



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



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<b>Next copy deadline Mon 22 June 2015 for the summer issue, covering July and August. Thanks to all contributors. Editor: Alison Bruce Photo credits: Jane Brown, Alison Bruce, James MacPherson, Anne Wilson. Contact us at <a href="mailto:magazine@stagw.org.uk">magazine(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk</a>.</b>	

# A Place of Hope

## A letter from Ian

At the service on Sunday 24 May we thought about the mystery of Pentecost through the lens of those nine wonderful and practical gifts of the Spirit listed by Paul: **Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.** The more of these we can exhibit in our lives the better, they are designed to help build strong communities, families and relationships.

On that day we had eleven of our elders receiving their long service certificates, which means they have served the church in leadership roles for over 30 years and received in recognition a certificate signed by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

Several of them said to me, "I do not wish to have any personal recognition, so please do not refer to me individually." One told me he felt that the quality of service is what matters and not the length of service, however the session clerks and I think it is always good to say thank you. It is important to mark that very few organisations have 11 people who have given it over 400 years of time, talent and energy. We will have another opportunity to recognise the contribution of another group of elders with similar certificates later in the summer.

I decided to illustrate the commitment service with this story of Mr Arthur and Mrs Muriel Hope. They were prominent and generous at St George's, Charlotte Square and after the union with St Andrew's they did not diminish their commitment, quite the reverse. Arthur became the much loved session clerk. I said that despite the fact they have now both 'gone to glory' last Saturday at 9.30am I reckon they would be very proud indeed. One of their sons, a former Lord President of the Court of Session, had been asked to represent the

Queen as Lord High Commissioner of the General Assembly. I knew that by 9.00am he would have left his 'royal' accommodation at Holyrood Palace where he would stay for the week and be part of the grand procession into the Assembly building.

At 9.30am exactly he would enter the Assembly Hall prepared to read the message from Her Majesty to a packed hall. His parents would be proud of him, but equally proud of another son Alec who at 9.30am, that same morning was Hoovering the pews on the east side of our building while I was dusting them.

The church invites us into prominent positions and the limelight at times, but often it invites us to work quietly as unsung heroes to glorify God.

I think Mr and Mrs Hope would have been proud of their family both contributing royally but in very different settings. Our elders and members do contribute hugely through the range of their service and often it is the effective unnoticed contributions which really impress our friends and parents and God, so let us mark and celebrate our community of faith and continue to share the gift of the Spirit within and beyond our church.

Live, love and enjoy life,

**Ian**

### **We Worship God**

**Live simply.  
Love generously.  
Care deeply.  
Speak kindly.  
Leave the rest to God.**

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

Worship can strengthen and transform...

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!

## **June**

Sunday 7 June

**11am What We Hear** 1 Samuel 8:4–11, 16–20,

Sunday 14 June

**11am What We Perceive** 1 Samuel 15:34—16:13

Sunday 21 June

**11am What We Know** 1 Samuel 17: (1a, 4–11, 19–23), 32–49,

Sunday 28 June

**11 am What We Do** Mark 5:21–43

## **July**

Sunday 5 July 11am

**11am What We Accomplish** Mark 6:1–13

Sunday 7 July 11am

**11am What We Contribute** Ephesians 1:3–14,

### **Help to create worship this summer**

If anyone would like to suggest a theme for a service during July or August I will endeavour to create a service on that theme, but would appreciate your help in its development and or delivery.

Thanks, Ian





**Alasdair Ian Gilmour MacPherson joins the church family**

# Announcements

## Baptism

**Alasdair Ian Gilmour MacPherson** on 24 May by the Revd Ian Gilmour, Alasdair's grandfather.

## New Members

**Miss Helen Scott** on 23 March by Certificate

**Mrs Sheila Hepburn** on 26 of March by Resolution

## Death

**Mr Bill A Morrison**, dear husband of Dr Jean Morrison. There will be a service of Thanksgiving for Bill's life in St Andrew's and St George's West on **Saturday 20 June at 12 noon.**

## Parish Funeral

**Andrew John Meguyer Taylor.** A memorial service was held in St Andrew's and St George's West Church on 8 April. Andrew was the beloved son of Professor David Taylor and the late Fiona Bain and much loved brother of Gordon and David.

“The more we seem to lose with God, the more we gain; the more he strips us of the natural, the more he showers us with heavenly gifts. We loved him a little for his gifts; when we no longer see them, we begin to love God for himself alone”

J.P de Caussade



**Green fingers run in the Crawford family, who help maintain the flourishing tubs of flowers welcoming people at the door.**



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

## June – early July 2015

<b>Sun 7 Jun</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> (spoken liturgy) <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) <b>11am Morning Worship</b> with music from the Elverem Damekor from Norway <b>(Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)</b> <b>12 noon bellringers</b> <b>12 noon Fellowship Lunch for Malawi</b> Fresh Start – remember to bring dry goods!
<b>Mon 8 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers 7.30pm-9pm Bellringing practice
<b>Tues 9 Jun</b>	10-12 Little Ducks parent + toddler drop in (cafe) 10-12 Circle Kinship Carers Choir (Sanctuary) 1pm Communion <b>7.30pm Lecture Series: Martin Johnstone</b> <b>Building Community with Financially Poor People</b>
<b>Wed 10 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers 7.30-9 pm AA (Davidson Room)
<b>Thurs 11</b>	<b>9.30am-4.30pm Private event in the Sanctuary</b> 1pm Daily prayers 7.30-9pm Choir practice (Davidson Room)
<b>Fri 12 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers <b>7.30pm Fires of Love Celebration Concert</b>
<b>Sat 13 Jun</b>	<b>10am-12.30pm Messy Church</b>
<b>Sun 14 Jun</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> (spoken liturgy) <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) <b>11am Morning Worship</b> including the presentation of a cheque to Christian Aid <b>(Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)</b> <b>12 noon bellringers</b> <b>1.30pm Congregational Picnic</b>

<b>Mon 15 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers 7.30pm-9pm Bellringing practice
<b>Tue 16 Jun</b>	10-12 Little Ducks parent + toddler drop in (cafe) 10-12 Circle Kinship Carers Choir (Sanctuary) 1pm Communion <b>7.30pm Lecture Series: Peter Macdonald Building Christian Community</b>
<b>Wed 17 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers <b>6.30pm Donald Gorrie Schools Debates</b> 7.30-9 pm AA (Davidson Room)
<b>Thur 18 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers <b>7.30pm Charles Whitehead free piano concert</b> 7.30-9pm Choir practice (Davidson Room)
<b>Fri 19 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers <b>7.30pm Cabaret and Canapés Concert</b>
<b>Sat 20 Jun</b>	<b>12 noon Bill Morrison Service of Thanksgiving</b>
<b>Sun 21 Jun</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> (spoken liturgy) <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) <b>11am Morning Worship</b> <b>(Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)</b> <b>12 noon bellringers</b>

