



St Andrew's and St George's West Lent and Easter 2020 Magazine





Taizé Time

a gathering of **sung,**
spoken and **silent prayer**

6–6.40pm

Thursdays:

**30 Jan • 20 Feb • 19 Mar
21 May • 18 Jun • 10 Sep
15 Oct • 12 Nov • 17 Dec**

**Holy Week: Tuesday • 7 Apr
7–8pm**



St Andrew's & St George's West
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

stagw.org.uk



stagw



@stagw1



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Cover: Camino de Santiago pilgrim route, by the Confraternity of St James.
Thanks to all contributors! [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)

A Lenten Journey

Rev Dr Rosie Magee

Observing Lent was not part of the tradition I grew up in. It was never mentioned in church, but I do remember school friends asking each other what they were 'giving up' for Lent. Lent seemed most manifest in not eating chocolate for 6 weeks!



Of course, eating more healthily is a good thing in itself, as is exercising self-discipline, and those can be God-honouring things, but Lent is more than a chance to set some lovely six-week resolutions. Lent, as I have come to understand it, isn't about self-improvement any more than Christmas is about presents. Rather, Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before Holy Week and Easter, and any practice of fasting is for the purpose of better understanding and experiencing 'The Feast.'

You won't find the term 'Lent' in the Bible but it this 40-day season follows a biblical pattern. Israel spent 40 years in the wilderness learning to trust the Lord. Elijah spent 40 days there before hearing the 'still, small voice of God' on the same mountaintop where Moses spent 40 days listening to God give the law. We also have Jesus' 40 days in the wilderness between his baptism and ministry during which he was tested.

... any practice of fasting is for the purpose of better understanding and experiencing 'The Feast.'

How we choose to journey through the 40 days of Lent can have significance long after the calendar has moved on. Easter is 'a moveable feast'- a term that has been around for centuries to denote the fact that its date changes from year to year. We, too, change from year to year as do our circumstances and walk with God, so, it seems time well spent to really consider in what way we are each being called to prepare.

I've tried giving things up for Lent, but I'm not very successful at it and find it more fruitful when I give something up by taking something on, preferably in solidarity with others. There are so many opportunities

to do this. For example, International Justice Mission's 'Slave Free Lent' campaign is aimed at helping us avoid products that have slavery involved in their supply chain. Everyday actions can be part of the movement to end slavery in our lifetime. Or the 'Living Lent' campaign, an ecumenical initiative including the Church of Scotland, which invites us to change our lifestyle for the sake of the future of the planet (www.livinglent.org).

Each of these websites provides up to date information as well as encouragement and inspiration as to how the choices we make on a daily basis can make a significant difference both locally and globally.

our inner and outer journeys are connected.

Seeking ways to make positive choices may well entail self-denial but not necessarily as an end in itself. We do not take on disciplines to prove that we are righteous people. We take up these disciplines to be better able to listen to the Holy Spirit, to see ourselves as we are, to know our own weaknesses and to observe our temptations. As we do

Rather than being called to be perfect, we are called to be faithful

so, we pray for God to reveal God's grace to us in a deeper way. Our inner and outer journeys are connected.

If I complete Lent with a greater awareness of others on the journey, as well as my own failings, and so am more aware of my need for God's grace and the forgiveness of others, then, I trust, Lent will have been a holy endeavour. We do not 'earn' Easter by keeping a perfect Lent. Rather than being called to be perfect, we are called to be faithful. There is freedom in knowing that we do not make Easter arrive. It arrives. Praise be to God, the Host of the Banquet.

Lord God, giver of our every breath, on our Lenten journey, send your Holy Spirit to blow the dust off whatever in or around us needs new life.

Amen

StAGW Lent and Easter Diary

March 2020

Sun 1 Mar	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 12 noon Fellowship lunch for Love Ghana 2pm Albany Deaf Church Visual Service On the first Sunday of the month you're welcome to bring donations of (non perishable) food for Fresh Start
Mon 2 Mar	6.30pm AHSS Lecture <i>Going Forth</i>
3 - 10 Mar	Edinburgh Competition Festival (not Sunday)
Wed 4 Mar	7pm at St Cuthbert's: Art of Passion ECCT Lent Study
Thur 5 Mar	12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's
Fri 6 Mar	1pm World Day of Prayer, Chapel
Sun 8 Mar	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 2pm Albany Deaf Church Visual Service
Wed 11 Mar	7pm at St John's: Art of Passion ECCT Lent Study 7.30pm Kirk Session
Thur 12 Mar	12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's
Sun 15 Mar	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship
Wed 18 Mar	10.30-12 Creative Together, Davidson Room 7pm at StAGW: Art of Passion ECCT Lent Study
Thur 19 Mar	6pm Taize Time
Sun 22 Mar	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship
Wed 25 Mar	7pm at St John's: Art of Passion ECCT Lent Study
Fri 27 Mar	7.30pm Fundraising Concert for Hadeel
Sat 28 Mar	10.30am Messy Church @ St Johns 7.30pm Georgian Concert Society: Marian Consort
Sun 29 Mar	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship: 12 noon Communion
Mon 30 Mar	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group



