



St Andrew's and St George's West Feb - March 2019 Magazine



Messy Church

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

A light lunch will also be available. Everyone welcome!

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

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Event Diary for 2019

2 February 10–12.30pm

9 March 10–12.30pm

6 April 10–12.30pm

11 May 10–12.30pm *

1 June 10–12.30pm

31 August 10–12.30pm

28 September 10–12.30pm

26 October 10–12.30pm

30 November 10–12.30pm

*@ St John's Episcopal Church



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



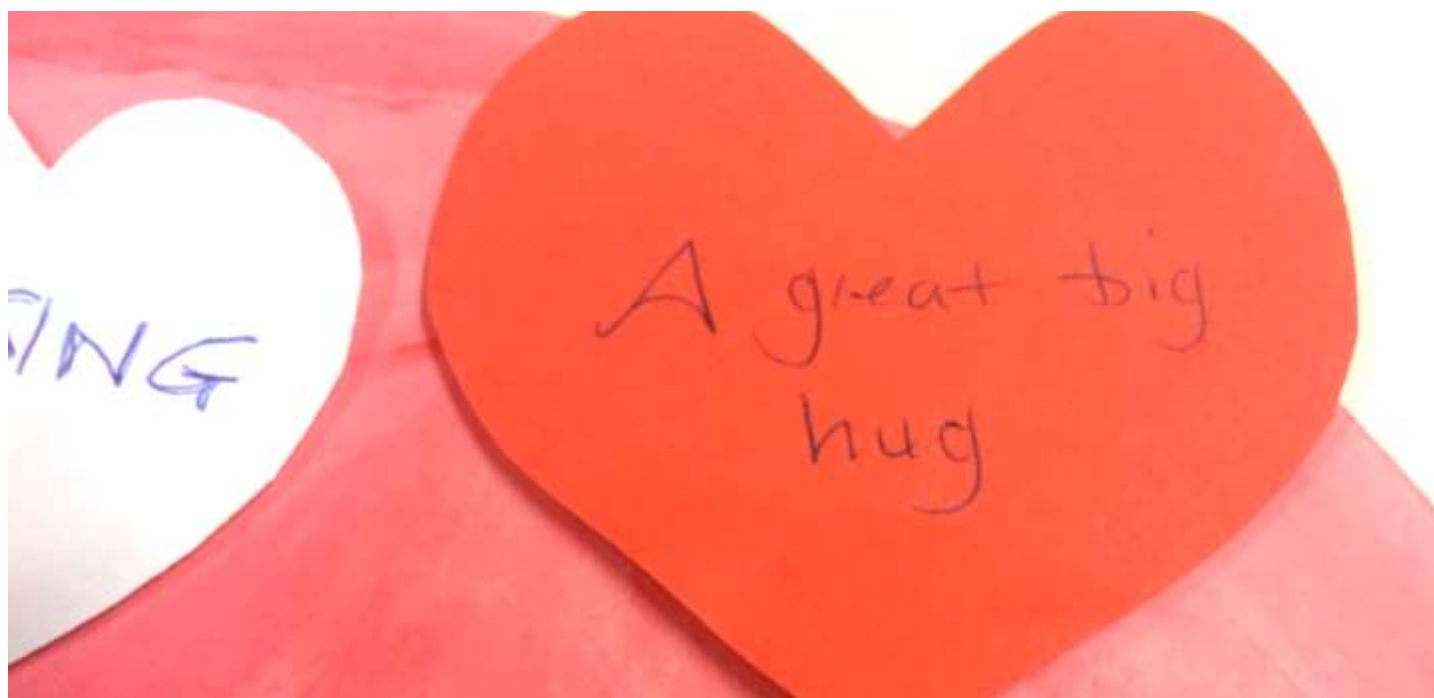
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Scottish Charity No. SC008990





February- March 2019

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Cover: **Frosted Quince** by Frances Cooper Above: **9.45 Love Hearts**, Jane Brown Thanks to all contributors. Our next (Easter) edition is **April 2019** – copy deadline **Friday 22 March**. [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stagw.org.uk)



Culture shock

Very Rev Dr John Chalmers

These newsletters seem to have developed into something of a travelogue as the work of the World Mission Council takes me across the world.

Between journeys I continue to be inspired by the people and the activity of this talented congregation. Your interests range far beyond the local and yours is a real compassion for those, at home and abroad, who daily live with great poverty and adversity.

This month I am writing from Pakistan and I find it difficult to express just how much of a culture shock this visit has been.

The Partition of India in 1947 led, in 1956, to the creation of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan; I don't have space in this article to describe the upheaval of Partition, but to this day there is a legacy of conflict and a cultural insecurity which is palpable.

A long history of missionary endeavour has left a dedicated Christian community somewhat marooned, often isolated and sometimes threatened. Can you imagine the minister of St Andrew's and St George's West making arrangements for public worship, but first having to ensure that armed security guards are in place before the building can be opened for the congregation to gather.

