



July/August 2024

Issue 278

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland
*Working towards a Parish Union with Craigmillar Park
and Priestfield Churches to be known as:
Newington Trinity Church of Scotland*



CHURCH UNION UPDATE

GOING FOR GOLD - HOLIDAY CLUB

SCOUT NEWS

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

A summer of sport is now upon us, with the Euros football tournament in full swing (note to self – don't mention the Germany game!), and the Open golf and Wimbledon about to begin, not to mention the Olympic Games at the end of July. No matter which of those might 'float your boat,' or whether you would much rather have some time outside in the sunshine than watch any of them, if you have ever played football, golf, tennis or struggled round a school athletics track, you can only marvel at the level of performance that we can witness at the highest international level.

There's a very fine margin between very good sports people and the elite performers, often not related to natural ability or to fitness, but to mental attitude and to preparation for the game or the event. Studying the opponents, working out their strengths and weaknesses, devising strategy and tactics are all important. And it is the same in the work environment and in church life – preparation for a key meeting or for devising a forward plan is essential if it is all to go well, no matter our abilities. We have seen that over the past two years as we

move closer to a union with our neighbours and friends at Priestfield and Craigmillar Park. When I trained at the Bar as an advocate, we were told that a key maxim to remember for a good outcome in a court case was the 'five Ps': 'Proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance'.

And yet, so much of life is unpredictable. We have to 'expect the unexpected' and adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. Living in Scotland tells us that sunshine in the morning does not guarantee a rain-free day. So take your rain jacket with you nevertheless!

Much of the life and ministry of Jesus Christ was itinerant – always on the move from place to place, around the Sea of Galilee and moving further south in Judea near to the 'badlands' of Samaria and towards the culmination of his journey in Jerusalem. Although we hear that he lived for a while in Capernaum at the north end of the Galilean Sea, and of course grew up in Nazareth not too far away where he learned and practised his trade as a carpenter, much of Jesus' adult life seems to have been 'on the move'. He adapted to what he encountered along the way in deeply profound moments – whether they be meeting despised outsiders like Zaccheus or Levi and bringing them to new life and a sense of inclusion, to the curing of lepers or the healing of the sick, to raising Lazarus and Jairus' daughter from the dead, to feeding five thousand or sharing the 'bread of life' and 'living water' with the Samaritan woman at the well. None of this was as a result of 'proper preparation', but instead flowed naturally from the moment. These encounters highlighted not only the true nature of his divinity, but the depth of his love and the path he was setting out towards the Kingdom of God.

Sometimes in our own lives, chance encounters



direct our future path and lead to fulfilling new avenues, beyond all the pre-planning and preparation we might have carried out to do otherwise. They can be sliding doors' moments when we are forced to make an instant choice that will determine our direction for decades to come, if we go one way or another.



For the next three Sundays from 23 June, Taylor will be leading worship at Mayfield Salisbury, and I will be doing so in Statesboro amongst her congregation. What a wonderful blessing it is...for each of us to meet those on the other 'side of the pond,' to develop friendship and connections amongst them, to experience different places,

Very challenging choices of a new job, a change in personal relationships, or even a contrast between right and wrong. And encounters can also be more joyous, in that casual conversations or a speculative enquiries might open up exciting directions unexpectedly.

The experiences that Joy and I are about to have over the next three weeks are as a result of the latter kind of encounter. Nine years ago we had the great pleasure of undertaking a summer 'pulpit swap' with Rev. Andy Meeker and his family, from a PC(USA) church in Savannah, Georgia. The swap resulted from a speculative email from Andy to the Presbytery of Glasgow, looking for a potential partner for a swap, to which I responded. We had a wonderful month on the Atlantic coast of the States, with a very friendly congregation and in beautiful surroundings. Despite the weather, Andy and his family fell in love with Scotland in return.

Now those chance moments and opportunities have come again. Developing from a casual conversation they had within their Presbytery in Georgia, Andy's friend and colleague Rev. Dr Taylor Hartman, minister of First Presbyterian Church in Statesboro, Georgia has arrived with her family in Edinburgh until mid-July: and Joy and I will be heading in the opposite direction tomorrow.

and in our common faith and heritage, our love of God and our desire to worship in the Reformed tradition that we share.

Predicting a Scotland victory at the Euros, or that Sir Andy Murray will finish an extraordinary career with one last Wimbledon run, is perhaps a little precarious.

I'm sure, however, that this prediction will come true – that it will be a blessed time for the Forsyths, the Hartmans and all the good people of both congregations that will join our hands across the water. The preparations are over – time for all of us to revel in the next three weeks, and to enjoy all the encounters ahead to the full!

