



May/June 2024

Issue 277

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



LETTER FROM THE MANSE

DAY OF RETREAT - 1 JUNE 2024

FAMILY NEWS SPRING UPDATE

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends,

'Is that you off skiving again?' I wondered how long it would be before I heard that fateful phrase once more from a certain member of the congregation, after I mentioned from the pulpit that I was going on holiday in the following week. It was not long at all. In fact, it was at the door immediately after the service. It happened every time - almost a knee-jerk reaction by this person to the thought that a minister might get holidays like any other working person. The implication was that somehow you had gone down with a severe bout of 'lazyitis' by taking any time off from being available, and you were thus not fully committed to the cause.

You'll be pleased to hear that this was not at Mayfield Salisbury, but in a previous congregation where I was Associate Minister. But even now when holidays are in the offing, I bristle in the expectation that I might hear those words again. By the way, I'm off next week, so you don't have long to get the message across!

When I was training for ministry, 'clergy self-care' was high on the agenda. The importance of trying to take one full day off per week, and of taking your annual

holiday allowance were often emphasised. We were even advised to get a dog, to get some personal time on 'walkies'! I took that one to heart... Whilst I have not always 'practised what I preach', taking some time off is something I have also tried to highlight to those in training. The dangers of ministry are not just too many biscuits and not enough exercise (although that is one of them!), but also the real risk of 'burn out' if it is all too 'full on'. Whilst I am certainly not in that position at present, in a recent conversation with a senior pastoral adviser in the national Church of Scotland, he told me just how many ministers were on long term sick leave, with a significant proportion of them with stress-related mental health issues. The current re-structuring is playing its part. Many of those off sick have broken down in their first five years of ministry. It was all quite sobering.

Ministers, however, are not alone. Many jobs and professions these days are far more demanding than they were a generation ago. Digital communication means an expectation that people can be contacted day and night, and so they get no respite. Long hours are expected and less people are employed to do the work, particularly in the public sector, meaning heavy workloads. I'm sure you have friends

or members of your family who seem to be working constantly for those reasons, and we worry for them that they can cope in the longer term. Maybe all this even resonates with you and your work/life balance at the moment. And even if you are retired, sometimes the demands of the organisations and projects you are involved in, not least the church, can still be considerable.

All of which is not meant to bring you down, or as a friend of mine says, 'to play my small violin' looking for a sympathy vote. Rest though is something that is not only important for our wellbeing, and indeed for the standard of our engagement when we are at work (by not falling asleep on the job), it is also something that is part of our Christian faith. We know from the creation story at the beginning of Genesis, that God is said metaphorically to have rested on the seventh day after the task of creation was complete. Jesus was often described in the Gospels as taking time out to go to quiet places to rest, to think and to pray, albeit the crowds often caught up with him. God encourages us to rest and meets us in that place. As it says in Psalm 23, 'He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He refreshes my soul.'

When Scotland was a predominantly religious country, up until the last fifty or six years, the Sabbath tradition remained very strong. The Fourth Commandment in Exodus 20:8 told us 'to remember the Sabbath day and keep it holy', and the country sought to do so. I was reminded on a recent trip to Lewis that it is still very much alive in some parts – no washing on the line on Sundays! For some, the idea of a Sabbath brings back images of tied-up swings and mind-numbing boredom from all the shops, pubs and cinemas being shut. In the words of a song by Morrissey from the 1980s, 'Everyday is like Sunday, everyday is silent and grey'. For many, the



enforced Sabbath rest became emblematic too of a domineering and judgmental Kirk which sought conformity from its vantage point of power and judgment. That edifice in Scotland has now, well and truly, fallen to the ground – supermarkets, sports matches, every entertainment you can imagine, it all happens on a Sunday with armies of people working to feed the need. Whilst I am not advocating a return to a blanket shutdown where only Scripture reading and prayer might be permitted, I wonder if we have lost as a result something important for the rhythm of life and our natural wellbeing and happiness. A time set aside to rest and recuperate; to recharge the batteries and prepare for the week. A time to slow down and appreciate the company of our family and friends. To allow ourselves to get off the treadmill and be less frenetic. To find peace.

I hope you get the chance to 'skive off' this summer. To enjoy some 'you time', doing the things you enjoy most, and spending happy days with those you love. And even if it is a 'staycation' at home this year, some extended time in the garden or a park are definitely what the doctor orders (and the minister as well!). Time to slow down, to think and even to pray. I'm sure Jesus would approve too... *Sandy*

AFTERNOON SERVICE - 21 MAY



The 70th Afternoon Service will be held on Tuesday, 21 MAY at 2.30pm. Everyone always made most welcome – just come along!

We meet in this glorious month of Spring for this short service of Worship to give thanks for the Afternoon Services we have held since 2008.

Simon Hassett, Student Minister, will lead us while Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth is at The General Assembly.

