



March/April 2023 Issue 269 Scottish Charity SC000785

# GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



**GOODBYE HILLARY AND KAY**

**PILGRIMAGE - MARCH - MAY - JUNE**

**CHURCH UNION UPDATES - GATHERING**

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

# FROM THE MANSE



Northern Lights, Glendaruel, Argyll, 27 February Picture: Cat Craig

## Dear Friends,

I remember being taught as a small child the daft poem about the coming of Spring that is often attributed to Ogden Nash, but actually comes from much further back in time. It goes like this:

*'Spring is sprung, the grass is riz,  
I wonders where the birdies is.  
They say the birds is on the wing.  
Ain't that absurd?'*

I always thought the wing was on the bird! Spring is now about to be sprung, and I can see from the back garden of the manse that the grass is definitely 'on the riz'! Time to get the mower out soon... One of my favourite Easter hymns has the metaphor of the rising of plant life, this time 'the green blade' of wheat from buried grain. During lockdown, the 60s rock legend Steve

Winwood recorded a series of acoustic songs for YouTube, and one of them was that very hymn, 'Now the Green Blade Riseth' – he sang it beautifully if you'd like to check out the video online. The metaphor is, of course, of the rising in the Spring of the new life of creation all around us as a sign and symbol of the rising of Christ on Easter Sunday – one of the verses begins '*Forth He came at Easter, like the risen grain...quick from the dead my risen Lord is seen*'. And then there is the beautiful chorus, '*Love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.*'

The wonder of nature and the beauty of God's creation is all around us, increasing in its glory as winter turns to spring. Early this week, the spectacular aurora borealis, or Northern Lights were seen all across Scotland, as in the beautiful pictures above this letter. The incredible illumination



Northern Lights over Edinburgh, 27 February  
Picture: SeeYanTan



Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

of the colours over Edinburgh is breathtaking. The nearest I have got so far to the 'heavenly dancers in the sky' is a few choruses of *The Northern Lights of Old Aberdeen* when I was a student there! I've never managed to see them yet, but there is still time.

Ancient cultures often attributed the Northern Lights as a sign and symbol of the dramatic actions of the Gods and of a journey to heaven. The Vikings thought them to be the reflections of the armour of the Valkyries leading fallen warriors to Valhalla. Some Native American stories describe the Northern Lights as torches held by the spirits who had been given the task of leading the souls of those who had recently passed away over the abyss and into the land of brightness and plenty. Cree Indians believed in the 'circle of life', and so the Northern Lights were a way of communicating with their ancestors, and when dogs barked at the Lights it was because they had recognised their lost masters.

The signs and symbols of the Christian Easter story talk too of the dramatic action of God and a journey to heaven, particularly in the cross at Calvary and the image of the empty tomb. As we journey through Lent in a time of self-reflection, where we take

stock of our lives, temporal and spiritual, we should keep a lookout beyond the coming of new life in nature, or the lights of the night sky. Keep our eyes open for other spectacular wonders that are often just beyond our sight, but occasionally revealed to us in their full glory. The wonder of God come to earth in the person of Jesus. The wonder of his teaching which imagines a world of peace, healing and harmony, where the rule on this earth of power and greed, oppression and violence, is upturned. The wonder of His passion, death on the cross and resurrection, with its promise of forgiveness, transformation and a rising to new life. The wonder of the promise of eternal life to all who believe.

And in the coming weeks we get once more to re-live the wonder of that story, revealed to us in the fullness of its glory, ending in the joy and celebration of Easter Sunday. May this time of Lent and Easter be a blessed one of hope and renewal for you, and for all those who are close to you. For 'love is come again, like wheat that springeth green.'

God bless,

Sandy

# MARMALADE SALE – A REMINDER

Christian Aid's marmalade sale will be held in the Newington Room after the joint service on 19 March.

Every jar you buy will help Christian Aid pursue its aim: to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty.

If you have marmalade to contribute, we'd be very grateful! You can hand it in to the Newington Room between 2.00pm and 4.00pm, on Saturday 18 March, but if you're unable to do so, please contact Kate O'Brien on 667 4362 or [kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk) to make another arrangement.

Please label your jars on the lid.

THANK YOU!

*The Christian Aid Team*



## SCOUTS NEWS

The year got underway with our first meeting falling on Friday 13 so that was the cue for a series of spooky activities. We also commenced work on the Creative Challenge Award. This involved the Scouts working on a range of activities, including video creation, acrobatics, magic tricks, performance, and imaginative games.

Our annual Inter-Patrol Quiz challenged the Patrols in a range of topics – Movies, Scotland, Sport, Science, Music and Famous People.

Our first Night Hike of the year started and ended at Bonaly Scout Centre with a route over the Pentland Hills that was adapted to suit the changing weather conditions. On return to Bonaly, the Scouts spent the night in the new 'Hobbit style' huts, Ken's Den, built with the benefit of a generous legacy from a much loved and respected figure in Edinburgh Scouting, Ken Thomson.



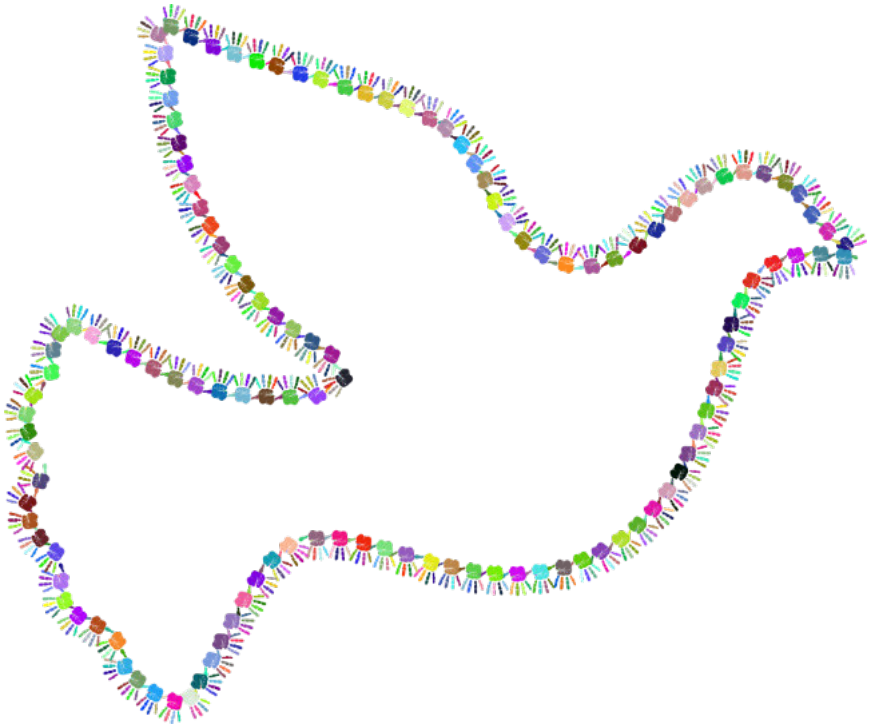
# Scouts

## 28th Braid Scout Troop

*Alan Dickson*  
Scout Leader

**Headquarters:**  
Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church  
Edinburgh  
Scottish Charity No SC006141

