



March/April 2024 Issue 276 Scottish Charity SC000785

# GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



**INVITATION TO THE CHURCH'S FUTURE**

**REFLECTION: 'LIFTED UP'**

**LETTER FROM THE MANSE**

[www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)

# FROM THE MANSE



*Dear Friends,*

I know there are many sports fans in the congregation, and keen players too, both past and present, amongst other sports in golf, tennis, football, and, in this season of the Six Nations tournament, rugby union. Indeed, it was only recently that I discovered we have two full Scotland rugby internationals as regular worshippers in the congregation. No doubt they have been glued to the television like many others to watch the games.

No matter whether your loyalties lie with those in blue, white, red or green, you might recognise how the recent Scotland matches against Wales and France have kept up the great Scottish sporting tradition of attempting to 'snatch defeat from the jaws of victory.' So often did it happen to the men's football teams in the 1970s and 1980s that the words 'Disaster for Scotland!' became a catchphrase of the commentator Arthur Montford. And whilst Scotland somehow held on to win by one point in Cardiff, against the French they were undone in injury time by a controversial refereeing decision which held, after repeated video replay, that the ball was not grounded to score a winning

try. Only Scotland could lose that way...

It used to be in rugby, football and tennis that the decision of the referee or umpire in the heat of the moment was final, whether or not the whole crowd was baying for the opposite. Recognising that glaring mistakes were sometimes made, and that John McEnroe had put his blood pressure through the roof by repeatedly shouting 'You Cannot Be Serious!!' video technology is now employed to try to ensure the correct decision, with additional referees in a video suite reviewing the on-field decisions. However, especially in football but now in rugby too, whilst there is some clarity it has resulted in new avenues of confusion and uncertainty as well as delays in the game. Human error is not eliminated, and differing understandings of what has happened and its interpretation still remain.

Now in training for ministry, it was repeatedly hammered into me to avoid the approach in a sermon or all age talk which links the introduction and the message with these fatal words: '...and you know, in a way.' Something like this: 'and you know, boys and girls, in a way Jesus did play for Albion Rovers!' At great risk of falling into that trap, and I hope you might forgive me if you think

I have done so, (you know, in a way) I think there's something here too about the human search for meaning. Something about the routes we take as Christians towards understanding what 'truth' might be, that is beyond decisions on a sports field. Indulge me a little, at least...



As we journey through Lent towards Easter, this often comes into sharper focus with the accounts in the Gospels of the Resurrection of Jesus that we share on Easter Sunday. For some,

In pre-critical days before the Enlightenment in the Middle Ages, there were sole voices of authority who decided meaning and 'truth', their platform often based on power alone – in political and social life, the King or Queen; and in questions of morality, theology or Biblical understanding, the Church through its doctrines. With the latter, the Reformation asserted that each person must be entitled to a personal relationship with God, rooted in their own ability to read and understand Scripture, and assisted by an educated clergy. As an extension of that, from the 19th century onwards to the present day, Biblical Criticism has employed varying angles to view Scripture through fresh and exciting lenses: from examination of its sources, to its literary roots, to its social background. The prior source of authority in biblical interpretation, the doctrine of the Christian churches, is no longer the final answer.

This has led to a great diversity of understandings, not only of the meaning of the words of Scripture and the 'truths' they reveal, but also of the character of the Bible stories themselves and whether they were intended to describe factual occurrences as we would understand them. Flipping back to our sporting analogy, what has assisted the search for clarity and true meaning in some ways, has also brought new avenues of confusion and uncertainty in its outcomes. Human error is not eliminated, and differing understandings of what has happened and its interpretation still remain. 'What does the Church actually believe?' can be a difficult question to answer now.

the truth of a bodily resurrection of Jesus is central to Christian faith and the divine nature of Christ; for others it is more likely a myth story which is important for meaning but not factual accuracy. For me, the resurrected Christ is the key to the whole narrative of the mission of God in the world and the story of humanity that we find in Scripture from Genesis to Revelation: of creation, fall, redemption and reconciliation with God. For the image of the resurrected divine Christ speaks of a movement of all creation from suffering to healing, of death to new life, of darkness to light, of tears to happiness. This brings me to a nuanced account of the former view of the Resurrection, but in a spirit of great respect and understanding for the latter.

No matter how many lenses of interpretation we have, however, before God we must remain humble. Wherever you stand on that spectrum of interpretation, and however that leads you to believe who Jesus was and is, we all must recognise that no-one except God has a monopoly on interpreting 'truth', and that all our attempts at interpretation may well be flawed in God's sight. So know that, wherever you stand, you are still blessed and loved by God, and that your views are welcomed and embraced in a 'broad church' like Mayfield Salisbury. And wherever that leads you in your thoughts and prayers on Easter Sunday, may you know too the wonder and joy of that day in your heart.

