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**St Andrew's and St George's West
March 2017
Magazine**

ST ANDREW'S &
ST GEORGE'S WEST
EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH City
Centre CHURCHES
TOGETHER



March 2017 Magazine

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Many thanks to everyone who contributes to the magazine.

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Contact email [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)

Editor Alison Bruce



The 2016 Review: Plant, Partnerships and People

Ian Gilmour

2016 saw many successful events and ventures.

Past

Thanks to legacies, 2016 was financially successful.

We joined with Albany Church for the Deaf, allowing them to remain a 'mission initiative' within Edinburgh Presbytery. We celebrated a covenant service with Dr. Russell Barr, the Moderator of the General Assembly designate.

Sadly, we also had too many funeral services for much valued members. Our choir, staff and the ministry team worked hard to support each service with appropriate worship and fellowship.

Perfect Pitch

Our choir opened the year with a successful tour to Germany. They sang services daily in Holy Week, with Andrew Carvel's *Seven Last Words from the Cross* on Good Friday. Carols at Six drew a record audience. The choir's Fringe concert included new work by Stuart Murray Mitchell and Andrew Carvel. The choir featured in a BBC documentary on the New Town, and recorded a CD to be launched in 2017.



Richmond's Hope tree at *Follow The Star*, the 2016 Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival

Partnerships

Deepening relationships with Dalry Primary School included support for after-school activities and services. A creative team in the congregation made costumes for a Christmas Nativity and we hope to repeat this in other primary schools.



A reception was held on the tenth anniversary of the Bells restoration to thank the Bells Team. Simon Aves has taken over from Mike Clay as Tower Captain.



The Christmas Tree Festival has become a highlight of Advent for all, and donations of over £3,000 were shared between local charities Edinburgh Direct Aid, Health in Mind and Richmond Hope.

Plant

The Undercroft Cafe had a busy and successful year, led by the staff and crofters team. Two of our volunteers moved into paid employment. Our chef Pete has been a great source of encouragement and the cafe won an award for the work with volunteers placed by Port of Leith Housing Association.



The professionalism and commitment of the staff has increased the usage and rental of the building.



People and parish

Our American Associate Allison Becker and staff member Sophie Chalmers led summer activities for children. Tony Bryer retired as Work Place Chaplain but returned as a part time Associate. The minister is chaplain to the Moderator of the General Assembly until May 2017.



Service to our city centre parish and to the wider world reflects our ethos of loving God through loving our neighbour. A large team of volunteers ensured our building was open six days a week. School debates and the Donald Gorrie Lecture tackle key issues – this year Sally Magnusson talked about dementia and her charity Playlist for Life.



We serve the poorest people of the world. The Christian Aid Sale raised a record total of over £140,000.

We continue to serve local businesses through involvement in Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland, and have two volunteer chaplains in post.

Our ecumenical partnership with St Cuthbert's and St John's strengthens, events were held with the German church, and we have good inter-faith relations, including the Central Mosque.



Preparing the Way

Through Together we are creating “A New Vision for an Old City” in partnership with New College’s Centre for Theology and Public Issues.

Our congregation engaged in the Council’s Edinburgh 2050 initiative.

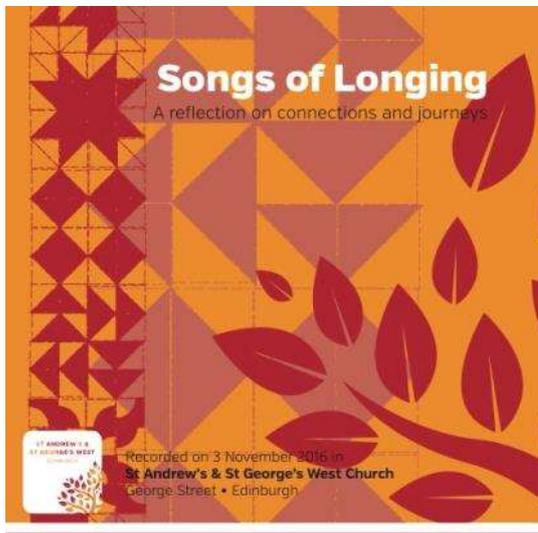
In summary, we worked hard at balancing the budget using our plant well, developing our people and creating new partnerships, all of which revealed our collective commitment to following Jesus Christ.

Rev Ian Y Gilmour, Parish Minister.

Read the full story in the 2016 Annual Report and Accounts, available soon.

