



St Andrew's and St George's West Autumn 2019 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!

Contact admin@stagw.org.uk to register interest, or drop in on the day.

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Event Diary for 2019

2 February 10–12.30pm

9 March 10–12.30pm

6 April 10–12.30pm

11 May 10–12.30pm *

1 June 10–12.30pm

31 August 10–12.30pm

28 September 10–12.30pm

26 October 10–12.30pm **at St John's**

30 November 10–12.30pm

*@ St John's Episcopal Church



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

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stagw.org.uk



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Cover: Rosie, Tasneem and Huda explore peace from different faith perspectives. Thanks to all contributors! [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stagw.org.uk)



Turning God's Spirit Loose

A letter from Rosie

This has been my first full experience of Edinburgh during 'festivals' season. I have dipped in for a day or two in previous years but that bears little comparison to the full three-week experience. The city pulses with creativity and the broad range of talent on display certainly expands the imagination. The Fringe programme at St Andrew's and St George's West was wonderfully diverse and professionally run. I had the bonus of being serenaded by rehearsals and performances taking place right next door to my office.

After the firework display on 26 August I imagine the city drawing its breath and easing into a slightly different pace. So it is as we enter the season of autumn. It is a season of beginnings, with the commencement of a new academic year, as well as a time for taking stock and planning; planning a future that is sustainable over the long term.

*time for
planning a
future that is
sustainable
over the long
term*

We will be doing just that at St Andrew's and St George's West in the months ahead. We will be re-imagining how 'our' story can best play its part in 'The Story', that is, God's great drama of salvation.

It is appropriate and timely to consider how our life together exhibits the five stated purposes of the church – worship, service, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism. We have already begun considering some 'Holy Habits' of discipleship during our Sunday worship services.

*re-imagining how
'our' story can
best play its part
in 'The Story'*

Another thread of the process will be through the HeartEdge movement, of which this church has recently become a member. In doing so we join the other two congregations in Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together - St Cuthbert's Parish Church and St John's Episcopal Church.

HeartEdge is a growing ecumenical network of churches and other organisations. The HeartEdge movement supports churches in blending their mission around four key areas:

Congregation – inclusive approaches to liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life

Compassion – models of outreach serving local need and addressing social justice

Culture – art, music and ideas to re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment

Commerce – Commercial activities that generate finance, creatively extending and enhancing mission and ministry.

You can find out more at www.heartedge.org

Of course, everything we do is part of the ministry of the congregation, to be the body of Christ in this place. Making sure our finances are in good order is as much a part of the ministry of this church as visiting the sick. Maintaining the church building is as much a part of the ministry of this congregation as welcoming people to it. Our different ministries are a part of the whole, part of the wholeness which we seek and to which God calls us to.

I really appreciate that the image of St Andrew's and St George's West is 'The One Tree' – with roots and branches and buds – yet still, One Tree. The image speaks of the connectionism that is at the heart of being the One body of Christ. Being One Tree means that no-one has to go-it-alone, no one is disconnected from the roots that nourish us all.

As we look towards the future we will seek creative ways to nurture the 'One Tree' on George Street so that it can best be a place

- of shade and protection, and growth
- where children can play under its branches
- where one can hear new (bird)songs and the ruffling of feathers signals New Life.
- where all God's creatures can feel at 'Home'

***no-one has to
go it alone ...
no one is
disconnected
from the roots***

And in all that we do we seek the still, small, voice of God. I end with part of Ted Loder's poem 'Turn Your Spirit Loose'. My prayer is that God would turn God's Spirit loose in this place as together we live into the future.

**Facing the future, Lord,
grant us grace**

**to look at it directly and openly and truly,
to laugh at it with crazy faith in the crazy promise -
that nothing can separate us from your love -
to laugh for the joy of it -
the joy of those saving surprises
that also stir in the darkness.**

And, so, we trust...

**in the light of our todays
and in a kingdom coming
and, so, we move on and pray on
with Jesus, our friend and redeemer.¹**

Peace and joy, Rosie

¹ Ted Loder, 'Turn Your Spirit Loose' from *Guerrillas of Grace*, (Augsburg Books), p114

Summer @ StAGW

Craft, culture and campaigning...

