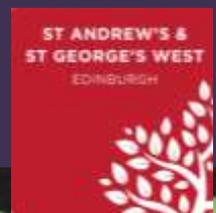




St Andrew's and St George's West November 2016 Magazine





Creative Together presents

Craftea!

Browse and buy our carefully-made crafts
Enjoy a cuppa and cake

Support Motor Neurone Disease Scotland

Saturday 19 November 2016
1.00 to 4.00pm

St Andrew's and
St George's West Church
George Street EH2 2PA



Motor Neurone Disease
Scotland is a
charity registered in
Scotland No SC002662



Creative Together is part of
Edinburgh City Centre
Churches TOGETHER,
a charity registered in
Scotland No SC040773

November 2016 Magazine

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Photo credits: Jane Brown, Alison Bruce, Nick Evans, Sally Evans, Al Marcham, Pat McKerrow, James MacPherson.

Many thanks to everyone who contributes to the magazine.

Contact email [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk) **Editor** Alison Bruce



Why on earth does the world still need the church?

A letter from Ian

The world still needs the church because we take worship of the Almighty seriously. Week by week I observe a large group of individuals thoroughly preparing our music, the prayers and talks to give God glory in George Street.



Bright Sparks supporting Mulanje

The world still needs the church because many charities and care organisations are based on the teaching of Jesus to love neighbour, to remember those who are in prison... hungry... ill, then to actively care for them. Mulanje Mission Hospital, Christian Aid and Fresh Start are three such charities which

we support generously, loyally and well. Multiply our contribution

by the 4,000 congregations in Scotland and we begin to see the contribution the church makes to the world.

The world still needs the church because the church is one of the few organisations which visits people at home and in hospital. If you have spent any time in hospital you will know how much a visit by Alistair, Allison or an elder is appreciated.

The world still needs the church because it can reap from the scriptures a helpful vision for the future of any city or country.

The world still needs the church because the church has access to the challenging words of Jesus and the prophets. They remind us that we have to continually be renewed in body mind and spirit. We are encouraged to serve, while challenging the wider world to come to a fresh start.



Christmas in Edinburgh

The world still needs the church because tradition is vital for human beings and organisations. Being too 'traditional' is one of the criticisms of the church and its membership yet surely the transmission of helpful customs and beliefs from generation to generation is very important for the stability and healthy development of any society.

The world still needs the church because we the Christian community have given and still give more to the world of music than any other organisation on the planet. From soloists to mass choirs, chants to choruses; from a Bach Mass to Spirituals, from organs to praise bands, we encourage all ages to sing songs from around the world and this is in every sense healthy!



BB Silver Band paying tribute to Louis Armstrong

The world still needs the church because where else can you go and discover children and adults mixing together, engaging in open, life enhancing conversations.



The world still needs the church because this earth needs a connection with its Creator through regular reflection on the mysterious and the beautiful.

The world still needs the church because it connects heaven and earth for at our best we promote a quality of love, which never tarnishes, rots nor goes out of fashion.

Jesus said,

**“A new command I give you: Love one another.
As I have loved you, so you must love one another. “**

If you agree the world does need the church, **then** please consider bringing someone new to one of our services or events in November or during Advent, we delight in welcoming new people to our lively varied church community at St Andrew’s and St George’s West.

Enjoy afresh being an active part of the Church on earth, Ian





The Church of Scotland

MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GRB/AGM

17 October 2016

The Reverend Ian Gilmour

Dear Ian

A note from Margaret and myself to thank you and your office-bearers for making us so welcome at St Andrew's and St George's West on Sunday morning.

As you can imagine we had been looking forward to the occasion and I am very grateful you gave me the opportunity to participate in all three of the services.

You provide such a wide range of worship experiences, the different services seemed to flow together well, and each one was clearly appreciated by the people who attended them.

As always the music and the choir at the 11.00 service was wonderful, especially the anthem with Jack Thomson's translation of the Malawian text.

It was good to have the chance to chat with so many people after the services and there was a lovely atmosphere in the downstairs café.

Thank you again for Sunday; hope you were able to enjoy a quieter weekend, trust the Mod goes well, and we will look forward to catching up with you and Donna over a curry on our return from the United States and Canada.

With best wishes

Russell

Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr
Moderator

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!

“Jesus emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, coming in human likeness; and found human in appearance, he humbled himself, becoming obedient to death, even death on a cross. Because of this, God greatly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name...” Paul

Worship in November

Sun 6 Nov, 11am **God Is Near to All** Psalm 145:1–5, 17–21

Sun 13 Nov
10.50am **Service of Remembrance with German-Speaking Congregation** Isaiah 65:17–25

Sun 20 Nov, 11am **Christ over Chaos** Colossians 1:11-20

Sun 27 Nov, 11am **God’s Path of Peace** Isaiah 2:1-5

Worship in December

Sun 4 Dec, 11am **Growing Together** Isaiah 11:1-10

The Lord will protect you from all danger; he will keep you safe.
Psalm 121

When you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.
Paulo Coelho

November 2016 Diary

- Tue 1 Nov **6.30pm Deaf Action Annual Lecture and reception**
Minister for Social Security, Jeane Freeman MSP, will use this year's Deaf Action Annual Lecture to outline the objectives of the Scottish Social Security Bill and describe how the Scottish Government intends to deliver the £2.7 billion of welfare benefits that will be devolved from Westminster. There will be an Electronic Notetaker and BSL/English Interpreters at the event. Freebut booking is essential or by contacting [lisa.roy\[at\]deafaction.org](mailto:lisa.roy@deafaction.org). or via Eventbrite at: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/deaf-action-annual-lecture-2016-tickets-28358066741?aff=eac2>
- Wed 2 Nov **1pm Music and Reflection: Franz Schubert** with Drew Crichton, Stuart Murray Mitchell and Joanna Stark
7pm Bells 10th Anniversary Celebration
- Thurs 3 Nov **10am- 4pm Make Your Money Count Conference**
Organised by the Church of Scotland and partners from the ethical finance sector. Free, registration required
- Sat 5 Nov **10am-12.30pm Messy Church**
7.30pm Georgian Concert Society Ensemble Odyssee – *Concerti for Small Flute: Virtuoso Recorder Music*
<http://www.gcs.org.uk>
- Sun 6 Nov**
9am Communion
9.45am Learning Together
10.30am Adult Discussion Group
11am Morning Worship
12 noon Fellowship Lunch for Peace & Justice Centre
1.15pm Choir Concert with Flutes Unlimited
2pm Albany Deaf Church
7.30pm at Craigsbank Church: John Bell on sacred space
- Mon 7 Nov **6.30pm AHSS Lecture:** Lancelot 'Capability' Brown
7pm This Changes Everything Lauriston Hall
- Tue 8 Nov **7pm Leonard Harper Gow** Concert for Health in Mind
<http://www.leonardharpergow.co.uk/>
- Wed 9 Nov **1-1.30 pm Music and Reflection: Duke Ellington and Friends** with Caitlin McGillivray, Jamie Lang + Ian Gilmour

