



St Andrew's and St George's West April 2016 Magazine





April 2016

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**Cover: Jean Howard (2016 St George’s Medal - for boldness)
and Cath Reid (2016 St Andrew’s Medal - for graciousness)**

Photo credits: Rosie Addis, Jane Brown, Brodie family, Alison Bruce, Andrena Crawford, Donald Gollan, James Macpherson, Pat McKerrow, Moira and Gordon Mungall

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to the magazine.

Copy deadline for the May issue is **Monday 25 April**.

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Editor Alison Bruce

Easter - not once upon a time ...

Rev Ian Y Gilmour

Easter looms so large within the Christian faith that it is hard to find something new to say, though paradoxically we do not really need a new clever point of approach.

Rather, I think, we need to hear the whole story afresh as if for the first time. In our congregation on Holy Saturday we offered men and women, children and adults an opportunity to read a chapter of Luke's gospel. It was very powerful for me seeing and hearing the old, old story as a unified whole. It was an immersive experience as it took three and a half hours, yet was beautifully connected with some poignant cello and piano from Joanna and Jamie.

Easter is still the most powerful tale in our era.

Easter - not another commercial one day only celebration...

The big corporate machine has been working harder than ever on Easter in 2016, bunnies, oceans of chocolate, cards and gifts all abound. Is it a form of alchemy as Christ's cross is not raised in the market place but rather becomes marketable, the rolled stone is turned into gold? There is much more to uncover on the spiritual than commercial plane.

Easter - a new path to a new destination...

Edmund Banyard is a fine writer and I like his poem about that day of days. It is entitled 'The Whisper' and it helps me and I trust will encourage you also to ponder and reflect on the encounter between heaven and earth on Easter Day and how it affects you?

There's a whisper in the darkness
There's a whisper in the night,
There's a whisper in the dawning
And it's growing with the light,
The man on the cross
Who was dead
Is risen, and he lives!

There's a whisper all around us,
There's a whisper on the breeze,
There's a whisper in the rushes,
There's a whisper in the trees,
The man on the cross
Who was dead
Is risen, and he lives!



There's a whisper that it is spreading
For the news has broken free,
Now the sound is growing louder
And it's news for you and me
The man on the cross
Who was dead
Is risen, and he lives! HE LIVES!



Risen Lord Jesus
all our hope and confidence
is centred in you.
through your life, death
and resurrection
You have blazed a trail
Through life's perplexities
and opened up a path for us to God.
Travel with us as we journey;
lead us safely through.

Easter is a gift - unwrap carefully and slowly, then apply it to your days on this planet

Enjoy the season of Easter,

Blessings, Ian



African Creed, Easter 2016



Learn About Love - Worship God

Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God.

1 John 4:7

Sunday 11am Morning Worship Themes

3 April	Speak Out <i>Acts 5:27-32</i>
10 April	A New Vision <i>Acts 9:1-6</i>
17 April	Showing Up <i>Acts 9:36 -43</i>
24 April	Tipping Point <i>Acts 11:1–18</i>
1 May	Shared Ministry <i>Acts 16: 9-15</i>
8 May	For The Common Good <i>Acts 16:16–34</i>

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!

Welcome Wendy!

Wendy Henderson, our new church manager, introduces herself

Wow! Where to begin? I have just been told to “start at the beginning and keep on going till I am finished”, I would probably take up the entire magazine if I did that, so I will try and keep it concise.

I have come home...

That is how I feel. I was brought up within the heart of Liberton Kirk, on the Southside of Edinburgh and the fantastic Rev John Cameron was my Dad's boss, they worked together for nearly 25 years. There was never a day when I wasn't involved in something to do with the Kirk, whether it be helping the Guild lay out their cups etc, sweeping up, helping stoke the boilers, latterly being a stand in Church officer at weddings etc if Dad was on holiday, the list goes on. I had a fabulous childhood within the Kirk, attending Brownies, Guides and on occasion the BB's and Scouts too, Saturday and Sunday Youthclubs, the Drama Group etc. The graveyard was my playground, not everyone's idea of fun I know! I got to understand the idiosyncrasies of church life and those who gave it life and breath, my debates with John were long and on occasion animated and quite possibly helped define my beliefs.

I have two fabulous sons, Gavin 25 and Keir 18, who are my world, and due to a long term relationship I also have two step children,



Wendy Henderson

Craig 21 and Alison 17. I live with my partner Keith, the two youngest children and our two border collie dogs Brock and Theo.

As many of you are aware, having seen my CV, I come from a varied background, I started in Hewlett Packard / Agilent Technologies building high quality electrical instruments, and quickly developed into various roles culminating in Event Management, Education and Training and is where I had the best of times. This was followed by a few years as a Business Analyst in a financial company, whilst doing this I attended night classes and discovered my talent for making stained glass, which I love to do, mainly as a hobby now.

What I hope to bring with me is my ability to organise, evaluate and deliver, on the whole in a calm and pro-active way. I try my best not to step on toes and apparently have a knack of getting the job done, or as one boss referred to me “a safe pair of hands”. I love a challenge and from what I have seen so far, I have a new one, albeit on a smaller scale than my previous roles.