Below: Pupils at Dalry Primary with bags made at our knitting workshops

Right: Interfaith Weaving for Peace at St John's



Left: Author Val McDermid signs her new book in the Undercroft

Below: Local MP Deirdre Brock campaigns with the Undercroft Amnesty Group



A Future that's Bigger than the Past

The 2019 Chalmers Lectures
Greyfriars Kirk 17-19 Sep and 1-3 Oct



Rev Dr Sam Wells of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London and founder of **HeartEdge** delivers the 2019 Chalmers Lectures at Greyfriars Kirk in Edinburgh. Dr Wells said he was looking forward to visiting Greyfriars Kirk and discussing the future direction of the church. "What kind of church do we need to become if we are to face the challenges and take the opportunities of the years ahead?"

this is a great time to be the Church

looking at what it means to see culture, commerce and compassion as out-workings of congregational life, and sources of growth for the church in faithfulness as well as numbers.

"The lectures are called 'A Future Bigger than the Past' because I want listeners to rediscover a sense that this is a great time to be the Church and God is sending us everything we need to do the work of the Holy Spirit."

The lectures will be live-streamed on the Church of Scotland website and available as podcasts. **Free**

"I'm going to be

For Such a Time as This: Locating the UK Church in a global and gospel story Tues 17 Sept at 6pm

Investing in the Kingdom: Taking money beyond the benefactor and the steward Wed 18 Sept at 6pm

Minding God's Business: Realigning commerce and Church Thurs 19 Sept at 6pm

Entertaining Angels Unawares: How God renews the Church through the stones that the builders reject Tue 1 Oct at 6pm

Let All the People Praise Thee: How the Church may be part of a cultural renaissance Wed 2 Oct at 6pm

On Earth as it is in Heaven: Towards a vision for the renewal of congregational life Thurs 3 Oct at 6pm

On earth as it is in heaven

HeartEdge Annual Conference
2-3 October | Edinburgh

A practical two-day intensive.

Ideas | Theology | Workshops | Community

Growing congregations,
Launching church commerce,
Developing cultural projects,
Deepening compassion.

Winnie Varghese, Cormac Russell,
ID Campbell, Sally Hitchiner,
Deborah Lewer, Sheena McDonald,
Mark Strange, Colin Sinclair, Sam Wells.

Tickets:	Early bird	Full Price
Adult	100	140
Youth - 25 & under	45	70
65+	75	80
Day Rate:		
Adult -	70	
Youth -	35	
65+ -	40	

Early bird till 30 June. Includes lunch + refreshments.

Book online at <http://bit.ly/2HFpEIS>

St
Martin
in
the
Fields

HeartEdge

Autumn Diary @ StAGW

Worship

**Sunday 9am Communion - Sunday 9.45am All-Age Worship,
Sunday 11am Morning Worship
Monday – Friday 1pm prayers, Tuesday 1pm Communion**

September 2019

Sun 1 Sep	12 noon Fellowship Lunch for Malawi projects
Fri 6 Sep	10am - 4pm Creative TOGETHER
Sat 7 Sep	On the Button Sale in aid of Marie Curie
Tue 10 Sep	7-9pm Undercroft - church social with Rosie *
Thur 12 Sep	1.30pm Ramblings easy Water of Leith Walk
Fri 13 Sep	6.30pm Bring and Share Fringe Party *
Mon 16 Sep	10.30 am Book Group, chapel
Wed 18 Sep	10.30-12 Creative TOGETHER Davidson Room 7.30pm Alan Jacques - An Ear for Music
Sat 21 Sep	3-5pm Undercroft church social with Rosie *
Sun 22 Sep	2pm Albany Visual Service
Tue 24 Sep	7-9pm Undercroft - church social with Rosie *
Wed 25 Sep	7pm Poetry, Prose and Prayer
Sat 28 Sep	10am-12.30pm Messy Church (Undercroft-chapel) Doors Open Day @StAGW
Sun 29 Sep	Doors Open Day @StAGW
Mon 30 Sep	12.15pm Amnesty group meets

October 2019

2 + 3 Oct	HeartEdge Conference at St John's - St Cuthbert's
Sat 5 Oct	Treasure Trove pop – up craft fair
Sun 6 Oct	12 noon Fellowship Lunch for the Woodland Trust
Mon 7 Oct	6.30pm AHSS Lecture <i>Calton Hill & New Town</i>
Wed 9 Oct	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Sat 12 Oct	Kirk Session Away Morning 7.30pm Andrew Carnegie Centenary Recital
Wed 16	10.30 Creative TOGETHER Davidson Room
Fri 18 Oct	7.30pm Light as the Shadows Lengthen Choir Concert
Sat 19 Oct	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society: Gonzaga Band
Thu 24 Oct	Christian Aid Autumn Sale

