Sunday 14 December
11am Service of Lessons
and Carols

**Christmas Eve
Wednesday 24 December**

5pm Christingle
(candle-lighting)
service for all ages

11.30pm Watchnight

**Christmas Day
Thursday 25 December**

11am Morning Worship
for Christmas Day

**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 10am-3pm
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 0131 225 3847 (church)
Joint Session Clerks	George Burgess Katie McNeill
Joint Treasurers	John Innes Allan Sim
Director of Music	Brigitte Harris
Children, family and youth worker	Angela Grant 0131 661 1794 angela.stocks1975@btinternet.com
Church manager	Jean Howard (Monday-Thursday) 0131 225 3847 churchmanager@stagw.org.uk
Church secretary	Joyce Garland (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) 0131 225 3847 info@stagw.org.uk

TOGETHER Chair Ian Gilmour
TOGETHER City Tony Bryer 0131 229 6542 or 07834 748129
Centre Chaplain tbryer.wpcscotland@gmail.com

**TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West
Christina Bowen, Frances Cooper and James McNeill (secretary)**

**St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland,
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