God bless,
Sandy



GRATITUDE FROM THE HARTMANS



We've been here but a few days and already feel a genuine connection to you. Thank you for the warm welcome and Christian hospitality! We look forward to growing in relationship and deepening the tie that binds our Presbyterian hearts together. From a still warm tea loaf, to a

favourite book dropped off, a thoughtful tour for our kids, the incredibly gracious staff, and the planning for Saturday's BBQ - what a bevy of generosity and kindness. May you know how much we each appreciate every detail and, even more so, every one of you! See you soon! God Bless, The Hartmans

PARISH REGISTER

New members

Joy Forsyth
John and Fiona Sturrock

Deaths

Grace Crichton
Lillian Morbin

Restored

Sheena McDonald

NEWS

CHURCH UNION NEWS



We are now moving forward with pace towards our union with Craigmillar Park and Priestfield Churches. On 1 June, a vote was held in each of the three congregations with an overwhelming result in each showing an agreement to unite as the new church of Newington Trinity. This was confirmed at a meeting of Edinburgh Presbytery on 18 June with an expected official date on 1 January 2025.

The three congregations are working hard on coming together and merging our structures and groups. The three congregations will begin worshipping together on 30 June 2024 at Mayfield Salisbury Church so please come along and support our united church. The current Mayfield Salisbury Church will be the principal place of worship with the Priestfield Church to be used as a hub for mission in the local area.

Our friend from Priestfield, Revd Donald Scott, officially retires on 30 June and we wish him well. On 21 June, Donald received the 'Granny June Community Award' from Prestonfield Primary for love and service to the school and also a Prestonfield Star leavers badge and a specially re-worded *Living on a Prayer* song!

We are working on a new website and social media for the joint congregations but please continue to support the current sites for the time being. More information in the weekly news.

ERIC LIDDELL 100 EVENTS

THURSDAY 11
JULY AT
MORNINGSIDE
UNITED CHURCH



Beyond the Chariots: Celebrating Eric Liddell's world record at the centenary of the 1924 Paris Olympics on Thursday 11 July 3.00pm and 6.00pm (1hr 15 mins duration) - Morningside United Church sanctuary.

Rich Swingle's one-man play, *Beyond the Chariots*, picks up where the film *Chariots Of Fire* left off, showing Eric in his greatest race, as a missionary to war-torn China. (There will be no charge for attendance but donations can be made at the event.)

The four-time Academy Award-winning film *Chariots Of Fire* tells how Eric Liddell refused to run the 100 meters in the 1924 Paris Olympics because a qualifying heat was held on a Sunday. Instead he ran the 400m, a race in which he wasn't expected to be placed. He finished it five meters ahead of the favourite, winning the gold medal and breaking the world record.

CHURCH FLOWERS

**CORRECTED
EMAIL ADDRESS**

At the forthcoming parish union with Craigmillar Park and Priestfield churches, we are looking to restart the weekly church flowers and delivery on Sunday mornings.

If you are able to assist with this, please contact Carole Stiff at **07887 806 342** or **carole.stiff@hotmail.co.uk** Many thanks indeed.

NEWS - Continued

MILK BOTTLE TOPS - COLLECTION FOR CHARITY-

IMPORTANT UPDATE

News has only just reached us that The Rotary Club of Galashiels is no longer collecting and sorting milk bottle tops to be recycled and sold in large quantities in aid of local cancer charities. For many years we at Mayfield Salisbury have added multiple sizeable deliveries to their mega collection, and from the wider Edinburgh community. So, with disappointment, we will be withdrawing our collecting bin immediately - but be assured that recent donations of tops will be held safely in case we hear of anyone else collecting milk bottle tops locally for a good cause. Any information or research welcome.

Thank you everyone who has contributed over very many years.
Anne Sturrock

HOSTS FOR EUROPEAN GODLY PLAY TRAINERS

The church is hosting the 2024 European Godly Play Trainers Conference from 20 to 23 September. Trainers from all over Europe and some from North America will be travelling over for workshops, worship, storytelling and connection.

As the cost of travel is quite expensive, we are looking for hosts in Edinburgh willing to host trainers in a spare room? Would you like to meet a Godly Player and support this ministry around Europe by welcoming in a trainer for a few days? If so, contact Alex Mackenzie and we can pair you up with a trainer to host. For more information on the conference, speak with Bettina Hather who is part of the planning team.

Alex Mackenzie

alex@godlyplayscotland.co.uk

Bettina Hather

youthworkermcpc@gmail.com

THURSDAY CLUB



The Thursday Club is on the lookout for speakers, musical artists and anyone who would like to entertain us for a short while on a Thursday afternoon! We are a friendly, non-intimidating bunch with a wide range of interests!

Talks might be about a recent holiday, a hobby enjoyed, famous or not so famous figures: anything really. Musical artists most probably will be amateur and not professional so don't worry if you've only sung in the shower until now!