Fri 25 Oct	Christian Aid Autumn Sale
Sat 26 Oct	Christian Aid Autumn Sale and Coffee Morning 10am -12.30pm Messy Church at St John's
Sun 27 Oct	3pm Sing Sistah Sing Andrea Baker + Richard Lewis
Mon 28 Oct	12.15pm Undercroft Amnesty Group
Thur 31 Oct	Evening Reformation Service at the German Church
November 2019	
Sun 3 Nov	12 noon Fellowship Lunch for South Sudan
Mon 4 Nov	6.30pm AHSS Lecture <i>Hermitage Dunkeld</i>
Thurs 7 Nov	6pm Taizé service
Sat 9 Nov	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society: Boxwood and Brass
Sun 10 Nov	Remembrance Sunday
Thur 14 Nov	6pm Taizé service
Wed 20 Nov	10.30 Creative TOGETHER, Davidson Room
Thur 21 Nov	6.30pm The Invitation to Heal – the Denis Duncan Lecture
Tue 26 Nov	7.30pm Kirk Session meeting
Fri 29 Nov	7.30pm Choir in Cabaret Concert
Sat 30 Nov	10am-12.30pm Messy Church
December 2019	
Sun 1 Dec	12 noon Fellowship Lunch TOGETHER Homelessness 3pm Blessing of the Nativity and Carols, St Andrew Square
Mon 2 Dec	6.30pm AHSS Lecture <i>Ernest Gimson</i>
Sat 7 Dec – Tue 24 Dec	Let there be LIGHT Christmas Tree Festival
Wed 11 Dec	Missing People Carol Service
Thur 12 Dec	6pm Taizé service
Thur 19 Dec	6pm Taizé service
Fri 20 Dec	6pm Carols at Six
Sun 22 Dec	4pm Christingle
Tue 24 Dec	11.30pm Watchnight
Wed 25 Dec	11am Family Worship
<p>*Members event 3rd party event at StAGW Dates and times correct at TGP on 1 September. Please check church notices, website and social media for current information</p>	

Death
Gordon Coutts

New Member
Lorna Cammock

StAGW News and Notices

Poetry, Prose, and Prayer **Wed 25 Sept 7pm**

You are invited to participate in a session on leading worship through reading scripture and prayers. This will take place at **7-8.30 pm on Wednesday 25 September** in the sanctuary. This will be geared towards practical application with the opportunity to learn from each other in a supportive environment. Everyone is very welcome. Please email Rosie to confirm attendance.

Book Group **Third Mondays 10.30am**

The Book group meets again on **Monday 16 September at 10.30am** in the Undercroft Chapel. Some of us have been reading "For the Glory", Duncan Hamilton's excellent biography of Eric Liddell, as our summer holiday book and we shall look at that briefly before planning our programme for the coming winter.

We have quite a list of suggestions to choose from ranging from "Your Loving is your Knowing" by Elizabeth Templeton to "Falling Upward" by Richard Rohr, taking in John Bell and Anne Lamott on the way.

We normally meet on the third Monday of the month from September-November and January-June. We are always pleased to welcome new members and so anyone who is interested can come along and join in. The early risers meet for coffee in the Undercroft at 10am. Meetings start at 10.30 and finish at noon. **Veronica Crerar**



Ramblings

Enjoying refreshment after walking through Forthquarter Park, along the foreshore to Cramond and up the River Almond to the Cramond Falls Cafe. A lovely easy afternoon walk, free from rain, with the sound of the waves gently lapping on the rocks and good company. If you'd like to join us for the next 'Rambling' it is on **Sept 12th** along the Water of Leith to Leith, by Stockbridge bridge (Saunders Street) at **1.30pm**. Speak to **Sally Evans** or **Dorothy Tarrant** if you'd like to join us, have any questions or would be interested in future walks.



I am happy to be the latest new member of StAGW. It is now my Church in every way. When I rise early on Sundays to take the number 900 bus, 'flying on wheels,' my anticipation grows as Edinburgh comes closer. My mother was born in Abbeyfield 125 years ago. My oldest Aunt and family lived on the top flat of 25 Montgomery St. I have stories to tell about visits to the Edinburgh in the 1940's. A ukulele enthusiast, this year I busked in Princes St by the Big Wheel during the Fringe. Before going out I sat in prayer with Veronica and Rosie praying 'Prayers for the City at Festival time. Jesus lived in the city... but that's for another day. **Lorna Cammock**



Music news

Brigitte Harris

After a successful trip to Inveraray in early summer we're looking forward to a busy autumn. Our new choral and organ scholars are already in post.

