



St Andrew's and St George's West December 2017- January 2018 Magazine

ST ANDREW'S &
ST GEORGE'S WEST
EDINBURGH



December 2017 – Jan 2018 Magazine

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Contributions, comments, news, photos, ideas for features are welcome – email us at [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)

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Merry Christmas Mr Trump

Ian Y Gilmour

Dear President Trump,

As the world's most powerful individual in political terms, I thought you may be interested in taking a leaf from St Nicholas book and doing something for the children of the world to mark Christmas 2017. You have the power to make a huge difference to all the children of the world. They all live on the same planet as you and will expect to live on Earth long after you have completed your term of office and indeed your life. However, this Christmas, you can give them a gift of hope, increase their joy and reveal your commitment to them by improving their chance of longer, happier lives.

My suggestion is simply to follow the research of United States scientists and acknowledge that climate change is not fake news. It is real and will have deadly consequences for millions of children from Bangladesh to Brooklyn, from New Orleans to Nairobi. It takes a big man to admit when he is wrong, while it is a foolish man who ignores advice and builds on sand. Reveal your wisdom, strength and generosity. Simply read your own scientists' findings and do not withdraw support from the Paris climate accord, instead rejoin the majority of nations in the battle against climate change. It will give you a strong way to end the first year of your period in office, moreover it will lighten the gloom hanging over the world's people. It will give them hope for their future as well as the future of this planet.

We the undersigned urge you to act as a Christmas blessing to the children of the world.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I invite our members – children and adults - to pray about this issue and if you feel able to sign the copy of this letter in the vestibule

I thank you for your support for God's Church during this year and wish you all a very enjoyable Advent and Christmas.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Ian



Joy Mead - **Mary's Song**

Mary, earthy mother,
 common woman:
 you sing to your son
 songs that will move hearts
 to change the world, if only
 we learn to listen
 and delve to the deep
 human source
 of your heavenly music.

From Valerie Budd
 Poem for Christmas

I come to you empty handed
 I come to you blinded by
 darkness
 I come to you to fill me with
 your life
 And with Your light that showed
 Wise men lead the way
 your light even shepherds
 understood

Oh Saviour, thank you for the
 love
 That's willing to be born, even
 in such
 A stable as this my heart.



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!

Advent and Christmas

Sunday 3 December at 11am (First Sunday in Advent)
Isaiah 64: 1 - 9; Mark 13: 24 - 37 **The Coming of God** *God's glory and human iniquity - the response of penitence*

Sunday 10 December at 11am (Second Sunday in Advent)
Isaiah 40; 1 - 11; Mark 1: 1 - 8 **The Exiled people of God** *The good news that God comes to restore his people*

Sunday 17 December at 11am (Third Sunday in Advent)
Isaiah 61: 1 - 4, 8 - 11; John 1:6 - 8, 19 - 28
The Messiah of God *The coming of the kingdom of God*

Sunday 24 December (fourth Sunday in Advent)
Luke 1:26-38 At Bethlehem *The church family enjoys the surprising story*

5pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Watchnight Service

Monday 25 December, Christmas Day

11am Family worship

Sunday 31 December at 11am
Luke 2:22-40 Remembering, Preparing and Dedicating
Including an opportunity to remember loved ones who have died

2018

Sunday 7 January Mark 1:4-11 **Beloved**

Sunday 14 January 1 Samuel 3:1-10 **Discerning God's Call**

Sunday 21 January 10.30am Together Joint Service at St John's (no 9.45am or 11.00am services at St AGW)

Sunday 28 January Mark 1:21-18 **Called to Truthful Love**

Sun 4 February Mark 1.29-39 **Called to Healing**



Enquiring about Christianity

A short course led by Rev. Ian Gilmour

I will be running this short course in January for anyone who is wondering what it means to be a Christian today, how to be active in a church and whether church membership is for them. It will be a relaxed, inter-active opportunity to deepen your knowledge of what the church does, what St Andrew's and St George's West is like as a congregation and where we stand on key theological and social issues.

We will look at:

- what it means to follow Jesus in the 21st century;
- how to be active in the church; and
- the vows of church membership.

If you would like to discuss the course please have a word when you see me or call me at the church on 0131 332 3847.

The dates: Wednesdays 10, 17 and 24 January, and Tue 30 Jan.

The time: 7.00pm to 8.00pm

The venue: The Manse for weeks 1, 2 and 3, the Undercroft for week 4.

To register for the course, please call the Church Office on 0131 225 3847 or email: [info\[at\]stgagw.org.uk](mailto:info@stgagw.org.uk)

Advent and Christmas at StAGW

Fri 1 Dec	7.30pm Euripides' Electra: Athens of the North
Sat 2 Dec	7.30pm Euripides' Electra: Athens of the North
Sun 3 Dec Advent 1	9am, 9.45am and 11am services 12 noon Fellowship lunch for choir funds 2pm Albany Deaf Church 3pm Edinburgh Carol Service, St Andrew Square
Mon 4 Dec	6.30pm AHSS Lecture Training the City: Built Heritage Legacy of a Railway Battle
Wed 6 Dec	Ministries Council, Sanctuary all day
Thur 7 Dec	6pm for 7pm CHSS Carol Service
Fri 8 Dec	7pm YMCA Christmas Cracker Fundraising Concert
9-23 Dec	Joy to the World – Christmas Tree Festival Colourful, creative celebration of Christmas with space to reflect and wonder and free live music
Sun 10 Dec Advent 2	9am, 9.45am and 11am services 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 12 Dec	7pm Missing People Carol Concert
Fri 15 Dec	6pm Carols at Six
Sun 17 Dec	9am, 9.45am and 11am services
Sat 23 Dec	6pm Congregational Christmas Supper
Sun 24 Dec	Christmas Eve: 9am, 9.45am, 11am services 5pm Christingle Service 11.15pm Watchnight Service
Mon 25 Dec	Christmas Day 11am Family Worship
Sun 31 Dec	9am, 9.45am, 11am services
January 2018	
Sat 20 Jan	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
Sun 21 Jan	10.30am TOGETHER Joint Service at St John's (no 9.45am or 11am services StAGW)
Tue 23 Jan	7.30pm Kirk Session
Sat 27 Jan	10am-12.30pm Messy Church



**Christingle Service
5pm on Christmas Eve**



**Watchnight Service
11.15pm on Christmas
Eve**

2018 Fellowship Lunches

Fellowship lunches are held on the first Sunday of every month after the 11am service. They provide an opportunity for people to share food and fellowship, and also to raise funds for good causes. If you would like to nominate a charity – local or international – for one of the 2018 lunches, please speak to Cathie Donaldson or Agnes Smith to book a date.

Congregational Christmas Supper

Saturday 23 December in the Undercroft Celebrate Christmas with food, wine, carols and a quiz. Tickets £10 (children £5) are on sale on Sundays and during the week from the office.





