

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





May 2017 Magazine

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Editor Alison Bruce



A Letter from lan

To the First Minister...from your parish minister lan Y Gilmour, Minister

As parish minister responsible for Charlotte Square, which includes the official residence of the First Minister of Scotland I thought I should offer some words (of wisdom!) to our First Minister.

I thought it appropriate to write to reflect on two connections between our areas of responsibility in Edinburgh and Scotland during a period of rapid change.

It seems to me we both have

- i) the opportunity to speak to, and to listen to, many different people
- ii) responsibility for children, which, in my opinion, is our biggest responsibility

Changing hearts and minds for the longer term is a difficult task requiring patience, wisdom and discernment. My best thought is to work to create a country which will improve the situation of its children in 100 years' time. I think that church reformers from Martin Luther (exactly 500 years ago) onwards cared about the future and reshaped it by their courageous words and actions. These people suffered and sacrificed for the changes they wished to see within society, through

reforming the church and specifically through improving education for all.

Dean Inge¹ was a wise cleric and professor who lived until the 1950's. His wisdom still resonates with me in today's culture,

The old civilisation, with all the brilliant qualities which make many moderns regret its destruction, rested on too narrow a base. The woman and the slave were left out, the woman especially by the Greeks, and the slave by the Romans.

As First Minister you are a living example of the positive change for women in Scottish society, which is wonderful progress within a single generation. We need to ensure that this progress is maintained. You have also passed legislation which helps those caught in modern slavery and for that I warmly commend you. You clearly have the long term improvement of health and welfare of the poorest in society in mind.

However I wonder if you may be too focussed a single short-term goal, that of independence. Dean Inge's cautionary comment comes from his experience of living through two World Wars:

Patriotism varies, from a noble devotion to a moral lunacy.

Every day, in every era, has the potential for radical change. This era is unique with heightened awareness regarding the UK's leaving the European Union (EU) and a further possible break-up of the United Kingdom, both of which offer opportunities for change.

Counter-balancing this the Christian story in which 100 years is a short timescale and so I suggest we do not hurry towards a second referendum, but allow the Brexit agreement to be unveiled and understood, keeping open Scotland's option for re-establishing EU membership, while at the same time building up the Scottish economy (which is currently weak) and Scottish education (which could be

¹ Editor's note **William Ralph Inge** <u>KCVO</u> (/'ɪŋ/;^[1] 6 June 1860 – 26 February 1954) was an English author, <u>Anglican priest</u>, professor of <u>divinity</u> at <u>Cambridge</u>, and Dean of <u>St Paul's Cathedral</u>, which provided the appellation by which he was widely known, **Dean Inge**. Source Wikipedia.

stronger). Then invite the Scottish people to make their informed choice without the anxiety of making a critical decision in the midst of so much uncertainty.

Dean Inge also had a sense of humour, he once said,

The church is only a secular institution in which the half-educated speak to the half-converted.

and

There are two kinds of fools: one says, "This is old, therefore it is good"; the other says, "This is new, therefore it is better."

He also had some wisdom, which is still quoted by experts on child development,

The proper time to influence the character of a child is about a hundred years before he is born.

I wish you well and hope you enjoy your important role, retain your health and vigour and your desire for a strong Scotland in 2017 as well as considering our children's grandchildren in the next century.

May the Lord bless you and keep you

Ian Y Gilmour

Parish Minister, St Andrew's and St George's West

A prayer in the time of Brexit

Rev Tony Bryer, Associate Minister

O God,

when many feel vindicated and others are anxious and afraid; give to us all the ability to listen to each other, so that together we may renew the life of our nation in harmony with our neighbours.

Give to our leaders the wisdom, compassion and justice to make decisions for the good of all; and to your church the courage to speak out and offer a vision of how all the peoples of Europe may flourish. Amen

in a divided nation facing a challenging and uncertain future,

Worship Strengthens and Transforms

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Christ, so consider joining us Sunday by Sunday. You can attend Communion at 9.00am, the All Age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am or come to all three!