Deirdre Eustace

07785 301 182 or

eustacedeirdre@gmail.com

If you are interested please contact Deirdre Eustace or any member of the team for a chat! We would be delighted to see both new and old faces!

COFFEE AND BLETHERS

The next meeting of Coffee and Bletthers is on Thursday, 11 July in the Bill McDonald Hall from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Future meetings are on 25 July, 8 and 22 August. All Welcome. Further details can be obtained from Christina Somerville cm.somerville2@gmail.com

REFRESHMENT ROTA

While on the topic of coffee, Pennie McIntyre would be pleased to have volunteers from Newington Trinity congregation members to add to the rota which is being drawn up for the autumn. If you are able to volunteer please get in touch with her at penniemcintyre@hotmail.com

SUMMER AFTERNOON SERVICE: 9 JULY



The Summer Afternoon Service will be held on Tuesday, 9 JULY at 2.30pm. Everyone is always made most welcome – just come along !

Pauline Robertson DCS, will lead us while Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth is on his way back from Statesboro, Georgia.

This short service will be followed by light refreshments and conversations until around 3.45pm in the Bill McDonald Hall via the West Mayfield level access

Perhaps you now find it hard to attend Sunday Worship - maybe you appreciate a shorter time away from home? Please feel free to bring a relative or carer with

you. At these less formal services we all remain seated at our tables throughout the afternoon, and we enjoy conversation and exchange of news over a cup of tea, especially appreciated in summer time while neighbours and friends might be away on holiday.

If you haven't joined us in the past and would appreciate further information please contact Pastoral Assistant - Pauline Robertson - your own Pastoral Visitor (PV) - or Anne Sturrock. Pauline can be contacted on 0758 704 3191

The following Afternoon Service will be on Tuesday 10 September

Anne Sturrock

CHURCH BBQ - 22 JUNE 2024



On 22 June, we had a wonderful BBQ in the church garden with people from each of the 'Newington Trinity' family of churches. Well over one hundred were in attendance.

We were blessed with beautiful weather, delicious food (burgers, salads, cakes and the very excellent chocolate

crispies!) and also a time for fellowship. The music and Ceilidh too were very much enjoyed by all, with support from the bag pipes.

Many thanks to Aileen Nimmo and all of the the Fellowship team for their hard work to make this a success.

PASTORAL CARE

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God that he obtained with the blood of his own Son. Acts 20:28

Please contact Pauline Robertson in relation to any pastoral issues or concerns and/or if you wish anyone to be remembered in the confidential prayer chain or wish to be added to the email circulation list.

The contact details for Pauline are: pastoralassistantms@gmail.com or phone 0758 704 3191.



CELEBRATING SACRED ARTS IN AUGUST



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL OF THE SACRED ARTS

Between Sunday 11 and Saturday 17 August, seven Edinburgh city centre churches will host a wide range of events in music, poetry, visual art, architecture, dance and film. Highlights include sacred jazz at St Mary's Catholic Cathedral, poetry in Canongate Kirk, guided tours with Scotland's Churches Trust, dance at Old Saint Paul's, film at St Vincent's Chapel, and vespers at Sacred Heart. Full details of the week-long programme can be found on the website noted below. This annual Festival is an initiative of the Edinburgh Sacred Arts Foundation.

The first three events are listed below but check the website for more information and a full programme:

www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org

FESTIVAL OPENING SERVICE

Minister: Rev Neil Gardner, MA BD
Preacher: James Holloway CBE, formerly Director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. With the Choir of the Robin Chapel: Director Paul Gudgin.
Sunday 11 August 10.30am
Canongate Kirk,

SWING WITH THE SPIRIT

Sacred Jazz with the Schola Cantorum featuring Richard Michael & Ben Shankland
Bob Chilcott: A Little Jazz Mass
Richard Michael: Jubilate Deo and Te Deum
TICKETS £16 (under 18 concession £12)
Monday 12 August 7.30pm
St Mary's Cathedral, York Place

GABRIEL FAURÉ - REQUIEM and CANTIQUE de JEAN RACINE

LEONARD BERNSTEIN:
CHICHESTER PSALMS
Director: Les Shankland with The Howe Street Singers
TICKETS £16 (under 18 concession £12)
Wednesday 14 August 7.30pm
At: Church of the Sacred Heart, Lauriston Street

SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE LAUNCH



Southside Faith Care

Come in out of the cold to warm up and bide a wee while here...

...wrap your hands around a hot cuppa ... and enjoy... a bit of a blether here too

drop-in
TUESDAYS
1pm - 4pm

We really look forward to seeing you!

The Lounge
PRIESTFIELD CHURCH
2 Marchhall Place
Edinburgh EH16 5HW

ALL WELCOME

www.southsidefaithcare.org
Scottish Registered Charity No. SC052304

Southside Faith Care had its official launch event on 14 May in Priestfield Church.

