



# St Andrew's and St George's West July-August 2018 Magazine



EDINBURGH City  
Centre CHURCHES  
TOGETHER





# StAGW summer sessions

**Aged 3-13? Join our summer sessions for children and families**

## **Children's Zoo**

get to know a wide variety of animals

**Wednesday 1 August 10.30am to 12 noon**

## **Get Crafty**

come and learn new creative crafts

**Thursday 2 August 10.30am to 12 noon**

## **Welly Dancing with Mayi**

bring your wellington boots and dance

**Friday 3 August 10.30am to 12 noon**

**£3 per day, per child**

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



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**Charity SC008990**

# July - August 2018 Magazine

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## **Cover: Look – no cars! Midsummer on George Street**

**Photos** Jane Brown, Alison Bruce, Brian Cormack, Helen Cox, Sally Evans, Heather Gregg, Brigitte Harris, Wendy Henderson, Pat McKerrow **Editor:** Alison Bruce [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)

Thanks to all contributors. We take a break over the summer but try to keep our website, facebook and twitter feeds up to date.

See you in September!

# He said... She said

Ian Y Gilmour

He was an able lawyer.

She was an ambulance driver.

He was born in Africa.

She was born in Europe.

He was a son, brother, husband and father.

She was a daughter, sister, wife and mother.

He was a Methodist.

She is an Anglican

He was a convict.

She was responsible for all the courts of the land.

He spent 27 years behind bars.

She has been free yet responsible all her days.

He was President of South Africa.

She is Queen of United Kingdom and other realms.

His name was Nelson.

Her name is Elizabeth.

He said,

*“A Nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens, but its lowest ones.”*

She said, six months before her coronation, “

*Pray that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life.*

He said,

*“As I walked out the door toward the gate that would lead to my freedom, I knew if I didn't leave my bitterness and hatred behind, I'd still be in prison.”*



She said,

*“I know of no single formula for success. But over the years I have observed that some attributes of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts, their talents, their insights, their enthusiasm and their inspiration to work together.”*

He said

*“There is no passion to be found playing small - in settling for a life that is less than the one you are capable of living.”*

She said,

*“I cannot lead you into battle. I do not give you laws or administer justice but I can do something else - I can give my heart and my devotion to these old islands and to all the peoples of our brotherhood of nations.”*

He said,

*“No one is born hating another person because of the colour of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”*

She said,

*To what greater inspiration and counsel can we turn than to the imperishable truth to be found in this treasure house, the Bible?*

How likely was it that these two individuals should ever meet? As we journey through summer let us remember some of the exceptional people we have met in our lives and let us give thanks for them in our prayers.

Enjoy this lovely summer season.

Every Blessing, Ian



# Why worship in Summer?

Ian Y Gilmour

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Jesus, so consider joining us **day by day at 1pm** for a 15minute service and for with Communion every Tuesdays or on Sundays. We offer variety

**each Sunday with Communion at 9am, the all age service at 9.45am.** We have a **traditional pattern at 11am**, with an excellent choir while at 2pm we have a service with British Sign language (BSL), which involves members from Albany Church and the deaf community.



## Sunday 11am Morning Worship

July 8 **Brush Away the Dust** Mark 6:1–13

July 15 **Who Does God Say We Are?** Ephesians 1:3–14

July 22 **Household of God** Ephesians 2:11–22

July 29 **Feeding a Crowd** John 6:1–21 A Children's Communion

Aug 5 **Building Up the Body - Prayer** Ephesians 4:1–16

Aug 12 **Anger to Love** Ephesians 4:25—5:2

Aug 19 **Living Wisely** Ephesians 5:15–20

Aug 26 **Love Is Our Defence** Ephesians 6:10–20

Sept 2 **Earth Sunday** Genesis 1:1–25

There are three things that amaze me—no, four things that I don't understand: how an eagle glides through the sky, how a snake slithers on a rock, how a ship navigates the ocean, how a man loves a woman.

**Proverbs 30:18-19**

And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another... **Hebrews 10:24-25**

We are afraid to care too much, for fear that the other person does not care at all. **Eleanor Roosevelt**

No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. **1 John 4:12**

Do everything in love. **1 Corinthians 16:14**

# Worship @ One

**Jimmy Campbell**

Recently a celebratory worship and lunch was held with those involved in Worship @ One, our weekday service of worship. Mary Godden, who has co-ordinated the leadership – lay and ordained - of Worship@One, stood down from this position after 10 years. Minister Ian Gilmour thanked Mary for her outstanding service and commitment to an important element in the Church's weekday life. Jimmy Campbell volunteered to take on Mary's duties.

It was also a time to reflect and to consider the way forward, asking questions on the format and relevance of Worship@One in today's world. It was pleasing to hear how everyone supports the continuance of daily worship, pointing out the many advantages of daily prayer.

The group also discussed how we might continue to praise God and give everyone, including our family congregation, the business community and visitors to Edinburgh, the opportunity to take a few minutes out of their busy schedules and spend some time in the quiet and calm of the Church.

A number of ideas were proposed and these will be further developed and shared with the group. At the moment it is planned to bring something back to our 11am Service on 5 August.

