

Respectfully dedicated to Miss Mary Jordan

3

# Deep River

Old Negro melody  
Arranged by  
H. T. BURLEIGH

Voice

Lento

*p*

Deep riv - er, my

Piano

*p*

*pp*

home is o - ver Jor - dan, Deep



## St Andrew's and St George's West Magazine February 2015

ST ANDREW'S &  
ST GEORGE'S WEST  
EDINBURGH



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## February 2015

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**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. March copy deadline Mon 16 February**

**Contact us at [magazine@stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stagw.org.uk) (please note our new address)**

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## **Raise Your Spirits by Singing Some Spirituals....**

### **Ian Gilmour**

Having completed a period of study leave in the United States including a series of interviews, I am now ready to share some of the stories gathered on the relationship between slavery and song. Thanks again to all at St Andrew's and St George's West who helped make this possible.

Come along and sing - it will raise your spirits and your awareness of that peculiar institution which was slavery. Incidentally, February is Black History month in the United States, to which one of the interviewees quipped, "It was no surprise to the black community that they gave us the shortest, coldest month!" Slavery is a terrible stain on the story of the world community, yet it continues worldwide to this day and not always in far flung locations.

At the event, our choir will sign two new pieces, one of which was specially commissioned from Andrew Carvel. Stephen Fischbacher of Fischy Music will engage us with his lively version of 'We Shall Overcome', while the Edinburgh Signing Choir will also present some fresh material. The audience will get a chance to sing some of these wonderful melodies which hugely influenced the Jazz, Gospel and Blues genres throughout the 20th century. This music was first brought to Edinburgh in the early 1870s by the Fisk Jubilee singers who were former slaves and able to give first-hand insights into their experience of slavery. Some 6,000 songs were written during the period of enslavement in the USA.

You will hear a dozen of the slave songs (you may know more of them than you thought) sung by some wonderful voices including internationally renowned mezzo, Andrea Baker. Her relative, Professor Undine Moore (1904–1989), arranged one of the pieces which she will perform. The songs, which were written during the three centuries of American slavery, were not

all sorrowful - in fact many of them are lively. They describe the rhythms of African life, honesty about hardship, hope of a better life on this earth and in the life to come, the desire for escape and freedom and some have hidden humour and secret messages.

The event will take place in the church at 7.30pm on Thursday 19 February, tickets £5 (£3 concessions) including refreshments. The evening will be filmed so that the Americans who were interviewed will be able to see how I used their contributions. Hope to see you there.

Love and enjoy life fully in February

Ian

## **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)
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### **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.

## February 2015 Themes and Readings

Sunday 1 Feb	<b>The Knowledge of Love</b>	Reading Mark 1:21–28
Sunday 8 Feb	<b>Sustaining Ministry</b>	Reading Mark 1:29–39
Sunday 15 Feb	<b>Pass it On</b>	Reading Mark 9:2–9

**Lent begins this week** - Richard Rohr writes, "You are already in the eternal flow that Christians would call the divine life of the trinity." This Lent is an opportunity to journey along and dive into that divine river.

Sunday 22 Feb	<b>Into The Wilderness</b>	Reading Mark 1:9–15
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## March 2015 Themes and Readings

Sunday 1 Mar	<b>Living Legacy</b>	Reading Mark 8:31–38
Sunday 8 Mar	<b>Cosmic Law</b>	Reading John 2 .13-22

## Worship Strengthens and Transforms

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 Learning Together all age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am. **Or come to all three!**

## Ecumenical Lent Groups 2015 – *Approaching Jesus*

You are invited to join our ecumenical partners in small groups for Bible study, discussion & prayer over five weeks of Lent. *Approaching Jesus*, the study guide chosen for Lent 2015, was written by Cathy Madavan for CWR publishing.