Sun 13 Nov	Remembrance Sunday 9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together 10.30am Adult Discussion Group 10.50am with German speaking congregation 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 15 Nov	<i>5.30pm Religion and Media lecture, Chaplaincy</i>
Wed 16 Nov	10.30am Creative Together meets 1pm Music and Reflection: Felix Mendelssohn and the Romantic Spirit with Jamie Lang +Brigitte Harris Thinking about Church Ian Y Gilmour and Iain McLarty <i>Pilgrim Course at St Cuthbert's and Compline at St John's</i>
Thur 17 Nov	
Sat 19 Nov	1- 4pm Creative Together CRAFTEA for MND Gorgeous crafts and homemade teas created with love by folk from Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together
Sun 20 Nov	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together 10.30am Adult Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 2pm Albany Deaf Church 1-5pm Light Night and Christmas Lights switch on
Mon 21 Nov	10.30am Book Group meets
Wed 23 Nov	1-1.30pm Music and Reflection: Christine de Pisan and others – Medieval French Feminists with Dr Alison Ramsay, Barbara Ramsay and Andrew Carvel 2.30pm Evergreens meet: Alastair and Margaret McGregor Hadeel/Palestine Trip
Thur 24 Nov	On The Road Church of Scotland Roadshow
Fri 25 Nov	Rock Trust Under-21 Sleepout
Sat 26 Nov	2pm German Christmas Bazaar (at 1 Chalmers Crescent) 7.30pm Bruce Davies Concert www.brucedavies.com
Sun 27 Nov (Advent I)	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together 10.30am Adult Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship and <i>Christmas with Luther</i> 2pm Albany Deaf Church 3pm Nativity Carol Concert, St Andrew Square
Mon 28 Nov	12.15 Amnesty Group meets
Tue 29 Nov	7.30pm Kirk Session

December 2016 Diary

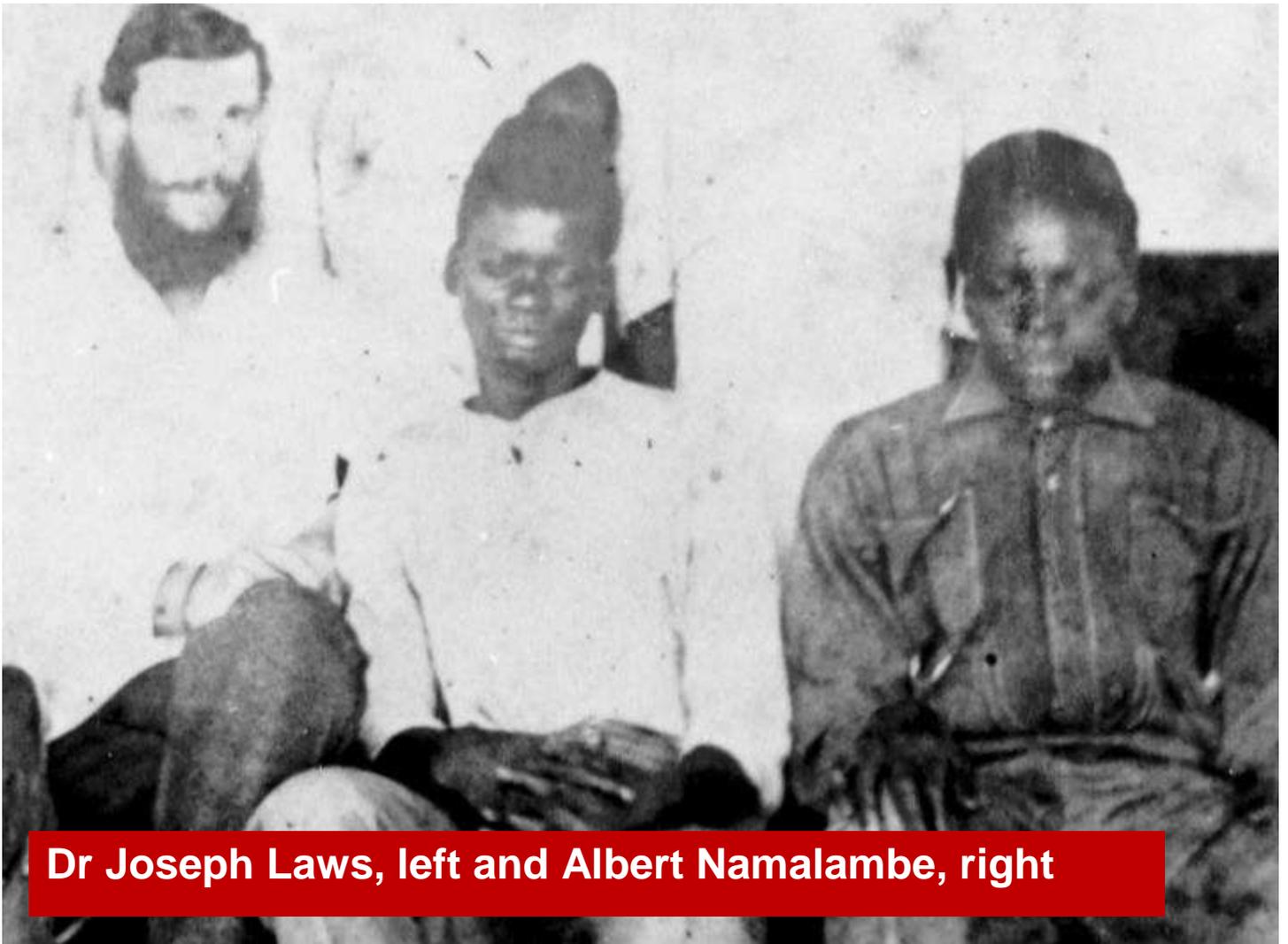
Thur 1 Dec	7pm CHSS Carol Concert https://www.chss.org.uk/supportus/fundraise-for-us/events/carols-at-christmas/ <i>Pilgrim Course at St Cuthbert's and Compline at St John's</i>
Fri 2 Dec	7pm YMCA Carol Concert Jingle All the Way https://www.eventbrite.com/e/jingle-all-the-way-christmas-concert-tickets-28395431500
Sat 3 Dec	Georgian Concert Society Caroles of Nunnes + Roses with Joglaresa http://www.gcs.org.uk/concert_list.htm
Sun 4 Dec	9am Communion 9.45am Learning Together 10.30am Adult Discussion Group 11am Morning Worship 12 noon Fellowship Lunch for Mulanje, Malawi
Mon 5 Dec	6.30pm AHSS Lecture Furnishing the Tower House http://www.ahss.org.uk/events/furnishing-tower-house/
Thur 8 Dec	<i>Pilgrim Course at St Cuthbert's and Compline at St John's</i>
Sat 10-Sat 24 Dec	Follow the Star The 7 th Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival at St Andrew's and St George's West celebrates Christmas in the city with music, storytelling and 40 sparkling trees each decorated by local folk. Generally open 10am-6pm Mon – Sat, though please see website for full details.
Sat 10 Dec	<i>God Music Discord + Sin Symposium (at St John's)</i>
Thur 15 Dec	<i>Pilgrim Course at St Cuthbert's and Compline at St John's</i>
Fri 16 Dec	6pm Carols at Six
Sat 17 Dec	6.30pm Congregational Christmas Supper
Wed 21 Dec	2.30 Evergreens 24 Doors of Advent (part of Edinburgh's Christmas)
Sat 24 Dec	5pm Christingle 11.30pm Watchnight
Sun 25 Dec	11am Family Worship

Deaths

Catherine Elizabeth Begg

Baptisms

Lucy and Evelyn Hayes



Dr Joseph Laws, left and Albert Namalambe, right

Finding a needle in a haystack: the story of Albert's Hymn

Jack Thompson

As some of you may know I am a historian and the process of historical research has sometimes been compared to looking for a needle in a haystack – trawling through huge amounts of material in the hope of finding something interesting or relevant. Over forty years ago I was doing just that in the National Archives of Malawi. Confronted by hundreds of documents on the history of the Livingstonia Mission – baptismal records, Kirk Session minutes, letters of missionaries back to Scotland etc.