In the meantime, if **you** have any ideas on the way forward or wish to discuss any matters relating to Worship@One please speak to Jimmy

## Congregational News

### Deaths

**Mrs Phyllis Thompson** on 25 June 2018.

A memorial service will be held at 2.30pm on 1 August

# Summer Diary

|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sun 1 July            | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church<br/>12 noon Fellowship Lunch: Iona Capital Appeal</b>                 |
| Sun 8 July            | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church</b>   |
| Sun 15 July           | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church</b>   |
| Sun 22 July           | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services<br/>2-3.30pm Messy Church</b>   |
| Wed 25 July           | <b>7pm Make your money change your world</b>  |
| Sun 29 July           | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am A Children's Communion<br/>2pm Albany Deaf Church</b>  |
| Mon 30 July           | <b>12.15-1 pm Undercroft Amnesty Group meets</b>  |
| 1 Aug                 | <b>10.30-12 Summer Sessions – Children's Zoo<br/>2.30pm Thanksgiving Service for Phyllis Thompson</b>                       |
| 2 Aug                 | <b>10.30-12 Summer Sessions – Get Crafty</b>  |
| 3 Aug                 | <b>10.30-12 Summer Sessions – Welly Dancing</b>   |
| Sat 4 –<br>Sun 26 Aug | <b>St Andrew's and St George's West at Festival Time<br/>3 weeks of music, words and art</b>                                |
| Sun 5 Aug             | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church<br/>12 noon Fellowship lunch for the Sunflower Garden</b>             |
| Wed 8 Aug             | <b>12.30pm Organ Recital: Drew Crichton, organ scholar<br/>2.30pm James Naughtie The Power of Music</b>                     |
| Thur 9 Aug            | <b>2.30pm Bernard McLaverty The Power of Music</b>  |
| Sun 12 Aug            | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church<br/>4.30pm Shamblestone Joanna Stark, choral scholar</b>              |
| Mon 13 Aug            | <b>7.30pm Shamblestone Joanna Stark, choral scholar</b>   |
| Wed 15 Aug            | <b>12.30pm Organ Recital: Jordan English (St Giles)</b>   |
| Fri 17 Aug            | <b>2.30pm Triplicity Frances Cooper</b>   |
| Sat 18 Aug            | <b>12.30pm Missa Brasileira &amp; more – StAGW Choir</b>  |
| Sun 19 Aug            | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church<br/>7.30pm Come to the Cabaret Caitlin McGillivray choral scholar</b> |
| Wed 22 Aug            | <b>12.30pm Organ Recital: Joseph Beech (St Mary's)</b>  |
| Sun 26 Aug            | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services. 2pm Albany Deaf Church</b>   |
| Mon 27 Aug            | <b>12.15-1 pm Undercroft Amnesty Group meets</b>  |
| Tue 28 Aug            | <b>7.30pm Kirk Session meets</b>  |

# September

|            |   |
|------------|---|
| Sat 1 Sep  | <b>10-12.30pm Messy Church</b>  |
| Sun 2 Sept | <b>9am, 9.45am, 11am services 2pm Albany Deaf Church<br/>12 noon Fellowship Lunch for 500 Miles</b> |

# Make your money change your world

Wednesday 25 July 7- 8pm

**Julian Parrott** is a partner with **Ethical Futures**.

He is willing to give us an hour of his time on Wednesday 25 July at 7.00pm in our church. This free event is open to members and non members alike. It will help us to think about the values behind ethical investing. He will not be offering investment advice, but will give a short talk and be willing to answer questions on a very important theme.

This is what Ethical Futures work to achieve:

*“We believe that our money really can change our world. It’s not just about avoiding things you don’t believe in. It’s also about seeking positive investments and encouraging big businesses to become more responsible corporate citizens.*

*We know ‘green wash’ when we see it, but we also acknowledge that sometimes it’s better to work from within than from outside. That’s why, when we see ethical investments with holdings that we don’t understand, we’ll lobby investment houses for reasons why they’re included. And when we can see no logical reason for investment in questionable businesses, we’ll make representations to investment houses for exclusion of these businesses from their portfolios.”*

Pop the date in your diary, it might help you change the world  
Ian Gilmour





# Congratulations

**Mayi Dube**

Congratulations to **Mayi** who has completed his Modern Apprenticeship Level 2 and his SVQ in Professional Cookery Level 5. *“Mayi has worked really hard with Pete to achieve this, and we are really proud of him. We are really going to miss him when he leaves at the end of Festival to go back to full time education to follow his dreams of achieving his qualifications in Applied Sciences”.* (Wendy Henderson)

Thanks Mayi for this month’s recipe from the Undercroft as well!

# Welcome!

**John Murray**

I have worked in facilities management looking after Tesco Scotland-wide and also served 26 years in the armed forces, retiring from there as a Warrant Officer Class 2. I am married to Margaret, 44 years and have 3 lovely children, Lynda, Scott and Alasdair. I am a self-taught artist who enjoys painting in my spare time, along with long walks with my Springer Spaniel dog ‘Murdoch’

I am looking forward to my time as a church officer here.



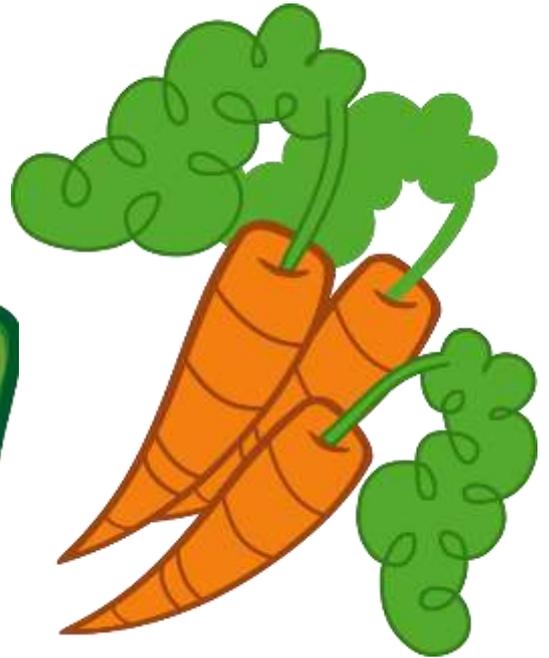
# Undercroft Recipe of the Month

## Chakalaka (Bean Stew)

Mayibongwe Dube

### Ingredients

- 1 celery stick
- 4 carrots
- 1 onion
- 2 red peppers
- 2 green peppers
- 50ml cooking oil
- 3 tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons tomato puree
- 1 tablespoon Cajun spice
- 2 tablespoons mild curry powder
- 1 tablespoon vegetable stock powder
- 2 tins chick peas (480g)
- 1 tin bean salad (480g)
- 500ml water
- Pinch of salt
- Handful of parsley
- 3 blocks/cubes of frozen spinach



