

St Andrew's and St George's West July – August 2017 Magazine

ST ANDREW'S &
ST GEORGE'S WEST
EDINBURGH





Caring for Ourselves

**Summer activities for children at
St Andrew's and St George's West
Tues 1-Thurs 3 August 2017
10am-12.30pm**

Come along to our popular creative workshops for children (aged 3-12) This year's theme is **caring for ourselves**

Tuesday 1 Aug sing and make music
with Jane from Fischy Music

Wednesday 2 Aug move and dance
with Jennifer from Dancebase

Thurs 3 Aug have fun making healthy food with chef Pete of the Undercroft Cafe

Workshops are free, and you can stay and have lunch in the Undercroft for a special price of £3pp.

Book your place now – speak to Sophie in the church office (0131 225 3847) or email admin[at]stagw.org.uk Please bring an adult with you!



July - August 2017 Magazine

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The mag takes a break over the summer – but our inbox is always open for photos and contributions! magazine[at]stagw.org.uk.
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Vows, Sparrows and Swans in Summer!

Ian Y Gilmour

On the last Sunday in June we prayed to **nurture one another in faith, uphold one another in prayer and encourage one another in service.**

We heard these vows being taken:

Your baptism makes you a member in Christ,
and brings you into the family of God.
Now your home is in the Christian community,
and you will always have a place in it.

Do you promise,
depending on the grace of God,
to serve the Lord
and to continue in the fellowship of the Church
all the days of your life?

Each candidate answers: **I do.**

James and Pat, your baptism made you a member of Christ, and brought you into the family of God. Your home is in the Christian community, and you will always have a place in it.

Believing in one God,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
and confessing Jesus Christ
as your Saviour and Lord,
do you promise to join regularly
with your fellow Christians
in worship on the Lord's day?

I do.

Do you promise to be faithful in reading the Bible, and in prayer?

I do.

Do you promise to give a fitting proportion of your time, talents, and money for the Church's work in the world?

I do.

Do you promise, depending on the grace of God, to profess publicly your loyalty to Jesus Christ, to serve him in your daily work, and to walk in his ways all the days of your life?

I do.

We who are gathered here represent the whole Church, the Church catholic. Word and Sacrament bring us the joy of Christ's presence in our midst. They also bring us responsibilities as Christ's people in this place.

Do we welcome James and Pat; and do we renew our commitment, with God's help, to live before all God's children in a kindly and Christian way, and to share with them the knowledge and love of Christ?

We said: We do.

James Campbell took his vows of confirmation and his wife Pat McKerrow recommitted herself to the church, local and global, and to the Christian way of life. This made a big impression on all who gathered because they are a respected couple, who live thoughtfully and share their gifts generously. James with his kindness and generosity of spirit, Pat through her skills of photography, writing and her awareness for knowing what truly matters.

It was a 'coincidence', knowing of Pat's wonderful bird photographs that the gospel passage for the day was this section of Matthew's gospel,

“For only a penny you can buy two sparrows, yet not one sparrow falls to the ground without your Father’s consent. As for you, even the hairs of your head have all been counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows”

So when Pat offered me some of her photos of sparrows and swans I knew we were cooking up a service with some very good ingredients! Even so it surprised me just how many people commented after worship saying that they were ‘touched’ having found it a strong, moving service.

The choir had produced another excellent ‘Spiritual’ as the anthem and James and Pat chose ‘Be Still in the presence of the Lord’ (played by Drew on piano and Clara on flute) and ‘Be thou my vision’ to be shared as we received the bread and wine from the Lord’s table, it was very special for many people.

The other aspect which deeply connected was asking members to consider and retake their vows to God and the church.

For those who were not at church I have been asked to list the vows of confirmation again so that we can reflect and use them and live them afresh during this summer, which is why they are listed at the start of this article.

We gave James and Pat a book each, both by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury and patron of our Christian Aid sale. They are both exceptionally good. ‘Being Christian’ and ‘Being a Disciple’, both received many 5 stars reviews on Amazon, here is one of them:

“A very simple guide about four of the key elements of Christianity, superbly written. I was a bit surprised at how well it reads as I always thought Rowan Williams was very academic. Not so with this book - anyone interested in the topic will find this a very enlightening read. It is also nicely published. Strongly recommended for Christians old and new.”

The sermon concluded with these words,

There is no divine insurance policy protecting our health as “Christian swans and sparrows”; nor for our protection as we board an aeroplane, there is no promise of deliverance in times of fire, cancer, famine or terror attack. There is only one guarantee: a certainty which stands the test of time and eternity rooted in the Jesus story.

It is that God loves us and will be with us, no matter what. Nothing can cancel God’s loving involvement, from our highest success to our deepest disaster. We are in church today only because disciples, apostles and martyrs paved the way, proving this truth, living as - sheep among wolves.

Jesus simply puts it this way,

Two sparrows can be bought for a couple of coins. Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father feeling the loss.

Enjoy a rich and blessed summer,

Ian

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.
Mother Teresa

I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich person to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven.