Hadeel • هاديل

Celebratory Choral Music and Classical Guitar Concert

In Aid Of Hadeel/ Palcrafts



**With *the Classical
Guitarist Ayman
Jarjour
& The Choir of St
Andrew's and St
George's - Directed by
Brigitte Harris***



**Friday 27th March 7:30-
9:30pm
@St Andrew's and St
George's West,
13 George St, Edinburgh
EH2 2PA**

A light buffet will be served

Tickets £20, £15 (over 60s/disabled & Students), £10 (under 16s)

**Buy tickets@<https://hadeelconcert.eventbrite.co.uk/>
Also in Hadeel, 123 George Street; the Undercroft
St Andrew's and St George's West; or on the door**

April 2020

Wed 1 Apr	7pm at StAGW: Art of Passion ECCT Lent Study
Sat 4 April	10.30am Practical Pilgrim Day
Sun 5 Apr	Palm Sunday @StAGW 9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 12 noon Fellowship lunch for Amnesty International 2pm Albany Deaf Church Visual Service On the first Sunday of the month you're welcome to bring donations of (non perishable) food for Fresh Start
Mon 6 Apr	6.30pm AHSS Lecture Collective Architecture
Tue 7 Apr	7pm Taize Time for Holy Week
Wed 8 Apr	7pm at St Cuthbert's: Art of Passion ECCT Lent Study
Thur 9 Apr	7pm Agape Meal
Good Friday	12-3pm The Three Hours at St John's
10 April	7pm Tenebrae Service
Sun 12 Apr	Easter Day @ StAGW 7am ECCCT Dawn Communion (at St Cuthbert's) 9am Communion 9.45am Easter Breakfast 11am Easter Worship, BSL signed
Wed 15 Apr	10.30am Creative Together
Thur 16 Apr	6pm World Heritage Day Lecture
Sun 19 Apr	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship
Mon 20 Apr	10.30am Book Group
Sat 25 Apr	10.30am Messy Church@ St John's
Sun 26 Apr	Push n Shove Sunday @ StAGW 9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship After morning worship we clear and reset the church in preparation for the huge Christian Aid Sale
Mon 27 Apr	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group
27/4 – 8/5	Christian Aid - Sorting and Pricing

May 2020	
27/4 – 8/5	Christian Aid - Sorting and Pricing
9 -15 May	Christian Aid Sale
Sun 3 May and Sun 10 May	Sunday worship in the Undercroft 9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship
Sun 17 May	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship
Mon 18 May	7.30pm Kirk Session meets
Wed 20 May	10.30am Creative Together
Thur 21 May	6pm Taize Time
Sat 23 May	10am Malawi Coffee Morning, Undercroft
Sun 24 May	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together: 10.20am Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship: noon Stated Annual Meeting 2pm Albany Deaf Church Visual Service
Mon 25 May	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group
Sat 30 May	10.30am Messy Church @ St John's
StAGW events	
Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER events	
Dates and times correct at TGP on 1 March. Please check church notices, website and social media for current information.	

Hello and welcome!

My name is **Karen Jackson** and I grew up in Edinburgh and have lived here all my life. I am married with twin sons who are 19 years old. I worked in a Primary School office for 10 years while my boys were growing up and then ran a property business for 4 years.

I am very much a people person who enjoys meeting new people and doing new things. My hobbies are walking, running, cycling and reading and I am very much looking forward to being part of the friendly team here while Sophie is on maternity leave.





Congratulations Meyko!

What's the story? I've just gained my SVQ Level 5 in Professional Cookery

What did that involve? Lots of things! The best bit was learning how to deal with fish from scratch. Pete, our chef, brought me a lovely whole fish and I had to prepare the fish and fillet it. Then I turned it into something our customers in the Undercroft Cafe would really like – home-made fish cakes and fish pie.

So you learned from Pete? Yeah. Pete can do everything!

But you could cook before you came here? No! I couldn't even cook rice. But I really wanted to learn to cook, and so Wendy (Henderson, our church manager) arranged this placement for me.

What do you like about the Undercroft Cafe? The people! Pete, the kitchen team, the Crofters and our regular customers. That's what gets me up in the morning.



And what's next? No idea! I just go with the flow, you know...

A Living Room

Heather Gregg

Most homes seem a little less colourful after the Christmas tree decorations come down – and at the end of December, at 13 George Street, we took down an entire Christmas Tree festival!



In January the Congregation made a colourful, group exhibition in The Undercroft response to the prompt **“What is New for you?”**. There was a welcome range of responses: family photos, an original poem, a hymn, magazine cover, garden photos, a series of tweets about birds... a great mix of humour, thoughtfulness and real life.

“I felt that ... I was in the ‘presence’ of the congregation and some of its heart and mind”

The question “What’s new for you” can help us to pause and ponder, more aware of the present moment with its realities and possibilities. As Christians, we worship the God who self-describes as “I AM”, so being more consciously engaged with what we’re thinking and feeling right now, may help us connect with the Divine.