I have been made to feel very welcome and have enjoyed meeting and getting to know the people who are the life blood of the church. If I have not met you yet, I hope that we get the opportunity very soon. Please feel free to knock on the door and introduce yourself, you never know, there may be some sweeties left in the treat bowl!

Deaths

Mrs Jean Sillar

Mrs Constance MacAulay

Baptisms

Henry John and William

Andreas Lunn

Stated Annual Meeting

Sunday 10 April at 12 Noon

review the 2015 accounts
look forward to 2016 and
beyond and ask questions

April 2016 Diary Dates

Sun 3 April	9am Communion, 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship 12 Fellowship lunch – WM Nepal 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 4 April	6.30pm Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland Lecture: Simon Green: From Abbotsford to Sanna Bheag, the vernacular revival in Scotland
Wed 6 Apr	7.30pm TOGETHER Nature Café Hustings
Sun 10 April	9am Communion, 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship 12 noon Stated Annual Meeting 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Wed 13 April	5.30pm Edinburgh Quartet Rush Hour Concert http://www.edinburghquartet.com/concerts/rush-hour-concert-edinburgh-4/
Thurs 14 Apr	7.30pm Edinburgh Presbyterial Guild Spring Rally with the Kevock Choir – everyone welcome
Sun 17 April	9am Communion, 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am service Union of Albany Deaf Church and St Andrew's and St George's West
Wed 20 April	10am-4pm Place for Hope Training Day https://www.placeforhope.org.uk/training/course/growing-through-conflict 7pm An Evening with Magnus Macfarlane Barrow, (Mary's Meals) http://www.eicsp.org/events/event-details/336-an-evening-with-magnus-macfarlane-barrow-20-april-2016
Sat 23 April	10am-4pm <i>God, Creation and Providence</i> St John's Theology Symposium (at St Cuthbert's)

Sun 24 April	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship 2pm Albany Deaf Church 2pm Hungarian Church
Mon 25 April	12.15pm Amnesty Group (Chapel)
Wed 27 April	2.30pm Evergreens
Sat 30 April	Coeliacs UK Mini-Food Fayre https://www.coeliac.org.uk/get-involved/events/2016/04/30/
May 2016	
Sun 1 May	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship Push n shove Sunday –clear the church for the CA Sale
Sun 8 May	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship
Sat 14 May	10am Christian Aid Sale opens (until Fri 20 May, not Sunday)
Sun 15 May	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship
Sun 22 May	General Assembly Sunday 9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together; 10.30am Discussion 11am Morning Worship with BB Silver Band 1-6pm Heart and Soul (Princes St Gardens) 7.30pm Affirmation Scotland General Assembly Service at STAGW

**Preparations for the
CA Sale 2016**

**Christian Aid
Sale 2016**

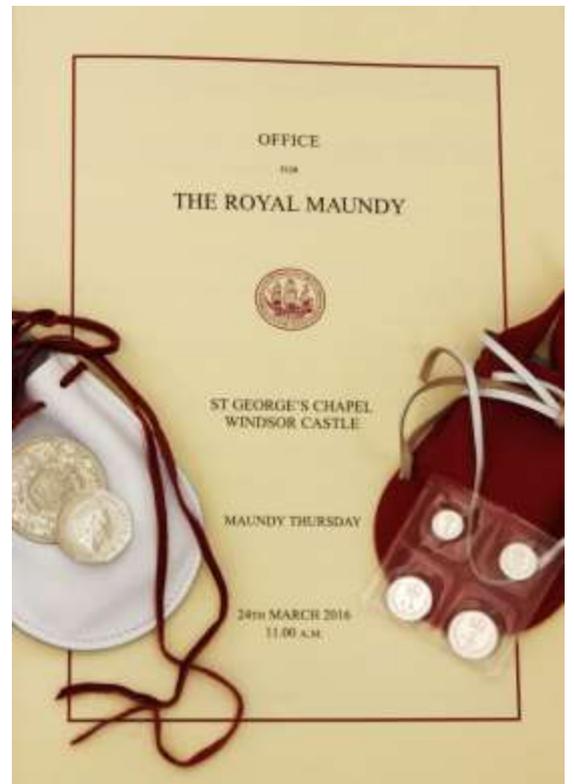
A New Commandment

The Royal Maundy Service

Thursday, 24th March, 2016

Bob Brodie

John X111 34 records that, on the day before Good Friday, after washing the disciples' feet, 'Jesus said: I give you a new commandment: Love one another: As I have loved you, so you are to love one another.' The word 'Maundy' comes from this new commandment ('mandatum') and Maundy Thursday commemorates the day of the Last Supper of Jesus Christ with the Apostles.



Order of Service

As early as the 4th century there are records of ceremonies of washing the feet of the poor which was accompanied by gifts of food and clothing. The tradition of the Sovereign giving money to the poor dates from the thirteenth century. The Sovereign also used to give food and clothing, and even washed the recipients' feet. The last monarch to do so was James II. Beginning with the reign of George I, both men and women have received gifts, each sex in a number corresponding to the monarch's age, each recipient receiving that number of pence.

