



Oct / Nov 2024

Issue 280

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



REFLECTION 'THE INS AND OUTS OF IT ALL'

CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS

MILERS UPCOMING WALKS



www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

One of the most moving passages in the Old Testament is in Chapter 3 of the book of Ecclesiastes, which begins, 'For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven.' It is often read at funeral services, as it paints a vivid picture of all our joys and struggles in the different seasons of life, and of a God who remains constant and reliable throughout it all. The beautiful words of the Chapter have also entered into popular culture since they were put to music by the folk singer Pete Seeger in the song *Turn! Turn! Turn!* which was then covered by The Byrds in a hit single and album of that name in 1965.

As we see leaves falling from the trees and the weather turning colder, we know Autumn has arrived and the heating might need to be turned up. The season is changing all around us. So too in life we see seasons come and go, from our youth to older age, from work to retirement, even from times when we feel as if we are basking in the sun to days that can seem to chill us to the bone.

The seasons are changing in our church too. This past week saw the sale of the Craigmillar Park building to the Greek Orthodox congregation in Edinburgh. We can honour and celebrate the many decades of worship and service through Craigmillar Park and its predecessors, and be glad that Christian worship will continue in a building which holds precious memories for many people. We can also look forward to the great potential of where God will be leading us as the congregation of Newington Trinity. However, we must also be mindful of the sense of loss that our brothers and sisters from Craigmillar Park may have at this time.



I hope they can take solace from the later verses of that chapter in Ecclesiastes, and indeed you can too if you feel this is a time of changing seasons in your life. The writer says that is 'God's gift' that workers should 'take pleasure in all their toil;' that they should eat, drink and be happy knowing that a good job has been done. If you are moving into a new phase in life, and for our friends from Craigmillar Park, take pleasure in all the good things that have happened in the past, as you begin to look forward to what might await you. Be assured too, as you follow God, that you are living a faith which will be with you always, with a God who will comfort and support you no matter what. The passage ends in verse 14, 'I know that whatever God does endures for ever; nothing can be added to it, nor anything taken from it.'

If you are anxious of what lies ahead, as in the old Boys Brigade hymn know that God will be 'steadfast and sure as the billows roll;' that God will be with us whatever our life's season. There is, indeed, a 'time for every purpose under heaven.'

God Bless
Sandy

NEWS

CROSSREACH COFFEE MORNING



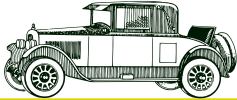
Please come along to our coffee morning on Saturday 26 October from 10.00am until 12noon in the Bill McDonald Hall at the Mayfield Salisbury church building.

The coffee morning is in aid of CrossReach perinatal services - they provide support to families expecting a baby and those with young children.

Come for some delicious cakes and fellowship. Any questions please contact Ailsa Garland, coordinator of the CrossReach Committee on Ailsa.garland@gmail.com or 07793 197 858 (offers of baking would be gratefully received).

We hope to see you there!

THURSDAY CLUB DRIVERS



We are short of drivers to transport less able members of the Thursday club meaning that some folk cannot unfortunately attend.

If you can spare a Thursday afternoon once a month or so please contact Christina Somerville cm.somerville2@gmail.com

VACANCY: EDINBURGH STREET PASTORS CO- ORDINATOR

Edinburgh Street Pastors Co-ordinator 22.5 hours per week
Edinburgh Street Pastors are looking to recruit a new part-time Co-ordinator with effect from January 2025. Edinburgh Street Pastors, a Christian Charity, has been operating since 2009 and provides care and help to people in need on the streets of Edinburgh during the night time economy. This exciting and fulfilling role is responsible for the day to day management, promotion and co-ordination of the charity within the oversight of the Trustees.

Informal enquiries and more information about the post can be directed to the Coordinator of Edinburgh Street Pastors, Andy Amour: edinburgh@streetpastors.org.uk

Applications close noon Monday 28 October 2024



AFTERNOON SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

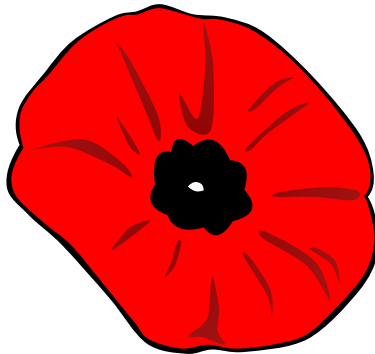


Our Afternoon Service of Remembrance will be held on Tuesday, 12 November at 2.30pm tables - and afterwards we enjoy a chat with a cup of tea and refreshments.

We meet again in the Bill McDonald Hall via West Mayfield level access for a short service of Remembrance led by our Minister, Revd. Dr Sandy Forsyth. This will be followed by light refreshments and chat until around 3.45pm.

Everyone is always made most welcome.

Are you unable to make it to Morning Worship on Sundays? Maybe you find it harder to be away from home for too long or you find buses unpredictable at weekends. At these less formal short services we all remain seated at our



If you haven't joined us in the past and would appreciate more information please contact Pauline Robertson, your own Pastoral Visitor or Anne Sturrock.

