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Issue 279

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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



'FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH': WORSHIP AND STUDY

NEWINGTON TRINITY CHOIR

FLORAL MINISTRY

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

A few years back, whilst driving through rural Deeside in the North-East of Scotland, I came across this wonderful road sign to the village of Lost and had to stop to take the compulsory photo beside it, as this chap is also doing. Sometimes in life, not only are we unsure of where we are, we're not entirely clear either of where we are heading and how to get there. There's an old story of a lost traveller in rural Ireland asking a wise-looking local what the best route was to go to Dublin. And the local replied, 'Ah well, if it's Dublin you're heading to, I wouldn't start from here!'

As we look forward to the autumn and winter of this year, that old chestnut has been in my mind in the context of two upcoming developments in our life of faith as the congregation that will be Newington Trinity. Ways of beginning to discern more clearly not only where we are, but who we are and the road ahead to where we might be going.

The first is about forging a new identity together as a Christian community once the union of our three congregations takes place, mostly likely in early January. It has been a great blessing that we have begun over the summer to worship together each Sunday on a long-term basis. If you have been at worship on a Sunday morning recently, I am sure you will agree that the presence of so many people has created a very friendly and happy atmosphere, as well as raising the hymn singing to new heights. It has also been wonderful to see friendships growing between those from different church backgrounds. I would very much encourage us all over the coming months to seek out on a Sunday morning or during the week those who you might only know vaguely and strike up a



conversation to get to know each other better. Why not sit in a different part of the sanctuary to chat to new people, or make the move to approach them when we are sharing fellowship over tea and coffee after the service?

Inevitably, with the gathering of three congregations into one under a different name, we will be something new from January onwards, no matter the location of regular worship services. And it is also an opportunity to start afresh in some areas; to forge an identity as Newington Trinity which is different from what has gone before at any of our prior locations. That is one of the reasons why the recent papers on worship and the layout of the sanctuary propose new directions for discussion. Not 'change for the sake of change' though, but so that something dynamic and exciting in our faith and the lives of those beyond the church might result with God's guidance, with the new venture as our springboard. Enthusiasm for what might lie ahead, rather than trying somehow to do 'the same old thing' in triplicate.

We must look to discover who we are as Newington Trinity and to find the roadmap for the route ahead, so that we know where

we are starting from, and that we are not decidedly 'lost' from this moment onwards. These issues are not, however, all about knowing each other as people, the presence of pews or the service times and content, important though they are. For the second upcoming development on our 'road to Dublin' is about God and our faith, as it should be. Discovering again our identity in Christ is the most important part of the upcoming union, and on which it may succeed or fail.

Looking to place that high up on the agenda before the union takes place, we will be starting an eight-part Sunday worship series and midweek study group from late September, entitled *Being Christian: Foundations of Faith*. Do look elsewhere in the magazine for further details and to enquire or sign up for the study group. If the presence of God is close to our hearts in the coming months and years, and we are mindful always of the need to discern God's will for all our decisions, then our true identity, purpose and future direction will never be far from view.

On our recent pulpit swap in Georgia, USA,



Joy and I stopped in the city of Forsyth – here I am in the compulsory photo at the road sign. Somehow, even though we had never been to the place, we felt instantly at home there and were greeted as minor celebrities in the Visitor Center because of our name! Will the name of Newington Trinity bring for all of us soon not only a sense of identity, but also of homecoming and belonging in Christ; and what are the signposts that will lead us there?

God bless,
Sandy

NEWINGTON TRINITY CHOIR

The Newington Trinity Choir is about start its new season with the first practice in the Mayfield Salisbury Sanctuary. All three congregations are already well represented and all singers are very welcome to join us. We rehearse on Thursday evenings and meet at 10.00am on Sundays to sing at the second service. Even if you can't commit to every week, please come and try us as all the parts are always covered every week.

It would be helpful if you let our choir leader Walter know that you will be coming so that we can be sure we have enough music. walterthomson@hotmail.co.uk

Walter Thomson



FOUNDATIONS OF FAITH



'Being Christian: Foundations of Faith' Upcoming Worship Series and Study Group

From late September 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, from within the regular congregation and beyond: whether you are a 'seeker' looking to explore; or if you have been at the edges of faith for some time and would wish to think and grow; if you have found a long-term faith faltering in recent times and would like to 'get back to basics'; or if your faith is secure but you want to know more. In particular, 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.

Through the lens of Christian thought, the topics to be explored on Sundays and in the study group will include the meaning and purpose in our lives of the following: 'who is God?'; the world and creation; 'who was and is Jesus?'; being human; prayer and revelation of God; salvation and eternity; the Bible; and worship, sacraments and the church. Rather than being 'instructional', the study group each week will have a prior text to read on the subject, a presentation in the session by the minister on understandings of the topic over the centuries in Christian theology and practice, and then an extended time for discussion where doubts and challenges will be welcome. Questions raised in the study group might then feed into worship on the following Sunday.

