

St Andrew's and St George's West November 2017 Magazine



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November 2017 Magazine

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Contributions, comments, news, photos, ideas for features are welcome – email us at [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)

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Thanks to all contributors

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Read the Bible... and you will grow

Ian Y Gilmour



First of all heartfelt and genuine thanks for all your messages of goodwill as I have been recuperating from pneumonia. It was been strengthening to be upheld in your love, prayers and support. Many thanks indeed.

It has been a pleasure for me to use the International Bible Reading Association Notes, now called 'Fresh from the Word' since the 1970's and I wish to commend it to all the members at St Andrew's and St George's West. I have now ordered copies of the book, which will run from 1 January 2018 to the end of December.

The organisation has a long and proud history. Let me share some words of the excellent editor, Nathan Eddy,

'Much has changed at IBRA in the last 135 years. But we remain true to our founding vision, in that we are not publishers, but an association of readers of the Bible around the world in many different churches. We still read the same scripture every day, albeit in different languages. Our mission remains simple: to encourage the daily reading of the Bible.'

We don't pretend to have all answers about the Bible. In fact, across our readership you will find a healthy mix of perspectives and theologies of scripture from our international writers. But we believe the Bible is a book to be read in order to plumb the mystery that is God, to use Terry Waite's memorable phrase from his 2015 foreword.

So like our books, this anniversary edition features daily short reflections, linked to a weekly theme, on scripture from our writers around the world, followed by prayers and questions to stimulate your Bible reading. The notes are meant to take you deeper into scripture, not to stand alone.'

The story

The IBRA was an idea of Charles Waters, a bank manager and Sunday school teacher with a vision for giving everyone access to the Bible. Waters saw how education and literacy benefited all, especially the poorest, and threw himself into working with his minister, the influential Baptist Charles Spurgeon, and the National Sunday School Union, to strengthen and expand Sunday school teaching.

1882: IBRA established by the Sunday School Union. Daily Bible readings and commentary notes circulated.

1887: Materials reached New Zealand, Canada, USA, Germany, Sweden, and published in French.

1890: The IBRA International Fund established. Members gave a halfpenny each to pay the first western Sunday School worker in India, Dr JL Phillips.

1910: Over one million members.

1932: Jubilee in the Royal Albert Hall as 'A Living Book for the Living Age'.

1939 – 1945: Translators risked their lives to bring IBRA notes to readers, encoding them to avoid censorship and discovery.

1950: Notes were reorganised to reflect current scholarship and a 'broad, middle path' of interpretation

1980s: Roman Catholic and Orthodox writers welcomed.

Today: The IBRA enables Christians to grow in knowledge of each other's experience of God through international contributors, translation into 13 languages and distribution in 16 countries to nearly 1 million people every year.

The original mission continues today, so why not join us. Simply ask me for a free sample celebration edition, or sign up for a full copy, which costs £9.95 to become involved in a long and fulfilling story.

Let us enjoy God's word to full in 2018,

Ian



Worship for November

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 or come to all three!

Sunday 29 October at 11am Communion Sunday

Deuteronomy 34:1–12

Sunday 5 November Baptismal Sunday

What Should I Do? Matthew 23:1–12

Sunday 12 November at 10.50am Remembrance Sunday

(with the Edinburgh German Speaking Congregation)

Matthew 25:1–13

Sunday 19 November at 11am

Investing: Matthew 25:14–30

Sunday 26 November at 11am

Christ Among Us: Matthew 25:31–46

Sunday 3 December at 11am (First Sunday in Advent)

Two –Sided Coin: Isaiah 64:1–9

You are before me Lord, You are behind

Psalm 139

If you are progressing, you are advancing;

but progress in well-doing,

progress in good faith,

progress in good deeds.

Keep singing and keep advancing.

St Augustine

God respects me when I work; but God loves me when I sing.

Rabindranath Tagore

Autumn 2017 Diary

26- 28 Oct	CA Art Sale with Scottish Books/Coffee Morning
Sun 29 Oct	Quarterly Communion 9am, 9.45am and 11am services
Mon 30 Oct	12-1pm Undercroft Amnesty Group
Tue 31 Oct	7.30pm Donald Gorrie Lecture

November 2017

1-22 Nov	Moments in Nature exhibition, Undercroft
Thur 2 Nov	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends: Ian May (at St Cuthbert's)</i>
Fri 3 Nov	7pm Lutherabend
Sun 5 Nov	9am, 9.45am and 11am services 12 noon Fellowship Lunch for Homelessness projects
Mon 6 Nov	6.30pm AHSS PATRICIA ANDREW – To Russia with Love
Thur 9 Nov	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends: Catherine Booth (St Cuthbert's)</i>
Sun 12 Nov	9am Communion, 9.45am Learning Together 10.50am Remembrance Service with the German Speaking Congregation
Wed 15 Nov	10.30am Creative Together (at Maggie Morley's home)
Thur 16 Nov	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends: Sheila Kesting (St Cuthbert's)</i> 7pm Leonhart Concert http://www.leonardharpergow.co.uk/
Sat 18 Nov	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
Sun 19 Nov	Noon - 4pm Wedding Open Day 2-3.30 pm Messy Church
Mon 20 Nov	10.30 Book Group
Thur 26 Nov	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends: Helen Alexander (St Cuthbert's)</i>
Sun 26 Nov	9am, 9.45am and 11am services
Mon 27 Nov	12-1pm Undercroft Amnesty Group
Tue 28 Nov	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Thur 30 Nov	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends: Advent Meditation (St Cuthbert's)</i>

