



St Andrew's and St George's West Magazine May 2015



How can I
keep from
singing?

May 2015

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Enjoy the newsletter - many thanks to all contributors. The magazine is published monthly, in advance, to keep our community in touch with what is happening and to reflect its many facets.

June copy deadline: Monday 25 May

Magazine(at)stagw.org.uk

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The Lord and the Servant

Ian Gilmour, Minister

This picture is a very powerful sixteenth century image of the Lord and the Servant. I saw it recently in Pollock House in Glasgow. It has this text underneath:



Look at this picture thoroughly. Here the lord and the servant are riding, the lord on a poor animal, the servant with the utmost splendour and pomp the lord is wearing a crown of thorn, the servant a triple golden crown the lord was poor in this world, the servant has great power and riches the lord has nothing to rest his head upon, the servant is carried on other people's shoulders.

The lord washed the feet of his disciples,
the servant has people kiss his feet
the lord suffered much shame and mockery
the servant has other people honour him like God
the lord has mercy upon us for nothing,
the servant sells forgiveness and favour
therefore notice through this example, how their doctrines and
lives compare
and infer from this unhesitatingly, that the servant is the enemy of
the lord."

I referred to it in a recent sermon on the Good Shepherd, making the point that if the Pope is seen as the ultimate Good

Shepherd of the church on earth, what he says and does affects every church on earth. So we need to watch and challenge so that the whole church can be all it can be.

Jerry Slevin, the outspoken Catholic international lawyer, makes the following contribution,

“Many lifetime indoctrinated Catholics may behave as “dumb sheep” at times - I did, but few of them in the Internet Age remain as “blind sheep”. Francis has media managed well and expensively, and changed the subject for a while, with mixed messages, vague promises, staged trips and photo ops, but the “mystical curtain” is being lifted, especially by brave abuse survivors and persistent reformers who refuse to quit. Now at least four principled and impatient lay members of the pope’s “go slow” sex abuse commission, that was intended apparently by the Vatican mainly to diffuse the sex abuse scandal at least until after next year’s crucial USA presidential elections, are publicly balking at their inconsequential, even illusory, roles. Papal apologists are predictably trying to isolate them as “lone actors”, yet even a cursory review of worldwide Catholics’ opinions indicate these prophetic members speak for hundreds of millions of outraged Catholics who care about protecting children.”

The lesson for all Christians and the whole church is that the time for hiding behind pomp, privilege and powerful friends is passing. We have to deal with the issues. The Pope follows directly in a line from Peter whose brave conversations with Christ reshaped him and the early church. That early church was a noisy authentic community which endured many disagreements, but faced the issues. We are moving painfully towards those days again and I for one am relieved. The whole church on earth is connected and needs Pope Francis to face the issues of abuse by priests, welcoming gay people, supporting divorced people and allowing women to flourish throughout the church.

Let us prayerfully and noisily support our friends in the Roman Catholic Church as they work through their issues and let us not refrain from working through our own. We will keep the our

ecumenical flames alive as join together with our ecumenical partners in 'Together' when we worship with St Cuthbert's in St John's on Trinity Sunday 31 May at 10.30am.

Relish facing the 'live' issues in your own lives and enjoy life in its fullness

Ian

Worship Patterns

We often have the metaphor of winter to describe faith in the modern age. The luxuriant growth of devotions and secondary beliefs, all these leaves and fruits that unfurled in the season when Christianity was dominant in the culture, have fallen away. The trees are left bare and the cold wind blows. In such a season, belief must get back to basics. It will not do to spend energy on what is peripheral and unessential, as if it were high summer. To survive, people of faith need to return to the centre, to the inmost core that alone can nourish and warm the heart in winter. In this situation there is only one big issue, and that is the question of God.

Elizabeth A. Johnson

*Emmanuel: God for us.
God who in the triune being,
in the fullness of the Godhead,
is the essence of all favour,
the source and stream and sea
of everything that is good,
of all light and life and joy.
To say God is to say eternal benefit.*

Karl Barth

Worship themes and readings

Sunday 3 May	11am Impoverished or Full Life? Reading John 15:1-8
Sunday 10 May	11am The Great Dance Reading John 15: 9-17
Sunday 17 May	11am Flourish... Reading Psalm 1
Sunday 24 May	11am Pentecost Sunday Reading Acts 2:1-21
Sunday 31 May	10.30am Trinity Sunday Annual Together Joint Service at St John's Reading Isaiah 6:1-8
Sunday 7 June	11am What We Hear Reading 1 Samuel 8:4-11, 16-20

Worship can strengthen and transform...

