



May/June 2023

Issue 270

Scottish Charity SC000785

# GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



**AUBADE**

**WELCOME TO BETTINA HATHER**

**CHURCH UNION UPDATES**

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

# FROM THE MANSE

*Dear Friends,*

I stood there with my Primary 1 classmates in the wind and rain waving my little flag, as Princess Anne emerged from her limousine to formally open the newly constructed Erskine Bridge over the River Clyde. And a few years later, in the blazer and shorts of a different primary school, I remember standing in glorious sunshine as the open-top carriage drove past, carrying the Queen and Prince Philip to Glasgow Cathedral at her Silver Jubilee. You maybe have similar memories. It was often said that the Queen could be forgiven for thinking that all towns and cities carried the strong whiff of fresh paint, and that all the people who lived in them always wore their 'Sunday best.' Certainly, even though my contact with the Royals back then was no more than a fleeting glimpse, shoes had to be polished, the shirt was ironed and the tie was straightened in preparation before I left the house!

As we live through these very significant historical events with the Coronation of King Charles III some forty to fifty years later, attitudes to the monarchy in the UK have changed significantly since those times. Whilst some will be joyous in their celebrations over the Coronation weekend at street parties and in their homes, others will be indifferent and 'walk on by' as if little was happening, grateful only for the bonus of an extra public holiday. The deference and sense of national pride which was paid by right to the institution of monarchy has waned with successive generations. In a recent poll by YouGov, while backing for the Crown stands at 79% among the over 65s, the youngest Britons are split. Only 36% want to keep the monarchy compared to 40% who would prefer an elected head of state. Approaches to the monarchy in Scotland are further influenced by strong nationalist support, and the near equal split



in the country between those who would retain the Union and those who seek independence.

Queen Elizabeth II was in many ways a unifying figure who commanded widespread respect for her dedication, service, strength of personality and leadership over seven decades, even amongst those whose natural inclination would be towards an elected President under a UK republic, or indeed a separate Scottish nation. King Charles III has the challenging task of succeeding his mother as monarch, after over 70 years of waiting and preparation, knowing of the great affection in which she was held. She is a 'hard act to follow.' In addition, that's not to mention the many public demands of the role that he will face and the need of imposing his own mark upon it by addressing the issues that speak most to him, all in a context where the purpose and relevancy of the whole institution might need to be re-established in the minds of young people in the country, if the monarchy is to survive. When you add it all up, it is by no means an easy task! Whatever your views of the King and what his title represents, he is surely deserving of our prayers, as are his family too as they adjust to his succession.

No matter whether we are Unionist and Royalist, or Nationalist and Republican, or indeed would subscribe to some different combination of those four concepts, our memories of the momentous public rituals of state form a backdrop to our lives. They sometimes offer a vivid snapshot of what our lives were at various ages and stages, and take us back to the places and people that were part of them. Just as many of us can recall where we were and what our lives were like when 9/11 or the Moon Landings occurred, and especially where we were 'cooped up' recently under the COVID-19 lockdown, and so if I think back to that summer day in Glasgow at the Silver Jubilee in 1977, I can recall who I was as a nine-year-old schoolboy. And with that snapshot of recollection, I can feel again all the naivety, innocence but also freedom and joy that life at that age brought; and also, how it was to live at home with my parents and sister, and play with my best friend who lived two doors down.

My flitting thoughts at this time of coronation take me back to them and put a smile on my face, because they were such central parts of the world of that 9-year-old, with some of them now no longer with us. These great public events, like births, deaths and marriages in our own families, are the superstructure, the netting if you like, on which we chart the changing seasons of our own existence; on which we hang up our joys and sorrows in a place where we can again reach for them with comparative ease. When we reminisce, it reminds us of the richness and breadth of who we have been, and who we always will be.

The words of Ecclesiastes 3 were made famous in popular culture in the 1960s in the song 'Turn, Turn, Turn' by The Byrds. They address that very framework of life, the warp and weft of the changing seasons of who we are. The writer said, 'There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the heavens.'



He then described all the times and seasons of life, such as: 'a time to be born and a time to die, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak...'

And through it all, the writer identified one constant presence – that all times and seasons are 'the gift of God, who has made everything beautiful in its time, knowing that 'everything God does will endure for ever.'

As we live through these days of coronation, no matter what snapshot of your life right now will be imprinted on your memory to be recalled in future days, be assured that God is present with you in all times and seasons of your life, and that His love is all-encompassing and constant through all our earthly days. That is so for every human being, made in God's image whether Royal or otherwise, from our first to our last.

God bless,  
*Sandy*

# BETTINA HATHER - WELCOME!

Hello! I am delighted to join you as Children & Young Adult worker here at Mayfield Salisbury and thank you for your warm welcome!

I am looking forward to being part of this next season for the church family and wider congregations as well as to share the next part of my faith journey.

My family and I moved to Scotland 10 years ago and I have worked as Children, Family and Youth Workers in two congregations in Edinburgh in that time, one not so far away from here with a similar area and one more in the city with different challenges. The was latter also through pandemic, vacancy and pre-union and so I am an evolved worker from where I was 10 years ago!