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

Perhaps you now find it hard to attend Sunday Worship, or maybe you

appreciate a shorter time away from home? Or maybe you would like 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 chatting and exchange of news over a cup of tea – and this time there might even be cake!

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 Summer Afternoon Service will be on Tuesday 9 July 2024.

Anne Sturrock

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID



Christian Aid Week 12 to 18 May 2024

The focus of this year's Christian Aid Week is Burundi, which is financially one of the poorest countries in the world. More than 70 per cent of the population live in poverty. The inspiring story of Aline Nibogora illustrates the impact Christian Aid can have.

Aline felt the full force of extreme poverty when an early marriage ended in abuse and violence. Separated from her six children, she was forced to sleep on the streets of Burundi. No home. No healthcare. No security. But Aline was determined to push back against the inhumanity of poverty, driven by hope, faith and the love of her children. She transformed her life with a little help from Christian Aid. She joined a community workshop led by Christian Aid-funded trainers, and learned about Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs). Aline used a loan to set up a successful business. She has been reunited with her eldest sons and is building a new home. She is now chairperson of a VSLA that helps 25 families in her community.

You can help!

This year we're trying something new during Christian Aid Week. We're planning a 'delivery-only' collection in our parish, putting appeal envelopes through letter-boxes in selected streets and inviting people to make a donation, which they can return to a local drop-off point. **This is**

where you can help!

Volunteers are needed to deliver the envelopes, but there's no need to go back and collect them afterwards.

It's a great way to enjoy an evening stroll, walk the dog, or top up your 10,000 steps. But more importantly, you'd be increasing awareness of Christian Aid and raising funds to support their work, as well as demonstrating our church's commitment to fighting

poverty and injustice world-wide. If you would like to spend an hour or so in this way, please contact Kate O'Brien by email: kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk Phone **0131 667 4362** or **07593 768 087**. The more helpers we have, the more envelopes we can deliver.

And on 12 May, we look forward to celebrating Christian Aid Week in church with a special service followed by our own familiar bucket collection. Alternatively, you can donate online at:

<https://give.christianaid.org.uk/donate/CAM-006503>

Every penny will help people like Ailine push back against the inhumanity of poverty. Thank you!

Book Sale in support of Christian Aid

The long-established and hugely successful 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 will not be 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!

Thank you for your support
The Christian Aid Team



A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2024

*Loving God,
help us to hear the voices of those enduring extreme poverty.
It is hard to listen to stories of pain.
Show us how compassion for others can bring healing and
fullness of life for all.
Help us to understand that we are one through your love,
for every human being is loved by you, beyond measure.*

*Loving God,
you call on us to build your kingdom of mercy and truth.
It isn't a task for the faint-hearted.
When we lose our sense of purpose, fill us with faith.
When we doubt or throw up our hands in despair, fill us with hope.
When we pass by our neighbour as though we did not know them,
fill us with the love that turns us back and takes us to their aid.
In Jesus' name,*

Amen

NEWS

COFFEE AND BLETERS RESTARTS



Coffee and Bletchers is a new venture started a few years ago to cover the summer period when the Thursday Club is on holiday. It is a friendship group open to the whole community, especially those who might feel lonely or isolated and in need of companionship. We meet in the Bill McDonald Hall on the second and fourth Thursdays during the months of June, July and August from 2.00pm to 3.30pm starting on 13 June. Just pop in when you feel like it, stay as long as you wish, relax and enjoy tea or juice and of course a blether. We do hope to see you there.

If you would like more details please speak to Christina Somerville or Deirdre Eustace, by phone **0131 667 1522** or email churchmanager@googlemail.com

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

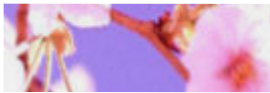
What time? 10.00 to 12.00

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 or **0747 854 3510**.

FIRST FRIDAYS FRIENDS



is a place for people living with memory loss and their carers to come to chat, sing, and have a cup of tea. We meet on the first Friday of every month. Why not try us out on Friday 3 May or 7 June at 2.30pm in the Bill McDonald Hall? If you would like more info, speak to Anne Mulligan (**0779 089 2594**) or Sandra Carter (**0753 169 6240**) or Jean MacGilchrist (**0771 021 3754**)

ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE WALKS



Our annual pilgrimage walks will take place in May and June this year following the route of the Borders Abbeys Way. The final section, from St. Boswells via Dryburgh Abbey to Melrose Abbey will be on Saturday, 15 June to which we are hoping to attract as many people as we can. A coach will be running from Edinburgh to take us there and back and a special post-Pilgrimage dinner will be served at the end for a suggested donation of £20. A brochure is attached, and is also available on the church website www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/media/attachments/2024/04/15/borders-abbeyes-way-pilgrimage-booklet.pdf

Contact Simon Hessett for more details, or to sign up for any of the walks - shessett@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH FLOWERS



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.com Many thanks indeed.