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!

St Andrew's & St George's West May Diary

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

From Fri 1 May	Christian Aid Sale preparations The church is open for extended hours to receive, sort and price donations of books and other items to be sold. The church will be open Monday-Friday 9am-9pm and on Saturday 10am-5pm.
Sun 3 May	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship, 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) We will be worshipping in The Undercroft today as the sanctuary is devoted to preparations for the Christian Aid Sale
Mon 4 to Fri 8 May	Christian Aid Sale preparations The church is open to receive, sort and price donations of books and other items to be sold. The church will be open Monday-Friday 9am-9pm and on Saturday 10am-5pm.
Sat 9 May	Opening Day of the 2015 Christian Aid Sale throughout the church 10am-4pm
Mon 11 to Fri 15 May	Christian Aid sale throughout the church. 10am-3pm, late opening Thurs until 7pm.
Sun 17 May	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15) The Boys Brigade and their Silver Band will attend this service 2.30pm Affirmation Scotland – Praying for an Inclusive Church

Tues 19 May	9.30 – 11.30 Little Ducks Club Undercroft Café 7 – 9pm Rushford Hymns Tour concert
Wed 20 May	5.30 – 6.30pm Edinburgh Quartet Rush Hour Concert
Sun 24 May	9am Communion (spoken liturgy) 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship 10.30am Sunday Discussion Group (adults) 11am Morning Worship (Bright Sparks for children from 11.15)
Mon 25 May	12.15 - 1pm Amnesty Undercroft Group
Tues 26 May	9.30-11.30 Little Ducks Club Undercroft Café parents and toddlers
Wed 27 May	7.30pm Kirk Session meeting
Fri 29 May	1pm Open meeting with Dr Clare Shakespeare about Mulanje Mission Hospital , in the Undercroft
Sat 30 May	12 – 1pm Jubilo Choir lunchtime concert in aid of Enable Scotland
Sun 31 May	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together - all age worship 10.30 am TOGETHER service for Trinity Sunday at St John's Episcopal, Princes Street; Communion Service Please note change of time

“Justice and judgment lie often a world apart”
(Emmeline Pankhurst)

Remember to vote!

Children and Families news



The next Messy Church will be on
Saturday 13 June, 10am until
12.30pm

Future dates are Saturday 19th September and 14th
November

Fun-in-the-Courtyard

Wednesdays in July 11.30am

www.stagw.org.uk

Each Wednesday in July a different activity will take place in the East Courtyard - for children of all ages! Activities will last around an hour and a half and those who attend will be given a voucher to use in the café. Keep an eye on our website for details.

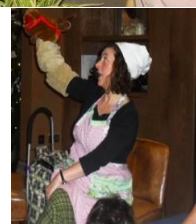
1st July Creating a Garden

Making garden boxes using plants
at different stages – with staff
from the Botanical Gardens



8th July Action tale of food
and history

Mrs Mash returns to tell a story and sing
rhymes with a healthy living theme



15th July

Songs for Families

Frances Cooper runs a fun, singing session
for youngsters



22nd July

The Puppet State Theatre Company perform
their acclaimed show in the sanctuary



29th July

Noah's Ark

Angela Grant brings a favourite bible story to life in Godly play

**5th
August**

Eat What We Grew

Digging up our produce to make some healthy eating dishes
with Jean and the Team



Caitlin and Matthew Wright have been awarded their Green Target and Bronze award badges. Congratulations to them on the very hard work they have put in over the year of BB/GA.

Dalry Primary School Art Club

Angela (Child, Youth & Family Worker) has started an Art club for P1 children at Dalry Primary School on Monday afternoons. This is proving a very successful outreach to the community. Thanks go to Helen Cox for building up a good relationship with the school. Grant Gilles the head teacher at Dalry is delighted with the church partnership, as he told the Kirk Session at their recent meeting, and pupils from Dalry also enjoyed a tour of StAGW recently as part of their religious education.



Bright Sparks as ever!

News ...

from the Church Manager, Jean Howard

Boiler replacement

The removal and replacement of the central heating boiler is due to take place immediately after the book sale, with the aim of a completion date before the Fringe programme. To protect us from mess and minimise noise during the project, a nicely painted partition will be erected around the entrance to the boiler room, gas-meter cupboard and chapel, incorporating about half of the raised area. While the asbestos is being removed, which should be the week after the Sale, the **cafe** will be **closed**. The **chapel and the Undercroft Café east door will be out of use until the work is complete**. We will post clear notices on both the Undercroft door and the top of the ramp. We hope to keep you informed of progress.