"During the forty days in the wilderness, Jesus was tempted and tested but above all He demonstrated a powerful understanding of who He was, and what mattered most to Him. This series is designed to help us learn more about who Jesus is today, and apply it to our own lives..... They aim to help us approach Jesus again as we look through the eyes of people who approached Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew."

**Lent Groups begin 23 February. Closing date – Mon. 9 February**  
Groups will meet on weekday evenings and daytimes during the weeks beginning February 23 and March 2, 9, 16, 23. Unless otherwise indicated, groups will meet in homes, and will usually be led by two people from different congregations. For more information, please speak to Michael Cunliffe or email Helen Hood, Ecumenical Officer, St Mary's Cathedral, Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AW , tel 447 6469, email [lentgroups@gmail.com](mailto:lentgroups@gmail.com) for registration form.

## St Andrew's & St George's West Diary February 2015

<b>Sun 1 Feb</b>	<p><b>9am Communion</b> (spoken liturgy)  <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship, followed by 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults)  <b>11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks</b> for children from 11.15)  <b>12 noon Fellowship Lunch</b> – in aid of the John McIntyre Scholarship Fund, providing scholarships to students training for the Church of Scotland ministry at the Univ. of Edinburgh</p>
<b>Mon 2 Feb</b>	<p><b>6.15pm (to 7.30pm) StAGW Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association</b>  <b>6.30pm Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland</b> – Forth &amp; Borders Group meeting</p>
<b>Tues 3 Feb</b>	<p><b>9.30am Little Ducks Club (Parents and Toddlers)</b>  10am Circle Scotland Kinship Carers' Choir "Sing in the City"</p>
<b>Wed 4 Feb</b>	<p><b>7.30pm Centenary Choral Concert in aid of Poppy Scotland.</b> Edinburgh Napier University Chamber Choir recreate a 1915 concert. £7(£5)</p>
<b>Thurs 5 Feb</b>	<p><b>12.30pm at St Cuthbert's, Ecumenical Friends Swarup Bar</b> – News from Kolkata</p>
<b>Sat 7 Feb</b>	<p><b>7.30pm Scottish Chamber Choir</b> – Scottish Renaissance Concert. £10</p>
<b>Sun 8 Feb</b>	<p><b>9am Communion</b>  <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship  10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) .  <b>11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks</b> for children from 11.15)  Lunch available, followed at 1.30pm by Papagena – concert by a new capella female group. £10(£8)</p>

<b>Mon 9 Feb</b>	<b>6.15pm StAGW Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association</b> <b>7.30pm Bellingring practice</b>
<b>Tue 10 Feb</b>	<b>9.30am Little Ducks Club</b> (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Sing in the City Kinship Carers' Choir
<b>Wed 11 Feb</b>	5.30pm (to 6.30pm) Edinburgh Quartet Rush Hour Concerts – The Romantic Style
<b>Thur 12 Feb</b>	<b>12.30pm at St Cuthbert's, Ecumenical Friends</b> Simon Barrow - Ekklesia
<b>Fri 13 Feb</b>	<b>6pm (to 7pm) Holocaust Memorial Day Concert</b> Artisan Trio – Messiaen Quatuor pour la fin du temps. Free
<b>Sun 15 Feb</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) . <b>11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks</b> for children from 11.15)
<b>Mon 16 Feb</b>	<b>6.15pm StAGW Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association</b> <b>7.30pm Bellingring practice</b>
<b>Tues 17 Feb</b>	<b>9.30am Little Ducks Club</b> (Parents and Toddlers)
<b>Wed 18 Feb</b>	<b>2.30pm Evergreens – Andrew Smith and music group</b>
<b>Thur 19 Feb</b>	<b>12.30pm at St Cuthbert's: Ecumenical Friends</b> John Ross – Habitat for Humanity <b>7.30pm Slavery and Song</b> – new insights into the songs of slavery, with the StAGW Choir, Edinburgh Signing Choir, Andrea Baker and Steven Fischbacher
<b>Sun 22 Feb</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) . <b>11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks</b> for children from 11.15) followed by <b>Communion</b> 7.30pm Sing-Along Mikado, Edinburgh G& S Soc.

