



St Andrew's and St George's West May 2018 Magazine

ST ANDREW'S &
ST GEORGE'S WEST
EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH City
Centre CHURCHES
TOGETHER



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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May 2018 Magazine

STAGW Matters

Never judge a book by its cover Ian Y Gilmour	4-5
Worship Ian Y Gilmour	6
Diary and News	7-11

Our work with young people

Edinburgh 2050 – Hearing Children’s Voices Helen Cox	12-13
Social Media: Friend or Foe? The Donald Gorrie Schools Debates Nick Evans	14-15

In the wider world

Business Breakfast – Homelessness Heather Gregg	16-17
Tree Planting with Wider Horizons Jennifer Dunlop	18-19

Reflective living

Pat McKerrow’s Wildlife Diary Pat McKerrow	20-23
Quiet Day at Polwarth Sandra Holt	23
Thoughts on Christ’s Healing Work Peter Millar	24-25
Fonts and Symbols Morven Cross	26

Special Events

From Disinheritance to God’s Promised Community: marking 50 years of women’s ordination Alison Campbell	27-29
Singing our way into or out of belief Donna Gilmour	30
Amnesty Jazz Bob Morley	30-31

CONTACTS

32

Photos Jane Brown, Alison Bruce, Pat McKerrow **Editor:** Alison Bruce
Thanks to all contributors! Contact us at [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stagw.org.uk)

Never Judge A Book By Its Cover

Ian Y Gilmour

If you are seeking a book at the Christian Aid Sale on the 12 May you might want to consider searching the religious books section. You might discover a copy of a tiny, poorly bound, brown book.

It might be difficult to locate because the original edition had no words on the narrow spine to guide the seeker. The book has cartoons, short sentences and stories in abundance but (here is off-putting bit) it is a theological book!

The title is '**Reinventing Theology - as the People's Work**' and it is by the recently deceased Dr Ian M. Fraser. It is an unusual book, in that it makes theology immediate, accessible and personally relevant.



Dr Fraser states within those flimsy pages:

- Theology for living cannot be received from books.
- Theology cannot be the product of efforts simply to get thoughts straight.
- Theology is no matter for a drawing board.

It probably helps that, in the course of his life, Ian was a pastor-labourer in heavy industry, an original Iona Community member, a parish minister, the Warden of Scottish Churches House, an Executive Secretary of the World Council of Churches, a battler against the poll tax and Head of the Department of Mission at Selly Oak Colleges, Birmingham. He was the author of numerous books, and his '**Reinventing Theology as the People's Work**', is still used as a standard theological sourcebook throughout the world.

Never Judge A Person By Their Age

Kathy Galloway wrote after his death, *“Asked once to explain the meaning of the word ‘salvation’, He replied, ‘breaking through into open space where there is room to breathe.’ This great theologian of the whole people of God, who has died aged 100, dedicated his whole life and work to helping others to break through into open space, acting as prophet, catalyst and accompanier to those whom the world, and too often the church, confined and marginalised.”*

The bold Ian put it this way in 1949, *“Theology must be seen as the fruit of converted minds, of bodies offered as living sacrifices in a world community which enters into partnership with God in his work.”*

Never Let Anyone Judge You By Their Criteria

Ian walked alongside slum dwellers in India and Haiti; Nicaraguan and Cuban revolutionaries; priests, nuns and catechists facing arrest and death in Central and South America; and small farming and fishing communities in the Philippines. His unswerving commitment to the priesthood of all believers was rooted in a deep compassion - *‘to have compassion is to bridge distance.’* All through his days, he said, *‘you and all people matter; are gifted; can make choices; can contribute to life, including to theology.’*

This Ian (Gilmour) agrees with that Ian and we can all give thanks for his rich life and his legacy which will continue to influence for good on all five continents. Well done good and faithful servant.

As for us, seek a good book and enjoy the Christian Aid sale,

Blessings,
Ian



Let Love Rule Your Life

Through worship we continue to hear God calling us to be a more loving, forgiving and inclusive community.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. **Ephesians 4:2**

If civilisation is to survive, we must cultivate the science of human relationships - the ability of all peoples, of all kinds, to live together, in the same world at peace. **Franklin D. Roosevelt**

And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. **Colossians 3:14**

Do everything in love. **1 Corinthians 16:14**

Let love rule your life

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favour and a good name in the sight of God and everyone.

Proverbs 3:3-4

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! Albany Deaf Church also meets at 2pm, all are welcome.