The title “New (s)” is a pleasant reminder that Christians are the people of Good News – after all, that is what “Gospel” means. What a lovely colourful antidote to the odd dreich January day, to be in the Café with the company of words, pictures and good news from the Congregation.

As curator, I felt that in the Undercroft, I was in the ‘presence’ of the congregation and some of its heart and mind. It felt a little like going into someone’s living room, which is where most of us naturally curate pictures, books and objects which are meaningful to us. A home. Thank you.



News from your Kirk Session

Crispin Longden

Your Kirk Session met for the first time in 2020 in mid-January and will next meet in mid-March. At each Session meeting at least one of the Working Groups is asked to provide an 'annual report' outlining its activities over the previous year.

At the January meeting it was the turn of the Communications Group which has responsibility for the design, creation and distribution of all forms of promotional material. The Acting Convener of this Group is Alison Bruce. She thanked all those who had given a flyer to a friend, forwarded a link on our website, shared our Facebook posts, invited friends to a Facebook event, retweeted something or simply told someone about something at StAGW. Word of mouth and word of mouse is powerful in promoting who we are and what we do.

Elders received proposals and updates from the other Working Groups. The Wider Horizons Group put forward a schedule for Fellowship Lunches for all of 2020 which was approved. The Group also provided a helpful (and impressive) summary of the long-standing relationship with Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) and proposed a set of recommendations for continued support, which was also approved. This includes a recommendation that "the congregation is given opportunities to support raising a minimum of £2,000 for MMH and its work". This would be in addition to any financial support from the dedicated Benevolent Fund.

The life of St Andrew's and St George's West as an active church is subject to review by the Presbytery of Edinburgh every 5 years. Our review became due last year but has been postponed to this spring in light of the vacancy. To inform the review team led by our friend Rev John Cowie of Stockbridge Parish Church, we are required to submit written evidence of how we maintain a healthy

balance between worship, discipleship, evangelism, service and fellowship at StAGW. The Conveners of the Working Groups drew up this body of evidence and, after some corrections and additions at this meeting, it was approved for submission. It is a useful and comprehensive summary of all of our work. If you would like to have a copy, please contact me.

For those who were present at the 11am service on 15th December 2019, you will remember witnessing and celebrating the ordination and admission of 7 new Elders. A special moment in the proceedings for this first Session meeting of the year was to welcome these 7 to their inaugural Session meeting and to invite them to sign the 'Burgh Book'. This is a record of all Elders ordained and admitted to the 14 historic Burgh churches of Edinburgh and it dates back, incredibly, to 1690!



New elder Dorothy Tarrant signs the historic Burgh Book

Malawi Review 2020

Alison Campbell on behalf of Wider Horizons

It was agreed by the Kirk Session that a review of the relationship with Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) in Malawi and associated projects and proposals for the future would be made by Wider Horizons Group. The congregation has always had strong links with Malawi through members who worked in Malawi, and visits by various members of the Mulanje Mission community, the latest being Dr Arie Glas, Medical Director in March 2019. 8 members of the congregation visited Mulanje for the David Livingstone Bicentenary in 2013.

What we have helped

The support of our congregation has included projects which are harder to fund:

1. Post-graduate degrees for hospital staff
2. Support for health and nutrition clinics in Mulanje Prison
3. "Bed Fund" i.e. general funding towards annual hospital costs
4. Funding for orchard planting and gardens, beekeeping, food preserving
5. School uniform and equipment for orphans
6. Replacing toilet/latrine blocks following flooding

Funding has come from fellowship lunches, and other sources.

£	Total	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
General Fund	12,186.69	100		1,174	4,304	1,723	1,854	669	2,362.69
External Causes Fund	27,158	7,103	3,000	5,850	4,200	4,200		2,805	
Benevolent Fund	9,169					3,426	3,483	1,260	1,000
Mission Fund	2,068							2,068	
Totals	50,581.69	7,203	3,000	7,024	8,504	9,349	5,337	6,802	3,362.69

Aim of partnership

The relationship with Mulanje Mission Hospital is complementary to other congregational efforts including Christian Aid and was always aimed at ensuring that both partners benefited from the interchange of information, friendship and knowledge as well as funding.

Positive outcome of relationship

- Deeper understanding of the health, educational, social and economic problems of the country and the area, and the difficulties of giving effective help
- Ongoing first-hand information and reassurance that funding is secure and well used
- Recognition of the support of others including Scottish universities and schools, EMMS, Canadian and Dutch reformed churches, the Church of Scotland in Amsterdam
- Development of a deep-seated love of the country, its people and its wildlife
- A positive view of our intentions, on the part of the people we have got to know in Mulanje

Arguments for and against continuing

Against continuing:

1. We have put a certain amount of money and effort into MMH for almost 8 years.
2. Our main effort in overseas aid as a congregation continues to be for Christian Aid, who also do work in Malawi although not in Mulanje.
3. The amounts we give are relatively small and may not make a significant difference to the general state of living of people in Mulanje district.