December 2017

Sun 3 Dec Advent 1	9am, 9.45am and 11am services 12 noon Fellowship lunch for choir funds 3pm Edinburgh Carol Service, St Andrew Square
9-23 Dec	Joy to the World – Christmas Tree Festival
Fri 15 Dec	6pm Carols at Six
Sun 24 Dec	Christmas Eve: 9am, 9.45am, 11am services Christingle Service and Watchnight Service
Mon 25 Dec	Christmas Day 11am Family Worship

News and notices

Deaths

Mrs Wilma Rayner of Braeside House, on 20th October

Congratulations



Clara Galea and Laura Cioff, former choral scholars at St Andrew's and St George's West, on gaining distinctions in their masters degrees – Clara from Edinburgh University and Laura from Trinity Laban in London

Rev Bill Clinkenbeard and Rev Alistair McGregor on their 80th birthdays

Sophie Hudson (Chalmers) from the church office on her marriage to Liam Hudson



Hello!

I am Elina and the new intern of StAGW till the end of December.

A few of you may recognise me as I have been here for a few weeks working in the Café, attending prayers and services, sitting in the Undercroft talking to people, singing in the choir and coming along to some events and groups.

I'm from Berlin and studying theology to become a minister in the German Protestant Church.



As part of my practical studies I spend time on different placements and as I am now quite familiar with the church system in Germany I decided that I would like to do one in Edinburgh, simply because I fell in love with the city last year.

In Berlin I grew up in a church in a suburb of the city, which in my case means a mix of single family houses and flats and a mix of middle-class and poorer people. During my confirmation class I realised that I really enjoy engaging in Christian theology and faith. Since then I wanted to become a minister and started to explore the structure of church.

I worked with the youth organisation of my church district and the regional church for several years. Since 2014 I have been

appointed to represent the interest of the youth assembly at the synod of the church district and the regional church. Alongside this I have established a youth group in my church at home and am still leading it.

As you see I have a lot of experience in doing youth work so I am happy that StAGW has a different profile! I am very excited to get to know more about being a city centre church, the advantages and disadvantages.

How to deal with people who just step in and with people who live their different lives between the rush and the longing for rest? How do you enhance the city a bit and the cooperation between the residents, like the Undercroft, the ecumenical work or the events that take place in your church do? I hope I will understand how better to work with people inside and outside the church.

Of course I also enjoy learning about the Church of Scotland: the different liturgy, the different theology, the different administration systems, like the kirk session or the presbytery.

Last but not least I am interested how you live faith, of course in the service to your neighbours, but also what role does faith play for each of you and for the congregation in general.

How do you live faith in prayers, worship, through different services or in your relationship with God?

I am looking forward to get to know you and the Church of Scotland.

Elina Koehler



See Disability Differently **- on Tuesday 31st October at 7.30pm**

Very Rev Dr John Chalmers will be giving the 2017 Donald Gorrie lecture on Tuesday 31st October at 7.30pm. He will draw on his unique personal experiences to help us understand disability in a different way. Hence the title of his talk, "There is a crack in everything, that's how the light gets in". This line from the song Anthem by Leonard Cohen asks us to experience the grace and beauty of God shining through the cracks.

John will be taking a fairly broad overview of what we label as disability, delivered in the main from his experience of Down's syndrome, the deaf community, physical disability and post traumatic stress disorder. This may make us think about what it means to be an inclusive community and what it is to describe the love of God as unconditional.

Many people will know that John's older sister June had Down's Syndrome and he has spent most of his life supporting **Enable**, the charity which aims to improve the lives of people who live with learning disabilities. For twenty years he was a member of the

Board of Donaldson's, the National School for the Deaf, serving 8 years as Chairman.

In 2011 John's son John-James was injured in Afghanistan while serving with the Royal Marines. Mr Chalmers says at that time they experienced the Church as a healing and supportive community.

John also believes that some of the greatest works of service are done by people who do not get enough affirmation or public recognition. He says "I enjoy telling the story of a Church which cares about the values by which Scotland lives, which cares about the conditions in which people live and which puts its money where its faith is, in the work it does amongst the most vulnerable and marginalised."

The lecture will include an opportunity to ask questions and to continue the discussion over refreshments afterwards.

