



St Andrew's and St George's West July - August 2015 Magazine



July-August 2015

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Cover photo: Picnic Church, Dalkeith 2015

Next copy deadline Mon 24 August for the autumn issue.

Thanks to all contributors of news, articles, prayers and photos.

Editor: Alison Bruce. Photo credits: Jane Brown, Alison Bruce, Alison Campbell, Ian Gilmour.



Can you recognise a good shepherd?

Ian Gilmour

I had dinner with a shepherd last Saturday, during which he told me three things which made me think.

1. Many sheep died over the last winter in Scotland due to poor weather, little feed and no commitment to sheep from Her Majesty's Government or the European Union as subsidies are given for land and not for livestock. Few people it seems are interested in sheep.
2. Last year some large Scottish farms received over £1m for not cultivating crops or keeping animals. Is this a clever pattern for the future of agriculture in our country?
3. The shepherd asked me to guess the price of a sheep dog. What would you say - £500, £1,000, £1,500? To be honest, I didn't get close to the actual figure of £4,000. Shepherds need good dogs to look after the sheep well and they want good dogs because most really do care. They are out in all weathers

seeking lost lambs, feeding their flock well and supporting the ewes during lambing, but there is no profit to be made. Even by looking at Scotland's hills as against 25 years ago you can get a clear visual sense of the decline of both an industry and a way of life.

It struck me as being a little like the church – out of sight; out of mind and out of favour with the predominant culture. It still has lots of good aspects to it with caring and compassionate people abounding, their degree of commitment is considerable. The relationship between people and sheep emerged in Old Testament times as shepherd was a favoured description for the political leaders of the society in the days of the prophet Ezekiel. The prophet certainly doesn't hold back in Chapter 34:

*"Aren't **shepherds** supposed to feed sheep? You drink the milk, you make clothes from the wool, you roast the lambs, but you don't feed the sheep. You don't build up the weak ones, don't heal the sick, don't doctor the injured, don't go after the strays, don't look for the lost. You bully and badger them. And now they're scattered every which way because there was no **shepherd**—scattered and easy pickings for wolves."*

What kind of shepherds do we want?

These words from Barack Obama's eulogy on Senator Clem Pinckney have moved me and many others, with over one million viewings on YouTube to date and help me to remember:

**that often the way is lonely,
the way is hard,
the way is gracious
for there is no other way to be a good shepherd.**

Barack Obama said of Clem Pickney

"Clem's position in the minority party meant the odds of winning more resources for his constituents were often long. His calls for greater equity were too often unheeded, the votes

he cast were sometimes lonely. But he never gave up. He stayed true to his convictions. He would not grow discouraged. After a full day at the Capitol, he'd climb into his car and head to the church to draw sustenance from his family, from his ministry, from the community that loved and needed him. There he would fortify his faith, and imagine what might be.

Reverend Pinckney embodied a politics that was neither mean, nor small. He conducted himself quietly, and kindly, and diligently. He encouraged progress not by pushing his ideas alone, but by seeking out your ideas, partnering with you to make things happen. He was full of empathy and fellow feeling, able to walk in somebody else's shoes and see through their eyes. No wonder one of his senate colleagues remembered Senator Pinckney as "the most gentle of the 46 of us -- the best of the 46 of us."

Clem was often asked why he chose to be a pastor and a public servant. But the person who asked probably didn't know the history of the AME church. As our brothers and sisters in the AME church know, we don't make those distinctions. "Our calling," Clem once said, "is not just within the walls of the congregation, but...the life and community in which our congregation resides."

He embodied the idea that our Christian faith demands deeds and not just words; that the "sweet hour of prayer" actually lasts the whole week long - that to put our faith in action is more than individual salvation, it's about our collective salvation; that to feed the hungry and clothe the naked and house the homeless is not just a call for isolated charity but the imperative of a just society.

What a good man. Sometimes I think that's the best thing to hope for when you're eulogized -- after all the words and recitations are read, to just say someone was a good man.

You don't have to be of high station to be a good man. Preacher by 13. Pastor by 18. Public servant by 23. What a

life Clementa Pinckney lived. What an example he set. What a model for his faith. And then to lose him at 41 -- slain in his sanctuary with eight wonderful members of his flock, each at different stages in life but bound together by a common commitment to God. ”

Jesus says,

‘The good shepherd puts the sheep before himself, sacrifices himself if necessary’. While we do not rejoice in the death of a man we would not have heard about, we do rejoice in his commitment as a shepherd. We can also rejoice in his community, which has been impressive and quick to forgive his killer. Let us recall we are all part of the same family of faith, called to be shepherds of the one good shepherd Jesus Christ.

Live fully and enjoy life this summer, Ian



Mosaic of the Good Shepherd, Ravenna, 6th Century AD - the same time that Columba arrived in Iona to found his community.

Worshipping God

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 All Age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am

July

July 5 11am **What We Accomplish**

From Mandalay to Charleston Mark 6:1–13

July 12 11am **What We Contribute**

Learning from Two Kings: Mark 6:14–29

July 19 11am **Why We Rest?**

Mark 6:30–34, 53–56

July 26 **What We Honour**

Thinking about Pilgrimage John 6:1 –21

August

August 2 11am **What We Experience**

Thinking about Ecology Ephesians 4:1–16

August 9 11am **What We Claim**

Thinking about the new film 'Inside Out' Ephesians 4:25—5:2

August 16 11am **What We Discern**

Thinking about True Wisdom Ephesians 5:15–20

August 23 **11am How We Live Disability?** 1 Kings 8: 22–30, 41–43

August 30 11am **Be Love** James 1:17–27

The Lord has told us what is good.
What he requires of us is this:
to do what is just,
to show constant love,
and to live in humble fellowship with our God.