And whether we need the 'help' of video assisted referees or not, for the last two upcoming games, 'Come on Scotland!!'

God bless, *Sandy*

# NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

## The Gathering 2024

Christian Aid's annual Gathering, an online event which aims to inform, educate and inspire Christian Aid supporters, took place this year on 27 February.

Among other topics, this year's event featured the work of members of the charity's Ukraine team, who talked about recent projects where solutions have been driven by the communities themselves. Iona Turner, Christian Aid's Survivor and Community-Led Response (scir) Programme Coordinator for Ukraine said:

*My involvement in The Gathering is timely as it's nearly two years since Russia invaded Ukraine, a grim milestone. Generous donations, from supporters, the Disasters Emergency Committee and also the Scottish Government's Emergency Humanitarian Fund - are helping to support our work in Ukraine.*

*(Our work is) particularly focused on projects led by communities, informed by their lived experience of the conflict, which meet their needs while strengthening long term resiliency. For example in the villages near Odesa where the community wanted seeds to grow vegetables and equipment to repair water wells, allowing them to stay in their homes. We hear very little in the news about the resilience of local people, who continue to support one another and adapt to the many challenges they now face. This is an opportunity to share those stories.*

There was also a celebration of fundraising highlights from the past year. Christian Aid Scotland's Community Engagement and Fundraising Manager Charlie Meiklejohn said:

*The Gathering is our hugely popular annual event when we celebrate what we've achieved together over the previous year but also look to deepen supporters' knowledge of our partner*



*work and hopefully inspire them to think of new ways to give, act and pray during the coming year.*

If you weren't able to make the annual Scotland supporter Gathering or would like to re-visit some of the topics covered, you can find the slides and videos by following this link: [www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/gathering-2024](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/events/gathering-2024)

### Count Your Blessings

A prayer for Lent from the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton

*As we journey into Lent, let us listen closely as our global neighbours tell us their truth. As we walk into the wilderness, slow our footsteps to fall into step with ways that sustain each other. As we consider the words of the angels who wait on us there, may their messages of hope and challenge meet our open ears and hearts. As we count our blessings, call us to account for how we live and love. Christ of the Way, walk with us. Amen*

The Christian Aid Team

## THURSDAY CLUB



[cm.somerville2@gmail.com](mailto:cm.somerville2@gmail.com)

Grateful thanks are due to those who give their time on Thursdays to drive members to and from the Thursday Club. However, as the Club is increasing in popularity there is now an urgent need for more drivers to assist with transport. If you are free for an hour or so on Thursday afternoons during the months of October to April inclusive and would like to help, please contact Christina Somerville by leaving a note in the 'S' pigeonhole or email [cm.somerville2@gmail.com](mailto:cm.somerville2@gmail.com). Why not stay for the meeting and enjoy the speakers, chat and afterwards - a nice cuppa!

## MAN FRIDAY

### What's that?

A men's group with a more dynamic approach

When is it? On Fridays

Where is it? The Lounge at Priestfield Church

What time? 10.00 to 12.00

What happens? We are discussing men's health as we get older

Who's behind it? Southside Faith Care

Just turn up or get in touch with [su@southsidefaithcare.org](mailto:su@southsidefaithcare.org) or 07478 543510.

## MARMALADE SALE



**Christian Aid's Marmalade Sale** will be held in the Newington Room after both services on Sunday, 24 March. Please don't forget to bring cash, as well as bags to carry away your purchases. Every jar you buy will help Christian Aid pursue its aim: to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. If you have marmalade to contribute, we'd be very grateful! You can hand it in to the Newington Room between 10.00am and 11.00am, on Saturday 23 March, but if you're unable to do so, please bring it directly to the stall on the day of the sale. Alternatively, contact Kate O'Brien on **0131 667 4362** or [kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk) to make another arrangement. Please label your jars on the lid. THANK YOU!

## AFTERNOON SERVICE

Tuesday 12 March  
at 2.30pm led by our  
Minister, Revd. Dr  
Sandy Forsyth



**Note: The 70<sup>th</sup> Afternoon Service will be on Tuesday 21 May**

The first Afternoon Service of 2024 will be held on **Tuesday 12 MARCH at 2.30pm** We meet again in the Bill McDonald Hall, via West Mayfield level access, for this short service of Worship with Holy Communion. This will be followed by light refreshments and chat until around 3.45pm. Everyone always made most welcome – just come along!