Jesus of Nazareth

Spread love everywhere you go. Let no one ever come to you without leaving happier.
Mother Teresa

Worship Strengthens and Transforms

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Christ, so consider joining us Sunday by Sunday. You can attend Communion at 9.00am, the All Age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am or come to all three!

Sunday 2 July

11am Morning Worship ...even a cup of cold water
Matthew 10:40–42

Sunday 9 July

11am Morning Worship *Delight* Matthew 11:16–19, 25–30

Sunday 16 July

11am Morning Worship A *Wedding* Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Sunday 23 July

11am Morning Worship *The Healthy Development of Children*
Matthew 7.7-12

Sunday 30 July

11am Morning Worship *Interfaith Matters* Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Sunday 6 August

11am Morning Worship Matthew 14:13–21

Sunday 13 August

11am Morning Worship *Celebrating Edinburgh's New Town*
Matthew 14:22–33

Sunday 20 August

11am Morning Worship A *Children's Communion* Matthew 15:(10–20), 21–28

Sunday 27 August

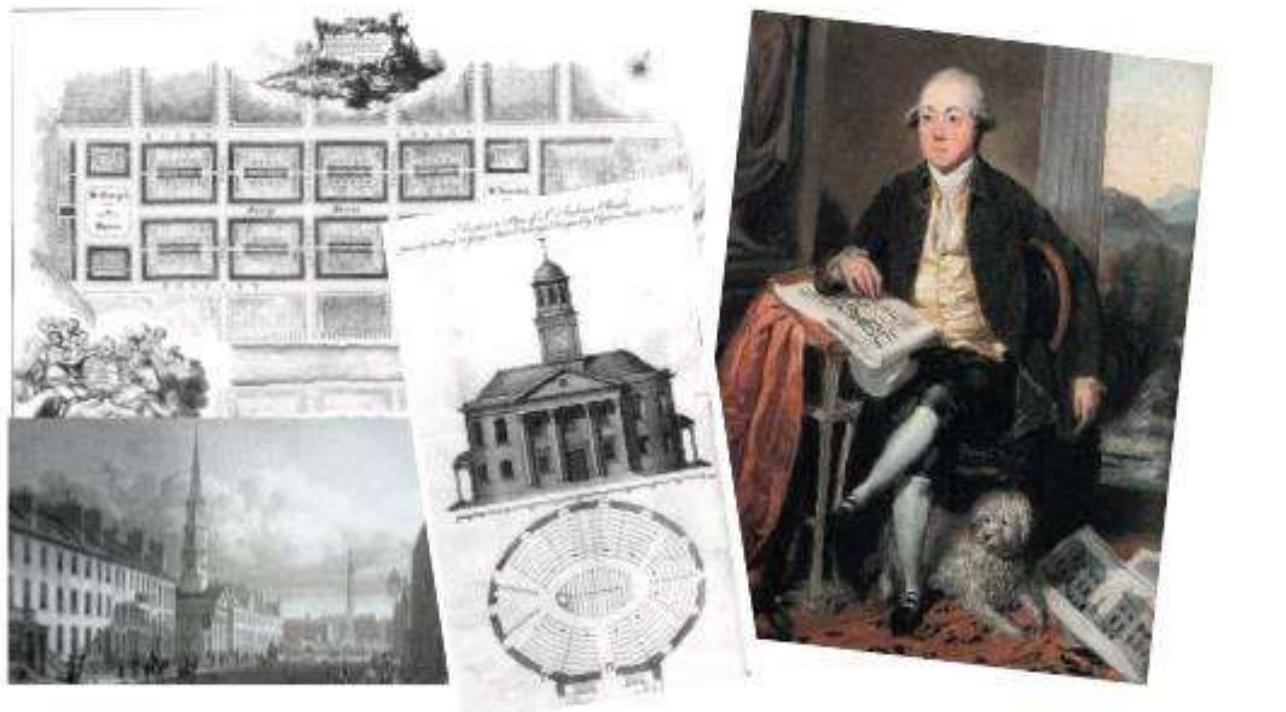
11am Morning Worship *Health and Diversity* Matthew 16:13–20

Sunday 3 September

11am Morning Worship *Creationtide* Genesis 1:1- 12

1767–2017 | Celebrate 250 years of Edinburgh's New Town

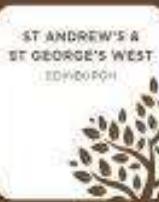
Sunday 13th August at 11am



James Craig's New Town Plan of 1767 transformed Scotland's capital city and its people.

Join us for a **special service of words and music** to mark the 250th anniversary of the New Town, now a UNESCO World Heritage site and the parish which St Andrew's Church was built to serve in 1784.

Everyone is welcome.