Micah 6.8

St Andrew's & St George's West Diary

July-August 2015

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

Wed 1 July	11.30am-1pm Summer fun in the courtyard: Creating a garden
Sun 5 July	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers
Tue 7 July	10am-noon Little Ducks
Wed 8 July	11.30am Summer Fun in the Courtyard: Songs for Families with Frances Cooper
Sun 12 July	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) Aalborg Choir from Denmark 12 noon bellringers
Tue 13 July	10am-noon Little Ducks
Wed 14 July	11.30am Summer Fun in the Courtyard: Mrs Mash, the Storytelling Cook 1.15pm Cello in Church: Tim Cais, Chris Harding
Sun 19 July	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)

	12 noon bellringers
Tue 21 July	10am-noon Little Ducks 7.30pm School of Philosophy Lecture (Chester St)
Wed 22 July	11.30am Summer Fun in the Courtyard: The Man Who Planted Trees with Puppet State Theatre
Thur 23 July	Tree of Life Walkway (Sanctuary)
Fri 24 July	Tree of Life Walkway (Sanctuary)
Sat 25 July	Tree of Life Walkway (Sanctuary)
Sun 26 July	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers 12 noon Communion
Mon 27 July	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group meets
Tue 28 July	10am-noon Little Ducks
Wed 29 July	11.30am Summer Fun in the Courtyard: Noah's Ark in Godly Play
Sun 2 Aug	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers
Tue 4 Aug	10am-noon Little Ducks
Wed 5 Aug	11.30am Summer Fun in the Courtyard: Eat What We Grew 12.30pm (Sanctuary) National Children's Choir of Great Britain Concert

Sun 9 Aug	<p>9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers 1pm Church Alive! Dr Harry Reid and Dr Elizabeth Ursic in conversation with Rev Ian Gilmour.</p>
Sun 16 Aug	<p>9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers</p>
Sat 22 Aug	<p>12.30pm St Andrew's and St George's West Choir Concert: In Paradisum</p>
Sun 23 Aug	<p>9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers</p>
Mon 24 Aug	<p>12.15pm Amnesty Undercroft Group meets</p>
Sun 30 Aug	<p>9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) 12 noon bellringers 12 noon communion</p>

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

Announcements

Parish Wedding

Alison Carvel and **Daniel Blake** were married in church on Saturday 6 June 2015, by Revd Ian Gilmour.

Deaths

Miss Elise McLauchlan
Mr Ronald Stewart

EcoCongregation News

In June 2015 St Andrew's and St George's West gained its second Eco Congregation Award. Thanks to the Wider Horizons team for lots of work! And save the date of 23rd September, when Eco Congregation Scotland is running a really interesting ecumenical event here.

Wednesday 23rd September 2015, 7.30pm
at St Andrew's and St George's West, George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

Love God, Love God's World
WHY CHRISTIANS CARE FOR CREATION

With speakers including:

The Most Rev David Chillingworth
Bishop of Dunkeld, St Andrew's and Dunblane and Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church

Sally Foster Fulton
Convenor of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland

Philippa Bonella
Head of Communications and Education at the Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund

The Rev John Humphreys
Synod Moderator of the United Reformed Church in Scotland

PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARIES – it is sure to be a thought-provoking evening!

Further details and full programme to follow

Kirk Session Notes June 2015

The Kirk Session (KS) met on Monday 29 June. The meeting opened with a reading from President Obama's eulogy of Reverend Clementa Pinckney, late politician and pastor of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

Reports

Angela Grant, Children Families and Youth Worker, reported on a busy season of children's activities on Sundays and weekdays in George Street and beyond. Angela has completed the year-long Mission-Shaped Ministry course and further training in Godly Play.

Jean Howard, Church Manager, reported strong lettings and conference income. New staff are settling in well. The Undercroft Café is recovering after enforced closure for boiler repairs. Volunteer Crofters continue to be very supportive of staff and offer a wonderful welcome to customers.

James McNeill, Malawi Group. We continue to support prison health work and nurse training in Mulanje and commit to fundraise jointly with Stockbridge Church to finance additional hospital beds.

Discussion time KS discussed **worship** in the context of our Local Church Review goals, specifically daily prayers, the possibility of evening worship and of offering more opportunities for the congregation to participate in worship. Jack Thompson agreed to lead a small group to consider these issues. The Moderator affirmed that prayer, especially daily devotions, is the hallmark of strong successful churches.

KS heard a presentation from **Aid and Abet**, a peer mentoring project for ex-offenders run by Scottish Churches Housing Action. The project is early stage and looking at all avenues for funding.

Appointments **Jack Thompson** was re-elected **Presbytery Elder**. **Andrena Crawford** takes on the role of **Roll Keeper** from **Anne Wilson**, who steps down after 5 years.

Next meetings: Wed 16 Sep: Oct awayday; Tue 1 Dec.

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

Tree of Life: A Mindful Walk

From Thursday 23 - Saturday 25 July we're going transform our Sanctuary into a tree of life and open it to everyone for a reflective walk. We'd love some help! Could you...

- contribute some home made jam or chutney?
- lend us some deckchairs?
- offer us some seasonal flowers, herbs or greenery from your garden?
- help us with social media to publicise the event?
- spare a few hours to help set up/take down and cover opening times?

If so, please have a word with Alison Bruce, Margaret Ann Fraser or Ian Gilmour. You can also contact us at [treeoflife\(at\)stagw\(dot\)org\(dot\)uk](mailto:treeoflife(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk)

Thanks!



Children & Family News

Angela Grant, Child, Youth & Family Worker

Messy Church

On Saturday morning the 13th of June the church buildings were a hive of activity. Ten children and seven adults enjoyed a Messy time! Our theme was all about Joseph, we made a lovely coat which the children tried on, bubble pictures, gift boxes, thumb print brothers and paint was everywhere! The celebration service in church went well we all enjoyed the Joseph story and our singing raised the church roof! Our lunch was tasty too. Thank you to the Messy Church Team leaders for all your hard work it was a really good morning. **Next Messy Church Sat 19 Sept 10am-12.30pm**



Sunday Mornings over the summer

Church does not close over the summer holidays so Bright Sparks doesn't either fun activities will be on as usual for the children during the 11am service. The 9.45am All Age Services also continue as normal all are welcome.

Little Ducks Café

The Little Ducks drop in Café will continue over the summer (July & August). All children are welcome on Tuesday mornings between 10am & 12 Noon in the Undercroft for craft activities and play. Not just for toddlers over the summer all children are welcome. A free activity during the school holidays let people know.





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

St Andrew's and St George's West Church

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

Scottish Charity No. SC008990





Royal High School – graduating to Senior Winners

Meeting the challenge

Bob Brodie reports on a thrilling finale to the Donald Gorrie Debating Competition

On Wednesday 17 June, 36 pupils, ranging in age from 13 to 16, from six local schools¹ gathered in the Church and Undercroft on Wednesday 17 June to debate the motion:

"This house believes that we can create and sustain communities across Scotland in the 21st Century".