In modern times recipients are chosen every year for their Christian service to their church and community. This year each of the 180 recipients received two Purses in a single distribution, one White containing the Maundy coins, and one Red containing the other money. The Red Purse contained a £5 coin commemorating The Queen's ninetieth birthday and a 50p coin commemorating the 950th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings, both coins having been minted in 2016. Historically, this sum of £5.50 in the Red Purse is made up of £3 for clothing, £1.50 in lieu of provisions and £1 for the redemption of the Sovereign's gown which, before Tudor times, used to be divided between the recipients. The White Purse contained 9 sets of uniquely minted Maundy Money each set of 10p in the form of one, two, three and four silver penny pieces.

Traditionally, the service was held in or near London, but early in Her reign the Queen, who almost always attends (she has been absent only four times in her reign), asked that it be held in a different church (usually a cathedral) across the country every year. Generally, recipients live in the diocese where the service is held, although in recent years there have been exceptions to this custom. This year, to mark The Queen's ninetieth birthday, The Queen in an unprecedented move asked that the ninety men and ninety women recipients should come from across England and Scotland. Thus the Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland was invited to nominate eighteen recipients from across Scotland. Andrena Crawford, Mary Davidson and myself were honoured to be included among these.



Arthur and Andrena Crawford; Bob and Jean Brodie

So it was that on 24th March 2016 us three with our respective 'carers', Arthur, Caroline and Jean along with another eighty nine men and eighty eight women each with their carers (normally a spouse or other close relative) made our separate ways to St George's Chapel,

Windsor Castle to participate in the historic Service for The Royal Maundy. And what a Service that proved to be.



Firstly, the Spectacle. St George's Chapel is a wonderful building with its rich combination of architecture, craftsmanship, heraldry and historical associations. Its perpendicular architecture, large windows and slender pillars give it an appearance of light and delicacy and its elegance is enhanced by the pale colour of the stonework. Into this sumptuous building, the magnificence of which was complemented by the Communion Table laden with gold communion plate, the Ceremony began with the entry of three richly colourful processions.

First to enter was the College of St George and Chapel Royal Procession led by the Governor of the Military Knights of Windsor, the Knights resplendent in their ornate red uniforms. Next to enter was the Queen's Procession led by the Virger of the College of St George marking time with his rod. Last to enter was the Royal Almonry Procession led by the Dean's Verger, Westminster Abbey marking time with his rod, including 6 Yeomen of the Guard each carrying a gold Dish bearing the Red and White Purses and the four children of the Royal Almonry carrying their nosegays. The Lord High Almoner completed the Procession. These Processions entered while the

congregation sang Newman's great hymn *Praise to the holiest in the height*. The Service then proceeded with military precision with the Queen, followed by Her Procession and the Royal Almonry Procession, moving through the Chapel on two separate occasions to hand the Red and White Purses personally to each of the one hundred and eighty recipients. The Service ended within an hour with the Queen's Procession leading the way out followed by the Royal Almonry Procession and the College of St George and Chapel Royal Procession.

Secondly, the Music. For around 40 minutes, while waiting for the Service to begin, the congregation was entertained with a recital of brilliantly played classical organ music by Bach, Handel, Mendelssohn, Brahms, Rheinberger and Howells. During the Service the two Choirs as well as leading the congregational worship, singing the responses and chanting the prose psalm, performed various works by Handel, Wesley, Elgar and Durufle.

Thirdly, the Worship. The Service opened with the Lord High Almoner reading the mandatum 'Love one another'. It set the tone for the whole Service and everything both before and after it, including the Prayers and the Lessons, emphasised the love which is at the core of our Christian values. The congregational singing of the three well loved hymns in the Service by a chapel full of church goers lifted the roof. The properly pointed and clearly articulated chanting by the Choirs of the prose psalm 138 *I Will give thanks unto thee* added meaning to it particularly to a died-in-the-wool presbyterian. And through it all the Queen with the Duke by Her side emanated friendly, loving care for all present. As she presented the Purses to each of the recipients her face lighted up in her wonderfully sincere smile. Behind, in the Royal Almonry Procession, the four Children of the Royal Almonry brought all down to earth with the two boys rather embarrassed by the nosegays they had to carry and the two girls in seventh heaven carrying their nosegays and smiling in a valiant attempt to equal the Queen's smile.

The Service ended with us all, Duke included, singing The National Anthem; rarely have I heard it sung with such feeling.

After the Processions had left the Chapel to the strains of Bach's 'Dorian' Toccata and Fugue the bells of the Curfew tower were rung and all the recipients and their carers were ferried up to the Castle for a

luncheon reception given by The Queen and hosted by the Governor and Constable of Windsor Castle. This was a very friendly occasion as we wandered through the State Apartments talking to other recipients and members of the Royal Household staff - a fitting way to end a memorable day.

As a postscript Jean and I completed our Maundy experience by going into London on Good Friday to watch a very moving performance of the Passion Play in a sunny Trafalgar Square.