As I turned over page after page from the 1880s I suddenly came across a single sheet of pink lined writing paper scribbled all over in pencil. I almost moved quickly on until two things caught my eye. The first was that I recognised the hand-writing as that of Dr Robert

Laws, the famous missionary from Aberdeen who spent fifty-two years working in Malawi. The second was the heading at the top of the page, which said simply 'Albert's Hymn'. I was hooked! Albert could only be Albert Namalambe, the first convert of the Livingstonia Mission and this roughly scribbled pencil document might well be the first Christian hymn written by a Malawian.

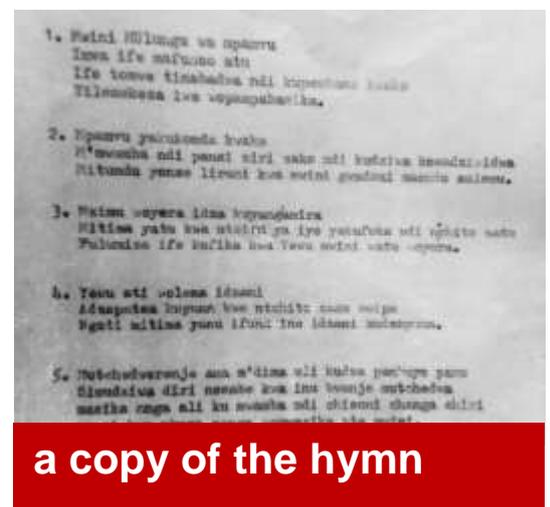
I got a friend to translate the rather archaic Chichewa into English. There was no regular metre to the original text, so I set about moulding it into a regular rhythm – sticking as close to the original meaning as I could. But there was another problem: there was no tune.

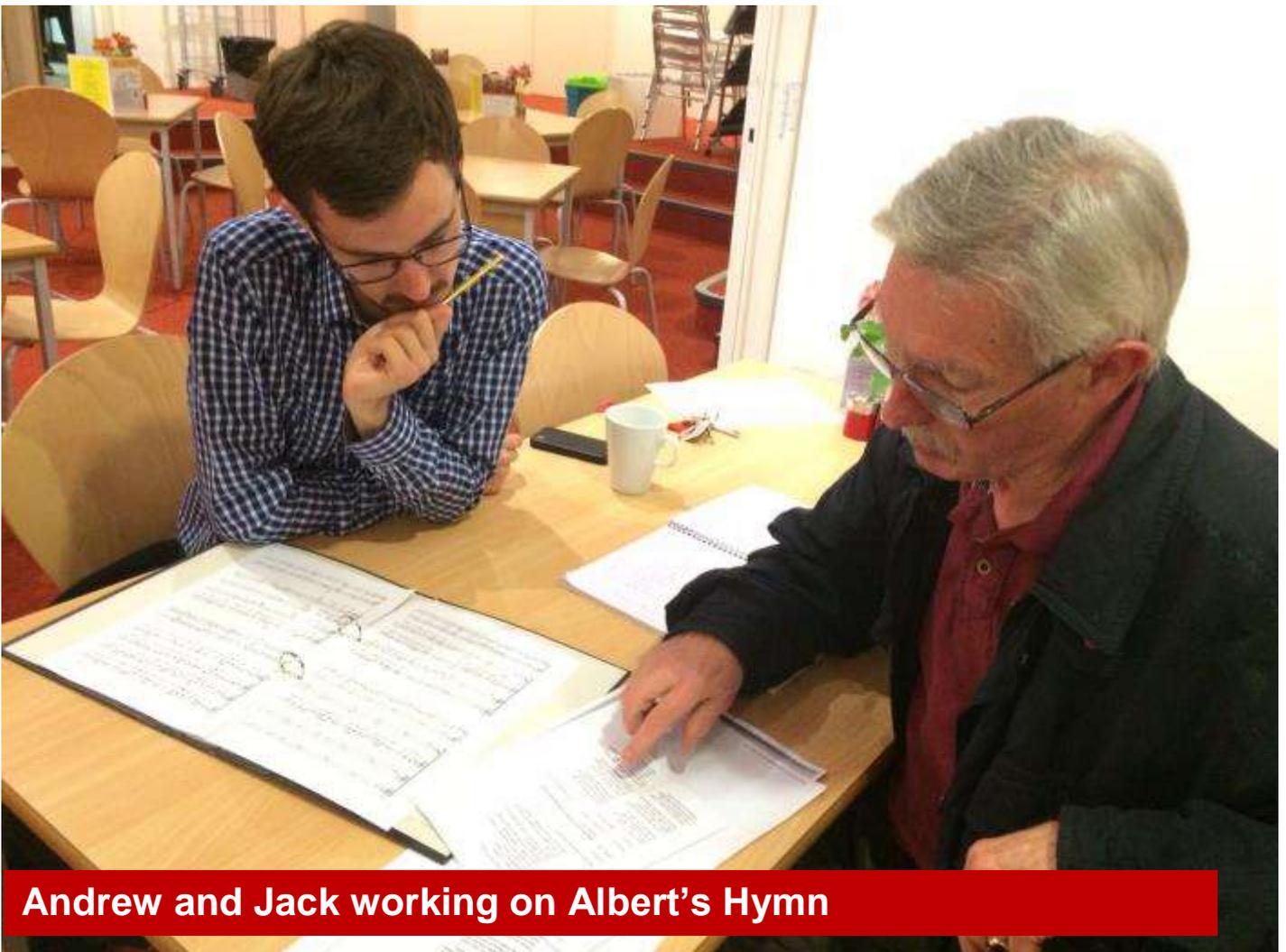
All this happened just a year or so before we were due to celebrate the centenary of the Livingstonia Mission in 1975, so I asked our headmaster at Livingstonia Secondary School, Mtengela Chirwa, who had a degree in music, if he could compose a tune for Albert's hymn. He did so beautifully and a few months later in front of a congregation of around one thousand, including the President of Malawi, Dr Kamuzu Banda, his entire cabinet and most of the diplomatic corps, the school choir sang Albert's hymn at the official centenary thanksgiving service.