'Together' and 'Family/Church family' are descriptions you might hear me say frequently. They underpin me as a person and as a professional through all my work and faith journey. It may become predictable, but it's in my DNA and now to be harnessed for Mayfield Salisbury and beyond.

I came to Scotland from Southwest England where I was a Community Development Worker for a United Reformed Church (URC) congregation. That was a switch out of third sector Mental Health and Domestic Abuse projects through a call from a Discernment Conference. The call to combine my faith and my paid work to grow, support and nurture families and young people feels affirmed again by my being here with you.

I love to try new things but am rooted in firm foundations of faith and shared nurture, especially involving nature, food, music



and playing. I have recently trained in Godly Play after years of hoping to and I have dabbled in Wild worship. Toddler church is another passion even before I had my own children. I love to find ways to explore faith with youngsters and many ages together; sharing in the historic biblical sense of living faith out together to pass it on; especially involving tables or walking!

That is not to suggest that we do not value each other already, but to create spaces, environments and

frequency to really get the best and most out of each other. That may or may not be connected to another 'love' of mine. Cake. Cake and fellowship. Cake and condolence. Cake and celebration. Cake and welcome. Cake just because (or biscuits, chocolate). Read for 'cake' also bread to feed ducks, communion bread, lunch, dinner, meal delivery for new parents etc. Cake and connection...maybe the name of a new group? Perhaps my 'patchwork/non-linear' family and faith backgrounds have led me to cake as common denominator?

I am now in the Church of Scotland via German Lutheran (Baptism), Reformed Judaism (1 branch of my family), Church of England confirmation & discernment, URC ecumenical and interfaith work and Quaker marriage. I think that means it's actually God that is my common denominator; the central, underpinning, overarching, dynamic yet unchanging presence in my life and I want to share that journey alongside all of you in your journeys; especially the young folks, who, I believe, can also be quite fond of cake!

*Bettina*

# SCOUT NEWS

A highlight of the winter term is always the winter adventure weekend for older scouts and we again headed down to Hawkhirst Adventure Camp on the shores of Kielder Reservoir in Northumberland. The scouts were able to enjoy canoeing, bellboating, zip wire and archery as well as a night hike to view the amazing sight of the stars that you only get in the type of dark sky area of Kielder.

The scouts were able to continue their extra-terrestrial view when we went to the Usher Hall for a talk from the astronaut Tim Peake, entitled *My Journey into Space*. He gave a fascinating talk about his time on the International Space Station and his walk in space. Tim is also a scouting ambassador and he was a clear source of inspiration for the scouts, especially when he said that the first person that will visit Mars has already been born and might even be in the audience.

We were pleased to welcome our local MP, Ian Murray, to a troop meeting in March. It



happened to be our annual record breakers night when the scouts get the opportunity to break some of the troop records, a mix of personal and scout skills, athleticism, knowledge and some downright silly ones. After assisting in the judging, Ian kindly did a Q&A with the Scouts with some impressive and testing questions being put to him.

With more outdoor meetings coming up in the summer term, training started on navigation skills. The first test was a treasure hunt where the Scouts had to carry out tasks to gain grid reference so that they could locate the location of the treasure on the map.

An exciting summer term lies ahead with our camps being the main features.

*Alan Dickson*  
Scout Leader

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

## COFFEE AND BLETERS RESTARTS

Coffee and Bleters was a new venture started a few years ago to cover the summer period when the Thursday Club is on holiday. It is a friendship group open to the whole community, especially those who might feel lonely or isolated and in need of companionship.

We meet in the McDonald Hall on second and fourth Thursdays during months of June, July and August from 2.00pm to 3.30pm starting on 8 June. You don't have to stay all the time, just pop in when you feel like it, stay as long as you wish and enjoy tea or juice and of course a blether. We do hope to see you there.

If you would like more details please speak to the Christina Somerville or Deirdre Eustace by phone: 0131 667 1522 or email: [churchmanager@googlemail.com](mailto:churchmanager@googlemail.com)



# AUBADE

Easter Morning, Blackford Hill

Birdsong before dawn and, sharply awake,  
blackthorn a smatter of white blossom.  
Gorse waits for the sun's paintbrush.  
It's six o'clock in the dewy morning, with  
an Easter moon setting over the Braid Hills.

With each step the view is more thrilling:  
familiar shapes and skyline, but with dips  
and slopes where mist slips down to drift  
around new firths, new islands, new life  
in shape-shifting vistas.

We have trudged this far, this early,  
not towards emptiness or futility; rather  
to refresh the muscle memory of hope.  
From the summit of Blackford Hill,  
right on cue, a slither of pink tinges

the eastern sky. Haze lifts, dissipates;  
and the world turns enough to bring  
dawn quickly, the glare so bright  
we look away. Like the birds, we sing  
to a stilled city, voices in a golden chill.

