



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





September 2018 Magazine

STAGW Matters		
Magic on George Street – a letter from Ian		3-5
Worship Ian Y Gilmour		6-7
Autumn Diary - Autumn in Focus		8-11
Reading matters		
Dipping into Autumn – Moments in Nature Pat McKerrow		12-15
Beginnings and Endings - From the archives		16
Postcards from the Big Picnic Alison Campbell		17
Cornerstone Book Reviews Amanda Bruce		18-19
Material world – making a difference		
StAGW Benevolent Fund Alison Campbell		21
Report from the Mamie Martin Fund Moira Dunworth		22-23
CONTACTS		24

[magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)

Thanks to all contributors



Magic on George Street

A letter from Ian, September 2018



A concert concluded Edinburgh's 2018 International Festival accompanied by spectacular fireworks in Princes Street Gardens. It ended another extraordinary festival with over 50,000 performances in 300 venues.

Being in a healthy festival city it does not feel as though we are entering the last days. It seems lively and positive with busy streets, exhibitions, shows and concerts. The cultural life of the city is prospering, reaching for heaven rather than hell.

The poet Ron Butlin, a former Edinburgh Makar, reflects this in his poem describing Scotland's capital:

*Our late Medieval cobbled-together city
of kirkyards, cathedrals, howffs,
castles, closes, courts, vennels and wynds,
hay markets, grass markets, flesh markets...*



Entitling the poem, **The Magicians of Edinburgh** “*The magic*” he says, “*happens daily on the Bridges and on George Street...*”

“Most of all, when I stand at the top of the Mound, I see our city shaped by the sky and the sky by our city, and heaven seems possible...

Together we are the magicians and we make the city”.

There’s no denying the dark clouds we see gathering, in too many places, over many flawed human projects, around the globe today.

But as I attend that closing Festival concert, hearing marvellous music and seeing dazzling fireworks, I do so anticipating a friendly sun rising on Edinburgh tomorrow, even if some of the time it will be veiled in clouds.

The same faithful anticipation will assure me that I will witness, as I do each year, the best of humanity rising above what the worst of humanity can do to threaten our loving co-existence on the earth.

I anticipate St AGW congregation standing with the best, generously supporting the best and working to flourish no matter what. I will miss you all sorely but will pray that you will prosper under new leadership. Crispin and I have planned the winter session as well as we can and I hope you will have a new minister in summer 2019.



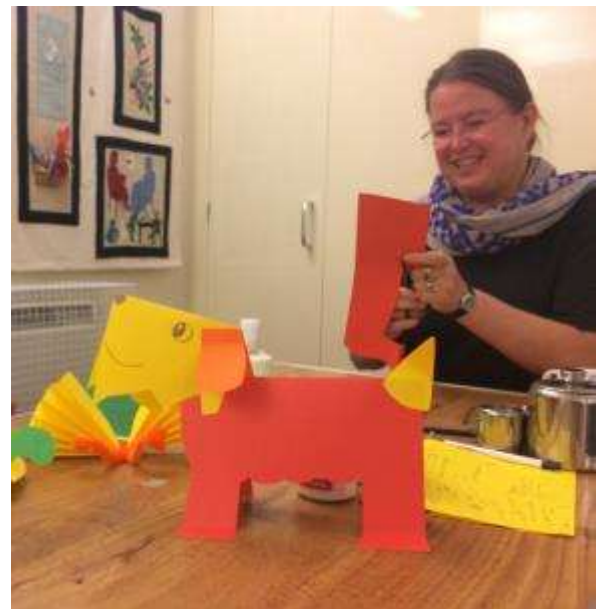


When the sun rises each day, I shall be thankful to the Creator for all we have shared, you can also. For thankfulness can be an antidote to sadness, just as love is the antidote to fear, as Paul says:

“give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”

Enjoy your life, may you appreciate the presence and peace of God,

Ian



Why worship?

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Jesus, so consider joining us **day by day at 1pm** for a 15minute service and for Communion every Tuesdays or on Sundays. We offer variety **each Sunday** with **Communion at 9am**, the **all age service at 9.45am**. We have a **traditional pattern at 11am**, with an excellent choir while at 2pm we have a service with British Sign language (BSL), which involves members from Albany Church and the deaf community.