And then...silence. For the next forty years nothing happened – until a couple of years ago when I was doing some more looking for needles in haystacks. This time it was my own haystack! I was going through my own accumulated and less than ordered archives, looking for something else, when suddenly I came across my copies of Albert's hymn.

But again, no music.

However, for the past forty years Mtengela Chirwa's tune from the 1970s had stuck in my head, so I approached Andrew Carvel to see if he could help. (Incidentally, Andrew's great-grandfather, John Brown, had worked with Dr Robert Laws at Livingstonia almost a century ago).



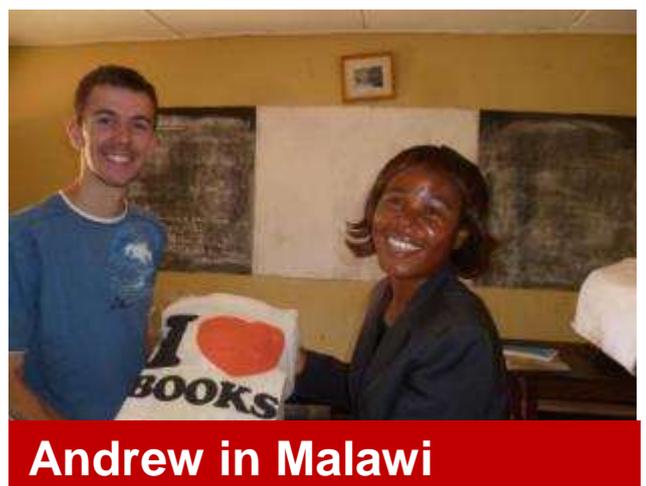


All I could do was to hum what I remembered of the tune to Andrew who miraculously heard and played it back on the grand piano.

There then took place a wonderful transformation – what in non-musical terms I might call a major make-over during which Andrew created a wonderful piece of music for the choir, while managing to retain the spirit of Mtengela's 1970s tune. Andrew and I met together a couple of times to fine tune the lyrics and make sure they matched the music.

And the rest, as they say, is history!

Except, perhaps after all Andrew's work, it might be better to abandon the metaphor of the needle and the haystack, and replace it with the image of digging for gold.





St Andrew's & St George's West • Edinburgh

2016 Music and Reflection

Autumn Series | 1pm Wednesdays

Composers in their Lives and Music

Lunchtime performances by young Scottish musicians - with biographical reflections from **Ian Gilmour, Brigitte Harris, Barbara Ramsay** and **Joanna Stark**

2 November, 1pm | **Franz Schubert**

Drew Crichton, piano

Speaker: **Joanna Stark**

9 November, 1pm | **Duke Ellington and Friends**

Caitlin McGillivray, soprano
Jamie Lang, piano

Speaker: **Ian Y. Gilmour**

16 November, 1pm | **Felix Mendelssohn and the Romantic spirit**

Jamie Lang, piano

Speaker: **Brigitte Harris**

23 November, 1pm | **'Christine de Pisan and others –
Medieval French Feminists'**

Dr Alison Ramsay, author, with a madrigal group, directed by **Andrew Carvel**

Speaker: **Barbara Ramsay**

Photo credit: © Peter Stubbs peter.stubbs@edinphoto.org.uk

Free Entry



St Andrew's & St George's West
13 George Street Edinburgh EH2 2PA

Find out about more events at www.stagw.org.uk

Scottish Charity No. SC008990





Long service for Judy and Arthur

... and for Nick

If I had...

Nick Evans

Jesus told a parable about a widow who campaigned for justice until a judge ruled in her favour (Luke 18 v 1-8). It set the scene for a 9.45 service on *Campaigning for Justice* on 16th October. As part of the service we saw a film about the well-known campaign song "If I had a Hammer", but brought up to date with images about justice and injustice. Pete Seeger, who wrote the song, said he often used "...what is musically familiar to deliver a new message". So, working in small groups and taking inspiration from artefacts such as a candle or binoculars, we set about writing new verses to the familiar tune in just 10 minutes. Then we sang them.

It was probably the first rehearsal and final performance simultaneously! While the adults wrote the lyrics, our youngest members built a wonderful bridge from Duplo to illustrate a final verse. This is the result.



If I had a Campaign for Justice

(tune: If I had a Hammer)

If I had a candle, I'd light it in the morning,
I'd light it in the evening, all over this land,
It's the candle of reflection, it's the candle of equality,
It's the candle of hope between my brothers and my sisters
Ah ha, all over this land.

If I had a stone, I'd help build a shelter,
We'd build many shelters all over this land,
Places of safety, welcome and laughter,
Joy and thanksgiving
Ah ha, all over this land.

If I had a finger, I'd point it in the morning,
I'd point it in the evening, all over this land,
I'd point to injustice, I'd point to poverty,
I'd point towards the love between my brothers and my sisters,
Ah ha, all over this land.

If I ran benefits, I'd sanction very carefully,
I'd sanction very evenly, All over this land:
I'd hammer out danger, I'd hammer out warnings
To keep fairness between my brothers and my sisters
Ah, ah, all over this land.

If I had a vision, I'd focus in the morning,
I'd reflect in the evening, all over this land,
I'd focus on hope, I'd focus compassion,
I'd focus on love between my brothers and my sisters,
Ah ha, all over this land.

If I had a bridge, I'd build it in the morning,
I'd build it in the evening, all over this land,
I'd build it with friendship, I'd build it with kindness,
I'd build it with love between my brothers and my sisters,
Ah ha, all over this land.

Music: Pete Seeger (1949) Words: 9.45 Campaigners (2016)



An inspirational bunch of people

Al Marcham spends an evening at the Bethany Care Shelter

Following a request from Veronica I have been helping at the Bethany Care Shelter for a few years now, generally two evenings of the year. I find it *extremely* rewarding, and it is very humbling to see how such a small contribution is so graciously and gratefully received by those who use the service.

In my role as 'designated driver' I generally help with the initial set up of the shelter, setting out the tables and sleeping mats, before taking the Bethany mini-bus to the pick-up location, in order to collect the shelter users. I also regularly pester the volunteers cooking in the kitchen.

Over the (7ish) years, I am constantly struck by the volume, and the sincerity of the gratitude offered by those who would otherwise be sleeping out in the elements. In my experience, every single person using the shelter has offered their sincere thanks to us, for what is, in all honesty, a very small gesture, offering a few hours in an evening.

Unfortunately, during the most recent sessions the mini-bus service has been largely superfluous, as the sheer demand for beds has meant that large queues have gathered outside St Cuthbert's several hours before the doors have opened. On the coldest and wettest nights, people are regularly turned away, as there just isn't the space to house them

overnight. On these nights, Bethany do their best to arrange alternative shelter, although as a last resort this does mean handing out sleeping bags. Even in such circumstances, the visitors have at least had a warm meal, and an hour or two of respite from the elements.

The Bethany staff themselves are without fail an inspirational bunch of people. Over the years, a number of the staff have themselves been former shelter users, and having been helped out of their dire circumstances, are now helping pay something back.