### Method

1. Chop vegetables
2. Heat pan and oil for 2 minutes. Add celery, onions, peppers and carrots, fry for 10 mins, stirring and scraping up the flavours
3. Add the spices: Cajun and curry powder and stir
4. Add the chopped tomatoes and puree, stir scraping the flavours
5. Slowly add water to dissolve the spices (high temps needed to evaporate some water) add vegetable stock and stir for 5 mins
6. Add chickpeas and bean salad into the mix and season with salt
7. Allow to cook for 10 mins stirring
8. Remove from heat, add chopped parsley and lastly add spinach and serve

# Social Media IS a positive force for Democracy

Michael Cunliffe

What do BP and Mace mean to you? Oil and groceries? Well, in the world of debating, BP (British Parliamentary) and Mace are formats used in competitive debates. For the 2018 Donald Gorrie Schools Debates held at St Andrew's and St George's West, we use a set of rules that combines elements of both.

I discovered this when I agreed to be one of four judges in the junior debating competition held in the Undercroft on 19 June. I was joined by Wendy Davidson from the congregation, and by two students from Edinburgh University who are keen debaters and more familiar than us with the rules and the judging criteria.

Six schools took part, two in each of three debates on the motion "*This house believes that the use of Social Media is a positive force for democracy*". Each team had three speakers, with the proposing and opposing sides alternating.

I was very impressed with the enthusiasm of the speakers, the preparation they had done and their ability to think on their feet and respond to the other side's arguments.

There were common threads running through the arguments, e.g. the benefits of social media in involving voters, especially young people, and the dangers of fake news and the 'echo chamber' effect of reading only views similar to one's own.

It was challenging, as a judge, to maintain concentration for two hours and to apply fair and consistent standards to all teams. In the end, our decision to name the Royal High as junior winners was a finely balanced one and the motion was carried.

All in all, a stimulating evening for everyone involved.





## Christian Aid

After the record-breaking Christian Aid Sale in May, we were able to give a cheque for £110,000 to Sally Foster Fulton, Head of Christian Aid Scotland. Prosperity Raymond, CA's country head in Haiti, skyped in to the 11am morning service to tell us something of CA's work in Haiti which funds raised in Christian Aid week will support.



## Amnesty Jazz

Thanks to everyone who came along to Amnesty Jazz and enjoyed an amazing concert by retiring jazz master Richard Ingham and St Mary's Music School senior jazz ensembles. The concert raised some £1500 for Amnesty as well of awareness of human rights globally. You are welcome to keep supporting Amnesty by dropping into the monthly Undercroft Amnesty Group –12.15-1pm on the last Monday of the month in the Undercroft Café.



## Knit for a Bit

Mary Godden

One afternoon in June St Andrew's and St George's West was abuzz from portico to sanctuary with knitters making scarves, hats, squares for blankets, teddies, donating money and encouraging passers by to contribute.

This was **Creative Together's** event for **Edinburgh Direct Aid** who are currently raising funds to ship donated goods to Syrian refugee camps in Lebanon. It costs £3,500 to ship each container.

Thank you to all who supported our event which has raised over £650 so far.

Everything that was made on the day, or still to be finished,

and donations of wool, and knitted goods, along with the monetary donations will go to EDA for the next shipment.

Not too late to donate! Contact **Mary Godden** or **Dorothy MacKenzie**



# Celebrating life



**Taking life at a different pace on the water**



**Marking significant birthdays and anniversaries**



**It's official – Mary G is an angel! Celebrating 40 years in the choir**



**Bill and Anna Cormack visit St Andrew's and St George's West 60 years to the day after their marriage here in 1958**

# Visiting VOCAL's New Carers' Hub

Sally Evans

Helen Cox and I were delighted to join VOCAL - Voice of Carers Across Lothian in their celebrations of the official opening of The Edinburgh Carers' Hub at 60 Leith Walk, Edinburgh.

There's a warm, bright and airy welcome at their new premises where they have a full, varied programme of activities and events for Carers. They are already seeing an increase in people dropping in.

They also have a great new social enterprise initiative - Treasure Tree - where you can sell unwanted goods to do good (or you can buy of course!) You can make money from the sale and choose how much to donate.

<https://www.vocal.org.uk/support-vocal/treasure-tree/>

VOCAL were one of three charities sharing the donations from the 2017 Christmas Tree Festival and put the money towards their funds for equipping the Carers' Hub.

We wish VOCAL all the best in their new home.

Watch this space in the next magazine for details of The Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival 2018!



## **America's Diversity in Song**

Peter Allen, baritone  
and Paul Machlin, piano

Wed 15 August 7.30pm at St  
Andrew's and St George's West

**All profits from this Fringe benefit  
gig will be donated to the  
Edinburgh Carers' Hub.**

Tickets cost £10 for an adult or £8  
for a concession.