The Very Rev Dr John Chalmers was Moderator of the General Assembly in 2014 – 2015, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly from 2010 – 2017 and prior to that served as Depute Secretary to the Board of Ministry and as the Church's Senior Pastoral Adviser. In the early 1980s he was a minister in Renton Trinity Parish in West Dunbartonshire and from 1986 to 1995 he was the minister of Palmerston Place Church.


Undercroft Café helps people of all abilities into work

Staff and volunteers in the **Undercroft Café** were delighted to pick up the current copy of **enable** magazine and read about one of their community who has moved on into full time employment. Read Kieran's story in **enable** magazine – copies in the Undercroft.



MOMENTS IN NATURE

Exhibition of photography by
Pat McKerrow



**1st-22nd Nov 2017, Mon-Fri
10am-2pm, & Sat 18th
11am-2pm.**

**The Undercroft Cafe,
St Andrew's & St George's West,
13 George St, Edinburgh, EH2 2PA.**

Proceeds to Macmillan Cancer Support Scotland



Allow yourself to be distracted

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

“O Lord and Maker of all things...I praise you for the bright and beautiful world around me; I praise you for the earth and sea and sky, for the hurrying clouds and singing birds....”, and “I remember with joy the beauties of the world today”. Those of you familiar with famed theologian John Baillie’s prayers, may recognise these extracts from his ‘Diary of Private Prayer’. A wonderful book, offering wonderful prayers and reflections I typically use to begin and end each day, and these words in particular, truly resonate.

That’s my typical daily prayer routine, but do I have a typical day when I’m out in nature? The short answer is ‘no’. A photographer friend told me recently to “allow yourself to be distracted” - we’re clearly of similar mind because I do that all the time, instinctively, as my dear long-suffering husband will testify! I might begin tracking a kingfisher, usually by sound first, the piercing ‘zii’, then either spotting the fly-past, or the brilliant colours part-hidden in a branch. So beautiful, so fascinating to watch as it scans the river-bed for sticklebacks or minnows, and so much smaller than I expected when I had my first sighting over 10

years ago. It's also lovely when passers-by stop to ask what I'm doing and they then have their first sightings – their joy is palpable.

There's never an actual 'order' for my days either, time literally stands still and I become lost in creation's 'oneness'. It might be some mallards almost leaping up to grab the greenest leaves of a bush at the water's edge; it might be the sudden arrival of a sparrowhawk to bathe in the river; it might be a squirrel swinging precariously between branches high up in the trees; it might be a beautiful chorus of birdsong, with often unidentifiable soloists; it might even be the merest glimpse of ginger that leads me find a fox outstretched in sunshine. No matter which part of my local patch I visit, nature never fails to impress, inspire, and refresh. The words of Walter Rauschenbusch's poem seem fitting:

The Glory of Creation (*extract*)

O God, we thank you for this earth, our home;
...We thank you for our senses by which we hear the songs of birds,
and see the splendour of the summer fields,
and taste the autumn fruits,
and rejoice in the feel of the snow,
and smell the breath of the spring.
Grant us a heart wide open to all this beauty;
and save our souls from being so blind
that we pass unseeing..."

Yesterday I watched a dipper, the fascinating little bird with gleaming white breast that can feed so adeptly while submerged under water. Then came a grey heron, the slender, strangely handsome deft predator. Next into the frame came a couple of female goosanders, the lithe, punk-'haired' diving ducks, with their "krr" cackling almost 'witch-like' calls. Then a pair of moorhens, the dark beauties with stunning red beaks, yellow legs and over-sized feet. Finally, a couple of kingfishers, and of course, I must never forget my swan family. It was idyllic.

Some local school children regularly seek me out when I'm with my swans, and their passion for wildlife is fantastic. One lad keen to hear and understand about the cycle of life, e.g. what would happen if a fox killed a cygnet, and one girl laudably determined to protect swans and ducks by somehow stopping people feeding them bread. It's a pleasure to spend time with these youngsters, sharing what knowledge I have in the hope of raising awareness, spreading enjoyment of the glorious

natural gem that is the Water of Leith on our doorstep, and perhaps influencing the next generation of conservationists!

I have always considered spring to be my favourite time of year, maybe it's that sense of freshness, re-birth and renewal, but more and more, autumn is drawing me in. The gloriously warm colours we have right now on the trees and fallen leaves and the gifts of harvest. And most spectacularly of all, the sight and sound of migratory geese arriving in tens of thousands. Last year, I was fortunate to witness this in all its glory at Loch Gruinart on Islay, and the noise of the massed 'honking' from Barnacle, White-Fronted, Pink-Feet, Canada, and Greylag geese, lives with me still. I hope to experience it all again later this season. Having already photographed some resident greylag geese near Aberlady recently, my appetite has been well and truly whetted! Geese, of course, hold Christian symbolism, and for Celtic Christians the wild goose represents the Holy Spirit...and with that thought, I think I may have stumbled across the subject for my next magazine article!