For continuing:

1. We have built up a considerable body of knowledge about MMH and its needs
2. We know and trust local people, including senior hospital staff and church office-bearers
3. Funding is most useful when it is consistent, flexible, not tied to a particular type of project, and not demanding of photogenic, fashionable or tangible outcomes.
4. We have a historic congregational interest in prisoners, and in the administration of justice.

5. We are a forward-thinking, knowledgeable congregation who understand overseas funding.
6. Our work in Mulanje formed part of our Local Church Review and a new LCR is expected.
7. We have built good and fruitful relationships with Stockbridge Church, the Mamie Martin Fund, the Soko Fund and World Mission at 121 and the Scotland Malawi Partnership.
8. MMH and the new Medical Director value the relationship and our support of less popular projects as well as specific and emergency needs.
9. A Benevolent Fund grant of £1,000 for prison clinics in 2020 was approved by the Session.

Recommendations

1. That a sub-group is set up to look at increasing fundraising activity, and strengthening relations with other funders including Stockbridge Parish Church.
2. That the congregation is given opportunities to raise £2,000 p.a. (in addition to any Benevolent Fund grant aid).
3. That consideration is given to a further congregational visit to Malawi
4. That a further review of the relationship is made in December 2022

Save the Date! **Malawi Coffee Morning** **Sat 23 May, 10am to 1pm**

Supporting maternal health and baby nursery at Mulanje Mission Hospital, and other projects including sustainable development.



Chigodi - 40 years on

Jennifer Dunlop



Thank you for the stamps you collected for the World Mission Stamp Appeal - they filled a large rucksack! All these stamps are sorted - collections, unusual, valuable, imperfect – and sold, and the rest re-cycled for craft paper.



Funds raised in 2019 supported **Chigodi Women's Centre** - the only residential training Centre for women and girls in Southern Malawi.

For Walter and I there is a personal perspective to this initiative. For the seven years of our life and work in Malawi, living not more than 15 minutes away, we were closely involved with the Centre. Walter secured funding from around the world for the Centre's development, using it to build housing, classrooms, and importantly, chicken runs!



Today, Chigodi Centre is a vital practical resource for the work of Blantyre Synod in which the place of women in society and in the church has a much greater profile than when we went to work there in 1980. In those days there were no women ministers and a handful of women elders, a reflection, if you like, of the status of women as a whole at that time.

With 8 staff, the Centre runs courses in training in practical skills ranging from the development of worship and Bible Study guides - to business management, community development, leadership, food and nutrition, health and sanitation.

To the girls and women of Blantyre Synod the "Chigodi experience" is life changing for the Individual, for the Home, for Society and for the Church - and your fantastic response to this year's Stamp Appeal helps it to continue. Thank you.

Meet the Thompson Girls

Moira Dunworth, Mamie Martin Fund

Phyllis and Jack Thompson were members of St Andrew's and St George's West. At Phyllis' memorial service here on 1st August 2018 Rev. Ken Ross launched the Thompson Scholarship Fund appeal on behalf of the Thompson family and the Scotland Malawi Partnership.

Just over a year later, Jack and Phyllis' youngest granddaughter, 6-year-old Alice, has created a project about 'giving' in which she has used this Fund to illustrate the joys of 'giving'.

Her two-page project is beautifully decorated with a photo of her grandparents, of the three girls whose secondary school fees are paid by the Fund, the Malawi flag and the Mamie Martin Fund logo.

Alice writes:

In Malawi, which is in Africa, many girls don't get to go to school. This is because they are poor and often get married too young. Also they have to stay at home and do chores for their families. The Mamie Martin charity helps Malawian girls go to school.

One fund in the Mamie Martin charity is the Thompson Scholarship Fund. This is in memory of my Grandma and Grandpa who lived and worked in Malawi for many years.

These three girls are called: Funny, Deborah and Mary. They are the first three girls to be sent to school by the fund. These girls are also deaf.

It would have been very hard for them to go to school without the fund. I am really happy that they get to go to school like me.

by Alice Thompson



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By Alice Thompson.

Isn't that amazing and heart-warming? The Thompson Fund has started to support girls in Malawi, as Alice has written.



All three are at the same school, the CCAP Secondary School for Deaf Children in Embangeni. The Loudon Mission was established in

1902 at Embangeni by the Rev. Donald Fraser, about whose work Jack Thompson was a recognised expert, so it is particularly fitting that the 'Thompson Girls' should be at school there.

These girls will be at secondary school for six years, rather than the four which is more usual in Malawi. This is because of the many barriers to their education – as Alice has written, the girls are deaf. You can watch a video of them chatting by sign language on the Mamie Martin Fund website or on YouTube.