<https://www.vocal.org.uk/event/benefit-gig/>

# The Big Interview

**Veronica Crerar and Jimmy Campbell**

As Veronica Crerar steps down as team leader of the TOGETHER Homelessness group at St. Andrew's and St. George's West, she reflects on more than two decades of volunteer work with homeless people in Edinburgh. Jimmy Campbell is stepping into her shoes and takes the chance to quiz her.



**J.C. When did you first volunteer to work with the care shelter?**

**V.C.** I think the Care Shelter must have started in embryonic form in 1996/7. Volunteers from churches in the West End were already providing New Year Lunches at the Ark, a café for the homeless in the Old Town, and we were involved with the Care Shelter from the start. The Shelter soon came under the wing of Bethany Christian Trust and Edinburgh City Mission. Churches were invited to provide a team of 8 volunteers who would prepare, serve and clear away an evening meal for 20/25 people and would stay all night. Volunteers could sleep in shifts, but three of the church team had to be awake at any time, to assist the organizer from Bethany. I can remember little about these early days, but I do remember lying down on a rather hard pew trying to sleep, so I must have done at least one overnight.

**J.C. How did the care shelter develop?**

**V.C.** Very quickly Bethany took over the all night care by providing a team of trained staff and we were able to go home about 11pm. But we came back at 6.30am to prepare breakfast and clear up. In some ways, the breakfast shifts were the best. Getting up and leaving the house at 6am was, for me at least, a very rare experience. Then there was the thrill of driving through the dark, deserted city and arriving at St Cuthbert's to be greeted by the irrepressible Rev Peter Neilson, who was Associate Minister. As the Care Shelter season extended, one could be driving through the breaking dawn - equally exciting.

The men, mostly men in the early days, were sometimes more relaxed at that time. I remember one young guy telling me about his new girlfriend and how he was off to meet her after breakfast. He was so pleased and

excited, I hoped so much it would all work out for him.

### **How did you recruit volunteers for the team?**

Being on the Care Shelter together was a great way of getting to know members of our own congregation. Sadly several of the leading members of the St Georges West team are no longer with us, or moved away, or are unable able to help. But always new volunteers came along and joined the team. Jean Mackinlay for example, joined early on - a star cook. We had to have some male members in the team to help with security and furniture moving and support the Bethany staff. My husband, James, was often pressed into service at this time. He most hated having to clear up piles of cigarette ends from the path outside St Cuthbert's door, to get everything spick and span before we left.

When St George's West and St Andrew's and St George's united in 2010, we became a bigger group. St Andrew's and St George's had been an excellent care shelter venue until the numbers using the shelter increased beyond its capacity. So we now combined our volunteer care shelter catering teams, and Katie McNeill organises this team.

### **Tell us something about the people you met over the years.**

The profile of those who rely on the care shelter has changed over the past 20 years. In the early days, a large number of those attending were ageing alcoholics, often men who had come out of the armed forces and been unable to organise their own lives. Later when Edinburgh had a serious problem with drugs, particularly heroin, around the time of Irvine Welsh's 'Trainspotting,' there were significant numbers of young drug addicts and, later still there were many immigrants from EU countries in Central Europe.

A constant factor, however, were the men and women who had lost their jobs, lost their flats, suffered relationship or family breakdown or suffered mental health problems. They are still there.

Early last summer, an elderly man came to the church while I was on Welcoming duty, asking if he could possibly get a cup of tea. He sat beside me as he drank it saying how much he missed the care shelter now it had closed for the summer. He was sleeping under the arches at St Cuthbert's, but said it was very cold. "You never think something like this could happen to you," he said. I saw him at the Shelter at the start of

the winter, looking very pale and thin, almost gaunt, but have not seen him since.

The Bethany staff used to say that we were all only one pay packet away from homelessness, and although there is a bit of exaggeration in this, there is a lot of truth in it too.

### **Does the Church still have a useful role to play in addition to the responsibilities of the state?**

Of course all of this is the responsibility of the state and we are just filling in. There are many who argue that by supplying this "sticking plaster" we are allowing the state to evade its responsibilities and we should devote all our energies to campaigning, but it is hard to see someone hungry, or thirsty, or sick and just ignore them.

I think it is time that central and local government faced up to their responsibilities for housing, health and social care and education and taxed accordingly. Our society has become too unequal for the well-being of rich or poor. But in the meantime the church in Scotland could do more and I am ashamed that it does not.

### **What has kept you motivated?**

I have quite often thought of giving up, but the pleasure and gratitude expressed by those we try to help is so moving that I always come back for more! I am taking a step down now, because I think that perhaps it does need someone younger and stronger than me.

### **Anything else you would like to share?**

I would like to see a society where everyone has the opportunity to thrive. The Care Shelter now caters for more than twice the number it did when we started. Things are not getting better and it is time they did. Compared to the many huge political problems in our world, ending homelessness in Edinburgh is a very small task.

## **TOGETHER Churches Homeless Group**

This group works through volunteers at StAGW, St John's and St Cuthbert's, partner churches in Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER, to provide help for homeless people in the City

- working with Bethany Christian Trust to provide
- care shelters during the long winter months.
- providing help for homeless people at New Year, a dreary time if you are living on the street.
- organising a New Year Fundraising Appeal supporting organisations which care for homeless people 365 days a year
- organising events to raise awareness of the issues surrounding homelessness.



## **All Things Bright and Beautiful, all Creatures Great and Small...**

**Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary**

I've never been one for thrillers, murder mysteries, or any story with even a hint of violence. A bit of intrigue is fine, so long as I can find the solution, and big softie that I am, I prefer a happy outcome. Of course we encounter plenty of intrigue within the bible, and likewise in day-to-day life, and I need look no further than our natural world to find no end of fascinating occurrences.