# PASTORAL CARE



This is my last message as your pastoral assistant before I retire and it has been lovely to get to know so many of you in my time at Mayfield Salisbury. As a church you are very fortunate to have such a dedicated team of pastoral visitors quietly carrying out such an important ministry. Supervised and supported by their pastoral coordinators Anne Mulligan, Dorothy Cloughley, Maggie Ross and Hilary Watkinson. Wendy Mathison has decided to step down after many years of service to this group and we wish her well in her retirement.

On the 23 March, I shall be handing over the email address and phone number to Sandy and the four remaining co-ordinators who

will keep things running until someone is recruited and appointed to be the new pastoral assistant.

The contact details are the email address: [pastoralassistantms@gmail.com](mailto:pastoralassistantms@gmail.com) and the telephone number is 07587 043 191.

Two new members are going through the recruitment process and if you are still wondering about joining this team then please speak to Sandy or any of the coordinators. If you would like to have a pastoral visit please do use the contact details above.

Blessings  
*Kay*

# KAY MCINTOSH



It seems such a long time ago since I arrived at Mayfield Salisbury for my interview with Scott. It all started off well and I was slowly getting to know many of you. Then Scott decided to move to Ayr and Neil and Helen joined our team. A different but good way of working and we all settled down into a new rhythm.

Then Covid arrived and we all had to learn to work in such a different way. Something that none of us could ever have imagined or planned for. Sandy arrived towards the end of Covid and quickly started to guide us with so much energy and enthusiasm.

I have been a Deacon for thirty-two years, beginning my service at South Leith Parish Church. I have worked in a few parishes and have delighted in the varied and interesting different parishes of the Church of Scotland.

It has been a joy to journey with many of

you and to share in the history and past of the Ministry at Mayfield Salisbury. You have so many kind and generous members and I have enjoyed working here. I have delighted in the quality of the preaching and the music over the years.

Working with Hillary, William, Kate and Walter has provided stability throughout these changes and together we formed a good and tight working group which was just as well with all the challenges that life has thrown at us over the last few years.

I am going to retire and intend to spend more time with my family. Time to splash in the puddles, watch a few sunsets and slow the pace a tad. Thank you for allowing me to be part of your story.

With much love

*Kay*

# YOUTH UPDATE & FAREWELL



The past few months of Youth Programming have been full of exciting gatherings, outings and fundraising events. This youth update is also bittersweet though, because it will be my last as the Youth Worker here at Mayfield Salisbury – there is so much to celebrate as well as so much to grieve as I will very much miss being a part of the church community here and all that I've had the joy of experiencing with you over the last 5 ½ years. I will save my farewell for the end of the article, but before then, here is a recap of all that's been happening since October 2022.

In November we had another youth-led morning service with all ages partaking in prayer activities in the sanctuary together. It was a wonderfully joyful morning as the church family also celebrated a baptism. We're looking forward to our next youth-led morning service on Sunday 19 March, which will also be my last Sunday at MSPC. Many thanks to all those who have participated in the services and will do so again in March!

Our Youth Group gatherings have included an Escape Room outing, our annual Thanksgiving dinner and foodbank collection, as well as our Write for Rights night, a Christmas Party, a board game night, film discussion nights, and welcoming guest visitors for our Christian Aid discussion and recent conversation about Christianity and the LGBTQ+ community. We are looking forward to our upcoming faith and science discussion night as well as the outing to the Observatory on 14 March.

Other recurring events that have been celebrated and enjoyed by all were our Christingle service, Breakfast Club outing, and our second annual Pancake Breakfast youth fundraiser! The fundraiser had a wonderful turn out and was made a great success with a lot of help from our young people, parents, and the fellowship committee. We raised £258 to go toward our youth programming budget. Thank you so much to everyone who attended and joined in a fun morning as we celebrated the start of Lent together!



To wrap up this article, I wanted to take the opportunity to say farewell and thank you to everyone in the church community at Mayfield Salisbury before my departure at the end of March. After much prayer and discernment, I have chosen to return to university to undertake a postgraduate degree at Strathclyde University this autumn to study library science. I believe now is a good time for me to pursue a new journey and a different career path, which might encompass both my love for youth work and libraries. In the spring I will be travelling back to the US to spend some extended time with my family for two months, which will be a great joy!



This news has been difficult to share over the last few weeks, not only because of the sadness that comes with leaving the job, but because it also means Craig and I are having to say goodbye to a church community and city that we have been fortunate and privileged to call home for so many years. Much of why this decision has been challenging is because of how much I have cherished getting to know the young people and families in the church. I am

very grateful for the many ways I have been welcomed and supported over the years: being invited over for coffee or dinner, the generous donations made to support the youth programming, the kind gifts and words of wisdom when Craig and I were married, the young church and youth group volunteers who've kept things running smoothly and creatively, the fellow staff members who've been a source of encouragement, and the newly formed youth committee that has been a big help upon returning to the church after lockdown. All these acts of love have been greatly appreciated when settling my life in Scotland and finding my feet in the role as I dove headfirst into the deep end on day one. It has been challenging, but overall rewarding, and I have learned so much about my faith having had the opportunity to journey alongside the young people. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this community for so many years, and I'm grateful for your support along the way. You all will be very much missed!