“When we started the care shelter in 1996 we never imagined there would still be a need for it 20 years later”

Bethany Christian Trust

While a number of the service users may appear to be in their situation through the misuse of drugs or alcohol, you can be certain that none of them are there by choice. One talk given by a Bethany staff member a couple of years ago really hit home with me – even people with a home, a steady job and a reliable income are, in

all likelihood, only two pay cheques away from homelessness. I recall seeing one girl a few years ago, who had moved to Edinburgh to be with a boyfriend, and with the promise of a job. I don't know precisely how long she had been here before the relationship broke up, and the job fell through, but with no income, no family and no friends nearby she had ended up using the Bethany shelter, and she looked completely terrified. Fortunately, she at least had a hot meal and safe shelter for the nights, and the Bethany staff offering fantastic support.

It may be easier to walk past homeless people, rather than acknowledge their presence, and their plight. However, if you could spare a few hours, once or twice a year, I believe that it would be hard to find a more rewarding, uplifting evening, simply serving hot food and drinks to a group of polite, and sincerely grateful individuals.

Anyone interested in helping out could probably contact Veronica Crerar. Alternatively I'm sure Bethany would happily receive donated sleeping bags – contact Cameron Black (Bethany Care Shelter Manager) on 0131 454 3125 to arrange delivery.



Did you know? Caring Christmas Trees help to fund the winter care shelter. Find out more at caringchristmastrees.com/edinburgh/



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

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

November will be a very special month for me.

Or to be more accurate, it will be even more special than ever before. Normally at this time I reflect on people very dear to me who have sadly passed from this life, and for whom November was either a time for celebrating their birthdays, or in the case of my late brother, for recognising the anniversary of his passing. This year, November will still be all those things for me, but it will also see me hosting my first ever wildlife photographic exhibition 'Swan Watch...and More', right here in the Undercroft at St Andrew's and St George's West Church.

Excited doesn't even come close to describing my feeling about it!

Selecting the actual photographs to exhibit has been a huge challenge in itself; ploughing through literally thousands of options from my ever-increasing portfolio. An added difficulty being that each day I increased my collection further by virtue of being out on my usual stretch of the Water of Leith, camera in hand...and a new camera at that, and hence, another incentive to use and test it to the full. No sooner had I made my final selection, when I arrived home from another fabulous sighting or swan 'show' with even better shots in my camera disc than before.

Regardless of which subjects and photographs ultimately make it into my actual exhibition, I can promise that my swan family will form the centrepiece. And I believe rightly so, in light of all the many wonderful things that following their story has given me for the best part of 2016. Plenty of other birds and mammals will undoubtedly feature too though, so hopefully there will be something for everyone.

Each photograph I choose to exhibit will represent a moment shared and treasured with a particular creature, in a particular place, and at a particular time. That moment may have been joyful, or it may have been less so. It will nevertheless have evoked a special feeling, and created a special memory.



I'm looking forward to reliving it all – a bit similar to remembering my loved ones this month. Each photograph will also have been taken in one of those precious moments of oneness with God I've mentioned often before in my writing.

My main driver for staging the exhibition is simply to share these wildlife

moments, feelings and memories with you, and to hopefully reveal part of the true glory of God's natural world through the images. It is also important to highlight that each photograph on display will have been taken in Scotland, and the majority on our city 'doorstep' waterway, the Water of Leith Walkway.

I have loved taking these photographs, plus all the thousands of others, and I hope my work will demonstrate that. I never cease to consider myself fortunate for all the fabulous wildlife experiences I have had; I feel blessed too to be able to maximise those times, and to have the opportunity to perhaps open nature's door to others. If, through seeing just this small selection of my photographs, one more person is inspired to respect and/or spend time in nature, then I will have achieved a long-held ambition. The beauty and wonder of Creation is at hand, readily accessible to all, and it requires no specialist equipment or knowledge to appreciate it...just like the love of God.

Please, if you can, take even a few moments to visit my exhibition. If you do, I would love to hear your views on the photographs. For now, I leave you with this little verse:

**Today a songbird sang –
Perched so high on yonder tree
Against a sky of silver grey
Full throated song to fill the air
And lift all care away –
I stayed to listen.**

(Anon)

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow



A letter from Arizona

William Clinkenbeard

Here we are in Arizona again, and it is warm and beautiful as usual.

However, we have a problem: we have a new neighbor and I met him the other day. He's fine, personal and pleasant enough. But he has a "TRUMP" sign planted in his front garden. In fact, there are seven "TRUMP" signs in the gardens on our street. There are no signs for Hillary. I keep asking myself how we became surrounded by right-wing Republicans! I also ask myself how it is that the most ignorant, offensive, rude and bullying candidate for the high office of President in the history of the United States could be so close to winning.

The answer is not that difficult.

In both the USA and the UK there has lately been a kind of gridlock or inability to solve pressing social problems. Issues are raised, analyzed, and discussed endlessly. We set up committees and commissions to study, report, and recommend policies. Chair people resign, reports are eventually written and made public, and the cost is enormous.

It gives the media copy for twenty-four hours, but nothing much changes in the real world. And so the ordinary subject or citizen is fed up with persistent inaction. And when a politically incorrect person says that he or she can make the country great again (or give us back control) it has an immediate superficial appeal. It creates the impression that here is a strong leader. It is a complex and confusing world, and we may well believe that a strong, decisive leader could do the trick. Elections are often decided by emotion rather than intelligence.

Years ago, when Ian and I wrote *Full on the Eye* we used a nice phrase from Walter Lippman, a moral philosopher and social commentator. Speaking of society by referring to the Greek gods, Lippman wrote: Whirl is King, having driven out Zeus.¹ And so it is today as well. Whirl is King, having driven out Zeus.

¹ Aristophanes, *The Clouds* ca 420 BC

Have your say



2050 Edinburgh City Vision

The City of Edinburgh Council wants to hear from everyone with an interest in the city:

What's great about Edinburgh as a city in 2016?

What could be better?

What should Edinburgh be like in 2050?

CEC offers 15 areas to consider: Community, Digital & Technology, Built Environment, Business & Work, Health, Faith, Transport, Sustainable Development, Young People, Housing, Education, Physical Activity & Sport, Culture & Tourism, Community Safety, Natural Environment.

Find out more at

- edinburgh.org/2050-edinburgh-city-vision/
- dedicated dialogue platform here edinburgh2050.dialogue-app.com/
- twitter #edinburgh2020

At STAGW we are taking the opportunity to pull together our response as a city centre congregation, from Sunday 6 Nov.

On the Road

Church of Scotland roadshows throughout Scotland to hear your views on what we need to do to enable a flourishing Church into the 2020s and beyond.

Wed 9 Nov in Perth

18.30 Letham St Mark's

Thurs 24 Nov Edinburgh

11am STAGW (fully booked)

Wed 30 Nov in Bo'ness

18.30 St Andrew's Boness

All the events are free but you need to register

<http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/church-of-scotland-8966406546>



The companionship of the dead

Henri Nouwen

“As we grow older we have more and more people to remember, people who have died before us.