Come along to the Stated Annual Meeting on **Sunday 2 April 2017** to reflect on 2016 and to consider 2017 and beyond.

Choir News



Songs of Longing

the choir’s first CD, will be launched on **Palm Sunday 9th April at 3pm.**

The CD began as a final year recording project for Anna Heath, a Napier student.

There will be music, cake and more so please save the time and date!

Reflections for Holy Week at 7pm

The following week the choir will sing Reflections for Holy Week with a programme of old and new music for men’s voices, women’s voices and full choir.

Sundays at STAGW

Lent 2017: The way of discipleship

Sunday 5 March

First Sunday of the month

On the first Sunday of each month you are invited to bring dry goods to contribute to Fresh Start's Starter Packs*

There is usually a simple social lunch of soup, bread and cheese and home baking after the 11am service, for a suggested minimum donation of £3. Proceeds go to local charities.

9am Communion

9.45am All Age Service

**10.30am Adult Discussion:
title**

11am Morning Worship

Facing Temptation

Matthew 4.1 – 11

Fellowship Lunch for
International Justice Mission

1pm singing by signing

2pm Albany Deaf Church

** eg pasta, rice, cereal, tinned beans, tinned meat, UHT milk, instant coffee, teabags.*

<http://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/goods>

Sunday 12 March

- **9am Communion**
- **9.45am All Age Service**
- **10.30am Adult Discussion**
- **11am Morning Worship**
Faith in the Son of God
John 3: 1 – 17
- joint covenant service with Albany Deaf Church

Sunday 19 March

- **9am Communion**
- **9.45am All Age Service**
- **10.30am Adult Discussion**
- **11am Morning Worship**
Assured of God's love
Romans 5: 1 – 11
- **2pm Albany Deaf Church**

Sunday 26 March

- **9am Communion**
- **9.45am All Age Service**
- **10.30am Adult Discussion**
- **11am Morning Worship**
Walking in the Light
Ephesians 5:8 – 14
- **12 noon Communion**
- **2pm Albany Deaf Church**

Sunday 2 April

First Sunday of the month

- 9am Communion
- 9.45am All Age Service
- 10.30am Adult Discussion
- 11am Morning Worship
The Way of the Cross (the meaning of Holy Week)
- **Stated Annual Meeting**
- **Fellowship Lunch**
Caledonian Woodlands
- **2pm Albany Deaf Church**

Sunday 9 April

Palm Sunday

- 9am Communion
- 9.45am All Age Service
- 10.30am Adult Discussion
- 11am Morning Worship
The Mind of Christ
Philippians 2:5 – 11
- **2pm Albany Deaf Church**
- **3pm Choir CD Launch**

TOGETHER Churches Lent groups. The theme is 'Take the Plunge – Baptism', and it will follow the format of the Pilgrim Course with prayer, Bible reading and discussion based on the Baptism Service and Timothy Radcliffe's book 'Take the Plunge'. Copies of the book for those who sign up will be ordered from the Cornerstone Bookshop at about £11.50.



TAKING THE PLUNGE REFLECTIONS ON BAPTISM
LENT STUDY GROUPS 2017

Prayer, Bible reading and discussion about the meaning of Baptism

Group 1 | Wednesdays 11:45am | 8 March - 5 April
Held at St John's, Princes St. To book a place, please contact Eileen Thompson : eileencthompson@gmail.com

Group 2 | Thursdays 7:30pm | 9 March - 6 April
Held at St Cuthbert's, Lothian Rd. To book a place, please contact Stephen Holmes : stephen.holmes@stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk

St John's EDINBURGH City Centre CHURCHES TOGETHER church mouse Mail & Print Made

March-April 2017 Diary

Mon 27 Feb	12.15pm Undercroft Amnesty Group
Wed 1 Mar	Ash Wednesday, Lent begins 1pm Memorial service for Zander Wedderburn
Thurs 2 Mar	12.30pm Edinburgh Ecumenical Friends (STAGW sanctuary) Rev Rosie Addis, Deaf Church
Fri 3 Mar	Lomond Hills Walk 1pm World Day of Prayer, sanctuary
Sun 5 March	9am, 9.45am, 11am services 12 noon Fellowship lunch for IJM 1pm sing by signing workshop 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 6 Mar	6.30pm AHSS lecture
Thurs 9 Mar	12.30-2 Ecumenical Friends (STAGW sanctuary) Colin Douglas, Lenten Meditation
Sat 11 Mar	10am-1pm Messy Church
Sun 12 Mar	9am, 9.45am services. 11am Joint Covenant Service with Albany Deaf Church, with Communion
Sun 19 Mar	2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 20 Mar	10.30am Book Group 7.30 Kirk Session
Wed 22 Mar	2.30pm Evergreens Alison Barrett, member of the Embroiderers Guild 7.30pm Music Box Edinburgh College Concert
Sat 25 Mar	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
Sun 26 Mar	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; noon communion 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 27 Mar	12.15pm Undercroft Amnesty Group
Tue 28 Mar	7.30pm Phoenix Gospel Choir Spring Concert