More information will follow shortly, including dates and times. 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, Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth at the email address below or have a word after a service.

aforsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk

NEWS

NEWINGTON KNITTERS UNITE!



Priestfield's Knitting Together and Mayfield Salisbury's Craft Moments have joined forces to offer all Newington knitters and crafters a weekly experience. From September we both meet on Thursdays with the option of alternative mornings at 10.00am at Mayfield Salisbury from 5 September and alternate afternoons at Priestfield at 2.00pm from 12 September.

Pins provided and wool unlimited if you are a beginner or refresher. Purposeful projects or just doing your own thing is how it works, with advice and encouragement from fellow knitters. The most important feature of these sessions is sharing company and a cuppa!

For more information contact Diane on **0743 542 0560** or email trudacross@msn.com or Sandra on **0753 169 6240** or email sandra.carter@barts.myzen.co.uk

AFTERNOON SERVICE

TUESDAY 10
SEPTEMBER
AT 2.30PM

The next Afternoon Service will be held on Tuesday, 10 September at 2.30pm. We meet again in the Bill McDonald Hall, via West Mayfield level access, for a short service of Worship with Holy Communion led by our Minister, Revd. Dr Sandy Forsyth. This will be followed by light refreshments until around 3.45 pm.



Everyone is always made most welcome. Are you missing Morning Worship on Sundays? Maybe you find it hard to be away from home for long? At these less formal short services we all remain seated at our tables - 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 more information please contact Pastoral Assistant, Pauline Robertson, your own Pastoral Visitor (PV) - or Anne Sturrock. Pauline can be contacted on **0758 704 3191**

Anne Sturrock

The following Afternoon Service on Tuesday 12 November (Remembrance) will be the last one for this year

THURSDAY CLUB



Deirdre Eustace
Convener
07785 301 182

eustacedeirdre@gmail.com

The re-start of Thursday Club will be on the 3 of October, 2pm in the Bill McDonald Hall. Everyone is welcome and it doesn't matter whether you can only make one or two sessions, we would love to see you. We are a friendship club and the more friends the merrier!

May I also put out a plea for drivers? Some of our members rely on lifts to get them to and from the club (most have blue badges for parking) and so we value our drivers as VIPs in the team very much! Again it doesn't matter how often you might be able to help...there is a rota and it wouldn't be every week. However even if it was only once or twice we would value your support greatly, truly! I and the team hope to welcome many new friends in October!

MILK BOTTLE TOPS – REINSTATED !



I've shared the news recently that we can now resume our collection of milk bottle tops! Milk bottle tops are the highest quality recyclable plastic that there is and it seems such a waste to dispose of them in any way other than to recycle them for a good cause!

Up until recently, the original group of volunteers organised by The Rotary Club of Galashiels have collected an estimated 60 tonnes, which they have sorted, washed, delivered and sold. This has prevented 60 tonnes of plastic going to land fill. And, since they began the project in 2010, over £16,000 raised from selling the tops in bulk to the local recycling company has been donated towards Palliative Care in the Scottish Borders.

Over recent weeks a new local group of volunteers – Borders Bottle Tops for Charity - has been set up to continue the good work done turning bottle tops into invaluable funds for charity.

Where do the tops go next?

Border Plastic Recycling Ltd in Charlesfield, near St Boswells, buys the sorted bottle tops in bulk. They grind them up into small pieces somewhat similar to coffee granules, store them in large one tonne bags, and wait till the

trade price goes up - or for a company to place an order for a number of tons per year at a fixed price. They dispatch the plastic material all over the world.

What are the tops in bulk used for?

One major use is insulation for deep sea cables; the trans-Atlantic cable connecting UK to the USA is constantly being maintained.

Why has the purchase price reduced?

In the early days around £300-£400 per ton was paid for the donated tops, but now it's only around £200 per ton. This is because the Chinese stopped buying UK rubbish some time ago, including recyclable plastic, and so the sale value dropped very suddenly. Very recently Malaysia announced that they won't accept recycling materials from other countries and it is thought that Taiwan will follow suit very soon.

It's good to be involved!

So with a lower purchase price, even more milk bottle tops are welcome! Any colour of tops is acceptable and they do not need to be separated. Please do not deposit tops from soft drinks bottles, sauce bottles, etc as they cannot be recycled. On the inside of milk bottle tops there is a triangle (difficult to read!) – and within the triangle there is a number. 2 or 4 are the only numbers that are accepted by the Recycling Company and that's why they all have to be checked. And it helps the sorters when the tops have been pre-washed....!