For now, I leave you with the chorus from the hymn I remember singing in harvest festivals throughout my childhood:

“All good gifts around us
are sent from heaven above;
then thank the Lord, O thank the Lord,
for all his love.”

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow





A Safe Stronghold / Ein Feste Burg

Andrew Carvel talks about his setting of Martin Luther's Reformation hymn for choir and orchestra

Where do you start with a commission? It depends. Sometimes ideas come straight away and a normal Sunday anthem can take anything from a week to a few hours. But **Ein Feste Burg**

is a big piece with lots of colours to work with. I've had the text for a year, and I've had ideas for a year, but I didn't really start writing things down until the middle of the summer. It started off as a series of sketches and then developed into full time composition.

What did you discover along the way? That the Reformation wasn't just a kind of big change, it was quite militant, quite aggressive. That really comes across in **Ein Feste Burg** – the imagery is of power and war. There's quite a dialectic between God and the Devil – in my piece that plays out in trumpets and bassoons.

Would Luther's original hymn have been sung by a choir or a congregation? I'm not entirely sure – but one of the central ideas of the Reformation was that the congregation sang hymns in their own language. And a lot of music of the time was actually folk music – tunes that people knew already.

Was it difficult to work in a foreign language? Initially I found the German quite tricky but you develop a feel for the text. There are a lot of translations out there but we decided to keep the original German text. However, as **Ein Feste Burg** is a joint project we have incorporated some English text - a psalm, and some lines of Christopher Smart's *Jubilate Agno* which is a huge, colourful poem, written when Christopher Smart was in an asylum, with some good lines on the devil. So the final composition is actually a mix of English and German.

Did you always want to be a composer? Actually, I hated my first experience of composition with a passion! It was only in my last few years of school that I got into it. At Uni I started off with saxophone but switched to composition

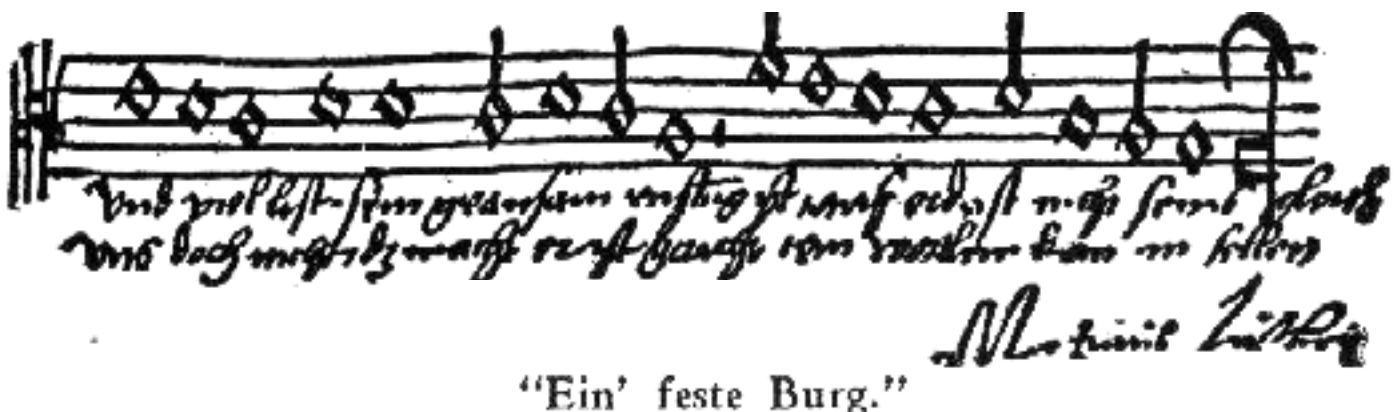
Your favourite Composers? Bach, always – my favourite composer. And Britten – very very clever music

Do you write music apart from church music? Since I started my Masters in composition I have been writing more instrumental music – for example for Edinburgh Quartet and some solo pieces for violin and piano.

What's it like hearing your work performed? If I'm writing an anthem I kind of know what it will sound like – I can hear it as I write it. But with **Ein Feste Burg**, there's so much more to take into consideration. Trumpets, strings, timpani... So we'll see on the day!

*Ein Feste Burg will be performed for the first time on **Friday 3 November, at Lutherabend – An Evening with Luther** hosted jointly by St Andrew's and St George's West, the German Speaking Congregation and the German Consulate. Orchestra, international soloists and St Andrew's and St George's West Choir will perform music by Bach, Mendelssohn and Carvel and there will be good food, good company and good conversation.*

Full tickets for the evening including table seating, food and wine are now sold out but you can still buy music tickets for £5 on the door on the night. You can sit in the original Georgian box pews and enjoy listening to words and music from the 16th to the 21st century.



"Ein' feste Burg."



Congregation Benevolent Fund

Alison Campbell

The Benevolent Fund supports charities beyond the congregation, stewarded by a team of 4 from Finance and Wider Horizons groups. In 2016 it made 5 grants totalling £7,926 - to local charities, to a micro-finance initiative in Kenya and to Mulanje Mission Hospital. Here is what the charities achieved through our support.