Sunday 11am Morning Worship

Aug 26 **Love Is Our Defence** *Ephesians 6:10–20*

Sept 2 **Earth Sunday** *Genesis 1:1–25* As we focus on aspects of God's nurturing presence, we acknowledge Earth as our teacher, our source, and our guide.

Sept 9 **Abundance of mercy** *Isaiah 35. 4 – 7a, Mark 7.24 – 37*

Sept 16 **Passing on the gift of wisdom** *Prov 1: 20-33: Matt 6:19-24*

Sept 23 **Who's the greatest?** *Psalms 1, Mark 9.30 – 37*

Sept 30 **Harvest Sunday** *Psalms 104. 1-24*

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you... whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship.

Oswald Chambers

Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

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



A Children's Communion



August 2018

September 2018

Sat 1 Sep	10-12.30pm Messy Church
Sun 2 Sept	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 12 noon Fellowship Lunch for 500 Miles
Thur 6 Sep	11am Memorial service for Sheila Douglas
Fri 7 Sep	6.30pm Congregational party for Mayi and Ian
Sun 9 Sep	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 11 Sep	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Sun 16 Sep	9am, 9.45am, 11am services Deaf Choir Festival at Dalziel St Andrew's, Motherwell
Sun 23 Sep	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church 7.30pm Australian Welsh Male Choir concert for Maggie's
Mon 24 Sep	12.15-1pm Amnesty, Chapel
Tue 25 Sep	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Sat 29 Sep	10am-4pm Doors Open Day
Sun 30 Sep	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church

October 2018

Sun 7 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church Fellowship lunch for Mary's Meals in Sudan
Mon 8 Oct	6.30pm AHSS Lecture
Tue 9 Oct	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Sun 14 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 16 Oct	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Wed 17 Oct	Lunchtime Music and Reflection
Sat 20 Oct	10am – 12.30pm Messy Church
Sun 21 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 23 Oct	7.30pm Singing our way into or out of belief John Bell gives the Donald Gorrie lecture
Wed 24 Oct	Lunchtime Music and Reflection
25-27 Oct	CA Art Sale and Coffee Morning
Sun 28 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 29 Oct	Amnesty 12.15-1pm
Wed 31 Oct	Lunchtime Music and Reflection

November 2018

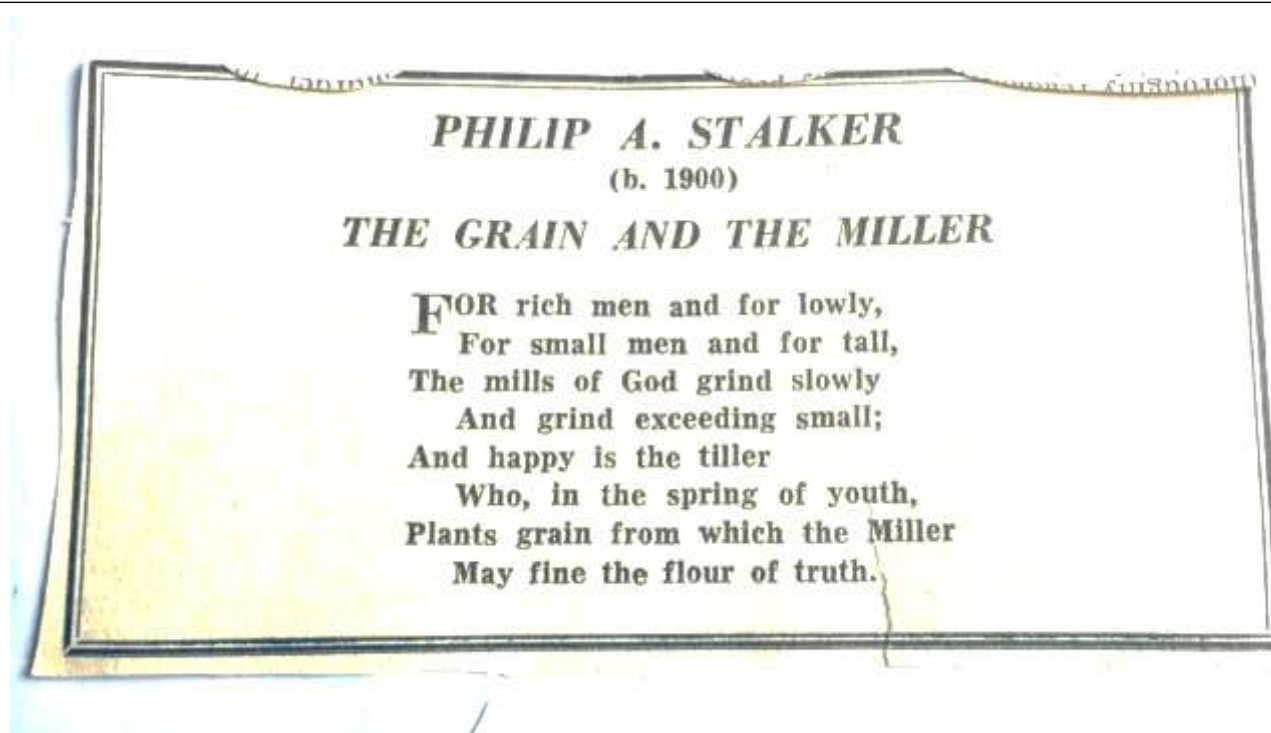
Fri 2 Nov	7pm: Seeking Peace: Reflecting on Armistice