Now you know the colourful story so please carry on collecting your milk bottle tops! The collecting bin is still under the bench just inside the West Mayfield entrance at Mayfield Salisbury.

Thanks to medical friends we now have bulk donations from cafes in Edinburgh hospitals so please help to spread the word around! Thank you all - and please raise your glasses of milk to the new **Borders Bottle Tops for Charity** volunteer teams!

Anne Sturrock

FLORAL MINISTRY

Dear Friends,

Newington Trinity Church are hoping to resume Floral Ministry.

For those of you who may not know, the flowers that members of the congregation kindly donate are taken to those who are ill, special anniversaries, births, bereaved. The flowers are always gratefully received.

We are asking for your help. Would anyone be willing to donate, arrange or deliver, maybe twice a year? It would be really good if we could start a rota. Possibly, fresh flowers in church twice a month? If you feel that is something you could help with, or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me. We will be very pleased to hear from you.

Many thanks.

Carole Stiff

carole.stiff@hotmail.co.uk



Messy Church

Saturday 28 September
4pm - 6pm
Come and have fun
with other families
at Priestfield Church

- Play games
- Join in activities
- Worship together
- Share a meal

BOOK LAUNCH!

22nd September 2024 at 7pm

At Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church

With Author Rev Dr Marjory A Maclean

introduced by

Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth and Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

Followed by book signing and refreshments!

Sign up on www.ticketsource.co.uk/marjory-maclean

or email churchmanager@googlemail.com

SCOTTISH CHARITY NUMBER: SC000785

OH ALL RIGHT THEN

Stories from a Varied Ministry

MARJORY A MACLEAN

SHIERLAW FUND REPORT

Alasdair Bisset has sent this very interesting report on his recent return trip to Nepal. He was awarded £150 from the Shierlaw Fund, towards the cost of equipment for pupils at the school where he previously worked as a Project Trust volunteer.

Namaste.

In June this year I returned to the village of Puja in Nepal where I had previously completed a volunteer English teaching placement, supported by the Shierlaw Fund and the congregation of Mayfield Salisbury Church. Furthermore, during that year the Church helped to facilitate a school trip to a variety of famous cultural sites in Nepal. The value of this to my students, many of whom had never left the village before, cannot be overstated.

Before returning to Nepal, I received a request from my former colleagues to try and raise some funds to provide school uniforms, school bags and stationery materials to students in need. In the local school, around 40% of the students come from so-called 'low caste' families (previously known as 'Dalit' or 'untouchable'). These students face the challenges of being both poor and marginalised in society, and lacking basic school resources highlights this even more. By providing these things, we can help tackle this marginalisation and help students to achieve their academic potential.

Upon arrival in the village we met with the teaching staff and the village development committee to discuss how to implement this plan. During this meeting we were informed that the school had recently received funding from a local charity to provide new school uniforms, so we had to slightly adjust our plans. It was decided that we would provide school bags, jotters, maths sets, and scientific calculators to 30 pupils. In true Nepali fashion, this was delivered to the students in an elaborate 'programme' which featured speeches, dancing, garlands and tikka (red powder which is put on your forehead). It was a great pleasure to see the support provided by Mayfield



Salisbury Church put into action where it was most needed.

Investment in and support of education is one of the most effective ways to open doors for young people in rural Nepal. With limited job opportunities locally, many young adults in Puja are forced to seek work abroad in India, Indonesia and the Gulf states. Indeed, all four of my host family's sons work outside of Nepal. Coming from poor backgrounds and having poor educational attainment puts them at risk of exploitation, which has been well documented, especially during the run up to the 2022 Football World Cup in Qatar. Improvements in high school education helps students to access further education or more secure employment in Nepal.

I would like to thank the Shierlaw Fund and Mayfield Salisbury Church on behalf of Puja Secondary School for generously funding these important school resources. The students, school and village community were incredibly grateful for your support and recognised the positive impact it will have on the lives of students and their families in the village.

Thank you.

Alasdair Bisset

Project Trust Volunteer 2017/18

SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE

Welcome to Dan Taylor, our new **Activities Co-ordinator**, I am delighted introduce you to Dan who joined our small team at Southside Faith Care in mid July. Dan is recently married to lovely Fliss on 3rd August, and at time of writing they are just back from honeymoon and settling into and getting to know Edinburgh. Dan comes to us with much experience gained from Bath and Bristol working with church and community-based projects and we are fortunate indeed to have him. To contact Dan directly with any queries about our activity programme, please email dan.southsidefaithcare@outlook.com or telephone, **0758 701 4948**, Tuesday-Friday.



Dan Taylor

New Activity Programme So, now that summer is almost over, Southside Faith Care has lined up a number of informal activities that will be rolling out across the autumn months and into early winter.