North West Carers, Granton - £1,500 towards the salary of the Operations Manager which helped 10 new Adult Carers and their Cared for person with day care. 30 Adult Carers attended groups, 191 new Young Carers were identified, and 94 new Carers of people with dementia were supported.



Five Talents – an Anglican initiative training people in small business finance in Kenya. £1,000 helped people to invest in their work and lend to each other, bringing better food and more

children going to school. 200 new families joined the 5,000 being supported.

Edinburgh Clothing Store – “A record number of people were seen in November 2016. There are often gaps in donated clothing, especially for smaller men, and some ages of children. Your grant of £1,000 enabled us to buy winter jackets, jeans and joggers for men and children, and leggings, hoodies and pyjamas for women and children.”

Penumbra – a mental health charity supporting over 2,600 people each year with branches across Scotland. £1,000 towards their work in Edinburgh. New work is being done with young people including an initiative to tackle negative body image in primary school children.

Mulanje Mission Hospital – ongoing support including the Matron’s post-graduate degree, and monthly prison clinics. £3,426. (This did not include further funds for Mulanje raised through lunches and other special events.)

For 2017 grants are awarded to

Mulanje Mission Hospital: £3,483 for final payment of Matron’s degree, and prison clinics

North West Carers: a second grant £1,000

Soko Fund, Malawi: £750 towards women’s university education

Mamie Martin Fund, Malawi: £750 towards girls’ secondary education

Refugee Survival Trust, Scotland: £1,000 towards help and advice for asylum seekers

Freedom from Torture: £763 towards the Glasgow support centre

Thanks to everyone who submitted proposals for 2017. The next round of funding will be in Autumn 2018 and as before we will appeal through the magazine and church notices for you as members of St Andrew’s and St George’s West to nominate causes the fund should consider supporting.

An update from Mulanje

Alison Campbell



Sadly Pearson Soka's October visit was cancelled due to visa issues, but we hope he will visit Scotland in 2018. Pearson is Administrator of Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) where we funded his MBA studies.

MMH's latest newsletter highlights innovation and success in crucial areas of malaria prevention, antenatal care and

rural outreach and also explains how the "Bed Fund" works. Since our Bright Sparks children's group raised enough to sponsor not just one but *two* beds, this is uplifting reading.

"MMH is a paying hospital meaning two things: sometimes patients have to pay and always, we profess to be Jesus' disciples, never turning away someone in need."

Some treatments are free - medicines for HIV, TB, maternity care/under 5s and palliative care – but for most other services we have to levy a small fee. For £1 (a day's pay for many) you could see a clinician and get a week's supply of antibiotics. However, if you have a complex condition or need urgent treatment, costs - x-rays, tests, medicines, operations - can amount to a month's wages or more. The hospital arranges payment plans to spread the cost but if that is still not enough, the Bed Fund will cover the shortfall, with families contributing what they can. Having the Bed Fund enables us to carry out life-saving operations for a young woman with pregnancy complications, to transport a patient for essential dialysis, to give transfusions ahead of cancer treatment.

One of the clinicians says, "To all who have contributed, let me say thank you – for the moments when we can hold a desperate husband's hand and say "Do not worry we can help you". I can't imagine working somewhere where I had to shrug and say there was nothing we could do, they would have to find the money." In Malawi, money goes a long way, and so any contribution, one off or regular, can really impact a family in their darkest moments."

Read the full newsletter on the MMH website <http://www.mmh.mw>

What have faith and money got to do with Climate Change?

Alison Campbell

This was the question put by the conference in St Andrew's and St George's West on 12 October as part of Good Money Week, organised by Christian Aid with the Church and Society Council.

The aim was to make us think about where our money is invested, what effect that can have on climate change, and what practical steps we can take to uphold our Christian values and help the planet and its people. A key word was "Divest" – move out of investments in oil, gas and coal, which are the main culprits in climate change.

The Big Shift – Christian Aid's campaign to shift finance and investment out of fossil fuels which are the main contributor to climate change.

Church and Society Council – exploring how to alter investment policies to help the move to a low carbon global economy

Sally Foster-Fulton, Head of Christian Aid in Scotland - "Never pray in a room without windows". "The Beatitudes is a vision statement, not an assertion that the poor have special insights".

Chris Hegarty, Christian Aid – Be proactive. Use your role as a shareholder, investor or member. Don't fret about being pure – there will always be an element of compromise. Don't be put off.

Monica Middleton, Oikocredit – alternative ways of investing which help smaller people and businesses across the world.

Ecumenical Council for Corporate Responsibility – Ethical Money Churches project, a 5 week course in ethical investment.

Julian Parrott, Ethical Futures – ethical investments have been just as successful as alternatives in the past few years. Services for charities, organisations and individuals.