Pauline can be contacted on 0758 704 3191

This is the last of our 5 Afternoon Services in 2024. The next one will be in

March with information to follow in February 2025 *Grapevine*.

Sincere thanks are extended to the Afternoon Services Team.

Anne Sturrock

CONGRATULATIONS!



Simon Hessett



Anne Mulligan DCS



Professor Alan Paterson

As was shared at the beginning of a Sunday service recently, whilst small gains and achievements in our lives can feel sometimes like large leaps forward and should be celebrated as such, there are also occasions where a large public cheer of congratulations just seems like the right option.

That is so for three members of our church community, with recent significant events occurring in their lives.

And so (drum roll, please), many congratulations to:

• Simon Hessett, our probationary minister, who has passed his final review by the Church of Scotland; after many years of academic and placement training, Simon can now be ordained as a minister of word and sacrament.

• Anne Mulligan DCS, who has passed fifty years as an ordained Deaconess in the Church of Scotland; and who over those decades has cared for and walked alongside countless people in the challenging times in their lives in church roles and as a hospital chaplain, as well as serving the Church.

• Professor Alan Paterson, who has been recognised for the impact of his lengthy career in legal education and in developing legal systems and legal aid in many countries, by being made an honorary King's Counsel in a ceremony in Parliament House.

As your friends, we celebrate with you...and give thanks for all of your dedication and service.

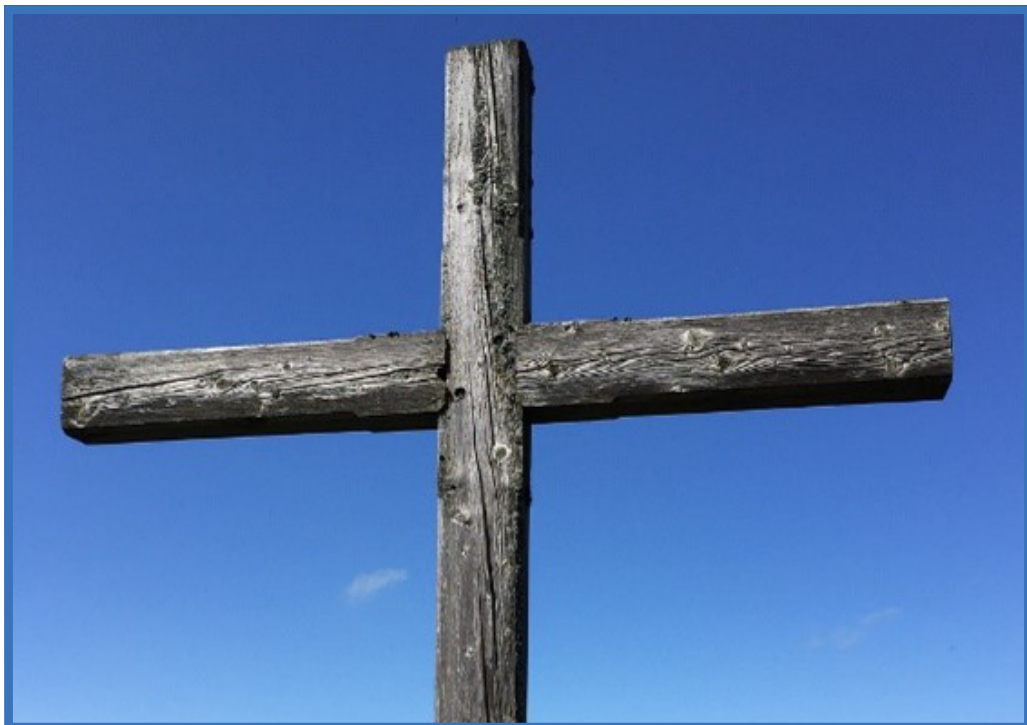


PARISH REGISTER

DEATHS

Camilla Cowie
Meta Muirhead
Calum Finlayson
Sheila Hannay

BEING CHRISTIAN STUDY GROUP



FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH UPCOMING WORSHIP SERIES AND STUDY GROUP

From early October to late November, we'll be embarking on an eight-part worship series as the basis of each Sunday service, complemented by a study group on a weekday evening, which will look at the foundations of the Christian faith in an open and accessible way.

Anyone would be very welcome to join the study group who would like to explore faith more, from within the regular congregation and beyond. If anyone would like to use the study group as part of a journey towards baptism, or towards making a public profession of faith so as to become a communicant member of the Church of Scotland, they would be most welcome to do so.

The topics and dates are below (with the same topic in worship), all at Mayfield Salisbury on Monday evenings at 7.30pm to 9.00pm. All readings and materials will be provided. If you would like to discuss the possibility of being part of the study group, or would like to sign up to do so, please contact the minister, Rev. Dr Sandy Forsyth – aforsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk or have a word after a service.