<b>Mon 23 Feb</b>	<b>12. 15 – 1pm Amnesty Undercroft Group</b> <b>6.15pm StAGW Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association</b> <b>7.30pm Bellringing practice</b>
<b>Tues 24 Feb</b>	<b>9.30am Little Ducks Club</b> (Parents and Toddlers) 10am Sing in the City: Kinship Carers' Choir
<b>Thurs 26 Feb</b>	<b>1pm (to 2.30pm) at St John's: Ecumenical Friends</b> <b>(Please note change of time and venue)</b> Fiona Bennett – the story of Augustine United Church
<b>Sat 28 Feb</b>	<b>7.45pm Ensemble Marsyas: From the Dresden Court</b> (Georgian Concert Society series) £18 (£16/£5)

**Find our online diary under the WHAT'S ON tab on the website [www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on/](http://www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on/) .**

### **Exploring Silent Prayer**

A group meets in St John's Church, in the side chapel, from **3.30-**

#### **Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life'**

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 good; his love is eternal and his faithfulness lasts forever.

*Psalm 100*

**4.15pm** every two weeks on **Tuesdays – 10 February and 24 February**. All are welcome; you do not need any previous experience of such groups; we are all learners.

**For your March diary....**



**Saturday 7 March** – a meeting will be held to which all are welcome to think about access to church services for deaf and hearing-impaired people, and then to begin to design guidelines which could be used by those congregations who are thinking about improving their services.

**Friday 20 March** - a Scots Night at 7.00pm in Stockbridge Parish Church. Stockbridge will provide the venue and catering, while we provide the entertainment. Cost likely to be £10 in aid of Mulanje Mission, Malawi.

### **Every month**

**First Sunday** 12 noon Fellowship Lunch; Dry goods for Fresh Start

**Third Monday** 10.30-12 Book Group

**Third Wednesday** 2.30 – 4pm Evergreens

**Last Sunday** 12 noon Communion

**Last Monday** 12.15-1pm Amnesty Group

### **Every week**

#### **Monday**

1pm Daily prayers

6.15pm – 7.30pm Boys' Brigade and Girls Association

7.30 -9pm Bellringing practice

#### **Tuesday**

9.30 -11am Little Ducks (parent and toddler group, in Undercroft chapel)

1pm Communion

#### **Wednesday**

1pm Daily prayers

AA meets (Davidson Room)

#### **Thursday**

Ecumenical Friends - note varying times and venues

1pm Daily prayers

7- 9pm Choir practice (Davidson Room)

#### **Friday**

1pm Daily prayers

#### **Sunday**

9am, 9.45 am, 11am worship

9.30am Choir practice

10.30am Sunday Discussion

12 noon Bellringers

## **Baptisms**

On 21st December 2014, Magnus Ian Duncan Campbell (3<sup>rd</sup> son to Iain and Sinead) and Cameron Scott Riach (1<sup>st</sup> child to James and Delima, Singapore). Magnus and Cameron are first cousins.

On 4<sup>th</sup> January 2015, in church, Tyler Agah Shou Tangwan and his brother, Daniel Mbah Xiang Tangwan (sons to William and Jia)

## **Deaths**

Mr James (Jim) Forrester in Edinburgh on 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015. Jim was father to Alastair, father-in-law to Ruth and grandfather to Jane and Sarah.

Mr George Loudon, in Edinburgh on 11<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015. George had joined fairly recently from South Leith Church.

## **Evergreens**

**The Evergreens** are changing their meeting time from Thursday morning to Wednesday afternoon, to accommodate more members. Some afternoons will be just for tea and fellowship, others more structured.

Andrew Smith (son of John and Agnes) will bring his music group to play a wide variety of music at the February meeting.