6 May **Loving Friends** John 15:9–17

13 May **Love Leads the Way** Acts 1:15–17, 21–26

20 May (Pentecost) **Alive in Love** Acts 2:1–21

27 May (Trinity) **Take Notice** Isaiah 6:1–8

June 3 **Listening, Speaking, Acting** 1 Samuel 3:1–10,

June 10 **Choices and Consequences** 1 Samuel 8:4–11

May – June Diary

May

Wed 2 May	7.30pm Kirk Session
Sun 6 May	9am, 9.45am, 11am services in the Undercroft No monthly fellowship lunch today 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Sat 12 May	10am-4pm Christian Aid Sale
Sun 13 May	9am, 9.45am, 11am services in the Undercroft 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 14 May	10am – 3.30pm Christian Aid Sale
Tue 15 May	10am – 3.30pm Christian Aid Sale
Wed 16 May	10am – 3.30pm Christian Aid Sale
Thur 17 May	10am – 7pm Christian Aid Sale
Fri 18 May	10am – 3.30pm Christian Aid Sale
Sun 20 May <i>Pentecost</i>	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; BB Guard of Honour 1-5pm Heart and Soul, Princes Street Gardens
Fri 25 May	12.30pm Sheila Wylie Service of Thanksgiving
Sat 26 May	10-12.30 Messy Church
Sun 27 May <i>Trinity</i>	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 12 noon Communion 2pm Albany
Mon 28 May	12.15pm Amnesty Undercroft Group meets

Christian Aid at StAGW

June

Sat 2 June	2pm (Lyceum) Theatre and Theology <i>The Hour We knew Nothing of Each Other</i> (David Todd)
Sun 3 June	9am, 9.45am, 11am services Fellowship lunch: Toilet Twinning 2pm Albany
Tue 5 June	Ed College Music Box Concert
Wed 6 June	5-6.30pm Reading in Church Workshop led by Russell McLarty (enquiries to Nick Evans/Andrena Crawford)

Sat 9 June	Quiet Day (Polwarth Church)
Sun 10 June	9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church Congregational outing - enquiries to Michael Cunliffe
Tue 12 Jun	7.30pm Amnesty Jazz – St Mary’s Senior School, jazz ensembles in concert. (Undercroft Amnesty Group)
Wed 13 Jun	5.30 Edinburgh Quartet Rush Hour Concert
Sun 17 June	9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 19 Jun	6pm Donald Gorrie Schools Debates
Fri 22 Jun	6.30pm Decade Party
Sat 23 June	10-12.30 Messy Church
Sun 24 June	9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 25 June	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group meets
Wed 27 Jun	7.30pm Kirk Session



Welcome to St Andrew’s & St George’s West **Fiona and Simon Parker**



Many Happy Returns to **Mary and Johan** celebrating milestone birthdays (90!)

Sheila Wylie died on 15 April. Following a private cremation, a Service of Thanksgiving for her life will be held on Friday 25 May at 12.30pm in St Andrew’s and St George’s West.

BOOK SALE

— WITH —
ART & COLLECTABLES

at St Andrew's and St George's West Church
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

Saturday 12 May 2018 10 am - 4 pm

Monday 14 May to Friday 18 May 10 am - 3.30 pm

Antiques, Toys & Records will close at 1.30pm on Friday 18th May

Thursday 17 May late opening until 7 pm

Undercroft Café open all day

Prayers in the Undercroft Chapel each day at 1pm

- **Books of every kind**
antiquarian, out of print, many languages, paperbacks
- **Paintings** • Drawings • Prints
- **Antiques** • Collectables • Linen • Household Goods
- **Printed Ephemera** • Maps • Photographs
- **Sheet Music**
- **Stamps and Postcards**
- **Records** • CDs • DVDs
- **Toys** • Games • Jigsaws
- **Baking** • Cakes • Preserves

christian
aid



Christian Aid Week

MAY 13 to 18 1974

AID for the world's neediest people, victims of poverty, disaster, famine or pestilence — that is the cause for which we appeal to you. The money raised will all go to finance the work of development in poor countries and relief in stricken areas. Behind our money-raising ploys, which may seem "gimmicky" or "hackneyed", lies the Christian concept of compassion and service. Above all, we have to focus on the figure of that human being in need — it is in his service, not our own, that we ask for practical help, for goods to sell, for money. We hope that, despite all the other claims on your time and generosity, you will once again volunteer.