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| • 7 October | 1. The World and Creation |
| • 14 October | 2. Who or what is God? |
| • 21 October | 3. Jesus |
| • 28 October | 4. Being human |
| • 4 November | 5. Sources of Revelation – Scripture, Prayer & Sacraments |
| • 18 November | 6. Salvation and Eternity |

aforsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk

GODLY PLAY GATHERING



Seventy Five Godly Play Trainers, from twenty countries, advocates and storytellers from Godly Play Scotland and all over (including a certain person from here!) gathered at Mayfield Salisbury Church for a long weekend of sharing, discovery, wonder, fellowship, learning and keynote speakers, worship and connection.

Our beautiful, flexible, welcoming spaces were inhabited, used, transformed and deeply appreciated by all.

It was a privilege to be in story circles with some of the most experienced and gifted storytellers in the world; some who learned directly from the founder of Godly Play, Jerome Berryman who died last month and who was remembered at the gathering.

To hear voices and languages from all around the world joined together by the passion of sharing and shaping children's spirituality was extraordinary.

Delegates, volunteers and members of our church family have shared the joy of the experience, collectively and individually, including the shared worship with our Newington Trinity congregation on the

Sunday morning. They felt so welcome and spoke so highly of the church and the people here.

It feels like the next chapter for Godly Play in our church family has begun. After a pause from when it was first read here 15 or so years ago, it was lovely to have the original storyteller and her own next generation being part of the weekend too. The baton is passed on, and we have the beginnings of our own circle and materials once again.

My personal highlights were being part of a German language story, hearing a dear Godly Play friend pray in church and have a member of the church family be open to exploring training themselves. I wonder what comes next?

With many thanks for the patience, enthusiasm and stamina to all those involved from here in the weekend, worship and all those being open to the 'wondering'.

Bettina Hather

Children and Young Adult Worker

christian
aid



EDINBURGH NEW TOWN
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
13 GEORGE STREET

ONE - DAY
SALE

SATURDAY 19 OCTOBER 2024
10am - 4pm

BOOKS & PICTURES
EPHEMERA & MAPS
GAMES & JIGSAWS
CDs

ALSO COFFEE MORNING
LUNCH
AFTERNOON TEA
to raise funds

Enquiries to:
07714 186 754

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC 008990

SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE

Welcome from Dan & Su at Southside Faith Care! We have several groups going on locally aimed at older people.

Maybe your weeks are feeling quiet and you're in need of something to do but don't want to travel far? Perhaps you're watching more TV and seeing fewer people and you'd love having a cup of tea with someone else? Perhaps you're interested to meet people who live nearby? Or you know someone locally who would love to have a blether with a friendly face? Come along to any of our groups and we would love to welcome you and say hello! If you need help coming along for the first time, just let us know!

See below for the groups we have running.

Digital Group

Free support with any technology you have (phones, laptops, iPads etc) as well as a chance to have a hot drink and a chat!

Tuesdays, 2.00pm to 4.00pm, Priestfield Church
Thursdays, 2.00pm to 4.00pm, Marchmont St Giles Church

Sporting Memories

A group to meet others in the context of chatting all things sport with fun, inclusive activities as a welcome space for older people. Thursdays, 11.00am to 12.30pm, Priestfield Parish Church

Man Fridays

A group to meet other men in the community. Walks, games, relevant talks and always a hot drink.

Fridays, 10.00am to 12 noon, Priestfield Parish Church

Community Art Group

A joint collaboration between the Salisbury Centre and Southside Faith Care, we'll be providing the chance to explore your creativity with different materials and we'll also be working together over the eight weeks to try producing a joint piece of community art together. Plenty of time for a hot drink and a chat as well!

Wednesdays, 2.00pm to 5.00pm (23 October to 11 December), The Salisbury Centre, EH16 5AB



Priestfield Church

Requested Monthly Talks at Priestfield are free. Refreshments provided, with donations to Southside Faith Care welcome.

Navigating the Care Maze,
8 November, 12.20pm-1.30pm

Carer Support,
6 December, 12.30pm-1.30pm

Power of Attorney,
10 January 2025, 12.30pm-1.30pm

Our contact details:

Su Millar,
Development Lead, Tel. 07478 543510,
Tuesday-Thursday
su@southsidefaithcare.org

Dan Taylor,
Activities Co-ordinator, Tel. 07587 014948,
Tuesday to Friday
dan@southsidefaithcare.org

Please do check out our website for more details, or please do give us a call.
www.southsidefaithcare.org

MILERS UPCOMING WALKS

OCTOBER

Thurs 24

Circular Walk from Roslin to Bilston & Loanhead.
David Booth booth378@btinternet.com