Choral scholars 2019/20

Organ scholar 2019/20

Vocal Coach

Assistant Organist

Assistant Director of Music

Eleanor Cozens, Timothy Cooper

Eleanor Wilson

Caitlin McGillivray

Drew Crichton

Andrew Carvel

Celebrating Black History Month

In October we will be celebrating **Black History Month** with our concert **Light as the shadows lengthen** on **Friday 18 October**.



Andrea Baker, who recently chaired our Festival Power of Music events, will join us and will also put on a special performance of **Sing Sistah Sing** in the church on **Sunday 27 October**

Light as the Shadows Lengthen

Friday 18 October at 7.30pm at StAGW

Light as the Shadows Lengthen will feature the new Gospel Oratorio *Passion Music* by contemporary composer Will Todd. *Passion Music* is deeply inspired by Jazz and the Afro-American spiritual. In separate movements we find gospel quotations, hymn texts and Todd's own poetry, all woven into an exploration of Easter-themed texts with the solo voice giving an emotional narrative throughout. Atmospheric music by composers from both the Romantic and contemporary periods, including choral classics such as Rheinberger's *Abendlied*, and music by the Scandinavian composers Edvard Grieg and Ola Gjeilo complete the programme.

Soloists – Andrea Baker, Caitlin McGillivray

St Andrew's and St George's West Choir

Jazz ensemble

Jamie Lang – Piano

directed by Brigitte Harris

Tickets £12 (£10 conc) from Eventbrite and from the church office.

Sing Sistah Sing

Sunday 27 October at 3pm at StAGW

Come and hear British-American mezzo-soprano Andrea Baker's award winning celebration of the sound and extraordinary breadth of the African American female voice.

Tickets £12 (£10 conc)

www.singsistahsing.com



Juggling on a Tightrope 10 years in Mulanje

Dr Ruth Shakespeare

Blondin's first crossing of the Niagara Falls in 1859, was a much celebrated feat in a life packed with them and like his other achievements was carefully prepared for and executed.

Bands on both banks played as he began his crossing and took his time. He stopped and lay down for a rest at one point and stood on one leg for a while.

The crossing took him a little over 17 minutes. After a pause he went back across the rope, much faster the second time. In further crossings Blondin introduced variations – he carried his manager across on his back, he crossed blindfold or in a gorilla costume, he pushed a wheelbarrow across.

Perhaps juggling skills and tightrope walking should be part of the training for Medical Directors at MMH with the demands of daily life often resembling a high-wire stunt with many opportunities for the unwary to stumble.

It is true everywhere, but particularly so in low-resource settings such as Mulanje, that the determinants of people's health are broad,

juggling skills and tightrope walking should be part of the training for Medical Director of MMH

encompassing so much more than access to health services. MMH's mission is to improve the health of people living in our rural community, despite extreme poverty, climate change, food insecurity, lack of educational opportunity, fear of witchcraft, poor infrastructure, shortage of skilled professional workers, long-standing donor dependence – deep rooted, entangled challenges which resist simple solutions.



Blondin crossing the Niagara falls on a tightrope (1859)

Public health successes are the result of long term change, and tend to be about adversity avoided – model villages where people are not hungry, orphans who can and do go to school, soil erosion prevented, people who don't get malaria, cholera risk controlled, healthy babies born without problems, a hospital with electricity and water 24/7.

One definition of the Medical Director's job might be to perhaps to lead MMH so as to achieve the best outcomes possible for our community with the health dollar entrusted to us. A lot of prayer, planning, technical skill and practical hard work goes into this task.



The primary determinants of disease in Mulanje are economic, social and environmental, so our response must be equally diverse. The prioritisation of scarce resources across the competing demands of public health programmes, community based care and hospital services is endlessly challenging. As time passes, I hope that the judgement on my ten years as Medical Director of MMH may be that my circus skills were just about good

enough – that I didn't drop too many balls too many times, that I mostly managed to stay on the tightrope – and I would like to thank all my family, friends and colleagues in Mulanje and further afield who were holding the net when I occasionally lost my balance.

So to the many friends who through their prayers, their practical help and their encouragement have supported me in all areas of our work at MMH – my grateful thanks. And to Dr Arie, who now takes over the role and is balancing across the rope for the first time, my huge admiration for his enthusiasm and dedication to the MMH community. Let's assist him all we can, for it's not a simple job.

From MMH's July 2019 newsletter – read it online at www.mmh.mw/july-2019



For everything there is a season

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

Time. How quickly the last months have passed, summer come and gone, days shortening, and autumn undoubtedly creeping ever closer. It brings to mind the well known text from Ecclesiastes 3:1

“For everything there is a season,
and a time for every matter under heaven.”