St Andrew's & St George's West
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Summer Diary

July 2017

Sun 2 July	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship noon Fellowship Lunch for Amnesty 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Sun 9 July	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Sun 16 July	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Sun 23 July	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Wed 26 July	7pm Shawshank Redemption (at Omni Vue)
Sun 30 July	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship; noon Communion NO Albany Deaf Church
Mon 31 July	12 noon Amnesty group meets, Undercroft

August 2017

Tue 1 Aug – Thur 3 Aug	10am-12.30pm Caring For Ourselves Summer programme of music, dance and healthy eating at StAGW for children aged 3-12 years. Free workshops - stay on for lunch in the Undercroft at £3pp. Please register in advance with Sophie Chalmers in the church office admin[at]stagw.org.uk
Sun 6 Aug	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship noon Fellowship Lunch 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 7 Aug – Sun 27 Aug	St Andrew's & St George's West at Festival Time fabulous programme of 70 performances of classical, jazz, world and Scottish music with artists from near and far. Book Festival Fringe including Kirsty Wark, James Runcie and Alistair McIntosh
Sun 13 Aug	9am, 9.45am worship 11am: Celebrating 250 years of the New Town
Sun 20 Aug	9am, 9.45am worship 11am: Children's Communion
Sun 27 Aug	9am, 9.45am, 11am worship
Mon 28 Aug	12 noon Amnesty group meets, Undercroft
Tue 29 Aug	7.30pm Kirk Session

Ringing Report

Simon Aves, Tower Captain

At the annual meeting of the Bell-ringers last November Mike Clay stood down after ten years as captain – I was elected in his stead, a very hard act to follow. Mike has given tremendous service to the bells, not only in his decade as captain but also in playing a major part in the project to get them ringing again after more than a hundred years.

For those who don't know me I have been ringing Mondays and Sundays at the church since 2007, and also ring each week at St Cuthbert's where I am Tower Secretary. I am also Treasurer of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers.

The major event (in ringing terms) in the last year at St Andrew & St George West has been hosting the world-wide conference of ringers at the end of May. Despite being established in 1892, this was the first time that the Central Council of Church Bellringers has ventured into Scotland in its history. Acting as hosts the Scottish Association of Change Ringers thought it appropriate that the meeting be held in the church where ringing started in Scotland back in 1789, and the weekend was a huge success. My thanks go to everyone at the church for their help in making the proceedings go so

well – we received many compliments including a desire to be able to '*bundle the venue up and take it to wherever we hold the meeting from now on!*'

The other highlight of our last year has been the reception held in November to celebrate ten years since the restoration of the bells.

We have also been pleased to be able to welcome members of the public to see the bells in situ on

Open Doors Day last September, and similarly to guide both the choir and members of the Edinburgh World Heritage Friends and Scotland's Churches Trust into the belfry to explain the intricacies of change-ringing and how the ringing of our bells differs from the vast majority of bells in Scottish churches. We are always happy to arrange such visits and give demonstrations of the art.

Our bells recently featured (for a second time) in Radio 4's Bells on Sunday programme, a recording made of a peal rung a couple of years ago. We also rang as part of BBC Music Day earlier this month, a quarter peal being completed to mark the retirement of George Burgess as Session Clerk.

It's a shame we can't just bundle this place up and move it around the country to host our meetings forever!

Similarly last July we rang a full peal to mark Tony Bryer's retirement, and in January another full peal in celebration of the life of Cathy Carson.

I am pleased to report that we have been able to ring the bells following Sunday morning service on most weeks of the last year. The quality of the ringing has been particularly good in the last few months. We continue to carry out whatever maintenance is required, and have nearly completed a repainting of the cast-iron frame.

My personal thanks go to the regular band who attend faithfully, and to the church for their support for my recently published *History of Change Ringing in Scotland*
Simon Aves



On behalf of the Scottish Association of Change Ringers (SACR), I want to pass on a big Thank You to all at StAGW who helped make the meeting of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers such a resounding success.

There was unanimous agreement from attendees that the venue was just perfect. There were many glowing compliments about the catering, the audio-visuals and internet streaming, the comfort and appearance of the venue, and the efficiency with which the meeting was handled. Thanks also to Ian for his welcome address and beautifully setting the right tone at the start of the meeting.

We at SACR want to thank you all for being so helpful to us in planning and executing this event, and for at all times being positive, practical and reassuring. Thank you to those who put in many hours of effort on our behalf. Please pass this message on to all those who helped out.

Colin North, SACR President



Meeting in spirit around the table

On Sunday 25 June Michael Cunliffe of St Andrew's and St George's West handed over the cheque for funds raised at the Christian Sale here in May, of £90,000. In his words...

Although the cheque is presented in the name of our congregation, many different actors contribute to the success of the annual Christian Aid Sale.

First, there are the donors, who give us the merchandise to sell. Without them, there would be no Sale. Then there are the customers who come to buy. Without them, there would be no Sale. There are the volunteer helpers, some from this congregation, some from other churches, some from no church at all, who sort and price everything, and man the stalls, fetch and carry, do administrative tasks, provide catering. Without them, there would be no Sale. Then there is Ronnie's team, the people who literally do the heavy lifting and transport things to and from storage. Without them, there would be no Sale. There are corporate supporters – the City Council, who provide us with warehousing and issue permits for occupying the road surface, all free of charge; Bernard Hunter, who supply, deliver and remove the vital container in the lane, free; Standard Life who give us the use of their car park on the first day of the Sale and a number of others. Without them, the Sale as we know it, would not be possible.