May - June Worship

Sunday 7 May (in the Undercroft)

11am Morning Worship Glad and Generous Hearts Acts 2:42-47

Sunday 14 May (in the Undercroft)

11am Morning Worship Stand Firm Acts 7:55-60

Sunday 21 May (Assembly Sunday)

11am Morning Worship Called Alongside John 14:15–21 Afternoon: Heart and Soul, Princes Street Gardens

Sunday 28 May (Bells Weekend)

8.15am BBC broadcasting service (no 9am Communion) **11am** Morning Worship All my Relations John 17:1–11

Sunday 4 June (Pentecost)

11am Morning Worship Acts 2:1–212-3.30pm All Age Messy Church

The stone which the builders rejected as worthless turned out to be the most important of all.

This was done by the LORD; what a wonderful sight it is!
This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Psalm 118

After all it is those who have a deep and real inner life who are best able to deal with the irritating details of outer life. Deliberately seek opportunities for kindness, sympathy, and patience. All things are perceived in the light of charity, and hence under the aspect of beauty; for beauty is simply reality seen with the eyes of love. **Evelyn Underhill**

Simplicity, clarity, singleness: These are the attributes that give our lives power and vividness and joy as they are also the marks of great art. They seem to be the purpose of God for his whole creation.

Richard Holloway

May 2017 Diary

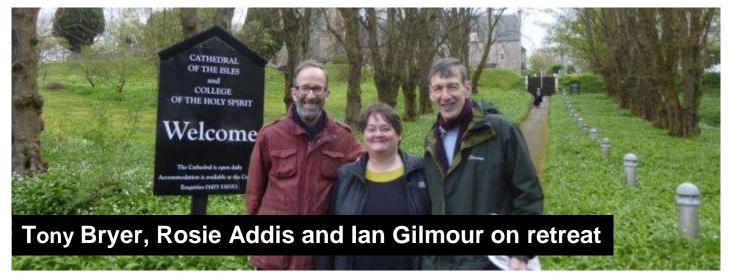
May Lon Diary	
1 –6 May	9am-9pm (Sat 9-5pm)
	Christian Aid sorting and pricing, first week
Sun 7 May	9am, 9.45am, 11am services in the Undercroft
8-12 May	9am-9pm (Sat 9-5pm)
	Christian Aid sorting and pricing, second week
Sat 13 May	10am-4pm First Day of Christian Aid Sale
Sun 14 May	9am, 9.45am, 11am services in the Undercroft
Mon 15- Fri	10am-3.30pm (Thursday until 7pm)
19 May	Christian Aid Sale
Sun 21 May	9am, 9.45am, 11am services (11am with BB
	Silver Band and Guard of Honour)
	1-6pm Heart and Soul, Princes Street Gardens
Mon 22 May	10.30am Book Group meets, Chapel
Wed 24 May	10.30am Creative Together Craft Group meets
	(at Dorothy Mackenzie's home)
	2.30pm Evergreens
	7.30pm Harding Chorus Concert, free
Sun 28 May	8.15am BBC service (no 9am service)
	9.45am and 11am service
Mon 29 May	Bells Conference All Day
	Undercroft Café closed
Wed 31 May	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
•	

June 2017 Diary

Mon 1 June	Rev Peter Sutton's induction at St Cuthbert's
Sun 4 June	Fellowship lunch for StAGW Choir funds
	2-3.30pm All- Age Messy Church
Mon 5 June	Undercroft Amnesty Group meets
Fri 16 June	10-4 On the Button Creative Together Vintage
Sat 17 June	Button sale in aid of Marie Curie
Fri 30 June	6pm Spirituals at Six