*Christine De Luca*

*Photograph: Boyd McAdam*



# FIRST FRIDAY FRIENDS



First Friday Friends marked the Coronation on Friday by having an advanced celebration. Music has huge potential to unblock memories, and so, as befitted the occasion, we sang 'They're Changing Guard at Buckingham Palace', 'Charlie is my Darling' and 'Congratulations' among other suitable ditties. Memorabilia of previous coronations provided the impetus for lots of happy reminiscence, all fuelled by tea and themed cake.

None of this happens without our very much appreciated volunteers, past and present, some of whom have been with us from our beginnings in 2015. To mark His Majesty's coronation thousands of organisations across the country are getting together to give us all the chance to help out in our own local communities. We would like to invite you to think about this here at Mayfield Salisbury where we need a few extra pairs of hands.

First Friday Friends is our place to come and relax, enjoy a cup of tea and cake in an informal support group for people whose lives are affected by memory loss and those who care for them.

Where: in the Bill McDonald (level access) Hall at Mayfield Salisbury Church When: from 2.30pm to 4.00pm, on the first Friday of every month. If you can spare a regular Friday afternoon – you won't be asked every month - to help by offering a welcome, setting up the hall, serving a cup of tea, driving, playing an instrument to accompany singing, but most of all offering company, please get in touch. It's good fun!

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- © Jean McGlichrist, [jbleitch@gmail.com](mailto:jbleitch@gmail.com)

# AFTERNOON SERVICE - 16<sup>TH</sup> MAY

The next short mid-week Afternoon Service of Holy Communion will be held on Tuesday, 16 May at 2.30pm followed by refreshments and chat - until around 3.45pm. The Service will be conducted by our Minister, Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth and is during Christian Aid Week. Please join us in the Bill McDonald Hall via the West Mayfield entrance. All are very welcome!



Names would be appreciated in advance (nearer the time) so that we can set up tables allowing plenty of space, and to allow us to cater for all.

Please ring 0793 215 9964 if you are coming or for further information. Christian Aid envelopes will be available for donations.

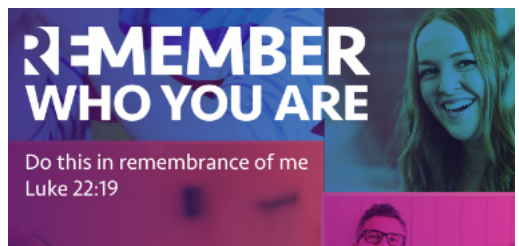
**The summer Afternoon Service will be on Tuesday 11 July at 2.30pm**

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023

The General Assembly is a significant annual event in the Church of Scotland calendar. Throughout the week, commissioners to the General Assembly examine the work and laws of the Church and make decisions that affect its future.

The Assembly does not shy away from discussing the big political topics of the day. In recent years the Assembly has received national and international attention for debating Brexit, same-sex relationships, the war in Syria, and fossil fuel divestment.

**General Assembly 2023** The 2023 General Assembly will begin on Saturday 20 May, with an opening session at 10.00am including the installation of Revd Sally Foster-Fulton as the Moderator. General Assembly 2023 will close on the afternoon of Thursday 25 May. It will again be a hybrid event, and will be live streamed to allow those who are not Commissioners to view the proceedings. More information is now available on our General Assembly 2023 page [www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/2023](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/general-assembly/2023), and the reports to be presented at this year's General Assembly are now being made available on our Reports and Additional Documents page.



**Lord High Commissioner** The Rt Hon Lord Hodge, Deputy President of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom, has been appointed as Lord High Commissioner to the 2023 General Assembly, serving in the role for a second year.

As Lord High Commissioner, Lord Hodge will attend the 2023 General Assembly, acting as personal representative of His Majesty King Charles III.

**Moderator of the General Assembly 2023-24** Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, 58, who has led Christian Aid in Scotland since 2016, will take a year's sabbatical to serve as the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in 2023-24. She will take up the position on the first day of the General Assembly, Saturday 20 May, and will serve as the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad for 12 months.

# NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID



- Providing temporary toilets and bathrooms, water containers and water treatment to help prevent the risk of cholera
- Mobile clinics to help people process the emotional trauma of the cyclone
- Distribution of cash to 1,000 households so that families can purchase their immediate needs

## The mighty pigeon pea

Luke Theu, Christian Aid's Country Director for Malawi said: 'The pigeon pea is a crop that can bounce back and support people. Unlike other crops, which can't be planted in these flood conditions, pigeon peas can. The challenge people will face, is the decline in the expected level of pigeon pea harvest, which could lead to hunger. Therefore, we need additional funds to help people to restore their livelihoods.'

## Christian Aid Week: 14-20 May 2023

Your gifts this Christian Aid Week could help farmers in Malawi plant better seeds, secure a fairer price for the crops, and build happier futures for their children.

Soaring costs are affecting people here and around the world. Families in Malawi are paying the price of this global crisis. Food, fuel, fertiliser and school fees have doubled in price in the last 12 months. And hard-working farmers are seeing their harvests fail as the climate crisis brings increasingly erratic weather.

## Malawi Cyclone Update

The impact of the recent Cyclone Freddy in Malawi has been devastating. Floods have washed away crops, over 500,000 people have been displaced and hundreds have lost their lives.