With gratitude, love and every blessing,  
*Hillary*

# BREAKING THE GLASS CEILING

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY



**16 MARCH 5:30- 7 PM**  
MAYFIELD SALISBURY CHURCH, EDINBURGH

In Person Event also live on Youtube

**EI**  
**FA**

**Breaking the Glass Ceiling** Inspiring women explore the topic of how women can overcome the barriers to senior positions of authority within faith communities. By Edinburgh Interfaith Association. When and where: Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church 18 West Mayfield Edinburgh EH9 1TQ Date and time: Thu, 16 March 2023, 5.30pm to 7.00pm. This event will also be live streamed on the Edinburgh Interfaith Association YouTube Page

## A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

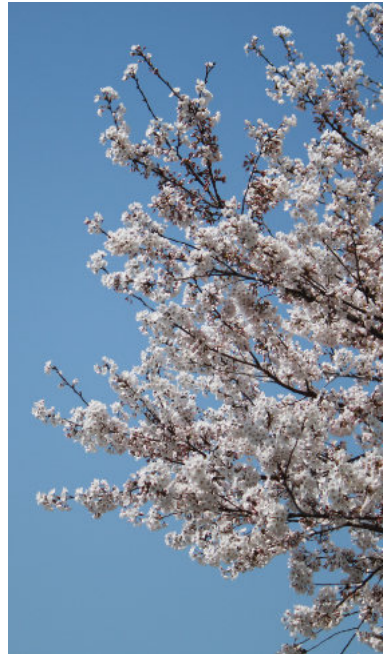
**Afternoon Service: 16 May - Tuesday 16 May 2.30pm**

We meet again in the Bill McDonald Hall via West Mayfield level access for this short service of worship, followed by refreshments and chat until around 3.45pm.

Everyone is always made most welcome. Our bi-monthly mid-week services are especially appreciated by the less mobile in our parish community and those for whom Sunday Services are rather more challenging to attend. We all remain seated at our tables throughout the afternoon and there is time for conversation and exchange of news. If you haven't joined us in the past and would appreciate further information please contact your own Pastoral Visitor (PV) or Anne Sturrock.

Names would be appreciated in advance (nearer the time) so that we can set up tables allowing plenty of space, and to cater accordingly - 07932 159964

**[The following Afternoon Service Afternoon Service will be held in May]**





## Earthquake Appeal

We are grateful to everyone who supported our Christian Aid Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal. The bucket collection raised nearly £2,000, which was matched by a further generous donation of £1,000 from the Salisbury Fund. We are also aware that many people chose to donate directly to Christian Aid online. Every contribution helps to save lives and give people hope, providing support and vital supplies to those sheltering from harsh winter storms. THANK YOU!

## Latest Update

At least 6,000 people are known to have been killed in Syria, with 7,400 buildings destroyed or badly damaged. This has left hundreds of thousands of people homeless.

Christian Aid has been working with local partners across the region for decades and responding to the Syria crisis since 2012. Our partners have been among the first responders since the earthquakes struck. Despite the challenges, they've been working with locally-led relief efforts in Northwest Syria.

Our partners report that freezing rain led many in Northwest Syria to return to partially destroyed buildings to take cover from harsh winter storms as aftershocks began to hit. Many others are gathering in collective shelters, mosques and other "safe" areas.

Access to clean water is also a challenge, bringing the risk of cholera – which is already present in Northwest Syria – and other diseases.

Following the immediate priorities of search and rescue, the relief effort has now moved into a new phase and Christian Aid and our partners are now focussed on:

- Winterization kits including blankets, mattresses, food parcels and heating material. Partners had already procured £40,000 worth of winterization kits using Christian Aid's funding prior to The earthquake. 665 of these kits have been delivered so far.
- Medical treatment for the injured.
- Preparing shelters to help people find some safety indoors from the weather.
- Delivering food and clean water.
- Mental health support.
- Cash for local communities.

As we work with partners to increase the scale of our operations, we have been training new staff to respond to the local needs of people impacted by the earthquake.

'The scenes from this disaster are heartbreaking. And even before this devastating earthquake, we knew over four million people needed aid in Northwest Syria alone. We are hopeful that the British public will show the same spirit of solidarity and compassion that we saw in the aftermath of the invasion of Ukraine a year ago. Every prayer, every gift, every action brings hope to people hit by disaster. By joining us, you can help people in need rebuild their lives'

- Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid.

*The Christian Aid Team*

## Prayer for the Turkey and Syria Earthquake Appeal

God of time and space, we cry to you for your children - our neighbours - in southern Turkey and northern Syria, following the earthquake that has devastated hundreds of lives. Only they and you know what it is like to experience such trauma in the middle of the night. We give thanks for the aid that is already being given and for the promises of help that have been made by many nations.

Comfort, we pray,  
those who are trapped in collapsed buildings;  
those who have lost loved ones;  
those who wait for news and  
those digging through rubble to save others.



Grant the gift of hope so that those caught between life and death know that you are with them and that others are ready to support them as they seek a future that overshadows the experiences of today. We ask this in the Name of Jesus, who endured so much for love of them. Amen

# JOINT CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

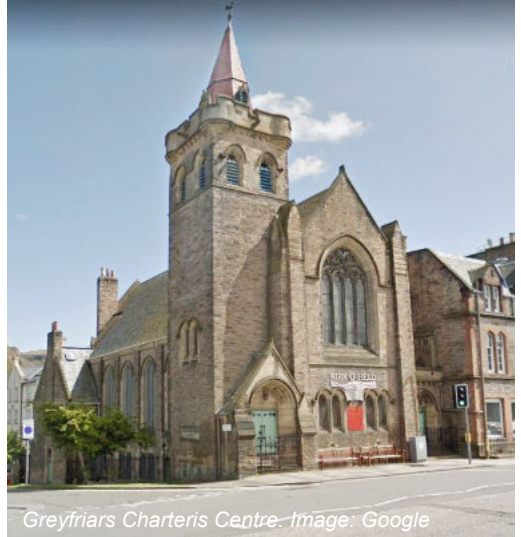
## VISION FOR MISSION

An important stage in developing the new union is to agree the mission/vision of the new congregation. This will be worked on over the coming months by the Union Teams but we also wish to provide an opportunity for the congregations to feed into that process. It may also be helpful for those in the congregations to gain further understanding of what 'mission' and 'pioneer ministry' might mean in the context of the union.

Consequently, there will be a meeting of the three congregations on Saturday 25 March at the Greyfriars Charteris Centre 138-140 Pleasance, Edinburgh, EH8 9RR.

Coffee and tea will be available from 10.00am with the meeting ending at 1.00pm. Please keep the time free if possible so you can take part.

The meeting will be in person only as there will be further opportunities to reflect on the



future mission. However, this is a key stage in framing the discussion and young people and families will be very welcome. More details about the event will follow.

## PILGRIMAGE - FRIDAY 24 MARCH



You will recall the two congregational pilgrimages in Autumn 2021 and Easter 2022, when we had very enjoyable days walking the first and last legs of the Fife Pilgrim Way. This year, we will be walking on the Forth to Farne Way. We will be doing so alongside the congregations of the Parish of Traprain in East Lothian. Everyone is very welcome, including friends and family beyond Mayfield Salisbury. The first two walks are on

weekdays for those who can make it, and the final one to Lindisfarne is on a Saturday, as a full 'congregational pilgrimage'.