Our Church's 15-strong Christian Aid Group has made the following plans for the week:

May 12	Bread and Cheese Lunch for the congregation in the Queen Street Hall (Mrs A. Macdonald and Mrs R. Wood)
May 13-17	(during lunch-hour period) (Mary Davidson)
May 18	(all day) (Judith Mitchell)
	Stalls on forecourt surrounding Church for—
	(a) sale of books, records and home-cooking;
	(b) serving simple lunches to the public.
May 18	Flag Day (Sheila Wylie)
April/May	A sponsored event

Those named in brackets have undertaken responsibility for that particular project, and they will be grateful for any offers of help with it. Please begin gathering books and records NOW. Recruiting drive and the launching of the sponsored event AFTER EASTER.

M.D.

and from the archives...

Come and say hello!

My name is Andrew McLaren, but I like to be called Andy.

I am the new Church Officer at St Andrew's and St George's West church. I really enjoy my position and I love the interaction I have with people, the hustle and bustle and every day is different. I am a very proactive person and I like being busy. I am meeting new and interesting people every day and if we haven't already met, come and say hello.



I have a very varied background, I worked in security, most recently in the Balmoral and Sheraton Hotels, which was an interesting role. I have also been a warehouse manager and a hotel manager, these were very demanding and stressful, but I gained valuable experience. I feel like I have come home working for the church.

Outside of work I enjoy music boxing, martial arts, keeping fit and healthy cooking, nutrition, books and red wine!!

Come and say hello!!

Church Party

A number of our members have 'decade' celebrations this year - 10th - 90th birthdays, and 40 and 50 year wedding anniversaries. To help them all celebrate, there will be a pot luck supper in the Undercroft on **Friday 22nd June from 6.30pm** onwards. Everyone is welcome to attend, not just those with the significant event. So that we can get an idea of numbers, please let me know if you plan to come along. **Mary Margaret Scott**

Secrets of the Undercroft Café

Sweet Potato & Coconut Soup

Peter Anderson

Ingredients

1 tbsp oil
1 onion, chopped
2 Veg Stock cubes
1-2 cans coconut milk
750g sweet potato diced

1 lemongrass finely chopped
1 thumb of ginger
4 lime leaves shredded*
1 red chilli finely chopped
3 garlic cloves finely
chopped
1 level tbsp of mild curry
powder
Handful of chopped
coriander



Method

Add oil, curry powder and all chopped ingredients, except coriander to pan and fry gently for 5 mins on low heat.

Add sweet potato, stir

Put lid on pan and leave on low heat for 15 mins

Add coconut milk cook till sweet potato is soft

Blend well

Add the coriander.

Garnish with toasted coconut, fried sliced red chillies & a coriander leaf + Enjoy

* Chef's Tip, buy a packet of frozen lime leaves from Chinese Supermarket – only **£1**

Edinburgh 2050

Hearing Children's Voices

Helen Cox

In 2016, the City of Edinburgh began a conversation about its future to create a vision for 2050. Feedback now compiled as the 'One Year On' document reveals that people want Edinburgh to be an 'inspired, connected, fair and thriving city' in 2050. Noticing that Edinburgh had limited input from children, a project was planned, resourced and delivered to three primary schools within the city of Edinburgh by myself and Jo Love, a resource worker with the Iona Community's WildGoose Resource Group.

The framework for the project concentrated on a short-term Citizenship initiative to encourage and promote skills in mapping, writing, art and listening and talking. Pupils were actively involved in creatively exploring and expressing thoughts, dreams and responses to the three basic questions set by Edinburgh City Council:

- What is great about Edinburgh today?
- What could be better?
- What should Edinburgh be like in 2050?

On 20 May, at HEART & SOUL, our Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER tent will be displaying the school pupils' work and also providing activities for children and families enabling them to think about their hopes and dreams for Edinburgh and its wider communities.

Please drop in and share in the experience and engage in activities to promote your dreams for the future!





The Church of Scotland

Heart and Soul

Sunday May 20th 2018, 12.30pm – 6.00pm



Peace Be With You!

Come and celebrate the life and work of the church in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh from 12.30pm on Sunday 20th May. It's free to attend and you are most welcome to come along and join in the friendly atmosphere as you explore the event from east to west – and back again! At 5.00pm we gather in our thousands for a massed worship service. Come and experience it.