## Christian Aid's response

Christian Aid's partners and team in Malawi have been responding to the immediate recovery needs of communities. This includes:

- Corn soya blend for porridge for breastfeeding mothers and children under five years
- Mosquito nets for families to provide protection against malaria

Through you, Christian Aid will be there long after the flood waters recede, helping families build back. Your gifts this May will continue to support the pigeon pea project and other vital work around the world.

**If you missed Mayfield Salisbury's bucket collection following the special service on 14 May, it's not too late! You can hand your donation to a member of the Christian Aid team at church, or donate online at [www.christianaid.org.uk](http://www.christianaid.org.uk) Thank you!**

## A Prayer for Christian Aid Week

God, gardener of Eden,  
who flung stars into space  
and nurtures the tiniest plant,  
lift our hopes and dreams above the loss  
and damage of our suffering planet,  
that we might share  
your long-dreamed vision  
which values the pea as much as the plant,  
fill us with your life-giving hope  
and inspire us with your creative Spirit  
now, and in the age to come.  
Amen.

# THE SEVEN HILLS OF EDINBURGH CHARITY WALK 2023

**From our friends at Priestfield Church**

Craiglockhart Hill / Corstorphine Hill / The Castle / Calton Hill / Arthur's Seat

This charity walk is going ahead again this year, to get everyone out into the fresh air to enjoy exercise and the beauty of Edinburgh, and to raise funds for the less well off in our society. It's part of CHRISTIAN AID fund-raising week, that runs from 14 to 20 May 2023

Come for the challenge whether you walk up 1, 3, 5 or perhaps 7 hills... Now in 2023, thanks to mass vaccination the dangers of covid-19 have greatly diminished, and 'lockdown' is word of the past, so get out and enjoy a walk with some friends on some of the glorious hills of Edinburgh.

**When?** Saturday 20 May 2023 **Start time?**

Wherever and whenever you wish - it is up to you! **Where?** The 7 Hills of Edinburgh include - Blackford Hill / Braids Hills /

**How?** Use any means you wish and you do not have to climb the hills in any particular order. Route notes up & down hills & between the hills are available. **Finish?** It's up to you, but tell your friends that you've gone walking..! **Sponsorship form 2023?**

Download at the website for Christian Aid Week **Collection of £'s?** Church reps can collect and send to Christian Aid Office.

**KM / Miles?** Total distance for all hills is approx. 14 miles or 22km. That is 1 mile up & down each hill plus a little bit extra in between the hills, but this is not a 'route-march' so please enjoy yourselves... **Register?**

Please register with your Church reps. So that we know the number of participants. My contacts for any queries: [robtabel84@yahoo.com](mailto:robtabel84@yahoo.com) / **0757 043 4410**

christian  
aid



2023

## BOOK SALE

at St Andrew's and St George's West Church  
13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

Saturday - 13 May - 10am - 4pm

Monday - 15 May to Friday 19 May - 10am - 3.30pm

Thursday - 18 May - late opening until 7pm

2023 PATRON: Dr James Robertson FRSE  
Scots Poet and Novelist

- Books • Antiques & Collectables
- Pictures • Stamps & Postcards
- Sheet Music • Toys • Games • Jigsaws

And finally - don't miss the Christian Aid Book Sale at St Andrew's and St George's West Church. Many unique items will be available to purchase, including books, toys, pictures and antiques. Come and buy!

Church Office: **0131 225 3847** for enquiries  
email: [admin@stagw.org.uk](mailto:admin@stagw.org.uk)

Undercroft Café open as usual



# HOW BAD ARE BANANAS?

*How Bad Are Bananas?* is the question Mike Berners-Lee sets out to address in a book first published in 2010 and revised for 2020. In it, he attempts to calculate the carbon footprint of everything. Necessarily, the book is of its time and, though it nods towards the pandemic, the section on the footprint of a war discusses the impact of a 'small' regional nuclear conflict and not the reality of a regional 'hot' war such as that in Ukraine. Maybe a later revision will address that.

If you want to work out the carbon footprint of your shopping basket, leisure activities, hobbies and travel plans, it is all here – well, almost. There is a surprising omission from the chart of seasonal vegetables. What does the author have against beans? He only lists runner beans, excluding broad and French beans. There is no mention of fish or pie suppers, either. Overall, it is a largely urban/suburban middle-class lifestyle that is analysed.

He acknowledges that, sometimes, the emissions-reducing option may not be sustainable or the best for biodiversity. There is no mention, however, that the wear and tear on electric vehicle tyres is just as polluting as that of fossil-fuel vehicles, and ends up in the same place: the oceans. Similarly, his enthusiasm for lab-grown meat and some plant-based



diets does not address some current concerns that these ultra-processed foods may be bad for our health. For those still wanting to demolish Victorian church buildings and replace them with eco-friendly new-builds, the bad news is that Berners-Lee has done the sums, albeit for a traditional stone-built cottage in Dumfries, and 'investing in improvements... is a dramatically more cost-effective approach than knocking down and starting again. It is also a huge potential source of green jobs.' (page 156).