FAMILY NEWS SPRING UPDATE



The time between Christmas and Easter seems to have flown past and now we are heading towards Pentecost and the summer! Some snapshots of the last few months are included!

It has been a delight for me to work with the nursery (Easter story eggs and Christmas nativity) and Prestonfield School for both their Christmas and Easter explorations, and to get to hone opportunities right across the age ranges and seasons both within our church family and wider.

Our Student/ twenty somethings' Bible Study group has started itself and is thriving, the Youth Group continues and has been involved in thinking towards our new community and Pioneering. Both these groups engaged with the joint churches theme of Good Shepherd this last Sunday as some of the pictures show. Young people, families and students within our churches and communities are in the midst of exam and dissertation season, transitions from nursery to primary, primary



to secondary and students finding housing for next year. Do hold them in thought and prayer. It is lovely to see our children and families getting to know one another as we spend more time together as joint churches and Messy Church and fellowship events; roll on the summer Barbecue.

As always, thanks to all those who support this area of ministry and the volunteers who devote their time and care to our young folks.

Bettina Hather



REVD TAYLOR HARTMAN - PULPIT SWAP

Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth will exchange pulpits with **Revd Taylor Hartman** of First Presbyterian Church, Statesboro, Georgia (Presbyterian Church USA) from Wednesday 19 June to Wednesday 10 July. Revd Hartman and her family (husband Blair and their two children) will be resident in the Mayfield Salisbury manse during these dates whilst Joy and Sandy are in Statesboro. Taylor will lead worship at Mayfield Salisbury Church on 23 June, 30 June and 7 July.

We plan to have a barbecue in the church garden on 22 June to welcome them - please check the weekly news for more information nearer the time.

The website of First Presbyterian Church, Statesboro, Georgia, can be found at: www.fpcstatesboro.org

REVD T. STEWART MCGREGOR



REVD T. STEWART MCGREGOR has sadly passed away. Stewart was the locum to the congregation in the vacancy following Bill McDonald's retirement and again briefly in 2009, and will be well known to many. A celebration of his life will be held at St Giles Cathedral on Friday 3 May at 12.30pm and all friends are welcome. Please keep his family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

MEDICATION BLISTER PACKS



We all try very hard to recycle whenever possible. However sometimes it is not possible and medication blister packs, which cannot go into your home recycling collection, are problematic. But good news! - they can now be recycled here at church.

We have a new deposit box next to the leaflet table in the halls entrance whereby empty medication packs (the plastic/metal part) can be placed for recycling. You should continue to recycle the cardboard box and paper instructions element of the packs with your home recycling collection.

Many thanks to Kenny Ferguson from Priestfield Church who has kindly made all of the arrangements for this worthwhile project.

Collections of tinned, dried food (not fresh food) and basic toiletries would be greatly appreciated. If you would like to donate, there are marked buckets in the Halls entrance under the bench for food to be placed in. Also located there or nearby are containers for Bethany, milk bottle caps and used stamps.

William Mearns

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** phone 0758 704 3191.

Jesus said: "I am the vine, you are the branches. If you remain in me, and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me, you can do nothing." **John 15:5**

Newington Trinity

**DAY OF RETREAT FOR SPIRITUAL
REFLECTION AND REFRESHMENT**

Theme: Bearing Fruit

**Saturday 1st June, 10am-1pm
Priestfield Parish Church**

Approaching our union, we come together to prepare spiritually, through prayer, contemplation, meditation and creativity; to equip us to bear much fruit together, as we journey with God into the future.

CONTACT

David Dickson
07849 352 753
dfdson@aol.co.uk

Christine De Luca
0131 667 9090
deluca.c@gmail.com

Pauline Weibye
07799 716 150
pauline@wiebye.net



It was a cold and windy March night but this did not deter the Scouts from their plans to sleep out in cardboard boxes in the Church garden. The Scouts have a history of raising funds for Bethany Christian Care Trust to help in their work with homeless people and set out to raise at least £3,000 in sponsorship.

With lots of cardboard and sticky tape, they started in the church hall, building robust structures to stand up to whatever the weather was going to be on a March night in Scotland. The Leaders provided assistance and then carefully transferred the shelters out into the Church Garden while the Scouts were given something hot to eat and drink. By 10pm all of the Scouts were out and getting themselves settled into their shelters and ready for the night ahead.

All of the Scouts lasted the whole night in their shelters and kept warm. They went to sleep quite quickly and started waking up when it got light just after 6am.