That's the Pakistan of today and although there are many people across the spectrum who are working to nurture tolerance and increase understanding they have a long journey ahead.

Many of you will know the story of Asia Bibi (www.christiansinpakistan.com/tag/asia-bibi-update/) the young mother who fell foul of the country's blasphemy laws and has subsequently spent 8 years on death row falsely accused of insulting the Prophet Muhammad.

As I write there is great hope that Asia and her family are emerging from this nightmare with a new hope, but no one, from the senior ranks of the Pakistani government to the lowly ranks of ordinary Pakistanis, is taking this for granted. Extreme forces are still at work.

This trip has highlighted for me the extraordinary importance of interfaith dialogue.

If intolerance and suspicion is to be broken down across the world then we cannot avoid the fact that we all have a part to play.

This congregation, with its breadth of thinking and tradition of dialogue will, I hope, be at the forefront of this dialogue here in Scotland.



February 2019	
Fri 1 Feb	6pm Capoeira
Sat 2 Feb	10-12.30pm Messy Church
Sun 3 Feb	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 12 noon Fellowship Lunch: Medical Aid for Palestinians
	<i>Gilbert and Sullivan Come and Sing</i>
Mon 4 Feb	6.30pm AHSS Lecture Dermot Patterson <i>Rules of Engagement</i> http://www.ahss.org.uk/
Tue 5 Feb	6pm Capoeira
Wed 6 Feb	12 noon Jessamine Davenport: Service of Thanksgiving
Fri 8 Feb	6pm Capoeira
Sun 10 Feb	9am, 9.45am, 11am services
Tue 12 Feb	6pm Capoeira (and every Tuesday at 6pm)
Fri 15 Feb	6pm Capoeira (and every Friday at 6pm)
Sun 17 Feb	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 2pm Albany Visual Service
Mon 18 Feb	10.30am Book Group
Fri 22 Feb	12 noon early closing café and church
Sat 23 Feb	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society Barokkanerne <i>Recordare Venezia</i> http://gcs.org.uk/
Sun 24 Feb	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 12 noon Communion
Mon 25 Feb	12.15pm Amnesty Group meets
March 2019	
Fri 1 Mar	1pm World Day of Prayer
Sun 3 Mar	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 12 noon Fellowship Lunch for Crossreach
Mon 4 Mar	6.30pm AHSS Lecture Liz Patterson <i>The Glasgow School of Art Restoration</i> http://www.ahss.org.uk/
Tue 5 Mar – Sat 9 Mar	Edinburgh Competition Festival http://www.ecfest.org.uk/
Sat 9 Mar	10-12.30pm Messy Church
Sun 10 Mar	9am, 9.45am, 11am services
Tue 12 Mar – Fri 15 Mar	Edinburgh Competition Festival http://www.ecfest.org.uk/
Wed 13 Mar	7.30pm Kirk Session
Sun 16 Mar	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society Theatre of the Ayre <i>A Quiet Revolution: English Vocal Music during the Interregnum</i> http://gcs.org.uk/

Sun 17 Mar	9am, 9.45am, 11am services
Mon 18 Mar	10.30pm Book Group, chapel
Thur 21 Mar	Sanctuary: conference all day
Sat 23 Mar	2.30pm British Homeopathic Association film screening https://www.britishhomeopathic.org/magic-pills-movie/
Sun 24 Mar	9am, 9.45am, 11am services
Mon 25 Mar	12.15pm Amnesty group
Wed 27 Mar	7pm Life is Beautiful Film Screening and Discussion
Sat 30 Mar	Practical Pilgrim Day: Confraternity of St James https://www.csj.org.uk/edinburgh-practical-pilgrim-day-saturday-30th-march-2019/
Sun 31 Mar	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 12 noon Communion

Key dates	
Sun 14 April	Palm Sunday
Mon 15 – Sat 20 April	Holy Week
Sun 21 April	Easter Day
Sun 28 Apr	Push n Shove Sunday
Mon 29 Apr – Fri 10 May	Christian Aid Sale preparations
Sat 11 May and Mon 13 – Fri 17 May	Christian Aid Sale
Sun 19 May	Assembly Sunday and Heart and Soul

Death

Jessamine Davenport on 28 January 2019. Following a private family committal all friends are warmly invited to a Service of Thanksgiving at St Andrew's and St George's West at 12 noon in Wednesday 6 February.

News from Malawi

All things are possible

Tabu Gonani reflects

I joined Mulanje Mission Hospital in early 2007 in a very unusual manner. I was unemployed because I had left my job to pursue a Diploma in Nursing (Registered Nurse) at Kamuzu College of Nursing. Having struggled with fees in the first year I approached Mulanje Mission Hospital (MMH) to sponsor my second year of training. Luckily, MMH did not only pay my fees, but also employed me on certain conditions.

