

YouTube Facebook X MAY/JUNE 2025

ISSUE 3

NEWINGTON TRINITY NEWS

Magazine of Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland



REV DR JOHN ROSS

SCOUT UPDATES

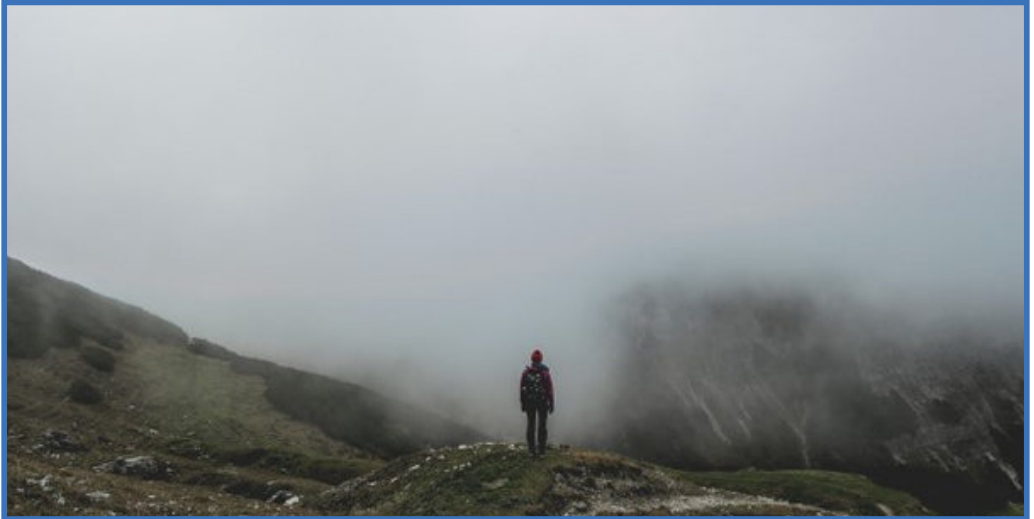
REFLECTION: 'HE IS RISEN!'



NEWINGTON
TRINITY
CHURCH

www.newingtontrinity.org

FROM THE MANSE



Dear Friends,

The Scottish naturalist, John Muir, founder of the American national parks system, once said, 'the mountains are calling and I must go.' Spring has sprung in Scotland and the world and his Granny are heading for the hills. Every car park, every lay by, every stray bit of grass in the Highlands at the weekends is now rammed with cars, campers and motorbikes, as people channel their inner Edmund Hillary and Tensing Norgay to tick off another mountainous Munro over 3000 feet from the full list of 282. I know that some of us in the congregation have done them all; plus the Corbetts and maybe even the Grahams. Only 'the Pimples' might be left! I think I have done about 50 Munros in the last forty years, so at this rate only another 185 years are left until completion!

In the higher hills, when the mist descends, there's a form of mental torture that plays on the mind. A game called, 'I'm sure the summit is just beyond this ridge.' It never seems to be. When you're exhausted, tired and occasionally soaking wet, it always seems that getting over the next little

hurdle does not lead to the top but only to another climb ever upwards, and another, and another...

It's like the song that seems like it has run out of steam and come to a quiet end, only for the musicians to kick off again for another twelve bars of a reprise, shouting 'one more time' – a raga that leads to a saga. Or the guy whose had too much to drink jabbing his finger just when you think his rant against the world has ended and shouting 'and another thing...!'

When I was an advocate in court, we were taught to stand up, say what you need to say and just sit down (if you're at church for worship on a Sunday, maybe you wonder if I learned that lesson!). For in court, as soon as you begin to believe your own hype, keep going unnecessarily and 'wax lyrical', that's when you start to dig your own holes to jump into. You only risk making things worse, and not better.

We have just passed a momentous time of year in the Christian calendar. A time of the Easter Sunday story of the resurrection, of the empty tomb and Christ rising again,

heralding the coming of the Kingdom of God that will bring to fruition a new world ahead, and the triumph of life and love and hope, over evil and hate and death. Full stop. Curtain down. Point made. The end.... surely. But no!

Why can't we just stop there? On it goes in Scripture, through the further appearances of the resurrected Christ, the Acts of the Apostles, the letters to fledgling churches and new converts, and the apocalyptic vision of the Book of Revelation.

And then what? Well, 'on it goes' in two thousand years of history since then, and on it will go until the vision of Isaiah and Revelation is finally realised – and the Kingdom comes, as we pray for every week in the Lord's Prayer. A Kingdom where the evils that plague our world right now, as they did back then, of vicious aggression, hatred, greed and division, the twisting of truth and the genocidal oppression of people groups will once and for all come to an end. That is the promise that the Easter story, the cross and the resurrection, begins rather than ends.

And meantime, people of Christian faith are called always to move forward in hope towards the fulfilment of that promise.

That is what has inspired great Christian leaders such as the late Pope Francis, whom the world now mourns. To be prophetic voices and actors, trusting in God in a time of anticipation, keeping a flickering light of hope for the world alive and never giving in. As an example, here



Pope Francis (1936 -2025)

is what Pope Francis wrote at the time of the outbreak of the Ukraine war in 2022, which still resonates today:

The one who makes war forgets humanity... He entrusts himself to the diabolical and perverse logic of arms, which is farthest from the will of God, and he distances himself from the ordinary people who want peace.

But it is also what should inspire us, who will never have the stage to be heard by millions across the globe, or bear much influence on the direction of world events. For in our small everyday actions, we too are engaging in the same continuing story, starting with a book whose final chapter remains unwritten. We're still checking the map and hoping that 'the summit is just beyond this ridge.' All because of Easter, trusting, as we keep going rather than marking a full stop on the world and sitting down, that things can only get better.

Sandy

NEWS

SPRING AFTERNOON SERVICE

Tuesday, 13 MAY
at 2.30pm

Our Spring Afternoon Worship will be held on Tuesday, 13 MAY at 2.30pm in the Bill McDonald Hall [via West Mayfield level access]. The service will be led by our Minister, Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth and Pauline Robertson DCS.

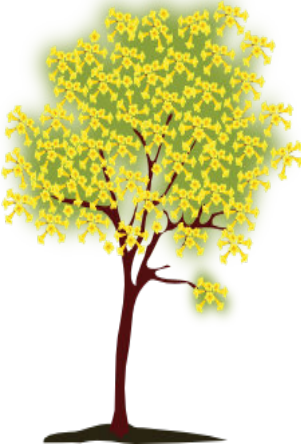
Everyone always made most welcome - please come!