Thursday, 5 September, 11am to 12.30pm: First up to bat is a brand new **Sporting Memories Club** in southside Edinburgh at the Priestfield Hub in partnership with Sporting Memories UK. The club will be held weekly, on Thursdays, commencing 5 September. Do come along and enjoy the humour and good nature and the fun of reliving your sporting memories with others; have a good time talking about recent sporting events too, and all things loosely related like, 'where was the best pie you ever had at a football match?'; and, so much more! If you love sport and enjoy meeting others who do too, then this is the place to be! A match made in 'sporting heaven'.

6 September, 10am-12 noon: Man Friday meets again weekly, on Fridays, from 6th September. This will be their first meeting after the summer so there will be lots to catch up on. Past activities have involved meeting up and talking as a group, some serious topics and a lot of laughter too, walks to local places of interest with refreshments at the destinations, gentle exercise and advice on health matters, playing croquet at the Meadows Croquet Club and putting at Prestonfield Golf Club, both of which were entertaining and great

fun! New members welcome to join and bring a friend.

September to November: FREE and informal digital help sessions over 10 weeks. Southside Faith Care is providing two programmes in partnership with Tap into IT. Please do come along if you would like to use your mobile phone, laptop, tablets or iPads to do the things that you would like to know how to do, or to do better and to access information online. People can attend as many sessions as they wish. Please come promptly for 2pm and we look forward to seeing you there.

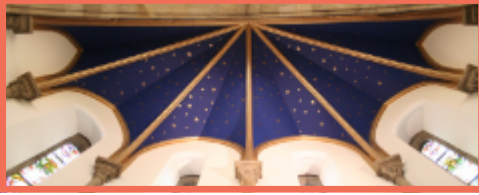
Priestfield Building: starts Tuesday, 17 September, 2-4pm, final session, 21 November.

Marchmont St Giles: starts Thursday, 19 September, 2-4pm, final session, 21 November.

And, later in the autumn... we await dates to be confirmed for our Community Art and Craft sessions in partnership with the Salisbury Centre on Wednesday afternoons, 2-5pm, and hope that you will come along and join these once dates are confirmed.

Su Millar
Development Lead,
Office Tel 07478 543510

SESSION MATTERS



I have been remiss in recent editions of *Grapevine* in not providing a summary of the discussions in Mayfield Salisbury Kirk Session. My (main) excuse is that with the weekly e-mail and the communications on *Towards our Union*, you have been getting relevant information about the direction of travel towards the union, which has been a key focus of the Sessions' discussions.

The next Plenary meeting of the three Kirk Sessions is on Wednesday the 18 of September. At these meetings the Plenary reviews issues of common interest ahead of the union so that we can all be assured that the direction of travel is coherent. After the Plenary meeting, we each break into our three individual Kirk Sessions to ensure that the proper decision making is recorded.

Over the next few months we will keep refining the integration of our activities to ensure, as far as possible, that all aspects of church life move forward smoothly at the point of transition on 1 January 2025.

In all areas, decisions affecting Newington Trinity will be for the new Kirk Session once it is formed after the date of union. All elders of all three Kirk Sessions automatically form the Newington Trinity Kirk Session.

However, we have mutually agreed that in terms of governance, the elders on the Kirk Session - who will be the trustees of Newington Trinity Church - should be fewer in number.

All elders will continue to play their part in the life of the congregation with many joining the proposed 'activity groups' which, along with volunteers from the congregation, will assist with the running of the church affairs. We'll be publicising more details later in the autumn.

Ultimately, it will be for the Newington Trinity Kirk Session to oversee and be responsible for all activities. As you are aware, there are some big decisions looming. The consultation on possible future worship arrangements and for the use of the sanctuary once the heating work is undertaken - possibly starting next summer - are all under active consideration.

If anyone wishes further information on these discussions please do not hesitate to contact me: clerkmspc@gmail.com

Boyd McAdam

PASTORAL CARE

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

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



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

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

A Prayer for Justice

Holy Spirit, fill us anew with your presence, so that we may burn brightly for God's glory. Aid us to hate evil and love goodness, so that we may disrupt the unfairness of our earthly world. Help our actions to let justice roll like a river, so God's heavenly kingdom is built here on earth. Amen

Val Brown, of Christian Aid Scotland, writes:

Attending to the whole person is a key part of how Christian Aid works through our local partners. In the last few years we have been working on climate loss and damage, recognising that for many people, catastrophic climate change has gone beyond what they are able to adapt to. And while that is very often economic – people losing livelihoods, life savings, animals – it is also cultural, physical and mental loss. In Dasenech, South Omo, in south-west Ethiopia, communities are living on the frontline of the climate crisis. When the usual rainy season fails to arrive, crops wither, animals starve, and people wonder where their next meal will come from. Then when the rain does come, it can overwhelm and swallow up land, damaging infrastructure, ruining livelihoods and pushing people out of their homes. But it also damages long-held, precious cultural aspects of life.