By way of example, recently while I've been recuperating from hip surgery, the traffic on the bird feeders at our windows has proved an unrelenting source of fun and fascination. What a fantastic array of different varieties of bird, and I love the fact that adults are bringing their fledglings to feast on the splendid 'No Mess Feeder Mix' that is our bird buffet. As regulars we have sparrows, blue tits, great tits, dunnocks, greenfinches, bullfinches, chaffinches, and goldfinches. Yet, never two days are the same. It's fascinating to watch the little ones initially being escorted to the feeders and sitting noisily, open-mouthed, waiting to be fed. Then with the passing of a few days, they are gradually left to feed and then ultimately to fend for themselves. Wonderful teaching and behaviour, joyful moments to share, and

fascinating to observe. God's creation and the circle of life in full view, and it warms my heart. The final verse of a poem I wrote recently reads:

*The beauty of nature  
The boost for the soul  
The richness of Heaven  
The presence on earth  
Creation in all its Glory.*

Without doubt though, the most intriguing issue for me of late has been the situation with my swan couple. A compelling and fascinating story that as yet I have been unable to fathom. At the start of the 2018 there seemed absolutely no reason not to assume that the pair would nest again and raise young, especially given their success in having their first two cygnets survive to fledge last November. Things seemed to be heading that way when in mid-April I saw them nest-build, and then just a few days later, move to build again at another location nearby.

Unfortunately, within hours of finalising that last nest, the rains came and I watched as their carefully constructed nest gradually disappeared under water. I wasn't the only one looking on, the female sat helplessly watching from the opposite riverbank. How many times since I met this pair have I wished I could give them a great big hug... that was without doubt one of those moments. I wrongly guessed that as soon as the weather improved they would build again elsewhere – last year for example, they built several nests, even laid eggs in a couple before finally settling – but this time it was not to be.

What happened from then on remains a mystery. I still hope to find answers but thus far, I only have my knowledge of swans, my experience with this pair, and what I have been able to deduce from witnessed behaviour.

The day following the nest loss, the female's entire manner changed. I found her initially hiding under low-hanging tree branches, and then later that day, standing as if stuck, centre stage in the middle of the fast-flowing weir. She maintained both these positions for long periods, and she clearly seemed an anxious swan. The male even tried unsuccessfully to coax her from the weir. I waited late into the evening, then decided to visit again the following day. How I wished I had gone back sooner; the next day she was gone, I had no idea where, and I

neither saw nor had reported sightings of her for several weeks thereafter. Checks with the local swan 'ringers', the SSPCA, and elsewhere proved fruitless. On the basis that I hadn't encountered remains myself, I hoped that she had simply taken some time out and would return – after all, she had left for a few days prior to nesting last year. I tried my best to quell the feeling I harboured that this appeared different, especially given the time that had passed. My heart went out to the sad looking swan that was the male, lonely without his mate.

I'm delighted to say that now there is a female swan back on my patch of the Water of Leith alongside the male. She was first sighted after an absence of around six weeks. What I cannot say with certainty however, is if this is the original female; both her leg tags have disappeared. I'm still scrutinising my photographs for any clue that might help confirm this swan's identity either way. Her behaviour is quite different, much more aggressive, but could this be the result of some form of trauma? I desperately want to know if this is the original swan and if so, why she left - normally swans pair for life, unless one dies. Meanwhile, my male swan is happy once again. And yes, I am hoping this intriguing story will end happily, with a lifelong partnership and more healthy cygnets in the future.

I leave you with an extract from 'Perfectly Paired', another recent poem of mine about my swans:

*The grace of the glide  
Proud necks entwining  
All purity's colour  
Perfectly paired...  
The sound of the wing beat  
Such power and awe  
Truly perfection  
Perfectly paired...  
Sheer beauty and love  
Old spirits portraying  
Together for life  
Perfectly paired.*