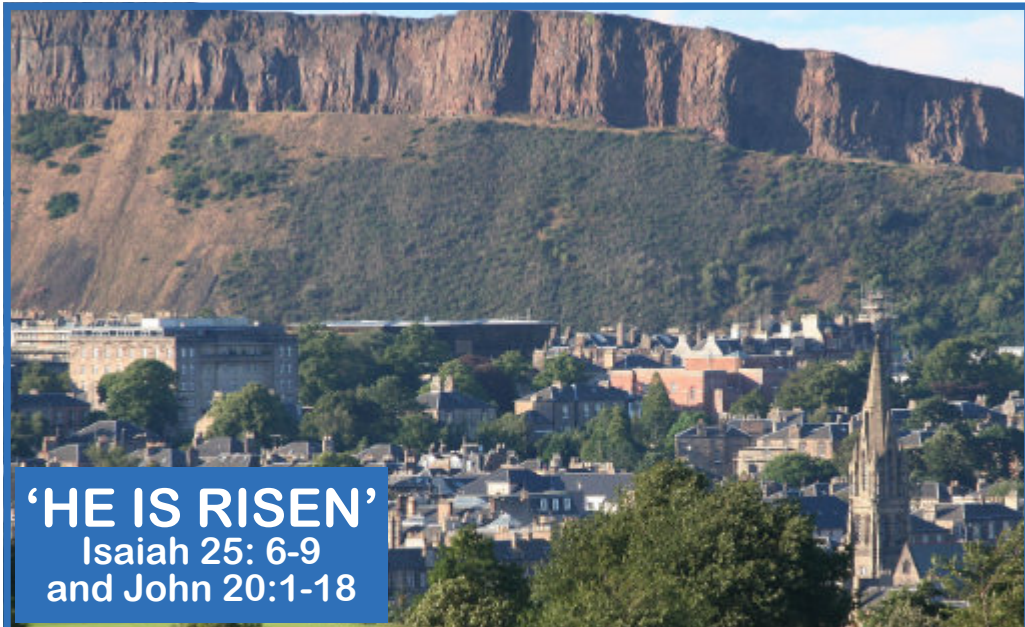
After clearing up, the Scouts were assembled for a group photo and told that the target had not just been achieved but exceeded. The total raised came to £3,783.

The Scouts were happy at raising another large amount of money for this worthy cause once again. What made it even more impressive was that so many of the 27 Scouts involved were quite young, some just ten years old, and some of the older ones were doing this for the second time. All of the Scouts wanted an adventure but also to help ease the awful plight of homeless people that live in our wealthy city. They demonstrated Scouting values at its best.

Alan Dickson
Scout Leader

Headquarters

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



‘HE IS RISEN’

Isaiah 25: 6-9
and John 20:1-18

If we had looked up on a sunny spring day in the 1770s to the slopes of Salisbury Crags, we might have seen two distant figures in formal frock coats, three-cornered hats and shoes with shiny buckles, doing something really quite unusual – chipping away with a hammer at the rocks and carrying away great piles of specimens for further study. One was John Clerk of Eldin, landed gentry and Renaissance man with estates in Penicuik. The other was his friend James Hutton, industrial chemist and the so-called ‘father of geology’. Hutton’s discoveries at Salisbury Crags, and later down the Forth coast at Siccar Point, were the bedrock for the then scandalous revelation that we ought to think of the age of the earth in the millions or even hundreds of millions of years, rather than a few thousand. And in so doing, that the creation story in Genesis, as elsewhere in the Old Testament, may well have been written metaphorically and not as a literal history. As a result, we know now that after the fiery creation of the earth, its shape at the very point where we now are, and the nearby landmarks of Arthur’s

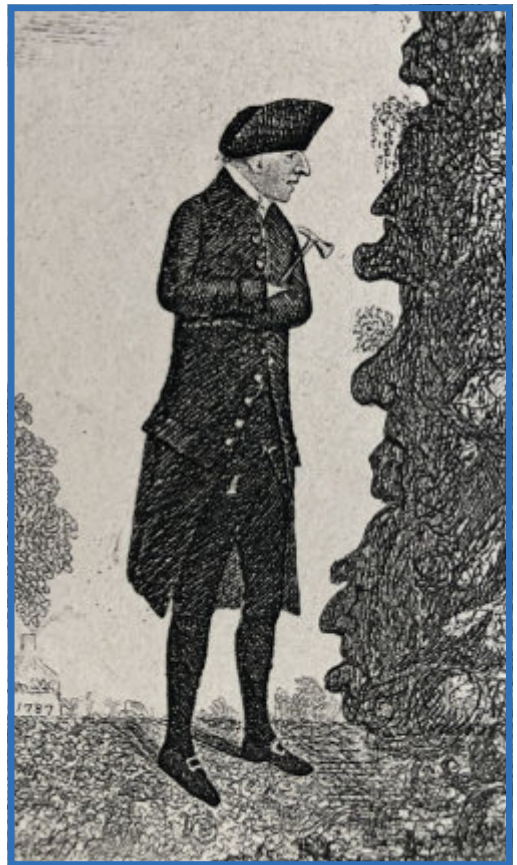
Seat and Castle Rock, were formed by the shifting of vast ice plates at the end of the last Ice Age, about 10,000 years ago.