Bob Brodie



Montage by Mary Davidson and Donald Gollan

A Great Honour

Andrena Crawford

It was a great honour for St. Andrew's and St. George's West to have three members chosen – Lady Davidson, Bob Brodie and myself.

We arrived at the South Door of St. George's Chapel to be welcomed by the Wandsmen and Lay Stewards who directed us to our seats. The recipients sat in front with our companions immediately behind.

The spectacle in the Chapel was wonderful, the Clergy in their beautiful Vestments, the Yeoman of the Guard (Beefeaters) in their colourful Tudor uniforms, the Military Knights of Windsor and the Chapel Choir, all adding great colour and pageantry to the occasion.

Her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh arrived at 11am and the Service began with the singing of that beautiful Hymn `Praise to the holiest in the heights`. The music throughout the service was quite fantastic and very moving.

This was a wonderful experience and a great honour to have been chosen, something which I will remember for the rest of my life.



**Outside St George's Chapel,
Windsor**

St George's Organ sounds again

Jean Mackinlay

Our church has recently heard again from Anna Page of St Mary and St Giles Church in Stony Stratford, near Milton Keynes. She writes:



“After ten years of fundraising and eighteen months of restoration work, the ‘Father’ Willis pipe organ in Stony Stratford’s St Mary and St Giles Church is finally ready to reveal its glories!

The organ illustrates 50 years of technical and tonal development by three generations of the famous organ-building Willis family. Originally built by Henry Willis I for St George’s Parish Church, in Charlotte Square, Edinburgh, the organ was enlarged and improved there and eventually purchased for Stony Stratford in 1967 after the closure of St George’s. Now, with several additional pipes and stops, including the distinctive Waldhorn, and beautiful new solid wood casework, the organ will look and sound as never before. What’s more, it will play at concert pitch for the first time, allowing choirs, orchestras and other instrumental groups to perform works involving the organ.

The inaugural choral concert on Saturday 23 April will feature the choir of the Open University, Director and Conductor Bill Strang. It will include music by several composers associated with St George’s Church for which the organ was originally built: Andrew Mitchell Thomson, its first minister; Alexander Mackenzie the 9th choirmaster, who subsequently became Principal of the Royal Academy of Music in London; and William Bowie, the last organist, who also taught at the ancient Royal High School – where Bill Strang was one of his pupils.”

Anna Page and her family were at the opening of our June 2014 exhibition which celebrated the 200th anniversary of St George’s Parish Church and the 50th anniversary of its union with St Andrew’s. She adds that anyone from our congregation would be very welcome to visit their church and hear the restored organ.

Music for all @ SMSG <http://www.musicforallsmg.org>

at St Andrew's and St George's West Easter Day



decorating the cross



Easter gifts – Easter eggs!



music on high



Easter Communion



sharing gifts





Christian Aid at St Andrew's and St George's West



An example of how “A good life requires bonds to others and bonds to place”

Mary Davidson with Donald Gollan

In 1950, Malcolm Hare, a young divinity student, left his native Northern Ireland and began his long Christian ministry and service to the Church of Scotland in Scotland, the land he loved from his days at New College. When Assistant at St. Michael's, Inveresk, he liked to attend evening worship sometimes at St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh. The friendships he made there have endured to this day. Now living in retirement in South Lanarkshire, he is recalling, with his phenomenal memory, people and places in his life. Wherever he and his family went, he collected mementoes. Recently, in response to our appeal, he packed 21 objects in a box and gave them to his son to take to Edinburgh for the Christian Aid Sale. The significance of these treasured possessions of a lifetime to a man of imagination is their potential value to Christian Aid which aims to help rebuild shattered lives.

(Quote from Alexander McCall Smith)



1. Miniature Bible (1 ¼" x 1 ¾"), Glasgow 1896, with minute magnifying glass, acquired in Canada in 1916 by Malcolm's father.
2. Four gold Parker 51 and 61 fountain pens bought 1947 -1952.
3. Covenanting Communion cups, one bought for 7/6 at a Woman's Guild sale at Langside Church, Glasgow, 1965.
4. St. Cuthbert's Cross pendants, given to those attending an International Ecumenical Conference in Durham, summer 1994.
5. Bookmark from Slovenia.
6. Bookends made by leprosy patients in Hong Kong.
7. Mug bought in Olney, Buckinghamshire, commemorating the birth in 1731 of the poet and hymn-writer William Cowper.
8. First edition of The First Book of the McFlannels (1947) by Helen W. Pryde, whose husband Walter was the Senior Elder at St. Andrew's.
9. Booklet celebrating 250 years of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, St. Andrews, 2004.
10. Midget nickel-plated money box for sixpences and half-sovereigns, early 20th century.

Age is no barrier to idealism nor youth to effectiveness.

Kathy Galloway reflects on 7 years as Head of Christian Aid Scotland



Kathy Galloway

From Shetland to Dumfries, from Skye to Dundee, and all points in between - over nearly seven years, I've had many opportunities to appreciate the beauty and diversity of Scotland, as I've visited hundreds of churches and communities where people support the work of Christian Aid. But more than the scenery, I've come to a new appreciation of the huge commitment, creativity and sheer hard work of Christian Aid supporters.