I started my nursing education from the basic level in Malawi (Nurse Midwife Technician). I thank God for such a humble beginning, because every level of my career has prepared me for the next. After finishing the upgrading Diploma course at Kamuzu College of Nursing, I came to Mulanje Mission Hospital and worked for four years as a Nurse In Charge for female ward in the first few years and later as Nurse In Charge for labour ward.

In 2012, MMH gave me yet another opportunity to develop my career and I was released to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Nursing at Kamuzu College of Nursing. Less did I realize that God was preparing me for a more challenging task. When I reported back to work in late 2013, I continued as in charge for labour ward and continued enjoying provision of quality maternity care in the ward.

I went on maternity leave and when I came back I found myself heading the entire nursing department with approximately 140 members of staff. What a nightmare!!! I worked to the best of my ability using the experience and knowledge that I had. But it was almost the same as choosing to swim in deep waters without appropriate skills. There were so many challenges but the management team was very supportive.



Tabu Gonani, our Principal Nursing Officer, MBA graduate!

In August 2016, MMH management, through funding from St Andrew's and St George's West Church in Edinburgh, gave me yet another opportunity; I call this one a life changing opportunity. I was supported to pursue a Masters Degree in Business Administration. On 24th November, 2018, I graduated with an MBA. The journey was not easy because of academic, work and family pressures. I appreciated the importance of the course right from the beginning because I started looking at my work from a different perspective and became more knowledgeable and confident. The MBA is very relevant to my current role at the hospital and it is assisting in effective running of the nursing department. On a social note, this course gave me an opportunity to build network with people from other sectors.

I would like to thank MMH management for support, for pushing me from the lowest cadre to this level. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage MMH nurses who have joined the hospital lower levels. All things are possible.

Success is not about being the most intelligent person, it is about seeking opportunities and utilizing them well.

Look for opportunities and when you get one, be determined to achieve what you want, even if it means having sleepless nights! The sky is the limit!

From MMH's latest newsletter – read it online at www.mmh.mw



Arie and Lisanne Glas and kids ▲

Dr Arie Glas, the new MMH Medical Director who will take over from Dr Ruth Shakespeare, is visiting Scotland from **9 to 18 March**. We obtained a Faithshare grant for his travel and will be sharing the visit with Stockbridge Church and others.

Dr Glas will be at StAGW on **Sunday 10 March** and we hope will speak to all services about Mulanje. He will also be visiting West Lothian, EMMS and World Mission. We hope to organise other opportunities for him to meet with StAGW members and MMH supporters.

Dr Glas is from the Netherlands and he and his family have been in Mulanje for about a year now.

Alison Campbell

25 Years of Fair Trade

Morag Baird (via Ruth Forrester)

St Andrew's and St George's West Fair Trade Stall is supplied by the **Just World Shop in Portobello**. Founder **Morag Baird** reflects on progress so far.

We have been celebrating the shop being open for twenty five years and would like to thank you for your support. Churches and schools provide over 40% of our income so the shop could not survive without your input.

Our turnover this year was £55k an increase of £2k on last year. Over the 25 years we have sold £1.3 million of goods which have helped our producers work their way out of poverty and provide food, shelter, education and health care for their families

Unfortunately our work is not finished. There is still a great deal more to be done and with your help and support we will continue our work. We have a great team of volunteers both in the shop and the folk who collect their stalls monthly and sell the goods for us.

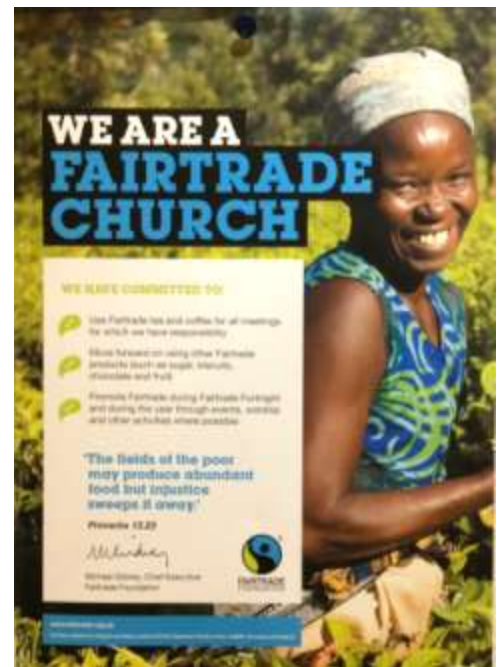
With the small profit made this year we have decorated the shop and hope you will come along and see the beautiful display of crafts we have on offer. We have also donated £250 each to Water Aid, Mary's Meals, Practical Action and the Vine Trust.

Thank you once again and for your support. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful people giving their time and energy to fairtrade.

<https://www.facebook.com/TheJustWorldShopPortobello>

Just World is at 52-54 Portobello High Street, EH15 1DA.