Perhaps you now find it hard to attend Sunday Worship, or maybe you appreciate a shorter time away from home. At these less formal services we all remain seated at our tables throughout the afternoon - and afterwards we enjoy conversation and exchange of news over a cup of tea.

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

# ABOUT OUR PEOPLE: CATHIE

I think I've found the solution to the heating problem in Mayfield Salisbury Church Sanctuary. Cathie Jones crochets blankets! Every time I visit her, she's making a new blanket. There's not a newborn baby in her ever-expanding family that hasn't received one of Cathie's blankets. It's not just grandchildren but great-grandchildren that she crochets for. There's often a pile of blankets waiting for collection in lovely pastel shades of pink, blue, yellow and green. Now to my astonishment the grownups in the family have been asking for bedspreads - king size ones! Not a problem for Cathie - she just sets to with crochet needle and wool. Cathie is just one of those people who love to keep busy, and she's been keeping busy since she left school at the age of 14. I'm sure she won't mind me telling you that she is over 90 now and certainly her fingers are showing no signs of slowing up.

Cathie first went to work at Munrospun at Restalrig. As a young girl she was put to work on the big winding machine where hanks of wool were wound onto twelve spindles to make up cones of wool. Famous for making jumpers, the factory attracted the attention of quite a few film stars and Cathie remembers meeting Danny Kaye, Bing Crosby and Donald O'Connor the dancer!

She went on to work at several different jobs and I have enjoyed many stories from Cathie especially about when she was a home help, as you can imagine, going more than the extra mile for her clients. Entertaining for me have been her stories with a medical theme. When she was at primary school she was evacuated to Brents in West Lothian, and she remembers being sent out to collect sphagnum moss to be made into dressings for wounds during the war.

At the age of 18 she herself spent a long time in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh when she suffered two collapsed lungs. She describes having a big needle



inserted into her chest to drain green slime from her lungs into a bottle at her bedside. She was then transferred to Astley Ainslie for fresh air treatment to cure the infection in the days before antibiotics and remembers sleeping outside under a tarpaulin to keep off the rain. Incredibly she survived after 18 months of this treatment.

Cathie was married to Alec in Buccleuch Church in 1955 before joining Mayfield Salisbury Church. She is a remarkable lady: generous, resilient, industrious, and uncomplaining. She is a dispenser of good common sense advice to her large family with whom she is much involved. There is always much laughter with Cathie over cups of tea and chocolate biscuits.

*Jean MacGilchrist*

# TOWARDS OUR UNION

The following is an extract from the *Towards our Union* newsletter issue 12 which updates us on progress towards the new congregation of Newington Trinity Church. The full version can be found on the church website or in the halls vestibule.

## Getting Together at Easter

In addition to our Newington Trinity services on the third Sunday of every month we have a number of shared services during Holy Week and at Easter.

- Every morning from Monday 25 to Friday 29 March at 7:45am at Craigmillar Park Church start the day with fifteen minutes of reflection followed by breakfast
- Thursday 28 March at 7:30pm at Priestfield Church Maundy Thursday communion
- Friday 29 March at 7:30pm at Mayfield Salisbury Church Good Friday Tenebrae Service

And there are two outdoor events. Why not join with Christians from other local churches on a Good Friday Walk of Witness? The walk leaves from Craigmillar Park immediately after breakfast on Friday 29 March. The walk is arranged by Newington Churches Together. Or, why not be up with the lark and join us for a short dawn Easter Day Celebration at the top of Blackford Hill? We gather at the summit at 6.30am.



Our Easter Messy Church will meet on Saturday 30 March from 4.00pm to 6.00pm. Enjoy making things, having a meal and worshipping together.

## Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

We are blessed with a second ministry post as part of the new congregation of Newington Trinity. This second post has

been designated as a 'pioneer post' with the aim of a 'fresh expression of church,' or 'new worshipping community,' arising with God's help and guidance. A launch will be held at Priestfield Church on Saturday 16 March from 10am to 1pm, to which everyone from all three of our present congregations is invited. We are looking to develop understanding, enthusiasm (excitement even!) and momentum amongst us all. During our time together we will:

- Explore what 'pioneer ministry' is, and could be,
- Share real life examples from around Scotland and beyond,
- Consider possibilities for our area, and for the Priestfield building,
- Bring together a group from our three present congregations who will take it forward.

The event will be followed by lunch. Have you signed up yet? If not, do contact your congregation's representative.