Just as in the geology of the earth and its surface, when cataclysmic movements have altered its components and construction forever, so too in the human mind, trailblazers of scientific exploration and discovery like Hutton have shifted knowledge, not inch by inch or fact by fact, but boldly and dramatically, with a sudden rupture of permanent effect. Old assumptions torn apart, changing the course of human understanding and even of world history. The transition from one epoch to the next feels then less like the slow and harmonious glide from one track to the next on the record player, but as if the needle has jumped suddenly and leapt us forward to an entirely new place. It’s what is sometimes called a ‘paradigm shift’. Easter Sunday and the resurrection of Jesus Christ is also a paradigm shift in the whole human story, whether literally or metaphorically read. A sudden rupture, and epoch changing transition. And not only as

foundational to the worshipping communities of Christianity over the last two millenia; in the tradition that has been handed down to us all the way from Mary Magdalene in her breathless running from the garden tomb to tell the other followers of Jesus that she had seen and encountered the risen Christ, right down to this church on this morning on this day.

As if that is not enough, as Tom Holland sets out in his captivating book from 2019, *Dominion: The Making of the Western Mind*, whether you are now a Christian believer, a card-carrying atheist or you really don't care two hoots about its truth claims, the impact of the Christian faith is embedded in the mindset and culture of the Western nations of the world. In its democracy and legal systems, its notions of truth and rights, and its core values such as it being nobler to suffer than cause suffering; or of love being at the heart of all existence; or of non-violence and peace being an admirable way of life and a global goal, or that all people might be made equal. The resurrection of Jesus on Easter Sunday is the foundation of the Christian faith. And the Christian faith has founded much of who we are and what we think, whether in the church or beyond. So it's not just a moment of transition, but a transformation from the classical world to the modern, from BC to AD. It is not only the world's calendar that was changed forever because of Jesus Christ, but humanity's moral and ethical values.

And it's all because of today, Easter Sunday... otherwise it might all have been a historical footnote of a minor prophet. There is no greater story in human history, that has been of more earth-shattering global impact, than this Easter Sunday account of transition and transformation – the resurrection of Jesus Christ. That his assertions of being God's Messiah, the anointed and chosen one, fully human and yet fully divine, have been manifested in a visible rising from the dead to new life. It's a transition of the human form of Jesus Christ from death to life that lives on in each



James Hutton (1726-97)

of us as a metaphor for personal and community transformation in a life of faith, and of the promise of eternity. That forms and shapes our purpose and identity in human existence, that brings meaning and an eternal hope.

You know what's it's like when a breathtaking scene unfolds right before your eyes. It could be a panoramic view across a mountain range or a vast plain - maybe you've lucky enough to see the Niagara Falls or the Sahara Desert. Or it could be fields of tulips or a lush jungle. Or encountering jaw-dropping human structures like the Taj Mahal, the Pyramids or the Colosseum. The photographs will never do it justice, the phrase 'words cannot describe' come to mind. You get the



resurrection, might then be interpreted through the lens of the three perspectives of what that looks like from the viewpoint of Isaiah 25:6-9: transition and transformation from the valley to the mountain; from death to life; and from suffering to salvation.

Firstly, verse 6: 'On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food and well-matured wines.' If all of God's people can endure the painful struggles in the valley, they will find their way to the joyful celebration on the mountaintop, a feast for

feeling that the disciples in the Gospel accounts of Easter Sunday were in a similar place. So astonishing, so jaw-dropping, so epoch changing, that it was difficult to put it into any meaningful context to convey their experience and its meaning.

The words of the hymn of Christ's crucifixion, 'O Sacred Head Sore Wounded', that we sung at the Tenebrae service on Friday night, which are attributed to Bernard of Clairveaux, have the line, 'what language shall I borrow to thank thee, dearest friend?' What language do we 'borrow' to describe God, the infinite, the divine, the indescribable? And what words for this, the resurrection?

As the early church sought to borrow the words to say what the resurrection was and what it meant, they reached back into the poetic language of their Jewish faith. The use of Old Testament texts like our passage from Isaiah 25 was not an attempt to prove what the disciples said they experienced, but more that familiar language and metaphor had now become dramatically appropriate. The greatest of transitions and transformations, the

those accustomed to hunger and thirst.

Secondly, verse 7: that 'God will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples; he will swallow up death for ever'. The darkness metaphor is throughout the stories of Christ's death and resurrection: from darkness descending over the land at the moment of his death, to Mary Magdalene travelling to the Garden Tomb in darkness on Easter Sunday. The destruction of the shroud of death over all peoples, the transformation from darkness to light, is seen then in Christ's rising from the tomb; and, from that, whatever death might be, it is not the end and the separation and loss that it brings is not forever.