Sat 3 Nov	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
Sun 4 Nov	Fellowship Lunch
Mon 5 Nov	6.30pm AHSS Lecture
Wed 7 Nov	Lunchtime Music and Reflection
Sun 11 Nov	Remembrance with the German Speaking Congregation
Fri 16 Nov	Rock Trust sleepover
Sun 25 Nov	2-3.30pm Messy Church
Mon 26 Nov	12.15-1pm Amnesty
December 2018	
Mon 3 Dec	6.30pm AHSS Lecture
Wed 5 Dec	7.30pm Kirk Session
8 - 24 Dec	Christmas Tree Festival: New Life
Fri 21	Carols at Six
Mon 24 Dec	Christingle and Watchnight Services
Tue 25	Christmas Day 11am Family Service

Congregational News

Baptism Samuel Leith on 26 August

Death Sheila Douglas on 15 August



Thanks to Margaret Street for this poem by Philip Stalker, late elder of this church and reporter of the early years of the Edinburgh Festival

Autumn in Focus

Deaf Choir Festival

Sunday 16 September

Have a word with Rosie Addis if you would like to join Albany at this special event at Dalziel St Andrew's in Motherwell.

Australian Welsh Male Choir

In concert for Maggie's Centre, 7.30pm Sunday 23 September

Missing the musical buzz of the Festival? Come along to this concert for a great cause. Tickets through Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-australian-welsh-male-choir-in-concert-tickets-43473390080>

Music News

Autumn Music and Reflection

Wednesday lunchtimes October- November

St Andrew's and St George's West lunchtime music and reflection meditation series will run again over four Wednesdays in October and November. The theme will be composers and their music, with local speakers and fabulous musicians from our music community.

Seeking Peace – Reflecting on Armistice

Friday 2 November at 7pm

7pm music – 8.15pm symposium – 9pm reception

We mark 100 years since the treaty that ended the 1914-18 War with a special reflective event in partnership with the **German Speaking Congregation** and, the **German Consulate** in Edinburgh, attended by the French Consul. Free but ticketed –

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/seeking-peace-reflecting-on-armistice-tickets-49815897691>



Singing our way into or out of belief

The 2018 Donald Gorrie Lecture

Tuesday 23rd October | 7.30–9.30pm



with
Rev. Dr John Bell

Event supported by



Join the hymn writer, broadcaster, and Iona Community member, as he reflects on how songs, traditional and contemporary, shape popular Christian thinking.



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

stagw.org.uk  [stagw](https://www.facebook.com/stagw)  [@stagw1](https://twitter.com/stagw1)

**Free entry
and refreshments**



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Dipping into Autumn

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

We are all familiar with them, the array of quotes about 'tomorrow being a new day', 'time never standing still', 'life moving on', and of course, from Ecclesiastes chapter 3, we know "*To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven.*" Indeed we can never predict what tomorrow may bring... and hasn't that been highlighted by news of our minister Ian's, imminent departure? I join with others in sending blessings and every good wish to both Ian and Donna as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

I am very conscious of changes afoot in the natural world at this time of year too. The summer season about to slip into Autumn. The first signs of colouring and falling leaves. The slight 'nip' in the air. And yes, those wild youngsters who survived the challenges presented by weather, predators, and environmental issues, readying themselves for independent lives.