Still, if you are swithering whether to replace the kitchen in the house you have just moved into, or want to change your interior furnishings because they looked 'tired', or you are bored with the colour scheme, read this book, and see if you are as eco-conscious as you think you are. It really isn't just putting out the recycling.

*Catriona Graham*

## PILGRIMAGE WALK

All are welcome for the final walk on the Forth to Farne Way. Saturday 10 June Beal Farm Cafe to Lindisfarne (approx 5 miles across the sands) Please sign up for this walk by emailing Pennie McIntyre at [penniemcintyre@hotmail.com](mailto:penniemcintyre@hotmail.com) We will be going by coach to Lindisfarne.



Please let me know by Sunday 21 May if you wish to join the coach as I have to decide that week whether to hire one or two coaches.

If you wish to travel by car and not walk across the sands please let me know so that I can give you our time of arrival and the safe time to drive across the causeway.

# SESSION MATTERS



Once again I have two Session meetings to report on. The first is a summary of our meeting on the 14 March: the second is hot off the press from our meeting on Tuesday 2 May.

In March we reviewed and approved for submission the Annual Report and Accounts for 2022. These had to be submitted by the end of March. The congregation received the Report and Accounts at the Stated Annual Meeting (SAM) on 30 April and reviewed the Summary Annual Report and financial statement for 2022. The various documents are on the website at [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org) accounts.

In sum, our overall financial position remains sound. On the General fund (our current account) we are living a bit beyond our means, in that offerings are declining slowly and we are not adjusting our activities to reduce our expenditure. The investment necessary to improve the heating system will impact our reserves but this will be a decision for the new congregation after the union. The Session expressed its thanks to John Graham and the team for all their work. One or two issues arising out of the SAM

and the Kirk Session discussion are being followed up, in particular the need to value the church itself for the accounts which will likely appear in the 2023 report. The necessary paperwork on safeguarding had been submitted and signed off and thanks were extended to the safeguarding team.

In both the March and May meetings Session was updated on the draft Presbytery Mission Plan and the work preparing for the union with Priestfield and Craigmillar Park churches. The congregation votes on the proposed new name, **Newington Trinity**, were recorded with a clear majority in each congregation favouring the chosen name. Steps are underway to consider how best we acknowledge and mark the history of the names of the three congregations in the new union. It was reported that the draft Basis of Union was being developed and was on schedule for being presented to the three congregations by the summer.

The Presbytery Mission Plan under which the union will be progressed was approved by Presbytery at its meeting on 25 April by 170 votes to 5. Anne Steele agreed to continue meantime as Presbytery Elder and Session approved and thanked her for undertaking the role.

Another topic common to both meetings was that of the work needed to improve the heating in the sanctuary and in the halls with a view to achieving net zero by 2030 as required by the General Trustees. The Business Committee had received the report of the working group on heating and for the various options identified, including the work required to insulate under the floor of the sanctuary. This would necessitate the pews being removed, the floor being lifted and the old broken pipework removed. This raised the issue of whether to replace in whole or in part the pews and what the option might be for making greater use of the sanctuary space during the week. Session approved the Business Committee request to obtain further expert advice on the various options to assist with formulating recommendations to come to the new union.

Representatives from Priestfield and Craigmillar Park have agreed to join the team taking forward these considerations. Work on replacing the heating system is unlikely to start before summer 2024.

At both meetings Session discussed worship and pilgrimage plans. The Easter week services and activities such as the Blackford Hill dawn service were commended and the joint Easter morning service was very much appreciated. The two-service format and monthly evening communion service will broadly continue and, as usual, the services in July and August will consist of one service at 10.30am.

At the March meeting we bade farewell to Kay McIntosh on her retirement and Hillary Leslie who left to start a new career. In each case we expressed our thanks for the service they had provided especially during Covid and wished them well for the future. The congregation had been very generous in providing donations to each of them, recognising the value they placed on their contributions.

In May we heard that Bettina Hather would be starting as the child and young adult worker until the end of the year; and that a replacement for Kay as pastoral visitor would be sought, also until the end of the year. At that point, the new union would need to consider the continuation or development of those posts. The various deaths within the congregation were sadly noted and recorded.

We also recorded the resignation in March of Wendy Mathison from the Session after many years of support. In May Sir Ewan Brown resigned after 45 years as an elder. In both cases Session thanked them for their contribution to the work of both the Session and the church and wished them well for the future.

The Kirk Session agreed to Sandy Forsyth being a supervisor for the full-time probationary period of ministry for Simon Hessett who is currently a final year student at New College. Simon will be with us from September for 15 months.

Session heard plans being considered with the two other congregations for an event, now probably later summer, to meet socially. The congregational gathering on 25 April to explore mission had proved a welcome opportunity for such socialising in addition to the constructive discussions. The Session also received updates on the work of various committees and groups such as the Youth Committee, Christian Aid and the wide range of activities covered by the Business Committee.