April 2017

Sun 2 April	9am, 9.45am, 11am services. Fellowship Lunch Caledonian Woodlands Stated Annual Meeting 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Mon 3 Apr	6.30pm AHSS Lecture
Thurs 6 Apr	All Day Conference, Sanctuary
Sun 9 Apr	Palm Sunday 9am, 9.45am, 11am services 2pm Albany Deaf Church 3pm Choir CD launch
Mon 10 Apr	7pm Music and Reflection for Holy Week
Tue 11 Apr	7pm Music and Reflection for Holy Week
Wed 12 Apr	7pm Music and Reflection for Holy Week
Thur 13 Apr	7pm Seder meal (tbc)
Fri 14 Apr	7pm Music and Reflection for Holy Week
Sun 16 Apr	EASTER DAY
Wed 19 Apr	Edinburgh Quartet Rush Hour Concert
Sun 23 Apr	9am, 9.45am, 11am services
Mon 24 April	12.15pm Undercroft Amnesty Group
Wed 26 April	2.30pm Evergreens Rev David Todd, Chaplain to the Arts
Sun 30 Apr	9am, 9.45am, 11am services Push'n'shove Sunday
Mon 1 – Fri 12 May Christian Aid sorting and pricing	
Sat 13 – Fri 19 May Christian Aid Sale	
Sun 21 May Heart and Soul, Princes Street Gardens	

February 2017

Baptism: Ruaridh Balfour-Peers, on 19 February 2017

Death: Zander Wedderburn, on 23 February 2017

Meet our staff team

Sophie Chalmers, Admin Assistant

I grew up in Broughty Ferry, just outside of Dundee with my Mum and Dad and my dog Poppy. As a child, I always loved doing sports and different activities some of which I still do today. I was captain of the hockey team and I competed in athletics and gymnastic competitions on behalf of my school teams. In addition to these childhood sports, I have been a dancer since I was 5 and I have also competed in various horse riding competitions, which turned out to be a favourite hobby of mine for 13 years. I have always been a people person, I love being around others and I always loved being part of a team so made sure most of my hobbies were team based, or surrounded by others.



I left home at the age of eighteen and I moved to Edinburgh to study Events Management at Edinburgh College, where I graduated 2 years later with a HND. During my time at college I had the opportunity to do some work experience at the Scottish Parliament, which then led to being offered a place as a member of their events team, even after I had finished my course. During this time, I fell in love with Edinburgh and cannot imagine going back to live in Dundee.

I have always been a people person

One thing I have a true passion for are Dogs. My ideal career would be working as a dog psychologist, it's not your average job but I have learned a lot over the years about it and how these amazing creatures minds work. I have learned so much from watching documentaries, reading books and also from my own experiences, so hopefully one day I can get to experience what it is like to fully understand these animals.

I met my fiancé Liam at college in 2013 and we are currently planning our wedding day, which will take place in September 2017. Once we are married Liam still has one more year of university to finish where he will graduate with a degree in Theology. Once finished, we plan on spending some time exploring the world – Bali, Thailand, Australia - and enjoy being married before having to deal with any huge responsibilities or ties. After all – once married the world is our oyster.

Meet our staff team

Michal Jesionowski, caretaker

My name is Michal Jesionowski.

Apart from taking care about the church I do other things in life.

I'm a musician. Started playing piano in age 2, then went to the Classical music school. I also started to compose my own music in early age. In time I expanded my instrumentation and composing abilities.

In my teen age I had a chance to discover electronic side of the music that became a big influence in my whole composing work. I've done music for computer games, theatre plays, dance shows, movies, animations.

I was involved in many different musical projects and I was always open to explore new ways of expressing and searching for unique sounds.

Here are some examples of my work:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/ardenteofficial>

<https://soundcloud.com/mijesmusic>

Capoeira is one of the best tools I know to make real friends

Nowadays I play several instruments but mainly piano, saxophones and berimbau which is a very special instruments used in Capoeira.... and this led me to another thing I'm passionate about and do for many years.