All welcome..

## **The Courtyards**

A stimulating meeting of the Congregation took place on Sunday, 11th January to consider ideas for the use of the Courtyard spaces. It was a very productive time at the beginning of the process. Walter Dunlop, Fabric Group Convener, is very happy to hear from anyone with thoughts/ideas on the matter and can be contacted by email or note left in his pigeonhole.

## Introducing the Recorder Consort at StAGW

About once a month on a Sunday morning you might find yourself listening to music played by the Recorder Consort, standing in the organ gallery. In our weekly sessions we practise on our various sizes of recorder and explore a wide variety of repertoire. Chamber music by Handel, Purcell and Bach sits happily next to contemporary settings as well as church music, not only played before the services, but also as part of the Christmas Tree Festivals and music in Holy Week. You are very welcome to join us at our short rehearsals, Thursday evenings (6.45pm to 7.15pm) in the Davidson Room.



Clara (descant), Brigitte (descant) Katharina (treble), Anna (tenor), Andrew (bass). Not pictured – Susan (tenor).

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### Which @ in heaven (Letter to *The Times*)

‘Sir, The order of service at a wedding I attended last week contained a version of the Lord's Prayer which I had not seen before. It read: "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from email." Amen to that’

**“Nous sommes tous Charlie.. juif.. muslim..”**



### **Edinburgh Interfaith Association**

statement signed on behalf of the congregation by Ian Gilmour

Recently we witnessed the very tragic events in Paris. As faith communities at such times more than ever it is important that we stand strong together recognising that these acts have nothing to do with religion but are senseless acts of violence. The last thing we would want to see are today's events leading to further acts of violence and a rise in Islamophobic incidents. In response Edinburgh Interfaith Association would like to issue the following statement.

“The senselessness of the acts of murder in Paris yesterday is shocking. That they were carried out supposedly in the name of God only increases that sense of futility and outrage. Words cannot express the horror of such acts, nor do justice to the sense in which this was an attack upon, and betrayal of, so much that we hold dear. Edinburgh Interfaith Association stands in solidarity alongside the people of Paris gathered in the Place de la République in their refusal to allow this violent act to have the final word. Neither will we allow it to define our view of Islam. We assert that the future for our world, and for religions, will be found in respect for others, dialogue through freedom of expression, and collective action that seeks the wellbeing and flourishing of all.” This statement was supported by a broad network of religious Leaders, faith representatives and community members.

# Christmas Eve in Bethlehem

*This letter came by email from someone who was a pupil of mine at Tabeetha School Jaffa, Israel, long ago. Our congregation has links with Tabeetha, owned and supported by the Church of Scotland. Mary Godden also taught there and the Dunlop family's children were pupils. We have given a donation towards improvements to the school in the past. Tabeetha is an amazing school, where pupils of many different nationalities and faiths co-exist, working and playing together, and learning that 'under the skin' they are all just human beings. It doesn't surprise me that this Jewish former pupil is involved in interfaith relations.*

*Jean Mackinlay*

Last night I was in Bethlehem for Christmas Eve with some religious Sisters who are friends. At 3 am, when we entered, the little town of Bethlehem was strewn with street lights, mainly featuring the 'star' but otherwise completely empty of its sleeping inhabitants. Here and there one could see large groups of pilgrims walking from Jerusalem towards the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. This is the time for those of us who do not have invitations for the Midnight Mass (meant basically for the local Bethlehem Christians) to enter the crowded church.

The familiar words of the Mass were recited everywhere within the church in different languages and the inner light that emanated from the faces of the pilgrims was inspiring. I was amazed to see groups of Indian Christians who had come all the way to be here this very night.

I do not know how many Jewish Israelis might have been there that night; perhaps very few, perhaps none at all. Christmas night is the only night when Jewish Israelis can enter the Palestinian Authority. Though many Israelis are interested in Christmas, there is fear and suspicion always – but certainly these days. I too who work for Jewish-Arab coexistence, had to overcome fear in order to use the rare opportunity to enter Bethlehem legally and not be caught at the checkpoint as a trespasser.