Tel 0131 669 8819



Learn a new skill, gain a new hobby

Morven Cross

The Band of Change Ringers of St Andrew and St George's West – aka, the Bellringers, are looking to recruit new members. In February and March we will be running taster and beginner's sessions. We ring the church bells for the glory of God, for the members of the church, for the people in the streets to hear, and for fun.



The bells weigh between seven and fifteen hundredweight but because of how they are hung, strength is not a requirement – technique is. The physical requirements are less than you would expect. You have to be able to get both arms above your head at the same time and be able to count to eight forwards and backwards.

So, if you or a friend could become interested, make yourself known to Morven Cross after the 9.45 service or to Simon Aves (Tower Captain) or any of the other ringers after the 11.00 service. We ring most Sundays from 12.00 – 12.30 and hold our practices on Monday evenings, often followed by a visit to a local hostelry.

We will also give tours of the bells and the spire.

Fame at Last

Breaking News from the Undercroft

Wayne Williams, our previous cafe manager has branched out into film acting. Recently a bunch of his friends, including several from the congregation, went to see the opening night of *'Mary Queen of Scots'*, his film debut. His part was small but memorable and we had a great time. Here are a couple of before and after pictures, to help you spot him. Pay close attention to a scene where David Tennant (as John Knox) is having a bit of a rant. Wayne is in the crowd.



Barbara Ramsay and Margaret McGregor



Amos Christian Trust – twenty years on Alan Mackinlay

Have you ever taken time to look at the Amos card stand in the North-west corner of the church? It contains an assortment of small ‘credit’ sized laminated cards with an image on one side, and a text or prayer on the other. Visitors and members of the congregation are invited to take away any card which appeals to them, to keep it for themselves or pass it on to someone else. The cards are not sold, though people can leave a donation.

The Trust was set up nearly a quarter of a century ago. To quote from Annual Reports of that time:

“Christians are reluctant to talk about their faith (1995); The object is the advancement of the Christian religion; the encouragement of others to share in spreading the Gospel; the deepening of spiritual life (1996)”: “Access to God’s Word is more and more restricted; fewer at Sunday school, missing generations of parents, schools cutting back on RI (1997”.

These comments are even more relevant today than they were then.

“The cards can be an aid to meditation, an encouragement to research the faith, a stimulus to prayer, a word of comfort, or the rebirth of a forgotten commitment (2000)”.

The cards are produced by teams of volunteers, one in Edinburgh, and two in Forres, facilitated by one of our former Trustees. We have tried to follow an initial aim, to include the disabled or disadvantaged in our teams. *“The combination of mission and fellowship is very fulfilling for our team members (1999)”*; working together is enormously rewarding and mutually supportive. In years past we have involved graphic design students, keen to add to their CVs.

The cards are ordered by hospital chaplains, by churches, and by individuals. We invite clients to order cards customised for their particular purposes. The cards have reached far corners of the world; we have had orders from India, Africa, Belarus, USA, Australia and New Zealand, some supplied in local languages. Feedback has been very positive: *“your cards are a God-given resource”*; *“they are ideal to leave with patients and families”*; *“they help people to grow in faith”*; *“they are such an encouragement”*.

Elders, and others! Why not pick up a few cards and take them on pastoral visits? I am sure they would be much appreciated. Margot Miller, who has been volunteering with the Trust since its inception, has a remarkable story to tell. She had selected an Amos card to give to friends at her husband, Grant’s, funeral. When her step-son Duncan saw it, he said “I have one of these”, and produced it from his wallet. “I got it at the Twin Towers Memorial Service”. (Duncan had made many business trips to New York). It is very likely that Margot herself had made that Amos card, which had found its way to the States, and back to a family member.

I write this partly to record the fact that I have stepped down as chairperson of the Trust after twenty years. The new chairperson is Allan McCulloch, one of our trustees, and I have no doubt he will fill the post with distinction. It has been a pleasure and a privilege for me, to meet so many interesting and committed people and enthusiastic volunteers, and to carry on the vision of the founder, the late Bruce Crerar. I pray that the Trust will have a successful future.



Focus

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

Focus. What a key thing for a wildlife photographer, not only in terms of technical camera skills, but also the complete concentration needed when the much sought-after creature is before me; the latter akin to the eyes fixed and unwavering look I see in a kingfisher or heron as they fish. Of course, sitting alongside this 'focus', is preparation; all my pre-shoot camera checks to make sure things like speed and exposure suit the conditions and the 'look' I want to achieve. Too late to do this when the creature I am seeking has already appeared; likewise, to leave the camera in its bag until then.

Many more things and situations benefit from such preparation and focus, and it actually reminds me of informal communication with God; the ad-hoc prayers I want to share about anything of note that comes to my mind or heart. Somewhat less random than it probably sounds, it still requires focus and deserves preparation to avoid distraction. That said, hopefully I am not alone in being prone

to distraction, my mind racing to non-prayer issues, but I believe God knows I will be back in touch later with the familiar “sorry, I got distracted, now where was I”, line.