The first walk will take place on Friday 24 March from East Linton to North Berwick, via Whitekirk (approx. 7miles). We will travel to East Linton and return from North Berwick by public bus. On the way out, the X7 bus is from Waterloo Place at 9.38am, due East Linton 10.32am. The bus home back to Edinburgh (X5 or 124) will be at about 5.00pm. Please sign up for the first walk, and indeed the latter two, by emailing Pamela Molyneaux: [molyneaux44a@btinternet.com](mailto:molyneaux44a@btinternet.com)

For your diary, the other two walks are:

- Monday 8 May 2023 – Circular walk from Coldingham Priory, via St Abbs' Lighthouse (approx. 7 miles)
- Saturday 10 June 2023 – Beal Farm Cafe to Lindisfarne (approx. 5miles)

# TOWARDS OUR UNION - 2024



This is the first of a series of monthly newsletters to keep us all informed of what's happening as we move forward towards the union of our three churches.

## **Congregational meetings**

In February the three congregations held meetings to hear updates on progress towards the union. Points were made and questions were asked.

All three congregations indicated support for the proposals, the key features of which are:

- Having the Mayfield Salisbury building as our principal place of worship,
- Keeping the Priestfield building as a hub for a new pioneer ministry,
- Releasing the Craigmillar Park building.

Of course, there were some concerns and there will be sadness with such changes but there is a sense of an exciting future beckoning.

Now for a few introductions...

## **The Union Steering Group (or USG)**

This is a group comprising the three ministers and three session clerks from our existing churches. Its role is to steer a smooth course through the complexities of union and to agree decisions where

needed. The USG is ably supported by two teams...

## **The Integration Team**

Six representatives from the three churches co-convened by the ministers of Mayfield Salisbury and Craigmillar Park Churches. This team will address the financial, buildings and other practical aspects of union.

## **The Missional Team**

Six representatives from the three churches co-convened by the ministers of Mayfield Salisbury and Priestfield Churches. The Mission team will lead the development of a vision for both the 'traditional' church and the 'pioneer' ministry.

Of course, until the union, any substantive decisions to be made will be matters for the three kirk sessions.

## **What's in a name?**

Many of you have responded to the invitation and suggested possible names for our new congregation. We've had a good range of suggestions and we'll be taking three or four forward. On Palm Sunday we'll be letting you have a voting sheet so that you can let us know which works best for mission and is your favourite. The USG will look at the outcome



**Pauline Weibye,**  
Session Clerk at  
Craigmillar Park  
Church



**Boyd McAdam,**  
Session Clerk at  
Mayfield Salisbury  
Church



**Barry Cross,**  
Session Clerk at  
Priestfield  
Church

of the vote and take one forward to Presbytery for approval. The name will need to comply with Presbytery and the Charity Regulator's rules.

### **Vision for Mission**

As we begin to unpack what mission means for our new congregation, both the new united congregation and our new pioneer ministry, we're having a time away at the Charteris Centre (formerly Kirk o' Field) on Saturday 25 March from 10:00am to 1:00pm. This for everyone as we seek and listen for God's promptings. More details will follow.

### **Pulpit Exchanges**

As part of our continuing process of getting to know one another better, we're in the process of swapping ministers for our Sunday worship.

### **Holy Week**

We'll be having our series of Holy Week early morning services at Craigmillar Park Church. These are followed by breakfast when we can relax and chat together. If you haven't been before, why not give it a try this year? We'll also be sharing Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Details will follow for all of these.

### **Easter Day**

On Easter Day we'll be sharing worship together again. We'll start with a 6.20am worship time at the top of Blackford Hill to greet the rising of the sun. Then at 10.30am we'll celebrate the resurrection of Jesus together at Mayfield Salisbury Church.

If you have any questions or if you want any background papers do speak with your Session Clerk. They are generally good natured and very approachable.

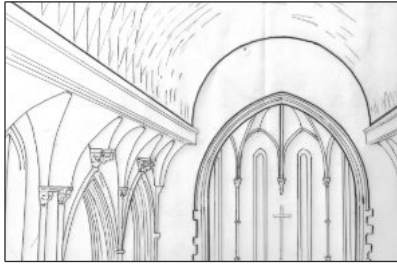
# **Easter Breakfast Services**

We will be joining our partner churches for breakfast services at Craigmillar Park through Holy Week, and at Mayfield Salisbury on Easter Day. Help is welcomed - if you can help with serving and clearing up between 7.30am and about 9.30am any of these days, please contact our coordinator David Booth (0131 667 0582, booth378@btinternet.com)

# SESSION MATTERS

Dear friends,

This is my next update reporting on Session business. It covers from my last report until last month. The death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II in early September caused a



national period of mourning and reflection on a life of service and faith. At our delayed session in October we opened with a minute's silence and a prayer of thanksgiving for that life and for the future reign of King Charles III.

World events also featured in our prayers as the war in Ukraine ground on; as the famine in Somalia and Eastern Africa worsened; the floods in Pakistan destroyed villages, lives, and communities; the horrendous impact of the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria; and the peace efforts in South Sudan.

Closer to home, in partnership with other local congregations and faiths, we supported the development of warm spaces for those facing the hardships of cold and rising energy bills. We devoted the proceeds of some key Christmas services to supporting Christian Aid and CrossReach and continued our similar joint activities with Priestfield and Craigmillar Park.

Throughout our meetings the proposals for the Presbytery Mission Plan and its impact on our three congregations as well as the wider church were a key topic for discussion. As a Session we supported unanimously the direction of travel. While, as I write, the Plan has yet to be formally agreed all the indications are that our proposed union will proceed. So we have agreed to carry out further in depth discussions with the three congregations to work towards the union. Session approved the establishment of 2 teams to provide a focus and drive for these

discussions. As you will have seen we have also agreed to invite suggested names for the new congregation which will be an important element of defining not just where we are located but also in bringing the congregations together with a renewed

vision for mission.

Session reviewed some of the worship arrangements. With the relaxation of Covid restrictions becoming permanent we agreed to wind down the Covid Task Group and thank them for all their work and Professor Heather Cubie for her leadership of that group.

Session did consider whether there might be a trial of one Sunday worship instead of the 09.30 family service and the 10.45 more traditional service. After some consultation it was agreed to remain with our current timetable, confirming that the joint service at 10.30 would continue every third Sunday in the month. Session was aware that the shifting times might create some confusion but hoped that with publicity the schedule would become better known. The afternoon services were to be held quarterly and the reflective Evening Communion would be on the first day of every month from February.