Sat 26

Pentlands Walk
Alastair MacGilchrist a.macgilchrist@gmail.com

NOVEMBER

Thurs 7

Aberlady to Gullane
Anne Sturrock sturrocks@uwclub.net

Tues 19

Circular Blackford Pond to Mortonhall
Alexa Dewar alexa@alexadewar.plus.com

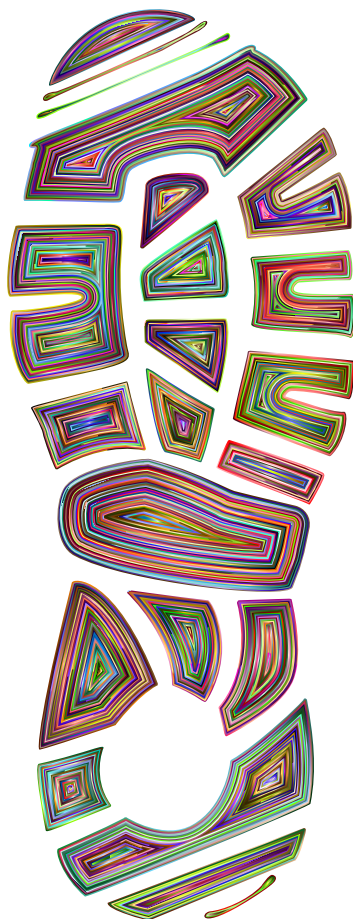
Thurs 28

Guided tour of War Poets' Collection -
Walk along War Poets Trail
Sally Fowler sallyfowler@talktalk.net

Milers members who are on the mailing list will receive more details about one week before each walk.

If you are not a signed up Miler you would be most welcome to try us out on any walk that takes your fancy. Please contact me for more information at jbleitch@gmail.com

Jean MacGilchrist



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. Acts 20:28

Please contact Pauline Robertson DCS 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.



Christmas Star

by Heather Peterson

Materials

4mm needles (UK8, US6)

DK weight yarn in yellow (or any other colour you like)

Abbreviations

k = knit

p = purl

sl = slip

p2sso = pass two slipped stitches over the stitch just worked

k3tog = knit three together

kfbf = knit into the front of the stitch, then the back of the stitch, then the front of the stitch

Instructions

cast on 11 sts

row 1: k

row 2: sl2, k1, p2sso, k2, kfbf, k2, k3tog (9)

row 3: k

row 4: sl2, k1, p2sso, k1, kfbf, k1, k3tog (7)

row 5: k

row 6: cast on 3, k all stitches (10)

row 7: cast on 3, k all stitches (13)

row 8: sl2, k1, p2sso, k7, k3tog (9)

row 9: k

row 10: sl2, k1, p2sso, k3, k3tog (5)

row 11: k1, k3tog, k1 (3)

Continued over page

If you're a keen knitter we'd be delighted if you could produce some woolly Christmas tree decorations for us to sell at the Craft Fair on 9 November, in support of Christian Aid. You could use these patterns – or devise your own!



row 12: k

row 13: k

row 14: k

row 15: k3tog (1)

break yarn, fasten off, weave in ends

Instructions for making a hanging loop:

Cut a length of ribbon or yarn 10cm (4 inches) long

Thread through the top of the knitted piece

Tie the two ends together to form a loop

Tiny Christmas Tree

by Heather Peterson

Materials

4mm needles (UK8, US6)

DK weight yarn in green and brown

Abbreviations

k = knit

p = purl

k2tog = knit two together

k3tog = knit three together

Instructions

with brown, cast on 5 sts

rows 1 - 5: k

switch to green

row 6: k

row 7: at start of row, cast on 3 sts, k to end (8 sts)

row 8: at start of row cast on 3 sts, k to end (11 sts)

row 9 - 10: k

row 11: k2tog, k to last 2 sts, k2tog

row 12: k

row 13: k

rows 14 - 22: repeat rows 11 - 13 until 3 sts remain

row 23: k3tog

fasten off and weave in all yarn ends

Continued over page



Instructions for making a hanging loop:

Cut a length of ribbon or yarn 10cm (4 inches) long

Thread through the top of the knitted piece

Tie the two ends together to form a loop

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Coffee and Crafts for Christian Aid

Following last year's very successful **Craft Fair**, the Christian Aid team is planning to hold another on **Saturday 9 November at Priestfield Church, 1.30pm to 4.00pm**. And once again, refreshments and delicious home baking will also be on offer. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid, and other charities.

We would welcome your support, so please let us know if you'd like to be involved. And whether you sew, sculpt, paint, embroider, upcycle or have any other creative talents, we'd love to hear from you! In

addition, we plan to have a stall selling donated paperback books in good condition, and (complete!) **jigsaws**. A great opportunity for a clear-out! We would also appreciate donations of home-baking – and knitting! Perhaps you'd like to make some mini woollen Christmas tree decorations?

There are a couple of patterns here in *Grapevine*, centre pages, which you could try or you may prefer to devise your own. Details will follow of when and where to hand in your contributions.

Please contact Kate O'Brien, kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk 0131 667 4362 or 07593 768 087 for more information.

Book Sale in support of Christian Aid

will be held at Edinburgh New Town Church of Scotland (formerly St Andrew's and St George's West), 13 George Street, on 19 October only, between

10.00am and 4.00pm. Please note the change from the dates previously advertised.

There will be a huge variety of books to choose from, including first editions, rare and out-of-print volumes, and high-quality paperbacks. As always, Scottish books will be a particular attraction. A range of pictures, collector's items, some of them

will be on sale. Maps, ephemera, games, jigsaws and CDs will also be available; morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea will be served.