Main Stage · Family Stage · Peace @ St Cuthbert's
Picnic (Bring Your Piece!) · Over 60 congregations/exhibitors
"In Conversation" Tent featuring:

Hugh Pym *with* Sally Magnusson
Very Rev Dr Lorna Hood OBE *with* Louise MacDonald (Young Scot)
Ross Greer MSP *with* Very Rev Dr Derek Browning *and* Robin Downie
Anna Magnusson *with* Rev Dr Margaret Forrester
Hugh Pym *with* Scots in Great War London Group



Heart & Soul 2018
Celebrating the life of the Church

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353

www.churchofscotland.org.uk

www.heartandsoul.org.uk

Social Media – Friend or Foe?

Nick Evans

The political use of social media such as Facebook and Twitter raise important issues for all of us. They have become powerful campaign tools for political parties. They have also become powerful tools for community activists and campaign groups. Their use is affecting our democratic traditions and institutions, nationally and locally. Elections are said to turn on the effective use of social media by political parties.

On the other hand the unparalleled ability to network with thousands, even millions of ‘friends’ puts power into the hands of the people.

The issues will be explored in this year’s **Donald Gorrie Schools Debating Competition** when the motion will be:

“This house believes that the use of social media is a positive force for democracy”.

Six schools will be competing for the Junior and Senior Trophies: Boroughmuir High School, Broxburn Academy, Craigmount High School, Queensferry High School, The Royal High School and Tynecastle High School. The judges will be 4 members of the congregation and the Edinburgh University Debating Union.

The Education Group hope that you will be able to join us on Tuesday 19th June at 6 pm to hear the debates. There will be with music and refreshments while the judges deliberate.

This annual schools debating competition in St Andrew’s and St George’s West encourages critical thinking, discussion and citizenship in young people. It was established in 2013 in memory of Donald Gorrie, an Elder, teacher, MP and MSP.

The 2018 Donald Gorrie Schools Debates



Senior and Junior Teams will debate whether **Social Media is a positive force for democracy** in competition for the Donald Gorrie Trophies.

Tuesday 19 June 2018 at 6 pm
St Andrew's and St George's West
13 George Street Edinburgh



Schools taking part are –
Boroughmuir High School
Broxburn Academy
Craigmount High School
Queensferry High School
Royal High School
Tynecastle High School

The annual Schools Debates were established in 2013 in memory of Donald Gorrie, MP, MSP and former teacher.

St Andrew's and St George's West Church Edinburgh is a Registered Charity No SC008990
13 George Street Edinburgh EH2 2PA
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www.stagw.org.uk



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Business Breakfast: Homelessness

Heather Gregg

Representatives of nearly 40 businesses, charities and churches met recently in the light-filled, new extension to St John's, over breakfast, to hear a talk on homelessness and discuss solutions. The food was supplied, appropriately, by Social Bite.



The event was hosted by the Homelessness Group of Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together (St John's, St Cuthbert's, and St Andrew's and St George's West), and it proved an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss, listen to a presentation and ask questions.

Tony Bryer welcomed attendees, warmly introduced former Moderator Russell Barr as keynote speaker and facilitated the discussion. Russell founded the charity Fresh Start and used his year as Moderator to highlight the issue of homelessness in Scotland. Now back in parish ministry at Cramond Kirk he is also a member of the Scottish Government Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Action Group (HARSAG)

HARSAG is dealing with four questions:

- What can be done to reduce rough sleeping this winter?
- How can we end rough sleeping?
- How can we transform the use of temporary accommodation?
- What needs to be done to end homelessness?

Their starting point was speaking to folk who have direct experience of rough sleeping or homeless. You can read their interim report online. ¹

Russell pointed out two powerful statistics he wanted us to remember:

1. Levels of homelessness have not changed substantially in the past 20 years *“The reality is that despite many good efforts and despite good legislation - at best – at very best, in Scotland we have managed the problem of homelessness – we are not resolving it.”*

2. Child deprivation *“At the last count there were 6,581 children living in temporary accommodation – the damage that is doing to their health, their education, to the well-being of their families, to their sense of well-being, to the well-being of the wider community is in my view, incalculable.”*

The first minister, Nicola Sturgeon has set aside some £50 million to deal with this situation, following on from the final report of HARSAG.

Russell is hopeful of improvements, but urged everyone to keep pressure on their MPs to deal with the national situation, *“Hold their feet to the fire”*.

The questions and answers were plentiful. Peter Sutton made the solutions personal by speaking warmly of how businesses in the West End had engaged with the Monday night drop-in at St Cuthbert's, both as local office people volunteering, and as a service team within a hotel.