In two meetings we reflected on what Hillary Leslie had learned from her course at Princeton leading to her Theological Seminary Certificate in Youth Ministry. The discussion explored what lessons we might learn from our experience at Mayfield Salisbury and considered what traditions we held dear and wished to incorporate into future worship: and where we might wish to effect change to make worship more meaningful for all ages but especially younger members. Session will carry forward the reflections into future discussions on the union. We also revisited the discussions

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on eldership and how we thought the role might develop and change in the future.

We continued to receive report from our committees and group enabling Session to oversee what was being progressed. These included the various groups in Mayfield Salisbury as well as the operational activities of Committees such as the Youth Committee Business Committee. There were positive developments in setting up the independent charity for Southside Faith Care and the Board of Trustees was forming and a long action plan had been agreed. Towards the end of this period the Business Committee received the report from the working group on heating with recommendations for taking forward the necessary upgrade to the heating in the sanctuary. Before reporting further to Session, the Business committee will take time to investigate further the complexities both of the challenges we face in replacing our system and the expectations that we move to net zero by 2030, a target set by the Church of Scotland. The work undertaken by the Business Committee and the volunteers who support William in the operation of the church were recognised by Session. The inspection made by Presbytery of all church buildings, undertaken as part of the Presbytery Mission Plan, had identified Mayfield Salisbury as having the highest score of all churches in Edinburgh. That was testament to the all the work carried out throughout the year and previously.

Session agreed to become a Mission Partner with the Revd Dr Stewart Gillan at St Andrew's Memorial, Jerusalem and looked forward to future engagement with him and the congregation.

In December the Session received a report from the Treasurer, John Graham, who presented the draft budget for 2023. He reminded of the generous donation for the youth improvement fund which contributed to our youth worker's salary in 2023. He also spoke about the

enhancement to the salaries of employees and the provision which had been made in the budget. The ongoing cost of living and inflation pressures were difficult to predict and the arrangements for staff would be kept under review. Overall, he contended that we were in a reasonably good position. We were living a bit beyond our means but for the time being could thole this by relying on our reserves. That was not sustainable in the long term and the budget of the new union would require a reappraisal which would be more appropriate at that time. Session thanked John for all his and the team's work and approved the budget for 2023.

In January Session formally attested the congregational roll for 2022 and the outline draft Annual Report which should form part of the Presbytery inspection process in March following which the Stated Annual Meeting would be arranged with a Summary Report and annual accounts for receipt by the congregations. More details will follow. Over the period we approved the membership of Linsay Given Black but regrettably recorded the deaths of several members of the congregation which included a former elder, Alf Hannay. Session expressed their condolences to all those who had died.

The end of the year brought the further sad news that Hillary Leslie had decided to leave to pursue a new career and that Kay McIntosh was to retire. Session noted these developments with regret as each had brought so much to the life of the congregation and that they would be missed. Session wished them all the very best for the future.

Looking forward our next meeting in March will be discussion further the proposed union and will also be finalised the various reports for submission to Presbytery. Of necessity this is a summary of our discussions but if anyone has any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

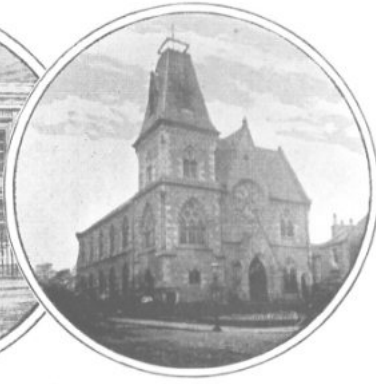
Boyd McAdam  
Session Clerk  
clerkmspc@gmail.com

# MAYFIELD SALISBURY UNION - 1994

Duncan  
Street  
Church



Salisbury  
Church



## Reflections on the Mayfield Salisbury Union by Alan Paterson

As we can see from the family tree of Mayfield Salisbury on PAGE 19, both congregations derived from two earlier churches. For Salisbury it was the Potter Row church (1792) and Newington United Presbyterian church (1848). Potterrow morphed into Hope Park church in 1867 and merged with Newington South as it had become in 1940. It was renamed Salisbury Church in 1959. However, my links were with the younger branch. Newington United Presbyterian church was founded in 1848 when three enterprising UP gentlemen got the chance to purchase the Duncan Street Baptist Chapel (slide) whose owner was selling up. I'm not sure what they paid for the chapel but they paid the new church officer £15 pa and the first Minister James Robertson ten times as much ( I can see William doing today's comparison in his head ).

The idea was not simply to establish the first UP congregation on the Southside but as the chronicler of the church observed " Duncan Street was purchased as much for the sake of mission work in Causewayside as for the convenience of suburban UPs". This part of Edinburgh looked very different then –

Causewayside had many poor and indigent citizens, but at the time both Mayfield and the Grange were market gardens and Grange Road was "little better than an ordinary farm track."

The attendance at the first service at the chapel "was good but the chapel was not crowded" we are told, but numbers then took off. From 35 on the roll in the first year, the first communion attracted 99 and by 1857 the roll was 550 and 700 by 1870. Such was the growth that a new church building had to be built in 1863 ( astonishingly, it took less than a year ) on the corner of Grange Road and Causewayside with capacity for 900 plus 100 spill over and spacious Halls. All for the princely sum of £6,761 ( just over £1m in today's money ). Being canny business men they then sold Duncan Street back to the Baptists for £1,700.

How should we account for the success of that congregation? In part James Robertson was a renowned evangelical; in part because the Grange and Mayfield were becoming leafy suburbs but mainly because the congregation were united in the assiduous pursuit of Mission, Home and Abroad. They took the alleviation of poverty seriously, as evidenced by the founding and maintenance of a very successful penny bank for the area and they made youth education a priority.