News and Notices

Baptism

Robin Alan Clowes on 5 November

Deaths

Dr Mary Noble on 26th October

Arthur Colin Crawford on 2nd November

Freda Grieve

Freda Thomson, better known as Freda Grieve, died on 24 July 2017. She was married in St Leonard's in the Fields Church, Perth, in 1956 to Gordon Grieve, an Edinburgh solicitor and elder at St George's West Church. They were both very involved in all the church activities. Sadly Gordon died in 1964, leaving Freda with two young children, Hamish and Valerie. She moved to India, teaching a range of subjects at Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong. In 1967 she returned to Edinburgh and married Alistair Thomson, a London banker. Subsequently she moved to Bishops Stortford with Alistair. Both made frequent visits to Edinburgh, Freda attending St George's when the opportunity arose.

Hamish Thomson

Albuquerque, New Mexico, USA

9-23 December



Joy to the World

Edinburgh Christmas
Tree Festival



ST ANDREW'S &
ST GEORGE'S WEST
EDINBURGH



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

Free Entry

Mon-Sat 10am-6pm
Thu until 9pm

Please see www.stagw.org.uk for
full details

Joy to the World Opening Hours

We are generally open

**Monday - Saturday
10-6pm
Thursdays until 9pm**

However, Christmas is a busy time at St Andrew's and St George's West, and occasionally we have to close a little early ahead of carol services for rehearsals and set up. For this reason we will **close early**

**Tue 12 Dec at 5.30pm
Fri 15 Dec at 2pm**

Early closure on Fri 15 is to allow orchestra and musicians to set up for **Carols at Six**.

Please come along for this fantastic celebration of Christmas in words and music. Doors open 5.30pm.

We're generally **closed on Sundays** but the church is open for worship. There are services at 9am, 9.45am and 11am and everyone is welcome.

Joy to the World The 8th Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival

"It's so very beautiful and inspiring - thank you" – was how one visitor praised the Christmas Tree Festival 2016.

It certainly brings a lot of joy to see the imagination and skill which people put into decorating their tree, reflecting their work, interests or concerns. A very special, peaceful place is created during Advent where visitors can enjoy the splendour, reflect, listen to music or respond to the "thought provoking" trees.

The proceeds from each of our "Caring Christmas Trees" supports **Bethany Christian Trust's** work, transforming lives of people affected by homelessness. Furthermore, donations from visitors will be shared between three charities who are spreading Joy to people nearby and around the world.

The three charities are **Pasda**, **VOCAL** (Voice of Carers Across Lothian) and **MSF** (Médecins sans Frontières).

We asked them to tell us how they do this:

PASDA

Pasda aims to assist carers of adults Autism Spectrum Condition to find appropriate information for their son or daughter and look after their own health and well-being as long term carers. Most adults with autism are cared for by family members. Pasda mainly provides practical advice eg benefits, carers assessment process, financial advice and the diagnostic pathway.



One of the most important roles is to speak to the carer privately to gather information about what they want for their family. These are often emotional occasions, as carers have not found appropriate help when needed and have become isolated. Many carers have neglected their own health and need time to examine their future with others who understand.



The most successful activity Pasda provides are informal meetings for carers, many of whom are isolated due to their caring role. These groups include, singing, gardening, walking, cooking, coffee clubs and seasonal social events such as the Christmas quiz. The informality of the meetings allows carers to speak with other carers in a similar position without being judged. One of the commonest phrases amongst carers is that they do not feel so alone after speaking to someone who understands their difficulties. Gradually, as carers gain confidence and make contact with people in similar circumstances they begin to attend other groups and workshops.

Susan Chambers, Convenor, Pasda

For more information visit

www.pasda.org.uk

www.facebook.com/Pasda-201810243223204/



VOCAL

VOCAL supports unpaid carers and their families in Edinburgh and Midlothian. Our beneficiaries are someone who provides unpaid care to a family member, partner, relative or friend of any age who needs help to manage a long term condition, disability, physical or mental health problem or addiction.

Our carer support team work with over 8,000 carers each year on a one-to-one basis to develop an individual support plan tailored to their needs that can include one-to-one and peer support, legal advice, counselling, training and lifestyle management courses, short breaks and respite, complimentary therapies and financial support. Our services have been described as a lifeline by carers with one carer saying 'VOCAL was/is a lifeline. The service and staff helped me negotiate a very difficult time in my life'

Since October, our carers have been busy making handmade decorations for our tree. The craft group is a popular course which gives carers the chance to take time away from their caring role, socialise and take up a new hobby. Our staff, volunteers and carers hope you enjoy looking at our decorations and we thank you for choosing us to be a part of the Christmas Tree Festival this year.

Additional information

Francesca Greaves – Partnership Development Officer at VOCAL

Phone: 0131 622 6666

Twitter: @EdinburghCarers

Facebook: @VOCALCarers

Website: www.vocal.org.uk



Médecins Sans Frontières Doctors without Borders



Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) are an international humanitarian non-governmental organisation (NGO), which work in projects and areas such as disaster relief and developing countries affected by endemic disease. They work in many regions where no other organisation can or does, proving how vital they are to support. They also have a strong ethos of *témoignage*, speaking out about the atrocities they can often witness. This is an important feature of MSF as many other NGO's are unable to speak out due to their affiliations with governments or such. Thankfully MSF are impartial and so are able to speak out about what they witness and hopefully help it to change. **Friends of MSF Edinburgh** are one of the student



societies affiliated with and supporting MSF UK. We work throughout the year to raise money for MSF and raise awareness about the causes they are working towards. MSF UK sends us speakers such as doctors, nurses and engineers throughout the year to highlight their fascinating and humbling work. We also organise an annual conference, movie screening nights and socials such as the upcoming **Beats without Borders** to raise money for MSF. Thank you very much for choosing us to be one of the charities to support this year – we really appreciate every penny!

Hannah Douglas

Vice President, Friends of Médecins Sans Frontières, Edinburgh

For more information:

www.eusa.ed.ac.uk/societies/society/FoMSF/.

<https://www.facebook.com/fomsfedin/>

www.msf.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/msf.english>





Come and enjoy music among the trees

Sat 9 December

12 noon Nick Gould, saxophone and piano
2-4pm and 5-6pm Charles Liu, piano



Monday 11 December

11-12 Brigitte Harris, organ
1pm Honest Singers

Tue 12 December

11-12.30pm Circle Carers' Choir

Wed 13 December

12-1pm Kleyne Klezmer

Thursday 14 December



12-1pm Drew Crichton, piano

Friday 15 December

6pm Carols at Six

Saturday 16 December

11am Susan McLarty, Recorder group
2-3pm Viokoh, Michal Jesionowski
4-5pm Joanna Stark, fiddle

Wednesday 20 December

12-1pm Drew Crichton, piano

Thursday 21 December

1-2pm Triplicity

Friday 22 December

11-1pm Leonard Harper Gow
1-2pm Dovecot Singers

Saturday 23 December



12-1pm Nick Gould, saxophone and piano
2-3 pm Viokoh, Michal Jesionowski
3-4 pm Perth Strathspey and Reel Society