I was always fascinated by martial arts. I started Jeet Kune Do in age 15. After 8 years of hard training and teaching I was introduced to a little bit different martial art called Capoeira. It comes from Brasil and includes live music, dance and acrobatic moves with the element of fight/game. And in this art I gained the level of instructor in the one of the best Capoeira group in the world Cordão de Ouro.

(<http://www.cdoscotland.com>).

Also Capoeira is one of the best tools I know to make real friends! !



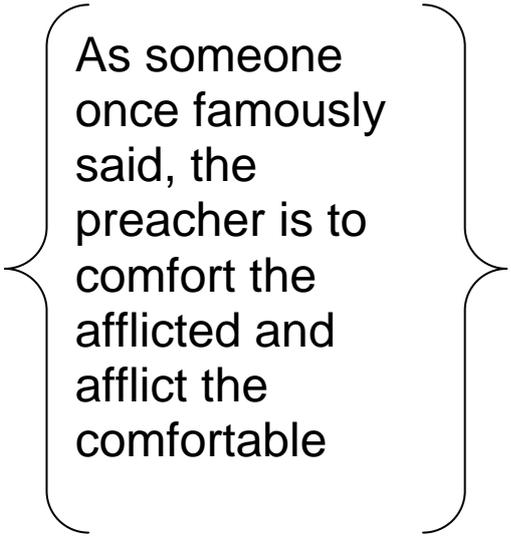
Letter From Arizona

Bill Clinkenbeard

Several weeks ago we went to church to worship but it turned out not to be the church. This clearly requires some explanation!

John Calvin, the great reformer and founder of the Presbyterian style of church government and practice provided a definition of the True Church in his book *The Institutes*. It's something that everyone studying for the ministry learns but does not hover over for very long! Calvin's definition goes something like this: (My apologies: I don't have a copy of the *Institutes* at hand): The true church is where the Word of God is truly proclaimed and the sacraments are rightly administered. The issue here is about the Word being truly proclaimed.

You will know how the United States is deeply divided at the moment and how the speech and action of the new administration is causing deep and widespread distress. Americans are wondering where Mr. Trump's policies with respect to Islamic travelers/refugees, to the Wall between the USA and Mexico, to the denial of climate change, and to disputes with the law courts are taking the country. I'm sure that some, like me, believe that the primary threat to the country comes not from without but from within the nation. Will such policies not threaten the core values we have always held so important, such as freedom and justice and safety for the oppressed?



As someone once famously said, the preacher is to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable

So with all this in the minds of most people, with anxiety and division abounding, it was an opportune time for a sermon dealing with the issues. Ministers are, after all, called to be prophetic. As someone once famously said, the preacher is to comfort the

afflicted and afflict the comfortable. On that Sunday no one was comforted and no one was afflicted. Instead, we were asked to focus on an Old Testament passage which illustrated how high and holy God is above his people. (It would have been good to hear how God in Christ is with us in our anxiety).

Now the point of all this rambling is to say that for the first time in my life I felt that this was not the true church according to Calvin's definition. We may have heard the lessons, sung the hymns, said the prayers and enjoyed fine music, but this was not the true church.

It was the first time I have ever felt that and it was disturbing. It is never easy to proclaim a word that goes against established practices or that challenges powerful people.

Thank God that the Church of Scotland understands this. In fact, such proclamation can be downright dangerous. But that is what the preacher is asked to do. If he or she lacks the courage to do so then he or she is in the wrong job.

Bill Clinkenbeard
February 12, 2017

"Woundedness is a call to find the rest of ourselves and release it".

Thanks to **Phyllis Thompson** for this quote from 'Two dogs and a parrot' by Joan Chittister

Reason and Wonder

Arthur Chapman

A Sunday discussion group meets weekly (more or less!) after the 9.45 service. We usually meet in the chapel from about 10.30 am until 11.15 but you can leave at any time, for example to join 11am Morning Worship.

We're currently studying Eric Priest's *Reason and Wonder: Why Science and Faith need each other* - a collection of essays from leading writers.

New members and drop-ins are always welcome!



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

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

Inspiration. When I hear this word I think of God's love and creation, many biblical stories, characters and references, and of course prayer. I also think of special, strong, brave, and gifted people who have influenced my life. And, I think of things that awaken an innate passion and compel me to follow a particular course or take a certain action. I know I'm not unique in any of this.