For any enquiries, please phone 07714 186 754.



A Harvest Prayer from Christian Aid

Creator God, you give life and light to the world. We rejoice together in the wonder and the fullness of your creation. We give thanks for small seeds that flourish into great trees and bear fruit in abundance. We delight in the gifts of nature and the hope that a good harvest can bring. Loving God, you know our sorrows and our failings. We have cut down what was flourishing.

We have consumed and destroyed what was given to us to nurture. We repent our wrongdoing and ask you to guide us in the ways of righteousness. Living God, you call upon us to sow peace, grow faith, and tend to one another in love. Plant in us a commitment to pursue that call. Strengthen our hope as we seek together the coming of your kingdom on earth. Amen.

Thank you for your continuing support.
The Christian Aid Team



**‘The Ins and Outs of It All’
Psalm 37:1-9 & Mark 9:38-42, 49-50**

I don't know if you've noticed that sign in the window in Words and Actions for Peace across the road which says, 'The only thing that you should separate by colour is your laundry!'

'Who's in and who's out.' How do we divide people up – where are the boundary lines? Well, I suppose the first question might be, who are you? What defines you as a human being? Who's in and who's out probably depends on who you claim to be, what you look like, what you act like, what you believe in.

What's your identity? There are many different social interest groupings, younger or older people, differing gender or sexuality, skin colour, ethnicity, life skills, educational qualifications, accent, physical appearance, able bodied or differently abled or minded, upper, middle or lower class background, sporting genius or duffer, 'cool or uncool' in your musical tastes or your clothing, keepers of the true flame of faith or heretics outside the gate... Jesus says welcome one and all to the Kingdom of God!

Distinctions and identifiers of who we are with us from day one. The scruffy kid sits at the back of the school hall amongst the countless many, staring out the window and dreaming dreams and schemes, whilst the applause rings out for those crossing the stage at the prizegiving. The wee scrawny child stands on the wing of the rugby pitch, freezing in the sleet, watching the steam rise from scrum. There's always the guys who get the girls and the girls who get the guys, and those who do not. Or those who are part of the group, and others who walk twenty yards behind them.

From our early years, we develop a sense of 'who's in and who's out.' But other identifiers are more subtle: like borders and nationalities. We passed recently the 10th anniversary of the Scottish independence referendum of 2014. The referendum raised the spectre of self analysis that asked 'what does it actually mean to be Scottish or not?' What is that – a strange brew of upbringing, culture and geography on either side of an invisible border. Are we really different from Carlisle to Dumfries apart from our accents and, if so, how and why? And in the wake of Brexit, how does our British national self identity affect how we respect or otherwise the French or Danes or Italians? Or indeed how we treat

immigrants and asylum seekers – what identity exactly were the howling right wing mob trying to claim in the recent riots? Who were they saying was in and out? Is it just those that can sing the national anthem and have a certain skin colour? How does that build any society that can properly function?

To make sense of living in our global digital village, it's almost as if we have to create false demarcations and barriers to feel secure again. But where do we draw the lines and what are the deciding factors?

Groucho Marx said that he would never join a club that would have him as a member. I like the spin on that by the hymn writer and theologian John Bell when he was asked if he would leave the Church of Scotland if the debate on same sex relationships and ministry went in favour of those he disagreed with. John Bell said, 'the minute I leave is when everyone agrees with me.' A monochrome culture in a country or a church would be a place where everyone is expected to conform to pre-determined norms and doctrines, without which you are punished, expelled from the garden, banished east of Eden, like in the theocracies in Afghanistan or Iran.

And make no mistake, there are some of those churches in every Christian denomination, including in this city. A holy huddle which becomes like a sect: a place of domination and manipulation based on power, and often male patriarchy, which is stifling of the human spirit, a church where tolerance, debate, and difference are not celebrated but humiliated. That is almost a 'handmaid's tale,' a human contortion of the divine commands to 'love your God and your neighbour as yourself.'



Groucho Marx

And another thing, it's not what Jesus said either. Told by the disciples in Mark 9 that they had tried to stop a man from doing good on Jesus' behalf, in his name, because he was not one of them, Jesus said, 'no, you stop it.' Jesus said those who help in that way will soon come to know Him, and whoever helps a follower even with a cup of water will be rewarded, 'whoever is not against us is for us.' Us, Christians universal, not Christians particular. No 'in' and no 'out'. And Jesus then said, verse 42, heaven help you if you cause a stumbling block

to them: if you try to stop, push away or shut up those outwith your own gathering of Christians who also believe, in whatever fragile a way. Heaven help you if you do that to other Christians: Baptists, Episcopalians, Liberals, Evangelicals, Free Church, Catholics; heaven help you if you shun the forty percent or so of this country who say in a census they believe in a Christian God but don't come to church, or those who would call themselves 'spiritual but not religious.'