We meet in this glorious month of May, and during Christian Aid Week, for this short service of worship to celebrate spring and the work of Christian Aid.

Short service is followed by light refreshments and chat until around 3.45pm.

Perhaps you now find it hard to attend Sunday Worship, or have been away for an extended time, or maybe you don't like to be away from home for too long or you are new to the area and prefer smaller gatherings? Feel free to bring a friend, relative or carer with you. Everyone is welcome. These are less formal services and we all remain seated at our tables throughout, enjoying conversations over a cup of tea afterwards!

If you haven't joined us in the past and would like a chat first please contact Parish Deacon Pauline Robertson on 0758 704 3191 or parishdeacon@newingtontrinity.org or Anne Sturrock afternoonservice@newingtontrinity.org



CROSSREACH AFTERNOON TEA

We're having an afternoon tea event in aid of CrossReach's perinatal services on Saturday 14 June 2.00 to 4.00pm at Newington Trinity - Mayfield.

Hope to see lots of you there.

PRAISE AND PRAYER



This small group meets every two weeks at Newington Trinity - Priestfield. Anyone is welcome to join others for this time of prayer from 7.30pm until about 9.00pm.

We next meet on Thursday 15 May. Whether you are new to praying or have prayed for years, this is an opportunity to grow in confidence and faith and also to encourage us all to keep on praying.

JUBILO CONCERT

Saturday 17 May
at 7.30 pm
St Cuthbert's Church,
Lothian Road

All welcome at Jubilo's next concert to hear Leonard Bernstein's Chichester Psalms, Duke Ellington's Sacred Concert etc. Tickets £15 available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/jubilo and from Honey Ballantine, Winifred Hodge or George Ross.



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: 0758 704 3191, email parishdeacon@newingtontrinity.org



SOUTHSIDE FAITH CARE UPDATE

Hello everyone! We've really enjoyed seeing lots of you recently at our groups and we're really excited about what we've got coming up! We continue to be creative and seek opportunities to bless the local community with what we can provide. Our Digital Groups continue to be one of our most appreciated groups. We're trying new locations currently and the trial at Morningside United Church proved a huge success! Coming up, we've got lots to get involved in:

Digital Advice & Support: new locations!

Wednesdays, 2 to 4pm, Newington Trinity-Mayfield, 18 West Mayfield, EH9 1TQ
Thursdays, 2 to 4pm, Marchmont St Giles Church, 3 Kilgraston Road, EH9 2DW

Sporting Memories

We'll be trialing a location change going forward. Once a month, we'll be running our sessions at Prestonfield Golf Club as a more 'sporty' venue. Keep your ears to the ground to hear more of this.

Thursdays, 11am to 12.30pm, Newington Trinity Priestfield, Dalkeith Road/Marchall Place, EH16 5HW

Crafts, Games, Soup!

We continue to offer a relaxed space to enjoy crafts, boardgames and a free lunch of soup & bread. Come and join in!

Fridays, 12.30pm to 2.30pm, Newington Trinity Priestfield, Dalkeith Road/Marchall Place, EH16 5HW

Man Friday

Men, come and share a story and coffee or simply listen into the tales that are told each week! Haven't been before? Don't know anyone? We'd love to welcome you. There's no commitment and you can drop in when you like!

Fridays, 10am to 12pm, Newington Trinity Priestfield, Dalkeith Road/Marchall Place, EH16 5HW

Community Talks

We're running a series of free talks for the community aimed at older people. All held at Newington Trinity- Priestfield and a free light lunch will be provided.

Eating Well As We Age: 1 May, 1pm to 2pm
Local Connections: 12 June, 1pm to 2pm

We'd love to see you at one or all of our groups and events! Join in, volunteer or tell a friend who might enjoy them. Do get in touch, we'd love to hear from you.

All the best, Su & Dan

Su: Development Lead, 07478 543 510
Dan: Activities Coordinator, 07587014948

KOREAN CONNECTIONS



Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth and Rev Dr JunSoo Park, with the Bible presented

On his return in 1910 from thirty eight years of missionary work in the city that was then called Mukden (now named Shenyang) in north eastern China in 1910, Rev Dr John Ross settled in this area. He lived in Marchhall Crescent, and joined what was then Mayfield United Free Church, now Newington Trinity Church, serving as an elder until his death in 1915. Ross is buried in Newington Cemetery.

During his time in Mukden, Ross founded a church and seminary which remain to this day, as well as working with the medical missionary Dugald Stewart, buried in Grange Cemetery, in the founding of the first hospital of Western medicine in the city. However, the greatest impact of Ross' ministry was unseen and unknown to him. As a skilled linguist, he headed a team which produced the first printed New Testament in the Korean language. The books were smuggled into Korea, as it was then a closed country. John Ross is now revered as a founding father of Korean Christianity. And that being so, our church is seen as a very special place by Korean Christians, given that it is similar in its layout to John Ross' time.

It was a pleasure to welcome to the church on Friday 4 April a delegation from the Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK), Presbytery of Busan, the second largest

city in South Korea. It was a great time of fellowship and friendship and a Bible in use at the church at the time of John Ross was presented to the Moderator of Busan Presbytery. The delegation was in this country for the induction of our former member and New College graduate, Rev Dr JunSoo Park, as the minister of Newton Presbyterian John Ross Memorial Church; a 'church plant' by the PCK in the old Church of Scotland building in Danderhall. The induction service took place on the evening of 2 April: our minister took part in the service, and our member Eilie Blackwood, was presented with a plaque in grateful thanks for all the help and support that Eilie and Douglas have given to JunSoo and his family in recent years.

Hot on the heels of the visit of the Presbytery of Busan in the PCK, on Sunday 4 May the Moderator of the General Assembly of the PCK and a party of 23 will join us for morning worship, with the Moderator offering us greetings at the start of the service.