Deaths: Dr Andrew Doig on 15th April

New Member: Mrs Catherine (Katie) Anderson



TOGETHER to the West

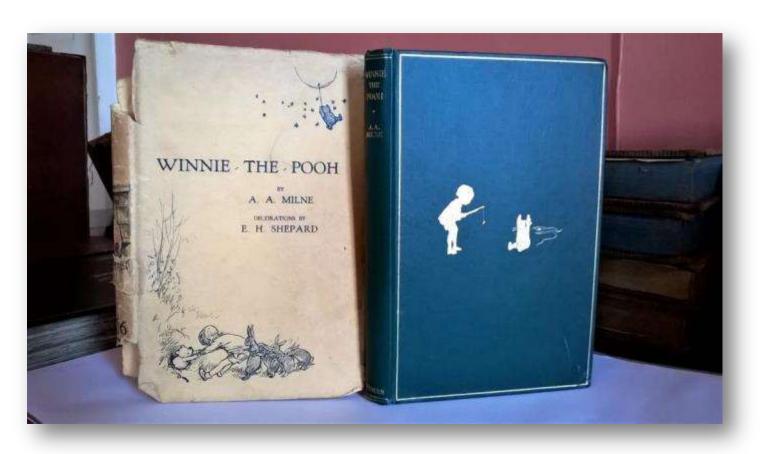
Ian Y Gilmour

The Together ministry team enjoyed our annual post Easter retreat to 'the west'. It was a pleasure to be at the College of Holy Spirit on Cumbrae, while sharing worship twice a day in the cathedral of the isles. Millport was looking relaxed and calm and Spring had certainly sprung with lambs, young rabbits and baby seals catching the eye.

We were able to welcome three new people to their first conference with us - Revd Rosie Addis, minister of Albany church for the deaf, Andy Gregg the new city centre chaplain for Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland and Peter, who is awaiting his induction to St Cuthbert's as parish minister on Thursday 1 June at 7.00pm. It was good to hear their stories and to welcome them into our little band. Markus, Stephen and Clephane were with us from St John's, while Tony and myself represented St Andrew's and St George's West. It is a caring and committed band, who enjoy one another's company and a glass of wine! We discussed a new vision for an old city, joint worship, messy church. We plan to deepen our relationships with the ministers of the old town and the clergy of other denominations, inviting them to meet with us.

It was both refreshing and fruitful, though I am surprised to be the longest serving minister in our current posts after only 6 years!

Thanks for the rich opportunities you provide to minister as part of a team. **Ian Y Gilmour**

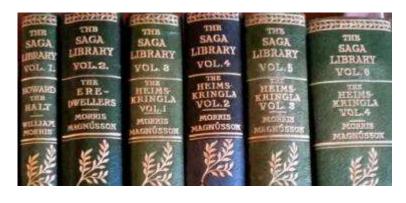


Christian Aid: Preview of the 2017 Sale **Mary Davidson**

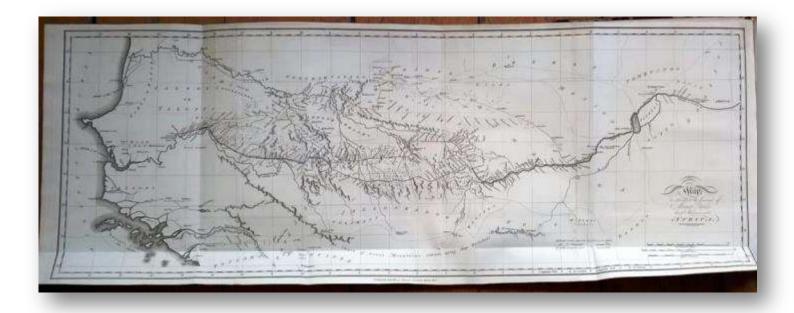
Librarians and other volunteers have been sorting thousands of books already donated. Among these they have found treasures.

Early on they came upon a first edition of Winnie-the-Pooh (1926), bound in green cloth, embossed with gilt, in the original dust jacket designed by EH Shepard. Then, along with some other superb leatherbound antiquarian books, they found early nineteenth-century editions of the Poetical Works of John Milton, and the History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire by Edward Gibbon (1820).

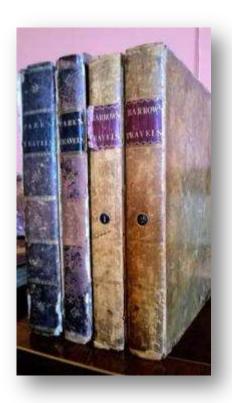
William Morris, the great Victorian artist and visionary died in 1896, but he is still in the forefront of design, and our cataloguers were thrilled to find that we had a complete set of his Stories of the Kings of Norway, known as 'The Saga Library' a beautiful



publication with a new font of Morris's own design.