The Sale is therefore the combined achievement of a diverse range of mutually supportive and interdependent groups of people. To paraphrase St Paul, in 1st Corinthians, there are many members, yet one body, the body depends on all the parts, functioning together.

It's sometimes referred to as Book Sale but of course it's about far more than books. There are antiques and collectables, catering and baking, pictures, toys and games, records and CDs, sheet music, maps, stamps and postcards and quizzes. Again, each activity plays its part in contributing to the whole, and the product of our combined efforts are not confined to money.

There is fellowship for all those involved in the work and, for some, a sense of belonging and self-worth which they may feel is lacking at other times. There is the goodwill of our donors and customers, in feeling that they are contributing to something worthwhile, and there is Christian witness at the



Sally Foster-Fulton and Michael Cunliffe

heart of the city centre, sending out a message about a faith that is prepared to go out into the street and to work to make a difference to the needy people of the world. All in all, a rich harvest. It therefore gives me great pleasure to present the financial fruit of these endeavours in the form of this cheque for over £90,000.

Sally Foster Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland, replied....

Good morning. And thank you. It gives me such pleasure to be able to be here with you this morning, and especially when I received the order of service and realised that it was Communion. Because Communion is a living expression of the justice that Christ calls us to. A world where there is enough for everyone. Where there is always room, always space - where there is always wealth. So it could not be more fitting for me to come and say thank you on your day of Communion.

Michael said that without so many people there would be no Sale. Well, without you and thousands of people like you, there would be no Christian Aid. Christian Aid, because of you, is able to work in 39 countries around the world. Christian Aid, because of you, was able to highlight the plight of 65 million people today – 1 in every 113 people on our planet – who are forcibly displaced from their homes. And so this year, Christian Aid Week highlighted the plight of refugees across our planet.

Behind every single number is a name. Behind every single statistic is somebody's story. And so as you gather around the table at communion this morning, you are bringing them round your table as well.

So thank you from Christian Aid. But so much more than that, thank you from the millions of people that you will never meet, who you are standing with in solidarity today. Thank you on behalf of 65 million brothers and sisters today who have no safe place to call home. But because of efforts like yours, there is hope.

Christian Aid works with three different huge priorities. Sustainable international development - where transformation occurs. Immediate humanitarian aid - where need is greatest. And campaign and advocacy – so that we highlight the root causes of poverty, root them out and make changes. And it's about transformational partnership. Partnership that doesn't just change things "over there" but changes us "in here."

So on behalf of Christian Aid Scotland, Christian Aid which is a global partnership, and all these brothers and sisters you will never meet in person but you meet in spirit round this table, thank you for what you do. Without you we would not exist.



Benevolent Fund

Alison Campbell

Our congregation has a Benevolent Fund made up of various previous funds, donations and legacies.

Last year, at their meeting on 25 October, the Benevolent Fund Group (John Innes, Jean Mackinlay, Shona Simon and Alison Campbell) made recommendations and the Kirk Session approved grants to the following organisations, totalling £5,176, along with a further £1,375 already agreed by the Kirk Session to support the Matron of Mulanje Mission Hospital in the first year of her 2-year post-graduate degree.

Mulanje Mission Hospital Prison Clinic; £676 for a further 12 mths of prison clinics (cost of £13 per week). We would like to continue this support for another year, as we have a commitment to Mulanje until December 2018.

Five Talents (micro-finance in various African countries): a grant of £1,000 for 1 year

Edinburgh Clothing Store: a grant of £1,000 for 1 year

North West Carers Centre, Granton: a grant of £1,500 for 1 year

Penumbra (support for mental health): a grant of £1,000 for 1 year.

The second instalment of Mrs Tabu Gonani's support will be paid in June 2017 - £1,375.

For 2017 the congregation is asked to consider any charitable organisations they would wish us to support. There is an application form, and members can obtain the form from the Church Office and send it to their chosen charity, or suggest that the charity gets in touch directly with the office or with a member of the Benevolent Fund Group.

The next meeting of the Fund will be in October and **applications should be with any member of the Group, the Church Office or the minister by Sunday 24 September 2017.**

All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small...

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

"Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks....because of what the Lord has done for us!".

These words, from the famous hymn by Henry Smith, have been resonating in my mind ever since they were sung during a special service in St Andrew's and St George's West, on 25 June. Yes, the context in the hymn is different, but nevertheless these words perfectly express how I feel about my life generally, as well as all that I derive from the time I spend enjoying our natural world.

Of course, neither my life nor the lives of my local wildlife friends always run smoothly; there are challenges and disappointments, worries and sadness, yet underlying all of it, there is hope, there is strength, there is joy, and there is indeed immeasurable gratitude.