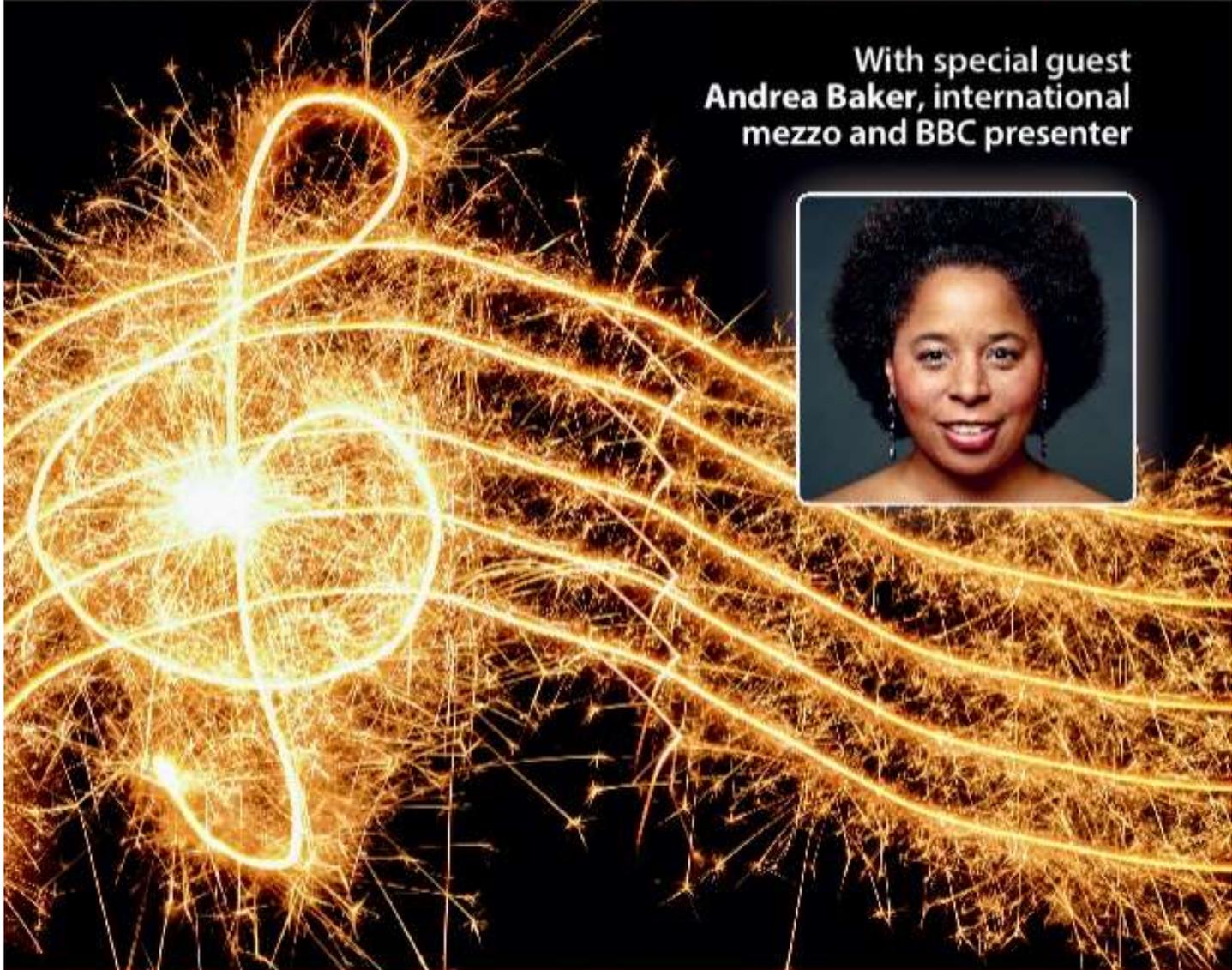
Free - donations to MSF, PASDA and VOCAL

Friday 15 December at 6pm

Carols at Six

A highlight of **Edinburgh's Christmas**. Come and sing favourite carols among the Christmas trees, and listen to the **St Andrew's and St George's West Choir** and **Cantilena Orchestra** perform Christmas music highlights. Directed by **Brigitte Harris**.

With special guest
Andrea Baker, international
mezzo and BBC presenter



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

stagw.org.uk  [stagw](https://www.facebook.com/stagw)  [@stagw1](https://twitter.com/stagw1)

Free Entry



All donations will be shared between **Médecins sans Frontières** (international humanitarian NGO), **Pasda** (supporting families of adults with autism), and **VOCAL** (supporting carers in Edinburgh and Midlothian).

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland No. SC008990

Letter from Arizona

Bill Clinkenbeard

Thinking about a theme for this letter, I have been somewhat stumped and unable to come up with the right word to capture the State of Being here. The closest word might be *Bewilderment*. People seem a little bewildered because too many odd things are happening round about them. On the political front the two Arizona senators representing the state will soon not be in the senate. John McCain is very ill with a brain tumour. Jeff Flake, having been very critical of President Trump's policies, has announced that he will not be seeking re-election. He knows that he would not be successful. So Arizona's future in the politics of Washington is uncertain.

Moreover, people are baffled by the increasing revelations about sexual harassment and misconduct. First Hollywood, then all media, and then in the political establishment. "How come all of this is happening and has only come to light now?" This may, of course, sound familiar to those who keep track of the British media.

Meantime, we have celebrated Thanksgiving and are getting ready for Christmas. The Christmas commercial songs are playing in the shops; the Santas and reindeer have been positioned in gardens and on roofs with care; there are strings of white lights wrapped around the palms. It is a beautiful setting and it should be a happy and buoyant time. But somehow it isn't. People have been distracted by all of the above. The world that we knew and trusted has been replaced by a darker and more uncertain world.

It is possible, of course, that I am merely looking into our own state of being, for the plan is to dispose of our nest in the west soon in the new year. Selling up will come with a real sense of loss, for we have been coming to Arizona for over seventeen years.

So it could be that the word I was looking for is actually *Nostalgia*.

A Journey in Jesus' Footsteps

Jimmy Campell

To this day I cannot explain it.

There I was one Sunday morning before our 11 am service scanning the weekly notices when I read about The World Mission Council organising a pilgrimage to Israel and The Occupied Territories of Palestine, and for reasons that I cannot logically explain I knew there and then I had to go. I exaggerate not. Was it the Spirit working within me? I cannot be sure, all I can tell you is that this spur of the moment decision led me to join another 28 pilgrims and head off from Edinburgh on 29 April earlier this year.



at the Garden Tomb

What was to follow led to an immeasurable growth in my faith, and opened my eyes and my heart to the plight of an oppressed people as evidenced through my own direct witness. This pilgrimage was truly life changing. What was it that made it life changing? Was it because it exceeded my expectations? By visiting biblical sites at Bethlehem, Nazareth, Capernaum, Jerusalem and so on, I expected to gain an understanding of the landscape where Jesus had preached and hoped this would deepen my faith.

Our 10 days were filled with activities and visits to all of the pilgrimage sites and we met many partners of the church. My expectations on visiting the biblical locations that Jesus had preached were fully met. I could feel his presence everywhere we went. At Capernaum, for example, it was easy to visualise him performing his ministry. My own particular experience at The Garden Tomb was so powerful that I have no doubt I was filled with the Spirit as we worshipped through prayer and song. The visits to the religious sites assisted me in growing and developing my faith as I had hoped.

It was the other things I experienced that delivered the unexpected benefits of pilgrimage. I was shaken to the core by the discovery that the Palestinian people are treated as second-class citizens in a systematic and demeaning manner by the authorities. Their plight at times seemed to me to be hopeless.