<https://youtu.be/XZI2arHoAZw>



The Thompson Scholarship Fund was set up in the anticipation of a four-year support of three girls and has reached its target. However, these girls need support for six years and so the fund-raising page will remain open and that

is found here: <http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/ThompsonScholarship>

The Mamie Martin Fund is committed to supporting all its beneficiaries until they complete their schooling and these Thompson girls are no exception – they will be supported for six years. You can learn more about the work of the Mamie Martin Fund on their website <https://mamiemartin.org>



Living Lent Eco-Tips

Alison Campbell, Wider Horizons Group

Reduce your plastic use

in Newington: The Refillery – refill your own containers with a wide range of groceries. 39 Newington Road, Edinburgh, 0131 667 6287
<https://therefillery.co.uk/pages/find-us>

in Stockbridge: Scotmid Coop in Raeburn Place - a new initiative for the Coop; self-service dispensers for dry goods including porridge oats, rice, pasta etc. Take your own containers or use theirs. Goods provided by Greencity Wholefoods, Glasgow-based. This is a trial, so do encourage them by using it.

Herbie's of Stockbridge will refill your own containers with their range of pâtés. They also stock organic non-homogenised whole milk from Mossiel, Ayrshire in glass bottles, with 20p return on the bottle.

in Goldenacre: Goldenacre Pharmacy has self-dispensing shampoo, washing up liquids etc. Take your own 200 ml containers

Recycling in our parish

Clarks take used or unwanted shoes, and work in partnership with UNICEF for children's education <https://www.clarks.co.uk/unicef> They also re-use materials and make gym bags out of plastic bottles

T.K.Maxx will take a bag of used clothing, accessories and household goods to help Cancer UK children's research
<https://www.tkmaxx.com/uk/en/give-up-clothes-for-good>

H&M will give a 10% offer for any used clothes or their own beauty product containers

<https://hmgroupp.com/sustainability/Planet/recycling.html>

(Note that these major chains may not always follow best practice in employment etc and it is always better to buy less and use charity shops.)

Nan Brownlie takes clean foil milk bottle tops: **Jennifer Dunlop** will take used stamps: **Wider Horizons** will take all your recommendations for sustainable and plastic-free shopping ideas!

Notes from 9.45

Come and see! Alison Campbell and Jane Brown

The theme of our service was “**Come and see**” – Jesus’s words in John chapter 1. We were asked to imagine that we have a short time to speak of our faith and what Jesus means to us – to set down in simple language our core belief. Here are some things we came up with. What would **you** say?

be fair
love others
forgive

live abundantly, love wastefully and
be all that God wants you to be
(Jack Spong)



Re-learning
humility

not an institution
but a path to life

Jesus was the perfect
example of how people
should behave towards
each other – he said –
*Love one another as I
have loved you*

we are challenged to
live following Jesus
example



What's in a Word?

Moira and Gordon Mungall with Nick Evans

Overheard on a train recently: “The playground doesn’t have a ‘disability’ swing, it has an ‘ability’ swing. It’s not even called an ‘accessible’ swing.” Even though I tried to tune out this conversation the speaker was so excited by this seemingly semantic/pedantic point that I had to listen. Our choice of words was also an important point made by Gordon and Moira Mungall when they led a workshop entitled *Disability and Equality* in November.

Of course, it most definitely is not a matter of semantics. As Moira and Gordon pointed out, we have to consider the words we use because they can convey our negative or positive attitudes, and our attitudes affect how we value people.

Many aids such as handrails, automatic lights, ramps, chairs and even printed Orders of Service are not labelled as “disabled aids” because they are there to help everyone. And by everyone we have to include the 13.9 million people in the UK who are disabled in one way or another. So it’s hardly a minority issue, though many people are known to hide their disability. Some other surprising statistics we heard were that only 8% of disabled people are born with a disability, the rest acquire it; 92% of disabled people live in their own homes and 8% are children.

Many people's awareness of disability is limited because as a society we are geared towards people whose bodies and minds are fully functioning. Disability is frequently treated as an exceptional circumstance which requires 'special' and in the main, 'separate provision' which often serves only to maintain the divisions and the lack of understanding between many non-disabled and disabled people.

Moira and Gordon described two ways of looking at disability. Firstly, a so-called "medical" model in which an impairment is said to require separate facilities and thus those people are separated from everyone else. i.e. the disabled are hidden. Secondly, a "social" understanding in which society's attitudes prevail. The latter understanding gives society a choice and the responsibility for addressing the issues faced by people with a disability, while the former blames the individual. Hopefully you can see that blame is not a valid way to respond and it is the way society behaves which is crucial for disabled people.

The workshop concluded with two exercises to help us understand disability. In one, working in pairs, one person had to draw a series of shapes according to instructions from the other. This showed how hard it is to do something when you can hear but not see what is being described, and you have to completely trust the other person.

The other workshop focused on visual impairments by using simulation glasses. The set of spectacles simulated the effects of the most common causes of visual impairments including Retinal Degeneration, Tunnel Vision and Hazy vision. The group tried on the different glasses then talked about the effects and acuity losses associated with the conditions.