CARPET REPLACEMENT

The middle section of the sanctuary carpet has now been successfully replaced and although the new piece is darker, within a few months the difference will be negligible.

RUBBISH!

We no longer have a waste bin on Thistle Street Lane. All our rubbish, in clearly marked orange 'Changeworks' bags, goes into the black bins outside the back kitchen corridor. It is important to ensure that only FULL bags are placed in the black bins and that NOTHING is placed in the black bins which is not enclosed in an orange bag. After a congregational event, it would probably make sense to leave any small amounts of rubbish in waste paper bins or in black bags inside the building, but if there is a large amount, please take an orange bag from the laundry room by the ladies' toilets and fill this FULL - before tying the top and placing in one of the bins.....and please remember to lock the external door when you re-enter the building!

Buttons, Beads And Buckles -

Is there a box lying in the corner of your drawer or cupboard filled with buttons or beads and the odd buckle which you kept in case you found a use for it sometime? We could use them now, especially if they are antique, unusual, retro or very attractive. Please have a look and give them to any of our members or contact me. Thank you.
Maggie Morley

Head held high...!

I'm not always a fan of technology. I take ages to answer emails. I don't always manage to order exactly what I want online, having once ended up with enough lentils to keep an army of vegetarians fed for 6 months. But I am utterly thrilled by the new system which draws all deaf and hard of hearing people in the 11 o'clock service on Sunday mornings. No need to miss important bits of prayers. I can feel like a fully involved part of the worship. No missed words or even word endings. Every word understood and responses responded to with gusto!

The picture, too, are very telling and add to the meaningfulness of the service. But what I enjoy almost better than anything is being to sing with my head held high. No need to look down at a heavy hymn book. I can sing with all my heart while reading the words on the wall.

Yes, the order of service on the wall is a real joy to me. Is there a chance that, someday soon, the sermon too might find its way onto the wall?

Laura Shepherd

News from Mulanje Mission, Malawi



Primary Health Care Coordinator and a prison warder discussing health inside Mulanje Prison

Dr Ruth Shakespeare has sent The Prison Health Project Report from Mulanje for July 2014 to March 2015. Here is an extract of some of the results:

“ Milestones

- a. The biggest achievement is reduction in mortality and morbidity rate among prisoners; in this quarter we only had one death unlike before when there used to be a death in every month. We have referred 89 prisoners who were very sick to hospital, these referrals and provision of treatment in the prison clinic is making wonders at the prison.
- b. Number water closet toilets have been increased from 11 to 19
- c. There are 2 sanitation buckets in every room unlike before when there was nothing
- d. All 365 prisoners were given tooth paste and tooth brushes to improve oral hygiene

Challenges

Increasing number of Inmates, when we started in July 2014, we only had 280 prisoners which was over its capacity, as of 31st March 2015 there were 365 prisoners”

Please ask any of the following Malawi Group members if you would like to see the full report (James McNeill, Mary Margaret Scott, Ruth Forrester, Alison Campbell). Our congregation continues to support the Hospital's work in the prison.

Running for Mulanje...



Dr Clare Shakespeare (daughter of Ruth) and her brother-in-law Rev Simon Durrant will be running in the Edinburgh Marathon on 31 May to raise funds to buy a new oxygen concentrator for the newborn babies' nursery at Mulanje Mission Hospital. The nursery treats more than 400 babies every year, and was recently commended by

Save the Children for the high standard of care provided. MMH urgently needs a new oxygen concentrator for babies with breathing difficulties - this will cost about £2,000. Clare spent 2 years at Mulanje as medical officer in charge, and was endlessly kind, helpful and informative when our group was in Mulanje, and is now a trainee in obstetrics and gynaecology at Bristol. Simon is married to her sister, is a Church of England curate in Devon and frequent visitor to Mulanje. Clare will also be in the Undercroft on Friday 29 May to talk to us about Mulanje and its needs.

Donations can be made on the Church of Scotland website, <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/mulanjemarathon/222910> or given to any member of the Malawi Group for onward transmission to Clare.

Please support our friends and Mulanje Hospital. For the MMH newsletter, see www.mmh.mw

Emily Walker – So long, farewell, auf wiedersehen, adieu!



Emily has been one of our leading choir sopranos for 7 years, first when she was a student at Napier University and then as a Richard Baxter Choral scholar. With her lovely natural high soprano, she has taken many solos and has been a witty and loyal companion on many happy choir trips including Germany, Appin, and Malta.