## A Retreat

Central to all that we may do as the united congregation of Newington Trinity is our relationship with God; our faith and our journey as 'people of the way' followers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will join together before our union for a half-day or full day of 'retreat;' all in the three congregations being invited to a time together of prayer and contemplation: a day of spiritual relaxation, re-connection to God and recharging as we look to the future together. The probable date is Saturday 1 June – more details will follow.

## Craigmillar Park Church building

The General Trustees approved the sale of the Craigmillar Park Church (CPC) buildings at their meeting in early February and are now in negotiations with the denomination that wishes to purchase the buildings. The two parties are looking at the purchase price of course, but also the condition of the buildings, the contents and the entry date. So far, things seem to be going well but it may take a few more weeks for a final decision to be reached. /

The General Trustees have visited to photograph and record the ecclesiastical fixtures, fittings and contents (the war memorials, communion tables, crosses and the like). CPC, in discussion with the other congregations, will need to make decisions at some point about whether they remain with the building, move to Newington Trinity or are otherwise appropriately disposed of. CPC are also preparing an inventory of the other contents, a home for which will also have to be found. Bids for dozens of IKEA mugs may shortly be invited!

**Bettina Hather:**  
**Children and Young Adult Worker at Mayfield Salisbury Church**

Continuing with our introductions; here is Bettina Hather. Bettina works with children and young people up to the age of around 25, quite a remit!



We'll all know Bettina from her leading the first reflection and 'Young Church' in our monthly Sunday services together, but she is involved in lots of activities with our youngsters; from running holiday clubs to visiting us (and mucking in!) at Messy Church. What might not be so obvious is that Bettina also leads the work on Sunday evenings with our Youth Group and keeps an eye on our students and twentysomethings.

One of the challenges for all of us in Newington Trinity will be how to work as a team with Bettina to reach the around thirty

### **Bettina**

percent of the population below the age of 25. We have to develop our work, with Bettina as an enabler and skills base, with a team drawn from across the Newington Trinity congregation. What an exciting challenge for us. If you'd like to know more or are interested in working in any of these areas do contact Bettina or your Session Clerk.

### **Plenary**

The next meeting of all three Kirk Sessions together, the Plenary, will be on Wednesday 13 March. The April newsletter will include a report of proceedings.

# MARY REES



Mayfield Salisbury Church is blessed to have so many volunteers helpers who assist in numerous ways the smooth running the church and one of those helpers is Mary Rees.

Without fail for at least the past 19 years (my time), and I am sure long before, Mary has been the first person in church on a Sunday morning and is always very willing to help.

Among her many tasks, Mary devotes a large amount of dedication and care to the

organisation of the hymnbooks and bibles on the pews so that they all in order and presentable for when people arrive.

She also helps enormously with the setting out of chairs in the Bill McDonald Hall in preparation for the Thursday Club each week.

Thank you Mary!

*William Mearns and  
Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth*

# INVITATIONS TO THE CHURCH'S FUTURE



## LAUNCH EVENT FOR SECOND MINISTRY POST AND 'PIONEERING'

We are blessed with a second ministry post as part of the new congregation of Newington Trinity. This has been designated as a 'pioneer post,' and the present Priestfield building is retained potentially to play a significant role in such 'pioneering.' The aim is for a 'fresh expression of church,' or 'new worshipping community,' to arise with God's help and guidance.

A launch event will be held at Priestfield Church on Saturday 16 March from 10.00am to 1pm, to which everyone from all three present congregations is most welcome. The event will be followed by lunch. We are looking to develop understanding, enthusiasm and momentum amongst us all in the following ways:

- Explore what 'pioneer ministry' is, and could be
- Share real life examples from around Scotland and beyond
- Consider possibilities for our area, and for the Priestfield building

- Bring together a group from our three present congregations who will take it forward.

It would be helpful to know if you are coming, for catering purposes – please mail Angus McIntyre: [angusbmcintyre@gmail.com](mailto:angusbmcintyre@gmail.com)

There are no present plans to have organised children's activities on the day, but if that would prevent you from coming, please email Bettina Hather to see if arrangements can be made: [youthworkermssp@gmail.com](mailto:youthworkermssp@gmail.com)

**RETREAT DAY TOGETHER** Central to all that we may do as the united congregation of Newington Trinity is our relationship with God; our faith and our journey as 'people of the way,' followers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will join together before our union for a half-day or full day of 'retreat,' all in the three congregations being invited to a time together of prayer and contemplation: a day of spiritual relaxation, re-connection to God and re-charging as we look to the future together.

**Saturday 1 June** More details to follow. Volunteers to plan are again sought-please speak to the minister if you would be interested in doing so.

