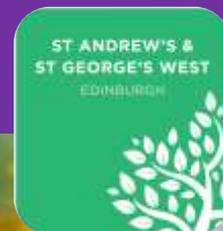




St Andrew's and St George's West October 2018 Magazine



October 2018 Magazine

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Cover: Wider Horizons Eco Service.

We do not inherit the earth from our parents, we borrow it from our children.

Thanks to all contributors
magazine[at]stagw.org.uk

Moira McDonald, our Interim Moderator

Corstorphine Old Parish Manse,
September 2018

Hello,

At a time of vacancy there are often new procedures to follow and new people to meet – not least being the person who will come and be your minister. For the moment you are in the good hands of locums John Chalmers and Colin Douglas as well as an exciting rota of Sunday preachers.

My role in the vacancy is as **Interim Moderator**, and I will moderate the Session meetings dealing with everyday church matters, as well as overseeing the vacancy procedure – the election of the nominating committee, helping with the interview process and, hopefully sooner rather than later, welcoming the new minister to the church and manse.

At the September meeting of the Kirk Session I had a chance to meet some of the elders and hear about the work of the church and be reassured that with Crispin as Session Clerk, the running of St Andrew's and St George's West is in good hands.



Moira McDonald, as chaplain to the moderator Rev Russell Barr

My own charge is Corstorphine Old Parish in the west of the city. I also convene the Superintendence Committee of Edinburgh Presbytery and had the pleasure a couple of years ago of spending General Assembly week with Ian and Donna Gilmour when Ian and I were chaplains to Russell Barr in his Moderatorial year. So I've heard lots of (good) stories about St Andrew's and St George's West and it was a pleasure to be asked to be the Interim Moderator.

With such a good team of locums, preachers and elders, you probably won't see much of me, unless you are on the Nominating Committee, and I am coming to the church on **Sunday 14th October** to conduct worship and oversee the election of that group.

I look forward to meeting you then. Best wishes, Moira

Pastoral Care during the Vacancy

Alistair McGregor



Rev Alistair McGregor

Dear Friends

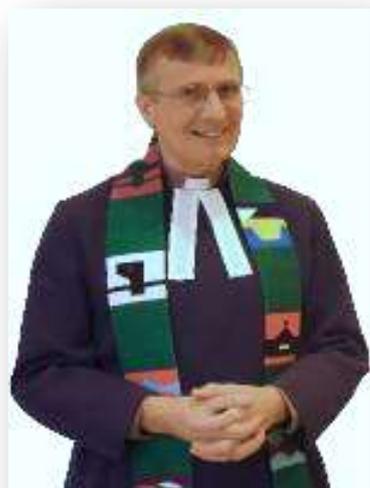
As you know, Pastoral Care in our congregation is in ALL our hands, but particularly in those of the Minister, your elders and those of the pastoral care team under Michael Cunliffe's convenership.

However, as you all now know, Ian has retired and I am writing to let you know, in case there are some who don't, that following a recent accident, I have also had to step down as the Pastoral Minister.



Marie Austin

But things are not as black as that may make them look, because in the Vacancy the Rev Colin Douglas, a retired Church of Scotland Minister, has come in to help us with our pastoral work for 8 hours a week, assisted by our own Marie Austin.



Rev Colin Douglas

Marie will be known to nearly all of you; Colin is just starting among us and will soon be known by all, as he plans to worship with us each Sunday and will be preaching at the 11am service on Sunday 30 September, where you will get a chance to meet him and to introduce yourself to him.

When, in due course, the vacancy ends, Colin will be leaving us but Marie will continue working among us. As for me, I will still be around, as I am not planning to go anywhere else! But I would like to say a big "sorry" for giving up my Pastoral Minister role and a big "thank you" to so many people here for all your kindness.

With every blessing to you all and with much gratitude

*Yours
Alistair*

Worship leaders

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 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.

Worship is giving God the best that He has given you... whenever you get a blessing from God, give it back to Him as a love gift. Take time to meditate before God and offer the blessing back to Him in a deliberate act of worship.