Traditionally the Sale is a celebration of Scots history and literature and there will be a wealth of Scottish books for collectors.



Chief among these are the works, complete with maps, of **Mungo Park**. Born on a farm in the Yarrow Valley, this heroic Scots explorer went from Selkirk in 1795, at the age of 24, to explore Senegal and Mali, the part of West Africa where no European had ventured. He made two expeditions there, the second in 1804, enduring unspeakable adversity and hostility, but he traced the River Niger to its source, perishing horribly in its rapids in 1806. This is a tremendous story of Scottish fortitude and achievement. We are indeed privileged to have these rare, precious volumes for our 2017 Sale.

Other notable items in the Sale are manuscripts and documents which shed light on the lives of such literary figures as Robert Burns, Lord Byron, Lord Nelson, EM Forster, and the Edinburgh poet Robert Garioch. There is also a unique volume bound in green leather and simply entitled India. The beautifully hand-written text describes early nineteenth century life in the Madras area, with references to the East India Company, Tippoo's Palace, and a vessel called the William Fairlie, which left Britain for Madras in 1828, presumably carrying the anonymous author of this fascinating record.



Good News from Mulanje

Alison Campbell

It was encouraging to hear some good news from Malawi last week when Dr Ruth Shakespeare, Medical Director of Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) managed to squeeze a meeting with some of us into her packed schedule of a fortnight's visit to Scotland. Our congregation has been supporting a range of work at Mulanje for several years now, and she was keen to make clear how grateful they all were, especially in areas which can be difficult to fund.

- 1. Children and primary education: the money raised by our Bright Sparks at their lunch last year provided school bags and shoes for children going to middle primary school (age around 7-10). It also enabled children at 3 primary schools (Samson, Chibanti and Kanje) to plant fruit orchards, and helped Mulanje primary school to replant fruit trees which had been lost in the drought. Once trees are established, bees will be introduced and adults and children trained in beekeeping; honey is a very important product. The wax can also be made into candles.
- 2. There was also enough money raised to buy solar torches for hospital staff. While MMH continues to develop solar power,

- electricity is very erratic it may be off for days, or on for an hour or more at random times.
- 3. Prison clinics and feeding our support has enabled monthly clinics to continue in Mulanje Prison, where 400 prisoners are held in a facility built for 240. Last year, during the harvest failure, drought and floods, 30% of prisoners had a body mass index of less than 17 (the healthy range is 18.5 to 25) but that has been reduced to less than 2% thanks to the Prison Feeding Programme supported by us along with Canadian churches. The number of prisoners means they have to sleep in a crouched position, as there is not enough room for them to lie down. The need for feeding has reduced but support for prison clinics is crucial.
- 4. Benedetta January is an orphan pupil with polio who uses a wheelchair. We have helped MMH to support her and find a place for her at secondary school.
- 5. We are helping the Matron, Mrs Tabu Gonani, to do a post-graduate MBA, for a further 18 months. Pearson Soka, the Hospital Administrator whom we supported similarly, will be coming to Scotland in late September/early October and we look forward very much to welcoming him for Harvest Service on 8 October.

We hope to show a video of some of the conversation at a service. While Malawi continues to be a poverty-stricken country with huge corruption problems, we can be proud of doing a small amount to help in difficult areas of work.

Please look at the MMH website – <u>www.mmh.mw</u>





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

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

Perhaps like me, you will have seen the stage musical 'Joseph and The Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat'? A story of Jacob and his sons, written by Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice. I remember studying it at primary school, and some years later, saw it performed at Edinburgh's Playhouse Theatre with TV presenter Phillip Schofield in the title role.

That moment when the fabulous coat of many colours was revealed has remained a memory highlight. Despite the story not strictly following the biblical account in the book of Genesis – where the coat for example, is described as a "richly ornamented robe", or a 'long robe with sleeves", depending on which bible version you read - I would like to translate the show's "coat of many colours" into the context of our natural world, and consider what it brings to my mind.