And yet, on our travels we discovered real faith and hope. Being a pilgrimage organised by the World Mission Council we met many of the Church's partners in Israel and Palestine, giving us access to locations and people that ordinary tourists would not know existed.

Hope comes from these many brave and truly inspirational people who belong to many organisations and different faiths. Every day we talked to people dedicated to peace through non-violent means. For example, we met a young doctor from Physicians for Human Rights, Andrea, who explained the work she and her colleagues do for the people of Gaza and the West Bank. She explained how they overcome huge barriers in order to treat sick people. There was no sense of bitterness as she graphically outlined the lack of basic medical facilities for Palestinians. On another day we visited a Conflict Transformation Centre called

Wi'am, an organisation dedicated to justice and reconciliation. Situated right by one of Bethlehem's main checkpoints and the Separation Wall, the Centre has a community garden complete with children's play area, which is overlooked by a military watchtower. Hang on to that thought for a minute; a play park overlooked by a military watchtower. Their director, a truly compelling and inspirational Christian called Zoughbi Zoughbi, gave us an insight into life behind the wall, telling us that a resolution will take as long as it takes, perhaps beyond our current lifetime.



Palestinians queue at the daily checkpoint



playpark overlooked by a military watchtower

Afterwards Zoughbi's son led us on a 'tour' of the refugee camp during which he provided graphic accounts of bullets, tear gas and the use of a skunk gun fired from the wall that leaves a dreadful smell of sulphur that lasts for weeks on anyone whom it strikes.

But perhaps the most impressive person we met was a Rabbi, who took us on a bus, through a checkpoint, to a Palestinian village divided into three by the separation wall. The Rabbi believes the treatment of Palestinians is against Jewish ethics and to bring about change will require a fundamental change in the attitude of the average Israeli. It's a long-term objective reflecting Zoughbi's thoughts. When I asked her what do Israelis think of her opinion, she just shrugged. It didn't seem to concern her. I looked at her and I remember thinking that she is doing God's will. She belongs to God.

As for me, my journey in Jesus' footsteps was rich, for I had first hand experience of God's presence throughout our pilgrimage, as well as witness to major injustice in a land many call holy. Those partners of the Church who are dedicated to peace and justice have a clear understanding of God's will. We saw God at work through them, and as a result the certainty that peace and justice will triumph. Witnessing their work inspired me and filled me with the Spirit in such a way that I can truly say that I was stronger and felt a renewed energy and desire to do God's will.

These experiences have made me do more than pause and ponder. They have caused me to rethink my priorities. I am considering staying connected with those who work for peace and justice and I hope that next year the World Mission Council will organise further pilgrimages that may offer me the opportunity to enhance and enrich my knowledge. I understand that a resolution might not be found anytime soon, but the commitment takes me closer to the way of Jesus, who himself was misunderstood as he worked for peace in that same land.



A man to be proud of

Maggie Morley

A chance meeting between our son visiting Ypres on Armistice Day 2016 and a former Scottish soldier, began the road of discovery which has resulted in a new display, launched in early November, at the Museum of the Royal Scottish Dragoon Guards at Edinburgh Castle. The display shows the remaining memorabilia which I presently hold of my grandfather, Rev. Wm. R. Paterson who was an Army Chaplain. Born into a poor family in Glasgow in 1866, he was educated at schools in Glasgow, Fort William, Aberdeen then back to Glasgow where he trained as a minister of the Free Church. In 1896 he was appointed to his first charge in Armadale, West Lothian.

He felt the call to go as a Chaplain to S. Africa during the Boer War to replace a friend who had been killed and was granted permission by the Presbytery and his congregation. When he arrived in S. Africa he was sent to join the Scots Greys. He wrote long letters saying how much he missed his congregation, but also told of the many skirmishes with the enemy in which he took part. He helped the doctors with the wounded, rode to Pretoria to take news of a battle won to Lord Roberts and was present when the Boers were forced to release prisoners of the Highland Brigade. They were delighted to be addressed In Gaelic by the Chaplain.

After his return to Scotland, he remained at Armadale Free Church till 1908 when he offered his services permanently as an Army Chaplain. When War broke out in 1914, he was again attached to the Scots Greys and sent to France with the B.E.F. Much of his time during that war was spent on the front line, rescuing the wounded, and working with the medical officers. For his bravery in the face of enemy fire he was Mentioned in Dispatches and awarded the Military Cross.



Maggie at the museum



The Rev. William Russell Paterson wearing his Royal Army Chaplain's uniform. Photograph taken from original taken by Maggie Morley, grand daughter of The Rev. William Russell Paterson.

1918 leather satchel used by the Rev. William Russell Paterson. The Rev. William Russell Paterson is the grandfather of the Rev. Maggie Morley. It has been hand-stitched with the initials 'W. R. P.' and 'M. M.' on the inside.

Small communion chalice and paten, both engraved with the badge of the Army Chaplain's Department. Made in 1918 from Maggie Morley, grand daughter of The Rev. William Russell Paterson.

1918 'Active Service' New Testament carried on the Western Front. Made in 1918 from Maggie Morley, grand daughter of The Rev. William Russell Paterson.

The decorations and medals of The Rev. William Russell Paterson from left to right as follows: Military Cross, Queens South Africa Medal, 1914 'Moins' Star, 1914 War Medal, and Army Medal with oak leaf (signifying Mention in Despatches). Made in 1918 from Maggie Morley, grand daughter of The Rev. William Russell Paterson.

Wooden bread box bearing the badge of the Army Chaplain's Department. Made in 1918 from Maggie Morley, grand daughter of The Rev. William Russell Paterson.

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War medals, New Testament and Communion Service

The Communion Service he carried during the War, his New Testament from Lord Roberts and his medals are now on temporary display till September 2018.

In peacetime he was transferred to the Black Watch and served with the Army of the Rhine till his retirement on St Andrew's Day 1924. He then became minister of Hall Memorial Church, Dalmarnock, Glasgow.



During his time there he was invited to be present at the unveiling of the new memorial to the fallen on the Scots Greys statue in Princes St Gardens and also at the reburial of the famous Ensign Ewart at Edinburgh Castle Esplanade.

He was a loving grandfather to me as a child and now a grandfather of whom I am very proud and delighted he has been honoured by the Museum of the Royal Scots Dragoon Guards.

All Things Bright and Beautiful, All Creatures Great and Small... Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary



Blessed. Grateful. Thrilled. Just some of my emotions as I draw my latest 'Moments In Nature' photography exhibition to a close.

I reflect on Colossians 3:15-17 (extracts), to help offer a bit of context:

"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts...And be thankful...And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."

Back in November 2016, when I was persuaded to stage my first ever exhibition 'Swan Watch...And More', in St Andrew's & St George's West, I had no inkling of what would ensue. All I wanted to do was share via photographs, memories of some of my favourite wildlife moments, and highlight the fabulous array of bird and animal life that calls the heart of this wonderful capital city, home. For me, thanks to the support and generosity of friends and visitors, it proved a thoroughly surprising yet hugely enjoyable and successful experience, and I was able to share profits between Macmillan Cancer Support (Scotland), and St Andrew's & St George's West Church.

As I recall, there were almost instant questions about dates for a follow-up exhibition; hence this year's 'Moments In Nature' event coming into being.