Southside Faith Care was started with a partnership of seven local Church of Scotland congregations in our local area who all have a shared vision of working together. The project aims to offer pastoral care to achieve spiritual, mental and social well being based on faith values:

- Offer activities and support to combat isolation and loneliness to all older people
- Challenge attitudes to age and age-related conditions which stop older people living as valued and equal members of society

Visit Southside Faith Care to:

- meet friends and catch up
- get support to be more active and independent
- join an activity
- find help to get the answers to your queries

Southside Faith Care is also a place for activities to share together with accessible multi-purpose spaces which will act as a hub for groups and services for older people providing informal interaction in a café space or engaging in more formal meetings/activities.

This will have a warm welcoming vibe where people drop in for coffee and company and/or more purposeful activity where, in the first year.

For more information contact them by:

Phone: 0787 454 3510 Mon to Fri 9am - 5pm

Email: southsidefaithcare@gmail.com

Address: Priestfield Church, 2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh, EH16 5HW.

Website: www.southsidefaithcare.org



GOING FOR GOLD!

OLYMPICS THEMED HOLIDAY CLUB FOR
CHILDREN AGED 5-12

ORGANISED BY
MARCHMONT ST GILES & MAYFIELD SALISBURY PARISH
CHURCHES AND PARTNERS

MONDAY 22ND - FRIDAY 26TH JULY
10AM-12.30PM
(FRIDAY FAMILY FUN DAY)
£1 PER CHILD PER DAY

MARCHMONT ST GILES PARISH CHURCH
1A KILGRASTON ROAD
EDINBURGH
EH9 2DW

REGISTERED SCOTTISH CHARITY NO. SC009338

TO REGISTER:
FAMILY@MARCHMONTSTGILES.ORG.UK



Our Summer term started with a visit to Bonaly Scout Centre where we had been offered a free session on the climbing wall. The offer was as a thank you for the 500 trees that we have planted there since our centenary year in 2020.

We returned to Bonaly the following month for our three day May camp which was attended by 25 scouts. We were so lucky in having three days without any rain and quite a lot of sunshine. We made good use of the range of activities there and spent time on camp training with our summer camp fast approaching. For many of the Scouts, this was their first camp so it was a valuable experience for them.

Two of our patrol leaders, Lewis and Alfie, carried out work at the Scout Grave in Newington cemetery since it was discovered by a scout family in 2020. The grave marks the resting place of three scouts who were tragically drowned in a camp in 1927. Since the initial tidy up by the family in 2020, scouts have continued the maintenance as part of a top award.

The weather was again kind to us when we had an evening Hike over the

Pentlands. Torrential rain greeted us as we were about to start but after 10 minutes sheltering, we had a dry evening and stunning views of Edinburgh from the top of Allermuir Hill as low cloud sat below us.

With the opening night of the European Football Championship being on a Friday night and the opening fixture being Scotland v Germany, it was too good an opportunity to miss. We decided to have a party with lots of food, music, songs and flags as we watched the match on a big screen. Not the result that we were hoping for but it was lots of fun and excitement, and a whole lot of noise

Our final activity of the term was a visit to the Scout Watersports Centre at Longcraig, near South Queensferry. The volunteers at the centre offer sailing, kayaking and windboarding so there is all plenty fun on offer for the scouts. Sailing under the Forth Bridge as a train passes over it is always a highlight of the evening.

Alan Dickson
Scout Leader

Headquarters

Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church
18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ
Scottish Charity No SC006141



'THE GOOD SHEPHERD'

Psalm 23, John 10:11-18

When I recently welcomed twenty visiting Swiss students and ministers to New College, I bemused the entire group by describing the Church of Scotland's current re-structuring process through saying there was a 'bit of a hoohah' going on. Sometimes words and phrases are part of our 'muscle memory' and trip off the tongue without us even thinking about them. A 'knee-jerk reaction' to a 'common or garden' situation – there you go, there's two of them as 'starters for 10' (oh no, it's yet another). If we were questioned about the stock phrases we often use by a bemused guest from abroad who had learned the 'Queen's English', we might not even be able to say where these phrases have come from, just that somehow they've become common parlance - that's just what people say.

Shakespeare's to blame for quite a few. A 'wild goose chase,' 'cruel to be kind', 'Mum's the word,' 'waiting with baited breath,' 'method in your madness,' 'come what may'...they are all his.