# SCOUTS UPDATE

In a month shortened by the school holidays, we have still managed to enjoy a variety of activities. The craziest was certainly Bubble Football at World of Football over at Chesser. This involved 5 aside football with the twist that the scouts were encased in a giant bubble structure over the torso. Their eyes lit up at the start when they were told that there were no real rules so whilst some tried to score goals, others enjoyed bouncing off each other as well as off the floor.

The Great 28th Bake Off had the scouts trying to emulate the skills of the bakers on the tv programme by bringing along a cake or cakes that they had made at home. There was a vast array of styles and flavours with all of them up to a good standard. It was an arduous task for the leaders though in trying to sample each one.

We started the skills challenge award by concentrating on health and diet. Circuit training showed the Scouts a series of exercises to work on over the coming weeks and, after a discussion on what



makes a healthy diet, they were given a log to complete for a week. All quite appropriate after all those cakes!

*Alan Dickson*  
Scout Leader

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

## SHORT AFTERNOON SERVICES

Here are the dates for 2024. You may wish to note them in your diaries. They all begin at 2.30pm and are held in the Bill McDonald Hall (level access).

**March** Tuesday 12 - Holy Communion

**May** Tuesday 21 - Christian Aid

**July** Tuesday 9 - Celebrating Summer

**September** Tuesday 10 - Communion/Harvest

**November** Tuesday 12 - Remembrance



Mayfield Salisbury  
Parish Church

## PASTORAL CARE

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** phone 0758 704 3191.



# Church of Scotland

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## General Assembly

**Saturday, 18 May to Thursday, 23 May, 2024**  
**(Excluding Sunday)**



### **Can you help with stewarding at the General Assembly?**

Stewards have a vital role at the General Assembly to ensure the safety and comfort of those attending. Stewards provide a friendly welcome to the Assembly Halls, ensure the security of proceedings by checking passes, are alert to security threats and disturbances and have a responsibility to ensure the safe evacuation of the Assembly Hall if this is required.

Individual shifts last for three hours and volunteers can select the day or days upon which they would seek to help.

**For more details please contact Sandy Gemmill, Chief Steward**

**[assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk)**

**'LIFTED UP'****Isaiah 40:21-31  
& Mark 1:29-39**

Yesterday at the university there was a conference celebrating the life of Edinburgh's own Eric Liddell and his contribution, along with so many other Scottish missionaries there, to Christianity in China, where it now flourishes. Liddell was, of course, the Olympic athlete and the flying wing in the Scottish rugby team. We maybe could have done with him on occasion in the second half against Wales. His story of faith and fortitude 100 years ago at the 1924 Olympics was made famous in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*. A few months ago, I had the privilege of conducting the funeral of our longtime member, Joan Nicol, who was the niece of Eric Liddell, her mother Jenny being a prominent character in the movie. And afterwards I watched the film again to spot Joan and her Mum as extras in a scene where the actor Ian Charleston as Liddell is preaching in the Scots Kirk in Paris. The camera lingers on them for a few seconds, as Liddell reads beautifully from the end of our Isaiah passage the words of verse 31, so true of course for his own story 'those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.'

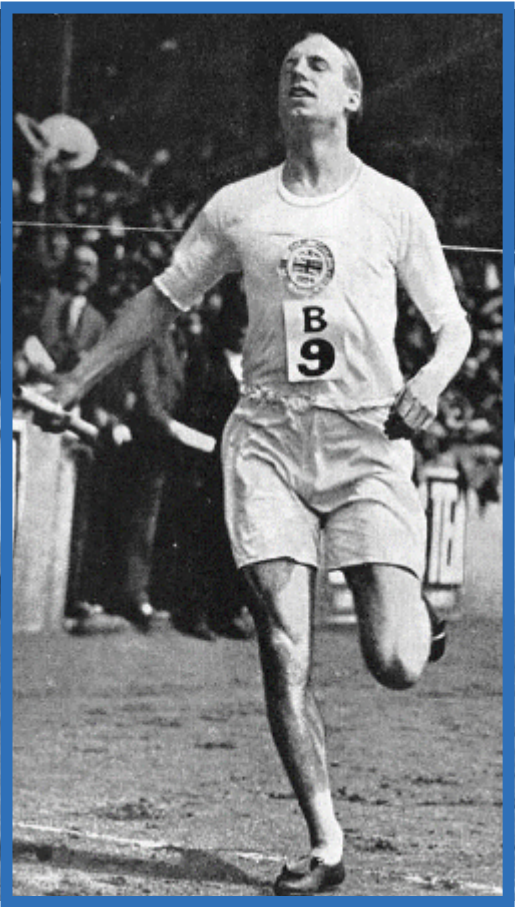
Sometimes we too, like Liddell, can run and not be weary, can soar on eagles' wings as if we are gliding across an open sky that is bathed in sunshine and light, but at other times we might feel as if we are instead crunching the gears and misfiring like a second-hand Lada along a potholed road in the dark. On the face of it, the prophet Isaiah was in the back of one of those Soviet-era egg boxes without his seatbelt on, so bumpy was the road he was travelling on. For Isaiah spoke these words into the despair of the exiled people of Israel, who were enslaved under the tyranny of Babylon about 700 years before Christ. And with his words, Isaiah was calling his people back to trust and faith in God, letting them know God was still there and had their backs; envisaging a future time of rising up, of resurrection if you like, when they would eventually return to their homes and their land.