The word 'coat' in this context generally makes me think of mammals, but I don't see too many multi-coloured creatures on my daily excursions on Edinburgh's Water of Leith (WoL).

For me, it's about our birds, and their wonderfully colourful feathers. How many times I've been surprised by a bird I've perhaps not paid much heed to before, but seeing it illuminated in sunshine, it has taken on a whole new appearance, glistening with colour and shading normally unseen. I remember hearing the renowned film-maker and naturalist (also my friend), Simon King, speak a few years ago and refer to a book which had influenced him greatly, ie 'The Peregrine' by J A Baker; it has since also made me much more alert to and aware of nature's colours. By way of example, how many of you have taken time to really look at a starling? We tend to think of them as smallish black-coloured, speckled birds. Next time you see one, especially if it's sunny, please take a longer and closer look...you will see an unexpected array of colours, and very little black at all. Similarly, with a magpie; such beautiful green and blue tones that are hidden in normal daylight.

I could continue with more examples, but I want to highlight three regularly seen species of birds which have been blessed with more obvious stunning colours – perhaps like Joseph, they too were favoured in some way and rewarded with splendid 'coats' at the point of creation? The first that springs to mind is the male bullfinch. What a fabulous red underpart to contrast with its black cap and grey mantle and back. Secondly, I think of the goldfinch, so delicate, yet so spectacular, with the red face and splendid gold bar across its wings. Regardless of how often I see these birds, they still manage to take my breath away.

Finally, and for me the most fabulous and breath-taking of all, is the kingfisher. No matter how many times I see it, and no matter how brief the encounter, it stops me in my tracks, I lose myself in the glory of Creation, and time becomes frozen until it disappears from view. The varying and mesmerising shades of greenish-blue, plus the orangey-brown and white, with the former being the one most often seen in the bird's rapid 'fly-past'.

I recall an anonymous saying "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away." If this is true, I have been blessed indeed by my now countless kingfisher sightings. I've been fortunate too in having had the opportunity to photograph kingfishers on several occasions, mostly on the WoL.



The time when having repeatedly dived, he emerged from the water, his beak laden with a very large fish which he then proceeded to hammer against his wooden perch before swallowing - yes it was brutal, but I've long since realised that the natural world is all about survival.

On another occasion, I watched with joy as no less than three kingfishers flew up and downstream for several minutes in what could only be described as 'play flight', beautifully choreographed and accompanied by their unmistakable piercing call. Then only last week, seeing one fish successfully then immediately take his prize to the nest to feed the next generation.

William Henry Davies's poem 'The Kingfisher', goes some way towards depicting this glorious yet shy little bird:

"It was the Rainbow gave thee birth, And left thee all her lovely hues; ... Go you and, with such glorious hues; Live with proud peacocks in green parks; ... Let every feather show its marks; Get thee on boughs and clap thy wings Before the windows of proud kings. Nay, lovely bird, thou art not vain; Thou hast no proud, ambitious mind; I also love a quiet place That's green, away from all mankind;"

I leave you with a Chinese proverb "Always keep a green branch in your heart, and one day a bird will come and perch on it and sing for you."

I hope for your sake that the bird will be a kingfisher.

Every blessing Pat McKerrow

Prayer is like watching for The kingfisher. All you can do is Be there where he is like to appear, and Wait.

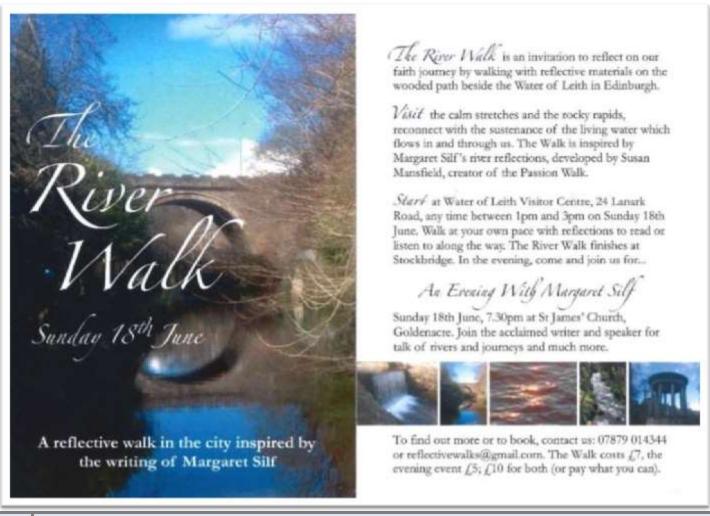
> Often nothing much happens; There is space, silence and Expectancy.