The fundraising that goes on in coffee mornings, concerts and book sales, Bridge Crosses and sponsored walks, cycle rides and marathons.

The campaigning of those who have marched many miles, lobbied their politicians, travelled to London, Belfast, Copenhagen and Paris to get serious action on climate change, which devastates the lives of so many across the globe - and increasingly affects those nearer to home.

The concern of the thousands who have responded to emergency appeals for people caught up in disaster or conflict through no fault of their own: in Haiti, Pakistan, East Africa, Gaza, the Philippines, Nepal; in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the refugee crisis in Syria.

And every year, I've marvelled at the organisation that goes into Christian Aid Week, the dedication that goes into house-to-house collections and the generosity of spirit shown in the prayers and church offerings on Christian Aid Sunday.

I've admired those who climbed mountains in our 70 Munros challenge, who have partnered with communities in Malawi, Brazil, Lebanon and many other places, and who have baked for Scotland!

I've discovered that age is no barrier to idealism nor youth to effectiveness.

And I am moved to see that the ability to imagine oneself in the shoes of someone in deep distress, or of a community which just needs a bit of outside help to build a decent and dignified future, still inspires so many supporters and churches to reach out to their global neighbours.

It is truly a gospel response of faith, hope and love.

And as I retire from working for Christian Aid (though not from being a supporter, which I will always be), I want to wish you well in all your efforts.

For Christian Aid Week, which this year focuses on low-lying river communities in Bangladesh, which are continually being swept away by repeated flooding and losing their food-growing land - a disaster for already poor families.

For all the campaigning and fundraising support you give throughout the year. For the prayers you offer for our work. And for being a vital part of this movement of faith, working with churches and partners around the world to challenge the unjust systems and practices that keep people poor.

Finally, if you are able, I'd encourage you to think about making a regular gift to Christian Aid. We all know from personal experience that it is easier and more effective to budget and plan if we can count on some regular income, and this is as true for Christian Aid as it is for ourselves or our churches. Even the price of two cups of coffee a month makes a huge difference when multiplied.

So, now it's over to Sally Foster-Fulton, the new Head of Christian Aid Scotland, and to the rest of the brilliant Scotland team. They are here to help you as you help others. Thank you, goodbye, and many blessings to you all.

Kathy Galloway

First published on the Christian Aid website,
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/scotland/latest-news/kathy-farewell.aspx>

Wednesday 20 April 2016

AN EVENING WITH

Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow



Speaker: **Magnus MacFarlane-Barrow** is the Founder and CEO of Mary's Meals.

Chair: Faye Clerk.

Venue: St Andrew's and St George's West Church,
13-17 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 2PA.

Time: Registration: 6.30pm-7pm.
Event: 7pm-approximately 9pm.

Cost: £10/£8 (Concessions)/£3 (Students).

For a Registration Form:

Contact: Neill Walker,
mesp2016@hotmail.com,
0131 331 4469.

Thanks from Jean Howard

Good morning one and all...

I sit here, savouring the first proper Americano from the wonderful machine you so generously gave me ...



Thank you for making Steve and I so welcome on Sunday. The day was very special for me and judging from the buzz in the Undercroft I think everyone enjoyed the celebration....

Three years have gone by in a flash. They have been filled with strong adjectives: exciting, amazing, frustrating, achieving, awesome, surprising, supportive, learning & mentoring (ok not adj.) You have shown me what can be achieved by positive minds, determination, a vision and enthusiasm... and faith. It was a great honor to receive the St George's Medal; very surprising and an emotional few moments.

... thank you for that and for the gifts, flowers and cheque. But most of all, thank you for the welcome, support and friendship of the last 3 years – and into the future

Best wishes,

Handwritten signature of Jean Howard.

Interfaith Peace Event

*Annandale Street Mosque
April 9th, 7-9pm*

**Religion and Middle East
Conflict; Interfaith
reflections on ISIS, Shia-
Sunni divisions and the
refugee crisis**

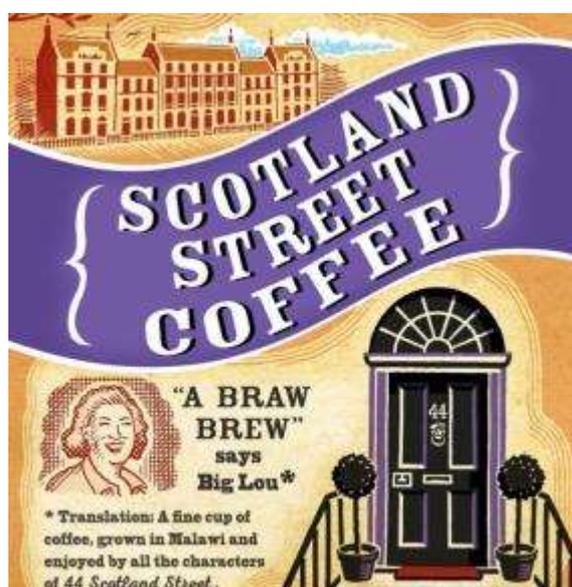
Free, organised by Uniting for
Peace Interfaith and
Annandale Street Mosque