It is very important to remember those who have loved us and those we have loved.

Remembering them means letting their spirits inspire us in our daily lives. They can become part of our spiritual communities and gently help us as we make decisions on our journeys.

Parents, spouses, children and friends, can become true spiritual companions after they have died.

Sometimes they can become even more intimate to us after death than when they were with us in life.

Remembering the dead is choosing their ongoing companionship.”

From Bread for the journey; reflections for every day of the year by Henri J M Nouwen.

Thanks to **Phyllis Thompson** for this.

I am with
you always

Matthew 28:20



Everyone is talking about...

News from Malawi



“The wheels of development at MMH are constantly oiled and the winds of change keep blowing over our beautiful hospital. Everyone is talking about the solar power we are so privileged to have.

Power outages this year have been the worst in the history of MMH. Solar power has been extended to all the key depts of the hospital, so we now don't stress if power is off for even 24 hours because the sick baby will continue to get his oxygen, this pregnant woman can have a caesarean section to save both herself and her precious baby, and nurses even in the dead of night can see comfortably to administer the drugs that the patient needs—wonderful development!

As the year is coming to a close and as we reflect on all the projects and programmes we embarked on in the year, we know that none of this was going to be possible without God our creator. God has been faithful by giving us wonderful partners from across the globe who have tirelessly helped us to achieve what we set out to do. Your generosity is greatly appreciated and we look forward to your visits and the smiles you share.”

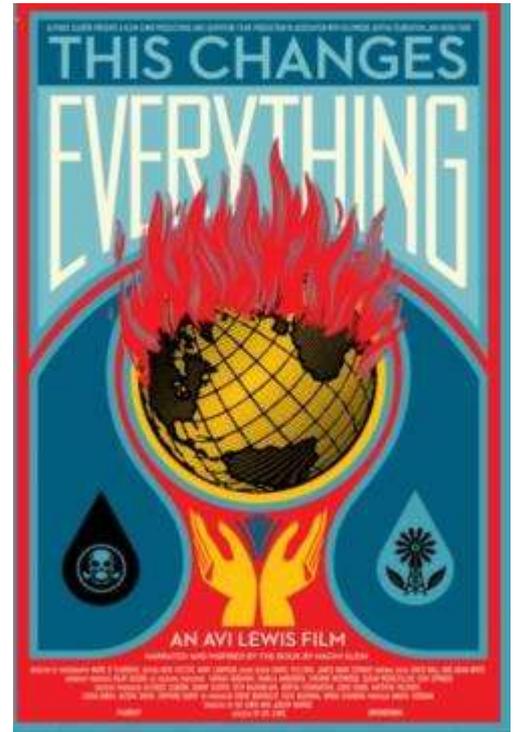
Thanks to **Jennifer Dunlop** for sharing this. Read more Mulanje news on the difference that solar power has made plus updates on palliative care, nursing, orphan support and more online <http://www.mmh.mw/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Newsletter-October-2016.pdf>



EcoCongregation News

Film Night Monday 7th November at 7.00pm

We are showing the film based on a book by Naomi Klein "**This Changes Everything**" It will be followed by a discussion led by the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church David Chillingworth. The film is about different communities affected by climate change and how they are making a positive response. Showing in the main hall at The Lauriston Jesuit Centre, Lauriston Street, Tollcross, Edinburgh. EH3 9DJ. it would be helpful to have an indication of numbers. Email Sarah Tolley [greeningourstreet\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:greeningourstreet[at]gmail.com)



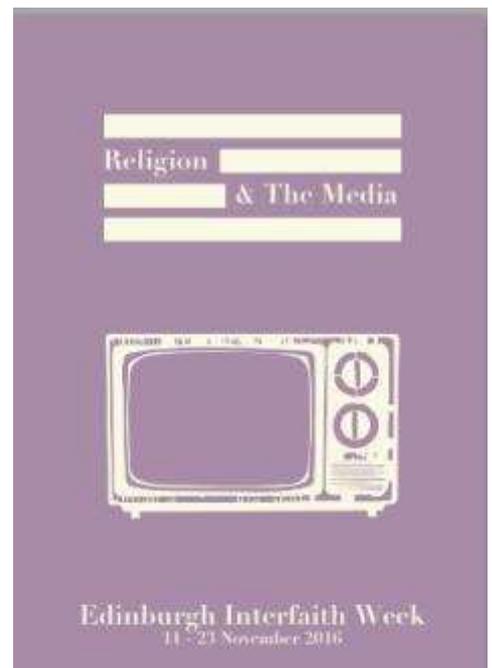
Edinburgh Interfaith Week

11-23 November 2016

Religion and the media is the theme of this year's Edinburgh Interfaith Week, explored through lectures, films, poetry and more.

Fearmongering, Faith and the Responsibility of the Media

is the keynote lecture by Aaquil Ahmed, Head of Religion and Ethics at the BBC Tuesday 15 November at 17.30 in the Chaplaincy Centre, Bristo Square. Doors open at 17.00 Free, non-ticketed. Followed by panel Q & A



Find the full programme online at <http://www.eifa.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/Interfaith-Week-Booklet-Short-003.pdf>

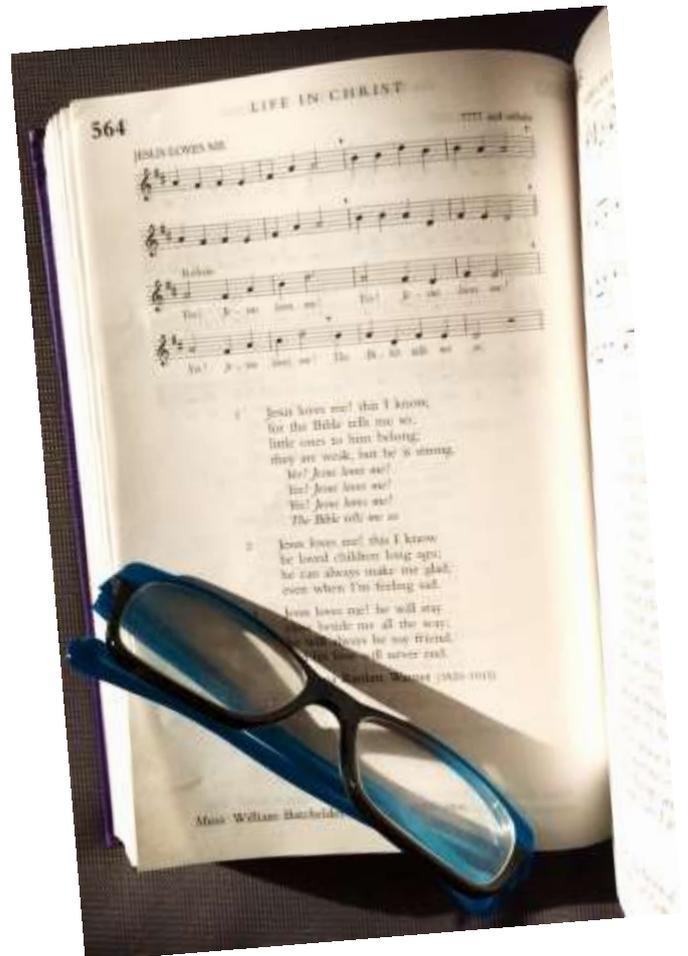
Old hymn new words

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.

*Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
Yes, Jesus loves me
for the Bible tells me so.*

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.

Yes, Jesus loves me...



TODAY
IS THE
OLDEST
YOU'VE EVER BEEN
&
the YOUNGEST
YOU'LL EVER BE AGAIN
-Eleanor Roosevelt-

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song..
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."
Yes, Jesus loves me...

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love.
Yes, Jesus loves me...

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.

thanks to **Andrena Crawford** for this

Christianity & Human Rights: Cunningham Lectures at New College

Professor John Witte, Emory University School of Law, Atlanta, will give the following lectures on Luther and Calvin and their respective Reformations and then focus on more contemporary questions of law and human rights. The lecture titles are:

Tue 29 Nov: Freedom of a Christian: Martin Luther's Reformation of Rights and Liberties

Wed 30 Nov: Between Martin Luther and Martin Luther King: James Pennington and the Black Abolitionist Struggle for Freedom in America

Thurs 1 Dec: Here I stand: A Christian Defense of Human Rights Today

The lectures will be held in Martin Hall, New College at 5pm each day and the first lecture will be followed by a drinks Reception in Rainy Hall.

These are public lectures, to which all are welcome. If you wish to attend, please register with Eventbrite

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-cunningham-lectures-christianity-and-human-rights-tickets-27251956335>



Craigsbank Church Sanctuary 50th Anniversary
"A hidden gem of sixties architecture" The Cockburn Society

An evening with
JOHN L BELL

'The Use and Abuse of Sacred Space'

An exploration into the history, tradition, legacy, and relevance of Sacred Space.

**In Craigsbank Church
Sunday 6th November**

7.30 pm

(admission free)



19 Craigs Bank Corstorphine Edinburgh EH12 8HD
www.craigsbankchurch.org.uk



**German Speaking
Congregation
1 Chalmers Crescent
EDINBURGH EH9 1TW**



CHRISTMAS BAZAAR
with coffee/tea and carols
mit Adventskaffee und Weihnachtsliedern

Saturday 26 November 2016 at 2 pm

**in aid of The Rock Trust
and of Church Funds**



**Coffee and Cake ticket £2.50
Juice/Cake for Children £1.00**



**Admission:
adult 50p
children free**



Join Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland for a special evening of celebration and remembrance in the beautiful oval church of St Andrew's and St George's West.

This truly will be a night to remember, as we come together to sing seasonal songs, honour loved ones and celebrate the work of Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland. Singing will be led by the St Andrew's and St George's West choir and the Cheyne Gang – a community choir who use singing as a technique to manage their chronic chest conditions.

Feel free to join us from 6pm to enjoy a mince pie and a warming drink before the concert begins at 7pm.

All welcome.



CAROLS At Christmas

Join Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland for an evening of celebration and remembrance this Christmas

Thursday 1st December 2016

Mince Pie Reception: 6pm | Concert starts: 7pm

St Andrew's & St George's West, George Street,
Edinburgh, EH2 2PA

Tickets - £10

For more info and to buy tickets
Visit: www.carolsatchristmas.com
Call: 0300 1212 333
Email: events@chss.org.uk

Chest
Heart &
Stroke
Scotland 

Where's God in the story?

A new initiative

David Todd



David Todd

My work in the arts, entertainment and leisure world continues with new relationships being formed all the time. The strategy so far is to offer Theatre and Work Place Chaplaincy and I am recognised as Theatre Chaplain at the Edinburgh Playhouse and King's Theatre and as Chaplain at the Omni Centre. In the theatres I offer pastoral support to visiting company members as well as resident staff and at the Omni Centre I am there for over 600 staff working both full and part-time.

In conjunction with Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together I am planning a new initiative. Through the church newsletters and/or notices I will advertise a film or show that a group might go to individually and meet together afterwards for a coffee to discuss what we have seen and to reflect on it. The musical *Billy Elliot* has just finished at Edinburgh Playhouse and this would, in many respects, have been a very good show on which to have reflected theologically – by “theologically” I just mean – “where was God in the story?”

Young Billy Elliot's participation in the ballet class (seen as a girls' activity) in a small mining town in the early 80s causes anger, hatred and fear amongst his family and friends who are preoccupied with the miners' strike. His teacher's perseverance and recognition of his talent get him to an audition for the Royal Ballet School. His success there transforms the anger, hatred and fear to joy, love and hope. Here is a chance for a young boy to make a success of himself and to escape from the poverty and hopelessness of the mining community. Here is a “resurrection” moment – Billy is at one moment the object of hate and ridicule and, in the next, he is the character that brings the family and the community together in celebration.

But there are other stories. On stage there is a twelve year old boy portraying the character of Billy Elliot and leading the dance with fantastic skill, talent and fearlessness. As we applaud Billy Elliot's success we also applaud his gift and those of the entire company on stage bringing this heart-warming story to thousands every night. And then there are the stories of the young boys and girls in the audience taken to the theatre by their families and friends and inspired by the story of Billy Elliot (and by the performance of the company) to find their own talents, their own special gifts, and to develop them. There is a great deal on which to reflect....

David Todd, Arts Outreach Project Leader – Greenside Parish Church in partnership with Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together

Ecumenical Friends

Meetings are on Thursdays, in St Cuthbert's, Lothian Road, We gather over our packed lunches from 12.30 pm or so. Tea and Coffee are provided at a charge of £1.50, which includes a contribution towards expenses.



The meeting proper starts at 1pm. Our speaker has half an hour, and then we have a further quarter of an hour for questions and discussion. We finish at 1.45 pm prompt.

Our meetings are open to everyone. If you know people who might like to come, please invite them. They will be warmly welcome.

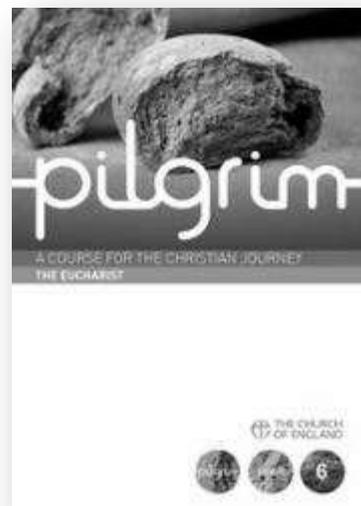
Autumn Term 2016

Nov 3	Bill Brown	Children 1st
Nov 10	Lorna Bowry	Fresh Start
Nov 17	Roy Johnstone	Spitfire Women Pilots in WW II
Nov 24	Eleanor Harris	Ecology
Dec 1	Elsbeth Strachan	An Advent Meditation

Pilgrim Course at St Cuthbert's

Thursdays 7.30-9pm 17 November
& 1, 8, 15 Dec

The next **Together Pilgrim Course** will explore one of the central experiences of Christian life, the Holy Eucharist. It will be held at St Cuthbert's Church in the Melrose Room from 7.30pm to 9pm on four Thursdays: 17 November & 1, 8, 15 December. To register contact Stephen Holmes. [stephen.holmes\[at\]stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:stephen.holmes[at]stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)



Compline at St John's

Thursdays 9.30pm 17 November -15 December.