I always enjoy the summer season, with the natural world hyperactive in the final build-up to the coming of new life. To quote Charles Dickens, “Nature gives to every time and season beauties of its own.” So much to hope and pray for. Who would make it to hatch/birth, who would survive the hovering predators, and inevitably, who would manage the threats brought by worsening climate forces. On my local stretch of the Water of Leith I was keen to track all the family stories.

Of course, top of my ‘watch’ list, were my mute swans. This being my 4th season with the pair, I expected drama and excitement, yet knew the chances of further loss and sadness – in their three previous attempts at family life, only two cygnets have survived to fledge.

After practice runs at a couple of potential nest sites, I watched and waited as they constructed their final nest, laid five eggs, and began the lengthy incubation process. Each day I visited, the risks not only to the nest itself, but also to the eggs and any ensuing cygnets, became more apparent; it was all too close to the water's edge, too close to a fast-flowing weir, easily accessible to passers-by and their dogs, and situated at a popular spot for foxes, herons, gulls and corvids. Feeling so utterly protective of this pair, I despaired each time the rains came and the water levels rose; I swung into action when I discovered a well-meaning local resident throwing food to the nest, which served only to encourage feasting gull frenzies; and in typically anxious 'pseudo-auntie' style, I had the likely hatching date all mapped out.

So, what of the outcome? On the very day I expected news, I had the immense privilege of witnessing a cygnet hatch – not something I had seen before or ever imagined that I would. This tiny wet and weak form, completely unrecognisable as a cygnet, battling to escape from his/her former cosy and safe world...aided ever so gently by mum. The experience for me was beautiful, as well as breathtaking and unforgettable.

I continued my swan family watch, particularly the adults' interaction with the cygnet, and waited with bated breath for the appearance of more. Sadly, after just 4 days, the first cygnet disappeared; I can only guess at what might have proved his/her fate. Despite this, the adults continued to sit with the remaining eggs, and well beyond the normal incubation period. After a further 16 days however, almost 3 months in total, they seemed to accept that it was time to leave their nest and remaining eggs, and abandon the prospect of family life for yet another year. My heart went out to them. Such examples of patience and hope, but the natural world is tough, cruel even; I have seen its harshness many times before, yet never cease to marvel at its resilience.

Happily, elsewhere on the river and the surrounding area, other families enjoyed greater success. For example, I spent many hours in the company of goosander families, impressed beyond words by the fishing abilities of the tiny chicks. Time after time I watched them dive, emerge with fish larger than their necks, then somehow swallow these whole. Perhaps their generous fish diet helped them all thrive; through several significant spells of high flood water too. Not quite the same

degree of success for the mallards, although I think at least four of this year's ducklings remain on the river. The swallows who use our garage as their summerhouse are still there and amusing me with their "vit vit" calls and rapid flight patterns.

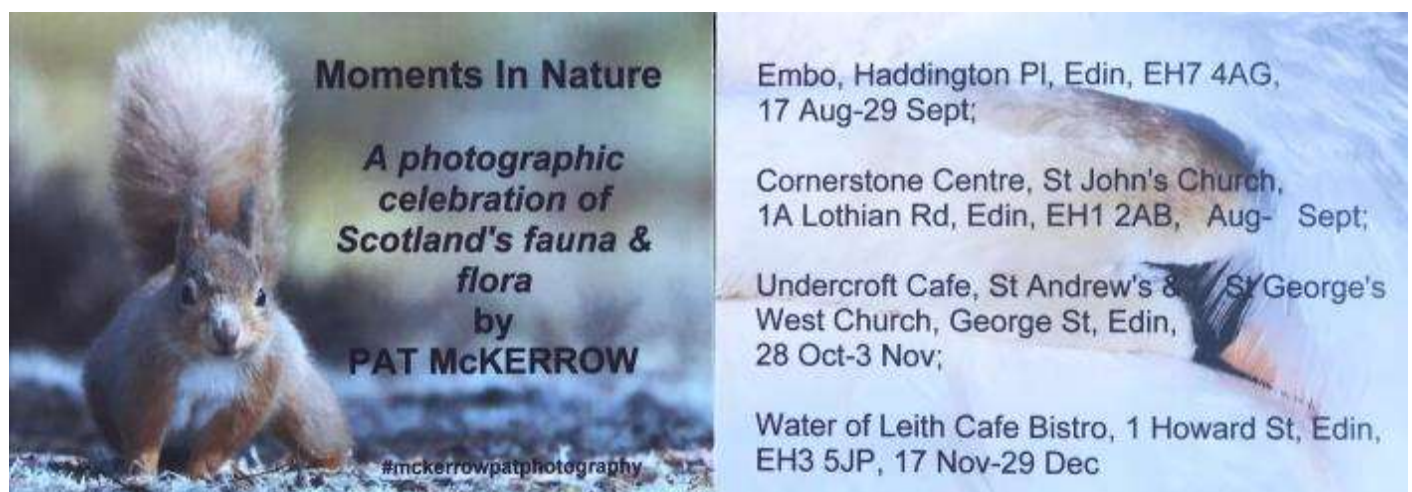
Further from the river, I spent precious time with a wonderful fox family, three cubs, the vixen, and what seemed to be two other adults, perhaps youngsters from a previous year. The interaction was fascinating, with all the adults appearing to protect and groom the cubs, one cub in particular - maybe the mucky child of the family?! What a privilege, from my makeshift hide amongst garden shrubbery, to be close enough to hear their sounds without causing fright or restricting their natural activities.