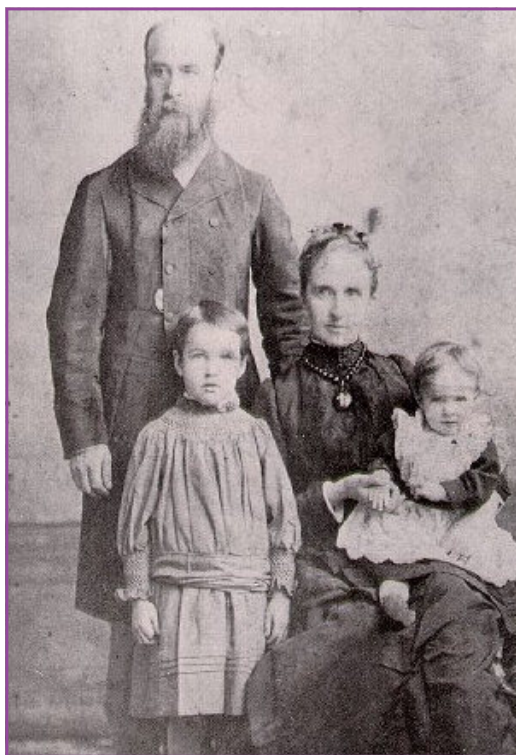
It is a blessing that global Christians are so inspired by our surroundings, and the work of our forebears in this church, and we thank God that the Gospel travels and embeds in so many countries and amongst people of every culture.

REV DR JOHN ROSS

The Revd Dr John Ross (1842 to 1915) was born on 6 July 1842 on a farm in the parish of Chapelhill, Nigg in Easter Ross. The son of a tailor, he studied at the United Presbyterian Divinity Hall in Edinburgh 1865 to 1869. He was licensed in 1870. Though attracted to the Gaelic ministry, he accepted the call of the UP Church's Foreign Mission Committee to serve in Manchuria. At the time of decision, a friend said to him, 'Better to be a spark in China than a flame in the Highlands.' Ross took the advice of his friend. Portree Parish Church, Isle of Skye, was his last parish in the Highlands.

Ross's work involved itinerancy and the training of an indigenous evangelistic and pastoral ministry. Significantly, he held that Christian teaching did not conflict with Confucian (his first school provided free teaching, using only Chinese classics), asserted the existence of a monotheistic strand in ancient Chinese religion, denied that Chinese ancestral rites were idolatrous (while insisting that adjudication on traditional customs was the local church's province) and believed Buddhist ascetics to be the most earnest seekers and, when converted, the most dynamic evangelists. Ross commented, 'The role of the missionary was not to change customs but to renew the heart.'

In 1874, he saw the possibilities of Christian mission in the closed neighbouring land of Korea. Persuading Korean visitors to Manchuria to be his first teachers, he worked at the language, produced a primer in 1877 and a grammar in 1882. He directed the first Korean translation of the New Testament. Not permitted to travel into Korea himself, a Korean friend and Korean traders carried the Scriptures over the border. Ross chose to translate the Bible into the language of the common people rather than Chinese, which was the language of the educated and upper classes. It has been argued that Ross's 'decision to use only the language of the common people was the most important event in the entire history of the

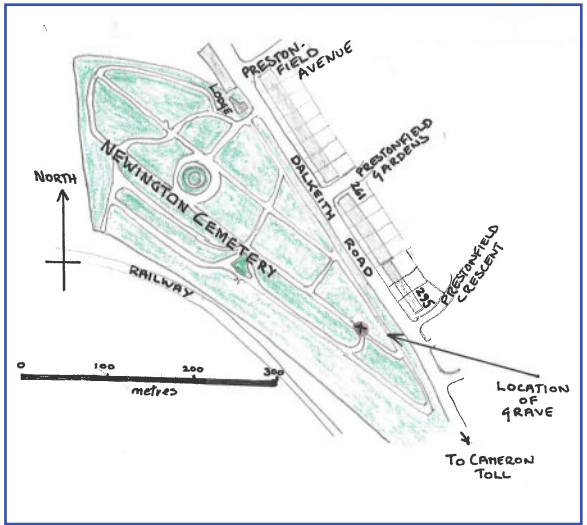


Korean Church.' Produced at a time when no standard Korean grammar was available, the Ross translation 'seems to have formed the basis of a new vernacular literature.' Ross himself noted that, 'the translation goes to the women of that country, and to the lowliest and illiterate poor, to speak to them plainly, in the language which all understand and employ in daily life, of the wondrous love of Him who is Saviour of the world.'

John Ross retired in 1910. He came to Edinburgh and became an Elder in Mayfield United Free Church (now Newington Trinity Church). In addition to his translation of Scripture, Ross also wrote on East Asian history and culture: Chinese Foreign Policy (1877), History of Corea (1879), The Manchus (1880), The Boxers of Manchuria (1901), Mission Methods in Manchuria (1903), The Original Religion of China (1909) and the posthumous Origin of

the Chinese People (1916). He received the DD from Glasgow University in 1894. Ross died in 1915 and is buried in Newington Cemetery. A plaque in his honour was unveiled in 2006 at this church. The service of dedication was attended by staff and students of New College, including several Korean postgraduates and their families.

South Korea has a population of 40 million and a Christian Church numbering over 12 million members. The dramatic growth of the Korean churches over the past one hundred years is directly linked to the spread of the Scriptures in the language of the people. John Ross was not permitted to enter Korea yet over 12 million Korean Christians know his name.



Taken from 'Rethinking Mission March 2008 - John Ross and Bible Women in the early Protestant Mission of Northern Korea and Eastern China' by Christine Sungjin Chang

Directions to the Grave

If you want to find the grave of Revd Dr John Ross at Newington Cemetery, Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh. Directions from Newington Trinity - Mayfield. Head east on West Mayfield towards Minto Street, cross the traffic light controlled junction to East Mayfield and carry on to the next traffic light controlled junction with Dalkeith Road. (0.3miles). Turn right and travel southeast for (0.2miles) and just past the junction of Prestonfield Avenue the gates to Newington Cemetery are found on the right (west side of Dalkeith Road). Once in the gates of the cemetery turn to the path on your left and follow this path for about 290 paces in a south easterly direction. At this point you will be opposite the dwelling number 295 Dalkeith Road (on the other side of the cemetery wall) Turn at right angles to the path and take approximately 20 paces (not on the path) to the south west. The gravestone will be facing the path you come to.

VISITING EDINBURGH?