She was one of the group that went to Malawi and was an enthusiastic and insightful contributor to the work, music and discussion, during and after the trip; she loved the young people and they loved her back! She is a founder member of the Vintage 12 a cappella group, with Andrew Carvel and Stuart Murray Mitchell. She is moving on to spend some time in Switzerland but we hope she will be back. Sing well wherever you go!

[illegible]

Message from Rev. Colby Kumwenda, University of Livingstonia, Malawi

“Thanks to hear from you and updating me with fresh memories of 13 George Street. I hope book sale for this year will be as successful as that of 2014 where I participated. Indeed I lost my father-in-law on Palm Sunday (29th March, 2015). Which group is coming over here though I know that your trips end in Mulanje. But note that you have a friend in the northern part of Malawi and that is Colby. We are facing famine here because of too much rains in the south and too little rains in the central and northern parts of Malawi. My regards to all in the church.”

SEX, WAR and PAINTING

or THE BIBLE IS **NOT** ENOUGH

A two-part exploration of Christian Revelation in the Bible, Human Reason and Sacred Art:

When the Bible gets it wrong: Sex and War

When the Bible isn't enough: Crib, Cross and Paintings

Two lectures, discussion, and lunch with wine or soft drinks.

Saturday 9 May 10am to 4pm

at St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

led by

Professor David Brown

FBA, FRSE

of St Andrews University

To register (free) contact Dr Stephen Holmes:
stephen.holmes@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk



St John's



CONGREGATIONAL LUNCHES

Members have been organising Congregational lunches usually on the first Sunday of the month for a long time. These fall formally within the remit of the Pastoral Care Committee but are organised by a team including Cathie Donaldson, Agnes Smith, the Taylor family and others. They are greatly appreciated by those who attend and raise considerable sums. There has been a range of causes, including annually our partner project in Malawi, the choir, Mary's Meals and the Together Homeless Project. It has now been agreed that a structure is needed both in the programme and in the procedures involved. We would like to plan the rest of 2015 now, and continue to plan ahead thereafter. The Treasurers and Finance Group have set out suitable procedures.

A charity may be proposed by any member of the Congregation, but must be approved by a sub-committee of the Kirk Session and/or by the Finance Group before approval by the Kirk Session. A lunch might be arranged at short notice provided the Minister approves and retrospective approval is obtained at the next Kirk Session meeting. Anyone proposing a good cause should read the Guidelines, complete an application form from the Church Office and give a copy of the application form either to the Minister, one of the Joint Treasurers (Allan Sim or John Innes), Cathie Donaldson, or myself. The procedures to be followed include recording and banking of funds, and the transfer of them to the beneficiary. Gift Aided donations should also be kept in mind.

With ever increasing scrutiny of all charitable accounts, such procedures are necessary. I am sure we shall continue to enjoy excellent lunches and that many good causes will continue to benefit, and I encourage you to request a lunch for a charity or congregational project of your choice as soon as possible.

James Crerar, Convenor, Pastoral Care Committee.

Events in April

Cantarem Choir from Hollage in Germany



Moderator honours father of modern physics

Rev. John Chalmers received a unique light baton in tribute to the scientist and Kirk elder James Clerk Maxwell, who was honoured at this year's Edinburgh Science Festival. The ceremony was in the church which Maxwell attended while in Edinburgh, St Andrew's and St George's West, adjacent to the statue of James Clerk Maxwell. The baton was specially created by a Scottish company and is travelling around Scotland as a symbol of the UN International Year of Light. James Clerk Maxwell is one of Scotland's greatest scientists, "as bold in his approach to his faith as in his science". His discoveries helped usher in the era of modern physics, laying the foundation for such fields as special relativity and quantum mechanics.

.....in April



Amnesty Group

Members, candidates and passers-by supported the campaign to protect the Human Rights Act on 17 April.

Good news about Celia Primero Ismalej and her 18-month-old son, Jhordan. We wrote to the US authorities last month about these asylum-seekers. After fleeing

Guatemala and seeking US protection, they were held in immigration detention for more than eight months in violation of international law and standards. Celia and Jhordan were granted asylum protection in the USA at their hearing on 7 April. They have now been released and reunited with family members.

The Congregational Photo, April 2015

We have not reproduced this lovely photo here as the size of the magazine cannot do it credit – a small version is on the cover - but please speak to the minister if you would like a copy. While some members and young people were inevitably absent, it is a lovely record of our living church. It was taken by James MacPherson.

And in 1942.....

William and Jean Bradley were married in St Andrew's Church on 3 January 1942. There were sandbags all round the outside of the church.