Both before and after the main presentation, there was genuine networking going on in the room, between the nearly forty businesses, charities and churches represented. It was a very worthwhile event. And it will be interesting to read HARSAG's next report in May

¹ <https://beta.gov.scot/publications/ending-rough-sleeping-in-scotland-interim-report/>



Tree-planting with Wider Horizons

Jennifer Dunlop

In April some of the Wider Horizons group headed into wild lands beyond Edinburgh. **Jennifer Dunlop** explains...

“As part of our remit we wanted to try to offset some of St Andrew’s and St George’s West’s carbon use for our Eco Congregation efforts.”

Last year our Fellowship Lunch raised over £250 for New Caledonian Woodlands Group to help us plant some trees.

So on the 14th April a small intrepid group joined other volunteers of all ages with New Caledonian Woodlands to plant new trees, and to look after an earlier planting.



What a glorious day we had, in effect the first day of Spring after such dreich winter weather, celebrating this in the border countryside off the beaten track along with other volunteers - and

approximately 150 trees provided by St Andrew's and St George's West!

It was a beautiful location, the sun shone and it was warm even though we could still see snow on the hills in the distance.

We made some friends, learned a lot about oak, rowan, birch, juniper, aspen and willow - and also learned about the voles and deer that like to eat them! This was a great way for us to offset the carbon emissions of the church.

There was no mystique in planting trees, easy and satisfying, and even the children played their part.

Donald, who led our team, said:

"Many thanks to St Andrews and St Georges West for raising funds for the day and contributing man, woman and childpower on the day!

You are all welcome to return to see the trees growing, if you can find it again. The name of the farm at the end of the track is Ruddenleys. I think New Caledonian Woodlands should definitely do this more often and, hopefully, with help from Hugh from the Tweed Forum, with his knowledge of sites within striking distance of Edinburgh, we will."

<http://newcaledonianwoodlands.org/>



Isaac (age 6) - "I really enjoyed the tree planting because I got to put in the sticks that support the trees while they grow big and strong"

Flynn (age 9) - "The tree planting was really fun. The part I enjoyed was spending time with everyone and going outdoors to plant some trees. I look forward to seeing my trees when they have grown."

Our tree planting was part of **Eddleston Water Project** to reduce flood risk and restore the river for wildlife and for the community. More at www.tweedforum.org/projects/current-projects/eddeleston



All Things Bright and Beautiful, all Creatures Great and Small...

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

Waiting. Waiting is something we nature photographers can spend many contended hours doing. Waiting for that creature far off in the distance to finally come within camera range; waiting for wet and stormy weather to eventually abate and leave perfect photographic colours and conditions; and waiting, essentially to find and capture something just that little bit different. Waiting. I've been there more times than I care to recall, but strangely, I never tire of it in that context. To quote the old familiar phrase:

“The longer you wait for something, the more you appreciate it when you get it, because anything worth having is definitely worth waiting for.”

Of course, we recognise another kind of waiting, Psalm 37 tells us to: “Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for Him...”; Psalm 130

says “I wait eagerly for the Lord’s help and in his word I trust.”, and in Lamentations 3:13 we hear “The Lord is good to those whose hope is in him, to the one who seeks him; it is good to wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord.” Many of you will be familiar with other similar references throughout Scripture, as well as in hymns, literature, poetry, music, and so on.

Coming back to my experiences of waiting in nature though, not surprisingly, I have many stories to tell. One recent example relates to a ‘Mr Tod’ (as per Beatrix Potter), type neighbour of mine; in fact, this battle-scarred fox has his den very close to my home. I often spot him as I patrol my area of the Water of Leith (WoL), and despite him probably having been responsible for the loss of some of my cygnets as well as other ducklings/chicks both last year and in 2016, I still enjoy seeing and watching him.

On this particular occasion, a beautifully sunny, albeit windy afternoon, there I was waiting. My camera was poised and I was visualising my best ever fox photographs...10 minutes passed, then 20 minutes, 30 minutes even, and not a single muscle moved. I waited longer; still nothing. This ultra-cool fox was not even reacting to the sounds and activities of birds that surrounded him, nor to a fearless squirrel that seemed intent on taunting him from branches overhead. Typically for me, I grew increasingly concerned for my foxy friend’s wellbeing. Was he injured? Had some dreadful fate literally stopped him in his tracks? Was he still alive? In time, I was eventually witness to the sleepest of stretches that required neither the lifting of a head nor the opening of eyes; he was fine, just in desperate need of rest, and so ended my spell of waiting for this eagerly anticipated fox photo shoot.