Does my prayer focus need some work, a bit like the loveable postulant Maria in ‘The Sound of Music’? Or, is it a case of needing to calm my sometimes overly busy mind? Perhaps I should keep the words of a favourite hymn close to hand “Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead, find the room for hope to enter, find the space where we are freed: clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see, all the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be”.

Anyway, lest I become too distracted here, let me return to subjects my camera has been focussed on recently. You may recall that in the previous edition of this magazine I shared my ‘bucket list’ of creatures I hoped to focus on during 2019. What progress have I made thus far?

Well, aside from many fabulous sightings of diving kingfishers, I confess to having been thoroughly distracted from my list. Several times I have headed out intent on searching for an otter or for my swans to mate, only to stumble upon something completely different, totally unexpected, and entirely enthralling. One day it was a tiny wren, another a water rail and little grebe; there was even a leaping trout. In these situations, I say it is not only fine to be distracted, it is absolutely required!

For me, it is part of the wonder and joy of creation, not knowing what might appear at any given time that makes it so uplifting, and gratifying. My poem ‘My Window’, sums it up in the closing lines:

*“...so blessed to witness
Such moments unique
God’s chosen creatures
His world adored.”*

Turning back to my wren sighting, rarely had I been so close to one, and certainly never for a sustained period of time. Such a tiny being, just shy of 4 inches, bold for its size, a loud yet sweet vocalist, and hugely energetic, constantly bouncing around in tree roots and ground foliage. And, as ever with many of our birds which on first look appear quite plain, are in fact beautifully marked... even the underside of the small erect tails.

Interestingly, various legends surround wrens, one such claims that harm will befall anyone who causes 'Our Lady's hen' (as they were once known), harm; hence the old Scots rhyme 'Malaisons (curses), malaisons mair than ten that harry our Lady of Heaven's wren.' And who can fail to be impressed by the male who will build up to eight nests per year before inviting his mate, 'Jenny wren', to choose which to use. Thankfully, given that their mortality rate can be as high as 80% in cold winters, broods tend to be quite large. This cheery little ditty says much about the wren's ego and fertility:

*"The dove says coo, coo what shall I do?
I can scarce maintain two.
Pooh, pooh says the wren, I have ten
And raise them all like gentlemen."*

Wherever life takes you this month, if you happen upon a perky little wren, I urge you to stop, watch and listen – permit yourself to (re)focus and be distracted from the busyness of life. He/she will not disappoint. I leave you with the final verse of my poem 'Creation in All Its Glory':

*"The beauty of nature
The boost for the soul
The richness of heaven
The presence on earth.
Creation in all its glory."*

Every blessing
Pat McKerrow

Peter Millar Reflects

The vision of Hans Kung for the year ahead

The British translation by John Bowden of the German theologian's "*Global Responsibility: In search of a new world ethic*" was published by the SCM Press in 1991. For many of us it was a seminal book in the last years of the 20th century.

The world nearly 30 years on is a very different place. We stand at a certain kind of brink in global affairs, framed by climate change, fake news, wars and dictators. For my six young grandchildren and for their generation the future is entirely unknown. At the recent annual Davos Forum (to which 1,500 private jets carried some of the richest on the planet) the naturalist Sir David Attenborough in a dialogue with Prince William said in relation to climate change that we can wreck the natural world with ease, without even noticing it but in doing so we wreck ourselves.

Hans Kung's influential book was based on the idea that without a global world ethic, civilisation will not survive. He rightly pointed out that without a basic consensus, involving a minimum of common values, norms and attitudes freely chosen and holding within them a planetary responsibility our human future is bleak. Let us be reminded of his vision as we contemplate our world in this year of grace 2019. Here are some of what Kung calls our "post-modern requirements" for civilisation to remain intact. Of course there are many more, but these are core necessities.

Not just freedom, but also justice

Not just equality, but also plurality

Not just brotherhood, but also sisterhood

Not just coexistence, but peace

Not just productivity, but solidarity with the environment

Not just toleration, but ecumenism

We are a long way from experiencing what Kung calls "a global ethic" but many around the world are seeking such a vision in order that future generations may survive. Yet such an ethic also demands peace among religions which always involves dialogue between the religions. And it is to be hoped that the religions of the world, as they search for understanding of each other, will also be in the forefront of the global campaigns to save the natural world which is God's creation.