Scotland is one of the first countries in the world to commit funds to address economic and non-economic loss and damage. Christian Aid was awarded £250,000 by the Scottish Government to work with our partner, Action for Development, in ways that build the resilience of the community and attempt to address some of these huge challenges. Our partners trained 54 health and community leaders in psycho-social support to enable the community to deal well with the changes they were facing. This kind of intervention is critical to ensure that communities can get back on their feet, and to ensure that more drastic options aren't necessary, like girls being married young as families are pushed to the brink.

Our vision is of a world free from poverty where all God's children thrive. Our partners work tirelessly to ensure that people are treated with dignity and supported to use their own agency to be lifted out of poverty.

Forthcoming events Priestfield, Craigmillar Park and Mayfield Salisbury churches look forward to working together in support of Christian Aid this autumn. **Our jam and chutney sale** will take place after the service on 6 October. So if you're getting out the preserving pans to make the most of this summer's seasonal produce, please consider making a little extra for our stall – we'd really appreciate it. If you need extra jars, please contact Kate O'Brien at kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk 667 4362 or 07593 768 087. We have plenty to spare!

Following last year's very successful **Craft Fair**, we plan to hold another at Priestfield, on Saturday 9 November. Proceeds will go to Christian Aid, and other charities. We would welcome contributions and support, so please let us know if you'd like to be involved. And whether you bake, sew, sculpt, paint, embroider, upcycle or have any other creative talents, we'd love to hear from you! Please contact Kate O'Brien, kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk 667 4362 or 07593 768 087 for more information

Book Sale in support of Christian Aid The Christian Aid Book Sale will be held again this year at The New Town Church of Scotland (formerly St Andrew's and St George's West), 13 George Street, Edinburgh, from 17 to 19 October. The organisers are not appealing for quantities of books or anything else this year, as they already have a huge store of volumes and other items to sell. But if anyone has just one single book - a copy of one you have always loved, one you believe to be of special significance, or even one of monetary value - it can be taken to the Church in George St. and placed in the Chapel off the Undercroft Café on any weekday from 10.30 to 2p.m. You might like to put a note inside the book explaining why it is important to you. These books will then be sold on the Special Books table.

Thank you for your continuing support.

The Christian Aid Team



Knowledge and Love, beyond Reason and Belief -

Isaiah 40:21-31 & Ephesians 3:14-21

If you've ever been to Disneyland, in Paris or the States, you will know that one of the most captivating yet bizarre rides is the one where you go on a world tour on a gondola, sailing past mountainsides and cities representing every imaginable country in the world that are populated by large dolls, and all the while the insanely catchy but hugely irritating theme tune is blasting out, *It's a Small World After All*. How many times have you found yourself saying that phrase when against seemingly impossible odds you meet someone in a completely random way who it turns out knows someone else in your life very well from an entirely different context?

To prove it is a small world after all, the notion that there is only six degrees of separation of all people through a chain of acquaintances grew out of work conducted by the social psychologist Stanley Milgram

in the 1960s. And if you're a movie buff, that has morphed into the Bacon game, where every film star can be found to be linked to the actor Kevin Bacon through co-stars in six movies or less.

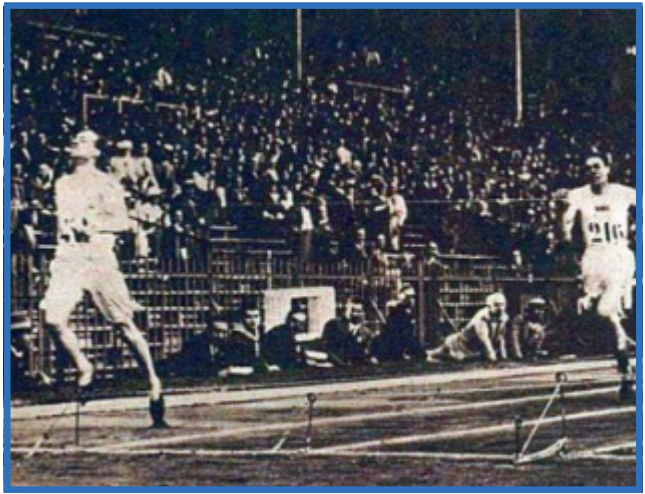
Of course, if you happen to have met someone like the late Queen or Barack Obama, you can link yourself to just about every well-known person in the world in two steps. But sometimes with more everyday, ordinary people like us, it's also far fewer than six steps, and far more dramatically remote than you can ever imagine. When I was leading worship in Statesboro, Georgia recently, I did so alongside one of the elders, Angus Walton, originally from Falkirk here in Scotland, with me on the left. But the 'small world' connection was not back to this country, even though I know that at least two people in this congregation are Falkirk natives. Instead, Angus told me that after he left Scotland and before he moved to the USA, he worked for many years in Peru, and lived in its capital, Lima. I told him that a workparty trip to Peru in 2005 with the Scottish charity The Vine Trust