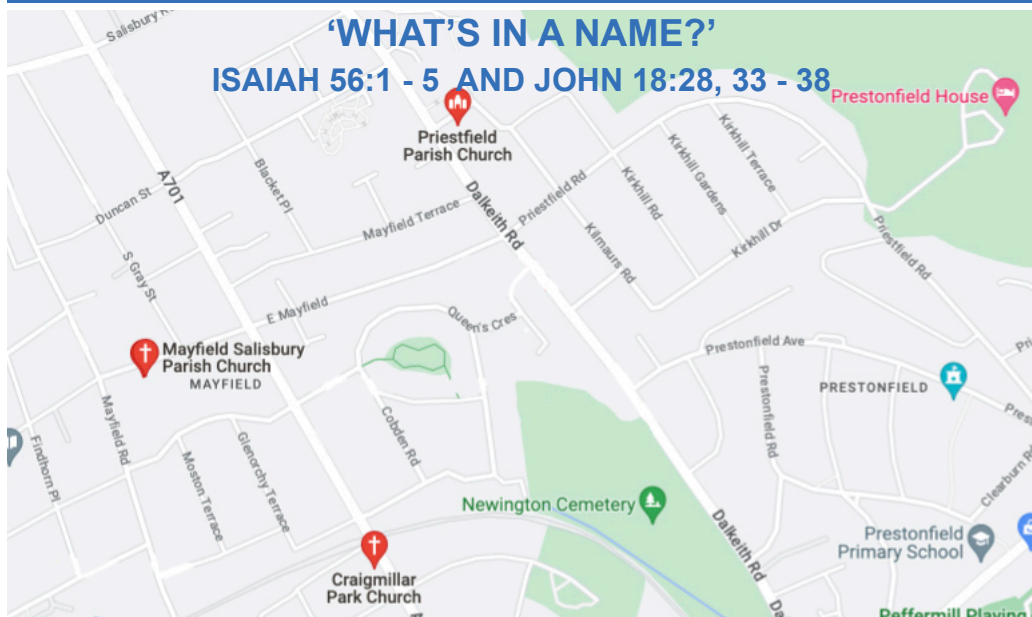
At its most recent meeting the Session also considered a report on eldership and the obligation which elders of the Session have as charity trustees. Forthcoming changes to the Church Courts Act were explored and the implications considered.

The next meeting is scheduled for 6 June.

Boyd McAdam  
Session Clerk  
clerkmspc@gmail.com

## 'WHAT'S IN A NAME?'

ISAIAH 56:1 - 5 AND JOHN 18:28, 33 - 38



What's in a name? Next week we will get the chance to choose a name for the new congregation that will result from the union next year of Mayfield Salisbury, Priestfield and Craigmillar Park Parish Churches. Which one will you go for? What will you be comfortable with in the months and years to come? Thank goodness we're not simply lumping all the current ones together, or I would run out of breath when I welcome everyone at the start of Sundays' services! On the one hand, a name seems almost a trivial part of who we are and what we do – there's so much more to life, and a loving Christian community like this one, no matter what our name might be. But on the other hand, names often give an identity, a familiarity, a feeling of pride, a sense of belonging. They can be re-assuring, comforting and secure. Losing them can cause us loss and a sense of an era passing.

And to treat names trivially can have unexpected and unwanted consequences. In March 2016, an online poll was set up to name a £200 million polar scientific

research ship that was under construction. That must have seemed a very bright idea, a generous and democratic gesture, until...a BBC radio presenter coined the humorous suggestion 'Boaty McBoatface', and the name quickly became the most popular choice, with almost 124,000 votes. Despite receiving more than ten times the number of votes of its closest rival, it was that other name, the 'Sir David Attenborough,' [that was given to the vessel by a Government minister. Somehow, 'Boaty McBoatface', amusing though it is, seemed like a bit too trivial for a £200 million pound ship.

The legacy, however, lives on. A journalist in the New York Times has coined the term to be 'McBoatfaced', which she defined as to allow people to 'deliberately make their choices, not in order to foster the greatest societal good, but, instead, to mess with you.' And the results of the poll have inspired numerous similar spoofs in other naming polls, some of which have stuck. And so, amongst others, we do now have a new floating ferry in the Isle of Wight called



'Floaty McFloatface' and the mobile library on Orkney named, yes you guessed it, 'Booky McBookface'! I was just waiting for 'Churchy McChurchface' to come in this time round for our new congregation, but nobody was quick enough off the mark!

It is important to get these things right, otherwise you can be stuck with it for good. My friend at University, Quinton, used to say, 'some people try to give me a bad name, but they needn't bother because my parents have done that already.' Our first name is given to us as we are born, and the word of our first name we write down and we speak out loud, we hear others say and use, whether in a friendly, loving or downright exasperated way, until our very last day. It becomes part of who we are. Our constant companion. And it's not trivial at all. If it was taken away from us, and we were deliberately re-named, we would feel ravaged, abused, de-humanised.

When God speaks through the prophet Isaiah in Chapter 56, God's words are addressed to the outsider, the marginalised, those who have little and stand on the edge, looking in. God says, the foreigner in this land might think she or he will be separated from all that life has to give, the eunuch might be looked down upon because he will not have a family, but to all such people who love the Lord their God and keep his word, God says, 'I will give them a name that is better than sons or daughters, for I will give them an everlasting name.'