A daunting prospect rendered even more daunting when faced with a group of judges comprising University debaters from Edinburgh, St Andrews and Stirling Universities, including the European Universities Debating champion, and four members of the congregation.

"The European Universities Champion admitted that he was glad not to be debating the motion"

Faced with a motion, which all the judges agreed was extremely taxing - the European Universities Champion admitted that he was glad not to be debating it - the pupils met the challenge. I was privileged to be one of the judges for the Seniors Competition

¹ Craigmount, George Watson's, James Gillespie's, Merchiston, Queensferry and Royal High Schools

comprising three debates. There was an amazing variety in these debates with each proposer presenting significantly different reasons to support the motion. The opposing teams had to counter these and also present their own reasons for opposing the motion.

As judges we were, therefore, presented with three very different debates and it was some task to decide on the winning team. The debating skills of the pupils put many of us to shame, and their speed of thought in responding to 'googlies' was quite something. I wonder if they are so direct and persuasive in responding to their teachers!

The judges for the Juniors Competition had an equally difficult task in deciding the winning team with all six teams debating like seniors.

Royal High won the Senior Competition and so put a new name on the Cup. Victory was not, however new for that team because they won the Junior Cup last year. The Junior Cup was won by Queensferry and this also marked a first for that school in the Junior Competition. Next year will they emulate Royal High and go on to win the Senior Cup?



**Queensferry High –
Junior Winners**

This was the third year of the competition and having been involved as a judge for each of these three years it is clear that the bar is getting higher each year. Donald Gorrie can rest easily secure in the knowledge that with our schools producing pupils of this calibre Scotland has a bright future.

Bob Brodie



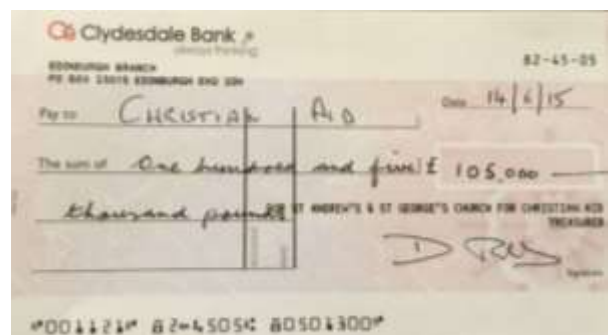
Miracle and Mystery

The 2015 Christian Aid Sale

Professor Jeanne Bell, one of the volunteers at the Sale, spoke on behalf of all the helpers at the 2015 Sale as she presented the cheque to Kathy Galloway.

I have in my hand a cheque for £105,000 which I am about to hand over on your behalf to Kathy Galloway, the Director of Christian Aid, Scotland. Since its foundation 70 years ago, Christian Aid has sought to alleviate the distress of the world's needy and to advocate greater justice for them, and for 40 years this church community has provided its support for that cause through the annual book sale in Christian Aid week.

If you weren't among the people who took part in the sale last month, it's hard to imagine this tranquil and beautiful space utterly transformed by a vast tide of books that spills out on to George Street, and it happens every year. After two weeks of sorting and pricing, supported by a number of people with real expertise, the



moments before the Sale opened at 10am on 9th May are unexpectedly quiet as we wait for the doors to open. There is the chance to hold in my hands a tiny, 500 year old volume before it is taken by someone who knows its true worth.

Then the public flood in, jostling and pushing (I even heard from a reliable source of some un-Christian elbowing, such is the popularity of this Sale!). They are intent on seeking particular books or postcards, records or antiques, pictures or children's games of their choice. Many are the interesting encounters that ensue, with ardent collectors, book specialists, students, travellers and holiday makers, casual browsers and oftentimes people who are lonely and vulnerable. All of life is there and we hope that moments of friendly interaction will remain with them as they leave. After all, we are the public face of Christian Aid in this place.

And it is the people who make the Sale such a life enhancing event. There are the dedicated volunteers sorting and selling or minding coats and valuables: the young men hefting impossibly heavy boxes: the cheerful helpers serving hundreds of meals in the Undercroft. But for most of us this is merely a three week commitment. For Mary Davidson and her team there is massive responsibility and meticulous planning throughout the year. As a result, the Sale unfolds (mostly) in calm and serene progression with relatively few aware of the hard work that goes on behind the scenes.

While this cheque for the vital work of Christian Aid represents so much from this church community, we are mindful of our privileged state in a relatively safe and prosperous country. We have our own needy of course but an increasing number of countries elsewhere seem to be plunged in total chaos and desperate need. When we look at the world it is easy to despair: Nepal, Syria, Iraq, Gaza, many parts of Africa. And increasingly those who go to their assistance are themselves endangered, whether they are individual volunteers or large NGOs.

But to counteract despair it is vital to DO something and through Christian Aid we have that opportunity, to translate enjoyable hard work into meaningful help. It is our heartfelt wish that every fraction of this donation goes to making life better for people, families and communities wherever there is need, continuing the great tradition of Christian Aid in the world. It is my privilege to hand it over.

Jeanne Bell

Kathy Galloway replied

Thank you Jeanne and thank you once again to the congregation of St Andrew's and St George's West and to all the many folk that make the Christian Aid Week Book Sale a possibility.

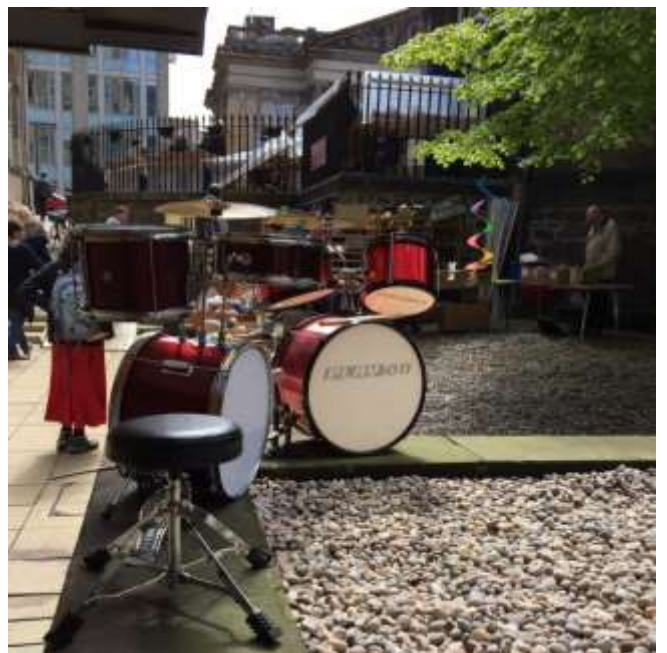
For me this book sale is a kind of a miracle and also a kind of a mystery.