I cannot help but continue to feel truly blessed by all the fabulous moments in creation I can access, and so easily from my home. Likewise, the time I can spend in nature. It warms my soul and brings me great peace; and to be able to re-live and share these times through my photography and writing is an absolute thrill. In the words of Aristotle, "In all things of nature there is something of the marvellous."

Many of you know that in 2018 I began writing poetry; I leave you now with the final verse from my poem 'My River':

"I know my river well,
My precious and prayerful place,
My favourite swans and kingfishers too,
How blessed; an absolute joy."

Every blessing. Pat McKerrow



Moments In Nature
A photographic celebration of Scotland's fauna & flora
by **PAT McKERROW**
#mckerrowpatphotography

Embo, Haddington Pl, Edin, EH7 4AG, 17 Aug-29 Sept;

Cornerstone Centre, St John's Church, 1A Lothian Rd, Edin, EH1 2AB, Aug- Sept;

Undercroft Cafe, St Andrew's & St George's West Church, George St, Edin, 28 Oct-3 Nov;

Water of Leith Cafe Bistro, 1 Howard St, Edin, EH3 5JP, 17 Nov-29 Dec

Peter Millar Reflects

They're Singing Your Song

It is easy to be depressed about much that is going on in our world, but the fact that visionary voices in every country are articulating a different understanding of society is a real sign of hope. This beautiful piece, sent to me recently by an old friend in Canada, renews my vision and commitment to work alongside millions for a new world order. It is wonderfully entitled – They're Singing Your Song. May these words lift your spirit!

When a woman in a certain African tribe knows she is pregnant, she goes out into the wilderness with a few friends and together they pray and meditate until they hear the song of the child. They recognise that every soul has its own vibration that expresses its unique flavour and purpose. When the women attune to the song, they sing it out loud. Then they return to the tribe and teach it to everyone else.

When the child is born, the community gathers and sings the child's song to her or him. Later, when the child enters education, the village gathers and chant's the child's song. When the child passes through the initiation to adulthood, the people again come together and sing. At the time of marriage, the person hears his or her song.

Finally, when the soul is about to pass from this world, the family and friends gather at the person's bed, just as they did at their birth, and they sing the person to the next life.

In the African tribe there is one other occasion upon which the villagers sing to the child. If at any time during her or his life, the person commits a crime or aberrant social act, the individual is called to the centre of the village and the people in the community form a circle around them. Then they sing their song to them. The tribe recognizes that the correction for antisocial behaviour is not a punishment; it is love and

*a friend is
someone who
knows your song
and sings it to
you when you
have forgotten it*

the remembrance of identity. When you recognize your own song, you have no desire or need to do anything that would harm another.

A friend is someone who knows your song and sings it to you when you have forgotten it. Those who love you are not fooled by mistakes you have made or dark images about yourself. They remember your beauty when you feel ugly; your wholeness when you are broken; your innocence when you feel guilty, and your purpose when you are confused.

*just keep
singing and
you'll find
your way
home*

You may not have grown up in an African tribe that sings your song to you at crucial life transitions, but life is always reminding you when you are in tune with yourself and when you are not. When you feel good, what you are doing matches your song, and when you feel awful, it doesn't. In the end, we shall all recognize our song and sing it well. You may feel a little warbly at the moment, but so have all the great singers. Just keep singing and you'll find your way home.