Are you Korean? Are you hoping to travel to the UK and visit Edinburgh? If you are and you are planning to seek out Newington Trinity Church - Mayfield where Revd Dr John Ross worshipped and was an elder, or visit his grave in Newington Cemetery, we hope you will contact us and tell us who you are and when you expect to be here. We would very much like to meet you, welcome you to one of our services, invite you to join us afterwards for fellowship, and talk with you about Dr Ross. Please therefore, before you come, email the Church Manager, William Mearns - office@newingtontrinity.org

당신은 한국인입니까? 당신은 영국에 와서 예배를 방문하기를 원하십니까? 만약 당신이 존 로스 목사님께서 예배를 드리고 또한 그 곳에서 장로로 섬기셨던 Newington Trinity - Mayfield 교회에 Newington 묘지를 한번 보시고 싶으시다면 우리들에게 연락을 주셔서 당신이 누구이고 언제 이 곳을 방문하기를 원하시는가를 알려주기를 바랍니다. 우리는 당신을 만나기를 기대하고 우리가 드리는 예배와 예배 후에 있을 교제의 시간에 초대하여 존 로스 목사님에 대해 이야기를 나누고 싶습니다. 이에 당신이 이곳에 오시기 전에 먼저 William Mearns 목사 (office@newingtontrinity.org)

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

On the GRANGE PRESTONFIELD COMMUNITY COUNCIL (GPCC) agenda: What's happening in our community right now. For more information on these issues, see our website or contact secretary@grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk

16 April 2025 Meeting: Cllr. Simita Kumar in attendance. Election of Members to GPCC: Cllr. Kumar acted as Returning Officer under City of Edinburgh Council guidelines and confirmed the appointment of Elected Members and Nominated Representative Members (of Local Interest Groups) to GPCC for the 2025-29 term. Ken Robertson was appointed Chair and Acting Secretary. (Other appointments are in course. A listing will be published on the GPCC website shortly.)

Ordinary Business Meeting: Cllr. Kumar's Report: Current Community Grants Fund (CGF) funding round (awards up to £5000) is open until 30 June. CGF Growing Projects funding round is open until 12 May. See the Council site for detail: <https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/community-planning/community-grants-fund>.

Anti- Social Behaviour and crime reports mounting across South-East. Cllr Kumar closely involved in neighbourhood policing issues. Please contact her directly with your concerns: <mailto:Cllr.Simita.Kumar@edinburgh.gov.uk>.

Cllr. Kumar's current case work covers missed waste bin collections, bus stop litter, some local road surfaces and the tree projects for Priestfield / Prestonfield Road.

Transport: The Council's Strategic Parking Review moves to consider parking restrictions across part of the GPCC boundary area. Prior 'consultation' will be withdrawn but the Council undertaking is to publicise plans so that residents and businesses are fully aware

of proposals and are clear on how they can lodge their comments. You will need to be on the lookout (press, publicity) for these proposals as they emerge in May / June.

GPCC Website: Will be back with you shortly; administrative handovers underway at present.

Publicity: Work underway to introduce a GPCC information board on Dalkeith Road pavement area.

Newington Cemetery: Update awaited on Dalkeith Road wall repair works. Planter installation programme and related garden work continues. Friends of Newington Cemetery host a 28 April event (12.00) to commemorate renowned Penicuik engineer James Finlayson, 1830s industrial pioneer in Finland. Programme led by former GPCC Planning Lead, Tony Harris, and his wife, joined by the Finnish consul.

Grange Fair 10 May: At Newington Library, 12.00 to 16.30: Music; fun for kids; books; plants; food; more fun for kids; street art; neighbourhood fun for all.

Former Office Bearers and GPCC Members: Many thanks to those who led GPCC over the 2019-2025 term, especially through the difficult Covid days. Very much appreciated.

SoS: (1) We are still on the lookout for new members to join GPCC. If you live in the area and feel you could make a positive and committed contribution to improving your neighbourhood's 'place' and 'space', get in touch with us to discuss how we could do that together. This is your city; help it prosper. (2) We specifically need someone to help us on local planning issues. Are you interested in working in this area? Training and guidance given

Date of next meeting: 21 May 2025.
<https://www.grangeprestonfieldcc.org.uk>
Keep an eye on the Council's Consultation & Engagement Hub:
<https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/>



We ended last term with a mix of activities beginning with a trip to the 10 pin bowling at Chesser.

The next couple of weeks were spent on the more traditional scout skills of navigation – involving mapping, use of the compass and how to navigate using the sun, the stars and nature.

Our annual record breakers allowed the scout to attempt a number of Troop records set over the last 40 years. Three scouts managed to break a record and join the list of legends.

The fastest time to stand a fresh egg upright was by Adam Preston in 45 seconds.

The most objects used to bounce a ping pong ball off before landing it in a cup was 6 by Milo MacLeod

The longest time held in the plank position was 7 minutes 23 seconds by John McKenzie.

We now look forward to more outdoor activities in the summer camp, especially camping.

Alan Dickson Scout Leader

Headquarters

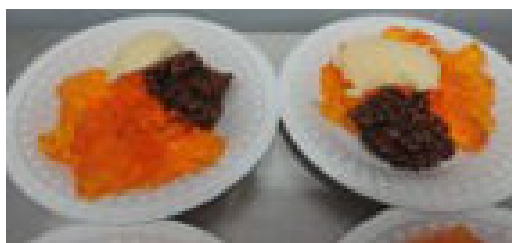
Newington Trinity Church - Mayfield
18 West Mayfield,
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ
Scottish Charity No SC006141

The 35th Scout Group has a history spanning over 100 years, but we are always working hard to ensure that the programme offered to our young people is a good blend of traditional and modern skills. Our group currently supports around 60 young people, both boys and girls, aged 6 to 14 to engage with the Scout programme. We also have several young leaders aged 14 to 17 supporting our sections and developing their own leadership skills.



Beavers: More Badges and some Ceilidh Chaos. After a busy term during which the beavers earned the International Badge (with a Burns Supper and the Chinese New Year Celebrations) and the Space Badge,

they enjoyed an end-of-term ceilidh, possibly our first ever ceilidh. With Eightsome Reel, Progressive Barn Dance, Dashing White Sergeant and others it was a resounding hit even though there was no badge to be earned!



Cubs: This past term, cubs have taken part in a number of activities, completing different activity and challenge badges.

We started off the term with a short night (evening) hike round the golf course and into Holyrood Park. Our annual Burns

Supper was a week late due to the storm, but cubs enjoyed a mini Highland Games and a sweet version of haggis, neeps and tatties. Our Communicator badge activities included looking at different codes, sharing messages and learning a little about Braille. The Navigator badge stage 2 gave us a chance to learn about maps and grid references, compass points and we followed some trails in the local area.