One of the things that amazes me is the way in which this beautiful church – and I was licensed as minister in this church – is given over each May to a task which is messy and cluttered, with complete dedication. Then the miracle and mystery of the Christian Aid Book Sale begins.

And it is extraordinary to come back to the quiet beauty of the church today. But I know that it is not really either a miracle, or a mystery. As Jeanne said it is really the result of an **enormous** collective effort by hundreds of people, a community of care that's built by many small things coming together. I appreciate that and Christian Aid is grateful for that, always.

This year for some reason I found the story that was the central focus of Christian Aid Week particularly moving. I don't know if you remember? A young Ethiopian woman, living in remote and rural part of Ethiopia, prone to drought.

Loko is a twenty seven year old woman who is the sole support for a family of seven children, three of whom she is raising on behalf of a disappeared husband. Every day she works 18 hours a day to provide for these children. She



supports herself and them by walking for 8 hours a day to cut firewood and to sell it. She walks on her own, in danger of many kinds from predators both human and animal.

Kay, our youth volunteer at Christian Aid Scotland, visited Loko's community and she was able to share with us something of the encounter. Kay is from Northern Ireland and she was brought up on a farm. So she took with her to Ethiopia pictures of the farm and pictures of cows. I imagine that these Northern Irish cows would be really nice, healthy looking cows. Loko and Kay have no common language. But Kay showed her the picture of Northern Irish cows. And Loko was most impressed with the cows!

What Christian Aid is seeking to do is to give Loko - and other women in her situation - cows. That will give them a source of income and most importantly a voice and a status in their community where these things depend almost entirely on how many cattle you have.

It's sometimes hard to make a connection from our own reality to the lives of people who live so much on the margins of existence, Their hold on life is fragile. Perhaps that is one of the reasons why their faith is very strong. But I think part of the miracle and mystery of Christian Aid and what happens here is that there is a **direct line** between the work that goes on here and the difference it makes to the lives of women like Loko.

I hope that you will always remember that - even when it seems very remote and almost abstract - that what you do here and what you allow here and what you enable here and what Mary and her team do with great dedication is to make that connection and to make changes, transformation, possible in the lives of women like Loko. So thank you.

**Next fundraising events at
STAGW for Christian Aid**

Christian Aid Picture Sale

29 – 31 Oct 2015

Coffee Morning 31 Oct 2015



Music news



Choral scholars for the 2015-2016 session are **Clara Galea** and **Anna Wright**. Organ scholars are **Ross Gubby** and **Drew Crichton** (above right). **Andrew Carvel** is Assistant Director of Music and **Chris Harding** is Accompanist.

Congratulations to **Anna Wright** and **Laura Cioffi** who will have graduated from Napier with First Class degrees. Laura is moving to London to study at Trinity College.

Our choir takes a break from rehearsing in July which gives us a chance to hear other voices On 12 July a choir from **Aalborg** in Denmark will sing during the 11am service.



Lie back and wonder

Bob Brodie reviews 'Cabaret and Canapés'

On Friday evening 19th June I, a devotee of Bach, who tends to believe that music stopped when Bach died, found myself to my great surprise in the church for an evening entitled 'Cabaret and canapés'. This was a fund-raising event by the younger members of the choir to help defray the cost of the Choir's coming New Year trip to Germany.

I went with the thought that the 'pain' of the cabaret might be offset by the canapés!

Well I was right about the canapés - made by the performers, they were delicious - but I was absolutely wrong about the cabaret. It was terrific. The evening began with the amazing compère introducing the entertainment, a mixture of song and instrumental, both solo and group. One had to lie back and wonder at the talent of these performers, whom we regularly see dressed in their choir robes every Sunday lead us into the steamy world of the cabaret and amaze us with us with their talent.

This was no coffee cantata but, by jove, it was a musical feast.

Bob Brodie

Missed the concert? Never mind, you can look forward to

- Chris Harding & Tim Cais playing Mendelssohn **14 July at 1.15pm, free**
- the choir singing the Faure Requiem **22 Aug at 12.30pm**
- the next generation of organists at the Fringe **Wed 12, 19 and 26 Aug, at 12.30pm.**

plus another 70 events in the church at St Andrew's and St George's West at Festival Time. Full programme at www.stagw.org.uk





CELLO IN THE CHURCH

J.S. Bach – Gamba Sonata No. 1

Mendelssohn – Variations Concertantes

Mendelssohn – Cello Sonata No. 2


Tim Cais (Cello)

Chris Harding (Piano)

Tue 14th July 1:15-2:15 pm

St. Andrew's & St. George's
Parish Church
13 George St. EH2 2PA

Free Entry



Organ Recitals in the City

The new generation in concert

Venue 111: St Andrew's
and St George's West Church

12 August 12.30 Calum Robertson, Edinburgh
J.S. Bach

19 August 12.30 Oana Maria Bran, Germany/Romania
Bovet, Bach, Radulescu and Alain

26 August 12.30 Ross Gubby, Edinburgh
Bach, Elgar and Vierne

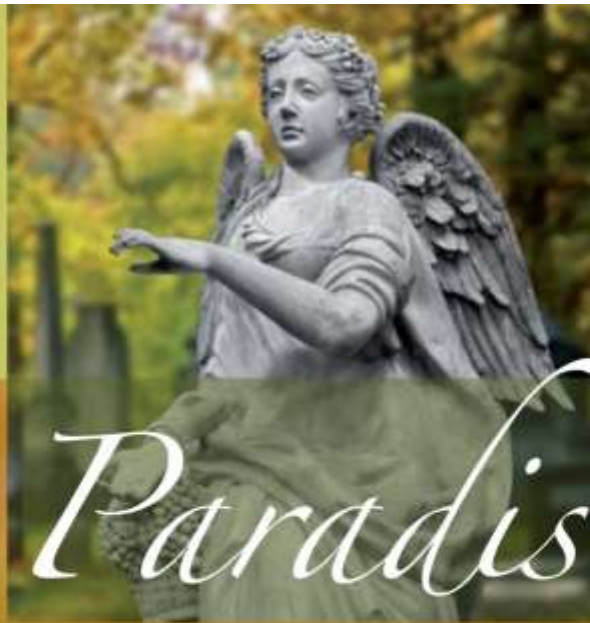
Admission £7

13 George Street,
Edinburgh
EH2 2PA

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland
Edinburgh is a registered charity. Charity number SC 008990.