Through fire and water

“Into The Foothills of Transformation” by Donald Eadie tells us of living with severe and constant body pain over many years and how, in a variety of ways, that reality has brought with it journeys of inner transformation. In the book there is this prayer by the late Bill Denning. It reflects some of the truths expressed in They Are Singing Your Song. I have shortened it here but its meaning remains clear. Donald's book is published by Wild Goose Publications www.ionabooks.com

Through fire and water:
through storm and bitter hurt:
through scaring pain and bitter wound:
through searching and longing:
with friends and companions:
with discovery and delight:
with pilgrims of age and laughter of childhood:
surrounded by and one with all the saints in light:
day after day, night after night

You have brought us

Being hungry and thirsty for justice in our time

25 years ago, Rowan Williams gave a retreat in London to the Christian Socialist Movement based on the Beatitudes. His reflections were later published in a booklet entitled – “The Kingdom is theirs”.

Central to his thought is the conviction that unless we get our spirituality right, we shall never get our politics right. The Beatitudes have through the centuries presented a radical challenge to all who seek to follow Christ. Here are some of Rowan’s words on the Beatitude “blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice”. His words are so relevant to our present global crisis.

unless we get our spirituality right, we shall never get our politics right

**Written large on every page of the Bible is the conviction that none of us has an interest or a welfare that is ours alone. The life of another is my life – their life is mine. If their life is wounded or diminished, so is mine. When the brother or the sister is deprived or oppressed, I am involved because I am made less human by their hurt.*

In that respect being hungry and thirsty for justice does make sense. It is a notion that comes up in a different way in the monastic writings of the 4th century, in the sayings of the desert fathers and desert mothers. One saying ascribed to St Anthony is often mentioned in this context. Anthony is remembered as saying “Your life and your death are with your brother and sister. Gain their life and you gain God.”

A thought for the days ahead: “Real care means the willingness to help each other in making our brokenness into the gateway to joy.”
Henri Nouwen

Peter Millar is a minister, writer and former warden of Iona Abbey. If you would like to receive his reflections or give feedback you can get in touch with him at [ionacottage\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:ionacottage@hotmail.com).

Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce

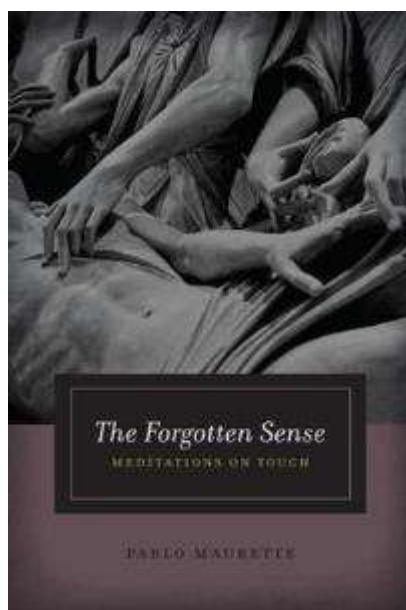
Balm in Gilead ed Timothy Larson & Keith L Johnson £21.99

Those familiar with the novels and essays of the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Marilynne Robinson, will know they are filled with religious motifs and theological insights. In this volume, these themes (along with her keen interest in Calvin) are explored in a series of essays by various theologians and thinkers, providing an accessible, thoughtful exploration of the rich commentary her writing makes on both church and society, our culture and our personal engagements with God.

The volume was born out of the Wheaton Theology Conference held in 2018 in her honour, at which she was present. It includes the lecture Robinson, herself, gave, a transcript of a public conversation between her and former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, and the edited highlights of an interview she gave to the President of the College.

A fascinating analysis, this book will offer much to those who have read her works but would also serve as a good introduction to her work for those yet to encounter it.

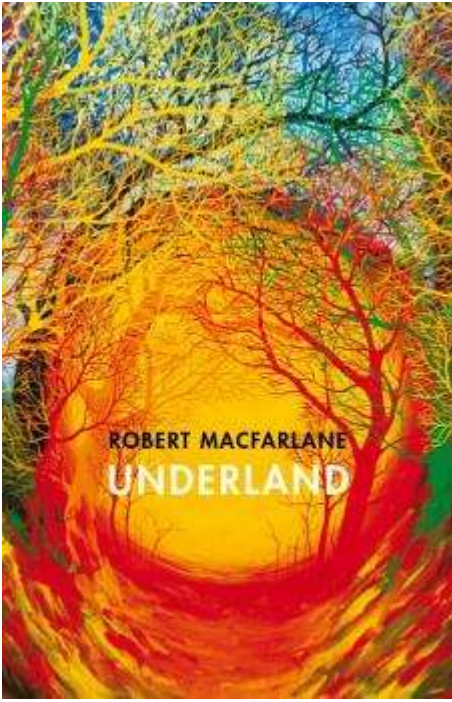
The Forgotten Sense by Pablo Maurette £18.99