How to follow the success of the initial one though? How to make it sufficiently different? How to cater for varied tastes? And importantly, how to stage it in such a way as to hopefully enhance a Christian environment/experience? So many months in planning, so much to think about, and so many photographs taken for possible inclusion.

All too soon it seemed opening day was upon me, and yes, of course, there were anxious times awaiting reactions when the photographs were finally unveiled on the Undercroft's walls. Hopefully I succeeded in providing a mix of the artistic, cute, funny, and 'natural', brightened up the café, and had something on display for most people to enjoy seeing.

Feedback has been utterly heart-warming, and words cannot adequately express my thanks to everyone who visited, looked, complimented, and/or purchased. I met and spoke with numerous interesting and lovely people; got to share as well as hear great wildlife stories; genuinely felt togetherness with the Holy spirit during my time 'on duty'; and now know that my work, coupled with public generosity, will help people in Scotland whose lives have been affected by cancer. I truly could not ask for more.

The most popular photograph this year? It was a very close run battle between a fox, a mountain hare, an otter, and the eventual winner, 'Precious Moments', featuring mum swan and her two cygnets. Interestingly, in 2016, a mum swan and cygnet photograph 'Mum's

Taxi', was the clear favourite, and indeed remains my best-selling photograph.

I will confirm at a later date the sum for donation to Macmillan Cancer Support (Scotland), from this year's exhibition, but I'm excited by initial figures that suggest it will be more than in 2016.

Meanwhile, I have missed being out there in nature with my camera, and cannot wait to catch-up on seasonal changes, the departures and newcomers, plus the general ambience alongside God's hand.

One thing I do know is that my two cygnets successfully fledged, albeit a bit earlier than I anticipated. I didn't see it happen, therefore cannot tell if they left of their own accord or were pushed by the adults. Either way, I wish them well, especially over the next few months while they will remain at their most vulnerable. It has been an absolute joy and privilege to watch the family reach this stage for the first time, and I've witnessed some incredible examples of swan behaviour – amazing to think that by mid-January the cycle will begin all over again... truth to tell, I actually cannot wait!

Many times before I've said how blessed I feel to do what I do, to derive so much from it on a personal level, and to be able to share it with readers here and/or with visitors to my exhibitions. The relationship I've developed with my swans too is something I hold so very dear.

I leave you with words from Elena Pasquali that came to mind recently as I watched my swans on 'our' patch of the Water of Leith:

**I sit still and quietly
In this, my quiet place,
And think of good and lovely things
And God's unfailing grace.**

Heartfelt thanks and every blessing,
Pat McKerrow



Amazing Generosity and Support

Mary Davidson reviews the October Christian Aid Sale

Blessed with amazing generosity and support, we raised over £13,000 for Christian Aid at our October event. Furthermore we have made new friends and found a new haven in Leith.

It was a delight on each of the three days to see pictures and books finding eager buyers. Among the scores of works of art on display were pictures given by Victoria Crowe, Douglas Davies, Moira Ferrier, Carola Gordon, Susie Leiper, Lucinda Mackay and Jennifer McRae. Among other pictures

were etchings and drawings by D Y Cameron (1865 – 1945), George Houston (1869 – 1947), Richard Demarco (b.1930), Peter Howson (b. 1958) and John Bellany (1942 – 2013). Bellany's drawing of the Bass Rock, with figurative puffin in the foreground, was a welcome reminder of our 2005 Sale when he was our patron. There was another item of particular historical interest. This was the oil painting of the first organ at St Andrew's Church by Walter Grieve, RSA RSW (1872 – 1937) who was a member of the congregation.



The eight-strong work party and the four librarians had done a tremendous job of selecting Scottish books for

the Sale. They listed some of the special ones and their list is online and available from me. One of the antiquarian books listed was William Creech's Edinburgh Fugitive Pieces (1815) with a witty inscription on the flyleaf about the safe return of this book by one to whom it had been on loan for too long. Among the items donated are M C V Allchin's History of Highland Locomotives (1947) and Handsel : Scottish Poems for Welcoming and Naming Babies, with introduction by Candia McWilliam.

A highly significant sum in the total raised is the one for donations. While, traditionally, these donors are anonymous, we make clear here our profound gratitude for their unique kindness and generosity.

The Coffee Morning in the Undercroft was once again a very happy occasion. The reunions with friends were pleasurable as was the opportunity to choose from the collectables on display. To those who contributed to these or brought delectable baking and preserves we give warm thanks.

At this Sale we were commemorating 250 years of the New Town. It seemed to us appropriate that the vision of the Council which founded this, the first church in the New Town, in 1784, should be acknowledged. As our leaflets proclaimed, this church remains one of the principal public buildings of this sublime example of civic planning and a monument to the ideals of the Enlightenment.

We also wanted to show gratitude to the City for their vital contribution today to our endeavours to raise money for some of the poorest people in the world. We therefore invited the Lord Provost to come. His diary being full, he nominated Bailie Lezley Marion Cameron, Councillor for Gilmerton and Liberton, to come in his stead. We were privileged to have her present and we felt that we had her support.



Allowing the light of Christ to shine through

Wise words from John Chalmers' Donald Gorrie Lecture *Looking Differently at Disability* on 28 October 2017



1. "I am going to challenge notions of what we might describe as normal and ideas of what we might consider to be perfect. There's a crack in everything, we are all broken in some way, your normal won't be mine and most ideas of perfection are just projections of the world the way we would like it to be."
2. "Deeply embedded in Christian history are ideas that disability is connected to some great sin of the past (of the fathers or of the original brand) and ... theological thinking that at its worst has sanctioned discrimination and even at its best has encouraged a patronising attitude to those with learning disabilities."
3. ".....I want to challenge us to think very carefully about the origins of prejudice, exclusion and discrimination against the differently-abled. Whether the disability is physical, mental, psychological or emotional – where do our pre-judgements come from, what is there in our DNA that places more value on intellectual intelligence than emotional intelligence....?"
4. "...I wish that in the roots of our faith we were innocent – but we are not."
5. "This is a failure to see the image of God in every person and to see the light of God in the cracks."
6. "....Jesus seems to have spent most of his time with those who had been excluded and categorised as outcasts. Jesus's ministry amongst the vulnerable and marginalised was, as much as anything else, a condemnation of the ancient dogmas which excluded people from the mainstream. ...He offered them acceptance and love without condition – that for me was the source of their healing. It was in the cracks that the light of Christ was allowed to shine through."

7. "...two stories in the New Testament...challenged the idea that God's grace and goodness was dependant on human ability and human choice. The first was the story of Jesus encounter with the Syrian Phoenician woman – who, as it appears in the story, Jesus is prepared to exclude because she is an outsider. But Jesus is brought up short by her comment that "even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs." This is a turning point in the gospel narrative when we discover that faith knows no boundaries.
8. The other was ...in Jesus' most famous and perhaps his most important story – that of the prodigal son, for here there were no conditions placed, by the Father, on the reunion. Before the son could even blurt out his confession and his plea for mercy he was already in the embrace of the Father."
9. "God's love - for the person with an injured body or an injured mind, for the person with an extra chromosome or a hidden weakness, for the person who is seemingly well adjusted or who is obviously disturbed – is utterly consistent."
10. "The good news of salvation is that we are all loved by God and it is acceptance, and accepting that we are accepted, which is the power to heal."
11. "... the key to wholeness and healing lies in the way we are accepted and accepted as we are – I can confidently say that that is how I understand the love we are offered by God in Christ. Not some love with conditions attached."
12. "There is a big difference between inclusion and belonging. To belong, you have to be missed. There's something really, really important about that. People need to long for you, to want you to be there. When you're not there, they should go looking for you".
13. "When things are wrong, people should be outraged – absolutely outraged that people are doing things against people with disabilities."