Of course the deep question is how is there going to be peace without trust and how is there going to be trust without people getting to know each other...

Yours, in fond memories of our common heritage in Tabeetha School,  
D.L.

## **“Faith Rewarded - the Story of St Andrew's Scot's Memorial, Jerusalem”**

From his experience and records researched, Walter Dunlop has published a detailed insight into the tribulations faced by those who first conceived the idea of this unique resource of The Church of Scotland in the Middle East; the shifting political scene in and around Jerusalem over the years and the development of the work of the Church in Israel and Palestine up to the present day. He brings to life the many individuals who played key roles in building the Church and Hospice as well as those who developed its role, often in difficult and dangerous circumstances after it was established. For a copy of the book speak to Walter or contact him via the Church Office.

## **Chilembwe Re-visited**

**A one-day symposium to mark the centenary of the Chilembwe Rising in Nyasaland in 1915**



**Date: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2015**

**Time: 10am – 4-15pm**

**Place: New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh**

**Cost: £5 registration (on the day); tea/coffee supplied; bring your own lunch**

### **Speakers:**

**Dr. John McCracken, Senior Research Fellow, Stirling University**

**Dr. John Lwanda, Malawian historian and activist**

**Mr. David Stuart-Mogg, Co-editor, Society of Malawi Journal**

**Dr. Jack Thompson, Honorary Fellow, School of Divinity, Edinburgh University**

# Mulanje Mission



Rev. Dr Billy Gama and the Women's Guild choir in Mulanje Mission Church

Dr Ruth Shakespeare has written to thank the congregation for our support of Mulanje Mission Hospital's work in the prison.

"We decided in December that the work to improve the toilets at the prison was so urgent that we should allocate funds to that. In June 2014 you remitted £1850 for this work. This has been spent as follows:

Initial purchase of equipment and supplies for the prison clinic	£ 635
Monthly running expenses for the clinic to January	£ 240
Repair and rebuilding of toilets	£ 813

This leaves a balance of £162 which will be sufficient to run the clinics until May 2015. I think this has been a very successful addition to our primary care outreach, and it is hugely appreciated by the prison staff and inmates."

Since Ruth's email, Malawi has been affected by severe flooding in Mulanje and a number of other areas across the country. It is reported at least 48 people have been killed and 69,000 have been forced from their homes. President Mutharika is appealing for international assistance to help with this emergency. Our thoughts and prayers are with all those impacted by the terrible flooding.

**An urgent response is necessary to save lives and stop the spread of disease.**

The power supply is erratic and they are relying upon their generator to keep the hospital functioning. They need basic medical supplies to deal with their increased caseload.

Toilets have collapsed in the area; rebuilding these is an urgent public health priority.

The hospital is already seeing more cases of diarrhoea and are preparing in case of a cholera outbreak. Rebuilding these toilets is essential to prevent the spread of disease.



**For more information, please see Alison Campbell or Mary Margaret Scott. If members wish to donate towards the emergency appeal, donations can be left in the church office or given to one of the church treasurers – Allan Sim or John Innes.**



## Children and Families News



Nativity Play on 21 December 2014  
Saffron, Matthew, Philippa, Caitlin, Jamie,  
Toby, Emma and Ruby

During the 11am service on 1 December the children were very busy playing and crafting beautiful nativity wreaths. On 28<sup>th</sup> December, the children made collage calendars to take home. During the Christmas Tree Festival, 220 nativity Christmas cards were coloured in by children and enjoyed at the craft corner.

Coming in 2015 will be “Messy Church” - more information soon! Date for your diary first Messy Church is Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2015. George is looking forward to meeting the local nurseries again for a monthly “Make and Share Nursery” starting in February 2015.