Summing up

- We live on a tiny, fragile planet and we are in a global family.
- There is no “them and us” – there is just “us”.
- As Christians, we have a responsibility to look after the poorest on our world, and to question what is being done.
- We need to talk about money, to find out where our money is invested, whether as a church, a community, a charity, a pensioner.
- We need to engage with the people who handle our money.
- We should not accept investments which do not reflect our values.
- “Best interests” are not always those that make the most money in the short term.

You can read the full conference report at http://www.srtp.org.uk/srtp/view_article/what_have_faith_and_finance_got_to_do_with_climate_change

Dethroning Mammon

Justin Welby’s **Dethroning Mammon: Making Money Serve Grace** is the Book Group’s current reading material.

The group meets in the chapel at 10.30am on the third Monday of the month. Everyone is welcome - speak to Veronica Crerar if you’re interested.

Ian May, Castle Community Bank

On **Thursday 2 November at 12.30pm at St Cuthbert’s,**

Ecumenical Friends will welcome **Ian May** of South Leith Church to talk about Castle Community Bank, a local ethical savings and loan provider.

Ian is a former banker turned minister – read his story on the Church of Scotland website at http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2017/from_finance_to_faith_former_banker_gives_back_in_leith



Experience Assisi with Rev Tom Cuthell

Margaret Ann Fraser

I have visited Santa Brigida Convent in Assisi several times in Tom's group, and highly recommend it! This year I really enjoyed the company of Rev. Andrew and Irene McLellan. This was their first visit, and they have immediately shown interest in going next year! A few years ago Jack and Phyllis Thompson were with us in Assisi. This year we were visiting Arezzo and Gubio on the day of Jack's funeral. At the exact time of the service here in St Andrew's and St George's West, Andrew McLellan led us in a simple service in Italy. Earlier, at the time of the committal, I had been in the Chapel of Mary the Comforter in Arezzo Cathedral, and lit two candles, one for the soul of Jack, and one for Phyllis.

Assisi with Tom Cuthell 26 Aug – 6 Sep 2018

Tom is currently based at St Andrews Church, Rome but he is keen to hear now from anyone who may be interested in joining this group next year.

Contact him at
tcuthell[at]gmail.com.

The sisters in the Convent are extremely hospitable and rooms are very comfortable. Assisi is beautiful and there are many opportunities for walking in the peaceful surrounding area. The photograph shows us all at San Damiano, an ancient Benedictine Priory, a short walk through the Olive groves often taken by St Francis. Some of the group went by taxi, so whatever your need, everyone is looked after! You can make your own plans, or join different members of the group...very flexible! Speak to me for more info.

Creative Together

Maggie Morley

The group which began almost 8 years ago, knitting and sewing to raise money for Christian Aid has matured and evolved over that time. In our first year we were delighted to have raised over £500 at our Sale. A few years ago we took the decision to give what we raised to a variety of different charities which were important to our members. This year, over £4000 was given from the Button Sale to help Marie Curie.

Not only have we evolved, but we have all matured in years. For that reason, many members of the group now find the effort of staging such a big event too onerous but still enjoy knitting and sewing and the fellowship of meeting together. We plan to resume in November with the main aim of making items which local charities would welcome eg. premature baby bonnets, woolly hats for seamen, squares for blankets for refugees etc.

Some of the younger and more able members may from time to time pursue a special project of their own and take a stall to sell their goods at an event organised by others.

We will resume our monthly meetings on the 3rd Wednesday of every month 10.30 to 12.30, as before at my home.

The first will be on **Wednesday 15th November**. If you have not been before and are interested come and see what we do. I look forward to seeing you then. If you have any queries please give me a ring.

Maggie Morley

Join the Workplace Chaplaincy team!

Margaret Ann Fraser

Katie McNeill and I encourage you to join the Workplace Chaplaincy team!

I have been involved at **Ocean Terminal** for three years, and Katie for two years at **Waverley Mall**. Being present in the work place, we provide a listening ear and pastoral support where appropriate, regardless of background or faith.



You will receive good training and support in this valuable service to everyone who seeks it in their work environment. Speak to Katie or myself if you are interested. Or mail [paulwilson\[at\]wpcscotland.co.uk](mailto:paulwilson@wpcscotland.co.uk)

At the beginning of 2018 I will be transferring to the recently formed **Court Chaplaincy**, which is unique in Scotland. The only other service is in Bradford. In my experience as a social worker in courts in Scotland and England and also as a magistrate in England, this is a very worthwhile development. I shall be joining a Multi-Faith team. Our Associate Minister Rev. Tony Bryer is on the management committee and provides supervision and support to chaplains. Rev Hilda Warwick of Edinburgh Methodists manages this service.

There are Training Days for Court Chaplaincy on 29 and 30th November.

If you are interested contact Hilda at [courtchaplaincy\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:courtchaplaincy@gmail.com) for an application form or ask me for a form.

A sip of water from a fire hose

Andrew Gregg

It has been a while since last I wrote to you, introducing myself as your Workplace Chaplain in Edinburgh City Centre.