As I write, much of my waiting and focus is currently on the local mute swan pair I have followed for more than two years. To date this season they have constructed two nests and it seemed they were planning to settle in the second of these. But, as fate would have it, within 24 hours of completion, the rains came and sadly the nest flooded. Since then, despite displaying the type of behaviour that suggested they would nest, I have not found evidence of any new building. That said, I recall that immediately prior to nesting

last year, the pen (female), disappeared for a few days, leaving the cob (male), clearly distressed and searching for her. Imagine then my heightened interest when a week ago, her behaviour suddenly changed, and she disappeared overnight. Initially I suspected a repeat of last year's 'flight', but worryingly, I have not found her since. As the length of absence grows, so too does my concern. Hopefully all is well though and that she simply has a new nest that is out of sight from my prying eyes and camera lenses. At least I am reassured by the cob's continued presence on their patch, plus the fact that he is not showing signs of anxiety. This for me is therefore one period of waiting that is far from being over.

I could continue with other tales of waiting; badgers for example, or brown hares, kingfishers, red squirrels, leaping salmon...the list of possible subjects goes on, from the heart-warming and humorous, to the sensational and sad. And, for those who know me well, it will come as no surprise if I cite the periods spent waiting for otters and swans as both my favourites as well as my most intense. How fortunate I am to have experienced so much in our fabulous natural world, to have the opportunity to continue to do so on an almost daily basis, and to be in a position to share some of it with you all. Also, to constantly derive such a great deal of personal fulfilment from the wonder of creation, the watching, and yes indeed, the waiting.

I leave you with Ann Lewin's beautiful poem 'Wait for the Spirit':

*'Wait...
Without expectation
Which might focus
Attention too narrowly,
So that we miss the coming,*

*Wait with expectancy, alert,
Hearts, minds, hands, ears
Open to receive the gift.'*

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow



Congratulations

to **Pat McKerrow** who recently won a prize in EcoCongregation Scotland's Pass the Planet Photography Competition. *"Such a simple photo, yet a powerful image of waste and youthful innocence."*

See the winning photos at <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/news/photo-competition-winners/>

A photograph of a woman sitting on a wooden bench in a garden. She is looking down at something in her hands. In the foreground, there are several bright yellow daffodils. The background shows a brick wall and some greenery.

A quiet day introducing you to contemplative prayer with poetry, music and scripture based around the Heart and Soul theme
Peace Be With You

Polwarth Parish Church
9 June 2018
10am – 3.30pm

Bring a packed lunch, tea/coffee/juice provided. Suggested donation of £10 per person to Polwarth Parish Church. email office@polwarth.org.uk to book your place

Thoughts on Christ's healing work

Peter Millar

During Easter Week I was thinking particularly about the ways in which my often faltering Christian faith has supported me since I was diagnosed with an incurable cancer in January 2016. Those of you who have experienced cancer are well aware that some days can be tough going. Other days are much easier to cope with - and I believe a lot depends on our mental approach to our illness. By that I mean not just depending on drugs – efficient as they may be – but also being aware day by day of our mind, our soul and our heart. And of our relationship to the One who holds us all, whether in sickness or in health.

With a long-term, incurable illness it is not difficult to become depressed at times. As patients we get weary of having to take medicine all the time: we get fed up with our various aches and pains: we wonder what the future holds as we gradually get weaker in our bodies. Even if we are surrounded by loving support of one kind or another, cancer can be a lonely journey. Is a lonely journey - which is not to say it does not also contain blessings! It does. Many surprising blessings are held for us within the cancer pathway. And as we know if you have cancer, there are so many wonderfully supportive networks – not least the Maggie's Centres scattered around the country.

I have also found encouragement when I read the life-stories of others. Recently I read about the British soldier who had been badly wounded in Afghanistan some years back. His multiple injuries almost destroyed him physically and mentally and he went through long periods of depression. He felt his life was over. Then came the blessing! He took up drawing and painting and is now regarded as a fine portrait painter with many commissions. In the last few years several awards have come his way. It is a wonderful story. His new found gift has given him new life and a sense of purpose.

At our local Maggie's Centre I meet many people who have also discovered that cancer can open up new possibilities in life. To say that is not to diminish the many difficulties which cancer brings to a

person. But it is to remember that the picture is often wider and more interesting than we at first imagined when diagnosed.