Angela Grant, StAGW Child Youth and Family Worker



**Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland Introduction Day**  
*Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland aims to meet people where they are - in the setting of their daily working lives. A chaplain's main purpose is Christian service, simply because people matter irrespective of their status or position. A chaplain is available to ALL staff. Could you be involved in this rapidly expanding area of Christian service? For those interested, or involved in workplace chaplaincy:*

**Wednesday 11 February 2015, 10am to 4pm**  
**Edinburgh Theological Seminary (formerly The Free Church College)**  
**15 North Bank St, The Mound. Lunch is provided. To book a place contact Cat Parkinson, [info@wpcscotland.co.uk](mailto:info@wpcscotland.co.uk) tel. 07538 619 477 / 0131 441 2271**

### **Encouragement from a novice volunteer Work Place Chaplain!**

I attended the introductory meeting last year, being impressed by the progress Tony Bryer has made in Edinburgh (coincidentally partaking in his Silent Prayer groups seemed to lead me in this direction). I have found the Training Programme to be professional and extremely helpful...Active Listening, Building Resilience, bereavement, confidentiality, the God Question, to name a few. I shadowed Tony in St James Centre and Multrees Walk, and also Paul Wilson to Bo'ness Fire Station! I am now shadowing Jennifer Stark in Ocean Terminal as I have been asked to serve there for 6 months when Jennifer finishes in March. This work is a great opportunity to work in our community. Come along on 11th Feb. and see for yourself!

Margaret Ann Fraser



An extract from the CrossReach Presbytery Information sheet for December.

*The Moderator of the General Assembly Rt. Rev. John Chalmers reflects on CrossReach Week.*

Having spent a week with CrossReach (the Church of Scotland's Social Care Council), I witnessed some of the dedicated and high quality work being done across Scotland in the name of Jesus Christ. The most meaningful and inspiring social care services are those driven by the people who are being supported - like Heart for Art, CrossReach's innovative creative arts classes for people living with dementia.

The artwork produced is impressive, but

even more impressive is the community spirit, self-confidence and the joy of those taking part. Their artwork is indisputable evidence that dementia is not the end - we must never write people off; dementia does not destroy the wonderful talents that are still to be released.

This message was reinforced by Sally Magnusson, who told us: "It's wonderful to discover that CrossReach and Playlist for Life are doing exactly the same thing which is celebrating the individual – the person inside somebody with dementia remains that person till the very end of their life – and can be brought back." Two men being supported through Cunningham House and the Rankeillor Initiative in Edinburgh told me that homelessness and addiction takes away everything. Time has been a great healer for Matthew and George - they have been able to build trusting relationships with staff over many months. I've realised the way back from a place of despair is a long, slow process requiring patience and persistence, and I've seen that patience and persistence in the staff of CrossReach.

It is enormously frustrating that social care funding is often determined by political expediency rather than the long-term need to make a difference in people's lives. We in the Church must draw on the practical experience of CrossReach to challenge this situation.

# **GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**

**16 to 22 May 2015: Can You Help?**

**Stewards play a significantly important role to ensure that many of the backup services, in support of the General Assembly, operate in a highly efficient, welcoming and friendly manner.**

**Please contact William Mearns, Chief Steward, tel. 0131 667 1522 or 0780 801 1234: Email: [william@mearns.me](mailto:william@mearns.me)**

## **Centenary Choral Concert**

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
St Andrew's and St George's West  
by  
Edinburgh Napier Chamber Choir and Soloists

A re-creation of a Charity  
concert original given in January  
1915 by the Morningside  
Amateur Opera Company  
including music by Sullivan,  
Stanford, Coleridge-Taylor and  
Elgar

Admission £7 (£5 concession) at the door

## Undercroft and Café: New Year – New Faces

2015 has started with a flurry of new faces amongst the staff at St Andrew's and St George's West. We welcome three new faces and Brandon Stewart who has become a permanent member of the café staff as a trainee.