Jean and William's granddaughter Lauren was married in the church on Saturday 25 April, to David Irvine.

If you have an old, historic or interesting photo, please send it to us...



Pray Now...

The latest book in the popular Pray Now series is based on the theme 'Living Stones', and explores through prayer and meditation the ways in which architecture, landscapes and people inspire us in our relationship with God. A weekly and daily prayer resource of a Bible verse, meditation, morning and evening prayers, additional Scripture reading suggestions and a blessing. The book will be launched to coincide with the Church of Scotland General Assembly's Heart and Soul event which also focuses on the theme Living Stones. £9.99 from St Andrew Press.

Summer Lecture Series in StAGW

Building Strong Communities



Tuesday 2 June 7.30pm Professor Hugh Goddard -

Christian-Muslim Relations: Past, Present, and Building Peaceful Global Community for the Future

Tuesday 9 June 7.30pm Rev. Dr Martin Johnstone

Building community with financially poor people

Tuesday 16 June 7.30pm Rev. Peter Macdonald

Building Christian Community in Scotland

Professor Hugh Goddard is Director of the Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World in Edinburgh. Hugh is the author of 'Christians and Muslims: From Double Standards to Mutual Understanding'.

Martin Johnstone is the secretary of the Church and Society Council of the Church of Scotland, tasked with facilitating the Church's engagement with national, political and social issues. Until 2015, Martin was Priority Areas Secretary of the Church of Scotland and Chief Executive of Faith in Community Scotland .

Peter Macdonald is the Leader of the Iona Community, having been a member of the Community since 1983, more than half his life. Community has informed his faith, challenged his lifestyle and influenced his ministry. Peter was the minister at St George's West Church , Edinburgh.

TOGETHER Events and News

Together Pentecost Ceilidh

St John's Episcopal Church, Princes Street

Saturday 23 May 7-10pm.

Tickets £5 each, 20 per congregation, cost includes meal. BYOB - a drink will be provided.

All ages welcome (no concessions)

Cornerstone Bookshop

seeks people to join the board of directors.

Stephen Holmes of St John's writes -

"While we are working hard to ensure Cornerstone survives the time of the St John's development we would also like to expand the Board of Directors. We are looking for people who have the skills to take some small part in the oversight of the business (lawyers and people with business experience would be particularly welcome) and who also have the human warmth to support our staff. Given the mission of the shop to support all the churches in the city it would be good to broaden the Board, especially to our sister churches in Together."

Please contact the minister or Together trustees if you wish to find out more.

Every week at STAGW

Monday

1pm Daily prayers
7.30pm-9pm Bellringing

Tuesday

9.30 -11.30am Little Ducks
Club for parents/toddlers
10-12 Circle Kinship Carers
Choir sings in the Sanctuary
1pm Communion

Wednesday

1pm Daily prayers
AA meets (Davidson Room)

Thursday

1pm Daily prayers
7.30-9pm Choir practice
(Davidson Room)

Friday

1pm Daily prayers

Sunday

9am Communion
9.30am Choir practice
9.45am Learning Together
10.30am Discussion Group
11am Morning Worship
(including 11.15 Bright
Sparks for children)
12 noon Bellringers

Every month at STAGW

1st Sunday

12 noon Fellowship Lunch

You're also invited to bring a donation of non-perishable food for Fresh Start who help people moving out of homelessness into new accommodation. Wee boxes of breakfast cereal, rice, pasta, tinned soups, tinned veg will all make a difference to someone in the first week of a new tenancy.

3rd Monday

10.30-12 Book Group

3rd Wednesday

10-1 Creative Together
2.30 – 4pm Evergreens

Last Sunday

12 noon Communion

Last Monday

12.15-1pm Undercroft
Amnesty Group

**St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street
Edinburgh EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847
www.stagw.org.uk**

Office open Mon - Fri 10am-3pm
Church open Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm: Sat 11am-2pm
Undercroft Café Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm
Sunday worship 9am, 9.45am, 11am
Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

Minister	Rev Ian Y Gilmour 0131 225 3847 (church)
Joint Session Clerks	George Burgess Katie McNeill
Joint Treasurers	John Innes Allan Sim
Director of Music	Brigitte Harris
Children, family and youth worker	Angela Grant angela(dot)stocks1975(at)btinternet.com
Church manager	Jean Howard 0131 225 3847 churchmanager(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk
Church secretary	Joyce Garland 0131 225 3847 info(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk

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Centre Chaplain tbryer(dot)wpcscotland(at)gmail.com
TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West
Christina Bowen, Frances Cooper and James McNeill

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