Two and a half thousand years later, those words of the prophet still speak into our own very personal places of exile: places perhaps of disappointment, darkness, woundedness or even just everyday drudgery, Isaiah's words call us still to wait, to trust and to hope, for God's presence and energy will be with us – verse 29 – he gives power to the faint and strength to the powerless; verse 31 – if we wait on God, our strength will be renewed and will arise again, lifted up by God as if we are indeed soaring in the sky, without fainting or weariness.

You know what it's like when you're waiting there on the tarmac, the runway somewhere far off in the distance through the drizzle on the plane window. 'This is your captain speaking, unfortunately due to something you won't fully understand and I won't fully explain we'll be waiting here for another half hour or so, whilst you watch numerous other planes take off and land.' Expecting to fly and to soar high above the clouds can indeed be a time of waiting and trust and hope, where we don't feel in control at all and may be anxious and apprehensive about what lies ahead.

Yes, says Isaiah, we who are expecting to fly with God are tiny like grasshoppers in God's eyes (v 22), for even princes and rulers are nothing to him (v 25) and, as for us, we wither and are blown away like the stubble of the fields and are no more (v 24), Who do we think we are we in the face of such an almighty and all powerful God?

But have you forgotten everything about God, says Isaiah? What kind of amnesia are you suffering from? Have you not known, he says? Have you not heard? Have you not understood from the beginning? God knows our identity, the hairs on our head are counted, our name is written on the palm of his hand. Our destiny is within his sight. And so surely you are expecting to be lifted up even in the ordinary and the everyday of your lives, no matter how small a speck on the face of the



earth you might sometimes feel, and however powerless and lacking control, you too might indeed soar and glide on eagles wings in the strength of the Lord. So get up off your knees, and arise. 'Arise and go now, and go to Innisfree,' as WB Yeats said, to a place of freedom and contentment and fulfilment in a life with God, a life in Christ. Arise, be lifted up now. Surely you are expecting to fly?

For this is a God who in Christ, just as he arose and was lifted up to new life at that first Easter, stretches out his hand to ours, touches and heals, and brings up back onto our feet, re-energised once more to take our place in the community of the world, to serve and be served as he did. When God walked this earth in human form in Jesus



teaching. In this photo, the church that looks like a spaceship sits above Peter's house, seen here underneath. Capernaum was a crossroads town with its cultural mix of past Assyrian influences, the Roman domination, and the heritage of the Jews, the tribes of Israel. A place then of immigrants and of diversity, where races and cultures mixed, was the place where Jesus called home.

Jesus was walking in ordinary places with ordinary people from all cultural backgrounds, dealing with very real problems, and dealing in

Christ, this is what he did in his healing ministry, as in our passage from Mark, not just here in public amongst thronging crowds of the sick or those who were thought to be possessed, again an understanding of the time for forms of illness, but also in the quiet spaces, the private places, at the hearth and in the home. For it was there he reached out and held the hand of Jairus' daughter and lifted her up back to life; and it was there we encounter this rather humdrum healing of Simon Peter's mother-in-law in Capernaum, while she was lying in her bed with a fever; in the first of the Scriptural resurrection stories, taken by the hand and once more lifted up to new life.