And this brings me to reflect on the inner meaning of Christian healing. Every week, during the last 70 years since the formation of the modern Iona Community there has been a Service of Healing held within the ancient beauty of Iona Abbey. Over the years hundreds of thousands of people from every corner of the world have taken part in this particular and deeply moving service. Each week in the service we say together the great Iona prayer for healing:

**Spirit of the living God, present with us now, enter you-
body, mind and spirit and heal you of all that harms you in
Jesus name. Amen.**

I love these words and now with cancer in my body they have a new meaning for my life. I know I am not going to be “cured” and that it is highly likely that at some point I will die from the multiple myeloma which is in my system. Yet I also know that the living God can be with me, day by day, in body, mind and in spirit. At the level of mystery and of prayer I do not walk alone. Nor do you. I know from the experiences of my pastoral ministry that we can be very sick in terms of the body yet actually “healed” within. That may be a paradox to some people but it is true. The spirit, the heart, the mind and the soul can all be in good health, even with a serious illness.

I do believe that I need not be diminished spiritually just because I have cancer. Christ’s healing reaches out to make us whole in a great number of ways. If I carry bitterness and self pity and anger in my heart and am full of good health am I really healed? These things can harm us as much as a physical illness. The prayer from Iona reminds us to invite the Holy Spirit into our lives so that ALL that actually harms us can be healed. In that sense we all need deep inner healing. This is the healing of God which comes to all those who seek it. That wonderful truth is at the heart of our Christian faith. Anna Briggs captured that perfectly in one of her beautiful hymns:

**We bring our broken selves,
confused and closed and tired:
then through your gift of healing grace
new purpose is inspired**

Fonts and symbols

Morven Cross

Some of the symbols in church are obvious, others require a bit more of a back story.

The font has both. All fonts are a physical object and reminder of our baptism or christening. Their location within the church, depending on denomination, can have a liturgical meaning.

Our font – originally from Shandwick Place – has a cover with an Iona Cross which is used as the handle. The less obvious symbolism is the number of sides the font has.

Some of the very earliest fonts are eight sided or octagonal.

The day of resurrection, the first day after the Sabbath, is both the first of all days and also the eighth day. The eighth day intersects ordinary time and eternity. Easter completes God's creation. The sacrament of baptism enables us to enter into the 'eighth day' of creation.

The eighth day, first day is why Sunday is now our day of worship as opposed to the seventh.



massive 6thC octagonal baptistry in Ravenna, Italy

From Disinheritance to God's Promised Community

22 May 2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the General Assembly's vote to ordain women. Alison Campbell reports back from this conference at New College/Centre for Theology and Public Issues which marks the anniversary.

This was a day of joy and celebration, but also of warning. Lesley Orr opened the event by asking “*are things better for women in the church today than in 1968?*” This was not a story of a battle of the sexes; those men who had supported campaigning women were thanked for their encouragement even when the women themselves felt like giving up!

But the future is not as secure as we might think, with some Scottish congregations still without women elders, a presbytery with no women ministers, the Presbyterian Church in Australia and the Lutheran Church in Latvia no longer ordaining women and sacking those in post, and Catholics not allowed even to discuss the ordination of women.

What a distinguished, thoughtful and enthusiastic “cloud of witnesses”! Rev. Dr. Margaret Forrester told with wit and energy the story of the petitions, the letter by 6 women (2 of whom were present) to the General Assembly, the struggle and the success, the treatment that Mary Lusk (Mary Levison) received from a Panel on Doctrine more concerned with the unity of the church than with justice or theology.

The theme of “bad theology” was taken up by Rev. Dr. Emma Percy, a leading campaigner in the Anglican Church, who maintained that the “mutual flourishing” and compassionate concern in the Church of England allowed a restrictive, “tribal” model where people can opt out of accepting women.

Rev Jane Denniston said she was very happy in her ministry as the third woman in her charge, and that her 10 years with the Ministries Council led her to think that many things had improved. However,

her work with candidates suggested that the treatment of women by male candidates has worsened. Rev Jill Clancy (one of the youngest ministers present) said that it was only when a male colleague on her BD course suggested that her call was not real, that she realised she was a woman and that there were things that women were not expected to do! A minister in a same sex partnership contributed movingly and stressed the support she had received from her congregation when she was “outed” by the press.

Workshops included one on the future of the ministry, with warnings from Rev. Jayne Scott about the financial and personnel pressure on the church in maintaining current patterns of provision. Big issues included possible changes to ministerial education, moving to a salaried system which provides more protection in employment, improving pathways for young people into faith and thus growing the ground for additional responsibilities.