Lyudmila Alexeyeva

Lyudmila Alexeyeva the well-known Russian human rights campaigner died recently at the age of 91. Many in the West did not know her name but for 60 years her typewriter was one of the symbols of the bravery and enterprise of those dissidents who resisted Soviet communist persecution. Back in the 1960's she volunteered to begin typing a Chronicle of Current Events, an underground samizdat publication that reported on the treatment of those who were attempting to challenge the Soviet regime's monopoly of power and strict censorship. For years she worked tirelessly to restore in reader's minds the idea of telling the truth about Soviet society uncorrupted by propaganda and political terror. She said that working on the publication, *"meant to pledge oneself to be faithful to truth: it meant to cleanse oneself of the filth of double- think, which has pervaded every phase of Soviet life."* In recent years as Putin tightened his grip, she found new causes to champion such as opposition to his actions in the Chechen war, his annexation of Crimea and his governments attacks on journalists, activists and those for gay rights. Let us salute this brave spirit and all the others who with courage and commitment speak and write words of truth and goodness in our time. In the years ahead the articulation of a grounded moral vision will be a world-wide imperative.

From Raphael Houessou

Lord, you are God of all Europeans, all Americans, all Asians...you are also my God – me an African – me, a Beninois. Lord, I want to sing, dance and look radiant with happiness, but alas the wars on my continent, AIDS, poverty and malaria are destroying my brothers and sisters. Instead of joy there is sadness, fear, sorrow and anxiety. Lord, I am confused but not downtrodden because for me, an African, an Beninois, you are my God and Jesus your Son, who died and rose for me, my Saviour. He is my eternal hope. And the hope of all the peoples here and in Europe and in America and in Asia and everywhere on earth.

Our sisters and brothers

Some words from a Canadian aid worker in Africa who writes... what do I see here day by day? The infinite colours and patterns, the reflections of a rich culture, a deeply rooted connection to the land. I see the reflection of the Spirit of a people who cannot be crushed – not by slavery, not by modern colonialism, not by the brutal structural "adjustment" programmes that are thought up in plush offices far away. I see an incredible resilience in people; an irrepressible sense of fun and humour in the ways the children

and gossiping women tease me. An aristocratic dignity, and fierce awareness in the high-boned faces of burdened women stepping elegantly around raw sewage and truck effluent.

I am a white man – white as enriched, imported French flour. I am respected for my money, knowledge, experience. I am not rich in humanity. I am not wise. I am not developed. Here I am secure in my first-world privilege, locked in my Landrover, protected by my mefloquine, bottled water, credit card and open-ended air ticket. What experience do I possess of living with death every day, of creative survival, of incredible good-humoured patience, of real hope, of dazzling resurrection? I feel like a child here. What do I have to teach these people? The truth is very different for I have the world to learn from them! To start understanding what living is really about.

Our Stories

Telling our stories is a political act. Without stories there is no articulation of experience. Without stories we don't learn the value of our struggles or comprehend our pain. Without stories we cannot understand ourselves. We are closed in silence. Yet when we begin to speak of the real truths inside us we start out on that long journey of walking with others, lovingly and unmasked.

Isaiah's Truth - Isaiah 43: 1- 4

Do not fear for I have redeemed you: I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and the rivers will not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned. You are precious in my sight, and honoured, and I love you. Isaiah 43; 1 - 4

End note by Adrienne Rich

My heart is moved by all I cannot save; so much has been destroyed. I have to cast my lot with those who, age after age, perversely, with no extraordinary power, reconstitute the world.

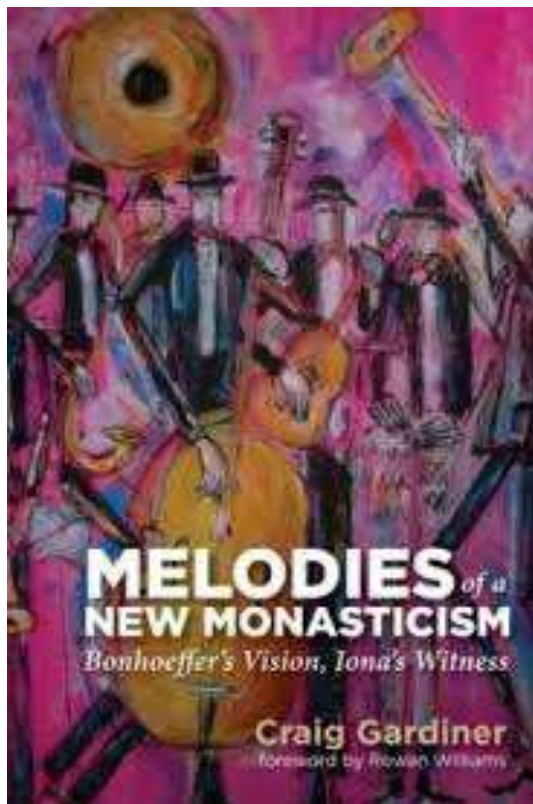
Peter Millar is a former warden of Iona Abbey and author of numerous books.