The Son of Man with a nomadic ministry where he often had nowhere to lay his head, is said to have settled here at Capernaum, with Simon Peter and Andrew from nearby Bethsaida; they must have been called to follow whilst mending their nets near there. And Peter's house in Capernaum, the very place where Jesus healed Peter's mother-in-law, is just yards from the synagogue where in the previous passage in Mark he was said to have been

everyday miracles; and so with Peter's mother-in-law, in bed with a fever. No Harry Potter style flashes of lightning from a wand here, a cry of 'ascendio' or a generous measure of Harry's 'wiggenswald' potion to restore health, instead it's all very ordinary and mundane. But the power to heal does come from somewhere. Notice here that after this day in Capernaum, Jesus next act was to go out in the darkness of the early morning and to pray to God in a deserted place. These were not random acts of 'pure magic,' as they might say in Glasgow, whether to the public crowds that gathered, or in the hushed quiet of Peter's house. These healing acts of lifting and raising up were rooted in God's strength and will. And notice too for Peter's mother this was not an individual healing, but a communal one. The healing stories of Jesus are often followed by a restoration to community, an inclusion with the person healed now coming back into the fold; in her case to serve, not just in a domestic sense but also as an act of discipleship, the same word being used as in Jesus the servant King.

The revelation of who Jesus is, is to be found here in a miracle of the everyday. From the



of Jesus are ordinary people called in the middle of their ordinary existence. Bo Sanchez said 'we might believe that miracles happen every day, for every person is a miracle. Every moment is a miracle. If only we can open our eyes, we'll see God's love everywhere.' In the miracles of the everyday, we too are called into the presence of Christ, called to hear and respond, called to live and to share life in all its fulness, called to wait and trust and hope, called to follow.

Faithful discipleship makes ordinary work and the everyday the vehicle of Jesus' real presence in the life of the world; there for people who might feel wholly inadequate to experience it,

word made flesh in the rough and tumble of real life, for Jesus, there is the place of revelation.

These passages say 'don't give up on hearing and seeing God being revealed in miracles in everyday places,' in the kind of places where Jesus lived and died. Keep making the effort even though it seems pointless and hopeless to do so. Followers

unclear of their path or even frightened and doubting and denying as Peter later was many a time. Where might that place of everyday miracle be for us? From our own very personal places of exile, when are we to be lifted up by the God who loves us? Are the cabin crew prepared for take off? When, like Eric Liddell before us, are we expecting to fly?

## Easter Breakfast Services

The Newington Churches Together early morning services during Holy Week (this year 25-29 March) are being hosted at Craigmillar Park Church. The services are at 7.45am, lasting about 15-20 minutes, and are followed by breakfast in the hall. If anyone was able to offer help with preparing, serving and clearing up the breakfasts between 7.30am and 9.30am on one of those days please can they contact our Fellowship Convener, Aileen Nimmo on [aileenandstuart@btinternet.com](mailto:aileenandstuart@btinternet.com) Many thanks.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Death

Winifred Taylor



# FATHER'S SONG

at



## Charlotte Chapel



Light refreshments, £3 per head.

Father's Song is a vocal group of 30 men from various churches throughout Central Scotland.

Sharing faith through the singing of contemporary praise songs, giving thanks and honour to God.

## Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 7pm



[www.fathers-song.org.uk](http://www.fathers-song.org.uk)

Supporting the work of



### Donate to **EDINBURGH STREET PASTORS**

who will be giving an update on their work during the evening.

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Each  
Other

Charlotte  
Chapel  
Shandwick Place  
Edinburgh  
EH2 4RT

Donate on the evening or via this QRcode



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Note: Youth Club on Sunday evenings - dates TBC. Please check weekly news**

## MARCH

- Sun 10 Fourth Sunday in Lent - Holy Communion**  
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 12 10.00am Morning Prayers  
2.30pm Afternoon Service of Holy Communion
- Wed 13 7.30pm Kirk Session at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church
- Thu 14 2.00pm Thursday Club: SIMON FAIRNIE *Fisherrow Fishwives*
- Sat 16 10.00am - 1.00pm Launch event for second ministry post at Priestfield (see page 10)
- Sun 17 Fifth Sunday in Lent**  
10.30am Service with Craigmillar Park and Priestfield Church at Mayfield Salisbury
- Tue 19 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Thu 21 2.00pm Thursday Club: Easter Fayre and Easter Decoration Making
- Sun 24 Palm Sunday**  
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

### **Holy Week Services (Monday to Friday)**

7.45am Morning Services at **Craigmillar Park Church** followed by breakfast

- Tue 26 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Thu 28 2.00pm Thursday Club: Holiday - no meeting
- Thu 28 7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion at Priestfield Church**
- Fri 29 7.30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service at Mayfield Salisbury Church**
- Sat 30 4.00pm Easter Messy Church at Priestfield Church
- Sun 31 Easter Sunday**  
6.30am Climb up Blackford Hill for sunrise (optional!)  
10.30am Joint Worship Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