None more so than with the young mute swan pair I have followed on the Water of Leith since early 2016. I watched as they mated this Spring; and in turn I saw them build, lay eggs in, then abandon three nests. I feared this was going to be a 'childless' year for them when in mid-April, they moved away from their preferred nesting area and returned to their regular home stretch a mile or so downstream. Imagine then my delight when a few weeks later, I heard they were preparing a new nest site. It sounded perfect, but when I first saw it, sitting in the midst of a flood risk section of the Water of Leith, my heart sank. Its proximity to the water's edge and only inches above the water level; how could it possibly prove successful for them?

Whenever I read again about the 'fruits of the Spirit' (Galatians 5:22-23), and my eyes light upon "patience", there can surely be few better examples in the natural world than a female swan incubating her eggs. Over the course of a few days, she (my pen), laid her five new eggs, and then began her wait. For thirty-nine days she sat there, hardly moving, hardly eating, and for a second year, I marvelled at her incredible patience. Her commitment and determination too, and I felt how desperately she deserved to have her cygnets reach adulthood this time.

When I arrived at the nest site on 3 June, the signs were instantly recognisable to me; the wider spread of her wings across the nest, her slight twitching movements as if being irritated by something underneath, and the tiniest little 'squeak' sounds - I knew the cygnets had started to

hatch. One by one little heads emerged from between mum's wing feathers until finally all five new family members were in view. What a joy and privilege to witness, and to see love displayed by both adults.



Unfortunately, life took a sudden turn for them. Within two days, the tranquil scenes were destroyed by storms and torrential rain, causing the family to flee their flooded nest. I didn't need to visit the nest site; I knew it would be under water. I did however need to know where the swans had gone, and whether any of the longed-for cygnets had survived the ordeal. Instinct told me the swans would have headed home, and the chances of successfully transporting the cygnets a distance in such high, fast-flowing water, and with on-going heavy rain, seemed unlikely. Apprehensively, I made the journey myself, scouring the water and banks as I walked. I could not believe my eyes when I eventually reached the embankment, and there, out of the water, sheltering under trees, I found mum, dad, and yes, all five drenched, miserable and frightened looking cygnets. The adults allowed me to draw close, to no more than an arm's length from the cygnets; the emotion I felt was overwhelming. It all seemed miraculous, and I had the most thankful and grateful heart; not just for their survival, but also for the oneness I felt, there on their patch with them, sharing the most vulnerable and difficult of situations. In the words of Claude Monet, "My wish is to stay always like this, living quietly in a corner of nature."

Tragically, their good fortune was short-lived. Only two days later, three of the cygnets disappeared; I assume they were predated. In the weeks that have followed, I have spent many hours with the family, watching the two remaining little ones grow, watching them play together, watching them learn from their parents; also observing the parents, how protective they are towards them, and how much they seemed to have learned from their unsuccessful parenting experience last year. I treasure these moments and memories.



My most recent visit was particularly special – I had the whole area to myself and the only sounds audible were the ‘squeaks’ from the cygnets and the occasional ‘snorts’ from the adults.

“Be still, for the presence of the Lord,
the Holy One is here.....
Be still, for the glory of the Lord
Is shining all around;”

I cannot foretell what lies ahead for this family. Cygnets remain at their most vulnerable during the first eight weeks of life and don’t fledge until 5-6 months of age. With all my being I wish them well.

“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched – they must be felt by the heart.” (Helen Keller)

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow



Opening worship at the Kirchentag

A postcard from the Kirchentag

Liz Voges

From 24 to 28 May this year, the 36th “Churches’ Day” (Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag) took place in Berlin and Wittenberg with well over a hundred and twenty thousand participants.

2017 has long been a particular year for the German Protestant churches. Special events and imaginative ways of marking the publication of Luther’s 95 theses – and the beginning of the Reformation - have been taking place since the beginning of the year. It was decided to celebrate 500 years of Luther’s determination along with the Protestant Kirchentag.

Kirchentag has been a biannual event since 1949. After the war, a new start was needed and it was felt that Christians could help in the spiritual renewal. But hierarchies and officialdom had failed: the Kirchentag was conceived as a critical lay movement trying to find hope in insecure times.

A small-scale Roman Catholic gathering already existed since 1848 – which was also a time of great insecurity in the land to become

Germany. And recently, two ecumenical Kirchentage (Berlin 2003 and Munich 2010) have underlined how the churches can learn from one another. Last year, my husband and I went to the “Katholikentag” in Leipzig and found many things familiar. At the end of the closing service, an invitation to this year’s Luther-Kirchentag was passed on to the crowds.

So what happens at the Kirchentag? This mammoth gathering of the churches from all of Germany aims to explore our relationship to God and the world in more than three and a half thousand services, bible studies, discussions, lectures, exhibitions, art presentations, happenings ...

How can a host city cope with the challenges - transport, food and accommodation? Astonishingly, enough room is always found in the end. Like the Edinburgh Festival, every available space is used. Congregations of every denomination and many people of good will offer free sleeping spaces and breakfast. This in itself is very encouraging. Costs are kept low: Without the friendly young volunteers, acting as helpers and guides, coping with so many participants would not be possible.