<b>Mon 22 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers 7.30pm-9pm Bellringing practice
<b>Tue 23 Jun</b>	10-12 Little Ducks parent + toddler drop in (cafe) 10-12 Circle Kinship Carers Choir (Sanctuary) 1pm Communion
<b>Wed 24 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers <b>2pm Evergreens Outing to the Botanics</b> 7.30-9 pm AA (Davidson Room)
<b>Thur 25 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers 7.30-9pm Choir practice (Davidson Room)
<b>Fri 26 Jun</b>	1pm Daily prayers
<b>Sat 27 Jun</b>	<b>2-4pm Bright Sparks Project in the Undercroft</b> <b>10.30-5.30 Worship, Liturgy &amp; Arts (Greyfriars)</b>

<b>Sun 28 Jun</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> (spoken liturgy) <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) <b>11am Morning Worship</b> <b>(Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)</b> <b>QUARTERLY COMMUNION</b> <b>12 noon bellringers</b>  <b>2-4pm Albany Deaf Congregation Service</b>
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<b>Mon 29 Jun</b>	<b>12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group meets</b> 1pm Daily prayers 7.30pm-9pm Bellringing practice <b>7.30pm Kirk Session</b>
<b>Tue 30 Jun</b>	10-12 Little Ducks parent + toddler drop in (cafe) 10-12 Circle Kinship Carers Choir (Sanctuary) 1pm Communion
<b>Wed 1 July</b>	<b>11.30am-1pm Summer fun in the courtyard:  Creating a garden</b> 1pm Daily prayers 7.30-9 pm AA (Davidson Room)
<b>Thur 2 July</b>	1pm Daily prayers 7.30-9pm Choir practice (Davidson Room)
<b>Fri 3 July</b>	1pm Daily prayers
<b>Sat 4 July</b>	
<b>Sun 5 July</b>	<b>9am Communion</b> (spoken liturgy) <b>9.45am Learning Together</b> - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) <b>11am Morning Worship</b> <b>(Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)</b> <b>12 noon bellringers</b>

**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/) .**

# Young Creative Writers

## at St Andrew's and St George's West

A second year class from the English Department at Royal High School participated in a Creative Writing workshop led by Marianne Wheelaghan known to us at STAGW for her inspiring novel 'The Blue Suitcase'. The pupils' work has been produced in anthology form and entered into the prestigious Pushkin Awards Competition.

The Education Group, with the direction of Bill Clinkenbeard, has chosen a selection of poems and stories, which we hope you will enjoy reading here in the magazine and also on display in the Undercroft. It is worthwhile mentioning that Marianne's novel is now included in the English department's reading list at Royal High.

**Helen Cox, Convener  
Education Group**

# I went to Heaven

**By Holly Davis,  
Royal High School, Edinburgh**

My name is Ellie. I go (or should I say went) to a middle school in Texas. It had been a normal Monday morning until 4th period.

It was maths. I don't enjoy maths but I liked the teacher. His name is Mr. Evans. We were learning about scientific notation but I had been day dreaming so I don't really know what it is. I had been day dreaming about my life ambitions (it's actually quite ironic now). I made a list in my head of where I wanted to go and do. A few of them consisted of,

Bungee jump off a bridge  
Jump out of a plane  
Visit Antarctica  
See a polar bear in its natural habitat  
Climb Mount Everest  
Walk across a desert

They were just the average life ambitions, nothing too special. I had just added canoe down the Amazon river to the list when,

**BANG**

But this was no ordinary bang, it was a gunshot and it was followed by several others. The room fell silent, then Mr Evans took control.

"Everyone under the tables," he spoke calmly and quickly as he locked the door and then started to dial 911.



"Police please, yes there have been gunshots at Gardiner Middle School on South Street. Please get here as soon as you can. No I don't know if anyone has been shot yet but there is an armed human being in our school. Okay, thank you"

There was no terror in his voice. It was almost as if he had done this a million times, as if it were just a drill and not real life. But it most definitely was not a drill. The school wouldn't make children huddle under the desks crying and reciting prayers. There was also an uneasy atmosphere. It was so eerily quiet and only the sobs and low voices of fellow students in the classroom could be heard.

**BANG, BANG, BANG**

Then, screaming. Someone in the corridor had been shot. Then more gunfire and then more screams. Then distant sirens. The police had arrived. But it was too late.

The door came down with a slam followed by the sound of boots meeting the ground. They were standing 2 metres away from me, but only one metre away from Mr. Evans. In desperation I got out from under the desk and stood in front of Mr. Evans.

"Ellie, no" he screamed. But again it was too late.

Everything slowed. I could see the bullet coming towards my head like a dart being thrown on a dart board or an arrow being fired at a target. It wasn't going to stop. It wasn't going to turn around and go in the opposite direction. It was going to hit me in the head. It was going to kill me, and I couldn't do anything about it.

I fell down. It didn't hurt, it just felt fuzzy. I could see everything now, more clearly than ever. I was confused. I had just been shot but I was still seeing things. The gunman had left the room. People were crying, tears streaming down their face like raindrops on a window, their eyes were waterfalls. People were looking at me as if I was dead.

"I'm still alive, you know," but they wouldn't listen, they couldn't hear. Then I realised why.

I saw myself lying where I had been standing. A pool of blood at my head. My eyes open but showing no emotion. I was lifeless. Just a limp, cold, dead body lying on the carpet.

People started to leave the classroom. They were just walking out. "Where are you going?" I asked. "There's a gunman on the loose"

There was a policeman at the door guiding everyone out. I followed them outside where hundreds of children and families were hugging each other and crying into each other's jumpers. Then there were my parents. Standing and waiting in hope that I would come out of the school alive, but I wouldn't. A police man walked over to them and started talking. My mum broke down into my Dad's coat and he just held her in his arms.

When the police man left I walked over. But I didn't do anything. I just stood and observed.

It's now a week after the shooting. My body is currently buried in our local church. The gunman is in prison and the school is temporarily closed.

And I, well, I chose to go to heaven. I didn't see the point in staying down there as a ghost when you can be with older members of your family. I miss my life but it is also good up here. It is peaceful and you can do what you want when you want. I'm sure if my Mum and Dad could see me here they would be happy. Although I won't be able to go bungee jumping or climb Mount Everest, here in heaven I can meet Nelson Mandela and talk to Elvis Presley, I'm also learning how to play the harp!