Scottish Faiths Action For Refugees

The website for this initiative is
now live at www.sfar.org.uk/

Scotland Street Coffee

Brodie's Fair Trade coffee from
Malawi, educating girls through
the Mamie Martin Fund



General Assembly 21-27 May 2016

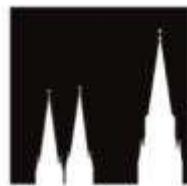
If you are interested in serving as a steward at the General Assembly this year please contact Sandy Gemmill at [assemblystewards \(at\) churchofscotland\(dot\)org\(dot\)uk](mailto:assemblystewards@churchofscotland.org.uk). People are asked to undertake two hour shifts on one or more days (some people offer to do more than one shift). Duties involve checking passes and directing people to the appropriate places in the building and managing the flow of people at busy times. Unfortunately no travelling expenses are paid. Teas and coffees and light refreshments are provided with a modest lunch allowance for those on duty over lunch time.

Sandy Gemmill, Chief
Steward, General Assembly
Principal Clerk's Office,
Church of Scotland Offices,
121 George Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 4YN

Journeying together with the world's faiths

A mini-series of discussion events

Held at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral



Palmerston Place, Edinburgh EH12 5AW

On Wednesday evenings, 7:30 - 9:30pm

Note: Please enter by the door on Manor Place.

Free events, information: faithandgrowth@gmail.com

Session 1: Wednesday 6th April

An introduction to the common threads of the world religions with Professor Frank Whaling and EIFA General Secretary, Iain Stewart.

Session 2: Wednesday 13th April

The origins of Christianity, Judaism, Islam.

Session 3: Wednesday 20th April

Origins of Hinduism, Sikhism, Buddhism

Session 4: Wednesday 27th April

Living our faith. A mixed interfaith panel in discussion.

Session 5: Wednesday 4th May

How faiths, working together can change society.



TOGETHER NEWS

March 2016

Robert Philp

David Denniston moves on

Our team in Together suffered a major change at the end of March when David Denniston, Minister of St Cuthbert's, left Edinburgh to become one of the team of Interim Ministers in the Church of Scotland. His wife, Jane, has lately been inducted to the Parish of Campsie (Lennoxton).

David's inspirational contribution to Together is something we need to treasure in retrospect. David was part of Together from its start in September 2008, and has been the longest-serving of the Together ministers.



David Denniston

What does he feel now as he looks back on his 7 ½ years with Together? I asked him what he felt as he looked back.

What has been Together's major achievement in your time?

David: The setting up and maintenance of the Workplace Chaplaincy. This built on initiatives that had been around in our churches earlier on, such as Oasis (outreach to businesses at St Cuthbert's) and the appointment at St Andrew's and St George's of an Outreach Minister. When the decision was taken to launch a Workplace chaplaincy on behalf of all the Together churches, we were extraordinarily fortunate in finding that Tony Bryer, who had earlier been the St Andrew's and St George's Outreach Minister, was available to come back to Edinburgh. Tony already knew the terrain, so was off to a flying start, and this Ministry has in a sense never looked back, and this has led on to a team of volunteer chaplains. Because the WPC was set up by all our three churches in partnership, it was a genuinely ecumenical initiative. Our joint action in this, therefore, is the key to future ventures.

What are your key hopes for the future?

David: For churches to find new ways of sharing the good news, - ways that are fresh, new and engaging. Proclaiming the good news shouldn't be left to those with extreme or over-simplified views. His great hope is that in the future we can find new ways to proclaim.

His other hope is for a sharing of the wonderful resource of buildings, space and staff that our three churches have in the vibrant centre of our city. We have a great unity of purpose, but there is always a danger of duplication going on. He hopes that in the future we shall manage our resources in the best way to the glory of God.

What is Together's biggest challenge?

David: To achieve ownership of Together by our three congregations. As the Trustees frame strategies for meeting the challenges thrown up by the city centre, the ordinary worshipper in our churches can all too easily feel distant from this and feel that our ecumenical effort and our outreach to the city community is being handled solely by this small group. The challenge is for our congregations to catch the vision, and feel part of our social outreach and our shared effort. Until this identification of congregation members with Together happens, we will be limited in the resources we can share.

When Together began, it was a time of continuous change as ministers came and went and St George's West merged with St Andrew's and St George's. This was a difficult time, David felt, and there was not always a clear shared vision. Recent years, however, have seen much greater stability, with three ministers steadily in office, and the direction and aims of Together have seemed more distinct and its vision clearer. One thing David will greatly miss is the fellowship of the three ministers, and the companionship of Ian Gilmour and Markus Duenzkofer on the journey.

David has often played a visionary role, ever concerned to find the best way the churches can fulfil their role in the city centre. All in Together wish him well in what he does next, and recognise with gratitude his prophetic and warm-hearted presence in all we have done over the last 7 ½ years.