As George F MacLeod, founder of the Iona Community, puts it in 'The Whole Earth Shall Cry Glory':

“Almighty God, Creator:
the morning is Yours, rising into fullness.
The summer is Yours, dipping into autumn.
Eternity is Yours, dipping into time...
...Gladly we live in this garden of Your creating.”

Despite my restricted mobility for much of this summer, I still managed to keep watch on many of the youngsters on my local patch of the Water of Leith (WoL). Mallard and goosander ducklings in particular. I watched them grow from tiny downy beings scuttling along the water's surface, their cries high-pitched whenever mum disappeared from view, to now almost fully feathered juveniles, fearless, and anxious to explore all aspects of the big wide and wild world. Lovely to see these birds, at mere days old, instinctively dive then quickly reappear all water-speckled – they made it look such fun.

My garden birds have similarly almost grown, but for the moment at least, all ages still visit and dine from the window feeders; the fledglings now fully adept at fending for themselves. What joy to observe their features and behaviour at such close quarters, and to hear their wonderful music; enthralling insights into their incredible lives. It seems no time since the early days of spring when the adult birds were busy nest building, expectation filled the air, and nature's colours were at their brightest and freshest. Tempus fugit, as they say. This lovely poem 'This Morning', by Mary Oliver, reminds me of the wonder and cycle of new life:

“This morning the redbirds' eggs
have hatched and already the chicks
are chirping for food. They don't
know where it's coming from, they
just keep shouting, “More! More!”
As to anything else, they haven't
had a single thought. Their eyes
haven't yet opened, they know nothing
about the sky that's waiting. Or
the thousands, the millions of trees.
They don't even know they have wings.
And just like that, like a simple
neighbourhood event, a miracle is
taking place.”

As ever, I have felt richly blessed by my experiences on the WoL this summer – plentiful moments at one with God in nature. A young fox was responsible for a couple of incidents, both of which had me ready to intervene if the youngster had taken just one more step... precisely what a nature photographer should never do, I know! I was alerted by very loud quacking from two female mallard ducks. My eyes then lit on the young fox paddling along the water's edge, close to a mum mallard with four tiny ducklings. The fox looked intent on snatching the little ones and was completely unconcerned about getting wet in the process. Thankfully, the determination of the 'guard' ducks, prevented him from getting close enough and after 10-15 mins of stalking he disappeared into dense foliage. I am glad to have missed an actual attack, regardless of the excellent photographic opportunity it may have yielded. Nature is wonderful, but it can also be tough and cruel; yet all creatures need to survive...

For me, swallows remain the most significant markers of the march of time and seasonal change. And again, how fortunate I am in having swallows return every year to live in the open garage. I love it each April when I suddenly notice the first arrival, and then within days, the whole building reverberates with the unmistakable swallow "vit, vit, vit" sounds, and the entry space becomes the busiest of flight-paths. This year, I watched the swallows from the house windows, from the street outside, and even, yes, from the comfort of my car in the garage! These birds fascinate me; they also fill me with pride when I consider the enormity of their annual 'pilgrimage' to and from Africa, "*...No map, no compass, only unerring certainty carrying him over land and ocean...¹*".

I always harbour such a sense of sadness after they leave, and when once again, silence reigns in the skies and the garage ...until next time...

Time and life. Neither stand still. Neither remain constant. But, reassuringly, "*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*" (Hebrews 13:8)

Every blessing
Pat McKerrow

¹ 'Consider the Birds', by Ann Lewin



Moments in Nature

Pat McKerrow has new packs of her blank greetings cards available for purchase. Two designs, 'Youngsters' and 'Wildflowers'.

Each pack has 8 cards with 8 different photographs. Limited stocks of Pat's 2019 desk calendar are also available.

Each item £10; a donation from profits will go to 'The Thompson Scholarship Fund', in memory of Jack & Phyllis, and to support education for girls in Northern Malawi.

The Thompson Scholarship Fund

*Supporting education
in Northern Malawi*



Jack and Phyllis Thompson supported education in Malawi throughout their lives.