And finally, verse 9, 'This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation'. The transition from suffering to salvation and rejoicing. The boldest of assertions that the vision of the prophet Isaiah, and of John of Patmos in the book of Revelation, will come to their fullest fruition. A rising from the grave, from the darkness of the tomb to the light of the dawn. A vision of a new heaven and a new



tectonic plates of the world, a paradigm shift, a moral and ethical epoch-changing moment. Jesus today is free of the tomb, free into the heart of our world in all places in need of resurrection.

And so this day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his rising to new life, is the

earth, a time of joy and gladness when tears will dry, war and killing and death will come to an end, when the wolf and the lamb will graze together. This is the vision of reconciliation, harmony and peace which Easter Sunday announces too. This is the vision that has been brought back to life from its seeming extinction on the agony of the cross on Friday, and from the silence and misery of Christ in the tomb on the Saturday.

triumph of light, love, hope and joy, over evil, violence, death and despair. Let that light illuminate all the dark recesses of our lives, our suffering, our guilt, our fears. Let love fill our hearts. Let us be hopeful in the promises of forgiveness and a resurrection in our lives that this day brings!

However we borrow the words, however we try to conceptualise it in our minds, the greatest of transitions and transformations has occurred today. A movement of the

This is the day that He rose again, let us rejoice and be glad in it! The darkness may still feel very real at times, but so now is the dawn. From Easter Sunday onwards the world and everything in it is changed forever. So may the light and life of this Easter Day be with us all. Amen.

GETTING TOGETHER FOR PIONEER MINISTRY

After our launch event on Saturday 16 March, and a refresh meeting on Sunday 21 April, plans are being made to run our series of five studies using David Male's booklet, *How to Pioneer*. This book has been described as 'deeply practical, deeply hopeful and deeply involving.' The first session will be on Monday 13 May at 7.30pm at Priestfield. If you haven't signed up already, do so soon with Diane Cross at Priestfield to allow preparations to be made and booklets to be purchased.

PARISH REGISTER

New Members

William Harkness
Janet and Jim Clark

Deaths

Elsa Monteith
Kathleen (Bobbie) Smith



Priestfield Salisbury
Parish Church

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- MAY**
- Sun 5 Sixth Sunday of Easter**
9.30am All-Age Worship (Simon Hessett & Bettina Hather)
10.45am Traditional Worship (Simon Hessett & Bettina Hather)
7.00pm Evening Service (Pauline Robertson DCS)
- Tue 7 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Wed 8 7.00pm Kirk Session at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church (note early start)
- Sun 12 Christian Aid Service - Seventh Sunday of Easter**
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Mon 13 Borders Abbeys Way Pilgrimage (Part 1) Melrose to Selkirk (see page 7)
7.30pm Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry at Priestfield Church (see page 17)
- Tue 14 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Sun 19 Pentecost Sunday**
10.30am Service with Craigmillar Park and Priestfield at Mayfield Salisbury
- Tue 21 10.00am Morning Prayers
2.30pm 70th Afternoon Service in Bill McDonald Hall (S. Hessett) (see page 4)
- Fri 24 Borders Abbeys Way Pilgrimage (Part 2) Selkirk to Hawick (see page 7)
- Sat 25 4.00pm Messy Church at Priestfield Church
- Sun 26 Trinity Sunday**
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
6.15pm Youth Group @ Church House
- Tue 28 10.00am Morning Prayers
- JUNE**
- Sat 1 Retreat Day at Priestfield Church 10.00am to 1.00pm** (See page 12)
- Sun 2 Second Sunday After Pentecost**
Potential vote on parish union - see weekly news / Towards Our Union issue 14
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
6.15pm Youth Group @ Church House
7.00pm Evening Service
- Tue 4 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Fri 7 2.30pm First Friday Friends in the Bill McDonald Upper Hall
- Sun 9 Third Sunday After Pentecost**
9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
6.15pm Youth Group @ Church House
- Tue 11 10.00am Morning Prayers
- Sat 15 Final Day of Borders Abbeys Way Pilgrimage – to Melrose (see page 7)

Dates for your Diary Continued

Sun 16 Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am Joint Service at Priestfield Church (No service at Mayfield Salisbury)

Note: Revd Donald Scott's retirement from Priestfield Church - all welcome

Tue 18 10.00am Morning Prayers

Sat 22 All Age Barbecue - check weekly news for more information nearer the time

Sun 23 Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Joint Service of Worship (Revd Taylor Hartman)

Tue 25 10.00am Morning Prayers

Sun 30 Sixth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Joint Service of Worship (Revd Taylor Hartman)

July

Tue 2 10.00am Morning Prayers

Sun 7 Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Joint Service of Worship (Revd Taylor Hartman)