Even if you profoundly disagree with what those people say! How they think about God, how they manage their church's wealth in the face of the poor, how they consider the sacrament of communion that we will celebrate next week, how they distribute power and governance in their organisation in Christian fellowship. Voltaire said, 'I hate what you say, but I would die for your right to say it'. Do not shun but engage.

Freedom of speech and liberty of religious expression are fundamental to the US constitution and the European Convention of Human Rights. The lesson is tolerance. There are many roads to God, and maybe as well many roads that guide a journey

towards salvation. William Barclay wrote, 'It is a fearful thing for any person or any church to think that he or it has a monopoly on salvation...no person can possibly grasp all truth. The basis of tolerance is not a lazy acceptance of anything', he said. 'To be tolerant is to revere all possibilities of truth.'

It is, indeed, a fearful thing for any person or church to think they have a monopoly on salvation. For some in the Protestant Churches, their understanding of John Calvin's ideas on pre-destination lead to a bitter, exclusive and divisive extreme. Calvin believed that God has 'unconditional

election,' the freedom to choose who will be saved and who will not, so then there is a group both here on earth in the church 'visible,' and in heaven in the church 'invisible,' who are the 'elect.'

The problems occur when we start to believe that in the church visible, on this earth, we can identify who God's 'elect' might be, and, funnily enough, it's probably us. If we think it is us, our race, our brand of faith as God's chosen people, then we spawn a so called Christian religion of antisemites who blame Jewish people for the death of Christ; or a religion of South African Christians who justified apartheid as God's providence; or of Christians in the Civil War American states in the south for whom slavery was divine intervention for God's elect people; or those who would march past chapels in Glasgow with flutes and drums and songs of hate. 'Exceptionalism,' God on our side, is an evil for all time coming, being played out on such a tragic level now in the Middle East and also, at times, in North America. It's an illusion to assume that we can choose or

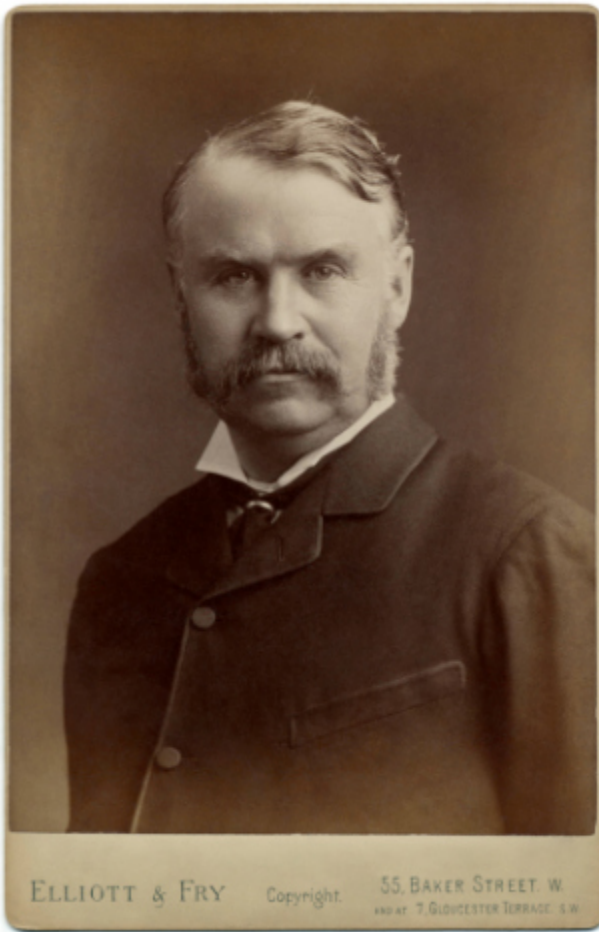


Manuscript of Psalm 37 in Hebrew - 'Fret not thyself because of evildoers'

identify who's in and who's out; that we define the dividing line to God, or the extent of his saving grace. As we might see from today's passage, preserving the power, or the sanctity or purity, of his own group, was not a priority for Jesus; but love was. If good was being done by other people, their actions were to be affirmed, and if we are helped along the way by others, that will be a blessing to us and them.

Jesus would know too the call of the Psalmist in Psalm 37 not to define yourself in a negative way by decrying others; not to fret, not to become bitter and twisted against those you might consider wicked and yet prosperous, torn apart by envy or judgment with a poisoned heart. Let God worry about them. The Psalmist said (v 8), 'refrain from anger, escape wrath, do not fret – it only leads to evil.' Instead, focus on your own relationship with God: be still and wait for God, trust in God and do good.

But then again, you might ask how do we preserve the integrity of who we are and what we believe as Christians without, at



W. S. Gilbert in about 1880 by Elliott & Fry

times, stepping away from others? How do we actually draw lines of our own identity? Because a community is a place which forms identity, it shapes who we are and what our values might be. How do we hold that tension with being open, respectful and inclusive to others, without becoming meaningless? For as Jesus said at the end of our passage, do not lose the saltiness, the distinctive flavour of who you are, the qualities that will preserve and enhance the community. The Christian church must stand for something, or it's only a club.