You can help to continue this work through the scholarship fund set up in their name at

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/thompsonscholarships>

Beginnings and Endings

From the archives

What! are you here? A letter from Ian - May 2011

What I feel just now is best summarised by TS Eliot in the line above and those below from his poem Little Gidding,

***What we call the beginning is often the end
And to make an end is to make a beginning.
The end is where we start from.***

I am surprised to be with you, never expecting to move again in Edinburgh. However, I am excited by the possibilities and looking forward to forging a new path with you. It may be wise to begin with the end in mind, so in my early months I will carefully listen to those involved in the life of the congregation. I will ensure the strengths of the former congregations can shape our future.

In this process I would appreciate your prayers. Eliot states, prayer is more than an order of words. Prayer is thought, action and how we live. Let us pray for discernment concerning the future direction for the congregation. I would be pleased to receive a copy of your favourite prayers and to use some of them when leading worship this summer. I am committed to involving as many members as possible in shaping the next decade. Ministering together is a great privilege. I commit to bring my experience and energy to the work. I invite you also to bring your best to the tasks.

I hope our work together will be a joyful adventure. If we pray, centre ourselves on the teaching of Jesus and all align ourselves to the values which emerge from the fruits of God's Spirit to our work then as Eliot suggests,

***And all shall be well and
All manner of thing shall be well.***

***Live, Love, Enjoy, Ian
May 2011***

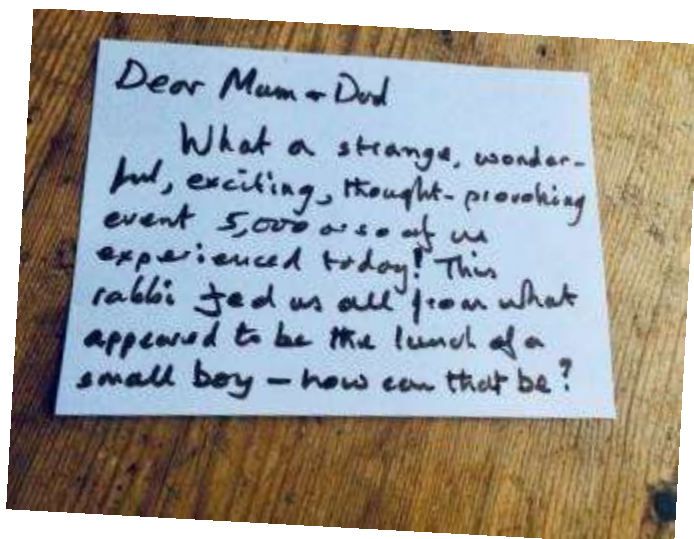
Postcards from the Big Picnic

Alison Campbell for 9.45 Learning Together



“Just been to the Jesus rally at the Sea of Galilee. Amazing experience including the catering – bread and fish for all. Jesus really unlocks something in people.”

“You missed a stunning picnic today. Thousands fed with a wee lad’s lunch. That Jesus was responsible. No-one had ever seen the like before! Love, Judas.”



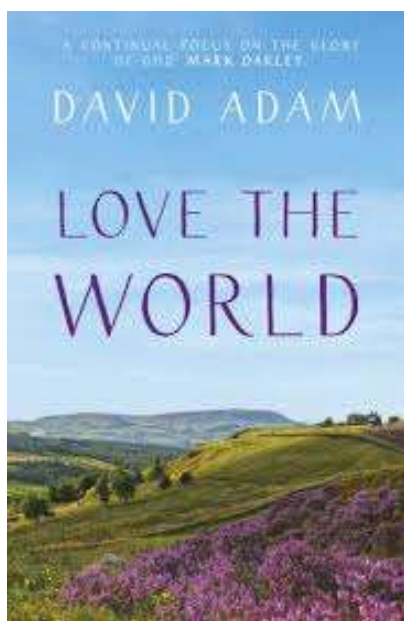
“Dear Mum – wish you were here! A miracle has happened. About a million people were at this meeting with someone called Jesus speaking. No-one had any lunch until someone produced some bread and fish and then suddenly there was enough for everyone. Wow! Dad says he’s full up now. Love James.”



How would you have experienced it?

Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce



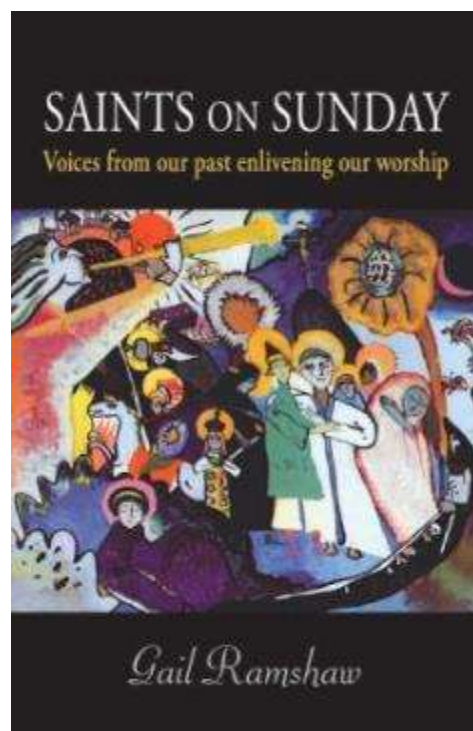
Love the World by David Adam £9.99

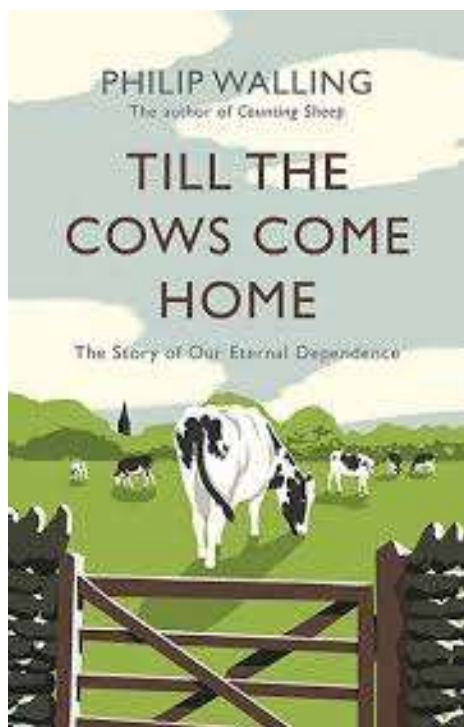
“Have you ever been enraptured by creation?” David Adam asks at the beginning of his introduction to this collection of reflections on the world about us and our relationship with it. Beginning with Creation, and the Universe and moving on to chapters on the elements and our own being, Adam gives a short meditation on each, followed by a suggested exercise to help focus the reader, and a prayer. In his usual gentle, accessible style, Adam encourages us to

explore again the wonder and mystery that surrounds us, to give thanks for these things and to find within them, resources to sustain us in our daily lives.

Saints on Sunday by Gail Ramshaw £12.99

Here is a book full of questions, to make us think, in the company of saints and individually, about what we ‘do on a Sunday’ and how we might think differently about the reasons for and consequences of our doings. “Can yards of red cloth speak to us of the Holy Spirit? Is ‘ordinary’ the best word to describe the green season?” And how might the voices from the past point us to creative answers to these questions? Drawing on the writings of Ambrose of Milan, Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, or more recently Dorothy Day, and many other voices across the centuries, Ramshaw searches for a more profound expression of worship and suggests ways to enrich the gathering, word, meal and sending forth of our gatherings in church. Full of anecdote, observation and scholarship makes for lively, liturgical reading!





Till the Cows Come Home

by Philip Walling £14.99

We currently have three titles in stock concerning the lives of cows! Along with crows, otters and sheep, there seems to be a trend at the moment that is tapping in to people's fascination with the lives of other creatures. Walling, who wrote the bestselling 'Counting Sheep', takes up the story of cows and the relationship between them and humankind "To tell the story of civilisation itself." From their place in the workforce before the industrial age which allowed settled farming to exist, to the

uses of their manure for crops and their milk for our diets, their importance to our development through the ages is explored. So, too, is our modern-day dependence – which, as he points out, is to a greater degree based on desire rather than need. Focusing more on their historical gifts (including an analysis of their sacred importance to the Hindu religion) and the positive uses for land management today, Walling's writing is fluid and engaging, creating a hymn to all things cow!

Sweep by Louise Greig and Julia Sarda £6.99

Small children face big emotions and this timelessly illustrated picture book is written to help them face feelings of anger. Ed's bad mood begins very small but grows and grows, soon enveloping the whole town in which he lives. He knows when he's gone too far, but his mood makes him very determined and he is swept further down the path. Finally, a different wind blows; one which lifts him up and the dark clouds away.