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

May

3 | Samuel 25,26 / Psalm 49
 4 | Samuel 27,28 / I Corinthians 1
 5 | Samuel 29-31 / I Corinthians 2
 6 | Samuel 1,2 / Psalm 50
 7 | Samuel 3-5 / I Corinthians 3
 8 | Samuel 6,7 / I Corinthians 4
 9 | Samuel 8-10 / I Corinthians 5
 10 | Samuel 11,12 / Psalm 51
 11 | Samuel 13,14 / I Corinthians 6
 12 | Samuel 15,16 / I Corinthians 7
 13 | Samuel 17,18 / Psalms 52-54
 14 | Samuel 19,20 / I Corinthians 8
 15 | Samuel 21,22 / I Corinthians 9
 16 | Samuel 23,24 / I Corinthians 10
 17 | Kings 1,2 / Psalm 55
 18 | Kings 3-5 / I Corinthians 11
 19 | Kings 6,7 / I Corinthians 12
 20 | Kings 8,9 / Psalms 56,57
 21 | Kings 10,11 / I Corinthians 13
 22 | Kings 12,13 / I Corinthians 14
 23 | Kings 14,15 / I Corinthians 15
 24 | Kings 16,17 / Psalms 58,59
 25 | Kings 18,19 / I Corinthians 16
 26 | Kings 20,21 / II Corinthians 1
 27 | Kings 22 / Psalms 60,61
 28 | Kings 1-3 / II Corinthians 2
 29 | Kings 4,5 / II Corinthians 3
 30 | Kings 6,7 / II Corinthians 4
 31 | Kings 8,9 / Psalms 62,63

June

1 | II Kings 10-12 / II Corinthians 5
 2 | II Kings 13,14 / II Corinthians 6

3 | II Kings 15,16 / Psalms 64,65
 4 | II Kings 17,18 / II Corinthians 7
 5 | II Kings 19,20 / II Corinthians 8
 6 | II Kings 21,22 / II Corinthians 9
 7 | II Kings 23-25 / Psalms 66,67
 8 | I Chronicles 1-3 / II Corinthians 10
 9 | I Chronicles 4-6 / II Corinthians 11
 10 | I Chronicles 7-10 / Psalm 68
 11 | I Chronicles 11-14 / II Corinthians 12
 12 | I Chronicles 15,16 / II Corinthians 13
 13 | I Chronicles 17,18 / Galatians 1
 14 | I Chronicles 19-21 / Psalm 69
 15 | I Chronicles 22,23 / Galatians 2
 16 | I Chronicles 24-27 / Galatians 3
 17 | I Chronicles 28,29 / Psalms 70,71
 18 | I Chronicles 1,2 / Galatians 4
 19 | I Chronicles 3-5 / Galatians 5
 20 | I Chronicles 6,7 / Galatians 6
 21 | I Chronicles 8,9 / Psalm 72
 22 | I Chronicles 10-12 / Ephesians 1
 23 | I Chronicles 13-15 / Ephesians 2
 24 | I Chronicles 16,17 / Psalm 73
 25 | I Chronicles 18-20 / Ephesians 3
 26 | I Chronicles 21-23 / Ephesians 4
 27 | I Chronicles 24,25 / Ephesians 5
 28 | I Chronicles 26-28 / Psalm 74
 29 | I Chronicles 29,30 / Ephesians 6
 30 | I Chronicles 31,32 / Luke 1: 1-38

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 / Psalm 77
 6 | Ezra 7,8 / Luke 4



Towards our Union

News on progress towards the new congregation of Newington
Trinity Church

Issue 14: May 2024

Welcome to issue number 14 of our monthly newsletter. The last fourteen months have seen a lot of work by many people to bring our three congregations closer together, but much of this work, especially the steps towards legal union have been hidden from view. Well, things are about to change!

Towards Union

Following a lengthy and considered process, on 17 April Presbytery's Deployment Committee agreed to recommend to Presbytery that the Reviewable Charge of Craigmillar Park linked with Reid Memorial be 'called in' from the date of the Presbytery meeting on 30 April 2024. If agreed, the Rev Alex McAspurren would receive six months' notice of the ending of his tenure; during that notice period, stipend and provision of a manse will continue for Alex and his family. It will also allow the congregations of Craigmillar Park, Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield to move towards the proposed Union and Team Ministry, and it will allow conversations regarding the future of Reid Memorial to progress.

Alex has supported the union from the beginning and is seeking a new call. We continue to uphold Alex and his wife, Louise, and would urge you to continue to remember them in your prayers.

Votes for Union and Team Ministry

If the call-in proceeds as the Deployment Committee is recommending, then a process follows. Plans are currently being made for votes to take place in the three Kirk Sessions on

Wednesday 8 May and in the three congregations on Sunday 2 June.