No visible signs, only the Knowledge that he's been there And may come again.

Seeing or not seeing cease to matter, You have been prepared.

> But when you've almost stopped Expecting it, a flash of brightness Gives encouragement.

Ann Lewin Thanks to Phyllis Thompson for sharing this



Q&A from the SAM

Crispin Longden

Tempted by the prospect of a delicious Fellowship Lunch afterwards, over 30 members of the Congregation attended the Stated Annual Meeting (SAM) in the Sanctuary on 2nd April 2017.

Session Clerk, George Burgess, provided those present with a brief overview of all that had been achieved in 2016. Full details of these achievements can be found in the Annual Report and Accounts available on request from the Church Office.

In summary, "we worked hard at balancing the budget using our plant well, developing our people and creating new partnerships, all of which revealed our collective commitment to following Jesus Christ."

In his address to the SAM, Minister Ian Gilmour looked ahead to 2017 and encouraged us to seek out "opportchancities" to be a pathfinding congregation. He paid tribute to outgoing (in both senses of the word!) Conveners and Session Clerk.

As (outgoing) Finance Convener, I presented the 2016 accounts and the 2017 budget both of which had been previously approved by Session. In a new development, our Annual Report and Accounts will be published by the charity regulator for Scotland, OSCR in due course for all to see, although names and details of Trustees will be redacted.

Three questions relating to the accounts were tabled and replies given as follows:

Question Are our assets too conservatively invested given buoyant stock markets?

Answer Our risk tolerance is set in negotiation with our investment managers, Brewin Dolphin, and is reviewed annually. We are aiming for a balance of income and capital growth within defined ethical considerations.

Question Are we having to pay for a physical asset for the Albany Deaf Church?

Answer No, Albany Deaf Church worships in our building and has no building of its own. It does retain a link with Deaf Action based in Albany Street.

Question This question concerning Christian Aid came in three parts:

- a) As shown in the accounts, the expenses for the Christian Aid Sale appear to be overstated.

 Answer The apparent overstatement of £7,007 in fact represents a payment out of the general fund into the separate Christian Aid fund to allow for an earlier designated donation which went initially into the general fund. Adjusted for this, the expense ratio is well within the norms for a fundraising endeavour of this size.
- b) Why is the Sale income described as 'Income from other trading activities'?

 Answer This is an accounting convention with the term replacing the previous 'activities for generating funds'.

All Change!

At Easter, **George Burgess** stepped down
as **Session Clerk** after 4
years, and **Crispin Longden** stepped into
the role.

On the **Finance Group**, Crispin stood down as Convener after 15 (!) years. **Mary Margaret Scott** takes over as Convener.

James Crerar is retiring as Convener of Pastoral Care, succeeded by Michael Cunliffe.

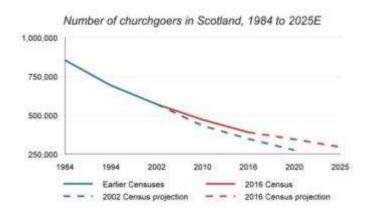
Thanks to those stepping down – and to those stepping up!

Rotating leadership roles helps to stop burn-out and to encourage fresh ideas.

c) Fundraising for Christian Aid is year-round, it is not just the 'Sale'. Could the reference be changed to simply 'Christian Aid'? **Answer** – Absolutely, for future years.

Total Scottish Church Attendance in 2016

This time last year St Andrew's and St George's West took part in a nationwide census of church attendance. The results of the census were published in mid-April – here are some key points.