Cornerstone Book Reviews

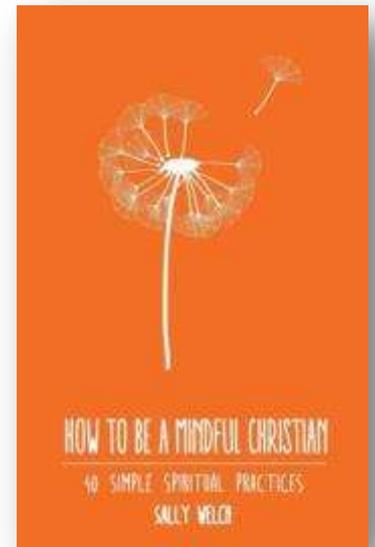
(new opening hours 10am-5.30pm)

How to be a Mindful Christian

Sally Welch

ISDN 9781848258457 £10.99

In this accessibly written book, priest and author, Sally Welch, successfully brings together the popular practice of mindfulness and the spiritual disciplines, such as prayer and contemplation, to offer more than 40 reflections and exercises designed to help individuals enter more deeply into their own faith. Aiming to bring God's presence into each moment of our lives and to deepen our awareness of the sacred in the day-to-day, this is an inviting and practical guide wherever we are on our journey.



Life's Great Questions

Jean Vanier

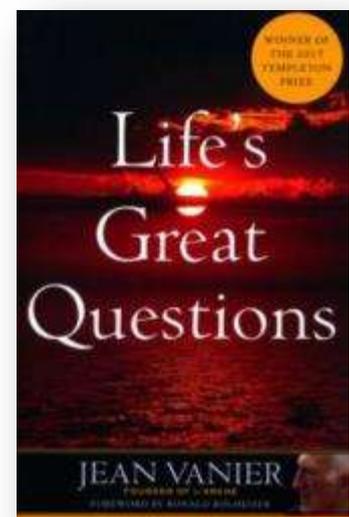
ISDN 9780281075959 £9.99

“What is the nature of reality?”

“How can we love?”

“What are we living for?”

Just three of the questions the world-famous philosopher and humanitarian, Jean Vanier, considers in this major new work. With the wisdom and experience which a nonagenarian might be expected to have amassed, Vanier is thoughtful and searching in his response as, through the text, he leads us to a fuller understanding of the questions themselves, encouraging us to look to our own faith and spirituality as, with the passing years, we each grow into the issues raised. Though it does not come with ‘study questions’, this would make an ideal book to read in a group while remaining a text to which individual readers will no doubt return again and again.



Cornerstone Book Reviews

(new opening hours 10am-5.30pm)

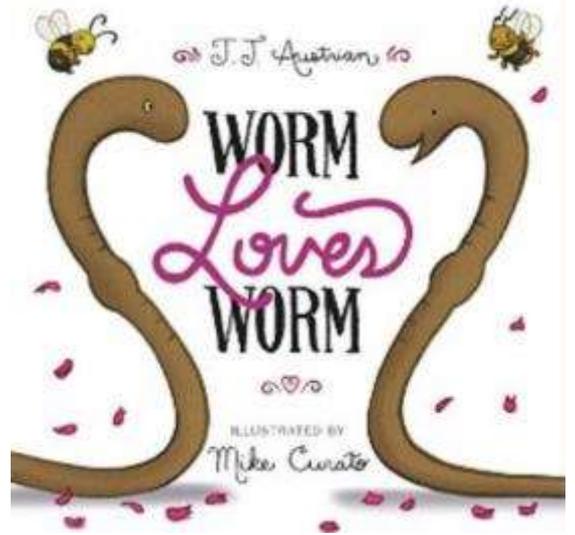
Worm Loves Worm

J.J. Austrian and Mike Curato

ISDN 9780062386335 £12.99

“You are cordially invited to celebrate the wedding of a worm... and a worm,” so reads the invitation on the cover of this delightfully illustrated story of two worms in love. Their friends want to be involved – some will be ‘bride’s bees’ and one the

‘best beetle’ – but they want to know, “Which one of you is the bride?” “I can be the bride,” says worm” “I can, too,” says worm” Simply told, this heart-warming tale avoids being sentimental to brilliantly explore the idea of love between two beings, regardless of gender (or species!) and despite the pressures of society. Highly recommended – not just for children!

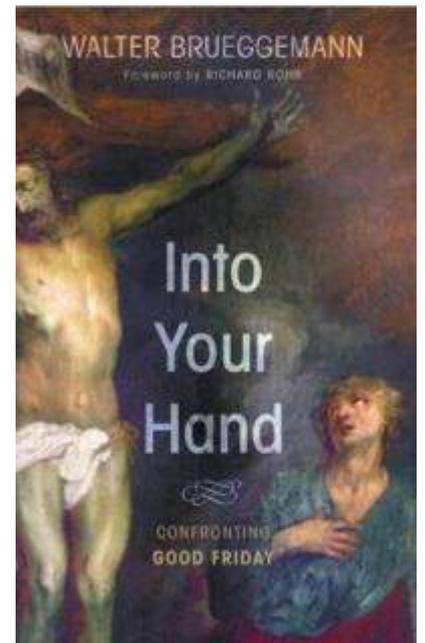


Into your hand – Confronting Good Friday

Walter Brueggemann

9780334054139 £7.99

At 40 pages it may be a slim volume but, as one might expect from Walter Brueggemann, the contents are arresting. Many churches are familiar with the tradition on Good Friday of reflecting on Jesus’ seven last words from the cross. Here, we are given seven meditations on these sayings, delivered by Brueggemann in 2014, which aim to connect the faith voiced by Jesus in the face of his own death with the reality of faith and its abuse – human suffering, personal grief, etc. – in our contemporary world. By rooting Jesus’ utterances in the context of the psalms, as he does, Brueggemann also seeks to engage his audience with “the long passage of presence and absence” and bring us hope-filled, once more, with the newness of life amidst the evidence of death.