Personally much has happened over these months: we found a place to rent, moved our family from Inverness, experienced my first General Assembly week, our first Edinburgh Festival (something both my wife and daughter have had on their bucket list for some time), our son started college... and unpacking the last box, we feel fully moved in.

I have been getting a grasp of the scale of the work; recognising that without my prior experience in chaplaincy in Inverness that the scale of the work in Edinburgh would be at least daunting, if not constantly overwhelming... a bit like trying to take a sip of water from a fire hose.

I estimate that my post provides direct chaplaincy to some 4,500 workers and, through the volunteer chaplains I coordinate in shopping centres, care homes and in the fire service, indirectly some 10,000 more. The potential for this number to grow is immense and I find myself daily praying from Luke 10:2 "The harvest is great, the workers are few – so pray to the lord of the harvest to put more workers into the field".

The Together Churches team and the chaplaincy support group, with representatives from each of the churches, have been an invaluable sounding board and support as I have started the work here. They have really helped to keep me grounded and prayed for me and the work. Each of the chaplaincies is a delight – and each



remembers Tony's work with them with such warmth and affection. I hope that I can continue this positive environment for the work.

Over the summer I was involved in the induction sessions of some 200 drivers and staff for Lothian buses. Out of these talks and weekly visits to bus depots, I have had opportunity to meet up with some of the staff for a chat and have had two approaches about taking part in marriage ceremonies. The welcome from management, unions and staff is just lovely. I visited East Coast buses on their first birthday of starting up – there was cake!

What's new?

- From our work with Lothian buses and Edinburgh Trams, other transport companies have made approaches to introduce chaplaincy with them.
- Three major retailers are in exploratory talks for engaging chaplains
- I experienced a day shift alongside an ambulance crew as the ambulance service consider having workplace chaplaincy
- In the west-end of Princes Street we have started a chaplaincy at a solicitors' office – this is very different chaplaincy to what we normally would do, but I am learning valuable lessons on how to bring chaplaincy into a professional services environment.

Alongside this, I am working on how to approach other professional services' organisations in the west-end to offer chaplaincy. If anyone reading this would be willing to offer introductions to offices in the city, I would be very grateful to hear from you.

Thank you for your support and encouragement in this fascinating and active ministry.

Blessings, grace and peace

Andrew Gregg

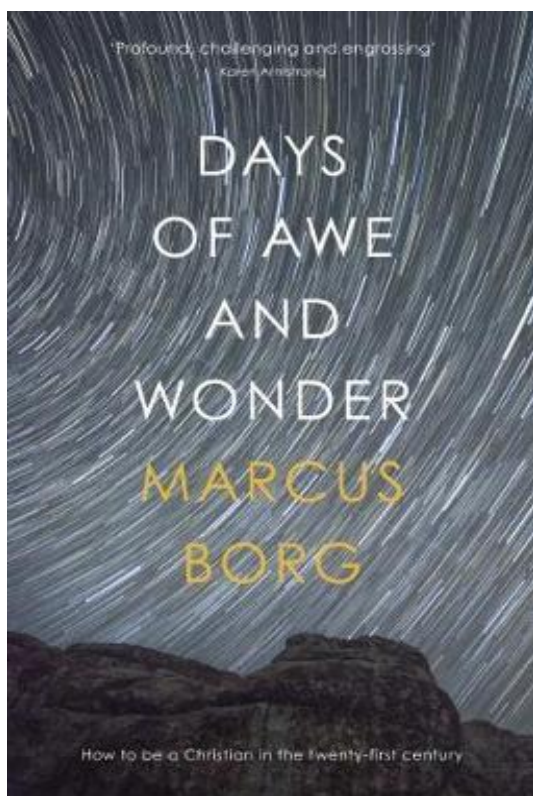
[andrew.gregg\[at\]wpcscotland.co.uk](mailto:andrew.gregg@wpcscotland.co.uk) 07834 748129

News from the Cornerstone Bookshop

Amanda Bruce

Greetings from the Lower Terrace where we are happily re-homed and settling into our cosy new shop! New books continue to come in most days and, as October progresses we will be changing our displays to include the usual mix of Advent resources, candles and calendars alongside our own selection of charity Christmas cards. We have gifts – lots of which are made in Scotland – and, nearer the time, will have a range of nativity sets as well. Don't forget, if a book is in print, we should be able to order it for you – it doesn't have to be a title we would carry in stock. So, whatever it is we can help with, we look forward to seeing lots of you in the coming weeks!

Book reviews



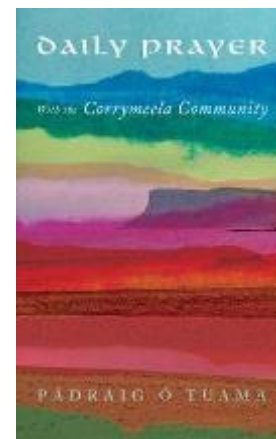
Days of Awe and Wonder by Marcus Borg £14.99

Published two years after his death, this volume aims to capture the spirit of Marcus Borg by bringing together selections from his writing. Some of the material is drawn from the many books published in his lifetime – he was a leading voice advocating progressive Christianity and a renowned New Testament scholar, particularly of the historical Jesus – however, this volume also includes previously unpublished works.