A highlight of the term was our weekend away at Bonaly Scout Centre, together with the scout troop. We completed most of our outdoor challenge, enjoying a hike into the Pentlands, some orienteering and some of the Bonaly activities including the 'Escape' team building course and the mini-zip line. There was also the chance for a few scoutcraft activities such as tent pitching and den building.



Scouts: The scouts have had a good spring term, working on gaining their Navigator stage 3 badge and enjoying our indoor camp at Bonaly with the cubs. At camp the scouts completed a 5km hike up and round Capelaw Hill, giving a great photo opportunity.

Laura Haley Scout Leader

Headquarters

Newington Trinity Church - Priestfield
2 Marchhall Place, Edinburgh EH16 5HW
Scottish Charity No SC006141

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA



Easter was a time of much celebration; our Easter Celebrations culminated in our Eggravaganza for all ages. We welcomed faces and families old and new, and got to know each other though games and getting creative. It was afternoon filled

with laughter, cake and lots of fun too. This will hopefully be the first of many " All Age" events we can share. A huge thank you to everyone involved.

Bettina and Pauline.



Marmalade Sale

We are grateful to everyone who supported our marmalade sale, which raised around £500. Thank you to all our marmalade makers, sellers and of course purchasers!

Christian Aid Week, 11 to 17 May, is fast approaching. This year's focus is on Guatemala, and Christian Aid tells us:

*“Gruelling heatwaves and extreme weather are destroying the farms of people like Aurelia (pictured above). She worries deeply about how much harvest the family will have to eat and sell: **‘Climate change has been killing our crops, and this is our food.’***

The roots of this cruel injustice run deep. Indigenous communities like Aurelia's have done the least to cause the climate crisis, yet they endure its impact the most. But the unstoppable power of hope is in the hands of farmers like Aurelia, as she leads her community in the fight to overcome the challenges they face. Aurelia is holding hope in her hands. With your support, we can fund vital training, so that farmers like Aurelia can help their communities to fight the effects of the climate crisis.

Plans for the week are afoot here at Newington Trinity, and elsewhere in Edinburgh. There's a lot to look forward to, including:

Christian Aid service at Newington Trinity, Mayfield building, on Sunday 11 May, followed by a bucket collection along with the familiar red envelopes. Do take the opportunity to gift aid if you can.

Alternatively, you can donate online via this digital envelope: <https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/envelope-2025/newington-trinity>

Café Time for Christian Aid, Saturday 17 May. Come and join us at the Newington Trinity Priestfield building for a cuppa and some home baking between 10.00am and 12 noon.

7 Hills of Edinburgh fundraising challenge, 11 to 17 May (see page 15).

New Town Church Book Sale in support of Christian Aid. Saturday 10 and Monday to Friday 12 to 16 May (see page 14).

Special service at St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, marking 80 years of Christian Aid in Scotland. Saturday 17 May 2025, 7.00pm. All welcome.

Keynote will be delivered by The Right Honourable John Swinney, First Minister of Scotland, and worship will be led by the Wild Goose Resource Group and Siskin Green. Temwa Kasakula, Christian Aid's Global Thematic Advisor for Sexual Reproductive Health and Gender, who is based in Malawi, will also attend, as well as Patrick Watt, Christian Aid CEO.

A Prayer for Christian Aid Week 2025
Lord, you are faithful to your promises. Through the Spirit, you bless us with abounding hope. When power seeks to silence justice, give us the courage to raise our voice. When an end to poverty seems far off, renew our faith in your kingdom come on earth. When our neighbour reaches out, inspire us to respond with overflowing love. In Jesus' name, Amen

BOOK SALE

**May 10th, 12th-16th
2025**

www.edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk/work/christian-aid-sale

**Books, Music,
Stamps and Postcards,
Ephemera, CDs and Records,
Jigsaws, Toys, and Games**

**Edinburgh New Town Church
13 George St, Edinburgh**

SALE TIMES

Saturday 10 May: 10.00am to 4.00pm

Sunday 11 May: closed

Monday 12 to Wednesday 14 May:
10.00am to 3.30pm

Thursday 15 May: 10.00am to 7.00pm

Friday 16 May: 10.00am to 3.30pm

DONATION INFORMATION

Drop-off Times: 28 April to 2 May, and

5 May to 7 May: 9.00am to 8.00pm

New Town Church, 13 George Street

DONATION GUIDELINES

Please ensure items are in good

condition for their age. Unfortunately, we cannot accept encyclopedia sets, magazine collections, or Reader's Digest publications due to disposal costs.

LARGE DONATIONS

For donations exceeding a car boot-load, please contact us in advance to discuss the details. NOTE: Donating materials that cannot be sold incurs costs for us and Christian Aid.

Got questions or need to discuss a delivery?
Drop us an email!

ca@edinburghnewtownchurch.org.uk

The New Town Church of Scotland SC 008890

7 HILLS - FUNDRAISING EVENT



FOR CHRISTIAN AID

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK IS 11 TO 17 May

This year we would like to involve as many people as possible in the church to help fundraise so that farmers affected by climate change can buy vital tools, train, and support their communities to escape hunger.

There are seven hills in Edinburgh:

1. EDINBURGH CASTLE ROCK
2. CALTON HILL
(accessible by wheelchairs, and blue badge card holders)
3. THE BRAIDS
4. BLACKFORD HILL
(handy car park halfway up!)
5. EASTER CRAIGLOCKHART HILL
6. CORSTORPHINE HILL
7. ARTHUR'S SEAT
(the steps are closed but the alternative path is open and there is also a car park halfway up)

HERE'S THE CHALLENGE!

Find your way to the top of any of the hills and take a photo of yourself preferably wearing a Christian Aid t-shirt but let's be creative too!

You can climb, drive, cycle, take your wheelchair, mobility scooter, walker, pushchair, or broomstick.

See how many hills you can conquer; you don't have to do it all in one day, you might do one hill a day, if you only do one hill that's ok! Remember you have a whole week!

HERE'S THE IMPORTANT BIT MAKE SURE YOU'RE SPONSORED!!