Turning to nature, am I inspired by nature? Waiting, watching, listening, photographing... unequivocally, yes! The beauty and variety, the vulnerability and resilience, the highs and lows, and the sheer wonder of it all. Just taking swans as an example close to my heart, references and images abound in music, ballet, literature, poetry, art, mythology... and the list goes on. In terms of my local swan couple, as many of you will know, they aroused a passion and curiosity that inspired me to follow their journey and to share the experience via my writing and photography.

I have mentioned before my wildlife hopes for the future. One thing not listed publicly, but nevertheless on my own 'wish list', was a desire to

witness my local swan couple mating. What a significant step on their journey, and what a very precious moment to share. I had read about the ritual, but to see it through my eyes...that was the dream.

What were the chances? How could I know the location they might choose? How could I know the time of day or night to watch? Many times before I have felt truly blessed by things I have encountered by chance in the wild; a few weeks ago, yet again my luck held out and nature did not disappoint.

My early morning began heading out, attired in my usual wildlife watching 'gear', in search of two very familiar, large, stunning-looking, white birds...my mute swan couple. I soon found them near a footbridge very close to my home, and proceeded to offer a light breakfast (lettuce and seeded bread), engage in some entertaining conversation (snorts and grunts!), and then took advantage of suitable close-up 'posing' opportunities to add to my photographic library. An hour passed, followed by another, before I decided to head for home. As soon as I reached the footbridge and looked back, their behaviour had changed; it captured my attention. I knelt out of sight on the bridge and observed, enthralled. I recognised instantly what was happening. The swan mating ritual was underway. My 'dream' was about to come true.

Synchronised swimming and head dipping; neck entwining; the cob ever so gently climbing on top and submerging the pen's head; both standing full height in the water, wings outstretched, and chest-to-chest. Such tenderness on display, and at the risk of anthropomorphism, I would say love; love evident for the world to see.

The act itself was one of the most beautiful things I have ever witnessed. Balletic is my favoured descriptor, and I don't doubt that many of the precise flowing movements provided inspiration for at least some 'Swan Lake' choreography and probably a host of other dances and stories. Indeed, without wishing to sound greedy, I would love to see it again...only this time, not through a camera lens! That said, it was a joy to add some photographs of this special experience to my swan portfolio, and I am delighted to share a couple with you here.

It is still too early in the year for these swans to be nesting; I don't expect that to happen until April. Meantime, it is quite normal for swan pairs to strengthen their bonds by mating during January to March in

preparation for egg-laying. Exciting times lie ahead; I wish them well and will continue to draw inspiration from their very presence in my life. As ever, I am grateful to God for His natural world, and for the richness that it brings me.

Oh God, we praise thee for the arching sky and the blessed winds,
for the driving clouds and the stars on high,
for the trees and for the grass under our feet.

We thank thee for our senses by which we can see
the splendour of the morning and hear the happy song of birds,
and smell the breath of spring.

Grant us, we pray, hearts wide open to all this joy and beauty,
lest we pass heedless and unseeing
when the thorn bush by the wayside is aflame with thy glory.

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow



Wildlife in your garden – do you have any interesting garden or nearby visitors, eg badgers, foxes, birds? Pat would love to hear your stories.



A busy weekend

Simon Aves, Tower Captain

During the last weekend of May this year we will welcome the Central Council of Church Bellringers to St Andrew' and St George's West to hold their annual meeting. The Council is the representative body for all who ring bells in the English traditional art of change ringing.

Founded in 1891, the Council of around 200 delegates today represents societies from all parts of the British Isles as well as centres of ringing in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, the USA, South Africa and Italy. The object of the Council is to promote and foster the ringing of bells for Christian prayer, worship and celebration and to promote awareness and good practice in the ringing of church bells.

This is the first time in its long history that the Council has held its meeting in Scotland, and in organising the event the local Scottish Association knew there was nowhere more appropriate to hold the meeting than in St Andrew and St George West where, in 1789, the

first bells in Scotland hung to be rung in the English style, were installed.

The weekend will start on the evening of Friday 26th May with delegates arriving in Edinburgh and being given an opportunity to ring our bells. On the Saturday there will be an opportunity for them to travel to other parts of Scotland (as distant as Inverness and Inveraray) to ring if they wish. St Cuthbert's, St Mary's Cathedral and Fettes School bells will also be available, and in the evening there will be an informal get-together.