Between Earth and Skies

David Todd, Chaplain to the Arts Community in Edinburgh City Centre, has reported in previous issues about his early progress in this new role. This is his latest bulletin.

The Greenside Arts Outreach project now incorporates both the Edinburgh Playhouse and the Omni Centre next door. There are still more irons in the fire but things move slowly in the world of Work Place Chaplaincy and patience and persistence seem to be the watch words.

My work in Edinburgh Playhouse involves both helping to extend a welcome to visiting company members who might be in Edinburgh for one, two or three weeks and offering pastoral support and practical help to resident staff of whom there are over 150. Thus far I have to confess that I do not feel I have done anyone any good but until I get to know people better I do not imagine that anyone will pour their heart out to me. The fact that I am around and available is important in itself.

The Omni Centre is a very different sort of work place although also with a great number of staff. There are various tenants ranging from car park to gym, cinema centre to bars and restaurants. I am still very new there and getting to know staff and, importantly, getting to know when is a good time to say hello.

I continue to keep in touch with the people of Greenside Parish Church and led a service there at the beginning of the year. Worship at both Greenside and Old Saint Paul's Church, where I am a Lay Reader, complements the very different ministry in the workplace. The liturgy of word and sacrament with all its ceremony help to sustain the uncluttered ministry in the workplace where one can go for a long time without even mentioning religion.

Religion and faith are always present however, and outside the Omni Centre there are two giraffes made from scrap metal by sculptor Helen Denerley. They are nicknamed Martha and Gilbert and stand in a circle of words by the poet Roy Campbell which I find thought provoking:



**Giraffes! a People
Who live between earth and skies
Each in his own religious steeple
Keeping a lighthouse with his eyes**

New City Centre Workplace

Chaplain Tony Bryer will be retiring at the end of June this year, and it was announced in February that his successor will be the Revd David Hart.

He will overlap with Tony from the beginning of April onwards, thus enabling a thorough induction for him to both WPCS and all that the city centre role involves. A fuller profile of David will be available in the next Together News. A farewell occasion for Tony will be held on **Tuesday 28th June at St Cuthbert's**; a Choral Evensong at 6 p.m., at which Tony will preach, followed by refreshments.



New Chairman Markus Duenzkofer has taken over the Chairmanship of Together from Ian Gilmour.

St John's Theology Symposium The next Theology Symposium this year will be: **Saturday 23 April**, 10am-4pm, at St Cuthbert's. It will be led by the Revd Professor David Fergusson and the subject is God, Creation and Providence. All welcome! To register contact Stephen Holmes.

St John's Church Walks The next Saturday walk will be on **16 April** and will be a 10 mile circular (with an optional shorter walk) in the Pentland Hills. The next Thursday walk will be on **7 April** from Ratho to the Water of Leith Information Centre via Union Canal.

Somme Centenary Service On **Friday 1 July 2016** a service will be held in St Cuthbert's Parish Church at 12.30pm to commemorate the first day of the Battle of the Somme. It is being organised by McCrae's Battalion Trust, will be led by Army Padres and hosted by St Cuthbert's. **Janice Todd**

God, Creation and Providence



The St John's Theology Symposium

A joint event with New College and the Centre for Theology and Public Issues

led by

Professor David Fergusson

Edinburgh University



At St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road, Edinburgh

Saturday 23rd April 2016, 10am-4pm - including lectures, lunch, and discussion

All Welcome – there is no charge but donations can be given

To register or for further information contact:

Revd Dr Stephen Mark Holmes, St John's Church, Princes Street, Edinburgh

EH2 4BJ. stephen.holmes@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk



St Andrew's and St George's West, 13 George Street Edinburgh

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Office open Mon - Fri 10am-3pm

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(dot)org(dot)uk**

Pastoral Assistant Rev Alistair McGregor

Session Clerk George Burgess

Joint Treasurers John Innes and Allan Sim

Director of Music Brigitte Harris

Assistant Director of Music Andrew Carvel

Church manager Wendy Henderson 0131 225 3847

churchmanager(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk

Church secretary Joyce Garland (Tue, Thurs, Fri 10am-3pm)

0131 225 3847 info(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk

Church administrator Sophie Chalmers (Mon & Wed 10am-3pm)

0131 225 3847 admin(at)stagw(dot)org(dot)uk

Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

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TOGETHER City Tony Bryer 0131 229 6542 / 07834 748129

Centre Chaplain tbryer(dot)wpcscotland(at)gmail(dot)com

**TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West
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