They join us as the existing team were finding it hard to keep pace with expanding congregational activities and increased use of the building; the extra hours will allow for expansion as well as efficiency.



Eniko had given us great service and support on Sundays, but she has left to meet new challenges whilst retaining a link to the church by volunteering in the cafe and helping at events from time to time.



She is succeeded in the role of Sunday Church Officer by Derek Smith who many of you will already have met. Derek, now retired, has had past links with the Boys' Brigade in the role of football training and still keeps active by cycling, gardening and working part-time at Murrayfield Golf Club.

Michal Jesionowski joined us in January as a part-time cleaner. He may remain elusive to many in the congregation because he works at the end of the day to ensure that the building is ready for use each morning and to enable Gianluca to undertake more maintenance tasks and prepare for events. Michal is a musician and plays both the saxophone and



piano, as well as writing his own music and being an instructor for Scotland in the martial art of capoeira.



Our administration team has had a much needed boost in the form of Sophie Chalmers who is working in the office from 10am – 3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays. She has been working at the Scottish Parliament and with young people as a volunteer so brings a fresh perspective into the team.

Sophie will essentially look after bookings, media input, administration and invoicing which will leave Joyce to continue in her role of congregational and ministerial support. However, Sophie will be happy to help with any enquiries you may have on the days she is working.

### **Lords Prayer, from the original Aramaic**

*Translation by Neil Douglas-Klotz in Prayers of the Cosmos*

O Birther! Father - Mother of the Cosmos  
Focus your light within us - make it useful.  
Create your reign of unity now through  
our fiery hearts and willing hands  
Help us love beyond our ideals  
and sprout acts of compassion for all creatures.  
Animate the earth within us: we then  
feel the Wisdom underneath supporting all.  
Untangle the knots within  
so that we can mend our hearts' simple ties to each other.  
Don't let surface things delude us,  
But free us from what holds us back from our true purpose.  
Out of you, the astonishing fire,  
Returning light and sound to the cosmos.  
Amen.

What happened at .....

## **The meeting of the Kirk Session 18 January 2015**

Arising from a suggestion by one of the elders, the Kirk Session met during the afternoon. There were practical issues to consider including a report on the necessary process of replacing the central heating boiler, which requires agreement from Session and approval from Presbytery due to the substantial costs involved. If all goes to plan, work should start at the end of May 2014.

Anne Wilson, the Roll Keeper, always meticulous in her record-keeping, reported on changes in membership over the previous year. James McNeill explained the time sequence for the Stewardship campaign planned to begin in early spring. Crispin Longden presented, and answered questions on, the Budget for 2015 and pointed the way forward for the two succeeding years. At present it is anticipated that running costs continue to exceed our annual income (although we have benefited in 2014 from generous legacies), but a steady improvement is anticipated, through a combination of careful stewardship and generation of income through the café and lettings.

The Session took time to review our congregation's activities during 2014 – the many positives included music, the school debates, the quality of food in the café, the warm welcome at the church door throughout the week, the volunteers at the Christian Aid Sale.. the tremendous contribution of so many volunteers. Areas where improvements could be made were also identified and will help to inform our work in 2015.

*Katie McNeill, Joint Session Clerk*

**News from Farhana Nazir, PhD** – extract from her newsletter.



“ It was a great privilege that I was officially appointed as Lecturer at Gujranwala Seminary. Today the seminary serves the Presbyterian Church of Pakistan, the Church of Pakistan and the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church and various members of other churches who come for training. I taught two courses: Practical Theology and Research Methods and I also helped to evaluate weekly students’ practice of preaching and mentoring some students. My responsibilities are now different as a Dean of Students and I have started making academic plans for the seminary students. Please pray for this institution, local Churches, Christian institution and all minorities for their safety as Pakistan is going through a hard time.”