On Sunday 28th May, as well as being invited to attend service here in our church, members will attend committee meetings and evensong service at St Mary's, followed by a dinner and ceilidh in the evening. The main meeting general meeting will take all day on Monday 29th May, here at St Andrew and St George West.

All in all it will be a very busy weekend, but hopefully our guests will depart on the Monday evening impressed with our church, our city and our hospitality!



Will using surveillance make good religion better and bad religion worse?

This public lecture is aimed at a general audience of people from any religious faith tradition, or none.

Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH12JL

Free. But booking essential Tickets available at:
https://surrelig_edinburgh.eventbrite.co.uk/

When Monday 20th March 2017; 7.30pm.

Speaker Dr Eric Stoddart | Coordinator, Surveillance & Religion Network | Associate Director, Centre for the Study of Religion & Politics School of Divinity | University of St Andrews

Details Eric Stoddart has been teaching and writing about digital, and specifically surveillance, technologies, for the past 10 years.

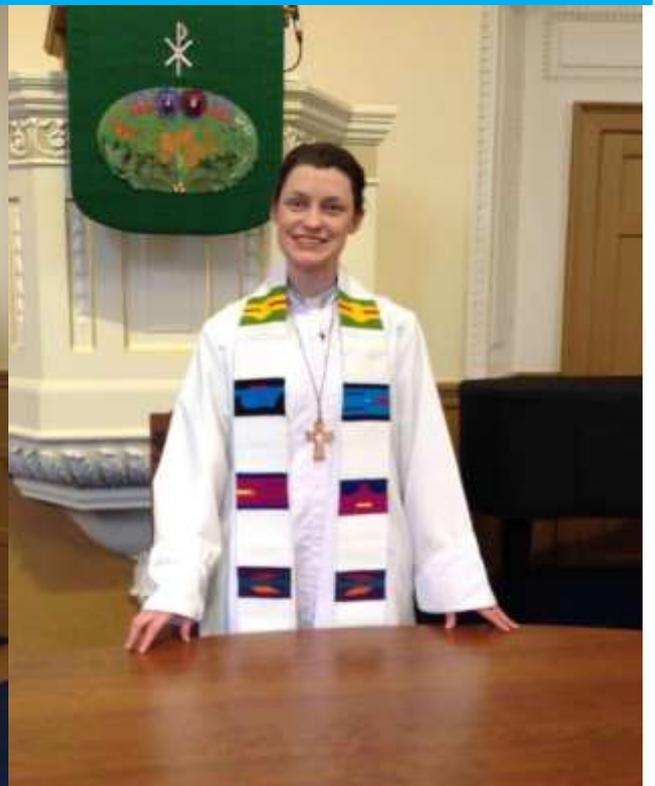
In this talk Dr Stoddart will explore the ways that religious groups draw upon surveillance technologies such as congregational data management, self-monitoring of spiritual disciplines, or CCTV deployed upon (and within) religious buildings. He will consider how these technologies shape their users and what that might mean for faith communities. He will suggest that religious groups need to find resources from within their respective traditions in order to employ surveillance in ways that are life-affirming and not, unintentionally, counter to human flourishing.

A question and answer session will follow his 40 minute talk which begins at 7.30pm.

Eric Stoddart spoke at the TOGETHER Conference to create a New Vision for an Old City. He has done groundbreaking work on the city as liturgy and his perspectives are interesting and unexpected.



Singing goodbye to Allison at the 9.45 and 11am services



Below: Allison's induction at St John's Kilmarnock





New beginnings: Rev Allison E Becker with Donna and Ian Gilmour

Welcoming observers

Tony Bryer



From the beginning of March the Together Churches will be welcoming seven first year ordination students from the Scottish Episcopal Institute to a three month placement as part of their training. Each of them will attend Sunday worship in the churches on a number of occasions, as well as other meetings and events.

Unlike some placements, this will not be one where students are exercising a role in the churches; the purpose is observation of all that goes on within the shared ministry and mission of the three churches. They will also spend time shadowing with some of the workplace chaplains in Edinburgh learning how this form of ministry expresses the churches concern for people in their working lives.

The seven students, one man and six women, are very diverse in background and experience. Six are Episcopalians and one is a United Reformed Church student. Two are in fulltime employment; two are fulltime students at New College; one student has a toddler and lives in East Lothian, another student lives in West Lothian.

Their times with us will have to fit in with work and study, including residential weekends. We will, I hope, have an opportunity to meet each of them over the three months and, when we do, share with them something of what our faith and membership of the Together churches means to us.