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## **Goodbye Christmas**

Wrapping paper everywhere  
Children's laughs fill the air  
Christmas trees covered in lights  
Everything is ever so bright  
The room is filled with Christmas cheer  
Celebrating with all those near  
Santa Claus has been and gone  
Christmas day is almost done  
Snuggled up by the fire  
It's almost time to retire  
Midnight is very near  
So goodbye Christmas, until next year

***by Emma Logan, The Royal High School, Edinburgh***

# Donald Gorrie Schools Debates

Wednesday  
17 June, 6.30pm



Come and support the third **Donald Gorrie Debating Competition**. The debates are organised by the Education Group here at St Andrew's and St George's West, with support from Edinburgh University Debating Society. Donald Gorrie was a member and elder of St Andrew's and St George's West. Before his distinguished career in public life as a Liberal councillor, MP and MSP, he was a teacher and passionately keen on the education of young people and their ability to express themselves.

This year, teams from six local secondary schools – Craigmount, George Watson's, James Gillespie's, Merchiston, Queensferry and Royal High – will debate the motion: *"This house believes that we can create and sustain communities across Scotland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century"*

## Dalry Choir Visit – In Pictures

Dalry Primary School Choir visited St Andrew's and St George's West.

The choir has visited before, to sing at three Christmas Tree Festivals, but this time they were visiting as part of the school's Curriculum for Excellence, Religious and Moral Education Practices and Traditions. The pupils explored the church, sang with the organ, tried bellringing and visited the café.

**You can see pictures and comments from their visit in The Undercroft Café.**

We had a  
great time!

Thank you for  
inviting us!

# **Creative stuff for young folk**

at St Andrew's and St George's West

## **Messy Church**

**Saturday 13 June 10am-12.30pm**

We meet in the Undercroft Café. If you would like to take part, please contact

**Angela Grant 077831 465642**

**angela(dot)stocks1975(at)btinternet(dot)com**



## **Little Ducks**

**Tuesdays in June 10am - noon in the Undercroft**

Little Ducks parent and toddler group meet on Tuesdays from 10 am-12 noon in the Undercroft Café for stories, crafting and play.

**Led by Angela Grant 077831 465642.**

## **Bright Sparks Creative Workshop**

**Sat 27 June 2- 4pm in the Undercroft**

We'll be working on our special project in the Undercroft!

**Led by Katie McNeill**

## **Summer Fun in the Courtyard**

**Wednesdays in July 11.30am-1pm**

Our courtyard workshops for families and children of all ages return in July. You can help create a garden, make music, listen to stories and watch an award winning piece of puppet theatre.

Events are FREE (yes, free) and you get a voucher for our fabulous and child friendly café as well. So, go on, SPREAD THE WORD.

Tell all your friends looking for creative ways to amuse children, grandchildren, nephews, nieces and their friends this summer. The more, the merrier.





# Summer Fun in the Courtyard

July will see the return of family activities on the east courtyard. Each Wednesday a different **free activity** will take place – for children of all ages! The usual time will be 11.30am and those who attend will be given a voucher to use in the Undercroft Café.

**More details will be available nearer the time:**



## **1 JULY | Creating a Garden**

Making garden boxes using plants at different stages – with staff from the Botanical Gardens.



## **8 JULY | Songs for Families**

Frances Cooper runs a fun, singing workshop for youngsters – of all ages!



## **15 JULY | The Storytelling Cook**

Join Mrs Mash, the Storytelling Cook, for more stories, songs and joining in fun to get you in the mood for good food!



## **22 JULY | The Man who Planted Trees**

The Puppet State Theatre Company perform their acclaimed show in the sanctuary.



## **29 JULY | Noah's Ark in Godly Play**

Angela Grant brings a favourite bible story to life in Godly Play.



## **5 AUGUST | Eat What We Grew**

Digging up our produce to make some healthy eating dishes with Jean and the Team.

For more information about events visit [www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on)

**St Andrew's and St George's West Church**

**13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA Tel: 0131 225 3847**

Scottish Charity No. SC008990





# Summer Lecture Series

## Building Strong Communities

**TUESDAY 2 JUNE** | 7.30PM

### **Christian-Muslim Relations: Past, Present, and Building Peaceful Global Community for the Future**

Professor Hugh Goddard

**Professor Hugh Goddard** is Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World in Edinburgh. Hugh is the author of *Christians and Muslims: From Double Standards to Mutual Understanding*.

**TUESDAY 9 JUNE** | 7.30PM

### **Building Community with Financially Poor People**

Rev. Dr Martin Johnstone

**Martin Johnstone** is the secretary of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, tasked with facilitating the Church's engagement with national, political and social issues. Until 2015, Martin was Priority Areas Secretary of the Church of Scotland and Chief Executive of Faith in Community Scotland.

**TUESDAY 16 JUNE** | 7.30PM

### **Building Christian Community in Scotland**

Rev. Peter Macdonald

**Peter Macdonald** is the Leader of the Iona Community, having been a member of the Community since 1983, more than half his life. Community has informed his faith, challenged his lifestyle and influenced his ministry. Peter was the minister at St George's West Church, Edinburgh.

All lectures are **FREE**

For more information about events visit [www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on](http://www.stagw.org.uk/whats-on)

**St Andrew's and St George's West Church**

**13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA Tel: 0131 225 3847**

Scottish Charity No. SC008990



# A Major Task

## Arthur Chapman reviews the first of our summer lectures

In the first of three lectures at St Andrew's and St George's West on Building Strong Communities Professor Hugh Goddard, director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World gave a stimulating lecture on Christian-Muslim Relations, looking at the past, the present and how to build a peaceful global community in the future.

In the first part of the lecture we were treated to a wealth of statistics on Islam and its geographical coverage as well as a brief history of the spread of Islam. Globally, 33% of the world's population are Christian, 21% are Muslim, 16% say they are non-religious and 14% are Hindu. The greatest population of Muslims is in Indonesia, where they are in the majority, with world-wide around one fifth of Muslims living as a minority. According to the 2001 and 2011 census reports, the numbers of Muslims in the UK have increased, whilst the numbers of Christians have decreased: in 2001 72% of the population were Christian with 2.7% Muslim; by 2011 the figures were 60% and 4.5% respectively. Muslims are present in all Scotland's regions and a new 'green' Mosque has just opened in Inverness in a building which was formerly the Rangers supporters club.

Whilst wars between Christians and Muslims have occurred throughout the centuries, so to have wars within Christianity and within Islam.

Although the media dwell on the negative news and stories of confrontation and violence there have been and still are many cases of cooperation between Muslims and Christians (as well as with members of other faiths and none).

Two examples of the desire to learn from each other and discern the truth whatever its source are revealed by Al Kindi, the father of Islamic Philosophy in the 9<sup>th</sup> Century, who had an open-minded approach to intellectual exchange and Thomas Aquinas, a medieval Catholic priest-philosopher who was willing to learn both from Aristotle and Avicenna (a Persian polymath who lived c. 980-1037).

There have been many cases of Muslim peacemakers who have advocated nonviolence in their confrontation with those in authority. A couple of examples: Khān Abdul Ghaffār Khān (1890-1988) was a spiritual and political leader, a devout Muslim and a pacifist who opposed the partition of

India and was nicknamed the "Frontier Gandhi".