Through a series of six meditations, the author of this book delivers a beautifully crafted philosophical exploration into our sense of touch and our tactile experiences. Peppered with the writings of cultural commentators from Homer to Knausgaard, Maurette considers the properties of touch, positing that rather than being one sense it is many (we taste only when particles touch our tongue). He then goes on to survey the ways in which the arts – literature, film, painting, sculpture – and philosophy “make use of, engage with and evoke the senses of touch,” and to explore touch

in the context of human empathy and intimacy. The result is a fascinating journey in aesthetics, full of insight and erudition.

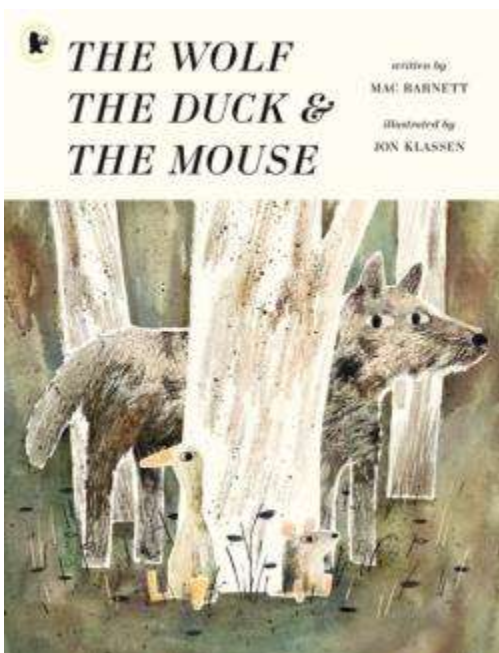
Underland by Robert Macfarlane £20.00



“The way into the underland is through the riven trunk of an old ash tree,” writes Macfarlane in the introduction to this extraordinary book, subtitled – a deep time journey. In the underland, he continues, “The same three tasks recur across cultures and epochs: to shelter what is precious, to yield what is valuable, and to dispose of what is harmful... Into the underland we have long placed that which we fear and wish to lose, and that which we love and we wish to save.”

The places underground, mythical and real, our relationship with darkness and the underworld, with the burial of the dead and life preserved, with treasures found and buried; and nature’s relationship with itself – fungal networks and the communication between trees – all have the lamp of Macfarlane’s lucid, luminous writing shed upon them as, in typical style, he guides the reader along lesser trodden paths, enabling us to re-evaluate both how we see the world and our place in it. If this is your introduction to his work, you will almost certainly want to go back and read his other work.

The Wolf, the Duck & the Mouse by Mac Barnett £6.99



First there was Jonah swallowed by a whale, now there is a mouse, swallowed by a wolf, who meets a duck inside its stomach! They may have been swallowed, but they won’t be eaten!

This is a modern-day fable, wonderfully told with lots of black humour, telling the lesson of how we can make the most of adversity and pointing out the need to work together for the common good. A real treat which will make you laugh out loud and superbly illustrated by John Klassen in his distinctive style.



**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church**

For the acrobatics of worship –
the height of joy,
the depths of serenity
and all the ways we reach out to
catch one another.

**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church.**

For the juggling of Session and
committees and calendars,
for the way we try to keep the balls of
music and mission,
fellowship and stewardship
in the air at one time.

**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church.**



... from Morning Worship on 18 August 2019

For the 'sideshows' where our hearts are touched - the weddings, and memorials, and baptisms, the children's Nativity, and Christingle.

**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church.**

For the tight-rope of our many points of view and striving for balance in our finances and our conversations.

**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church.**

For the rotas of staff and volunteers who hammer in the tent pegs of new initiatives,
shovel out heaps of trouble...
and on whom the safety of all depends.

**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church.**

For the issues of justice where church meets world
that sometimes call for a human pyramid
and sometimes for a leap through fire.

**We give you thanks
for the three-ring church.**

For the peanut of detail
and the elephant of budget,
for the unashamed barkers of evangelism,
the sword swallows of reconciliation,
and the people tamers of prayer.

We give you thanks for the three-ring church



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Sunday worship 9am, 9.45am, 11am + Albany Deaf Church 2pm
Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

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