And then there's the Bible too. I was reflecting on Easter Sunday from Tom Holland's impressive recent book *Dominion*, that the Bible is the foundation of the Christian faith that has made and shaped much of Western morality and ethics, from notions of democracy and human rights, to a central strand of our Gospel passage today: that self-sacrifice and compassion to others might be more admirable and desirable than selfishness and greed. The phrases from the Bible that absent mindedly roll off the tongue are 'legion' too, they become a 'law unto themselves' (you might have seen what I did there – I should stop now, before you put my 'head on a platter'): from 'forbidden fruit' and 'land of milk and honey,' 'no rest for the wicked,' 'reap what you sow,' 'by the skin of your teeth,' on and on it goes, all the way to Armageddon.

And beyond its phrases that capture and explain so much of our everyday existence, so too some recurring sets of images in the Bible message are deep within our collective consciousness – not just of the



'The Good Shepherd' - Lucas Cranach c.1540

manger, the cross and the tomb, but of light and darkness, of bread of wine. And right from the very beginning, the early followers of Jesus used the metaphors of Jesus to begin to tell his story and explain their faith. That He was the vine and they the branches; of Jesus being the 'bread of life' and the 'living water' that would quell their hunger and quench their thirst. And that he was their shepherd and they his flock, forever. Some of the earliest surviving images of Jesus found in the catacombs of Rome, from the 3rd century, show Jesus in a short white tunic, with a lamb draped over his shoulders.

This fourth Sunday of Easter is every year set aside in the Christian calendar as Good Shepherd Sunday, where we move from celebrating and making sense of the dramatic accounts of the resurrection on Easter Sunday, then over the past two weeks of the risen Christ appearing before the disciples, to now beginning to comprehend what this brave new world might mean. What is our Christology? What meaning does this risen Christ now have for us? How do we now understand the person of Christ, both human and divine?

That image of the sheep, the flock and the good shepherd is not a bad choice to make a start every year after Easter, as we begin

to grapple with those questions. Right enough though, living on the south side of Edinburgh, you don't often encounter flocks of sheep scuttling past on your way across 'The Meadows,' despite their name. It's true of any urban parish. When I did a church placement in ministry training in Easterhouse in Glasgow, my supervising minister told me off for putting up a slide of a sheep in worship by saying, 'when have you ever seen a flock of sheep getting off the number 12 bus and strolling into the pub in the shopping centre round the corner!' The danger is, because of our unfamiliarity, unless you happen to have grown up on a farm, that the shepherd and sheep metaphors from Psalm 23 and John 10 become images that are all soft focus and yummy: us as the lovely clean white fluffy sheep baahing away contentedly in the green pastures by the still waters, gambolling along on the right paths, with Jesus as the epitome of a warm fuzzy love for us all, guiding and protecting - all will be well, amen. But a bit of digging behind the text into the life and times of Jesus, and a closer look at some of the text of these passages might 'melt them all into thin air,' and bring us 'full circle' (thanks again, Shakespeare)...might take us a little deeper and make the metaphors all the richer for it.

What would Jesus using this image of the Good Shepherd have sounded like to those who heard him speak? What would that mean when it was heard for the first time, before our two millenia of repetition?

When Jesus spoke of shepherds and sheep, he was speaking to people who had everyday experience of them. Even if you lived as a carpenter or a fisherman or a homemaker, their wool, milk, cheese and meat were commonplace, as well as their presence as sacrificial animals in the synagogue. And you would know too how the Hebrew scriptures were filled with images of God as the shepherd of the chosen people. You would have known from Psalm 79:13 that you were described as God's people and the sheep of God's

pasture; that the prophet Ezekiel declared in Chapter 34 that God had said, 'I will search for my sheep, and will seek them out....I will be the shepherd of my sheep, and make them lie down.' And of course, you would have known the familiar words, for them too, of Psalm 23, the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. And so Jesus' audience in John 10, which remember were mainly of a group of Pharisees, the powerful religious elite, would have heard this claim of 'I am the good shepherd' as something not at all fluffy and cosy, far from it. They would have heard it instead as being quite shocking and truly outrageous. 'Is this man really saying that he is, in fact, God?'

And also for them, the life of a shepherd was anything but admirable. It was lonely and dangerous and menial. Shepherds were rough at the edges, men living in the hills and not welcome or popular with those and such a those. The claim of Jesus to be a shepherd had an edge to it. Like saying now, 'I am the good immigrant, the Deliveroo cyclist at your door,' or 'I am the good parking attendant, tucking the ticket under your wiper.' What do these people matter, the Pharisees would have thought? And who is he calling a sheep anyway?

But then, look at the richness of the imagery and what it might mean, if they filtered Jesus' claims through their knowledge of the 23rd Psalm. Why has it stayed so strongly embedded in the popular consciousness, from then until now, and continues to resonate? Still a mainstay of funeral hymns and readings, speaking even to those who are far from faith. It might be from the treasure trove that is revealed. For here we have a psalm and a metaphor that is profoundly intimate and personal. As the writer Gary Simpson says, 'this Psalm sits up with the believer in the challenges of sleepless nights and uncertain days.' Through worry, anxiety, depression, loss.