was deeply formative for me in pursuing a sense of calling to ministry, and also that several members of this congregation have been heavily involved in Peru with The Vine Trust. In all of this, The Vine Trust partnered locally with Scripture Union Peru. The photo on the right was taken by me during the trip in 2005 of the man who was the leader of Scripture Union Peru for many years and his wife; an American called Paul Clark. And then Angus Walton told me that his next-door neighbours in Lima, a city of 11 million people, were the Clarks, and that he was still in regular contact with Paul and his wife who remained great friends. He would pass on my good wishes...

How bizarre! Maybe you have a story like

that too. For its a very small world after all. And not just in establishing who knows who. Let me share with you, if I may, one of the most moving moments of that trip in 2005, and indeed of my whole spiritual life. Here's a younger me as part of the work party and at one of the worksites in Peru, where we were helping local craftsmen and women build a village for orphaned street kids high up in the Andes in a place called Kusi. Every day an open truck would pick us up in the town where we were staying in the valley, and after a hard day's work on the site, the same truck would appear to take us back down the hill. And on the way back, every evening for a week, the local SU worker led us all in singing a short song, Peruvian and Scottish alike. Its words were:



'Me amor, ti hermano, mi amor, ti hermana, porque Christo bibe in me'. In English, 'I love you my brother, I love you my sister, because Christ lives in me'.

On the final journey home in the truck on the last day, singing that song, I was close to tears. In our shared faith, in Jesus Christ indwelling in all our hearts, it was a very small world after all. In fact, you might say, it felt like there were no degrees of separation at all.

That's what faith in Jesus Christ can do, if Christ is indeed living within us - an absolute unity of connection between His followers, one God, one faith, one baptism, one love. As the hymn says:

'In Christ there is no east or west, in him no south or north, but one great fellowship of love throughout the whole wide earth.'

But beyond what might sound like a soft-focused campfire 'kumbaya' feeling of God loves us all, man, amen; what is it with faith, I wonder, that brings on that connection? Mutual delusion, mass hysteria, wish fulfilment, a childlike need for acceptance, an atheist might say. Or is there something there that links us all together in this idea that Christ might live in me and in you; of us being, as our theology of baptism in the

Church of Scotland puts it, more fully ingrafted into Christ?

We explored last week the need for letting the light of Christ back into our lives and into our world, through our faith, our prayer and worship and the movement of the Spirit. The next question might be – how can that be manifested, if indeed it is possible? Is the light of Christ living within us actually attainable? Imagining a part deification of sorts, a spiritual nirvana almost, a peace and love beyond compare, out of reach of our rationality, our head knowledge and our senses?

The Paris Olympics have just begun, with its spectacular opening ceremony on Friday night in what looked like truly Scottish amounts of rain! It's 100 years since they were last held there, when the famous events occurred of the triumph in the 400 metres of Edinburgh athlete Eric Liddell, pictured above at the finishing line; an inspiring story of faith and fortitude that became world famous through the film Chariots of Fire. Our joint kids Holiday Club last week, that Bettina led, took the Olympics and Eric Liddell as a focus. Local connections are rife, from Liddell's sister and niece being past members of this church, to the Eric Liddell Centre nearby which has a series of celebrations lined up for the centenary.

I shared last week that Liddell's last words on earth were 'complete surrender', reflecting his lifelong dedication that he should let God in to have complete control over the direction of his life. And about six months ago in a sermon, I reflected further on that complete dedication and trust, from a scene in the film Chariots of Fire where, before his famous race, Liddell reads beautifully from the end of our Isaiah passage today the words of verse 31, so true of course for his own story, that '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'.

There's an inkling there, I think, from Liddell's example of surrender to God and from the words he spoke from Isaiah 31 that 'those WHO WAIT on the Lord' shall mount up with wings like eagles. An inkling of how and where this indwelling of Christ, of Christ living within us, may come from.