The StAGW Benevolent Fund

Alison Campbell

Our congregation has a Benevolent Fund made up of various funds, donations and legacies. The congregation is asked to consider any charitable organisations they would wish us to support.

There is an application form, and members can obtain the form from the Church Office and send it to their chosen charity, or suggest to the charity that they get in touch directly with the Office or with a member of the Benevolent Fund Group.

The next meeting of the Fund will be in October 2018 and applications should be with any member of the Group or the Church Office **by Sunday 30 September 2018**. The Fund Group will then make recommendations to be approved by the Kirk Session.

Previous grants have been made to Freedom from Torture, The Refugee Survival Trust, Penumbra, the Clothing Store and North West Carers and others. The average grant has been around £1,000.

Jean Mackinlay, John Innes, Shona Simon, Alison Campbell



Freedom from Torture

... reading at the Book Festival





Mamie Martin Fund Report

to St Andrew's & St George's West Benevolent Fund 2017-18
Moira Dunworth

In November 2017 the Mamie Martin Fund were grateful to receive funding to assist with the child-care arrangements of our Malawi Manager, Mrs Mercy Sibande.

Mercy works from home and her main role is to make termly visits to each of the schools we support. She meets each of the beneficiaries, encourages them and listens to any concerns they have. A vital part of these visits is the governance of our funding – Mercy checks that the girls on the lists we've agreed to fund are actually getting that funding (i.e. that their fees are being paid).

Mercy's youngest son, Biswayo, was born in August 2016. This last year he was too young to be left at home while his mum was away for several days visiting the rural schools. She has taken him on her back as a baby but by September 2017 he was too big and active for that approach. We were, therefore, very grateful to be supported in our wish to pay for the expenses of a childminder to travel with Mercy each term of the school year 2017-18.



Travelling with an active toddler had many challenges but Mercy was able to bring Violet, a young local girl, with her to the school visits.

Violet looked after Biswayo while Mercy worked with the girls and the school staff.

Outcomes of the Benevolent Grant

1. Mercy was able to visit the schools with her mind free of childcare concerns; This contribute to the equality of opportunity for her, a young parent in Malawi and allowed her to be a role model to the schoolgirls – a woman can be a mum and a professional too;
2. The grant contributed to the funds of the Mamie Martin Fund, enabling us to focus on our core work of supporting girls at secondary school;
3. The grant provided an employment opportunity for young Violet and the opportunity for her, quite a deprived young girl, to travel around with Mercy and to see something of the country and the schools;
4. The money spent went directly into the local economy in Malawi.

Mercy has asked us to pass on her own particular thanks to St Andrew's and St George's West for this grant. She worries about incurring expenses which might take funds away from her beloved schoolgirls and this grant, being specifically for her Biswayo-related costs, put her mind at rest on that score. She does not need this support now as Biswayo is big enough to be left at home with a child-minder while Mercy works.

Moira Dunworth
Mamie Martin Fund Co-convenor
August 2018



Messy Church

A joint project together with our friends in Albany Deaf Church and St John's Episcopal Church.

A light lunch will also be available. Everyone welcome!

Please register in advance by emailing admin@stagw.org.uk

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Event Diary

2017

19 November 2–3.30pm



2018

27 January 10–12.30pm

24 February 10–12.30pm

31 March 10–12.30pm

22 April 2–3.30pm

26 May 10–12.30pm

23 June 10–12.30pm

22 July 2–3.30pm

1 September 10–12.30pm

29 September 10–12.30pm

20 October 10–12.30pm

25 November 2–3.30pm

Messy Church enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all. It meets at a time and on a day that suits local families and is particularly aimed at people who have never belonged to a church before.



St Andrew's & St George's West

13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

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

Minister Rev Ian Y Gilmour (until 7 September)
Albany Deaf Church Rev Rosie Addis RAddis@churchofscotland.org.uk
Interim Moderator Rev Moira McDonald
Locum Minister Very Rev Dr John Chalmers
Locum Minister Rev Colin Douglas (pastoral support)

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 Sophie Hudson 0131 225 3847
admin[at]stagw.org.uk

Safeguarding Barbara Finlayson

Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

TOGETHER Chair Markus Duenzkofer, St John's

TOGETHER Trustees from StAGW: Frances Cooper, James McNeill
Alastair MacKenzie, Diana Thurston-Smith

Workplace Chaplain Andrew Gregg andrew.gregg@wpcscotland.co.uk

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