Data came from 40% of the 3,689 congregations in Scotland in 2016. The total attendance on or around Census Sunday of 8th May was 389,510 people, which rounds to 390,000. This figure is derived from a comparison of those obtained by grossing up for

churches not replying by denomination, by churchmanship and by the geographical area in which a church was located.

This is not the total number of Christians in Scotland (2.9 million according to the 2011 Census), but it will certainly exclude the thousands mentioned in *The Invisible Church* by Steve Aisthorpe.

The 1984 Scottish Census recorded total church attendance as 854,000, and between 1984 and 2002 it reduced by 33% to 570,000 in 2002. That 2002 attendance figure has reduced over 14 years to 390,000 in 2016, a reduction of 32%.

These figures indicate two very similar falls in total church attendance on a typical Sunday, though the first was over 18 years and the second over 14 years. That difference in period will mean that the average per annum rate of decline will be slightly different, being -2.2% per annum for the first period and -2.7% for the second period.

The actual result is better than expected

The results of the 2016 Scottish Church Census will be disappointing for most church leaders, but a forecast based on the results of the 2002 Census would give an estimate of 350,000 by 2016, so the actual result is better than expected, 11% higher, partly as a result of the numbers of immigrants coming into Scotland, and the growth of the Pentecostal churches.

The red trend line on the graph opposite shows the impact of Scottish Pentecostals, immigrants, others who are attending ethic churches or who are starting new churches for their language group. The rate of decline has clearly lessened even though the line continues to go downwards.

Want to know more?

Summaries, charts and (coming soon) the full report at http://www.brierleyconsultancy.com/scottish-church-census/ -

Principal Clerk John Chalmers' interview on the Today programme http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08m8yrl (from 08.50)

Church of Scotland response

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/recent/green_shoots_of_growth_as_390,000_christians_regularly_attend_church



Walk a pilgrimage for a good cause. Find out more at http://www.ed.ac.uk/chaplaincy/sanctuary-walk-for-refugees https://www.facebook.com/events/766128860200985 Organised by Edinburgh University Chaplaincy, open to all.

May involve fun, camping, singing, fresh air and meeting folk. Definitely does not involve sitting in a pew filling in a form.

Looking forward to June...

Spirituals at Six

Ian Gilmour

I now have agreement to run a new venture Spirituals at 6 with a small good jazz band led by Dick Lee.

It will take place on Friday 30 June 2017 at 6.00pm in St AGW Church, 13 George Street, EH2 2PA.

It will last for an hour, the audience will get to sing eight well known Spirituals and the band will play at least another four.

It will be enjoyable as well as a chance to sing some of the most influential songs ever written.

Put it into your diary today!

Ian Y Gilmour

Creative Together

On the Button 16-17 June

Creative Together next meets on **Wednesday 24 May** at Dorothy Mackenzie's home, finalizing plans for our next event **On the Button on 16 and 17 June**, **in aid of Marie Curie**.

Thanks to everyone who is helping to publicise the event. If you're on facebook please help us spread the word by liking, or better still sharing or inviting friends to the facebook event which is at https://www.facebook.com/events/1874930766093772/. Flyers and posters are also available.

We'll need help to man our stalls full of buttons as well so please keep an eye out for our call for help. Thanks!













On the Button

A 2-day sale of

Vintage and collectable buttons **Buttons for crafts Buttons for costumes** Plus Vintage lace, trims, notions



Friday 16 and Saturday 17 June 2017 10.00am to 4.00pm

St Andrew's and St George's West 13 George Street Edinburgh EH2 2PA @StAGW1





Marie Curie is a charity registered in Scotland Charity Number SC038731



Promoted by Creative Together, part of Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER. a charity registered in Scotland, Charity Number SC040773

St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street Edinburgh EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847

www.stagw.org.uk stagw www.stagw.org.uk stagw 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

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Session Clerk Crispin Longden

Joint Treasurers John Innes

Allan Sim

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Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

TOGETHER Chair Markus Duenzkofer, St John's

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

MacKenzie

City Centre Andrew Gregg

Workplace Chaplain andrew.gregg[at]wpcscotland.co.uk

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