**Fringe
2015**

**Venue
111**



In Paradisum

Enjoy a heavenly performance of

Fauré's **REQUIEM**

in the Georgian splendour of
St Andrew's and St George's West

Director: **Brigitte Harris**

Soloists: **Frances Cooper** *soprano* • **George Burgess** *baritone*

The choir will also sing
newly commissioned
Spirituals by
Andrew Carvel and
Stuart Murray Mitchell



Saturday, 22 August at 12.30pm

Tickets £10 (£8 concessions)



**St Andrew's and St George's West
Church of Scotland
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA**

Registered charity: Charity number SC 008990

Amnesty News

June 26 is UN International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, and this gave the Amnesty Group another chance to campaign for human rights on the portico of the church. We collaborated with St Mark's Amnesty Group to man a stall from noon to 6pm, covering both the lunchtime and after office rush.

A few days later, Alex Jackson of Amnesty visited to brief us on Eritrea. This tiny country borders Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti. Its population not much larger than Scotland's yet it is the second largest source of Mediterranean asylum seekers after Syria. Why? The end of the war between Ethiopia and Eritrea has brought peace, prosperity and international recognition to Ethiopia. But smaller Eritrea still perceives itself to be under threat and demands indefinite national service from its citizens, forbids political opposition and press freedom.

Amnesty is launching a new campaign, which we will support, calling for the release of political prisoners who disappeared after the war. They have been held out of international sight, without trial for nearly 15 years – a clear denial of human rights.

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2015/06/born-on-eritreas-battlefields/>



Embroidering the Truth

Alison Bruce

It was one of these lovely days when you wake up with no fixed plan. Of course, your to do list still lurks, and “I should really...” tweaks your conscience, but by virtue of location or of mentally being on holiday you manage to squish both into submission. We are in London – lazy breakfast, news... what will be the lead story? Syria? Greece? Cuts? In fact today’s big story is the 800th birthday of Magna Carta, the document which established the principle that everybody, even the king, was subject to the law. And there’s an exhibition at the British Library, a few minutes’ walk away.

The British Library has everything a visitor could wish for – a courtyard to chill in, quiet space for study, free fast wi-fi and an excellent café. I descend into a small exhibition space packed with images, text, textiles and documents. 40 minutes will surely suffice to skip round?

A couple of hours later I’m still in the 18th Century, leaning over Thomas Jefferson’s hand written draft of the US Declaration of Independence. It’s 1776, the birth of the modern United States. 3,000 miles away, the New Town of Edinburgh is taking form.

It turns out that what started as a barons’ revolt against a tyrant king was only the beginning of the story.

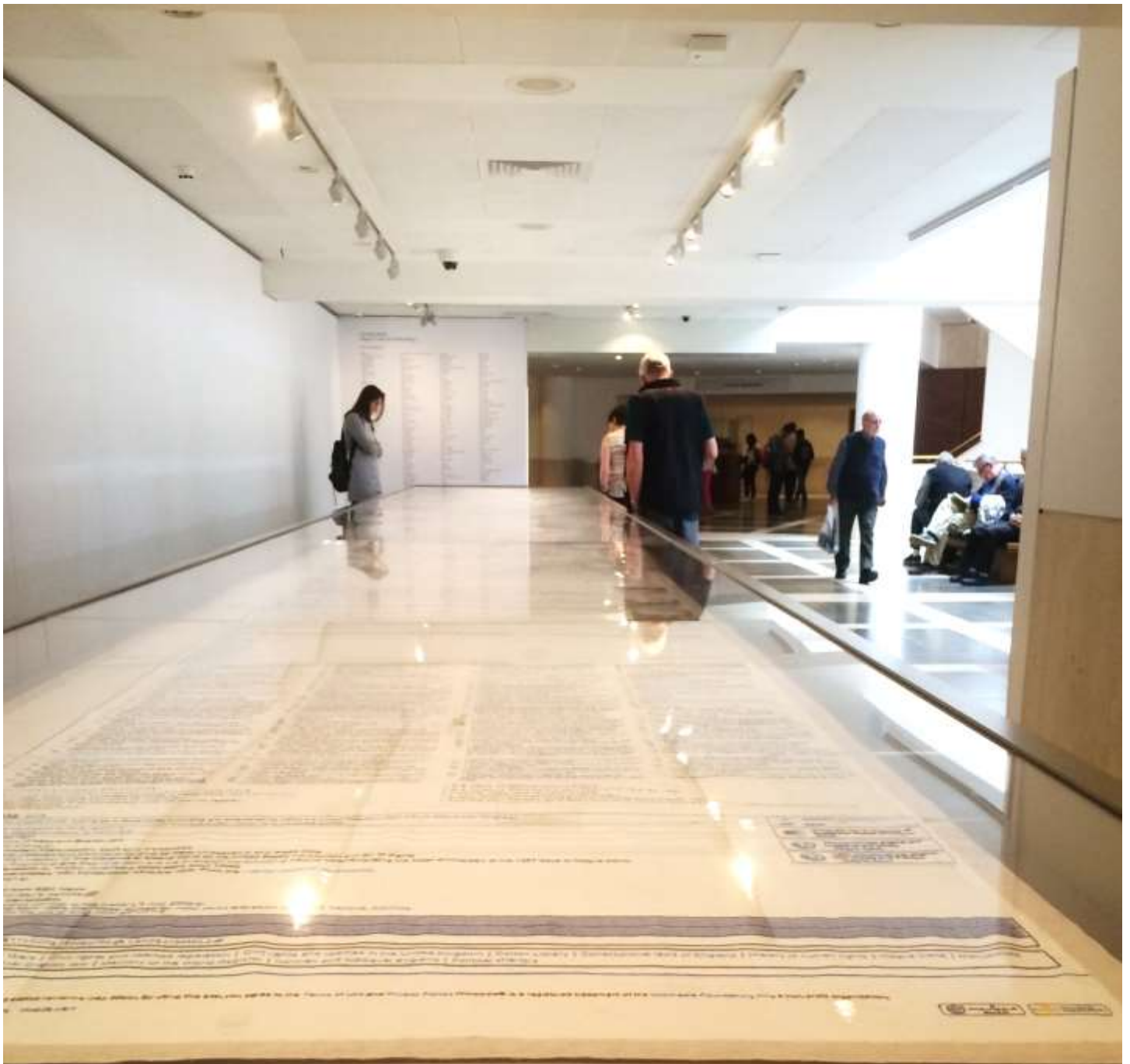
Although Magna Carta was immediately repealed and denounced by the church, it refused to die. Instead it has evolved, and continues to inspire reform and reinterpretation and to embed its core principle in the conscience of the age.