We will be singing Compline at St John's on Thursday evenings at 9.30pm from Thursday 17 November until Thursday 15 December. All are welcome. We hope to form a Compline Choir of singers (of all abilities!) from St John's and beyond to maintain this popular service. For further information contact Stephen Holmes. [stephen.holmes\[at\]stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:stephen.holmes[at]stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk)

HOST

Offer your hand for international friendship! Welcome an adult international student into your home for a day, weekend, or 4 days at Christmas, and do your bit to make the world a little friendlier. Many adult international students from across the world would love to spend a few days with you, learning about British culture, experiencing UK home-life, and telling you about their own country. A Christmas invitation is particularly valuable to students facing a holiday on an empty university campus.

Japanese student, Mamiko Moda, wrote *"Thanks to my hosts and their kindness, I could spend a nice Christmas here instead of staying at home alone. I am grateful to you all."*

Hosting is a voluntary position suitable for all ages and is also available throughout the year with HOST, a charity set up in 1987. To find out more or be put in touch with your local organiser, please visit www.hostuk.org, or call 020 7739 6292

ST JOHN'S THEOLOGY SYMPOSIUM

10TH DECEMBER
10:00 - 16:00

GOD, MUSIC, DISCORD & SIN



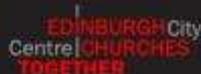
PROFESSOR JEREMY BEGBIE

DUKE DIVINITY SCHOOL, USA

Jeremy Begbie is a concert pianist and theologian with an international reputation for exploring the frontier between God-talk and the arts. From the piano he will use music to investigate the mystery of sin in God's plan for the world.

AT ST JOHN'S CHURCH, PRINCES STREET

The Symposium is open to all and will include musical lectures by Professor Begbie, discussion, and lunch with refreshments. There is no charge but donations towards the cost may be given. To book a place or for more information, please contact the Revd Dr Stephen Holmes at stephen.holmes@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk



THE UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH
School of Divinity

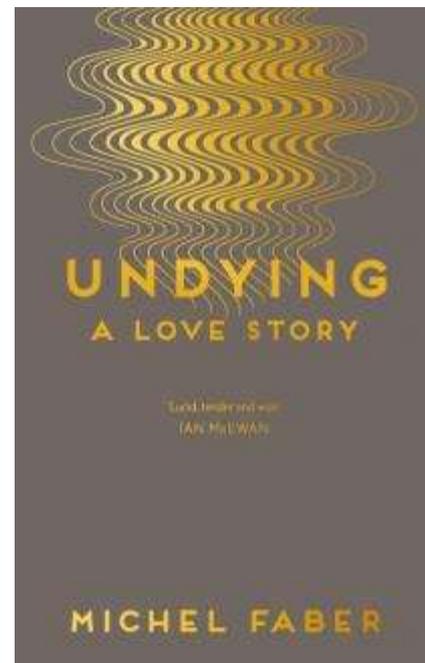


Cornerstone Book Reviews

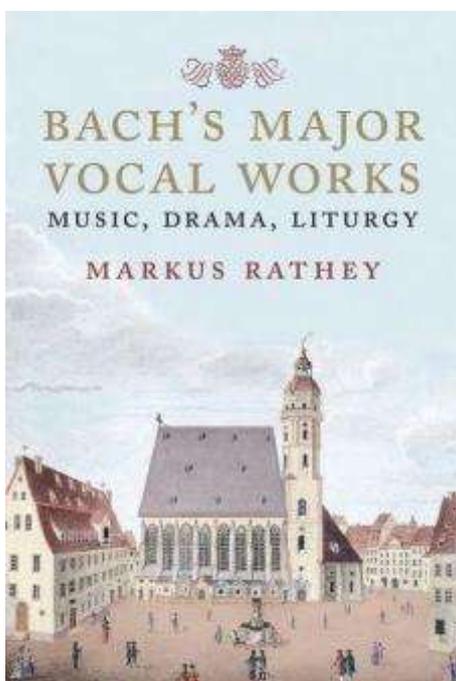
Amanda Bruce

Undying – a love story by Michel Faber £12.99

Michel Faber is known to many as a writer of fiction, much of it prize-winning. 'Undying' is his first collection of poems to be published written in response to his second wife Eva's life with and subsequent death from cancer. His beautifully crafted words are often brutal in their searing honesty as he captures moments shared throughout her illness and charts his own grief in his loss of her. "Tender, intimate, harrowing...this is a stunning testimony to love...Love which outlives the body, love which outlives death."



Bach's Major Vocal Works – music, drama, liturgy by Markus Rahey £25.00



In his concise and very readable introduction to six of Bach's greatest sacred works, Markus Rahey not only places the music in its cultural context but considers, also, how understanding the rich traditions of theology and liturgy from which the pieces grew can enrich and deepen our appreciation of their meditative qualities. Exploring the many references to love he also contends the music is far more sensual and emotional than many may hitherto have believed. While based on thorough scholarship, Rahey's style is very accessible, making this an ideal read for casual concert-goers and any who love listening to Bach.

Cornerstone Bookshop is an independent, inclusive, ecumenical bookshop based on the terrace at St John's Episcopal Church in Princes Street. Cornerstone is open Monday- Saturday 10am-5.30pm.
<http://cornerstonebooks.org.uk/>

Semper Aeternam

I'm the wind in the trees,
I'm the rain as it falls,
I'm the frost on the glass
and the sunbeams

*I'm spirit and free
and yet I'm still me,
I'm free now semper aeternam.*

I can fly with the birds
and commune with the stars,
I am earth, water, fire and air.
Refrain

I can't be held or contained,
or hurt or maimed
I don't suffer or cry any more.
Refrain

So don't cry for me,
it's not I who's still bound,
The ego is only on earth.
But I'm spirit and free, and very much me,
I'm free now semper aeternam.

Now live out your life as well as you can,
And don't waste a moment of time
Until you're spirit and free and then, just like me,
You'll have life semper aeternam.

Copyright Anne McClary 2009

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

EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847

www.stagw.org.uk  stagw  @StAGW1

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@churchofscotland.org.uk

Associate Minister Rev Tony Bryer
Associate Minister Rev Allison E Becker
ABecker@churchofscotland.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant Rev Alistair McGregor
Session Clerk George Burgess

Joint Treasurers John Innes
Allan Sim

Director of Music Brigitte Harris
Assistant DoM Andrew Carvel
Church manager Wendy Henderson
0131 225 3847 churchmanager@stagw.org.uk

Church secretary Joyce Garland
0131 225 3847 info@stagw.org.uk

Church administrator Sophie Chalmers
0131 225 3847 admin@stagw.org.uk

Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

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TOGETHER City David Hart 0131 229 6542 / 07834 748129
Centre Chaplain david.hart@wpcscotland.co.uk
TOGETHER Trustees from St Andrew's and St George's West
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