I know that playing the numbers game in church terms can be discouraging and painful. But just sometimes to be part of a huge crowd trying out fresh expressions of faith, wrestling with political ideas, trying to understand new and challenging issues is stimulating, and fellow travellers share their stories, which can be inspiring.

Inclusion is more than a buzz word for those 5 days! It can cover so many areas – gender issues, interreligious attempts at understanding, political parties at different ends of the spectrum.

There had been great discussion as to whether the AfD – a very right wing political party – should be given a platform. There is a grouping “Christians in the AfD”, and they had a discussion with Bishop Dröge of Berlin in a big church in Kreuzberg. He was very well prepared. The AfD people were not condemned as heretics, but the packed congregation were far from convinced that AfD principles could be aligned with Christianity. Not everybody got into that discussion: The church was too full – not uncommon at the Kirchentag, even though some of the big halls hold 5000 or more. You have to plan your day

very carefully. If we had wanted to hear Obama talk to Angela Merkel, we would have to have been there very early.

In the evenings there are lots of concerts and special events. On Friday we went to a service at one of the sites where the Berlin Wall was built in 1961. Overnight a wall was erected in the middle of the street dividing East and West. Confused people jumped from windows to their death. Some were trapped in hastily dug tunnels, some were shot. Now the “death strip” is a cornfield, and no-man’s-land is a small allotment area. We sat on the grass and were led in a simple service, then formed small groups to share in an “Agape” meal. Some of those in our group had been on the “wrong” side of the wall. We thought in thankfulness of the restored freedom. We prayed for those who today are risking their lives for an uncertain future.

There is so much more to say... I haven't mentioned the four enormous halls devoted to congregations, NGOs, communities and groups, who set out their stalls and are keen to share ideas. It is exciting to spend a spare hour here - you can come away with lots of leaflets.

On more than three occasions different Scottish friends have joined us at a Kirchentag. It has been good to share our impressions. The amount of provision for non-German speakers is growing.

So I finish with the formula at the end of every Kirchentag: “If it is the Lord’s will and we are alive – see you in Dortmund in 2019.” Maybe not - but I find it rather moving each time.



Book Festival Fringe

at St Andrew's and St
George's West

Poacher's Pilgrimage – An Island Journey

Alastair McIntosh is a writer, broadcaster and activist on land reform, spirituality and ecology. His pilgrimage across the island where he was born, Harris to the south, Lewis to the north, is a thought-provoking journey relevant to current events.

Wednesday 9th August 4.30–5.30pm • £7 (£5 concession)

Distinctively Scottish

Kirsty Wark is one of television's most experienced presenters and author of *The Legacy of Elizabeth Pringle*. **James Runcie** is a director of television and theatre, radio commissioner and author of *The Grantchester Mysteries*. Here they reveal their favourite Scottish books.

Wednesday 16th August 12.30–1.30pm • £7 (£5 concession)

Moses

Tue 18 July 7.30pm
School of Philosophy,
13 Chester St, Edinburgh
£6, inc refreshments

This lecture by **Margaret Ann Fraser** explores how Moses led the people out of bondage in Egypt.

(Hebrew: *Mitzrayim* "place of narrowness, limitation").

A place where people were caught up in materialism and believed that those in positions of power were justified in their arrogant disregard for those beneath them.

Within each of us there is a spiritual Mitzrayim from which we must extricate ourselves daily. The transition from a materialistic value system takes time – perhaps 40 years in the wilderness?

Part of the Summer Lecture Series at the School of Philosophy

www.philosophyscotland.com

Where was God in the story?

David Todd

With financial assistance from the Together Trust I have embarked on a new strategy in my work in Theatre and Cinema Chaplaincy.

As well as offering pastoral support to visiting actors and theatre and cinema workers I have been taking church folk from the three Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together (as well as Greenside Parish Church and my own church Old Saint Paul's) to the theatre and cinema and showing films in church all with theological discussions afterwards – asking, “Where was God in the story?”

It started in a small way with a visit to the film *Light between Oceans* at the Vue Cinema where I am Chaplain. In the new year a group of 15 saw *Silence* the new Martin Scorsese film about Jesuit missions to Japan in the 17th Century and had a bigger discussion afterwards led by Jack Thompson, an expert on this period of church history. A group of 10 saw *Picnic at Hanging Rock* at the Royal Lyceum Theatre which provoked a particularly interesting discussion as it was not overtly religious.

20 came to St Andrew's and St George's West to see the film *Billy Elliot* which with its hard language but incredibly moving story line of a ballet boy in a Yorkshire village during the Miners' Strike sparked a lively discussion. Over 50 people came to see the next film *Amazing Grace* which worked almost as an elaborate and highly dramatized sermon as it told the story of William Wilberforce's twenty-year fight to abolish slavery in the British Empire so powerfully.