After an intense journey through medieval England, the English Civil Wars, the US Declaration of Independence (1776) the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1947) and the 1988 Human Rights Act, I emerge into the calm entrance hall of the British Library.



1215: original Magna Carta parchment

“no free man shall be seized or imprisoned ... except by the lawful judgment of equals or the law of the land”
(Clause 39)



Cornelia Parker
Magna Carta (An Embroidery), 2015
Half panama cotton fabric, pearl cotton thread and other media
Embroidered by over 200 individual contributors
12358 x 1550 mm

2015: Magna Carta (An Embroidery) Cornelia Parker

But the story is not quite finished. For here in the entrance hall is a huge embroidery of the Magna Carta – not of the Charter itself, which is a modest parchment sheet - but of the full 28 page print out of the Wikipedia entry on Magna Carta. Wikipedia is created, refined and corrected by millions of users, a collaborative store of knowledge which has reflected new insights, voices and discoveries every day of the 15 years since Wikipedia began. Not unlike the constant renewal and re-interpretation of Magna Carta over the past 800 years.

Conceived by artist Cornelia Parker, the embroidery was the work of the hands of 200 people: judges, politicians, activists, artists, prisoners and more. All, for once, are on the same page. The bulk of the text was stitched by prisoners working with social enterprise Fine Cell Work “This is great” said one in an interview, “Usually nobody listens to us”

The list of invited stitchers was indeed impressive. Baroness Helena Kennedy, Shami Chakrabati, Doreen Lawrence, James McNeill... James McNeill?

James McNeill takes up the story

“All those who stitched the tapestry, apart from the members of the Embroiderers’ Guild, have a connexion with the Human Rights processes in the UK.

*My own part is that in 1983 – 1988 I was the applicant’s counsel in *Lithgow v UK*, one of a group of ground - breaking cases where (following the passing of the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Nationalisation Act in 1979) former owners of profitable companies sought to complain that the compensation available was woefully inadequate.*

The importance of the case for the whole Human Rights process was that the UK (Conservative) Government sought to argue that the national of a nationalising nation had no standing to complain about his or her own country’s nationalisation.

Whilst we failed to get compensation increased, we persuaded the Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg that this went against the whole thrust of the European Convention on Human Rights and its genesis after WW2.

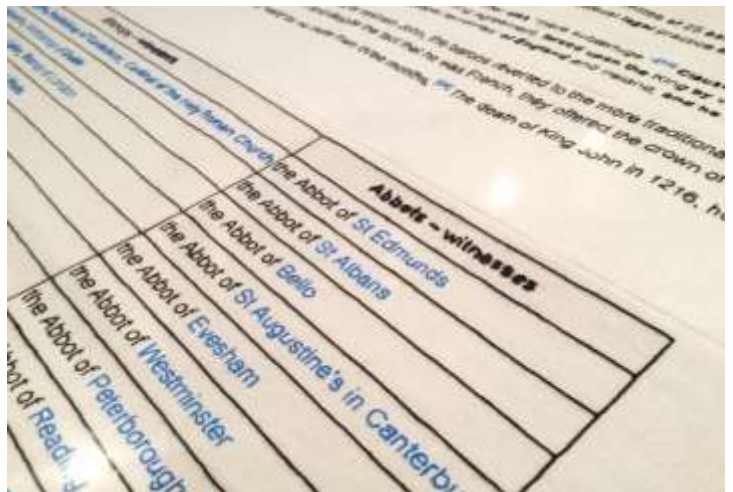
The right to property is a vital right, otherwise, like the Nazi administration, you proceeded by commencing with taking people's property, after which you could take their liberty and then their life.

Whist all this might seem blindingly obvious, HMG fought tooth and nail with the best silks available; and I have an indelible memory of seeing the vice-president of the Commission swinging round in his chair from looking out of the window on Day 3, when the enormity of the UK Govt argument dawned on him. Not his fault: the written pleadings ran to 2000 pages.

I was also interested because, as part of the Church Malawi group who had gone to Mulanje, I was able to practice my double cable stitching under Dorothy Mackenzie's kindly tutelage.



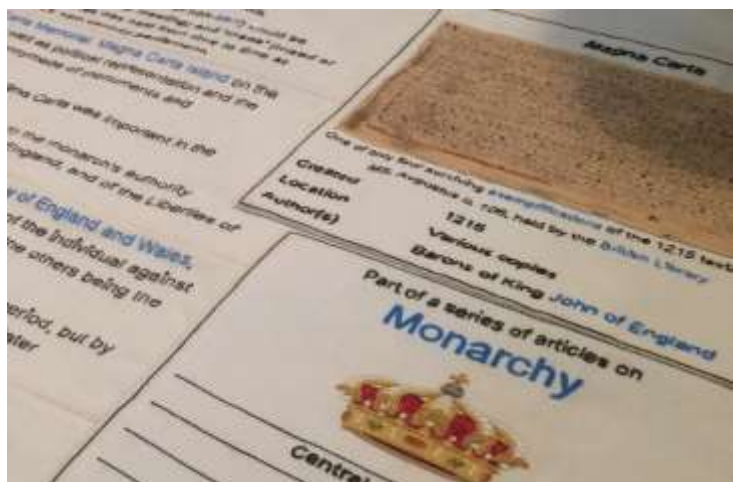
My words were 'Abbotts – Witnesses' which has far too many bits of circles for an occasional stitcher!