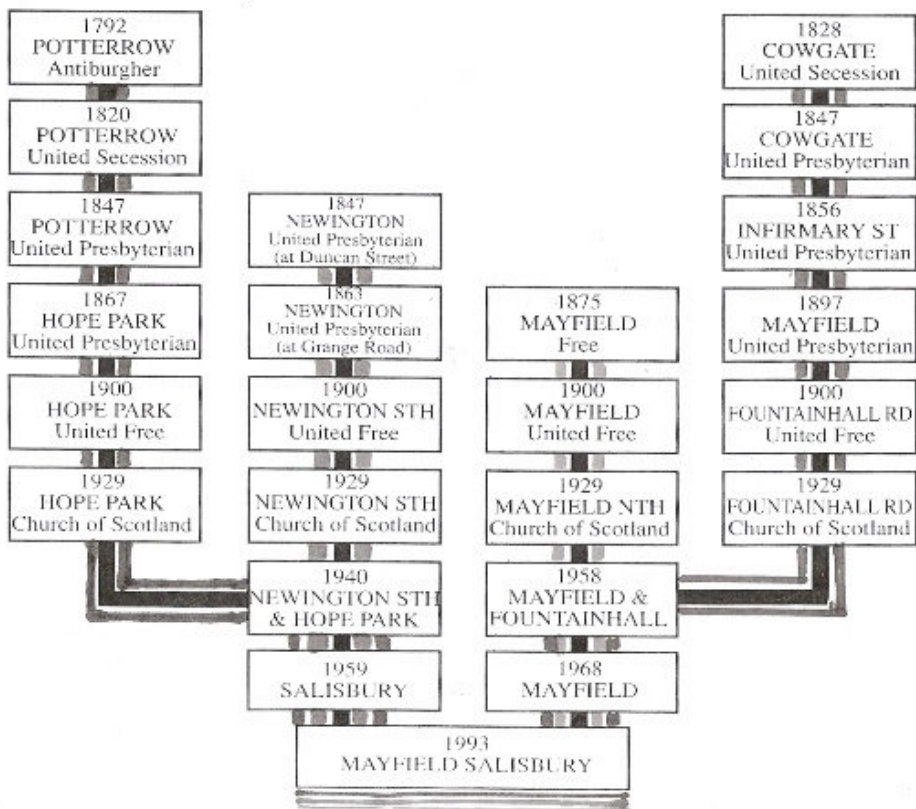
### Communion Service in Salisbury Church - 1970s

During the week they taught 325 pupils in day school, and 260 in Sunday school ( 29 teachers). This mission to children was unusual – unlike most churches of the time Newington UP had a children's address on Sundays. All this made Newington a warm, friendly and closely knit congregation.

Families stuck to the church. My great, great uncle was Robert Paterson who was one of the three founders of the Newington Church. He was the first congregational Clerk, the first Elder, the first Precentor or Choir leader, on the first Board of Managers and later Session

Clerk. Clearly, he was a bit of a polymath since he was an architect by calling and he found time to design the Café Royal, Warrender Baths and the new Salisbury Church Building.

His uncle became an elder in the congregation and a cousin James Paterson, who lived at 16 Dick Place, was also an elder. Each of James Paterson's three sons (James, William LH – my grandfather – and Robert) became elders in Salisbury and his daughter (Eliza) went one better by marrying Joe Muir who subsequently became the Minister at Salisbury. All told, my granddaughter Ella is the 7<sup>th</sup> generation



Paterson with a link to what was the Salisbury congregation. That may be unusual today, but several other families had enduring links with Salisbury.

Turning to the Union. It was voluntary. We were much the smaller congregation with an active Roll of less than 150 whilst Mayfield had around 850. But the great majority of the Board of Managers and the Session at Salisbury favoured the union because the congregation was declining, fewer young people were coming into the church and although we loved our building we could see it might become an expensive liability in time.

So we wanted to move while we had viable numbers in the congregation, money in the bank and a Church and a Manse which would bring in cash when they were sold. These proceeds, which

became the Salisbury Fund, were used to foster the Mission work of the new congregation by renovating parts of the Mayfield building - the new entrance on West Mayfield, the Newington Room and the new church office; and supporting a Causewayside youth worker (through a salary and the purchase of a flat in Causewayside), as well as purchasing a house in Cupar for Mr Casebow.

We also supported Missionaries abroad as well as Christian causes all over the world. I hope I am not alone in seeing parallels with the history of the Newington / Salisbury congregation. The Salisbury Fund has been like the Widow's cruise of oil, being continuously used but never quite used up, indeed when the Cupar house and the youth flat were sold the proceeds returning to the Salisbury Fund was in the region of 40% of the congregation's reserves.

## Some of our former buildings



Mayfield UP (United Presbyterian) Church



Hope Park UP Church - Meadows



Infirmary Street UP Church



Cowgate Secession Church

The Union has been a great success with very few hiccups along the way. How should we account for this?

(a) A positive approach from both congregations (b) a warm welcome from the Mayfield congregation – we were quickly made to feel at home and new and lasting friendships formed, we didn't lose our name (names are important in Unions), and we were allowed to bring elements of the old building with us - the Communion Table, Font and Lectern here were all brought from Salisbury (see photo) as was the Morris and Co.

Resurrection window (now in the South Transept), and (c) very importantly, a shared commitment to projects home and abroad.

To close. The history of the congregations and the success of the Union tells us to look forward in hope – to quote from the final Hymn – knowing that a positive and welcoming approach on all sides, with a commitment to future work at home and abroad, will give us the best chance of another successful Union.

*Alan Paterson*

## BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

MICAH 6:1-4, 6-8 AND MATTHEW 5:1-12



Mount of Beatitudes, near Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Israel

Everyone loves a cliché. Some would say that the continued existence of a national church of Scotland, and of the ministers that are part of their life, is now an age old cliché that still holds back the freedom of the country to re-generate into a flourishing modern democracy. The political commentator and essayist Tom Nairn passed away last week. He famously once wrote that Scotland will not be free until the last minister is strangled with the last copy of the Sunday Post. I'm checking around for anyone that's been to the newsagents before they came to church this morning!

So what ministers say is just one big cliché, is it? Well, with some of us all that glitters is not gold, but I would say you can't judge a book by its cover. It's often an uphill battle, though I won't cry over spilled milk, because what goes around comes around, que sera, sera. Whatever I can bring to the table here, I'll try to play my cards right. Maybe the writing is on the wall for the Church and its ministers, the customer is always right after all, but then again maybe these criticisms are as old as the hills. I

won't get my knickers in a twist. Let bygones be bygones. It's six and two threes, glass half full. I'll just try to live my best life.

Here's two words that have become clichéd in their everyday parlance, once they've been removed from their spiritual roots: 'mission' and 'blessed'. Maybe if we can reclaim them in their context of the Christian faith, we can have some blue sky thinking and see the wood from the trees (OK, that's enough!). Maybe we can move from the church and faith as a seeming anachronism and an impediment to wellbeing and human flourishing, and more towards a living, breathing dynamic way of life that suffuses every breath with meaning and vitality. Maybe Christianity's heartbeat can once more sound in tune with the rhythms of social life around us. Our two Bible passages today may help us some way along that road; from Micah the famous quote that God requires us to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God – from Matthew, the Beatitudes, Jesus' wonderful 'blessing sayings' at the start of the Sermon on the Mount.