We the sheep -sometimes affectionate and loyal, to the flock of our community, to the



shepherd that is God or Jesus Christ; other times passive, aimless, stubborn even, wandering off and going astray to where the foxes and the wolves of life lie waiting. But in the deepest of trust of the sheep for the shepherd in the Psalm, and in Jesus words too, there lies an utter dependence and reliance that is reciprocated in a passionate care for the sheep by the shepherd, with the will and the strength to protect them. The Greek word used in the text for 'good' is 'kalos', meaning less a shepherd that is better than some of the others, but more a 'model' shepherd, the best that one can be. And that means a shepherd in Jesus Christ who will never leave us, the kind of shepherd who, in his own words twice, would even lay down his life for his sheep - protect them, and each of us, at any cost. Between Him and each one of us, he is saying, there is an intimate and loving connection - verse 14 - 'I know my own and my own know me.'

The great forward momentum of the Psalm from tranquillity through danger to safety, speaks of a human life of a believer in God of journey, of trauma, and ultimately of deliverance, through trust in the love of God. In verse 1, there is a simple and bald statement which shows the ultimate confidence in the fruits of that trust - 'the Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.' The imagery begins in places of comfort and peace, with the Psalmist sharing 'he makes me lie down in green pastures, beside still waters, along the right paths.'

And then the mood turns and there is a decided chill in the air, 'even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil,' sometimes translated as the 'valley of the shadow of death,' or as 'total darkness.' It may not be death itself but the deep shadows of times in our lives, our danger, our pain, the places of fear. Even in such total darkness, says the Psalmist, I will fear no evil, because you, Lord God, are with me; you, the Shepherd are standing beside me with your rod and your staff in hand - in your power, you will protect and save me, the sheep of your flock. Jesus then, with this Shepherd image, poses us all the question: do you put your trust as you walk the lonesome valleys with the hired hands protect you, in nations and armies, in leaders and rulers, who will walk away and leave you stranded if they need to? Or do you look to shun the darkness by pushing it away - immunising from the troubles of this world by power or possessions that might slip through your fingers? In the bleakness of that valley, says the Psalmist and says Jesus, whatever preys on us as individuals and as communities, we will never be deserted, and we are not defeated, because God is with us.

And so, the second half of the Psalm begins to feel like the journey home from the valley floor. The anointing of oil being a lavish welcome to a guest. And, finally, in verse 6 the Psalmist is certain of God's protection, in the safety of the house of Lord, the temple of Solomon in Jerusalem, always an ancient metaphor for the ultimate living place of all nations and all people - arriving where you will never want to leave, forever in God's care.

And 'surely', the Psalmist confidently asserts in verse 6, surely on that journey through insecurity to safety in the love and trust of God the shepherd, goodness and mercy will be our companions. The theologian Abraham Herschel said that the story of the Hebrew Scriptures was not our search for God, but God's search for us. Literally, the words 'goodness and mercy shall follow me' means that they will pursue me, they will chase me down. As one

commentator writes, 'Imagine if we, the vulnerable flock of the divine, knew ourselves forever to be pursued by the goodness and mercy of God'. Not as we sometimes might feel, as in the old Robert Johnson blues song, that there is a 'hellhound on my trail,' especially if we walk through the darkest of shadowy valleys in life. Instead, verse 6 of Psalm 23 is saying that the goodness of God is riding ahead of us in our lives, like the scout or the forward sentry, for it is and has been in every place before we arrive, and we might just bump into it once more when we get there. The goodness of God is ahead of us, clearing new ground, lighting a pathway in the dark places of new possibility, opening doors that no-one can shut. And the mercy of God is behind us, sweeping up the refuse of what we leave in our wake through God's grace and forgiveness, us living as if we are sandwiched between these two shielding and protecting provisions of God - goodness and mercy - no matter which way we turn.

The Good Shepherd remains a powerful image, not just as fluffy and cosy, but because it meets a deep need even now, for those who hunger for connection, for community, for togetherness in an age of individualism; but also because it speaks of an alternative to our fears, our separation, our insecurities, through a journey of hope. It tells us that all is not lost even in the darkest hours, and we are not alone.

After the shock had subsided, the richness of the shepherd metaphor must have been heard loud and clear by the 1st century crowd as the words left the mouth of Jesus, Pharisees included. Imagine if we could know its depth as a daily truth now too and live every day feeling secure and without anxiety and fear, with our trust in a God that loves us, pursued by goodness and mercy. If that could be our knee-jerk reaction and our muscle memory. That might seem to you now, as Shakespeare put it, like 'the stuff that dreams are made of,' but then again, in his words too, these promises of Christ, the Good Shepherd, could be for you the 'be all and end all.' Amen.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

JUNE

Sun 30 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Taylor Hartman)
7.00pm Evening Service

JULY

Tue 2 10.00am Morning Prayers

Fri 5 2.30pm First Friday Friends in the Bill McDonald Upper Hall

Sun 7 Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Taylor Hartman)

Tue 9 10.00am Morning Prayers

2.30pm Afternoon Service. See page 7.