More recently a group of 12 came to *Glory on Earth* at the Royal Lyceum Theatre – a new play about John Knox and Mary Queen of Scots and, once again, there was an excellent discussion. There are plans for more.

David Todd , Arts Outreach Project Leader
Greenside/Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER



Film Showing and Discussion

The Shawshank Redemption

Screen 6,
Vue Cinema, Omni Centre
Wednesday 26 July 2017 at 7pm

David Todd, Arts and Entertainment Outreach Project Leader for Greenside Parish Church in partnership with Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together is showing the film *The Shawshank Redemption* on

Wednesday 26 July 2017 at 7pm at Screen 6, Vue Cinema in the Omni Centre where he is Chaplain.

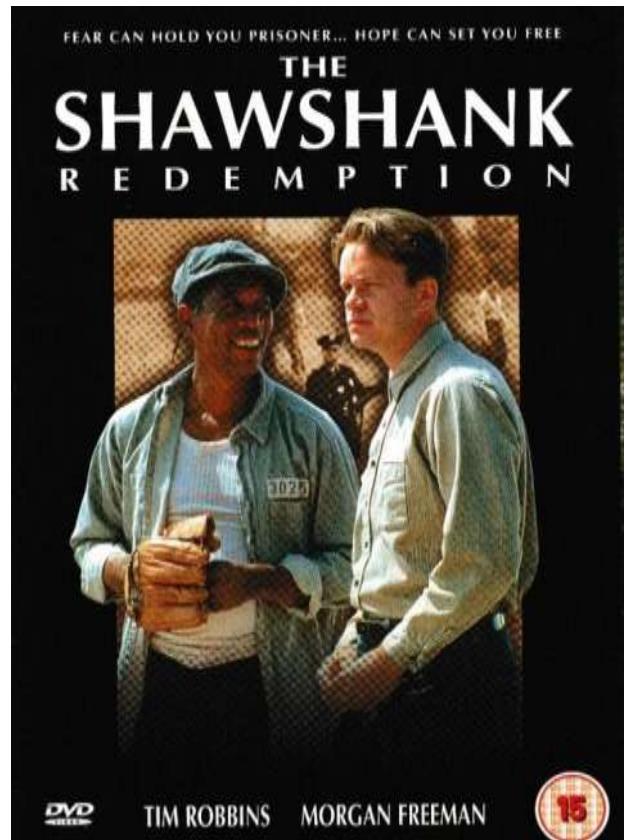
The film lasts 2 hours 16 minutes and will be followed by a short discussion finishing by 10pm. Donations welcome.

The Shawshank Redemption was nominated for seven Academy Awards including Best Picture and Best Actor (Morgan Freeman).

Based on a Stephen King story it is an extraordinary tale of hope, friendship and survival inside a maximum security prison. This beautifully crafted film features powerful performances from the entire cast and ultimately provides an uplifting message about the power of the human spirit and the value of hope.

Film quote: Andy Dufresne: [in letter to Red] “Remember Red, hope is a good thing, maybe the best of things, and no good thing ever dies.”

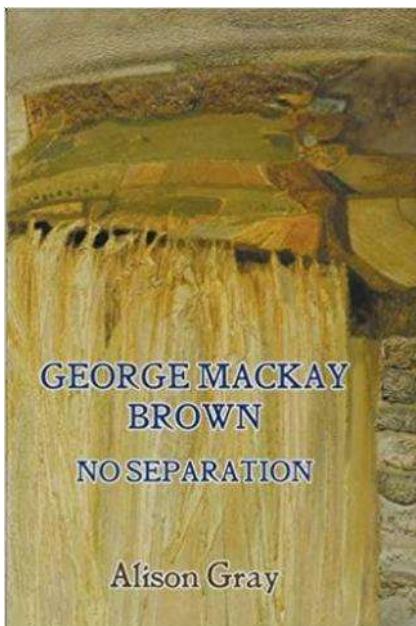
Critics Consensus: The Shawshank Redemption is an uplifting, deeply satisfying prison drama with sensitive direction and fine performances.



Cornerstone Bookshop

Reviews

Amanda Bruce



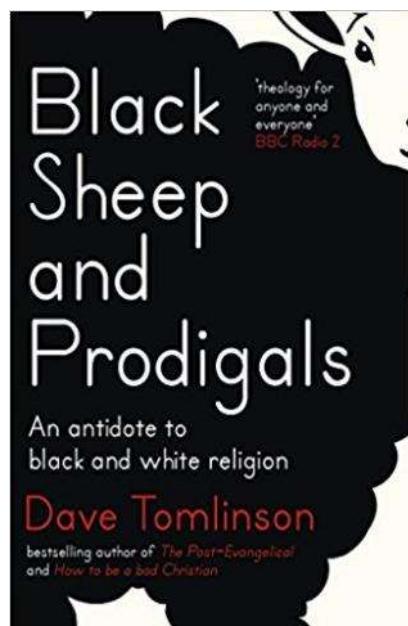
George Mackay Brown – No Separation

by Alison Gray

9780852448830 £14.99

One of the fascinating areas of interest for any lover of the poetry and prose of George Mackay Brown is the story of his faith and how this shaped his writing. Born in the Orkney town of Stromness, Mackay Brown grew up in a Presbyterian household yet always leaned towards Catholicism. His work is imbued with spiritual integrity and is rooted in an almost mystical sense of place. Gray (who knew George), explores this facet of his life and writing

along with the dualities – “natural and supernatural, cosmic and human, past and present, local and universal” – present in his work, doing so in the light of his communion, not just with Orkney, but with God, for of both he was in awe.