Another example of Muslims and Christians standing together in the face of violence is that of Imam Muhammad Ashafa and Pastor James Wuye who live in Kaduna, in northern Nigeria. In the past they were firm enemies and when, in 1992, violent interreligious conflict broke out in Kaduna State both the Imam and the Pastor took part in the fighting. Both paid a heavy price for their involvement - Imam Ashafa saw two of his brothers and his teacher killed, while Pastor James lost a hand. Following the intervention of a mutual friend they formed the Interfaith Mediation Centre (in 1995) and now work together to teach warring religious youth militias to resolve their conflicts peacefully<sup>1</sup>.

Christian-Muslim relations will form a vital element in the years ahead and encouraging and strengthening understanding and cooperation between members of these two faiths (making up more than half of the global population) must be a major task for us.

In the final part of Professor Goddard's Lecture he spoke about five points of agreement between Christians and Muslims as well as five points of difference. These points of Agreement are: both are theistic faiths and monotheistic (believing in one God), both have a belief in creation and revelation through Holy Scripture (the Bible and the Qu'ran), and both hold that we are accountable and stand in judgement for our actions. The differences that were highlighted concern language about God (e.g. Abba, Father for Christians being seen as over familiar by Muslims), the place of inspiration of the Scriptures and whether knowledge can be gained from outside the Scriptures, the relationship between religion and the state and the renewal and revival of the faith(s). Edinburgh is well-placed to play a major role in this process with a strong Interfaith group<sup>2</sup> and the annual Middle Eastern Festival of Peace and Spirituality<sup>3</sup>.

The next lectures in the series explore other aspects of building strong communities  
**Tue 9 June:**  
**Martin Johnstone** explores building community with financially poor people  
**Tue 16 June:**  
**Peter MacDonald** explores building Christian community  
**All are welcome**

<sup>1</sup> See <https://tanenbaum.org/peacemakers-in-action-network/meet-the-peacemakers/imam-muhammad-ashafa-pastor-james-wuye/>

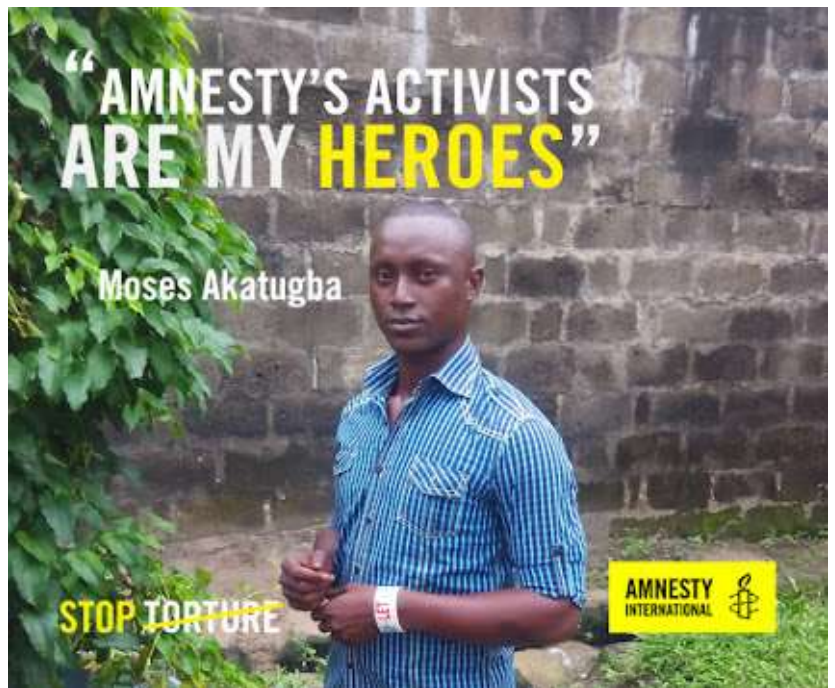
<sup>2</sup> See <http://www.eifa.org.uk>

<sup>3</sup> See <http://eicsp.org>



# Good News

## from the Amnesty Undercroft Group



On 28 May 2015 Moses Akatugba was pardoned and released.

Moses was arrested in Nigeria at 16, tortured into a confession, sentenced to death and imprisoned for 10 years. After a long campaign by Amnesty and human rights supporters worldwide, his pardon and release was finally announced on 28 May.

We collected signatures for Amnesty's Stop Torture campaign at Heart and Soul in 2014 and again at our pre-election city centre event on 17 April 2015, where local politicians came to show their support for human rights and signed the petition to free Moses. Moses sent a message to Amnesty supporters

*'I am overwhelmed. I thank Amnesty International and their activists for the great support that made me a conqueror in this situation. Amnesty International members and activist are my Heroes. I want to assure them, that this great effort they have show to me will not be in vain, by the special grace of God I will live up to their expectation.'*

*'I promise to be a human rights activist, to fight for others.'*

**The Amnesty Undercroft Group** meets monthly at 12.15 on The Undercroft Café on the last Monday of every month.

**Everyone is welcome to drop in and join us.**

# Plenty to keep us busy – Malawi Update

**Alison Campbell**

Dr Clare Shakespeare, daughter of Dr Ruth Shakespeare who is our missionary partner and Medical Director of Mulanje Mission Hospital, ran the Edinburgh marathon on Sunday 31 May to raise funds for new born baby equipment.

Clare works in Obstetrics in Bristol, after 2 years in Mulanje as medical officer in charge – often the only doctor apart from her mother. She ran with her brother in law, Simon Durrant, who is a Church of England minister in Devon.

On Friday 29 May Clare was in the Undercroft to update us on the position in Mulanje, especially after the bad floods in January. The damage in Southern Malawi was enormous, with bridges washed away, 3,000 latrines destroyed and thousands of houses, 22 churches and worst of all the maize crop which means the hospital is seeing severe malnutrition among children.

However, progress has been made over the past 9 months, especially in providing an independent water supply for the hospital, improved sewerage, and improved palliative care – which is so important in a population ravaged by HIV/Aids (1 in 5 people, and much higher in the prison population) and TB, and which can hugely improve quality of life for sufferers.



**Edinburgh Marathon  
in aid of Mulanje  
Mission Hospital.**

Our congregation currently supports degree training for a nurse, development of solar power and weekly clinics in the prison.

The prison work over the 9 months to March 2015 has resulted in a significant decrease in mortality – from 1 death a month to only 1 death in the period. Disease and health has been improved through new WCs (from 11 to 19 for nearly 400 prisoners), 24 buckets to provide water in the cells at night, 11 prison clinics held, 60 prisoners referred to hospital and all prisoners given toothbrushes and tooth paste.