Magna Carta: Law, Liberty, Legacy
runs until 1 September 2015

Cornelia Parker's Magna Carta (an Embroidery) is displayed until 24 July 2015.

Both at the British Library
96 Euston Road, London
<http://www.bl.uk/>



Walking the walk

Margaret Ann Fraser

Pilgrimages are in vogue! I enjoyed our Pilgrimage around the city centre. I have always been attracted to "walking the walk" and have covered many miles in contemplation of many spiritual people from different traditions in many countries.

It was with anticipation that I went to India to follow in the footsteps of Thomas the Apostle and Adi Sankara. Thomas landed in Kerala in 52AD and I visited his early churches and pilgrimage routes.

Adi Sankara was born around the 6th century AD, a few miles from the hill Thomas climbed to pray in contemplative silence. By the time he was 16, he had mastered all the Scriptural and Philosophical literature then available and written commentaries on the Veda and Bhagavad Gita. He recognised The Spirit of Truth through all traditions, but saw that this was often hidden behind particular doctrines and dogma. Hence Advaita Philosophy was established with meditation and contemplation as the core practice.

Through a friend, of a friend of a friend (not connected with church or school of philosophy!) I met Father Sebastian Painadath, who started a Christian Ashram in 1987, being aware of the essence of spirituality in the vicinity.

When I arrived there, I knew that it was time to stop walking, and rest with the Jesuit Fathers, who invited me to live with them for my last week.

Moving on spiritually...?"

The **School of Philosophy Summer Programme** is now available in the vestibule and at <http://www.philosophy.uk.com/>.

As part of the programme, on **Tue 21 July at 7.30pm** Margaret Ann will speak about her pilgrimage to India following in the footsteps of Thomas the Apostle and Adi Sankara.

The School of Philosophy is at 18 Chester Street, EH3 7RA. £6, including refreshments.

Pilgrim for an hour

Frances Cooper

Over two years of planning, and more than a year of concentrated effort for the joint working group - and the Pilgrim for an Hour booklets are now available and in use. Not only have the congregations had the opportunity to see them, but, with the encouragement of the Church of Scotland Church and Architecture Committee (CARTA), all commissioners at the recent General Assembly received a copy and they were distributed to interested visitors to St Cuthbert's on Heart and Soul Sunday! CARTA have been very enthusiastic about the project and suggested applying for grant funding to develop a mobile phone app, allowing further development of the trail content. If you think you could have skills to offer in this next stage, look out for further news after the summer. In the meantime, pick up a booklet and take the chance to discover the contemplative opportunities in the bustling city centre right on our doorstep.

Just Festival

Frances Cooper

The 2015 programme was launched on 10 June, packed with exciting, innovative and transforming drama, dance and music. There are more performers than ever before, and, with an added venue at Central Halls in Tollcross, a wealth of events to choose from. With its theme of 'Fifteen Years of Light', there is also ample opportunity to be a part of conversations shedding light on important issues such as:

Modern day slavery - chaired by Ian Gilmour (Aug 7)

Gender based violence – chaired by John Armes (Aug 12)

Church and social justice – chaired by Richard Frazer (Aug 27)

Human trafficking – chaired by Markus Dünzkofer (Aug 28)

All 17 conversation events are held in St John's Hall at 6pm on weekdays of the festival. Programmes are available now, in printed form from all ECCT churches, or on the festival website www.just-festival.org, where you will also find booking details.

Outreach to the Homeless



Robert Philp

Side by side with the ordered congregational life of our churches in the city centre exists the sub-culture of the streets. Anyone can find their life suddenly tipping over into it. A relationship breaks down, they get shut out of their house, they drink, lose their job and find themselves one of the pavement people. Our heart sinks, perhaps, as we walk past yet another beggar sitting in our way, an upturned cup in front of them, a sign saying Homeless and Hungry, or a hand reached out towards us for a donation. But not all beggars are homeless, nor do all homeless people beg. Many just try quietly to keep body and soul together at a desperate time of their lives. The city centre churches need to notice this quintessential feature of our cityscape, and never pretend it isn't there.

This last winter teams from our churches welcomed people into the night-time Care Shelter at St Cuthbert's (numbers sadly higher than ever), and we held breakfasts in January at the Salvation Army premises in Niddry Street. Congregational giving towards the expenses of these events was more generous than in any previous year, and after they'd been paid for we still had over £2,000 left to give to agencies which reach out to homeless and destitute people. Grants went, therefore, to The Cyrenians, Edinburgh City Mission, The Grassmarket Community Project, The Jericho Benedictines, Richmond Craigmillar Community Café, The Rock Trust, the Salvation Army and Streetwork. We are very grateful to members of our congregations for their great generosity.

In May we revised our Information Sheet of Services in the City Centre for those on the Streets. This single sheet gives details of where to go when people are in crisis, or needing accommodation, food, money or medical advice. Each of our churches has a store of these, so please take some copies if you can think of someone who could do with one. They are good for handing out to people you see begging, for example. I have convened this group since it started 25 years ago (when the

Rock Trust was set up), and it urgently needs an injection of new blood. It's therefore very good news that Liz Darke of St John's has agreed to take over at the helm. We wish her all success as she takes the group ahead, - maybe not to a future in which there are no homeless people, but perhaps one where our society reaches out to them with ever greater understanding.



The Police

Like our churches, the Police are an important part of the identity of the City Centre. Emma Croft, Community Inspector, Edinburgh City Centre writes:

I joined the Police Force in 2000. I have thoroughly enjoyed the variety of challenges I have faced over the past 15 years although I have to admit my current role as City Centre Community Inspector is my most treasured – not only do I have responsibility for an iconic collection of landmarks, streets and cultural epicentres, I am also privileged to meet and work with people from all walks of life. Every day has indeed been a 'school day' in the year I have been in post.

My role includes the management of 50 Officers, dealing with operational incidents and community issues as well as a large events portfolio within the city centre.

The key issues we face within Edinburgh city centre are retail and acquisitive crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB) often linked to alcohol and drug misuse and a number of challenges as a result of Edinburgh's vibrant and busy night time economy.

The public are undoubtedly our eyes and ears to assist us by reporting instances of crime and ASB to the Police. Please don't assume someone else has called in. Reporting enables the full extent of the problem to be captured and consideration given to the best solution.