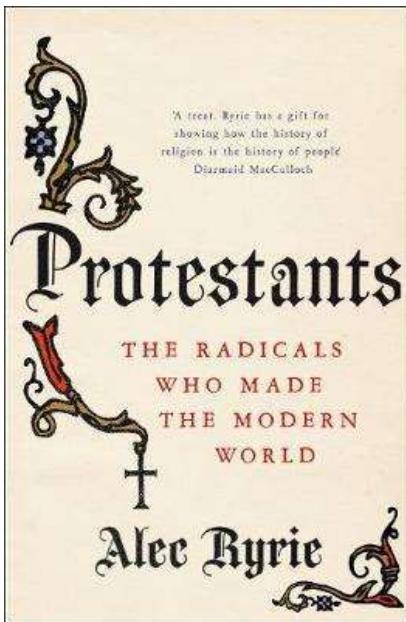
Black Sheep and Prodigals

by Dave Tomlinson

9781473611023 £14.99

“The church has always produced its ‘prodigals’ – people who have swum against the tide, thought outside the box or disobeyed the rules in their pursuit of greater understanding.” This book celebrates their approach and is a manifesto for what Tomlinson terms ‘Black Sheep’ spirituality – where doubts and questions are an essential part of faith and difference of opinion a sign of a secure community. Written from the heart, this book offers

its readers (particularly those who find themselves on the edge or who question the received wisdom of tradition) welcome on their journey of exploration into a life where God is present in the common, every-day things. It is thoughtful and highly readable, and would be an ideal conversation starter for a book-group.



Protestants – the Radicals who Made the Modern World by Alec Ryrie

9780007465033 £25.00

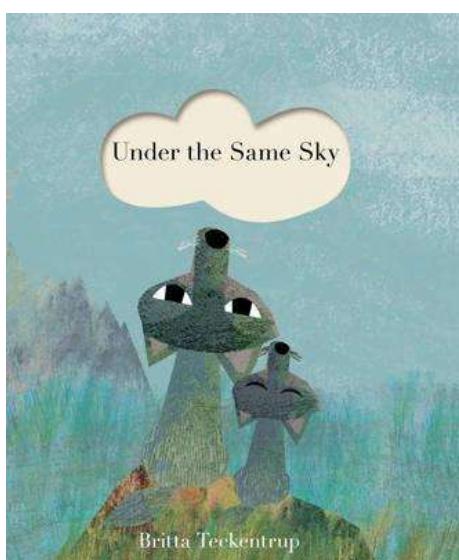
“Alec Ryrie,” writes Diarmaid MacCulloch, “has a gift for showing how the history of religion is the history of people;” Throughout the last 500 years Protestant Christians have held shared convictions yet have been found on both sides of the divide of all the great ideological battles to be fought. “They are forever starting new arguments and spawning new forms,” says Ryrie. Inevitably, individual convictions have spilled into social upheavals and political revolutions

and many of these occasions are explored here. Ryrie’s book is split into three sections – the first two looking at the Reformation and Modern age. In the third, he looks to the future. Holding a faith which, by its nature, is ever-changing, at once full of creative potential and danger, “Where,” he asks, “is the engine driving modern history headed as Protestants continue to play their part in the dramas that face the decades ahead?” Amid the current glut of writing on reformation history and its on-going influence this is a scholarly yet approachable and engaging contribution.

Under the Same Sky by Britta Teckentrup

9781848575868 £10.99

“We sing the same songs, caught on the breeze... We sing the same songs, across the same seas.” In this beautifully illustrated, ‘peek-through’, picture book, Britta Teckentrup’s typically lyrical yet simple writing is a timely celebration of the closeness of the world’s communities. Dedicated ‘For a united world’, each page depicts animals from different countries who, no matter where they come from, share hopes, dreams and emotions... “We feel the same love... in the cold ice and snow. We feel the same love... where soft meadows grow.”



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Church open	Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm: Sat 11am-2pm
Undercroft Café	Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm
Sunday worship	9am, 9.45am, 11am
Weekday worship	1pm Monday – Friday
Minister	Rev Ian Y Gilmour 0131 225 3847 (church) IGilmour[at]churchofscotland.org.uk
Associate Minister	Rev Tony Bryer
Pastoral Assistant	Rev Alistair McGregor
Session Clerk	Crispin Longden
Joint Treasurers	John Innes Allan Sim
Director of Music	Brigitte Harris
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