If you would like to donate online you can do so at Clare and Simon's fundraising page at

<https://mydonate.bt.com/events/mulanjemarathon/222910>

You can also give any donation to minister Ian Gilmour, James McNeill, Mary Margaret Scott, Ruth Forrester or Alison Campbell, to be passed on. Donations should be made to the Church of Scotland and gift aid is eligible.

**The Fellowship Lunch on Sunday 7 June will also support our Malawi partners.**

## Dr Ruth Shakespeare, Mulanje Mission Hospital, by email

“Our huge thanks to you all for your support of Clare and Simon (in the Edinburgh marathon) last weekend - they have raised a great £2106 for MMH so far, exceeding their target.

We are recovering from the floods here now - except in the area of malnutrition which remains a problem with so many crops washed away. We are renewing our efforts on teaching better farming methods, crop diversification etc. as well as supplying likuni phala to the most vulnerable.

Hospital is busy but running well, we plan to renew the crumbling sewage system over the next two months - not a glamorous project, but a very necessary one. Then we will start work on renovation of the antenatal ward and antenatal clinic - so plenty to keep us busy!”



# Christian Aid 2015 - A Note from the Help Desk

Judy Chapman

Once again I would like to thank the hundreds of volunteers who helped to raise another magnificent sum for Christian Aid. While most of our helpers are retired it was great to see a number of children involved. Geographically, while the majority of those helping came from Edinburgh we also had help from other areas of Scotland, England, mainland Europe, and the USA.

I continue to be amazed how people appear when most needed. Many thanks to those who responded to the special appeals for Thursday evening, some coming straight from work, and also those who appeared to help clean the Church on Saturday 16th (you're forgiven for not indicating this on your help form!).

I avoid mentioning names in order not to be seen thanking some people more than others. However I do want to thank some people who have made outstanding contributions in the past but were unable to help this year owing to ill-health. They are, in alphabetical order, Eileen Mackintosh (History and Biography), Tessa Ransford (Literature / Poetry), Evelyn Scott (Hardback Fiction) and Liz White (Scottish). Sadly we also lost Jim Smith, who died during the Sale. Jim did so much for many years as part of the Cellar Team and also was valuable member of the Saturday cleaning team.

I hope everybody enjoyed themselves and felt appreciated. Most people are now enjoying a well-earned rest apart from Mary Davidson, the Convenor of the Sale, who never stops. Since the Sale finished, with the help of her secretarial team, she has been busy writing letters of thanks which you will receive shortly. **Judy Chapman**

*On Sunday 14th June, at the 11 am Service, Professor Jeanne Bell will speak on behalf of all who helped to make the 2015 Sale and present the cheque from the Sale to the Revd Kathy Galloway, Head of Christian Aid Scotland.*

*Jeanne is a former elder and choir member of St Andrew's and St George's Church and she convenes the Medical Books section of the Sale.*



1975

# BOOKS AND RECORDS RAISE £900 FOR AID

Report in the 'Evening News' of Friday 31.5.75.

A BOOK and record stall held outside St Andrew's and St George's Parish Church in George Street, Edinburgh, has raised £900 for Christian Aid.

The stall was open during General Assembly week selling books and records donated by members of the public, and bread and cheese lunches were held in the vestibule of the church.

Combined with other donations, St Andrew's and St George's donated a total of £1145 to Christian Aid.

Mr Kenneth Anderson and Mrs Mary Davidson, joint conveners of the church's Christian Aid group thanked everyone who had helped or donated books. "We do appreciate all the help we received, particularly from those who have no connection with the church."

This is the second year the sale has been held, and it is hoped it will become an annual event.



The Senior Elder  
 [AHC Hope Esq., O.B.E., TD, W.S.,]  
 as Bookseller,  
 in the position of  
 the church.

**From the archives: a 1975 report from the Evening News shows Arthur Hope at the second Christian Aid Book Sale.**



# Notes from the Kirk Session

The Session met on Wed 27 May. A highlight was a report on the General Assembly from Jack Thompson who had been our Commissioner.

- The boiler replacement (with accompanying removal of asbestos) is proceeding well and within budget. Total cost will be £80,618.
- We have been approached by the Presbytery to become a “Supervising Congregation” for a Presbytery Mission Initiative concerning Albany Deaf Church. Presbytery Mission Initiatives are a new system in the kirk for bringing people together with a specific interest or aim, either in a geographical location or in a network – so not a congregation in its own right. The Deaf Church would use our building and we would be responsible for its management. As this is a new scheme, the Session agreed to set up a small group to take this forward. Meanwhile Albany will worship in our church on occasional Sunday afternoons.
- The Session took a very difficult decision with much discussion, to take the phone mast rental into general funds and to set up a new Mission Fund with all other money left to us for charitable purposes. The Session agreed that it had an obligation to attempt to balance the books, and we intend to use the Mission Fund in a more organised way to support external causes.
- On Together, funding was approved for the “Pilgrim for an hour” project.
- The congregation is asked for its comments on the website, which is being reviewed by the Communications Group.

On a less happy note, Katie McNeill announced her resignation as Joint Session Clerk in order to give more volunteering time to Workplace Chaplaincy. No doubt she will continue to be just as active in the congregation!

## Zest for Life

In March we introduced through 'Zest for Life' the latest stage in our initiative to ensure that our income as a congregation matches both our present needs and an expanding role in representing the church in a city centre which is itself developing a higher and higher profile.

The presentations and video showed we have much going on and much in the pipeline, but all the hard work and plans must have a secure financial base.

If you have already reviewed your own commitment a big thank-you; if you have still to get round to it please try to do so as soon as you can whether you contribute through covenanted direct debit or in other ways.

To make sure that our message reaches as many members as possible there will be further communications in June and July.

We worship and work here in a fast-moving and stimulating environment where to stand still is to go backwards, so let's make sure we meet the Challenge.

**James McNeill, Stewardship Convener**



**Boys' Brigade Silver Band march past St Andrew's and St George's West on Assembly Sunday, after playing at the 11am service**

# From the church manager's desk

**Office contacts:** **Sophie Chalmers**, our Administration Assistant, now has a separate contact email address which is **admin(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk**. This should be used for booking, diary and accounts related queries and general admin. **Joyce Garland**, **info(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk** continues to look after congregational matters, service arrangements and is in general the oracle of the office. However, this is a general guideline for your information and must not prevent anyone from contacting the office whenever they need to.

**Labelling of stored items:** The movement of items around the church before and after the book sale highlighted the necessity of labelling items stored by congregation groups; it is possible that items in unlabelled bags and boxes were included in the sale. Also, when the inventory check was carried out this week a considerable number of unmarked bags and boxes were discovered - the ownership of some still being a mystery. It is essential, therefore, that if there is a need to store items they are boxed and labelled - and a note left in the church office to explain where they have been put, please. I have put a plastic wallet containing labels, post-its and pen inside the 'Keys and Leaflets' cupboard next to the locker room.