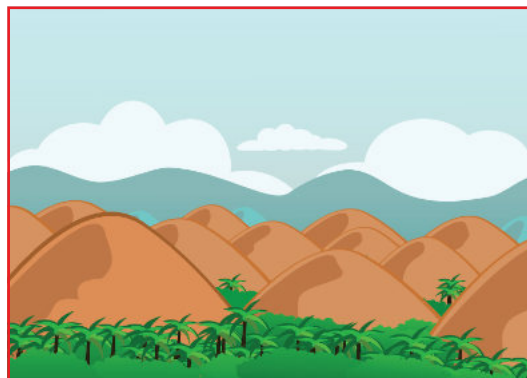
Let's raise lots of money and let's have fun with family, and friends. Take the baby, take Granny and Grampa, take the dog, and take a photo!



We have a Fundraising page, QR code, sponsor sheets, t-shirts and CA buckets! Keep an eye on our church news and flyers for more information.

<https://fundraise.christianaid.org.uk/fundraiser-2025/seven-hills-walk>

The Christian Aid Team



MIRACULOUS MARMALADE



A MODERN DAY METAPHOR

I never really gave marmalade much thought until the recent Christian Aid Marmalade Sale. Marmalade was like coffee - only for grownups, and although I developed a taste for coffee, marmalade has remained a mystery.

I have also been puzzling over a verse from Luke ... but more of this later.

I learned from one of the marvellous marmalade makers just what a labour of love the whole process is. Oranges from Seville blessed by the sun, golden globes of promise, arrive in chilly Scotland and find their way into the kitchens of Newington where some kind of alchemy occurs. This miracle of oranges changed into little pots of gold, is what the congregation has been awaiting. The people are not disappointed. They are happy to dig deep into their pockets and

give generously often over and above the asking price for that breakfast delicacy – MARMALADE.

All the money raised goes to Christian Aid, all £600 worth, and will benefit those in need far round the world. Maybe someone like Aurelia, a farmer who supports her local community by growing sustainable crops such as cacao, sugar cane, cinnamon, corn and pineapples and trains others how to combat the impacts of climate change.

So now I understand Luke 6:38.

Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back. (albeit a little stickily)

Jean McGilchrist



'He is Risen!' - Easter Sunday Passages: Isaiah 65: 17-19 and 25; and John 20:1-18

'Our old history ends with the cross; our new history begins with the resurrection': so said the 20th century Chinese church leader and teacher, Watchman Nee. This is the day of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, his rising to new life, the triumph of light, love, hope and joy, over evil, violence and death. Let that light illuminate all the dark recesses of our lives, our suffering, our guilt, our fears for ourselves and our world in a time of global economic turmoil and the scourge of war, and in a time of greed, aggression and discrimination by Presidents and populists. Let love fill our hearts instead today. Let us find hope and our 'new history' in the promises found in the risen Christ of forgiveness and a fresh start for us and the world that this day brings!

Early that morning, there was the dramatic sight of the burial stone rolled away and the

tomb empty, and then his presence in the flesh. Jesus had risen, He had come back as he had said: for those who had denied him, forgotten him, and even for those who had destroyed him.

This is it! Right now, today, is the centrepiece of all Christianity, the pumping heart from which everything flows, by which all arteries and capillaries are brought to life. And the pulse of the heartbeat is set running by two startling truth claims. A bodily resurrection said to be witnessed by Mary Magdalene and then the disciples, even though that would be a miracle beyond the laws of physics and our lived experience; claims which have formed a long line of sceptics, from the rationalism of the Enlightenment to the average person on the No. 5 bus nowadays.

And, secondly, this bodily resurrection of Jesus is then said to lead as a direct result to an ongoing personal relationship for



*Triptych panels. c.1510
Christ Carrying the Cross, Crucifixion and Resurrection*

that the consequences are literally world changing. For the resurrection is not only a revolution in our personal relationship with a God in human form, now resurrected and alive, it is not only something to be experienced by us internally in a deeper and closer spirituality with God, behind the closed doors of our lives, in a movement in Christ offering forgiveness and redemption and reconciliation with God. If this is a truth which we hold to as a community as well as personally, it is also a huge and startling public spectacle. It is a message beaming from the brightest neon lights towering on a hill above the city, with consequences not only for us but for the whole of humanity and the redemption of all creation. For the love for the world shown through Christ on the cross was God's chosen path for the redemption of the world – not the sickening violence and cruelty of the cross being matched by the wrath and anger of a vengeful God, new life rising up breathing peace and hope and forgiveness.

each one of us with a living God even though we have never seen him physically. The startling truth claim is that Jesus lives now! That Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday means that he has a living presence in our hearts and in our lives, and inspires us to be his eyes, ears and hands as we act for others. We are called to make the Risen Christ our 'new history' in our own everyday existence.

Do we feel comfortable in that place? When we hear 'He is risen!' repeated today in Scripture, in prayer and reflection this morning, how does it sit with us? For if this is a truth which we do hold to, whether literally or metaphorically, make no mistake

For in and through the resurrected Christ, God has announced that He has kick-started the coming of His Kingdom on earth. It is partly inaugurated, and we are called to engage in God's mission in the world in the tension of the times between the 'now' and the 'not yet'; between the resurrection and Christ's coming again, to work in tandem with the vision of the prophet Isaiah, and John of Patmos in the book of Revelation, which will come then to their fullest fruition. A vision of a new heaven and a new 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, the lion and the ox, the Israeli and the Palestinian, the Russian and the Ukrainian, the oligarchs and the

immigrants of America, will live peaceably and share together. This is the vision of reconciliation, harmony and peace which Easter Sunday announces. This is the vision that has been brought back to life from its seeming extinction by the forces of violence and oppression on the agony of the cross on Friday, and from the silence and misery of Christ in the tomb on the Saturday.

You can just imagine the sense of confusion and disorientation that Mary Magdalene must have caused in the minds of Peter and John when she told them what had happened: when she went in the darkness of that Easter Sunday morning to Jesus' tomb, only to see that the stone had been rolled away. The dark/light symbolism that started John's Gospel is here at its end. And Mary in the darkness of her despair, her loss and grief, sets off panic in Peter and John, almost slapstick comedy as they race each other running like headless chickens on the way to the tomb, convinced that grave robbers must have removed the body. But finding nothing but the linen body wrapping and the head cloth, they leave and return to their homes, no conclusion having been reached by them as to what had happened, except a seemingly incongruous claim by John that he 'believed' – in what, we might ask? They do not, in any way, corroborate or make good what is to be revealed only through Mary.