He writes monthly on spiritual matters – if you would like to subscribe to his reflections or share feedback you can contact him at [ionacottage\[at\]hotmail.com](mailto:ionacottage@hotmail.com)

Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce

Melodies of a New Monasticism by Craig Gardiner £25.00



This insightful investigation into the nature of Christian community is centered around two of the central twentieth-century figures whose contribution to the theology and practice of living in community was seismic – Dietrich Bonhoeffer and George MacLeod.

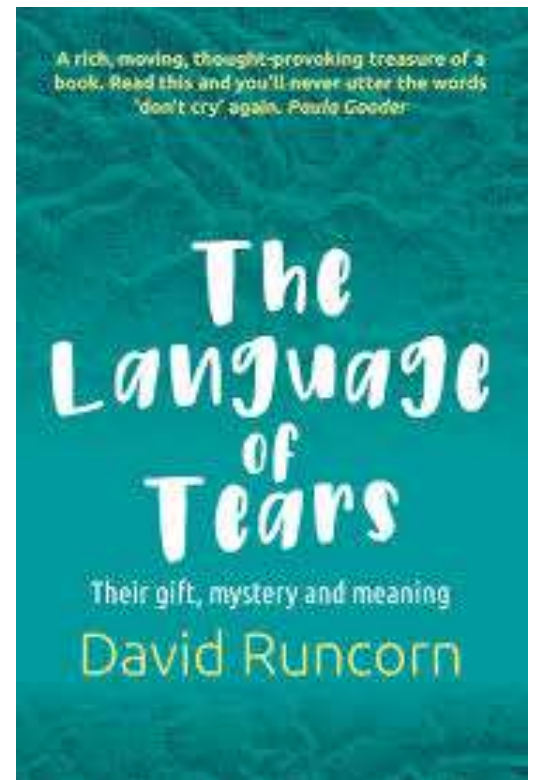
Both put a value on the diversity within unity that came with living in a gathered community and Gardiner explores this through the metaphor of polyphony – “the simultaneous sounding of many interweaving melodies” – which, itself, often has a cantus firmus, literally a

‘solid song’, around which the layers of melody interweave. In the case of the Christian community Christ himself is that solid song, while Gardiner posits worship, ecumenism and healing, alongside peace, justice and ecological as the two parallel ‘songs’ which actively unite us when we live with and within God and one another.

The Iona Community (written about here) is just one example of how Bonhoeffer envisaged the Church developing if it were to survive – “A community promising and manifesting transformation”. It is surely a model as pertinent to the survival of the Church of our future as it was a century ago and this is the hope offered here – with Christ at the centre and communities willing to share that which is at their core with others, there are still songs to be sung.

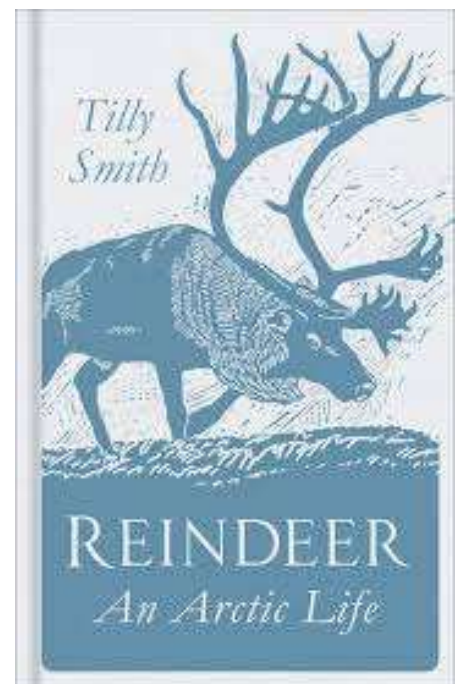
The Language of Tears by David Runcorn £12.99

What are tears and what do we recognise and learn when we shed our own? More than a physical response to our emotions, Runcorn argues that our tears are a language in themselves, indeed the only one available to us when we are most vulnerable – newly born or unable to speak. As such, he says, they have as much to say to us as they may tell others of ourselves. Exploring the science of crying alongside the place of tears in culture, religion and Christian history, this is an interesting and very readable study which offers, too, an invitation to pay better attention to those tears which well-up in the course of our own lives.