Every blessing Pat McKerrow



## **Faith and family in Finland**

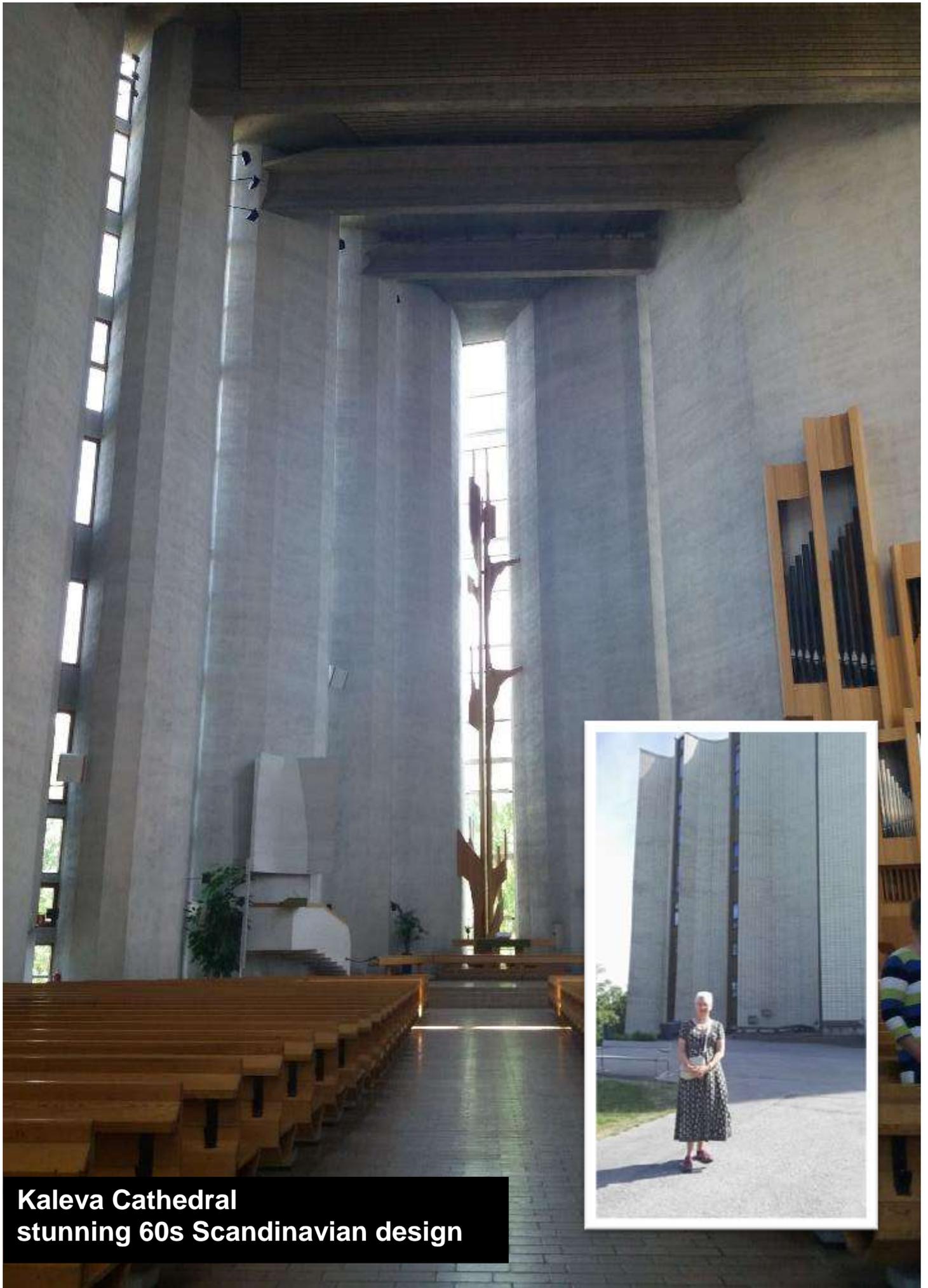
**Mary Scott**

Many of you will remember Susanna, Pekka and their daughters Amelia and Julia. Susanna is a Deacon in the Parish of Tampere in Finland, and the family spent a summer with us here at St Andrew's and St George's West.

In June I spent 10 days in Finland, 8 of them with Susanna's family and the last two in Helsinki.

With a population of over 200,000, Tampere is 1½ hours' drive north of Helsinki and sits between two lakes, both of which have good swimming beaches.

The family, with their poodle Nino, live in a wooden house with a garden. Pekka teaches maths and science. The girls walk to the local primary school, but Amelia, who is 13, will be starting secondary school after the summer and will be picked up by bus; they start school at aged 6 and finish at 19 in Finland. Amelia is passionate about modern dance and practises 6 days a week during school time. Julia's passion is horses and she has riding lessons once a week.



**Kaleva Cathedral  
stunning 60s Scandinavian design**

On Sunday, I went with Susanna to Kaleva Church, an imposing building built in the mid-1960s. It can accommodate 1200 people, but the day we were there, the congregation numbered 45. The service was a standard Lutheran format, all in Finnish, but the hymn books had the music line, so at least I could join in at the hymns! Other than taking up the offering, there was no lay participation.

Every Monday to Thursday from 1 to 4pm, the church plays host to immigrants, providing resources and encouraging networking. It allows them to meet together and develop their talents – cooking tips, music, singing, art. It also gives a forum for learning Finnish so that they can integrate better into the local community. The initiative is known as Maharaban, from the Arabic for Welcome.

After a visit to the main museum, and a ride up to the top of a viewing tower, at 4pm we went to the English service. After the formality of the Finnish one, this was like a cross between our 9.45 and 11am services. There were many Africans worshipping, and with the music accompaniment of a piano and guitar, the singing was hearty. Lay involvement included the three readings by three different people, the taking up of the offering, helping at Communion and also going round the congregation to collect names for prayers of intercession; there were lots of children.

The rest of the holiday included 2 nights with the family in a remote log cabin with sauna and log fire next to chilly lake – a night in Tallin in Estonia and the last 2 nights by myself in Helsinki. Altogether a very interesting and varied trip.



**The Old Church where English services are held**



**back to nature – summerhouse in the forest**



# Looking forward to the Festival

Among the 70+ musical events on the programme are performances by musicians based here at St Andrew's and St George's West and alumni of our choral and organ scholarships.

You can enjoy a jazz inspired programme in this year's **choir concert** (Sat 18 Aug at 12.30pm) and a **series of organ recitals** by young Edinburgh organists at Wednesday lunchtimes.



Choral scholar and multi-talented musician **Joanna Stark** plays two gigs with her band Shamblestone on 12 and 13 August while scholar **Caitlin McGillivray** will wow you with a cabaret programme on Sunday 19 August. Soprano and choir soloist **Frances Cooper** performs with Triplicity on Friday 17 August. Pick up a programme in the church or read it online at [www.stagw.org.uk](http://www.stagw.org.uk)

## Social justice and sacred arts



**Just Festival 3-25 Aug**, supported by the three TOGETHER churches, returns to St John's in the new Cornerstone Centre with a radical programme of music, theatre, conversation and visual arts.  
[www.just-festival.org](http://www.just-festival.org)



**Festival of Sacred Arts 12-18 Aug** at St Vincent's Chapel in Stockbridge. Organised by local author Gordon Graham in partnership with Cornerstone Books. Poetry, music, icons... and flowers!  
[www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org](http://www.edinburghsacredartsfestival.org)

# The Power of Music

## Book Events at St Andrew's and St George's West

Music has the power to move us beyond words. In these two events, two masterly storytellers select the music that keeps them spellbound.