**Congregational Photo:** If you would like a copy of the Congregational Photo, please sign the sheet in the vestibule, or let the office know, by 30 June. The photos will be professionally printed, A5 in size (21cm x 15cm) Cost will be 50p per copy.

**Jean Howard, Church Manager**

## **Edinburgh Presbytery World Mission Fair Polwarth Parish Church Sat 20 June 10am-noon**

St Andrew's and St George's West has been invited to take a stall at this event to highlight our partnership in Malawi. Come along and support our team, meet representatives of the World Mission Council and learn what other congregations are doing throughout in partnerships throughout the world

# Congregational Picnic

**Sunday 14 June from 1.30pm**

Our first annual Congregational Picnic will be on Sunday 14 June from 1:30pm at Dalkeith Park House. Bring and share your food and drink (crockery, cutlery and glasses available). Please sign up on the sheet in the vestibule to give an indication of numbers. Directions for travel by bus or car are available

# Evergreens Summer Outing

**Wednesday, 24<sup>th</sup> June.** We are going to the Botanic Gardens, meeting at 2pm at the John Hope Gate (the West Gate) on Arboretum Place. Tea has been booked for 3pm in the Restaurant in the John Hope Building. Several buses stop near the East Gate on Inverleith Road, but the tourist bus which has gone to the West Gate over the last two summers is not so far running this year. Lifts will be available from the Church at 1.40pm, but please let Ann Hindle or Veronica Crerar know in advance if you would like a lift.

# We need your stories - Last chance!

To all members of the former St Andrew's Church and St Andrew's and St George's Church: From September 2015, an exhibition in the sanctuary will tell our many visitors about this church – the building; its history; and our present-day activities. Part of the exhibition will be **a book of congregational memories**, and for this we need your help. There will be a section on weddings in the church. If you have a **family wedding photograph featuring the church**, please bring it to us and we will scan and return it. Do you have **photos or memories of a particular event, person or organisation** which you are willing to share? We would love to have **more stories** – serious or funny. Please send your stories and photos to us or leave them in the church office for us. If you don't want to write your story yourself, get in touch with us and we will transcribe it for you.

**Mary Godden**

**Barbara Ramsay**

# Just Festival

**Programme Launch**  
**Wednesday 10 June at 6pm**  
**St John's Church**

Bigger than ever, Just Festival is celebrating its 15th year with over 300 events and performances from the 7th-31st August. Open to everyone, the launch is free

to attend and will showcase tasters of what the Festival has to offer. Meet new Festival Director, Beata Skobodzinska, and some of this year's artists. And grab your copy of the programme.



**Festival Fringe Performer Accommodation Sought: Just Festival 2015** will include a new musical from Soweto and Just would like to see whether accommodation for at least some of the 12 performers might be available through the Together Congregations. The performers will be aged between about 18 and 50 and all will have good English. Accommodation would be sought for periods of 7 nights between 1st August and 2nd September. A light breakfast would be appropriate but no other meals are required. Performers would be required to return to accommodation no later than 10pm. If you think that you may be able to help, please contact the Festival Director, Beata Skobodzińska, at [beata\(at\)justjust\(dot\)co\(dot\)uk](mailto:beata@justjust.co.uk)



**Worship, Liturgy and the Arts**  
**A day of ideas and inspiration**  
**27 June 2015 10.30am-5.30pm**  
**Greyfriars Kirk**  
**£10 (Students £5)**

Fantastic programme of workshops and sessions exploring ritual, language, silence, music and visual art. Speakers include Graham Maule (Wild Goose) Carol Marples (Soul Marks) and Peter Gardner (Renfield St Stephens)

It would be so good to get a small team together for this!

Speak to Ian Gilmour or Alison Bruce if you are interested.



# Music News

## Fires of Love Celebration Concert Friday 12 June at 7.30pm

Acclaimed early music group Fires of Love celebrates 17 years of making music together in a final concert. With **Frances Cooper**, soprano Gordon Ferries, Lute and Guitar; Jonathan Hugh Jones, recorder and baritone and Marcus Claridge, percussion.  
**Tickets £5, on the door.**



## Cabaret & Canapés Friday 19th at June, 7.30pm

Join the **students from the choir** for an informal evening of light Jazz music to fundraise for the forthcoming choir trip to Germany. The evening will feature performances from vocal ensemble Vintage Twelve, the Banyuls Saxophone Quartet, Duo Aulos & many more. Refreshments provided. Bring your friends and family!  
**Tickets £8 (£5) on the door**

## St Andrew's & St George's West at Festival Time 9-30 August 2015

Three weeks of classical, jazz, opera and world music – spoken word – **all curated, organised and staffed by volunteers here at St Andrew's and St George's West.** Pick up a copy in the church or read it on our website at [www.stagw.org.uk/music](http://www.stagw.org.uk/music). Postal booking for tickets is open now, or you can book online at [www.edfringe.com](http://www.edfringe.com)



# General Assembly 2015



## People make the assembly

Jack Thompson reports

The General Assembly Blue Book runs to more than 400 pages. Packed full of facts, figures, overtures and deliverances, it indicates the range and importance of the work in which the Church of Scotland is involved. But it only comes alive when the convenor of each committee gives their report, and the debate on that report begins.

What caught my attention most at Assembly was not the reports themselves; nor even the sometimes highly charged debates, but initially at least, the people, sights and sounds around me. Here are just a few of them.

First, the music: the singing at Assembly is always good; but the intensity, volume and obvious sincerity struck me strongly. To hear 'Ye gates lift up your heads' to the tune of St. George's Edinburgh during the Monday morning Assembly communion was particularly moving. And there were also more innovative musical items, such as the playing of the harp orchestra during the Saturday evening session.

They say that 'People make Glasgow' and it's also true that 'people make the Assembly'. **Overseas delegates and visitors** played a significant part. They added a new dimension to our understanding of international contexts and problems. To hear delegates from places such as Nepal, Syria, Palestine and South Sudan talk at first-hand about their homes, problems and disasters was both moving and informative.

For me personally, it was particularly gratifying when the representative of the World Council of Churches was introduced. He was Joseph Keum from South Korea, Director of the Commission on World Mission and Evangelism - and an ex-student of mine from New College.

It was good also to have present and participating, members of the Youth Assembly. Their freshness and enthusiasm was infectious, if sometimes challenging. At the extremely formal communion service I was served by a young woman wearing a very bright Hawaiian shirt and a pair of turquoise hot pants.

Before I leave 'people', however, I need to mention our own congregation. Our participation in the Assembly was impressive: from the Lord High Commissioner (baptised in St. George's church) through several of our members who were on Councils and committees of the church, to stewards on daily duty and attenders in the public gallery – all signs, I think, of a lively, engaged and outward looking congregation.