*Contact Ian or Alison Campbell to see Farhana’s full newsletter.*

## **Is Britain Still A Christian Country?**

### **Croall Lectures**

Four public lectures exploring the role of Christianity in today’s Great Britain. These lectures are given by world renowned Professor Linda Woodhead (Lancaster University), an expert in religious change and a regular commentator on religion and values on radio and television.

Martin Hall, New College, Mound Place, Edinburgh 5pm - 6.30pm

23 Feb | The crisis of the churches

24 Feb | Cultural Christianity and ‘British values’

25 Feb | Multiculturalism in law and life

27 Feb | Power, representation and the future of religion

This public event is free but ticketed as places are limited.

Please register and find out more at: <http://bit.ly/Croall>



## Reflection: Optimism to Inspire Others



An Excerpt from **Peacework: Prayer, Resistance, Community**  
by *Henri Nouwen* taken from the Peace and Justice News  
December 2014

"Here we touch one of the greatest dangers that face peacemakers: that peacemakers themselves become the victims of the evil forces they are trying to overcome. The same fear of 'the enemy' that leads warmakers to war can begin to affect the peacemaker who sees the warmaker as 'the enemy.' Words of anger and hostility can gradually enter into the language of the peacemaker. Even the sense of urgency and emergency that motivates the arms race can become the driving force behind the peacemaker. Then indeed the strategy of war and the strategy of peace have become the same, and peacemaking has lost its heart.

"One of the reasons why so many people have developed strong reservations about the peace movement is precisely that they do not see the peace they seek in the peacemakers themselves. Often what they see are fearful and angry people trying to convince others of the urgency of their protest. The tragedy is that peacemakers often reveal more of the demons they are fighting than of the peace they want to bring about.

"The words of Jesus go right to the heart of our struggle: 'Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly' (Lk 6: 27-28). The more I reflect on these words, the more I consider them to be the test for peacemakers. What my enemies deserve is not my anger, rejection, resentment, or disdain, but my love. Spiritual guides throughout history have said that love for the enemy is the cornerstone of the message of Jesus and the core of holiness."



**Saturday 28th March 2015 10am-4pm**

Creative workshops for everyone in the church, to make connections with congregation and community:

- Craftivism
- Doodling in Tongues
- Drama
- Graffiti
- Poetry
- Worship Spaces

Dalziel St Andrew's Church  
43-47 Merry Street  
Motherwell  
ML1 1JJ

Registration is required and places are limited. Please register online at [www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events](http://www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events) indicating which TWO workshops you would like to attend (full details are given on the website).

The registration deadline is 19 March 2015, but please note that workshops will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis, so book early to avoid disappointment!

This is a FREE event (lunch is supplied), but a £10 charge will be levied for any cancellations received after 19 March.



The Church of Scotland  
Mission and Discipleship Council

Scottish Charity Number SC011353

[www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

**St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847 [www.stagw.org.uk](http://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

<b>Minister</b>	<b>Rev Ian Y Gilmour 0131 225 3847 (church)</b>
<b>Joint Session Clerks</b>	<b>George Burgess Katie McNeill</b>
<b>Joint Treasurers</b>	<b>John Innes Allan Sim</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Brigitte Harris 0131 556 1759 <a href="mailto:mharris@waitrose.com">mharris@waitrose.com</a></b>
<b>Children, family and youth worker</b>	<b>Angela Grant 07731 465642 <a href="mailto:angela.stocks1975@btinternet.com">angela.stocks1975@btinternet.com</a></b>
<b>Church manager</b>	<b>Jean Howard (Monday-Thursday) 0131 225 3847 <a href="mailto:churchmanager@stagw.org.uk">churchmanager@stagw.org.uk</a></b>
<b>Church secretary</b>	<b>Joyce Garland (Tuesday, Thursday, Friday) 0131 225 3847 <a href="mailto:info@stagw.org.uk">info@stagw.org.uk</a></b>

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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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