Moira and Gordon closed with a message which we can all remember:

"Disability is not a minority problem it's a fact of everyday life for everyone in society".



Tower Captain Annie (left) with some of our current band

Meet our new Tower Captain

Hello, my name's Annie Brechin and I am very happy to have been elected the new Tower Captain for the bells at St Andrew and St George West, taking over from Simon Aves. I originally learnt to ring in Suffolk where I grew up. Work took me abroad for a few years (to Prague, Paris and Dubai) but I was able to return to the UK in 2018 to study my Masters at Edinburgh Napier, and recommenced ringing regularly.

It's an honour to ring on the oldest complete ring of bells in Scotland on a weekly basis. We ring on Sundays for service of course but also practice on a Monday night. We are always looking for new recruits so if you want to have a go, don't be shy, contact us and we can arrange a taster session.

You can read below the outgoing tower captain's report for 2019 – I hope this will give a flavour of our activities for the curious! A highlight of this year's ringing at St Andrew's and St George's West was the peal of Jovium Surprise Major rung to mark the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings and to welcome the new Minister, Rosie Magee. The peal was one of a series that have been rung in our tower and at Alloa involving members of our band, and organised by Mike Clay. The Central Council of Bellringers' designated 'Methods of the Month' for 2019 and this is the only band in the world that has rung a peal of each such 'method of the month' during the month in question.

As in previous years we have welcomed a number of visiting bands from outside Edinburgh to St Andrew's & St George's West. We ring regularly after the Sunday morning service and also for weddings and funerals, although there have been no weddings requiring bells this year. Practices continue to take place every Monday, with the exception of August when the church is in use as an Edinburgh Festival venue.

The primary function of the bells group is to provide a joyous sound of ringing bells as worshippers emerge from the Sunday 11 am service. We have been able to ring at least six of the eight bells on the majority of Sundays, even during holiday periods and on Christmas morning. Generally we have managed to ring three good touches each Sunday, including some call changes while we wait for the choir to emerge from the gallery, and two more pieces of about five to seven minutes duration each; one of which has usually been Stedman Triples.

We were pleased so many people, especially members of our church choir, took the opportunity to visit the belfry this year, to see the bells up close and to hear an explanation of how change-ringing works and a little of the history of the bells of our church.

During the year there have been seven peals rung on the bells, including the peal marking the D-Day landings.

Like to know more about ringing? Contact our Tower Correspondent at [sta_stg\[at\]sacr.org](mailto:sta_stg@sacr.org)

Choice

At the end of the day,
most people would choose to stay
just where they are.

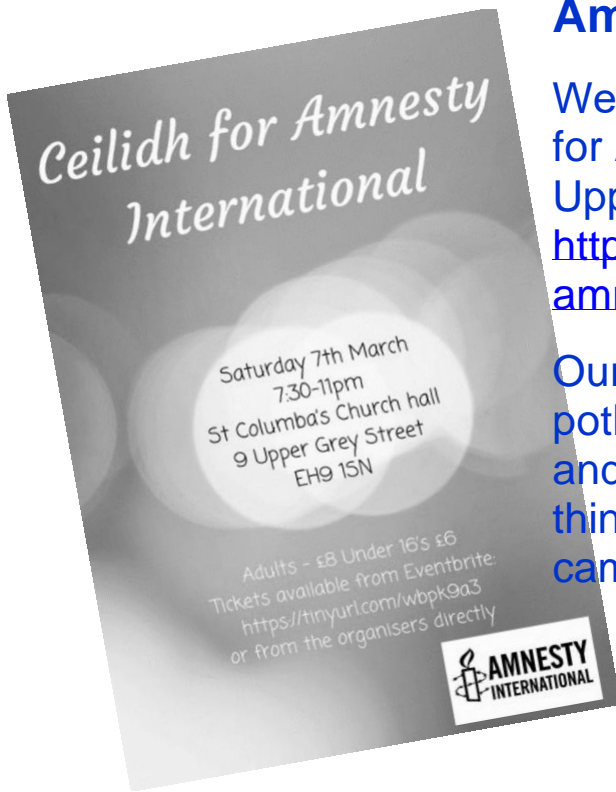
Who wants to downsize the car,
or dim the lights
or do away with the annual
long haul holiday?

Most of us live in denial anyway.
We turn a blind eye
and continue to enjoy
our own inimitable lifestyle.

There may not be long to go.

We know all too well
that the future is beckoning,
when we drop off our perch,
it's our children and grandchildren
who must face the reckoning.

Bill Donaldson with kind permission.



Amnesty@StAGW

We're helping to run a ceilidh to raise funds for Amnesty. **Sat 7 March** at St Columba's Upper Gray Street. Great fun! Tix <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ceilidh-for-amnesty-international-tickets-91163860561>

Our **AGM on Sunday 26 March** includes a potluck supper – all Amnesty group members and friends are invited. We get up to lots of things – Write for Rights, Amnesty Jazz and campaigning on the portico – come and join us!

Speak to **Katie McNeill** or **Ruth Forrester**.