Our local Churches have a key role to play to support our more vulnerable individuals as well as report and share information. By working in 'partnership' local issues can often be resolved more effectively – we cannot do this alone!



The Cornerstone Bookshop

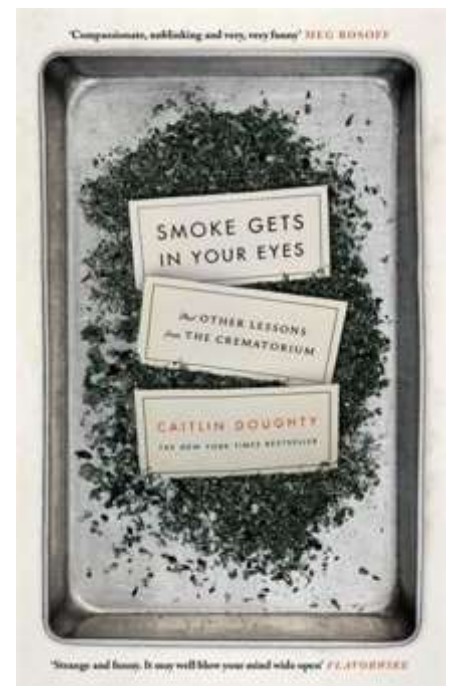
Together strongly supports the Bookshop under St John's. Margaret Leeming has just moved on after a period of dedicated service, and Anna Ward is now Manager. Do look in for a great selection of religious and other books. To encourage you, Amanda Bruce has summarised some interesting current titles:

Smoke gets in your Eyes - and other Lessons from the Crematorium'

by Caitlin Doughty

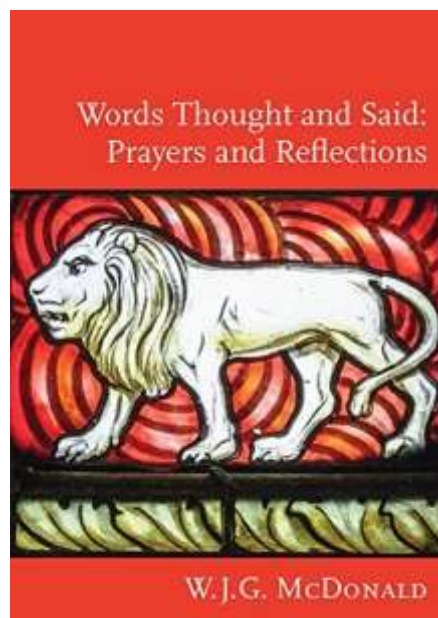
9781782111030 £12.99

Aged 23, Caitlin Doughty took up her curious new profession, caring for the bodies of the dead from hospital morgue to cremation and working with mourning families. It did not take long before she started to wonder about the lives of those she cremated and found herself confounded by people's erratic reactions to death. Here, she tells her story. Exploring our death rituals – and those of other cultures – she pleads for healthier attitudes around death and dying. In an age where, still, many go to great lengths to avoid thinking about it, her illuminating account brings us face to face with death in an urgent and fascinating way.



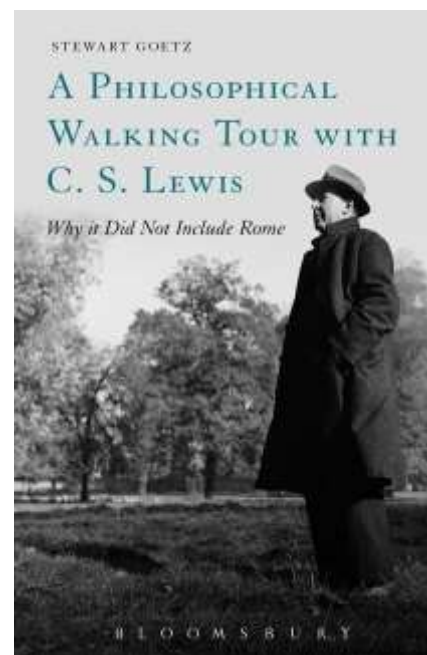
'Words Thought and Said: Prayers and Reflections' by W.J.G. McDonald
9781871828818 £6.99

Bill McDonald spent most of his working life as a much loved and respected Church of Scotland minister (for 30 years at Mayfield Church in Edinburgh and in 1989/90 serving as the Moderator of the General Assembly). This book brings together a rich collection of prayers and sermons, 'evangelical in purpose, liberal in spirit, intelligent in content and pastorally sensitive in tone'. Originally composed for use in public worship, these words, as presented here, will equally aid and inspire private devotion; written to let in the light and sound to allow people to listen and hear something of God's purpose and love.



'A Philosophical Walking Tour with C.S. Lewis' by Stewart Goetz
9781628923179 £19.99

While much has been written on C.S. Lewis and his work, virtually nothing has been written from a philosophical perspective on his views of happiness, pleasure, pain, and the soul and body. Fifty years since his death, his stance remains both curious and controversial. In this intriguing exploration, Goetz considers these matters – interesting in their own right – and considers how Lewis' theories (at odds with Thomas Aquinas and the Roman Catholic Church) for the first time adequately explain the question of why Lewis retained his Protestant identity.



Anyone interested in Lewis or the philosophical questions he grapples with will find this volume equally absorbing and informative.

be with me, O God,

as I escape the shackles of my normal routine
and the demands of work/school/chores.

Help me to recharge my soul as well as my body
and to realise that a holiday from my work
is not a holiday from my life of faith.

thank you

for all those who water the plants and collect the mail,
who look after family pets, and carry the extra load at work,
so that I can take this time out to rest and play.

Give me the strength and patience
to deal with those moments:
when children get under my feet;
when parents say “Go outside and play”;
when work emails invade my privacy;
when others interrupt my plans for peace.

may my holidays be Holy Days

days when I can rejoice and celebrate
the many blessings I have with the people I love.
days when I can refresh my spirit as well as my body.
days when I can grow closer to you
as I celebrate the gifts of life.

Refresh too, the lives of all those
who will have no holidays this year
those who have no work to rest from
those too elderly or sick to travel
and those for whom each day is a struggle to live.

and prepare me, O God,

for my return to the rhythm and routine
of the chores/work that await me.

Borrowed from *Pray Now*, St Andrew's Press, with thanks.

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

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

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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**

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