Do speak with me if you'd like to know more, as I am the link person for them, enabling them to make the necessary arrangements for their observations.

Tony Bryer, Associate Minister **PHOTO**

New Workplace Chaplain

Andy Gregg will be our next Edinburgh City Centre Workplace Chaplain. Originally from Northern Ireland, Andy is currently a Workplace Chaplain in Inverness as well as Training and Vocation Director at Workplace Chaplaincy.



<https://www.linkedin.com/in/andrewgregg>

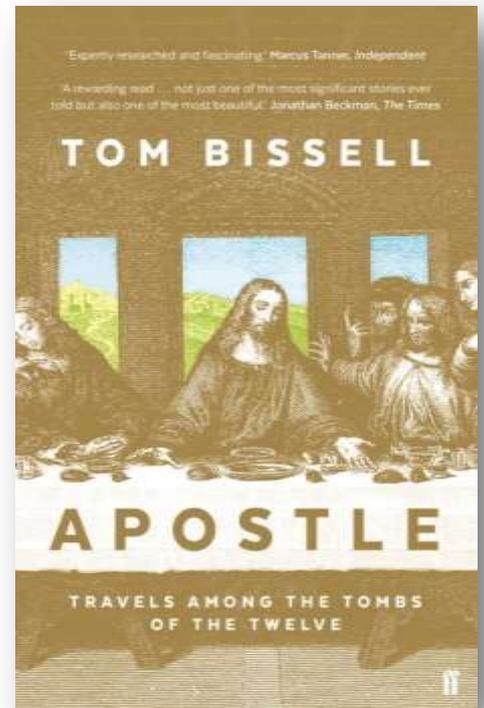
Cornerstone Book Reviews

Amanda Bruce, Cornerstone Bookshop at St John's

Apostle – Travels Among the Tombs of the Twelve by Tom Bissell £9.99 ISDN 9780571234752

In writing what is a compelling account of the earliest friends of Jesus, Tom Bissell embarked on a journey that would take him three years and through nine countries to some of their supposed 'resting places'.

Part travelogue, part 'biography', part 'history', Bissell asks who these men might have been, seeking to give them personalities by examining how their identities took shape over the course of two thousand years. Peppared with anecdotes and travelers' tales from those scholars and pilgrims he met on his way, the scholarly depth he shows is lightened to make this a fascinating, readable exploration for believer and skeptic alike.



God Curious by Stephen Cherry

£8.99 9781785921995

This latest offering from Stephen Cherry (Dean of King's College, Cambridge) was written with those who might be thinking of reading Theology at university in mind. However, as he explains in his introduction, as theology is less a 'subject', more a 'form of seeking', 'a quest', he rightly assessed the book's audience might be wider.

What he has ended up with is an accessible manual, "pointing," as Canon Mark Oakley puts it, "to theology as the disciplined, human and holistic way in which we can explore the eternal questions that hover over every century"; encouraging the reader to understand that any quest to understand God is also a quest to understand other people and ourselves. "Theology, then," Cherry says, is the discipline of asking the best possible questions about the most important matters. It is about coming to the limit of your own knowledge and insight and posing the question, 'What is beyond?'" If that intrigues you, you will enjoy reading further.