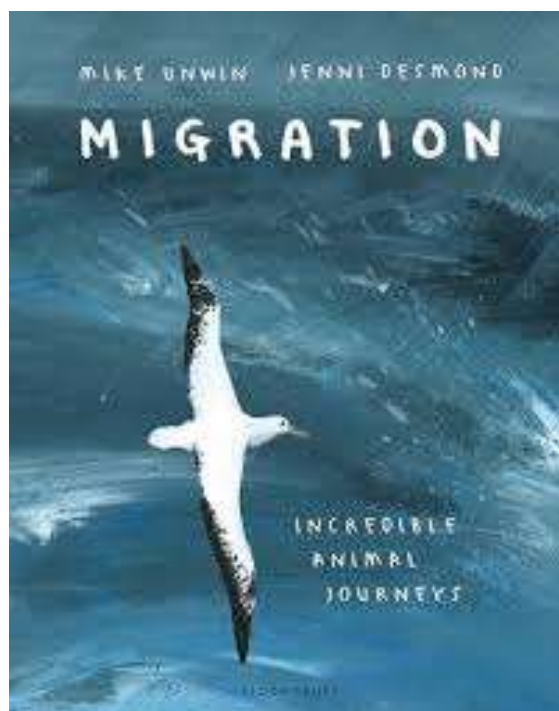


Reindeer – An Arctic Life by Tilly Smith £12.99

Tilly Smith is the co-owner of Britain's only free-living herd of reindeer – the Cairngorm Reindeer Herd – with whom she has walked alongside since 1981. She has also met other herds across the world and this fascinating account of their lives and habitats is full of the enthusiastic passion she has for her subject. Taking us through the seasons and back in history, Smith introduces us to many of the idiosyncrasies of this extraordinary arctic mammal while highlighting the important role they have played in the lives of those whose privilege it has been to herd them. Very engaging and beautifully illustrated this is a lovely winter's read.



Migration by Mike Unwin & Jenni Desmond £12.99



From 'Jumbo Journeys' and 'Hooves on the Move' to tales of the 'Shoal Survivors' and 'Wandering Wings' this is a superb guide for children to some of the remarkable expeditions animals make. Setting out to find their perfect habitat in response to the changing environments brought about by the seasons their travels see creatures crossing vast landscapes and time zones and their stories are tales both of endurance and survival, each one as astonishing as the next, this is an incredible book of incredible journeys!

Lent and Easter

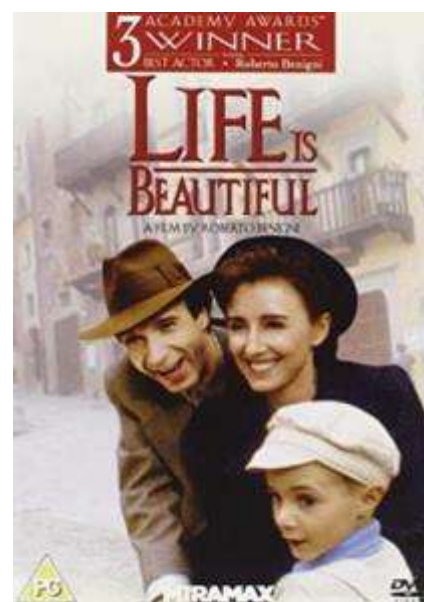
We have a large range of Lenten devotionals and material for group study now in stock as well as Mothering Sunday and Easter Cards. Please do come along and browse – or call or email us if you can't get in – and we will be happy to offer advice and recommendations!

Cornerstone Books is on the Terrace at St John's Episcopal in Princes Street. Open Monday – Saturday 10am-5pm.

Life is Beautiful

**Film show and discussion at StAGW
Wed 27 March at 7pm**

Come and watch **Life is Beautiful** followed by a discussion led by David Todd, Chaplain to the Arts with Edinburgh Greenside and Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER. Suggested donation of £1.50 for refreshments.



Ecumenical Friends

at St Cuthbert's

Thursdays 12.30-1.45pm

Tea and coffee provided – bring a packed lunch. We ask for a donation of £2 each time you come. Meetings are open to everyone and we offer a warm welcome.



7 Feb	Jock Stein	<i>Books I have Published</i>
14 Feb	Pat Ash	<i>Water</i>
21 Feb	Catherine Booth	<i>A Scottish Suffragette</i>
28 Feb	David Dutton	<i>The Emergence of Dissent in Haddington</i>
7 Mar	Robert Allen	<i>The Falkirk Family Life Centre</i>
14 Mar	Malcolm + Cati Ramsay	<i>Lenten Meditation</i>

Find the programme online at

togetheredinburgh.org.uk/outreach/ecumenical-friends-edinburgh/

Messy Café at St John's

Cornerstone Centre Sat 16 Feb 10am - noon

We love Messy Church but don't want to wait so long between events so we're trialling Messy Café, a relaxed drop-in café



style event with hot/cold drinks and snacks, crafts and books. Stay for the whole time or just for half an hour, whatever works for you.

Also **Sat 23 Mar** and **Sat 20 April**
St Andrew's and St George's West,
13 George Street Edinburgh EH2
2PA 0131 225 3847

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 BSL signed service on some Sundays
Weekday worship	1pm Monday – Friday
Interim Moderator	Rev Moira McDonald MMcDonald[at]churchofscotland.org.uk
Locum Minister	Very Rev Dr John Chalmers JChalmers[at]churchofscotland.org.uk
Locum Minister	Rev Colin Douglas (pastoral support) 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	Sophie Hudson 0131225 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[at]wpcscotland.co.uk