The full version of the lecture will be available soon at
www.stagw.org.uk



Lutherabend at StAndrew's and St George's West

An unforgettable evening

Verena Jantzen

Eighteen months ago we started planning the Luther Abend! We, that is Brigitte Harris, Astrid Koeditz from the German Consulate General, Mary Margaret Scott, James McNeill, Rev Ian Gilmour and Rev Verena Jantzen.

The idea was to bring some of Martin Luther's thoughts, his love for discussion, food and music together. He was a very sociable man and the table in his manse was a place for theological debates, and comment on various themes like politics, marriage, nature etc.



Florian Kaplick as Luther

We wanted to create a "Luther

Experience”, not an academic talk. Very soon we asked Andrew Carvel if he could create a piece of music for this occasion. We were (and are) delighted that he agreed! His cantata would be the musical centrepiece of the evening. This would be the final event of celebrating 500 years of Reformation in 2017.

And indeed, we had an unforgettable evening with music (Andrew’s cantata "Ein Feste Burg" along with a Bach Cantata and various other German compositions), food (provided by the super team of the Undercroft Café of St Andrew's and St George's West), Martin Luther's table talk (unforgettably presented by Florian Kaplick) and great opportunities for conversation at the tables. Big thanks to all helpers, the Choir, Brigitte Harris (musical director), the orchestra (led by Angus Ramsey) the soloists Frances Cooper, Michael Rapke, Stuart Murray Mitchell and Franziska Markowitsch; Astrid Koeditz from the Consulate General and Rev Ian Gilmour!

It might have been our final reformation event, but surely not our last event together.

Verena Jantzen Pastor, Edinburgh German Speaking Congregation



“Next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise. The gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through Music.” **Martin Luther**



Notes from a weekend **TOGETHER**

Trustees' Away-days at Gartmore, Stirling: 6-7 October 2017

St John's: Markus Dünzkofer, Mary Reilly and Paul Sweetnam

St Cuthbert's: Peter Sutton, Charles Revolva and Janice Todd

St Andrew's & St George's West: Frances Cooper Alastair MacKenzie and James McNeill

Friday 6th

After eating together the trustees gave individual reflections on strong places on our faith journeys. A continuing theme was the ministry of the entire community to each other, although coming from situations as diverse as school days, the army and hosting protective nightclubs in the 1960s. They kept in mind Ian Gilmour, whose illness prevented him from attending. The trustees shared in evening prayer, led by Peter Sutton, a time for quiet and a glass of wine.

Saturday 7th

The trustees shared in a liturgy of penitence and the Eucharist, presided over by Markus Dünzkofer. They looked forward to 2020 and discussed the papers which each set of congregational trustees had prepared. In discussion over three sessions, it was found that numerous issues overlapped. In discussion the following points emerged.

VISION:

It was very important to retain the existing structure of three congregations whilst, at the same time extending our involvement with other churches. The two approaches were compatible, but there was much work for the three congregations to engage with and it was likely that an expansion of the trust to embrace other congregations could dilute the focus of the trustees. The current structure also gave significant support to the clergy teams which shared common goals in evangelism and in work with the disadvantaged. Christendom was in transition and the present size of the group was better placed to be able to work together to identify how best to connect with the world outside the congregations.

WORKPLACE CHAPLAINCY:

There was much discussion as to how best to continue the connection of the trust and the congregations with Workplace Chaplaincy Scotland. The appointment of Andy Gregg was recognised as having been very positive, as was the emergence of a number of volunteer chaplains from the congregations. A strong connection with workplace chaplaincy offered the possibility of teaching us where the church might be in years to come and we should seek to maintain and enhance the link. One possibility was to explore with Workplace Chaplaincy the possibility of supporting a further paid chaplain in the city centre with emphasis more on the office sector than retail and services. The trustees noted that Andy Gregg had already made inroads with one firm of solicitors. He will attend the trustees' November meeting.

HOMELESSNESS:

A significant discussion took place around the major efforts taking place within the city to respond to homelessness and, in particular, to the Social Bite sleep-out on 9 December. St. Cuthbert's was already enhancing its support of Bethany and providing seven separate five-night weeks of support which would also engage with local schools in the setting up and tidying up of the dormitory. New connections had resulted not only in some further funding to St. Cuthbert's but also the engagement of individuals from firms.

EMERGENCY ACTION RESPONSE:

St. Cuthbert's raised the issue as to how the Together Churches could help the city by responding to a major incident, especially given the nature of major incidents taking place in Europe at the present time. It was agreed that this was a very worthwhile proposal and that the trustees should engage with the City Council as regards its current Disaster Plan.

REFUGEES IN THE CITY:

The trustees reflected at some length on the possibility of engagement with Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. It was felt that engagement with SFAR was valuable in enabling a connection between members of the congregations and the work with refugees in the city; but that the trust would not have the capacity to take over an overarching role for this work when current Police Scotland and City of Edinburgh funding for SFAR might come to an end in early 2020. It was thought that dialogue between SFAR and the ecumenical officers of the respective denominations might more appropriately take this matter forward.

A TIME FOR CHILDREN:

The trustees further discussed the idea, considered at their meeting on 29 May 2017, of holding of an event in West Princes Street Gardens or St Cuthbert's in June 2018 for children from the wider City community. The trustees were supportive of the idea, but firmly of the view that any such venture had to be meticulously planned, embrace real participation from the various children's groups in the congregations and provide the opportunity for sound follow-up for those attending. They wondered whether a Together event at the Church of Scotland's "Heart and Soul" during the General Assembly might not be a more sustainable project.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND CO-ORDINATION OF COMMUNICATION:

The trustees spent a considerable time discussing this suggestion and agreed that, when the term of the present Secretary came to an end in September 2018, it would be appropriate to have considered having in place a paid secretary or assistant who could deal with the ordinary business of a secretary as well, preferably, as dealing with the trust's website and any other social media contacts. Moving further, however, the trustees discussed the possibility of such an appointment also embracing shared resourcing and shared communications which would (a) reduce costs and also (b) show a united face to the city centre. The trustees therefore agreed that it would be appropriate to continue discussion with the interested individual, to identify the appropriate work for the trust and also identify appropriate work for the congregations in communicating both between themselves and with the outside world.

The trustees concluded the afternoon with worship sending them out into the wider world on a beautiful autumn afternoon in Stirlingshire.