No matter what names people might call

any of us, no matter what names we might use for others, if they are branded by who they are or what they have done without reference to their real name – God says, I will give them an everlasting name that will not be cut off. I will give you all an identity and a name through me, as a child of God, loved and held and cared for. Isaiah 43:1 – 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.' You might have been reading a Lent 'Devotional Book' this year, or you're maybe getting daily email messages for Lent from the likes of Tearfund. Or maybe you've been listening like me to the 'Lent Talks' on Radio 4, a different voice every week speaking of the meaning of their Christian faith in their lives, often reflecting on very challenging situations, but all of them offering light and a moving sense of transcendence out of what they have faced. Like the second talk, from a lady who has founded a support charity for those who have miscarried or had stillborn children after her own tragic experiences, which ends with her saying, 'grief can be relentless, but so is hope.' Very moving indeed.

This year's Lent Talks sent me back in the archives to one delivered in 2014 by the black American playwright and critic, Bonnie Greer, entitled 'Names'. She recalled bringing a play to the Edinburgh Festival in the late 1980s. Arriving at Waverley station with two of the actors, also black Americans, they took a taxi to their lodgings. On the way, the Edinburgh cabbie asked, 'Are you doing a play or are you visiting?' One of Bonnie's friends



and later 'So you are a king?,' and both times Jesus did not answer but threw it back at Pilate, 'did you ask this on your own, or did others put you up to it?' and then, 'it is you that is saying I am a king.' And then a third question from Pilate, perhaps with a hint of a sneer, or maybe it was genuine confusion, 'what is truth?' And,

responded, 'She's Greer. I'm McGregor. And she's Ferguson. That's our names. We've come back to claim our inheritance!' Their ancestors were sold as chattels and dragged away in chains from Africa to slavery on sugar plantations and cotton fields in the Caribbean and in North America. Their freedom, their languages, their customs, were all taken away, as were their identities and their names; to be replaced by the Scottish surnames of the slave owners and the plantation overseers – Greer, McGregor, Ferguson. And now they were back; to where the descendants of those very people now stayed, bearing the very same name as they did.

Bonnie Greer said in her talk, 'it was necessary to take away our identities because once that is successfully done to a person, once it is impossible to master your life or your fate, then captivity and enslavement, physical and mental can begin.' But if we have our names, she reflected, we can be free - free to place ourselves in the world, free to say 'yes' or 'no,' free to say nothing at all.

And then she considered our passage from John 18, when Jesus stood accused before Pilate; the moment that held the balance for Jesus between human life and death. Twice Pilate asked Jesus to define himself, to tell Pilate the name that he claimed. Pilate said, 'Are you the King of the Jews?'

in response, Jesus said nothing, nada, not a whit. Silence.

Reflecting on this exchange, Bonnie Greer said, 'the Lord has the power in the situation...for he controls his reality.' Jesus is teaching us that 'every human being has the right, the power, not to answer.' She was suggesting that Jesus, silent before Pilate, teaches us that true power need not lie in strength and might, in violence and coercion, in dictating what the reality of another person's life might be, or in forcing another nation to submit – President Putin be aware.

Instead, power can live inside us, said Greer. Silence can be louder than words, power can be the right to define who we are; the power to name ourselves and not to answer to a name or a condition that is not us, but is being imposed upon us. This power to do so is exemplified by Christ, and comes to us from God.

So what's in a name? Just as the name of Jesus has such meaning to us, so does our name to him. We have an everlasting name from God, an identity which can never be tarnished, never ripped away from us, by which we can define ourselves beyond the power of any human tyrant or any evil. For we have each all been called by that name, by God; so do not be afraid. You are a child of God, and you are His, forever. Amen.