For Mary has remained in their absence and she is weeping outside the tomb. It is to her that the revelation of the risen Jesus is to come – she is the chief witness of the resurrection. She is the one, not Simon or Peter, or any other of the disciples. She who watched Jesus on the cross from a distance, she who was part of the group of women who buried Jesus in the tomb. The role of Mary, from the fishing town of Magdala on the Sea of Galilee, in John's resurrection narrative has no comedy element in it at all; it is one instead of deep and intimate devotion. There is the very fact that it is she who walks alone to the tomb that morning to pay homage to the one she

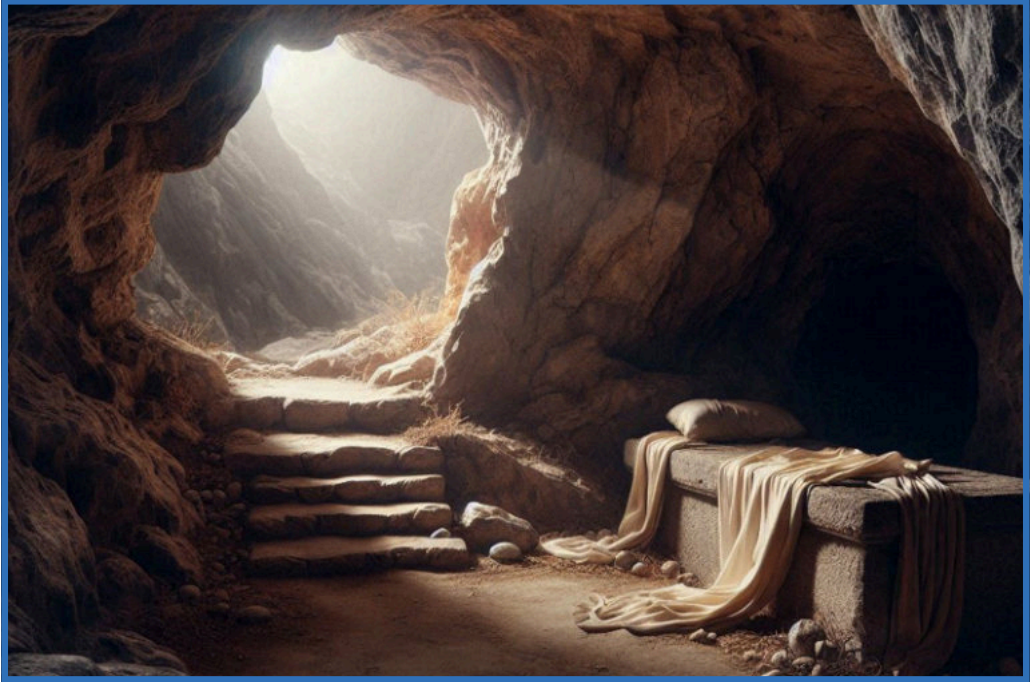
loved, and no-one else. She is bereft that Jesus has been taken away, she yearns, she weeps in her hurt. Verse 13 - 'They have taken away my Lord and I do not know where they have laid him.' This is a woman who loves Jesus with a longing in her heart, an intimate affection. This is one of the strongest and most admirable female figures in all of Scripture, placed in a position of great privilege at the very crux of the Christian story.

For the male disciples see nothing but emptiness. But she sees real presence. The risen Jesus speaks her name, the divine revealed in the moment of their personal relationship, and she immediately recognises him. And he tells her to go. 'Do not hold on to me,' he says in verse 17, because this story is not finished. Despite her desire to stay there and cling to him, to hold on to her static image of who Jesus is and preserve him for herself just like that. Go, he says, tell them that I am risen and I will ascend to the Father. Jesus, then and now, is never about simply standing still, holding on to what we have and just being. Instead, it is faith in an active motion and momentum, about us becoming as well as being.

The poet Malcom Guite wrote the sonnet 'Easter Dawn' last year, with Mary rightly placed as the herald, the everywoman, the first disciple amongst many. The poem ends:

She turns, but cannot focus through her tears, Or recognise the Gardener standing there. She hardly hears his gentle question 'Why, Why are you weeping?' or sees the play of light That brightens as she chokes out her reply 'They took my love away, my day is night' And then she hears her name, she hears Love say The Word that turns her night, and ours, to Day.

And how do these events end in John's account? Verse 18 - Mary Magdalene turns away from the emptiness she has found in the tomb. She becomes the first witness,



obeying Jesus and running back to the disciples to blurt out to them, 'I have seen the Lord!' The secret is out from Mary's voice, spoken by her lips, and the whole chain of events that leads us to this church, in this small part of God's earth, on this very day, has begun.

This is the first Christian sermon ever. And for those who would insist only on male ministries in the church, take note it was delivered by a woman. She saw and believed and announced – Christ is risen! She didn't require ordination by a mainstream denomination to do so. She required only a word from Jesus – he spoke her name, and from that came the deep recognition of his presence in her life, and in all lives, ours included.

And in that presence now of Jesus Christ as a living God, the great prophecy of Isaiah will come true. For he has come to destroy the shroud that is cast over all peoples, to swallow up death forever. To wipe away tears from all faces, and take away all disgrace. As Isaiah wrote of God's words. Amen.

'be glad and rejoice in all that I am creating.'

Through this day, just as the poet Mary Oliver wrote of the continual cycle of the natural world, 'The secret name of every death is life again.' Now the secret name of every disappointment, every broken heart, of every rejection or failure or sorrow, now their secret name is life again, and hope. The darkness is still very real, but so now is the dawn. So this day let the risen Jesus bring new life, where you are worn and tired; new love, where you feel hard-hearted; forgiveness and healing, where you are hurt and the joy and freedom to us all of the right to begin again.

Today there is an eternal victory in this world, and in that to come, of peace over violence, of love over hatred, of resilient hope over despair, of life over death. From Easter Sunday onwards the world and everything in it is changed forever. Christ is risen – hallelujah! And may the light and life of this Easter Day be with us all.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Activity Groups, Kirk Session and Youth Group meetings TBC.
Please check the weekly news and email for updates

Events at Mayfield Building = (MS). At Priestfield Building = (PF)
Services will take place at the Mayfield building unless otherwise noted.