News from Cornerstone Books

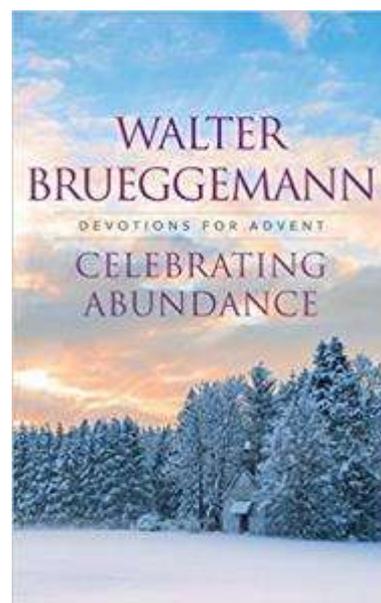
Amanda Bruce

The Christmas tree is up and our Charity Christmas Cards, Advent Candles and Resources are all available now – along with lots of ideas for Christmas presents. From newly published books to Nativity Sets and Decorations, there are many things to choose from! And remember, we are always happy to order any book for you so if there is something on your wish list that we don't stock, just let us know!

Celebrating Abundance

by Walter Brueggemann £10.99

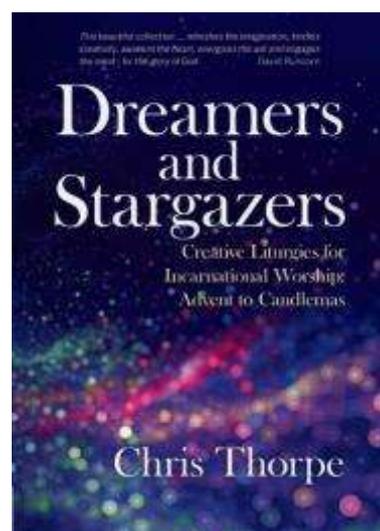
For Advent and Christmas we have a range of devotionals and resources to inspire and feed the mind. Brueggemann's latest offering encourages us not to be sucked into a vortex of indulgence as we prepare for Christmas – the excess of food and gifts, he says, create the illusion of abundance and threaten to mask feelings of emptiness. Instead his daily meditations focus on the rough stable, adolescent mother and anxious escape, each showing how, in poverty and powerlessness we can find the true abundance of God coming to dwell among us.



Dreamers and Stargazers

by Chris Thorpe £12.99

Chris Thorpe's anthology is designed as a worship resource but is a rich offering of material suitable for individual use too. Following the journey through Advent to Christmas and Epiphany, short bible passages are used as spring boards to ask questions of ourselves and our world. Thorpe focuses on God's presence among us but from a perspective that is earthed and grounded in human experience and so reflects the truth of the incarnation itself. With numerous prayers, reflections, blessings and suggestions for discussion this volume opens up new ways of thinking about a familiar story.



Holy Living – the Christian Tradition for Today

by Rowan Williams £16.99

Another month, another title from Dr. Williams! The breadth of his thinking and scholarship seemingly knows no bounds and his writing here is engaging and accessible; indeed, this particular volume has been written with the aim of appealing to people of all ages, faiths and cultures. Through the examination of theologians, poets, saints and writers, Williams explores the concept of ‘holiness’ as the wholeness of lives lived in and for God. He discusses the bible today, urban spirituality, icons, sex and sin and, in so doing, encourages us as individuals to deepen our sense of self and our spiritual knowledge. An inspiring read and particularly so as we head towards a new year full of infinite possibilities!

Lost Words

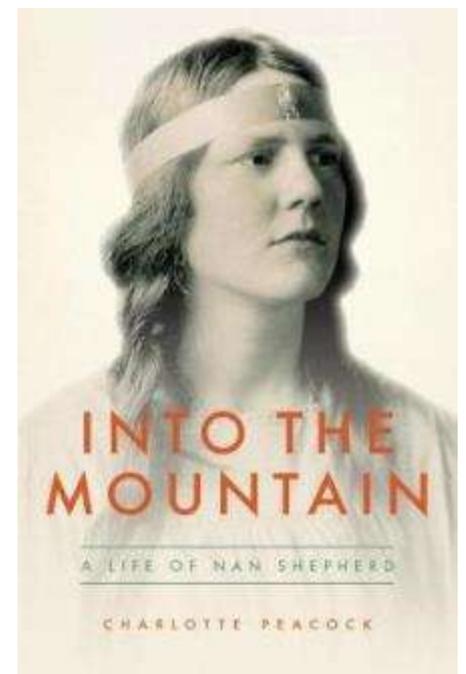
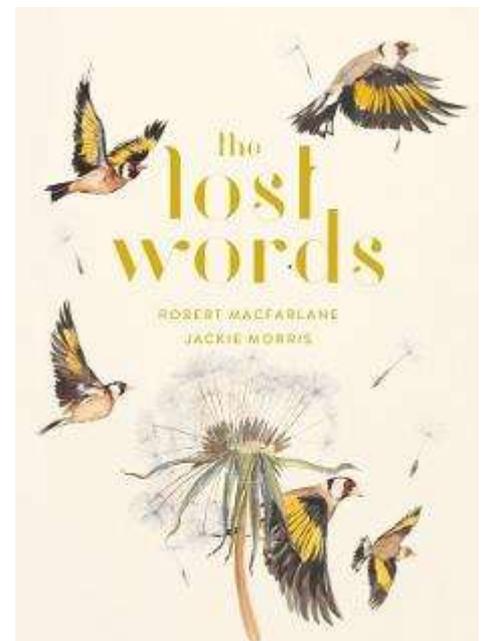
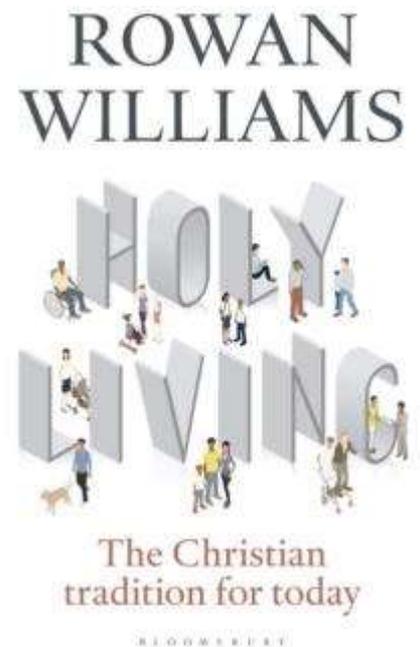
by Robert Macfarlane £20.00

Into the Mountain – the Life of Nan Shepherd

by Charlotte Peacock £20.00

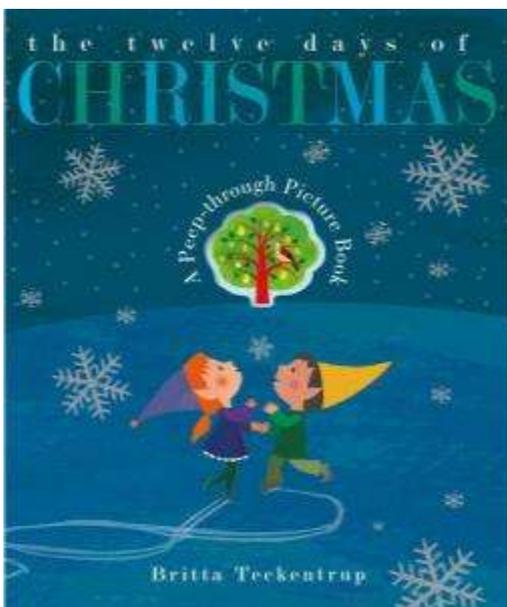
Two very different books but both would make ideal gifts for lovers of the natural world.