Thu 11 2.00pm Coffee and Blethers in the Bill McDonald Upper Hall

Sun 14 Eighth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 16 10.00am Morning Prayers

Sun 21 Ninth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

22 to 25 GOING FOR GOLD - Joint Churches Youth Holiday Club. See page 11.

Tue 23 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 25 2.00pm Coffee and Blethers in the Bill McDonald Upper Hall

Sun 28 Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 30 10.00am Morning Prayers

AUGUST

Fri 2 2.30pm First Friday Friends in the Newington Room

Sun 4 Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 6 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 8 2.00pm Coffee and Blethers in the Bill McDonald Upper Hall

Sun 11 Twelfth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Prof Alison Jack)

Tue 13 10.00am Morning Prayers

Sun 18 Thirteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 20 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 22 2.00pm Coffee and Blethers in the Bill McDonald Upper Hall

Sun 25 Fourteenth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID



A huge thank-you to everyone who contributed so generously to our Christian Aid Week appeal. This year Mayfield Salisbury raised the magnificent sum of over £3,500, not including donations made online. We are especially grateful to those who delivered appeal envelopes to streets in our parish – almost £1,000 of the total came from this source. It was a great pleasure to work collaboratively on the envelope distribution, with Priestfield and Craigmillar Park churches. Our combined efforts enabled us to raise an even larger sum from our three parishes. During our Christian Aid service we heard the inspiring story of Aline Nibogora (pictured above), who was able to fight her way out of destitution with training and support from Christian Aid. Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival. But she was determined to push back, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. Aline transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid. Your support during Christian Aid Week will help families like Aline's build reliable and diverse incomes. Your donations can help bring them food security, better health, safer homes, increased resilience and hope.

Book Sale in support of Christian Aid - a reminder The Christian Aid Book Sale will be held again this year at The New Town

Church of Scotland (formerly St Andrew's and St George's West), 13 George Street, Edinburgh. For various reasons it was not possible for the sale to happen during Christian Aid Week in May, as in previous years. Instead it will take place from Thursday 17 to Saturday 19 October. More details about the sale, and how you can be involved, will follow in due course; in the meantime please put the date in your diary!

A prayer from Christian Aid
God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
you have abundantly blessed us,
your mercy knows no bounds.

We offer our gifts and commit ourselves to action,
following your command to love one another.

We give thanks for the vital work of Christian Aid and for all who support this work.

May our offerings transform the prospects of those living in extreme poverty.

God of justice, mercy, and peace, send us out to serve you.

May your extraordinary love radiate through our words and actions, every day of our lives. Amen.

Thank you for your support
The Christian Aid Team

EDINBURGH PEOPLE'S THEATRE

Edinburgh People's Theatre is delighted to be joining you again at Mayfield Salisbury Church this Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2024. As you'll know, award-winning Edinburgh People's Theatre was one of the founding members of the Fringe itself and has presented a production as part of the Fringe since 1947.

We're proud of our history, and this year is no exception as we offer you a warm invitation to join us in 1919, in a Leith Walk flat on the boundary between Leith and Edinburgh for the fun and fabulous Scottish comedy, *Ne'er the Twain*.

Meet the McIvor family from Leith and their swanky Edinburgh friends as they find out the two towns are to be joined. Add in a bit of romance, a disgraced

Newhaven fisher-lassie and a dodgy bookie, and it becomes a laugh-a-minute comedy. Big question is, will the sun still shine on Leith if it's part of Edinburgh?

2 to 17 August - Edinburgh Fringe venue 11, Mayfield Salisbury Church Hall.

Weekdays 7.30pm, Saturdays 2.30pm.
No performance on Sundays

Tickets £15/£12 (concession)
**2 for 1 on full price tickets
on Monday 5 August**

Tickets available from the Fringe box office tickets.edfringe.com/what's-on/ne-er-the-twain or via TicketSource (Phone 0333 666 3366) www.ticketsource.co.uk/ept
Run time approximately 2 1/2 hours.
Suitable for age 12+ (advisory)"