Turning now to the actual contents of the Assembly, space permits only a brief summary of some of the reports, discussions, deliverances and decisions which came before the Assembly

In the public eye the question of the church's attitude to gay clergy and same sex marriage had a prominent place. The position was complicated by the fact that since the Overture on civil partnerships was sent down to presbyteries in 2014, the Scottish parliament had passed a law legalising same sex marriage. This meant that, in some respects, the overture which presbyteries eventually approved by 31 to 14 was already out of date by the time it came back to Assembly this year. On Saturday Assembly nevertheless passed the Overture into church law by 309 votes to 182.

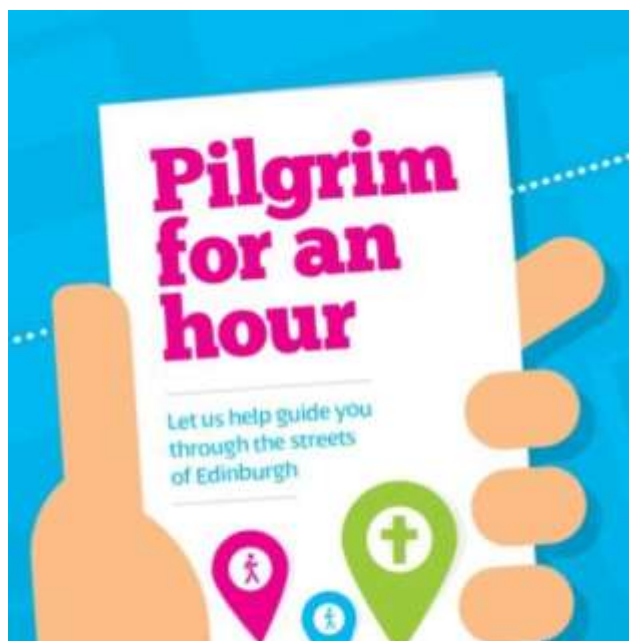
On Thursday we returned to the issue of whether the new law should be amended to include same sex marriage. After a long and somewhat fraught debate the proposal to include same sex marriage was passed by the very narrow margin of 213 votes to 205. Even this was not the end of the matter, because Assembly then went on to debate whether the new addition should be sent down to Presbyteries under the Barrier Act for their approval. This was eventually agreed. In some ways it was unfortunate that the issues of same sex marriage and civil partnerships should have taken up so much of Assembly's time and energy, since the debates produced more heat than light and the two sides seemed as far apart as ever.

**Church and Society** convener Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton received a rousing reception for a speech full of passion and enthusiasm, covering many of the major social and political issues of the day. The 77 page report contained major sections on Social Justice, Climate Change, Criminal and International Justice, Education, Health and Politics and Government. Even such a detailed report could get bogged down with theoretical detail, however. We spent some time discussing whether the Council's statement that 'nuclear weapons were inherently evil' was logical. Could an inanimate object be evil, or was it only its use which was evil?

One tiny item in the report might be of special interest to us. The Council has produced an eco-baton, to be taken around different churches to publicise the up-coming Paris climate conference in December. Perhaps we might consider requesting that the baton comes to St. Andrew's and St. George's West?

I was also highly impressed by the work of the **Social Care Council** – now operating largely under the branding of CROSSREACH. Crossreach employs almost 2000 staff involved in more than seventy care-related services, including care homes, children's services, substance abuse support, and help for those with learning disabilities.

**World Mission Council** used the Assembly theme of 'Living Stones' to frame their report – drawing on the stories of members of partner churches from across the world. It was interesting to see how many of the issues they were highlighting were already on our radar here at STAGW, such as Christian Aid and partnerships with congregations overseas.



**Pilgrim for an Hour**  
a different guide to Edinburgh.  
Pick up a copy in the vestibule  
or find it online at  
[www.stagw.org.uk](http://www.stagw.org.uk)

It was also interesting to note that the 'Pilgrim for an Hour' booklet, pioneered by our City Centre Together churches, was placed in the pigeon holes of all commissioners at the Assembly.

The Committee on Ecumenical Affairs also highlighted the idea of pilgrimage, urging congregations to join with other churches in the WCC's 'Pilgrimage of justice and peace'



This is meant to be a sharing of experiences as we walk the same road together (metaphorically if not physically) seeking justice and peace; but the same committee also encouraged us to make use of the 'scotlandspilgrimjourneys' website which gives details of the dozens of pilgrim routes now available throughout the country. Perhaps we could consider having an annual Together pilgrimage somewhere in Scotland.

Like the writer of Hebrews 11, 'time would fail me to tell' of all that went on at the Assembly, but I think it is appropriate to finish with the image of pilgrimage.

Both as a denomination and as a congregation we are involved in a journey together. It is not always easy and there are hardships along the way; but we believe that the journey is meaningful, that we learn from others on the way, and that the destination will prove ultimately worthwhile.

## Jack Thompson

Commissioner (invited delegate) to the 2015 General Assembly on behalf of St Andrew's and St George's West.



Pat (**St John's**) launches Pilgrim for an Hour- at St Cuthbert's



**St Cuthbert** meets the Moderator on home territory



**St Andrew** ventures afar - and finds a familiar face on the way

# An Amazing Experience

**Jennifer Dunlop**

Marie Austin and I recently participated in Reach Out and Listen, a half-day conference at Dalziel St Andrew's Church in Motherwell on how to improve worship for people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

For me, who has been hard of hearing all my life, sharing and understanding others in a similar situation was an amazing experience.

Rev Rosie Addis, Hearing Development Worker based at 121 George Street, presented an analysis of the needs of deaf and hard of hearing church members within the context of the 2010 Equality Act.

1 in 5 people in Scotland suffer from hearing loss to one degree or another. Many feel isolated and some have mental problems due to this.

There are various categories of hearing loss – "Profound and Deafened" who will communicate by signing, and "Partially Hard of Hearing" and "Hard of Hearing" who may use aids as well as lip reading.

It is often the case that elderly people, who develop hearing difficulties late in life, do not want to indicate that they are hard of hearing thinking that it might be socially unacceptable to say they do not hear everything or showing that they wear an aid! Often we lose Church members if they feel they are excluded because they no longer are able to hear the service and participate in the fellowship afterwards.