The indwelling of Christ within the hearts and souls of the believers, is also what Paul earnestly prays to happen for the people of the church in Ephesus in our New Testament lesson. The same church who John of Patmos was writing about several decades later in our passage from last week; a church that had lost its spark, forgotten why it had loved God in the beginning, and was going through the motions. Paul prays in this passage that the people of Ephesus will be strengthened in their INNER BEING, from the inside out, by the power of God's spirit. He's not calling on them to become stronger in themselves, to be tough and rugged or to 'man up'. He says instead that they need to be rooted and grounded in love, so that they might know just how deep and wide and tall the love of Christ is, and through that, verse 17, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

THE ISSUE IS LETTING CHRIST IN, TO CHANGE US. Eugene Peterson's paraphrase of this passage in The Message translation says, like Liddell, 'that

Christ will live in you, as you open the door and invite him in.' 'To be filled', as Paul puts it in verse 19, 'with a love that surpasses all knowledge.'

Paul says that this mystery of the indwelling of the love of Christ in our lives cannot be created, or discovered, or fully known by the powers of our rational mind – it is some distance beyond that. Normally if I say that I 'know' something, I am the subject that has made a discovery of a person, or a place, or an idea, which I now 'know', as an object beyond me. I am the agent of the finding out and the discovery. God has turned all this upside down. This 'revelation', this unveiling of Christ in our hearts and our lives, to 'know God', is a GIFT TO US AND NOT A DISCOVERY BY US.

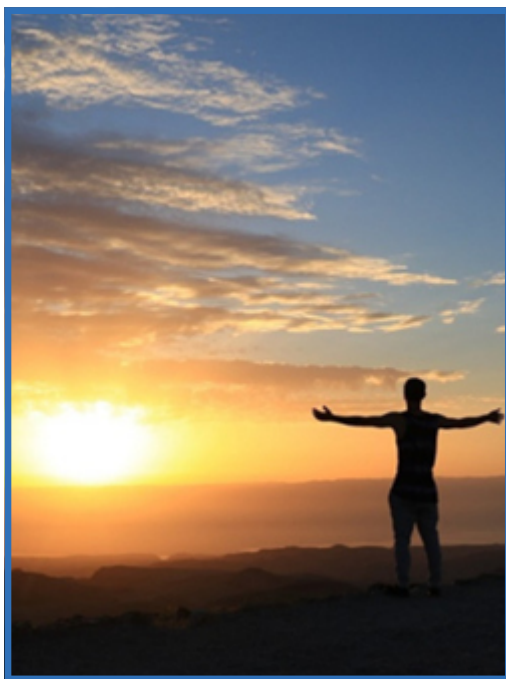
Reason is not the only human faculty that 'knows'. The heart and the soul 'know' as well. This knowledge of God dwells not primarily in the intellect, but in the heart and the soul. And it is the Spirit of God and not the individual who is the agent of this knowledge of God. To 'know' God is more than head knowledge, it is more even that our belief by rational choice. Instead, is it an indwelling by opening up and inviting in, a surrender like Liddell, to experience the breadth and length and height and depth of the love of Christ, that is beyond the ability of humans to 'know', and so be filled with the fulness of God.

Where to from here, then? Paul knew in his prayer that the congregation in Ephesus would be wondering when they received this letter how the prayer could possibly be answered. We might well ask the same question. How can that holiness, that indwelling, that trust, that surrender, that love, ever be ours? Perhaps that's why Paul added the doxology of verses 20 and 21, saying, 'Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory'. Paul is saying to the church at Ephesus, and to us, God is already with you, even in your sometimes

fumbling attempts to live faithfully, lovingly and courageously God is present and is able to accomplish with you, and in you, far more that you can ever imagine. All things are possible with God – now receive more of the gift of 'knowing', the gift of a Christ who lives in me and in you.

To do so, this church and every church, just like the one in Ephesus in Paul's time, or the people of Israel in Isaiah's time must learn to wait on God; to rely upon God in prayer and worship and dedication, and not just on itself.

Then the degrees of separation between us and God, or between us and each other, might be whittled down. Grounded more firmly in love, stronger in faith, and more deeply filled by the fulness of a God who seeks to be invited to indwell in our hearts, who hears our voice and answers our prayers, we may indeed soar on eagles' wings too. **Amen.**



SCOUT UPDATE

We returned to our favourite camp site near Carrbridge and had another wonderful ten day Summer Camp with a reasonable spell of weather. Nineteen Scouts attended the camp. Activities included hikes, patrol challenges, working on fences to protect capercaillie, mountain biking, paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming in the river, bushcraft and survival techniques. We also paid a visit to Inverness to the Aquadome and stopped off at Culloden Visitor Centre on the return journey. Throughout the camp, whilst living and working as Patrols, the Scouts learned teamwork, resilience, new skills, how to face challenges and all the essential areas of personal development that is so unique to the opportunity of being a Scout.

Alan Dickson Scout Leader

Headquarters

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

EPT - THANK YOU



Edinburgh Peoples Theatre (EPT) have enjoyed another successful run this year with their Fringe play *Ne'er the Twain*. Three different reviewers each gave the play a four star review and we would like to thank all those from the three churches who will make up Newington Trinity for their support this year.