A Philosophy of Loneliness

by Lars Svendsen

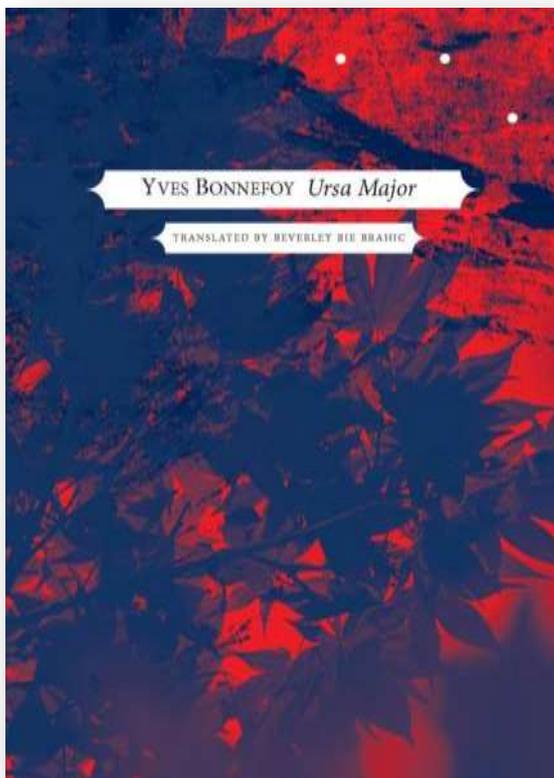
£8.99 9781780237473

Wherever there are people, there is loneliness. It is a condition that can severely impact the physical and mental health of the sufferer and all indicators point to the fact that it is being experienced by more and more people in our world today. For all our 'connectedness' with increased technological scope for being in touch with people far and wide, technology (and other factors) are increasingly limiting the need for daily social interaction. In this timely volume, Svendsen draws on the latest research in the fields of philosophy and social science to explore different forms of loneliness while considering what characteristics might pre-dispose people to them.

He also considers the difference between loneliness and solitude and asks searching questions of globalized society. This is a fine addition to what is a series by the same author. Other titles which can be ordered through us are various "Philosophies of..." and include 'Freedom', 'Fear' and 'Boredom'.

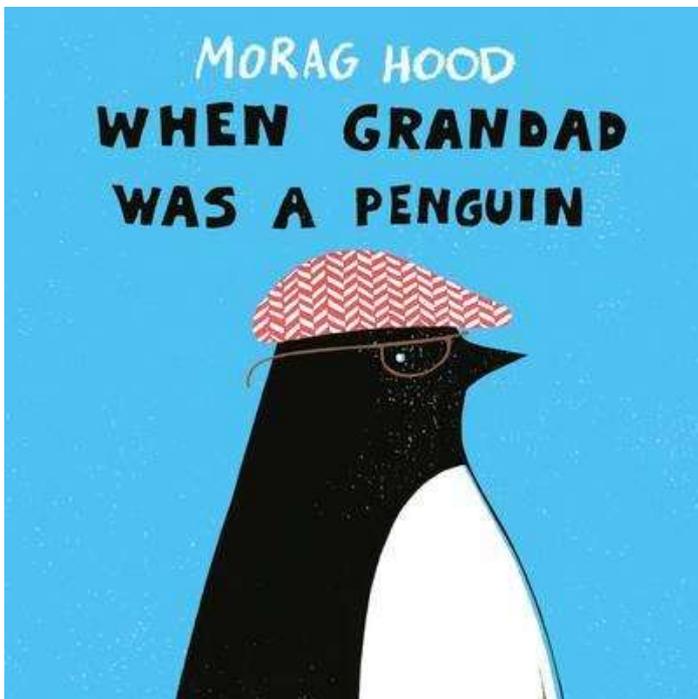
Ursa Major by Yves Bonnefoy

£13.50 9780857423740



"Countless voices traverse us; endless, almost, as the meanders of dreams or the starry scintillations of summer nights. Only listen, and a few words rise from the murmur..." – the words with which Bonnefoy introduces this collection.

For anyone unfamiliar with the work of the late French polymath, this is an excellent introduction to his poetic style. For those familiar with his work, this deeply moving sequence of prose poems it is a real treat. Exploring the mysteries of human consciousness and richly illustrated by Indian illustrator, Sunandini Banerjee, the book, in itself, is a beautiful object while his words offer many layers of meaning and demand to be read again and again.



When Grandad was a Penguin

Morag Hood

9781509814018 £11.99

What's to be done when your Grandad seems very much like a penguin?

Find out in this charming picture book written and illustrated by Morag Hood (daughter of Helen, who some readers of the magazine will know from St. Mary's Cathedral!).

With striking, colourful lino-cut artwork, and surreal story this is a lovely book for reading together. A 'fish-out-of-water' story with a difference!

Cornerstone Bookshop at St John's is open 10am-5.30pm Mon-Sat. Tel 0131 229 3776 cornerstonebooks.org.uk

"I believe that God can and will make something good out of everything - even out of evil.

For this he needs people, who will bring about good from everything.

I believe that God wants to give us during any distress the amount of resilience we need.

But he does not provide it in advance so that we do not rely on ourselves, but on him alone.

I don't believe God is timeless fate, but I believe that he waits for and will answer sincere prayer and responsible acts."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer

quoted by Markus Duenzkofer of St John's at the TOGETHER service in January.

Find the full text of Markus' sermon on the St John's website at

<http://www.stjohns-edinburgh.org.uk/worship/sermons/sermons-from-2016/sunday-22-january-2017-epiphany-3-together-service-at-st-cuthbert-s-markus-duenzkofer.html>

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Undercroft Café Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm
Sunday worship 9am, 9.45am, 11am
Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

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