In ‘Lost Worlds’ – a large format hardback, gloriously illustrated by Jackie Morris – vanish from the language of children – “acorn, adder, bluebell, bramble, conker... gone!” Each page celebrates things that are missing, things that are hidden, in absences and appearances which he hopes that, having been named and celebrated, may return into our mouths and mind’s eye.

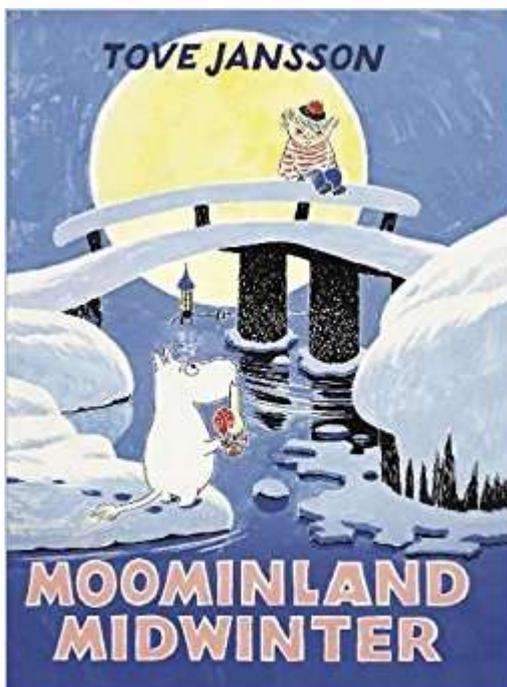


The Scottish author, Nan Shepherd, lived when all these words were common parlance and she, herself, was immersed, in the natural world around her. The book she is best known for, 'The Living Mountain' was first published in 1977, some 30 years after it was written; a powerful description of her experiences walking in the Cairngorms. However, it was not till it was republished years after her death that people took note of it – and of her. This biography is the first written about a woman who was intensely private also billed as “a fascinating exploration of her life but also a superbly crafted social portrait of North East Scotland in the early 20th Century and a first-rate account of the Scottish Literary scene and its key figures during those years.”

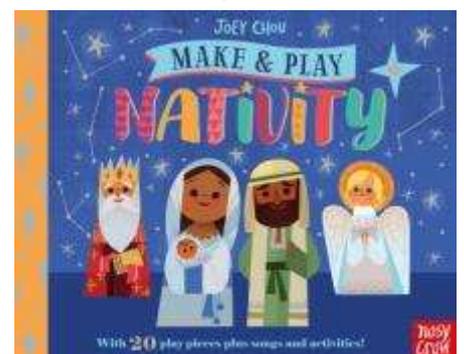
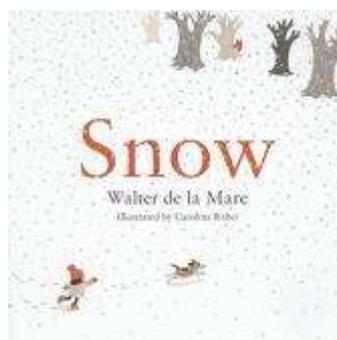
Books for Children



There are so many lovely books for children – and especially at this time of year! Some of our favourites, recently published, are Britta Teckentrup's '**Twelve Days of Christmas**' – a 'peep-through' picture book with gorgeous artwork now in paperback (£7.99) and Joey Chou's '**Make and Play Nativity**' – a board book with 20 brightly coloured push-out pieces, ideas for crafts and Christmas carols to sing. '**Snow**' by Walter de la Mare has also been published as a board book, capturing all the magic of a snowy day.



And for older children, Sort Of Books have reissued a range of classic Moomin tales, including '**Moominland in Midwinter**', written by Tove Jansson and complete with her original illustrations and jacket designs. Something for everyone – we hope!



Edinburgh Ecumenical Friends 2018 programme

Murray Chalmers



Edinburgh Ecumenical Friends was formed before the millennium by a small group of interested people. It was subsequently led for a number of years by the redoubtable Anne Hepburn. As its title suggests, it is open to anyone, of any denomination or none, who is interested in Ecumenism in its broadest sense. Anne once wrote: Ecumenism is about the whole inhabited earth, not just about churches cosyng up to each other.

“Ecumenism is about the whole inhabited earth, not just about churches cosyng up to each other”

Our annual programmes reflect this wide spread of interests. We meet to make friends and to hear about topics of interest or challenge. We meet on Thursdays,

12.30 – 1.45 pm in St Cuthbert’s Parish Church, Lothian Road. Bring your packed lunch and come to join us. You will be made most welcome.

- 4 Jan **David Todd** *The Entertainment Industry*
- 11 Jan **Ian Whyte** *In the Act of 1424 James I of Scotland declared that “na man play at the football” Was he right?*
- 18 Jan **Valerie Allen** *Working towards gender justice*
- 25 Jan **Roger Kelly** *Lost Garden of Penicuik*

- 1 Feb **Cleodie McKinnon** *The Poetry of George Herbert*
- 8 Feb **Ian Gilmour** *Protest with Praise*
- 15 Feb **Iain Paton** *Palestine Tours*
- 22 Feb **Jane Dawson** *Luther – Reformation - Knox*

- 1 Mar **Sandra Holt** *The Good, the Not So Good, and the Downright Ugly (venue tbc)*
- 8 Mar **Rev Peter Sutton** *Lenten Meditation (venue tbc)*

Messy Church

A joint project together with our friends in Albany Deaf Church and St John's Episcopal Church.

A light lunch will also be available. Everyone welcome!

Please register in advance by emailing admin@stagw.org.uk

All children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Event Diary

2017

19 November 2–3.30pm



2018

27 January 10–12.30pm

24 February 10–12.30pm

31 March 10–12.30pm

22 April 2–3.30pm

26 May 10–12.30pm

23 June 10–12.30pm

22 July 2–3.30pm

1 September 10–12.30pm

29 September 10–12.30pm

20 October 10–12.30pm

25 November 2–3.30pm

Messy Church enables people of all ages to belong to Christ together through their local church. It is a way of being church which is particularly suited to families, but welcoming to all. It meets at a time and on a day that suits local families and is particularly aimed at people who have never belonged to a church before.



St Andrew's & St George's West

13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA

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stagw.org.uk



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Scottish Charity No. SC008990



**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[at]churchofscotland.org.uk

Associate Minister Rev Tony Bryer
Pastoral Minister Rev Alistair McGregor

Session Clerk Crispin Longden

Joint Treasurers John Innes
Allan Sim

Director of Music Brigitte Harris
Assistant DoM Andrew Carvel

Church manager Wendy Henderson
0131 225 3847 churchmanager[at]stagw.org.uk

Church secretary Joyce Garland
0131 225 3847 info[at]stagw.org.uk

Church administrator Sophie Hudson
0131 225 3847 admin[at]stagw.org.uk

Safeguarding Barbara Finlayson

Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER

TOGETHER Chair Markus Duenzkofer, St John's

TOGETHER Trustees from St AGW: Rev Ian Y Gilmour, Frances Cooper, James McNeill and Alastair MacKenzie

City Centre Andrew Gregg

Workplace Chaplain andrew.gregg[at]wpcscotland.co.uk

**St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh
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