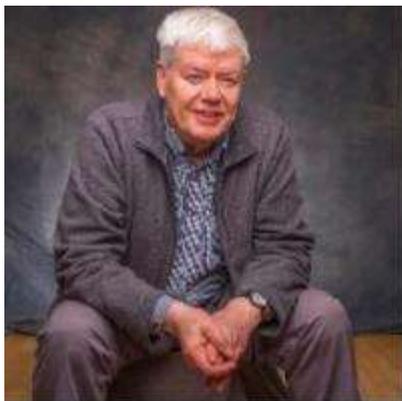
**James Naughtie** Wednesday 8th August 2.30–3.30pm



One of the BBC's best-known journalists and presenters, **James Naughtie** is now special correspondent for BBC News. Inspired as a child by an eccentric but brilliant music teacher, he brings music to countless audiences. He presented Radio 4's landmark series, *The Making of Music*. He has introduced the Proms from the Albert Hall and opera from Covent

Garden and is a regular contributor to BBC Music magazine. He is, above all, a brilliant communicator. Here he selects five pieces of music that have particular resonance for him.

**Bernard MacLaverty** Thursday 9th August 2.30–3.30pm



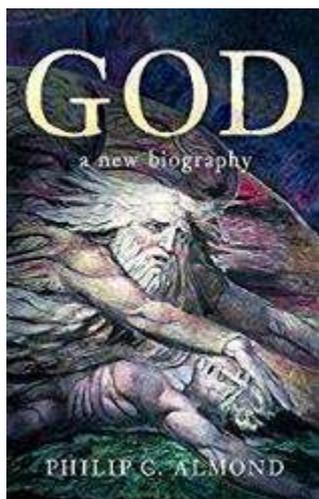
**Bernard MacLaverty** was born in Northern Ireland and brought his family to Scotland in 1975. He has written five novels and five collections of short stories, as well as screenplays, dramas for both television and radio, and libretti for Scottish Opera. His novel, *Grace Notes*, in which music is described as 'emotion beyond words', was long-listed for the Booker Prize. His most

recent novel, *Midwinter Break*, reminds us why he is regarded as one of the greatest living Irish writers. Here he selects five pieces of music that have particular resonance for him.

You can buy tickets for StAGW Festival events through the Fringe – online or at their box office. You can also order tickets by post via the church office and from Monday 6 August buy in person at the Church Box Office.

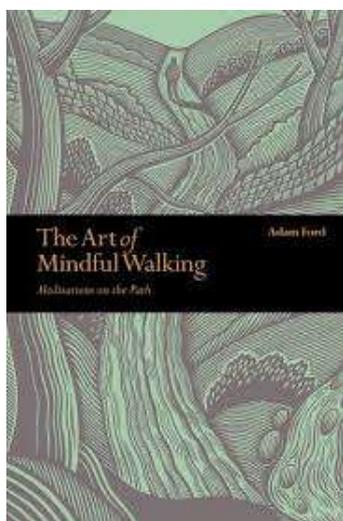
# Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce



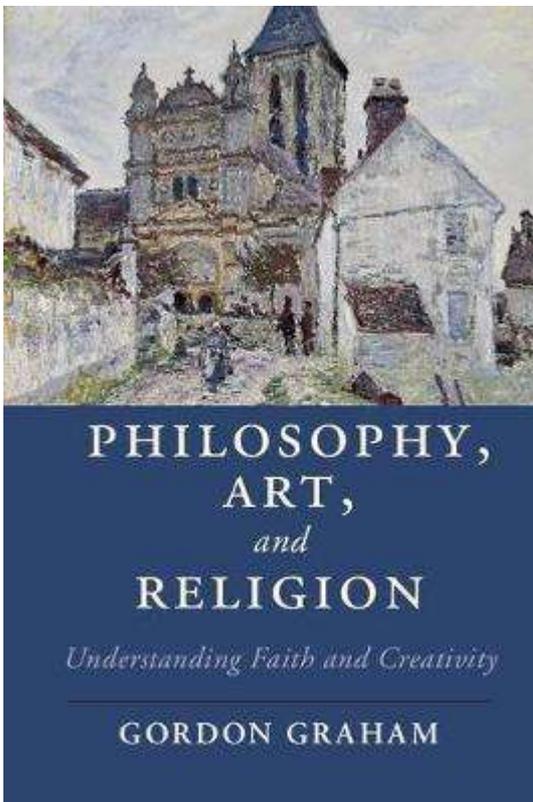
**God – a new Biography** Philip C. Almond £20.00

Following on from his much lauded ‘biography’ of the Devil, Philip Almond’s latest offering is a historical survey of God. Through it, Almond considers how God has been presented and treated throughout the ages, across the world and in the context of different faiths, cultures and philosophies. In doing so, he unveils metaphysical tensions and contradictions while also illuminating widely held shared beliefs in the way God has been (mis)understood. God is therefore, “The God of the Bible and of philosophers, the God of the prophets and of the mystics, the God revelation and of reason – of knowledge, but also belief.” And, as the enigma of God has pervaded the human race’s quest to understand the meaning of life, so, Almond contends, any biography of God is also a biography of ourselves. Here we glimpse insights into the unknowable and are provided with the tools to explore the key questions of the first cause and where we fit into the bigger picture.