Your generous response to our request for programme donations for the Newington Food Bank have resulted in the sum £1015.44 being raised for this purpose.

Gordon Braidwood

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

September

Sun 1 Fifteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth & Rev Alex McAspurren)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
7.00pm Evening Service of Communion (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 3 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Thu 5 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (at Priestfield)

Fri 6 2.30pm First Friday Friends in the Newington Room (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Sun 8 Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost - Holy Communion

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
6.00pm Youth Group in Church House (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Tue 10 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)
2.30pm Afternoon Service (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth & Pauline Robertson DCS)

Sun 15 Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth & Simon Hessel)

Tue 17 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Wed 18 7.00pm Plenary meeting of Kirk Sessions (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Thu 19 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (at Priestfield)

Sun 22 Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9.30am All-Age Worship (Godly Play)
10.45am Service of Worship (Godly Play)
7.00pm Book Launch Rev Dr Marjory Maclean (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Tue 24 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Sat 28 4.00pm Messy Church (at Priestfield)

Sun 29 Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
6.00pm Youth Group in Church House (at Mayfield Salisbury)

October

Tue 1 10.00am Morning Prayers (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Fri 4 2.30pm First Friday Friends in the Newington Room (at Mayfield Salisbury)

Sat 5 10.00am Cafe Time in support of MacMillan Cancer (at Priestfield)

Sun 6 Harvest

9.30am All-Age Worship (Simon Hessel)
10.45am Service of Worship (Simon Hessel)
7.00pm Evening Service with Agape - (Pauline Robertson DCS)

Café Time
for
**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

Saturday 5 October
10am - 12 noon
Priestfield Church



PARISH REGISTER

New Member

Sheila McLellan

Deaths

Florence Smith

Lawrence Aitken

Alison Ward

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

September

1	Song of Songs	5,6	/	I Timothy	5
2	Song of Songs	7,8	/	Psalms	99-101
3	Isaiah	1,2	/	Timothy	6
4	Isaiah	3-5	/	II Timothy	1
5	Isaiah	6,7	/	II Timothy	2
6	Isaiah	8,9	/	Psalm	102
7	Isaiah	10-12	/	II Timothy	3
8	Isaiah	13,14	/	II Timothy	4
9	Isaiah	15,16	/	Psalm	103
10	Isaiah	17-20	/	Titus	1
11	Isaiah	21,22	/	Titus	2
12	Isaiah	23,24	/	Titus	3
13	Isaiah	25,26	/	Psalm	104
14	Isaiah	27,28	/	Philemon	
15	Isaiah	29,30	/	Hebrews	1
16	Isaiah	31,32	/	Psalm	105
17	Isaiah	33,34	/	Hebrews	2
18	Isaiah	35,36	/	Hebrews	3
19	Isaiah	37,38	/	Hebrews	4
20	Isaiah	39,40	/	Psalm	106
21	Isaiah	41,42	/	Hebrews	5
22	Isaiah	43,44	/	Hebrews	6
23	Isaiah	45,46	/	Psalm	107
24	Isaiah	47,48	/	Hebrews	7

25	Isaiah	49,50	/	Hebrews	8
26	Isaiah	51,52	/	Hebrews	9
27	Isaiah	53,54	/	Psalms	108,109
28	Isaiah	55,56	/	Hebrews	10
29	Isaiah	57,58	/	Hebrews	11
30	Isaiah	59,60	/	Psalms	110,111

October

1	Isaiah	61,62	/	Hebrews	12
2	Isaiah	63,64	/	Hebrews	13
3	Isaiah	65,66	/	John	1
4	Jeremiah	1,2	/	Psalms	112,113
5	Jeremiah	3,4	/	John	2
6	Jeremiah	5,6	/	John	3
7	Jeremiah	7,8	/	Psalms	114,115
8	Jeremiah	9,10	/	John	4
9	Jeremiah	11,12	/	John	5
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

WHO'S WHO IN THE CHURCH

Mayfield Church is part of the Parish of Mayfield & Salisbury
Scotland. Mayfield is a Disability Friendly Parish. Tel: 0131 667 0785

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 youthworkersmspc@gmail.com 0778 319 0114

Church Manager

William Mearns churchmanager@googlemail.com 0780 801 1234

Organist

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

Session Clerk

Boyd McAdam clerkmspc@gmail.com 0777 358 7579

Treasurer

John Graham culkein@btinternet.com 0131 667 6331

Safeguarding Co-ordinators

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

Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

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

Mayfield Radio Unit

The Studio mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com 0131 667 7742

Church Address and Office

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

Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits, please contact the Minister

Staff Days Off - (Generally)

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

Social Media Accounts

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

SCAN TO GIVE



www.give.net/20311853

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