On the one hand, openness and inclusivity might be our watchwords; ecumenical and

inter-faith dialogue; doors open to all, irrespective of their characteristics, and fluid concepts of membership, not setting barriers to belonging. We can presume that it is the life of the world we are concerned about, that we engage with in our worship and our faith, not just our own lives. We recognise that God is already out there working in His world, and so we cannot capture or restrict God. We do not take God to other people or places, because He got there before us and we are called in mission to join in.

On the other hand though, how do we then actually say what we believe? How are we distinctive? Because as W.S. Gilbert wrote for *The Gondoliers*, 'if everyone is somebody, nobody is anybody.' I come back to the phrase of the theologian David Bosch who described the way the church should relate to the world as one of 'bold humility'. We are humble in our inclusivity and tolerance, recognising God's place and ours; and yet we are bold, confident that we have a Gospel story to express and proud of it too. Bold that we too should have a place in the

public marketplace and not be backed off into a privatised corner of our society. In that way, our saltiness might be preserved in all its fulness; humble yet bold.

'Who's in and who's out' is a natural, human reaction. But in Jesus' world, that tribal instinct is tempered and combatted with love, as we revere and engage with all possibilities of truth, whilst we are bold with our own. Otherwise, we might be the ones who end up staying beyond the pale, held outside the gate. Edwin Markham wrote, 'he drew a circle that shut me out, rebel, heretic, thing to flout – but love and I had the wit to win – we drew a circle that took him in.' Amen.

GIFT SERVICES



SUNDAY 1 December 2024

I have been in touch with the Minister and our annual Gift Services will be held on Advent Sunday, 1 December.

Huge appreciation is expressed by our partner organisations. The representative of HMP Edinburgh says in his letter that in 2023 their gift scheme delivered presents to 328 children on Christmas Day. The major cost of living crisis continues, and many families will struggle financially again this year. Buying Christmas gifts may have to be a low priority for them.

What's needed?

Partner organisations are:

Gilmerton Early Years' Project (0-5years); Simpson House Sunflower Garden (CrossReach for the children of service users); Edinburgh Women's Aid (children through teens); Stopover (Teens; Salvation Army (children through teens); HMP Edinburgh (children through teens).

Toys for babies and children; colouring books, art materials, play-doh and plasticine; games for children and teens; books and toiletries as appropriate. Headphones are much sought after in North Edinburgh. Footballs and associated

football kit is popular, too. All items should be new and gift tags and wrapping paper are useful. While working from home was in operation, Women's Aid found gift tokens for Morrison's and Sainsbury's supermarkets very useful, and they continue to be most acceptable.

With thanks but alcohol and second-hand items cannot be placed.

Cash Donations:

I appreciate that shopping is a difficult undertaking for some. If you would like to make a financial donation it can be passed on or I shall be happy to do the shopping for you. You can send me a cheque payable to Mayfield Salisbury Church c/o Mayfield Salisbury Church, 18 West Mayfield, EH9 1TQ. Or you can make a bank transfer to Mayfield Salisbury Church (details on request). Please put 'Gift Service' as the reference in a bank transfer and in a covering note if your cheque is made out to the church. Cash donations and Gift tokens are welcome on the day, too.

Updates in Pew Notices will follow in November.

Anne Graham
0131 667 6331
annegraham55@hotmail.com



SCOUT UPDATE



Scout, Cub and Beaver Coffee Morning on Saturday, 9 November 2024 - 10.30am to 12.00 noon

The scouts, cubs and beavers will be holding their annual Coffee Morning fundraiser at Mayfield Salisbury Church on Saturday, 9 November. We look forward to meeting up with all of our friends and supporters. It is our main fundraiser for the year as well as being a happy, friendly, relaxed and fun community event. Funds from the event are used to provide resources for the Group, as well as to support the many activities which the Group undertakes.

Tickets, price £4, provides coffee and scones. They can be purchased from beavers, cubs and scouts or payment can be made at the door.

As well as coffee and chat, come and enjoy the various stalls and games.

Scouts

I am delighted to announce that Matt Aldridge, one of my most valued assistants, has been awarded the Silver Acorn by the Scout Association. This is one of the highest awards to adult volunteers for service. Matt has been a leader at the 28th for over 30 years and the award is made for 'specially distinguished service'. The Scout Group is very proud of Matt and congratulate him on his award.

The group was also delighted to learn that our group treasurer, Rosemary Mitchell, was awarded the Bar to the

Medal of Merit in recognition of her amazing work as our group treasurer over an incredible 34 years. The award was presented to Rosemary on her retirement as Treasurer at our recent AGM. Her outstanding service to the group was greatly valued and we wish her well as she starts the next chapter in her life.