*Mount of Beatitudes, near Capernaum, Sea of Galilee, Israel*

'Mission' and 'blessed'. What if we were to put the God bit back in?

What is our 'mission'? Every business now has a mission statement. It's about their purpose, their goal, what they want to achieve, their markers of success. The global fast food chain, McDonalds, has a mission. They say 'Our mission is to make delicious feel-good moments easy for everyone. We serve delicious food people feel good about eating, with convenient locations and hours and affordable prices, and by working hard to offer the speed, choice and personalization our customers expect.'

It's about the customer. Food, location, price, speed, choice, personalisation, that will make us all feel good.

Mission statements for all businesses are instrumental. They do things that produce outcomes. The business will provide a product or a service to the best of their ability and that will produce an outcome you will like and want to engage with. Is that our business here as well— to produce the best product we can as a church which people will like and become part of? Maybe that is how it has been, for centuries even, but perhaps we are actually different underneath. Our mission as a church and as Christians can't be the same as McDonalds, surely? Yes, we're called to be and to do things, but more in faith and

obedience, and we leave the outcome to God, not the consumer or the market.

Mission as a Christian concept involves the idea of us being sent by God, that's what the word means. And so it's really God's mission and not ours. Therein lies the big gulf that differentiates Christian mission from the human tasks of achievement and success in the world. As Tim Dearborn said - 'it is not the Church of God that has a mission in the world, but the God of mission that has a Church in the world'.

So we must first ask, what is God's mission in the world? Do we perhaps glimpse through Scripture that it may be to reconcile all people to each other, to the creation and to God? A mission then of transformation and salvation, a mission with an earthly and heavenly dimension?

If so, how do we join in? What then is our mission, as a church and as people, in faith and obedience, as part of God's grander plan? What do we do? Now that Jesus is no longer with us in the flesh, how can we be his eyes, his hands, his feet? Firstly, we might listen and discern as to what is around us, and how God is acting. Then we might act – how do we as a church and as people then approximate God's will for the world?

The Old Testament scholar Walter Brueggemann highlights that the prophets such as Micah offer us the imagination of

## Sermon on the Mount', Karoly Ferenczy, 1896



an alternative, God-inspired vision of what the earth could be like. In our passage from Micah, the very mountains and the foundations of the earth know of the wrongdoings of God's people - they are the judges to whom God's people must plead their case. What have I done to you, says God in verse 3, that you have acted in this way? And then God's people wonder how to respond— they ask, what can we placate God with? How can we be instrumental in the mission of God, like McDonalds in their statement to produce what the customer wants? What form of worship? What gesture of drastic penance and sacrifice? How much wailing and gnashing of teeth? None of this, says God, instead this is what I require, 'do justice, love kindness, walk humbly with me.' If being church is a ritual, if it becomes an instrumental attempt at church success and personal glory, it pushes out love and kindness. And if it pushes out love for your God and your neighbour, it is not worthy of God.

The passage from Micah says, 'don't go ticking boxes to try to please God.' In other words, God does not want a specific type of

worship, or offering, or church. God wants a specific type of person to form his community of faith. And a specific kind of living in obedience to his mission in the world.

Do justice, to speak and act for every person, no matter who they are, who is treated as less than God's child. Love kindness – responding to God's love for us by sharing it with others. Living out the third of the five marks of mission that are to drive our new union, and all the Church of Scotland restructuring: To respond to human need by loving service...'

We serve as Christ served others. We respond to human need by loving service, not because we want to convert people, but because that's what Jesus did, and this is the mission in the Spirit of the Son sent by the Father in which we, as people and a church, have the privilege of participating in.

And we walk humbly with God – listening for God's voice wherever it may be heard, in Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, those with no

---

faith, and be learners as well as teachers. Brett Younger says 'we will be more faithful Christians, not if we can refute every idea that is not Christian, but if we can affirm the truth and keep searching.' It seems from Micah that whether we have the right answers, and the perfect mission statement to fulfil, is less important to God than whether we show love and respect, to people and creation, and keep going on our quest.

And what of being 'blessed'? Another cliché in our modern world. People post on social media that they feel 'so blessed' when good things happen to them – an exam passed, a special holiday, a family reunion, a new job with more money and better prospects. We view blessing as achievement, and sometimes it can be quite self-centred – we equate it with our own happiness. But how about the kind of blessing that Jesus talks about in the Beatitudes?

In June, our Palestinian Christian tour guide walked us on the Mount of Beatitudes, near Capernaum at the, Sea of Galilee, where the Sermon on the Mount is said to have been spoken by Jesus, and read the first words of our passage today – 'He went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: Blessed are...'; and I became almost overcome with emotion thinking that right there Jesus stood and those wonderful words might have been said.

Blessing in Jesus' way of speaking is different to the blessing we talk of in everyday life now. To be poor in spirit, meek, merciful and peaceful is not likely to get you far in a competitive and often judgmental culture, and it's not likely to make you deliriously happy either. So how can people like this be 'blessed'? Charles James Cook argues that there are three principles that ground each of us into living in the spirit of the Beatitudes: simplicity, hopefulness and compassion.

Simplicity – Jesus is saying, you are blessed in this life whenever you

demonstrate a bold humility in expressing your faith, when you bring peace, when you open your heart to others, when you show mercy. You are blessed, not in the sense of riches and fame, or a wide grin all over your face, but more in that your heart is now open to God, like a sunflower turning towards the sun, you might walk now more closely to God.

Hopefulness, that one day in Christ, comfort and mercy and peace and righteousness will come more fully to pass—through this we might overcome the cynicism and the hopelessness that pervades our society and sometimes our church and our lives too.

And compassion, a person-centred empathy for other people that goes beyond sympathy or pity. Henri Nouwen talks of compassion as being 'the inner recognition that your neighbour shares your humanity with you.'

Our lives as Christians, this congregation, this city, this church of Scotland might indeed be blessed by a re-commitment to the simplicity, the hopefulness and the compassion that the Beatitudes show. For it is in the experience of the divine that we are 'blessed'. 'Blessed are those...' begins each statement in the Beatitudes'. Not just pie in the sky of what might be, but a celebration of what is and can be through God. Blessed are those...speaks of a heavenly joy which is serene and untouchable, which nothing in life can fully remove, even in pain, in sorrow or in loss.