## APRIL

- Tue 2 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Thu 4 2.00pm Thursday Club: Kathleen Hendry *My Travels in Patagonia*
- Sun 7 Second Sunday of Easter – ‘Low Sunday’**  
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
7.00pm Evening Service of Holy Communion
- Tue 9 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Thu 11 2.00pm Thursday Club: Catherine Booth *An Outing With The Milers*
- Sun 14 Third Sunday of Easter**  
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CONTINUED

Tue 16 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 18 2.00pm Thursday Club: Maureen Kelly Edinburgh *Jacobite Tales*

### Sun 21 Fourth Sunday of Easter

10.30am Service with Craigmillar Park and Priestfield Church at Mayfield Salisbury

Tue 23 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 25 2.00pm Thursday Club: Sangstream

### Sun 28 Fifth Sunday of Easter

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 30 10.00am Morning Prayers

## MAY

Thu 2 2.00pm Thursday Club: Party Plus Singalong With George And Susan

### Sun 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

7.00pm Evening Service

Tue 7 10.00am Morning Prayers

# THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

## March

6	Numbers	17-19	/	Acts	19
7	Numbers	20,21	/	Acts	20
8	Numbers	22,23	/	Psalm	30
9	Numbers	24,25	/	Acts	21
10	Numbers	26,27	/	Acts	22
11	Numbers	28,29	/	Psalm	31
12	Numbers	30,31	/	Acts	23
13	Numbers	32,33	/	Acts	24
14	Numbers	34,35	/	Acts	25
15	Numbers	36	/	Deuteronomy	1/32
16	Deuteronomy	2,3	/	Acts	26
17	Deuteronomy	4,5	/	Acts	27
18	Deuteronomy	6,7	/	Psalm	33
19	Deuteronomy	8,9	/	Acts	28
20	Deuteronomy	10,11	/	Romans	1
21	Deuteronomy	12,14	/	Romans	2
22	Deuteronomy	15,16	/	Psalm	34
23	Deuteronomy	17,18	/	Romans	3
24	Deuteronomy	19,20	/	Romans	4
25	Deuteronomy	21,22	/	Psalm	35
26	Deuteronomy	23,24	/	Romans	5
27	Deuteronomy	25,26	/	Romans	6
28	Deuteronomy	27,28	/	Romans	7
29	Deuteronomy	29,30	/	Psalm	36
30	Deuteronomy	31,32	/	Romans	8
31	Deuteronomy	33,34	/	Romans	9

7	Joshua	16-19	/	Romans	14
8	Joshua	20-22	/	Psalm	39
9	Joshua	23,24	/	Romans	15
10	Judges	1,2	/	Romans	16
11	Judges	3,4	/	Mark	1
12	Judges	5,6	/	Psalms	40,41
13	Judges	7,8	/	Mark	2
14	Judges	9,10	/	Mark	3
15	Judges	11,12	/	Psalms	42,43
16	Judges	13,14	/	Mark	4
17	Judges	15,16	/	Mark	5
18	Judges	17,18	/	Mark	6
19	Judges	19,20	/	Psalm	44
20	Judges	21	/	Mark	7
21	Ruth	1,2	/	Mark	8
22	Ruth	3,4	/	Psalm	45
23	Samuel	1-3	/	Mark	9
24	Samuel	4-6	/	Mark	10
25	Samuel	7-9	/	Mark	11
26	Samuel	10,11	/	Psalms	46,47
27	Samuel	12,13	/	Mark	12
28	Samuel	14,15	/	Mark	13
29	Samuel	16,17	/	Psalm	48
30	Samuel	18,19	/	Mark	14

## May

1	Samuel	20-22	/	Mark	15
2	Samuel	23,24	/	Mark	16
3	Samuel	25,26	/	Psalm	49
4	Samuel	27,28	/	Corinthians	1
5	Samuel	29-31	/	Corinthians	2
6	Samuel	1,2	/	Psalm	50
7	Samuel	3-5	/	Corinthians	3
8	Samuel	6,7	/	Corinthians	4
9	Samuel	8-10	/	Corinthians	5

# WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

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

Minister: Fridays  
Children and Young Families Worker: Mondays  
Manager: Monday-PM & Fridays

## Social Media Accounts

-  [www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury)
-  [www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh](http://www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh)
-  [www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06](http://www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06)
-  [www.x.com/churchscotland](http://www.x.com/churchscotland) (formally Twitter)
-  [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)



The Church of Scotland

## SCAN TO GIVE



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**Copy date for next Issue:**  
6.00pm on Friday 26 April  
For May / June Issue