**The Art of Mindful Walking** Adam Ford £7.99

New in paperback this volume is a welcome addition to the popular series published by Leaping Hare. Ford looks at the ways in which we walk and what we may carry with us when we do; the reasons we walk and how the seasons affect our walking. Walking to work, walking in the dark, walking on pilgrimage all engage us in different ways and Ford provides tips stemming from the simple Buddhist principle of paying attention to the moment we inhabit and ‘waking up’ to all that surrounds us and lies within us in that moment. If walking isn’t your thing, the numerous titles in the series provide similar guides to singing, drawing, gardening and knitting, while another strand in the series explores the ways in which being ‘mindful’ – being attentive – can help in dealing with bereavement, ageing, depression and anxiety. Each volume is beautifully presented and enhanced by striking woodcut illustrations.



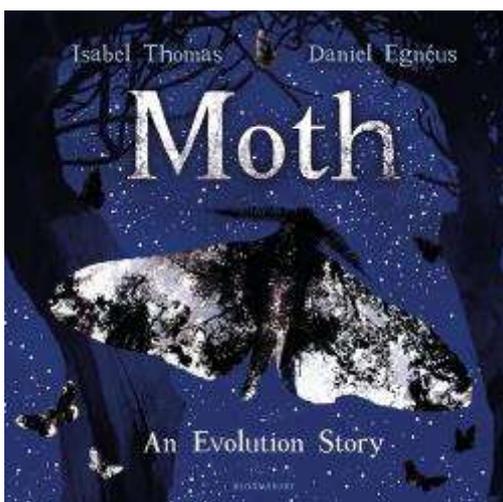
## **Philosophy, Art and Religion**

Gordon Graham £21.99

Sacred music, painting and iconography, poetry, drama and architecture all have long and deeply established relationships with religion and have been used in that context for both stirring emotion while also giving structure to how bodies worship (both in terms of buildings and liturgies). Focusing on these 'sacred arts' (which today, Graham argues, are often marginalised,) he charts their place from the time when the arts were tied up with religious patronage to the point where they gained autonomy to become sources of inspiration in their own right in; objects and

pieces of work in which we can apprehend beauty and in which we can delight. Whether the religious element of these sacred arts illuminate our faith or lends artworks a deeper dimension are just two of the questions explored in this fascinating and readable study, ideal for anyone interested in the marriage of theology, spirituality and creativity.

## **Moth – An Evolution Story** Isabel Thomas      £12.99



A picture book for our times, this is a book to inspire hope for our environment, charting the survival of the 'peppered' moth despite human interventions. Imaginatively illustrated with a mixture of watercolour and collage, 'Moth' charts how the salt and pepper moths live and die and how, over time and through moth-generations, the colour of their wings has continued to evolve in response to the quality of the air in which they fly. Because they have

adapted, they are living to have children and tell their story still. Through this book, they tell their story to us and to our children providing a simple and informative introduction to evolution.

# Revisiting the Girls' Auxiliary

Alan Mackinlay

There is no end to the treasures the Christian Aid Book Sale brings to light! Mary Davidson gave me a hand-written notebook handed in for the Book Sale: *St George's United Free Church: Girls Auxiliary: Minute Book: 1925*.

The Girls' Auxiliary seems to have been an industrious and lively group. The Minute of 29 May 1925 records £38 raised at a Foreign Mission Sale; a study group was discussing the book *The World Jesus Saw*, and a joint social would invite Girls' Auxiliary (GA) members from Fountainbridge and Pleasance: a dramatic performance of 'A Seeker after Truth' was planned for April 1 and 2. A sub-committee to arrange rambles was elected, and a librarian appointed. A Retreat was planned at 'The Glen' in October, which became an annual event. Members were elected to represent the GA at other Women's organisations, like Foreign and Home Missions.

They were also quite a serious lot. At another meeting, there was debate on what to give one of the members as a wedding gift; it was agreed that an appropriate present would be two books of Dr James Black's sermons!

An Agenda for the 1925 Central Conference of the GA includes an item entitled 'Wide Horizons' (familiar?). The Central Committee of the GA had promised £1050 toward building light roads and drainage for a new Training College in Poona, India – a great deal of money in these days. A second scheme was to give £150 for the salary of a Church Sister in Kelty, Fife. A further £100 was to go towards printing books in vernacular African languages.

The Young Men's Guild is also minuted later in the book, under the title Youth Organisations. This happened c. 1931, and by this stage some familiar names occur: chief among them Fred Levison (later husband of Mary Lusk) here named as Vice-President of the Young Men's Guild; Tom Bacon, a later Session Clerk of St George's West; and David Mackenzie, later a much loved Elder of that church.

The aim of the Girls' Auxiliary was 'To unite the girls of the church that through service, thought and prayer they may prepare themselves for further responsibility in the service of Christ's Kingdom'.

Looking at the contribution that women make today, this mission statement has certainly yielded positive results.



# **BILL VIOLA** "Three Women" (2008)

© Bill Viola, 2008. Image by Kira Perov  
Image appears courtesy of the artists

1 May – 1 September 2018  
St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh

**Free Entry**

St Cuthbert's usual opening hours: Tues-Sunday, 10 am – 4 pm  
However, times may vary during the Festival

We are grateful for the support of The Society of the Friends of St Cuthbert's

[www.st-cuthberts.net](http://www.st-cuthberts.net)



[stcuthbertsedinburgh](https://www.facebook.com/stcuthbertsedinburgh)

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EH2 2PA 0131 225 3847**

[www.stagw.org.uk](http://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 + Albany Deaf Church 2pm  
**Weekday worship** 1pm Monday – Friday

**Minister** Rev Ian Y Gilmour  
0131 225 3847 (church)  
IGilmour[at]churchofscotland.org.uk

**Pastoral Minister** Rev Alistair McGregor  
**Albany Deaf Church** Rev Rosie Addis  
RAddis[at]churchofscotland.org.uk

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