The cliché now, perhaps, is that Christianity has little left to say in answer to life's problems in the western world – it's all blethers and hot air. How does the passion and the fire of a life-transforming faith somehow breathe beyond the trappings we have wrapped it in? How in bold humility, will we be blessed as people of peace in God's mission in the world? How do we respond to God in loving service to the need of the world? Beyond the clichés, those are the sixty-four million dollar questions...

Amen.

# THE BIBLE IN A YEAR



## March

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

## April

1	Joshua	1-3	/	Psalm	37
2	Joshua	4,5	/	Romans	10
3	Joshua	6,7	/	Romans	11
4	Joshua	8,9	/	Romans	12
5	Joshua	10,11	/	Psalm	38
6	Joshua	12-15	/	Romans	13
7	Joshua	16-19	/	Romans	14
8	Joshua	20-22	/	Psalm	39
9	Joshua	23,24	/	Romans	15
10	Judges	1,2	/	Romans	16

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

## May

1	Samuel	20-22	/	Mark	15
2	Samuel	23,24	/	Mark	16
3	Samuel	25,26	/	Psalm	49
4	Samuel	27,28	/	Corinthians	1
5	Samuel	29,31	/	Corinthians	2
6	Samuel	1,2	/	Psalm	50
7	Samuel	3-5	/	Corinthians	3
8	Samuel	6,7	/	Corinthians	4
9	Samuel	8-10	/	Corinthians	5
10	Samuel	11,12	/	Psalm	51
11	Samuel	13,14	/	Corinthians	6
12	Samuel	15,16	/	Corinthians	7
13	Samuel	17,18	/	Psalms	52-54
14	Samuel	19,20	/	Corinthians	8
15	Samuel	21,22	/	Corinthians	9
16	Samuel	23,24	/	Corinthians	10
17	Kings	1,2	/	Psalm	55

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## MARCH

### Sun 12 Third Sunday in Lent

9:30am All-Age Worship - Holy Communion (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship - Holy Communion (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 14 10.00am Morning Prayers  
7.30pm Kirk Session

Thu 16 2.00pm Thursday Club  
YVONNE MORLAND - KEEPING GOOD MENTAL HEALTH

5.30pm **Discussion - Breaking the Glass Ceiling.** Inspiring women explore the topic of how women can overcome the barriers to senior positions of authority within faith communities. Run by Edinburgh Interfaith Association at Mayfield Salisbury Church

### Sun 19 Fourth Sunday in Lent - Farewell to Hillary Leslie. Marmalade Sale

10.30am Joint Worship Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 21 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 23 2.00pm Thursday Club: SIMON FAIRNIE - UP THE CREEK

Fri 24 9.32am PILGRIMAGE WALK - East Linton to North Berwick (see page 12)

Sat 25 10.00am JOINT CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING (see page 12)  
4.00pm Messy Church at Priestfield Church

### Sun 26 Fifth Sunday in Lent - Farewell to Kay McIntosh

9:30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 28 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 30 2.00pm Thursday Club  
MAUREEN KELLY - SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

## APRIL

### Sun 2 Palm Sunday

9:30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
7.00pm Evening Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Mon 3 7.45am Morning Service at Craigmillar Park Church Followed by breakfast

Tue 4 7.45am Morning Service at Craigmillar Park Church Followed by breakfast  
10.00am Morning Prayers

Wed 5 7.45am Morning Service at Craigmillar Park Church Followed by breakfast

Thu 6 7.45am Morning Service at Craigmillar Park Church Followed by breakfast  
7.30pm Maundy Thursday Communion Service at Priestfield Church

Fri 7 7.45am Morning Service at Craigmillar Park Church Followed by breakfast  
7.30pm Good Friday Tenebrae service at Mayfield Salisbury Church

## Sun 9 Easter Sunday

- 6.20am Climb up Blackford Hill for sunrise (optional!)
- 9.00am Easter breakfast in Bill McDonald Hall  
incorporating informal service at tables
- 10.30am Joint Worship Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 11 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 13 2.00pm Thursday Club: BOYD MACADAM - NEW YORK! NEW YORK!

## Sun 16 Second Sunday of Easter

- 9:30am All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander)
- 10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Helen Alexander)

Tue 18 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 20 2.00pm CEILIDH BAND - GWYNETH YOUNG

## Sun 23 Third Sunday of Easter

- 9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander)
- 10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Helen Alexander)

Tue 25 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 27 2.00pm Thursday Club:  
SUSAN WOODING - PIANO RECITAL AND SINGALONG'

## Sun 30 Fourth Sunday of Easter

- 9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- 10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

## MAY

Tue 2 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 4 TBC Thursday Club: OUTING OR PARTY TBC

## Sun 7 Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- 10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- 7.00pm Evening Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

# GIVING AND QR CODE

You will see we have added a Quick Response (QR) code to this magazine and also in various places in the church. Our QR code is a handy way of using your smart phone or tablet's QR app to link you to our Giving Page. Once you have joined the Giving Page, all the usual protocols and safeguards are still operative. The Kirk Session wishes to express its continuing gratitude to those who support the Church's work through their offerings. Covid restrictions have prevented circulation of the 'plate' during services but those who would have wished to use it may make use of the bowls marked Plate Collection situated in the vestibule and halls entrance, at the close of the service.

Regular and one-off donations are possible online at [www.give.net/20311853](http://www.give.net/20311853) or please contact our Freewill Offerings Treasurer, Hugh Somerville - [hs.somerville2@gmail.com](mailto:hs.somerville2@gmail.com) 0131 466 2446



# WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity Number SC000785

## Minister

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

## Pastoral Assistant Until 26 March

Kay McIntosh DCS pastoralassistantms@gmail.com 0758 704 3191

## Youth Worker Until 19 March

Hillary Leslie Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com 0745 372 2224

## 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 clerkmosp@gmail.com 0777 358 7579

## Treasurer

John Graham culkein@btinternet.com 0131 667 6331

## Safeguarding Co-ordinators

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

## Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

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

## Mayfield Radio Unit

The Studio mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com 0131 667 7742

## Church Address and Office

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

## Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits, please contact the Minister

## Staff Days Off

Minister: Mondays  
Manager: Monday-PM & Fridays

## Social Media Accounts

-  [www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury)
-  [www.youtube.com/c/MayfieldSalisburyParishChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/MayfieldSalisburyParishChurch)
-  [www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06](http://www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06)
-  [www.twitter.com/churchscotland](http://www.twitter.com/churchscotland)
-  [www.instagram.com/the.msyy](http://www.instagram.com/the.msyy)
-  [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)



The Church of Scotland

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