Alan Dickson Scout Leader

Headquarters

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



Mayfield Salisbury Church
Church
West Mayfield

We have vacancies







Beavers – age 6&7 meet on Wednesdays from 6.30 – 7.30 pm

Cubs – age 8 to 10 ½ meet on Wednesdays from 6.30 – 8.00pm

Contact – Philip Hunsley 28thBraidcubs@gmail.com for Cubs enquiries
28thBraidbeavers@gmail.com for Beavers enquiries

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

October **Youth Group** - For a list of youth group dates, please check the Weekly News

Sun 13 **2 - God (Trinity)**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Mon 14 7.30pm Foundations of Faith Study Group - 2. Who or what is God? (MSPC)

Tue 15 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Thu 17 2.00pm Thursday Club: Catherine Booth *A West Highland Way Walk (MSPC)*
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (at Priestfield)

Sun 20 **3 - Jesus**

10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Alex McAspurren)

Mon 21 7.30pm Foundations of Faith Study Group - 3. Jesus (MSPC)

Tue 22 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Thu 24 2.00pm Thursday Club: Ken Williamson *Trains And Trams In Edinburgh's Southside*

Sat 26 10am - 12 Crossreach Coffee Morning (at Mayfield Salisbury)
4.00pm Messy Church (at Priestfield)

Sun 27 **4 - Being Human**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Mon 28 7.30pm Foundations of Faith Study Group - 4. Being human (MSPC)

Tue 29 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Wed 30 7.00pm Kirk Session Plenary

Thu 31 2.00pm Thursday Club: Joan Adam *African Trip, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Namibia*
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (at Priestfield)

November

Fri 1 2.30pm First Friday Friends in the Bill McDonald Hall (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Sun 3 **All Saints - 5 Sources of Revelation – Scripture, Prayer & Sacraments**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Simon Hessel)
10.45am Service of Worship (Simon Hessel)
7.00pm Evening Communion Service (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Mon 4 7.30pm Foundations of Faith Study Group - 5. Sources of Revelation – Scripture, Prayer & Sacraments (MSPC)

Tue 5 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)
2.00pm Southside Guild (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Thu 7 2.00pm Thursday Club: Kozo Hoshino & John Ferguson *A Trip To Vienna*

Sat 9 10.30am Scout Coffee Morning and Fair (at Mayfield Salisbury)
1.30pm Craft Fair (at Priestfield)

Sun 10 **Remembrance**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

- Tue 12 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)
2.30pm Afternoon Service of Remembrance
- Thur 14 2.00pm Thursday Club: Boyd Macadam *Washington and the Constitution*
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (at Priestfield)
- Sun 17 6 - Incarnation, Salvation and Eternity**
10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Mon 18 7.30pm Foundations of Faith Study Group - 6. Salvation and Eternity (MSPC)
- Tue 19 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)
- Thur 21 2.00pm Thursday Club: Mary Welsh *TBC*
- Sun 24 Christ the King - Celebration of Mayfield Salisbury**
9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 26 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)
- Wed 27 7.00pm Kirk Session - Mayfield Salisbury
- Thur 28 2.00pm Patricia Armstrong *German Markets and A Christmas Fair*
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (at Priestfield)
- Sat 30 4.00pm Messy Church (at Priestfield)

December

Sun 1 1st Sunday Advent and Gift Services

- 9.30am All-Age Worship (Simon Hessett)
10.45am Service of Worship (Simon Hessett)
7.00pm Service to Remember Loved Ones
(Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth) & Pauline Robertson DCS)

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

October

			2	Ezekiel	4,5	/	James	1
			3	Ezekiel	6,7	/	James	2
			4	Ezekiel	8,9	/	Psalm 119:	121-144
10	Jeremiah	13,14	/	John	6			
11	Jeremiah	15,16	/	Psalm	116			
12	Jeremiah	17,18	/	John	7			
13	Jeremiah	19,20	/	John	8			
14	Jeremiah	21,22	/	Psalms	117,118			
15	Jeremiah	23,24	/	John	9			
16	Jeremiah	25,26	/	John	10			
17	Jeremiah	27,28	/	John	11			
18	Jeremiah	29,31	/	Psalm 119:	1-24			
19	Jeremiah	32,33	/	John	12			
20	Jeremiah	34,35	/	John	13			
21	Jeremiah	36,37	/	Psalm 119:	25-48			
22	Jeremiah	38,39	/	John	14			
23	Jeremiah	40,41	/	John	15			
24	Jeremiah	42,43	/	John	16			
25	Jeremiah	44-46	/	Psalm 119:	49-72			
26	Jeremiah	47,48	/	John	17			
27	Jeremiah	49,50	/	John	18			
28	Jeremiah	51,52	/	Psalm 119:	73-96			
29	Lamentations	1,2	/	John	19			
30	Lamentations	3-5	/	John	20			
31	Ezekiel	1	/	John	21			

November

1	Ezekiel	2,3	/	Psalm 119:	97-120				
				22	Ezekiel	46,47	/	John	3
				24	Ezekiel	48	/	John	4
				25	Daniel	1-3	/	Psalms	132-134
				26	Daniel	4,5	/	John	5
				27	Daniel	6,7	/	John	
				28	Daniel	8,9	/	John	
				29	Daniel	10-12	/	Psalms	135,136
				30	Hosea	1,2	/	Jude	1

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

Parish Deacon

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 or Pastoral Assistant

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



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For December Issue
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