There are a number of key points to consider in enabling good communication with people with hearing difficulties:

## **At meetings**

- a) the speaker's face should be in a good light, speak clearly and at a steady pace; s/he should not exaggerate mouth movements or shout,
- b) speakers should not move about - it is difficult to lip read,
- c) minimise background noise as much as possible

## **Generally**

- a) for many with a hearing problem, it is difficult to lip read the speaker if s/he is wearing dark glasses - eyes are important in face to face contact,
- b) to aid lip reading, if the speaker has a beard or moustache it should be clear of the lips,
- c) let people sit where they wish, the front row is not always appropriate
- d) when someone joins a conversation it is helpful to indicate that s/he is sitting beside someone with a hearing difficulty,
- e) some people with hearing difficulties might like someone to sit beside them to assist

## **The built environment, etc**

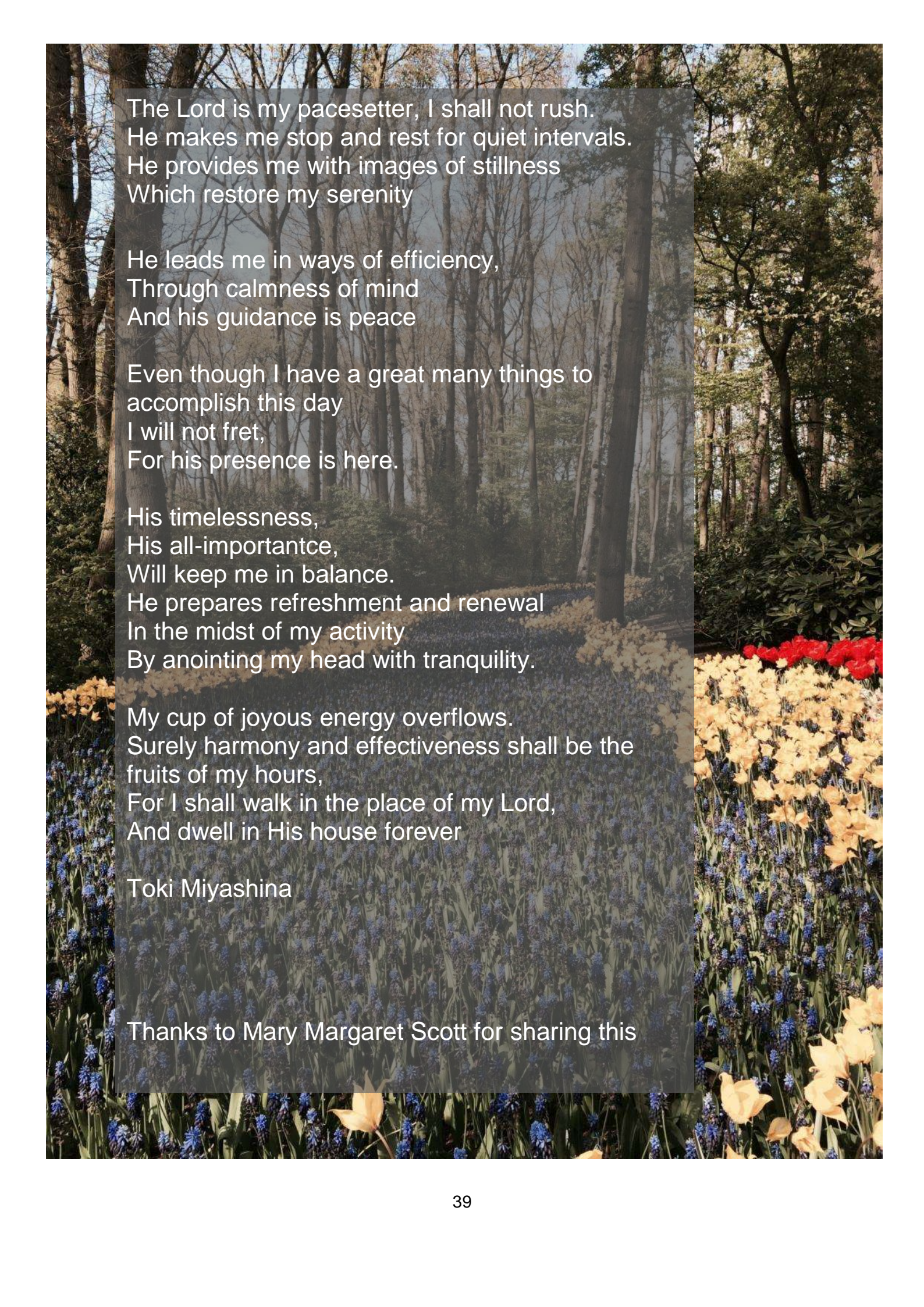
- a) use a room appropriate to the size/purpose of the group,
- b) provide a loop system, permanent or movable,
- c) provide a suitable audio system, and train speakers to use it,
- d) provide suitable lighting,
- e) if possible provide screen presentations,
- f) if possible provide pre-meeting papers,
- g) if possible/appropriate provide note taker to project notes on to screen,
- h) older Church design often hinders a positive environment for those with hearing difficulties, however professional help is available.

At the end of the day the many "hearing" and "hard of hearing" participants agreed that the conference had been a fantastic experience with much learned and much to share.

Having said that I want to record my appreciation of the way St Andrew's and St George's West has put much of the above into practice and has enabled me to participate in Church life in a way I was unable to do before including the support from our Minister who is happy to email his sermons to me - and to anyone else who wishes to receive them.

**Jennifer Dunlop**



The background of the page is a photograph of a forest path. The path is lined with tall, thin trees, and the ground is covered with a dense field of yellow and blue flowers. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent dark grey rectangle in the center of the image.

The Lord is my pacesetter, I shall not rush.  
He makes me stop and rest for quiet intervals.  
He provides me with images of stillness  
Which restore my serenity

He leads me in ways of efficiency,  
Through calmness of mind  
And his guidance is peace

Even though I have a great many things to  
accomplish this day  
I will not fret,  
For his presence is here.

His timelessness,  
His all-importance,  
Will keep me in balance.  
He prepares refreshment and renewal  
In the midst of my activity  
By anointing my head with tranquility.

My cup of joyous energy overflows.  
Surely harmony and effectiveness shall be the  
fruits of my hours,  
For I shall walk in the place of my Lord,  
And dwell in His house forever

Toki Miyashina

Thanks to Mary Margaret Scott for sharing this



**St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847**

**www.stagw.org.uk  
facebook.com/stagw**

**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</b> 0131 225 3847
<b>Session Clerk</b>	<b>George Burgess</b>
<b>Joint Treasurers</b>	<b>John Innes</b> <b>Allan Sim</b>
<b>Director of Music</b>	<b>Brigitte Harris</b>
<b>Children, family and youth worker</b>	<b>Angela Grant</b> 07731 465 642 angela(dot)stocks1975(at)btinternet(dot)com
<b>Church manager</b>	<b>Jean Howard</b> (Monday-Thursday 8am-5pm) 0131 225 3847 churchmanager(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk
<b>Church secretary</b>	<b>Joyce Garland</b> (Tue, Thurs, Fri 10am-3pm ) 0131 225 3847 info(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk
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**TOGETHER Chair Ian Gilmour**

**TOGETHER City Centre Chaplain Tony Bryer 0131 229 6542 / 07834 748129**  
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**TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West**  
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