Travelling Hopefully

If you've ever wanted to walk the **Camino de Santiago** or know someone who does, don't miss **Arthur Chapman's** workshop **here on Sat 4 April**.



Earth Hour

A new friend from Taize Time invites us to a peaceful vigil for Earth Hour with music, poetry and candles. **Sat 28 Mar 8.30pm** at Edinburgh City Chambers

Camino Practical Pilgrim Day

Organised by the Confraternity of Saint James



Presentations, workshops, information

Saturday 4th April 2020
10.30am - 3.30pm

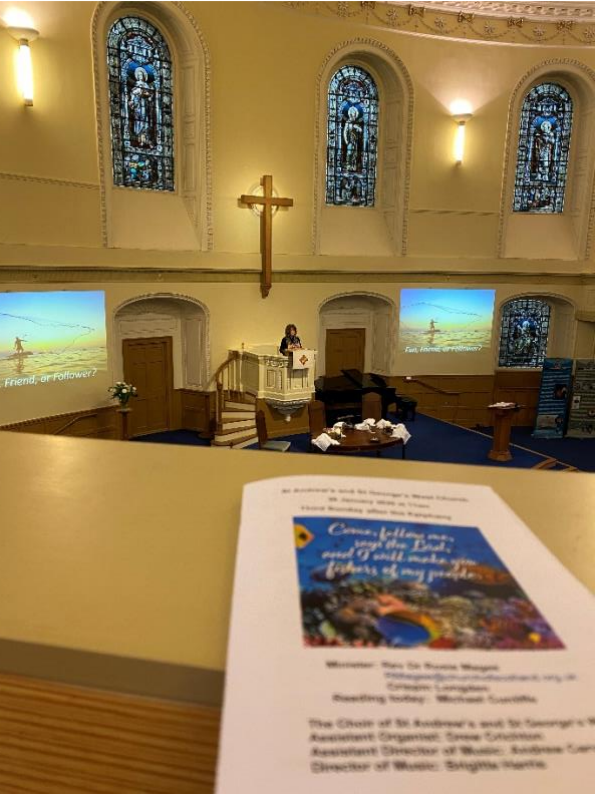
St Andrew's & St George's West Church (Undercroft café),
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

£7 Entry fee (£5 CSJ Members)
Tea / coffee provided. Please bring your own lunch.

To register please visit:
<https://www.csj.org.uk/events/edinburgh-practical-pilgrim-day-2020/>



Life in Community



In January we celebrated 10 years of the union of St Andrew's and St George's and St George's West



In December we ordained and admitted 7 new elders



In February we caught up with new friends from Bikes for Refugees, Canongate Youth and The Yard who shared donations of £4,000 from the Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival ...

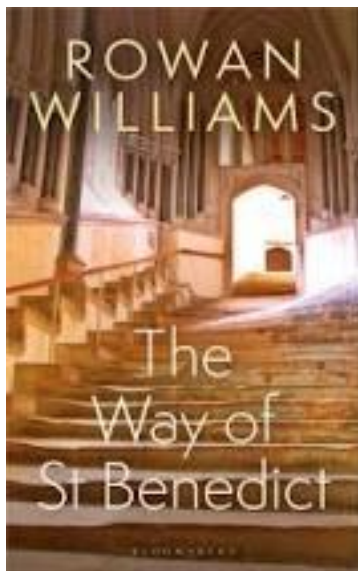


... and shared bread together and raised funds for good causes at Fellowship lunches

Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce

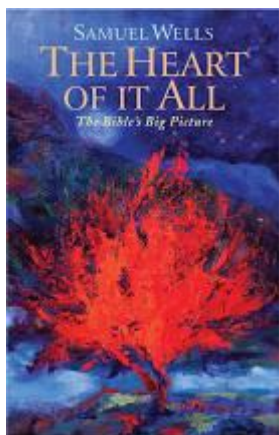
The Way of St. Benedict by Rowan Williams £12.99



Saint Benedict's Rule has informed the lives of people beyond those of his own Order for fifteen hundred years. In this, his latest book, Rowan Williams looks at areas of our lives today through the lens of what he describes as the "undramatic but transformative power of Benedict's wisdom". The Rule, he says, is not a set of legal dictums but a practical guide to living well in community, one where we "learn to sit still with whatever company arrives, in the confidence that God in Christ sits still with us." In a world which seems to many of us broken fragile, this way of attending to one another,

he argues, is crucial and with chapters on Ecumenism and Europe his scope of where such wisdom might be applied is far-reaching.

The Heart of it All by Samuel Wells £9.99



Sam Wells' latest offering is a back-to-basics introduction to the Bible and how it might be read. Retelling what he considers to be the 'soul' of both old and new testaments in narrative form, he presents what can be seen as a daunting set of books as "A single story – a love story between God, creation and humanity". The essential themes are summarised in eighteen brief chapters, followed by an equally brief commentary of just thirteen pages! A six-part study guide is also included making

this not only an ideal book for those new to the bible but also a pithy companion for those wishing to consider again what lies at its heart. Great for groups or individuals.