## PARISH REGISTER

### Deaths

Joseph Macdonald  
Bruce Scott

### Departures

Eleanor Gollan  
Scott Macdonald

# THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

<b>May</b>					
12	Samuel	15, 16	/	I Corinthians	7
13	Samuel	17, 18	/	Psalms	52-54
14	Samuel	19, 20	/	I Corinthians	8
15	Samuel	21, 22	/	I Corinthians	9
16	Samuel	23, 24	/	I Corinthians	10
17	Kings	1, 2	/	Psalm	55
18	Kings	3-5	/	I Corinthians	11
19	Kings	6, 7	/	I Corinthians	12
20	Kings	8, 9	/	Psalms	56, 57
21	Kings	10, 11	/	I Corinthians	13
22	Kings	12, 13	/	I Corinthians	14
23	Kings	14, 15	/	I Corinthians	15
24	Kings	16, 17	/	Psalms	58, 59
25	Kings	18, 19	/	I Corinthians	16
26	Kings	20, 21	/	II Corinthians	1
27	Kings	22	/	Psalms	60, 61
28	Kings	1-3	/	II Corinthians	2
29	Kings	4, 5	/	II Corinthians	3
30	Kings	6, 7	/	II Corinthians	4
31	Kings	8, 9	/	Psalms	62, 63
<b>June</b>					
1	Kings	10-12	/	II Corinthians	5
2	Kings	13, 14	/	II Corinthians	6
3	Kings	15, 16	/	Psalms	64, 65
4	Kings	17, 18	/	II Corinthians	7
5	Kings	19, 20	/	II Corinthians	8
6	Kings	21, 22	/	II Corinthians	9
7	Kings	23-25	/	Psalms	66, 67
8	Chronicles	1-3	/	II Corinthians	10
9	Chronicles	4-6	/	II Corinthians	11
10	Chronicles	7-10	/	Psalm	68
11	Chronicles	11-14	/	II Corinthians	12
12	Chronicles	15, 16	/	II Corinthians	13
13	Chronicles	17, 18	/	Galatians	1
14	Chronicles	19-21	/	Psalm	69
15	Chronicles	22, 23	/	Galatians	2
16	Chronicles	24-27	/	Galatians	3
17	Chronicles	28, 29	/	Psalms	70, 71
18	Chronicles	1, 2	/	Galatians	4
19	Chronicles	3-5	/	Galatians	5
20	Chronicles	6, 7	/	Galatians	6
21	Chronicles	8, 9	/	Psalm	72
22	Chronicles	10-12	/	Ephesians	1
23	Chronicles	13-15	/	Ephesians	2
24	Chronicles	16, 17	/	Psalm	73
25	Chronicles	18-20	/	Ephesians	3
26	Chronicles	21-23	/	Ephesians	4
27	Chronicles	24, 25	/	Ephesians	5
28	Chronicles	26-28	/	Psalm	74
29	Chronicles	29, 30	/	Ephesians	6
30	Chronicles	31, 32	/	Luke	1:1-38
<b>July</b>					
1	Chronicles	33, 34	/	Psalms	75, 76
2	Chronicles	35, 36	/	Luke	1:39-80
3	Ezra	1, 2	/	Luke	2
4	Ezra	3, 4	/	Luke	3
5	Ezra	5, 6	/	Psalm	77
6	Ezra	7, 8	/	Luke	4
7	Ezra	9, 10	/	Luke	5
8	Nehemiah	1, 2	/	Psalm	78:1-37
9	Nehemiah	3, 4	/	Luke	6
10	Nehemiah	5, 6	/	Luke	7



# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Information on the forthcoming Youth Programme is not included in the dates below. For up-to-date details, please check the church website and weekly intimations or phone the church office on 0131 667 1522

## MAY

**Sun 14 Sixth Sunday of Easter and beginning of Christian Aid Week (see page 9)**

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

Tue 16 10.00am Morning Prayers  
2.30pm Afternoon Service of Holy Communion

**Sat 20 Start of General Assembly (see page 8)**  
The Seven Hills of Edinburgh Charity Walk 2023 (see page 10)

**Sun 21 Seventh Sunday of Easter**  
10.30am Joint Worship Service (Revd Dr George Whyte)

Tue 23 10.00am Morning Prayers

Sat 27 4.00pm Messy Church at Priestfield Church

**Sun 28 Pentecost**  
9:30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr George Whyte)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr George Whyte)

Tue 30 10.00am Morning Prayers

## June

**Sun 4 Trinity 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)

Tue 6 10.00am Morning Prayers  
7.30pm Kirk Session in Bill McDonald Hall

Thu 8 2.00pm Coffee and Blethers

Sat 10 PILGRIMAGE WALK - Beal Farm Cafe to Lindisfarne (see page 12)

**Sun 11 Second Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 13 10.00am Morning Prayers

**Sun 18 Third Sunday after Pentecost**  
10.30am Service lead by Bettina Hather and the Young People of the Congregation

Tue 20 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 22 2.00pm Coffee and Blethers

**Sun 25 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost**  
9:30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 27 10.00am Morning Prayers

## July

**Sun 2 Fifth Sunday after Pentecost**  
10.30am Joint Service of Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 4 10.00am Morning Prayers

**Sun 9 Sixth Sunday after Pentecost**  
10.30am Joint Service of Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

# WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

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

## Minister

Rev'd Dr Alexander Forsyth AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 667 1286

## Pastoral Assistant

Position Vacant

## Children and Young Adult Worker

Bettina Hather youthworkermspc@gmail.com 0778 319 0114

## Church Manager

William Mearns churchmanager@googlemail.com 0780 801 1234

## Organist

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

## Session Clerk

Boyd McAdam clerkmSPC@gmail.com 0777 358 7579

## Treasurer

John Graham culkein@btinternet.com 0131 667 6331

## Safeguarding Co-ordinators

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

## Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

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

## Mayfield Radio Unit

The Studio mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com 0131 667 7742

## Church Address and Office

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

## Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits, please contact the Minister

## Staff Days Off

Minister: Mondays  
Children and Young Families Worker: Mondays  
Manager: Monday-PM & Fridays

## Social Media Accounts

-  [www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury)
-  [www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh](http://www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh)
-  [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.msyg](http://www.instagram.com/the.msyg)
-  [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)



The Church of Scotland

## SCAN TO GIVE



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for July/August issue

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