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

July

1	II Chronicles	33,34	/	Psalms	75,76
2	II Chronicles	35,36	/	Luke 1:	39-80
3	Ezra	1,2	/	Luke	2
4	Ezra	3,4	/	Luke	3
5	Ezra	5,6	/	Psalms	77
6	Ezra	7,8	/	Luke	4
7	Ezra	9,10	/	Luke	5
8	Nehemiah	1,2	/	Psalms	78: 1-37
9	Nehemiah	3,4	/	Luke	6
10	Nehemiah	5,6	/	Luke	7
11	Nehemiah	7,8	/	Luke	8
12	Nehemiah	9,10	/	Psalms	78: 38-72
13	Nehemiah	11,12	/	Luke	9
14	Nehemiah	13	/	Luke	10
15	Esther	1-3	/	Psalms	79
16	Esther	4,5	/	Luke	11
17	Esther	6,7	/	Luke	12
18	Esther	8-10	/	Luke	13
19	Job	1,2	/	Psalms	80
20	Job	3,4	/	Luke	14
21	Job	5,6	/	Luke	15
22	Job	7,8	/	Psalms	81,82
23	Job	9,10	/	Luke	16
24	Job	11,12	/	Luke	17
25	Job	13,14	/	Luke	18
26	Job	15-17	/	Psalms	83,84
27	Job	18,19	/	Luke	19
28	Job	20,21	/	Luke	20
29	Job	22,23	/	Psalms	85
30	Job	24-26	/	Luke	21
31	Job	27,28	/	Luke	22

August

1	Job	29,30	/	Luke	23
2	Job	31,32	/	Psalms	86,87
3	Job	33,34	/	Luke	24

4	Job	35,36	/	Philippians	1
5	Job	37,38	/	Psalms	88
6	Job	39,40	/	Philippians	2
7	Job	41,42	/	Philippians	3
8	Proverbs	1,2	/	Philippians	4
9	Proverbs	3,4	/	Psalms	89
10	Proverbs	5,6	/	Colossians	1
11	Proverb/		/	Colossians	2
12	Proverbs	9,10	/	Psalms	90
13	Proverbs	11,12	/	Colossians	3
14	Proverbs	13,14	/	Colossians	4
15	Proverbs	15,16	/	I Thessalonians	1
16	Proverbs	17,18	/	Psalms	91
17	Proverbs	19,20	/	I Thessalonians	2
18	Proverbs	21,22	/	I Thessalonians	3
19	Proverbs	23,24	/	Psalms	92,93
20	Proverbs	25,26	/	I Thessalonians	4
21	Proverbs	27,28	/	I Thessalonians	5
22	Proverbs	29,30	/	II Thessalonians	1
23	Proverbs	31	/	Psalms	94
24	Ecclesiastes	1-3	/	II Thessalonians	2
25	Ecclesiastes	4,5	/	II Thessalonians	3
26	Ecclesiastes	6,7	/	Psalms	95,96
27	Ecclesiastes	8,9	/	Timothy	1
28	Ecclesiastes	10,11	/	I Timothy	2
29	Ecclesiastes	12	/	Timothy	3
30	Song of Songs	1,2	/	Psalms	97,98
31	Song of Songs	3,4	/	I Timothy	4

September

1	Song of Songs	5,6	/	I Timothy	5
2	Song of Songs	7,8	/	Psalms	99-101
3	Isaiah	1,2	/	I Timothy	6
4	Isaiah	3-5	/	II Timothy	1
5	Isaiah	6,7	/	II Timothy	2
6	Isaiah	8,9	/	Psalms	102
7	Isaiah	10-12	/	II Timothy	3

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHURCH

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Minister

Revd Dr Alexander Forsyth AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 667 1286

Student Minister

Simon Hessett SHessett@churchofscotland.org.uk 0134 667 1522

Pastoral Assistant

Pauline Robertson DCS pastoralassistantms@gmail.com 0758 704 3191

Children and Young Adult Worker

Bettina Hather youthworkermspc@gmail.com 0778 319 0114

Church Manager

William Mearns churchmanager@googlemail.com 0780 801 1234

Organist

Kate Pearson kate.q.kate@gmail.com 0744 238 2296

Session Clerk

Boyd McAdam clerkmspc@gmail.com 0777 358 7579

Treasurer

John Graham culkein@btinternet.com 0131 667 6331

Safeguarding Co-ordinators

Aileen Nimmo and Dougie Robertson mayfieldsafeguarding@gmail.com 0131 667 1522

Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

Hugh Somerville hs.somerville2@gmail.com 0131 466 2446

Mayfield Radio Unit

The Studio mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com 0131 667 7742

Church Address and Office

18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ
0131 667 1522 or churchmanager@googlemail.com

Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits, please contact the Minister

Staff Days Off - (Generally)

Minister: Fridays
Children and Young Families Worker: Mondays
Manager: Monday afternoons & Fridays
Pastoral Assistant: Friday

Social Media Accounts

-  www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury
-  www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh
-  www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06
-  www.x.com/churchscotland (formerly Twitter)
-  www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

SCAN TO GIVE



www.give.net/20311853

Copy date for next Issue:
6.00pm on Friday 23 August
For September Issue

Web



The Church of Scotland