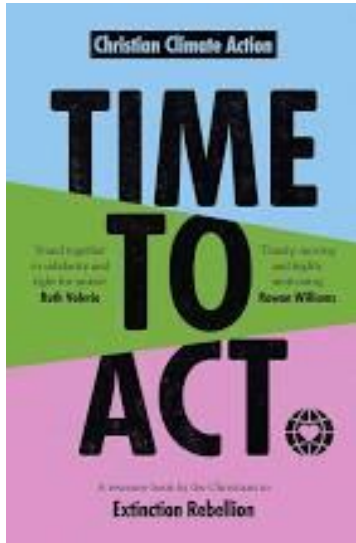
Cornerstone Books

Open 10am – 5.30pm Monday – Saturday

St John's Church Terrace, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

Tel 0131 229 2776 e edinburgh@cornerstonebooks.org.uk

Time to Act by members + friends of Christian Climate Action £9.99



Climate Change has come to the forefront of agendas both political and personal and there is much being written in response. This book is based on that which was published last summer, 'This Is Not a Drill – an Extinction Rebellion Handbook,' (written to inspire and empower ordinary people to demand government action). The Christian Climate Action group who have compiled it are committed to non-violent action and here set out the moral and religious case for joining the fight against the biggest issue facing humanity today. Alongside stories to

encourage from those engaged in the protest movement this book provides resource material for worship including prayers, sermons and liturgies and is filled with suggestions of how to motivate congregations and individuals into action.

The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch £12.99



40 years since it was first published, this is a superb new edition of the inspiring story which turns fairy-tale stereotypes on their head, yet still has a happy ending!

When a dragon attacks, Elizabeth loses everything – her castle and all her clothes are burnt and the handsome prince Ronald, to whom she is engaged is kidnapped – but

Elizabeth is one feisty princess and isn't going to let this beat her. With only a paper bag to wear, she sets out and, using her cunning, she outwits the dragon, is reunited with her beloved and learns an important lesson about love and self-respect.

Alongside the story, this edition also contains a commentary on the impact the feminist princess has had on the generations of readers who have met her and contains insights from the author on what led to the legendary story being written in the first place.

Tired of working at home or on your own? Fancy a change?

JOIN US FOR CORNERSTONE COWORKING

1st Wednesday of every month
10:00 - 14:00 in the Cornerstone Café

4th March - 1st April - 6th May

www.facebook.com/groups/ccedinburgh/

WORK PLACE CHAPLAINCY SCOTLAND
Listening & caring - in confidence



Due to retirement, WPCS is looking to recruit a National Director who will have an exciting opportunity to build on the organisation's transformative and transitional journey which ensures the continuation of its vital and relevant work in supporting and encouraging the wellbeing of our Scottish workplaces.

Work Place Chaplaincy Scotland currently provides chaplaincy services to some 2000 workplaces across Scotland. It is a Christian organisation working with all denominations and with excellent relations with most other faith groups. Every day our dedicated team of Chaplains provide spiritual and pastoral support to workers regardless of race, gender, faith, ethnicity or political ideology. We work with Churches, charities, emergency services, local authorities and businesses large and small. We offer an independent caring presence as well as training and guidance to build wellbeing within individuals and organisations.

This person will have a diverse range of business skills including income generation, strategic planning and ability to engage with a diverse range of workplaces and organisations to build partnerships and a sustainable future. An active Christian faith (this is a Genuine Occupational Requirement in terms of the Equality Act 2010) is required.

If you possess this right mix of skills and experience coupled with high levels of drive and enthusiasm, we look forward to receiving an application from you. For a job description and person specification please contact: info@wpcscotland.co.uk.

CLOSING DATE: Friday 20th March 2020

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 2020

22 February 10.30am–12.30pm

28 March 10.30am–12.30pm *

25 April 10.30am–12.30pm *

30 May 10.30am–12.30pm *

27 June 10.30am–12.30pm

26 September 10.30am–12.30pm

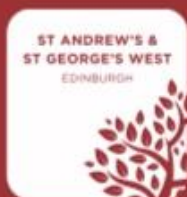
31 October 10.30am–12.30pm *

28 November 10.30am–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

13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

Tel: 0131 225 3847

stagw.org.uk



stagw



stagw1

Scottish Charity No. SC008990



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

EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847

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 Dr Rosie Magee**
RMagee[at]churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral care **Rev Colin Douglas**
colin.r.douglas[at]gmail.com

Session Clerk **Crispin Longden**

Joint Treasurers **John Innes**
Allan Sim

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 **Karen Jackson**
0131 225 3847 admin[at]stagw.org.uk

Safeguarding **Barbara Finlayson**

Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

TOGETHER Chair **Rev Peter Sutton, St Cuthbert's**

TOGETHER Trustees from StAGW: Rev Dr Rosie Magee (vice chair)
Helen Cox, George Russell, Diana Thurston-Smith

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

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh
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