The votes will differ in the three churches because of particular circumstances but will include voting for the union and team ministry (all three), voting for Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth as the Parish Minister for the new charge (all three), and voting for the severance of the linkage with Reid Memorial (Craigmillar Park).

Prior to the voting, copies of the Basis of Union and Basis of Team Ministry will be circulated widely. Ballot papers will be provided.

If we approve, the Union will take place once Craigmillar Park is vacant. This will be after the six-month period ends, probably in November, or earlier if Alex finds another call and demits.

So, after a long period of uncertainty we can now begin to see the way forward and plan accordingly.

Rev Donald Scott

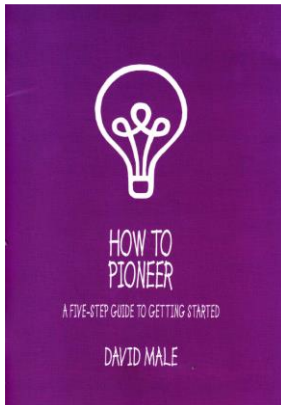
Donald, the Minister at Priestfield retires at the end of June this year. His last Sunday with us will be on 16 June when our shared service will be at Priestfield. We wish him and Roslyn a very happy 'retirement.'

Craigmillar Park Church building

The sale of the Craigmillar Park building is progressing apace and it is hoped that the sale will be concluded soon with an entry date in July or early August.

Getting Together for Pioneer Ministry

After our launch event on Saturday 16 March, and a refresh meeting on Sunday 21 April, plans are being made to run our series of five studies using David Male's booklet, *How to Pioneer*. This book has been described as



'deeply practical, deeply hopeful and deeply involving.'

The first session will be on Monday 13 May at 7:30pm at Priestfield. If you haven't signed up already, do so soon with Diane Cross at Priestfield to allow preparations to be

made and booklets to be purchased.

A Retreat Time for Spiritual Reflection and Refreshment – 'Bearing Fruit'

A reminder that on Saturday 1 June we will be having a morning of peace and renewal in a busy world. We will conclude with a short reflective communion together.

The retreat will be in the Priestfield building and will run from 10 am till 1 pm. It will be followed by a light lunch.

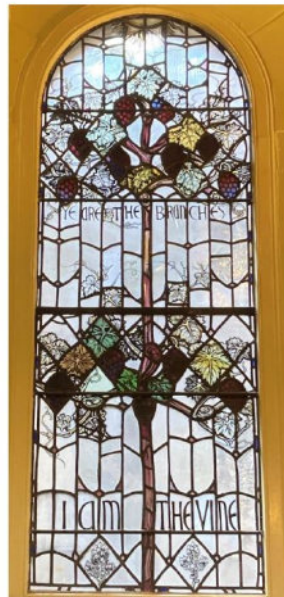
Do join in!

To sign up for the retreat just contact Pauline Weibye at Craigmillar Park, Christine De Luca at Mayfield Salisbury or David Dickson at Priestfield.

I am the Vine
Malcolm Guite

John 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.

How might it feel to be part of the vine?
Not just to see the vineyard from afar
Or even pluck the clusters, press the wine,
But to be grafted in, to feel the stir
Of inward sap that rises from our root,
Himself deep planted in the ground of Love,
To feel a leaf unfold a tender shoot,
As tendrils curled unfurl, as branches give
A little to the swelling of the grape,
In gradual perfection, round and full,
To bear within oneself the joy and hope
Of God's good vintage, till it's ripe and whole.
What might it mean to bide and to abide
In such rich love as makes the poor heart glad?



Window in Priestfield Church

Response
Christine De Luca

John 15:2, 6 Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit.

But how might it feel to be cut out,
judged unproductive, not grafted in?
And would it be remiss to shout
when pruned hard back, not quite the trim
we were expecting? To see our season's growth
gathered up and burned, and us a row of stumps
like amputees, war-weary, loath
to give another year; and such a bumper
crop it was.

It's hard to believe, come Spring,
we might surprise ourselves, reach up again
put on fresh growth, our new fruit swelling.
And, grafted firmly to that Vine, mingled
with its joy and hope and resurrection,
we find Christ's trust in us compelling.

Proposed Changes at Newington Trinity

The April newsletter explained that the Plenary (our three Kirk Sessions meeting together) had considered reports on what the Newington Trinity sanctuary (currently the Mayfield Salisbury building) might look like and how we might structure our worship. Documents are now being finalised to allow wide consultation

on the proposals. These papers will be distributed in the next few weeks to allow everyone to have a think about them over the summer. We then plan to have a consultation meeting in late summer so that all views can be heard.

These will of course be matters for final approval by the Newington Trinity Kirk Session.

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 - (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 (formally Twitter)
-  www.mayfieldsalisbury.org



The Church of Scotland

SCAN TO GIVE



www.give.net/20311853

Copy date for next Issue:

6.00pm on Friday 21 June

For July / August Issue

WEB EDITION