The presence of several (unpaid) Ordained Local Ministers was revelatory to me. One of them, Rev Professor Susan Hardman Moore, will be the next Principal of New College. (That was one of these embarrassing “And what do you do?” moments!)

Kathy Galloway led a workshop on Side by Side Faith Movement for Gender Justice - a movement of faith leaders and communities, faith-based organisations and individuals of faith who are committed to removing barriers to gender justice.

Rev. Dr Anne Logan provided fascinating statistics (numbers of women ministers have dropped since 2005) and posed questions for discussion – Have there been times when something that is a theological issue has been considered as a gender issue? Has women’s ordination reshaped the body of the Kirk or just added pink frills?

The event was enhanced by the presence of respected friends from present and past – Ray Baxter, Rev. Isabel Whyte, Rev. Allison Becker, and it was wonderful to see campaigners and colleagues warmly greeting and applauding each other.

Rev Prof Charlotte Methuen in concluding the event said we must

hold on to the sense of joy (and for me, admiration) and ensure that the history is recorded, while wrestling with the questions – How do we respond to rampant secularisation? When do we see sexism presented as theology? How can the Church of Scotland be clearer about the support of women as clergy? How can we work alongside other churches to help women to gain equality?

A day of inspiration, joy, thankfulness and determination.

Alison Campbell

Keen to mark the anniversary?

Sunday 20 May at Heart and Soul in Princes Street Gardens

- listen to Rev Dr Margaret Forrester, with Anna Magnusson (1.55-2.30 pm)
- visit the 50th Anniversary of Women's Ministry Exhibition (1.30-5pm)

Tuesday 22 May

- join a commemorative walk to the General Assembly on the Mound. From 12.45pm at the plaza at the RA/ National Galleries. <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/womens-ordination-50th-anniversary-walk-tickets-44756208023>

If you would like to share your memories of the 1968 General Assembly, or of Mary Levison's or Margaret Forrester's ministries at StAStG and SGW we'd love to hear from you. Speak to Alison B or Alison C or email us at [magazine\[at\]staggw.org.uk](mailto:magazine@staggw.org.uk)



Mary Levison, who first petitioned the Assembly in 1963, was ordained at St Andrew's and St George's in 1978

Singing our way into or out of belief

Donna Gilmour

Revd Dr. John Bell will deliver the **Donald Gorrie lecture for 2018**. He is a member of the Iona Community who lectures around the world on issues of liturgy, music and spirituality.

John Bell was elected Rector of Glasgow University in 1977 while still a student. He is a Church of Scotland Minister and was convenor (and music editor) of the committee which drafted the Church of Scotland's Hymnary (4th edition). John has produced numerous collections of songs and worship material. He is also a contributor to Radio 4's Thought for the Day.

"What we sing is what we end up believing, irrespective of the calibre of pulpit oratory we experience. In this lecture, we reflect on how songs, traditional and contemporary, shape popular theology".

The date for your diary is **Tuesday 23 October** when we can look forward to an informed, interesting and thought provoking talk.

Calling all Jazz Fans!

Bob Morley

The **Undercroft Amnesty Group** have teamed up with **St Mary's Music School** to put on a jazz concert in June in aid of **Amnesty International**.

It's on **12 June, at 7.30pm** here in the church. All proceeds to Amnesty.

Tickets are £7, concessions £5, schoolchildren free.

You can get advance tickets from **James McNeill** [jwm28kr\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:jwm28kr[at]gmail.com) and from St Mary's Music School.

We're just about to print flyers and posters – let us know if you would like one.

Facebook event coming soon!

Please tell/bring your jazz-loving friends!

Speak to Bob, James or one of the group if you would like to know more.



in aid of AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL
standing up for human rights

AMNESTY JAZZ

St Mary's Music School's senior jazz ensembles are directed by the inimitable Richard Ingham in his unmissable Farewell Concert.

Concert presented by St Mary's Music School in association with the Undercroft Amnesty Group, Edinburgh

an evening of great music, great tunes

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13 George Street, Edinburgh

TUESDAY 12 JUNE 2018 7.30pm (finish 9.30pm)

Tickets:

£7, concessions £5, schoolchildren free, available from St Mary's Music School, tel: 0131 538 7766, from www.stmarysmusicschool.co.uk/amnesty-jazz/ or from James McNeill at jwm28kr@gmail.com, and on the door from 6.45pm



St Mary's Music School

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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 + Albany Deaf Church 2pm
Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

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