May

Sun 4 The Third Sunday of Easter

10.30am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
7.00pm Evening Service (TBC)

Tue 6 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Wed 7 7.30pm Kirk Session (MS)

Sat 10 10.00am Trustee Training (PF)

Sun 11 The Fourth Sunday of Easter

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

Tue 13 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
2.30pm Afternoon Service (MS)

Thu 15 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Sun 18 The Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

Tue 20 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Sun 25 The Sixth Sunday of Easter

9.30am All-Age Worship (TBC)
10.45am Service of Worship (TBC)

Tue 27 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Thu 29 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Sat 31 4.00pm Messy Church (PF)

JUNE

Sun 1 Ascension

10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
7.00pm Evening Service (TBC)

Tue 3 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Fri 6 2.00pm First Friday Friends (MS)

Sun 8 Pentecost

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

Tue 10 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Thu 12 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

JUNE CONTINUED

Sat 14 SAVE THE DATE - CROSSREACH AFTERNOON TEA (MS)

Sun 15 Trinity Sunday

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

Tue 17 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Sun 22 The Second Sunday after Pentecost

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

Tue 24 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Thu 26 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Sun 29 The Third Sunday after Pentecost

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

JULY

Tue 1 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Fri 2.00pm First Friday Friends (MS)

Sun 6 The Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

10.30am All-Age Worship (Pauline Weibye)

THE MILERS

With a Spring in our steps here are the Milers' Walks for May and June, all are welcome!

MAY

Friday 2. A short walk around Bawsinch Nature Reserve. Contact Anne Sturrock: sturrocks@uwclub.net or 07932 159964

Wednesday 14. A medium walk around Dalkeith Country Park. Contact Walter Thomson: walterthomson@hotmail.co.uk or 07517 050141

Saturday 31. A long walk at Dumyat Hill, Stirling Contact David Booth: booth378@btinternet.com or 07732 836470

JUNE

Monday 2. Visit to Amisfield Walled Garden Contact Honey Ballantine: 07710 225198 or honey@balhend.com



Thursday 12. Medium walk Rumbling Bridge Contact David Booth: booth378@btinternet.com or 07732 836470

Saturday 21. A climb up Ben Vorlich (Loch Earn) Contact Alastair MacGilchrist: a.macgilchrist@gmail.com or 07931 730805

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

May

3	I	Samuel	25,26	/	Psalms	49
4	I	Samuel	27,28	/	I Corinthians	1
5	I	Samuel	29-31	/	I Corinthians	2
6	II	Samuel	1,2	/	Psalms	50
7	II	Samuel	3-5	/	I Corinthians	3
8	II	Samuel	6,7	/	I Corinthians	4
9	II	Samuel	8-10	/	I Corinthians	5
10	II	Samuel	11,12	/	Psalms	51
11	II	Samuel	13,14	/	I Corinthians	6
12	II	Samuel	15,16	/	I Corinthians	7
13	II	Samuel	17,18	/	Psalms	52-54
14	II	Samuel	19,20	/	I Corinthians	8
15	II	Samuel	21,22	/	I Corinthians	9
16	II	Samuel	23,24	/	I Corinthians	10
17	I	Kings	1,2	/	Psalms	55
18	I	Kings	3-5	/	I Corinthians	11
19	I	Kings	6,7	/	I Corinthians	12
20	I	Kings	8,9	/	Psalms	56,57
21	I	Kings	10,11	/	I Corinthians	13
22	I	Kings	12,13	/	I Corinthians	14
23	I	Kings	14,15	/	I Corinthians	15
24	I	Kings	16,17	/	Psalms	58,59
25	I	Kings	18,19	/	I Corinthians	16
26	I	Kings	20,21	/	I Corinthians	1
27	I	Kings	22	/	Psalms	60,61
28	II	Kings	1-3	/	II Corinthians	2
29	II	Kings	4,5	/	II Corinthians	3
30	II	Kings	6,7	/	II Corinthians	4
31	II	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	/	Psalms	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	/	Psalms	69
15	I	Chronicles	22,23	/	Galatians	2
16	I	Chronicles	24-27	/	Galatians	3
17	I	Chronicles	28,29	/	Psalms	70,71
18	II	Chronicles	1,2	/	Galatians	4
19	II	Chronicles	3-5	/	Galatians	5
20	II	Chronicles	6,7	/	Galatians	6
21	II	Chronicles	8,9	/	Psalms	72
22	II	Chronicles	10-12	/	Ephesians	1
23	II	Chronicles	13-15	/	Ephesians	2
24	II	Chronicles	16,17	/	Psalms	73
25	II	Chronicles	18-20	/	Ephesians	3
26	II	Chronicles	21-23	/	Ephesians	4
27	II	Chronicles	24,25	/	Ephesians	5
28	II	Chronicles	26-28	/	Psalms	74
29	II	Chronicles	29,30	/	Ephesians	6
30	II	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		/	Psalms	77
6	Ezra	7,8		/	Luke	4
7	Ezra	9,10		/	Luke	5
8	Nehemiah	1,2		/	Psalms	78: 1-37

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths

Muriel Evans

Robert Tait

Mary Thomson

Departures

June and Walter Hallyburton



WHO'S WHO IN NEWINGTON TRINITY

Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Minister

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

Session Clerk Team

Boyd McAdam clerk@newingtontrinity.org 0777 358 7579
Pauline Weibye (Depute) clerkpw@newingtontrinity.org 0779 971 6150

Parish Deacon

Pauline Robertson DCS parishdeacon@newingtontrinity.org 0758 704 3191

Children and Young Adult Worker

Bettina Hather youthworkersmspc@gmail.com 0778 319 0114

Mayfield - Church Manager

William Mearns office@newingtontrinity.org 0780 801 1234

Priestfield - Letting Manager

Kenny Ferguson priestfield@newingtontrinity.org 0741 253 4131

Organist

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

Treasurer

Charles Garland treasurer@newingtontrinity.org 07762 908 343

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Anne Steele safeguarding@newingtontrinity.org 0131 667 1522

Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

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

Church Address

Mayfield Building: 18 West Mayfield,
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ - 0131 667 1522

Priestfield Building: 2 Marchhall Place,
Edinburgh EH16 5HW

Office Contact Details

0131 667 1522
office@newingtontrinity.org

Pastoral Care

For home or hospital visits, please contact
the Minister or Pastoral Assistant

Staff Days Off - (Generally)

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

Social Media Accounts

 www.facebook.com/newingtontrinitychurch

 www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh

 www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06

 www.x.com/churchscotland

 www.newingtontrinity.org

WEB



Copy Date for Next Issue: 6.00pm on Friday 27 June 2025