This is a rich anthology illuminating Borg's teaching that a deeper understanding of Jesus can lead to a more authentic way of being and presenting his belief that, while we have consciousness of a greater truth beyond our understanding – the wonder of God – we must always keep an open mind and question assumptions and certainties on our religious journeys.

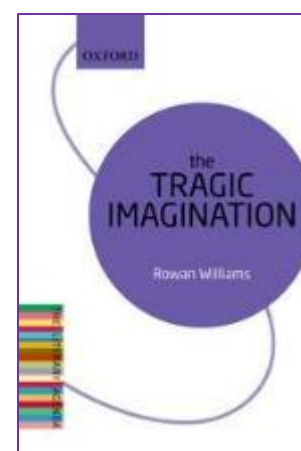
Daily Prayer with the Corrymeela Community **by Pádraig Ó'Tuama £8.99**

The Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland works to bring people together in a spirit of peace and reconciliation and these themes are at the heart of this collection of prayers for morning, evening and other times. The first section of the book offers 31 simple yet profound responses to words of Jesus. These are followed by a small selection of themed prayers and reflections on the Stations of the Cross. Each is beautifully crafted and demands to be read and re-read which makes this a book to keep and to treasure.



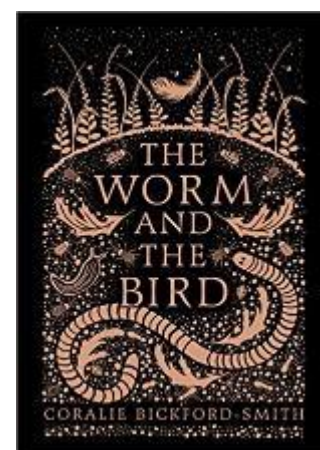
The Tragic Imagination **by Rowan Williams £14.99**

Part of Oxford University Press's 'Literary Agenda' series, this volume explores what tragedy is and what our experience of tragedy – whether lived or encountered through depictions brought to us by others – leads us to know about ourselves and the world around us. Drawing on a number of dramatic texts, Williams addresses a wide range of debates including the role religion – particularly Christianity – has to play in the questions tragedy brings about. This is a short but thought provoking read which explores the importance of literature and reading when coming to the bigger questions of what it means to be human and alive in the world of our time.



The Worm and the Bird **by Coralie Bickford-Smith £14.99**

Deep below the earth, Worm dreams of having more space. Above ground, Bird waits, as the worm seeks his freedom. As the day goes on, will they both find what they are looking for? A tale about searching and hoping, the limits of our sight and what lies beyond, this is a beautifully designed book from the acclaimed author - illustrator whose last book, **The Fox and the Star** wowed children and adults alike. A real treat!



Messy Church

A joint project together with our friends in Albany Deaf Church and St John's Episcopal Church.

A light lunch will also be available. Everyone welcome!

Please register in advance by emailing admin@stagw.org.uk

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Event Diary

2017

19 November 2–3.30pm



2018

27 January 10–12.30pm

24 February 10–12.30pm

31 March 10–12.30pm

22 April 2–3.30pm

26 May 10–12.30pm

23 June 10–12.30pm

22 July 2–3.30pm

1 September 10–12.30pm

29 September 10–12.30pm

20 October 10–12.30pm

25 November 2–3.30pm

Messy Church enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all. It meets at a time and on a day that suits local families and is particularly aimed at people who have never belonged to a church before.



St Andrew's & St George's West

13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

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stagw.org.uk



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Scottish Charity No. SC008990



St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street Edinburgh

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www.stagw.org.uk  stagw  @StAGW1

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

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

Minister Rev Ian Y Gilmour
0131 225 3847 (church)
IGilmour[at]churchofscotland.org.uk

Associate Minister Rev Tony Bryer
Pastoral Minister Rev Alistair McGregor

Session Clerk Crispin Longden

Joint Treasurers John Innes 0131 332 2702
Allan Sim 0131 552 9254

Director of Music Brigitte Harris
Assistant DoM Andrew Carvel

Church manager Wendy Henderson
0131 225 3847 churchmanager[at]stagw.org.uk

Church secretary Joyce Garland
0131 225 3847 info[at]stagw.org.uk

Church administrator Sophie Hudson
0131 225 3847 admin[at]stagw.org.uk

Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

TOGETHER Chair Markus Duenzkofer, St John's

TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West:
Rev Ian Y Gilmour, Frances Cooper, James McNeill and Alastair MacKenzie

City Centre Andrew Gregg
Workplace Chaplain andrew.gregg[at]wpcscotland.co.uk

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