Oswald Chambers

Do everything in love. 1 Corinthians 16:14

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8

Through worship we continue to hear God calling us to be a more loving, forgiving and inclusive community



Very Rev Dr John Chalmers



Rev Moira McDonald



Rev Sally Foster-Fulton



Very Rev Dr Andrew McLellan

October 2018

Sun 7 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church Fellowship lunch for Mary's Meals in Sudan
Mon 8 Oct	6.30pm AHSS Lecture <i>Edinburgh 1544: Digitally Recreating Scotland's Capital</i>
Tue 9 Oct	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Sat 13 Oct	10.30am -3pm Treasure Trove Pop Up Craft Fair
Sun 14 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; noon Congregational Meeting: 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 16 Oct	7.30pm Kirk Session Meeting
Sat 20 Oct	10am – 12.30pm Messy Church
Sun 21 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church
Tue 23 Oct	7.30pm Singing our way into or out of belief John Bell gives the Donald Gorrie lecture
Wed 24 Oct	1pm Music and Reflection: Claude Debussy Drew Crichton, piano and James McNeill, speaker
25-27 Oct	CA Art Sale and Coffee Morning
Sun 28 Oct	9am, 9.45am, 11am services; 2pm Albany Deaf Church Quarterly Communion
Mon 29 Oct	Undercroft Amnesty Group 12.15-1pm
Wed 31 Oct	1pm Music and Reflection: A Musical Reformation StAGW Vocal Ensemble and Verena Jantzen Speaker 7pm Martyrs in our Time? Laudate House Chalmers Crescent ecumenical service Together/German Church

November 2018

Thur 1 Nov	7.30pm at St John's: Rev Rosie Addis licensed Asst Rector
Fri 2 Nov	7pm: Seeking Peace: Reflecting on Armistice
Sat 3 Nov	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society: <i>Thalia Ensemble – Reicha and Beethoven: Friendship and harmony</i>
Mon 5 Nov	6.30pm AHSS Lecture: <i>Highland Retreats: The Influences of the Romantic North on Architecture and Taste</i>
Wed 7 Nov	1pm Music and Reflection: Robert Schumann Piano Trio: speaker Eleanor Wilson
Sun 11 Nov	10.50am Remembrance with German Speaking Church
Wed 14 Nov	1pm Music and Reflection: Edith Piaf Caitlin McGillivray, soprano and John Ramsay speaker
Sun 25 Nov	2-3.30pm Messy Church
Mon 26 Nov	Undercroft Amnesty Group 12.15-1pm

That was the month that was



Top: Messy Church
Left: a family from Singapore return to StAGW after 25 years to celebrate their silver wedding anniversary
Below: working on the eco-service



Words cannot begin to adequately express my thanks to everyone who sponsored me in the Scottish 10k.

Your generosity has helped me raise nearly £2,000 for Cross Reach Church of Scotland Social Care.

I enjoyed running the race (I think!), and all the support I had definitely helped motivate me through my training and the race itself. Knowing that the money we've raised together will help many vulnerable people in our society is both satisfying and humbling.

Thank you again from the bottom of my heart

Jimmy Campbell

Spreading Hope

Mary Davidson



Now well established, the annual **Christian Aid Autumn Art and Scottish Books Sale** (25th-27th October 10am-3pm) at St George's and St Andrew's Church West, George Street, Edinburgh is becoming a firm favourite for those looking to buy high-quality prints or original art works, and also Scottish books.

This year's highlights include a water colour by John Bellany, one of Scotland's most renowned artists.

This is the first time the painting, entitled '**Star of Hope**' has been for sale or indeed on public display. The painting depicts Fraserburgh harbour.



James Holloway, convener of art for the Sale and previous director of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery said; "We are really fortunate to have John Bellany's colourful harbour scene for sale. In the centre of the watercolour, Bellany has painted the Peterhead-registered boat 'Star of Hope'. What a great symbol for the centrepiece of the sale whose purpose is to spread hope across the world". Another wonderful item for sale is a lithograph of The Queen by Pietro Annigoni dating from the early 1950's.

Sale of Pictures and Scottish Books

Thursday 25 - Saturday 27 Oct
10am - 3pm

Coffee Morning Jewellery and Gifts

Saturday 27 October
10am - 12 noon

Proceeds from sale will go to this year's Christian Aid Harvest Appeal and will be match funded by the European Union. Every £1 you spend will be worth £5 for life-changing work in Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Honduras and Malawi.

Notes from Malawi

Alison Campbell

Dr Ruth Shakespeare visited Scotland in September with her husband and made time for a meeting with members from our church and from Stockbridge.

She had lots of good news - though Malawi continues to be a poverty-stricken country beset by problems including the prevalence of belief in witchcraft and, most recently, vampires, and the corruption around the general election in May next year.

Achievements at Mulanje include Malawi's first "solar tree", a structure to hold solar panels which provide enough electricity to run many essential services in the hospital and avoid using the extremely unreliable grid, as well as reducing costs and avoiding damage to the lightweight tin roofs of hospital buildings.

MMH has organised the building of thousands of latrine toilets and continues to build these for schools in the 100 villages it serves. A new Orphan Care Centre has started at the hospital, supporting 750 orphans. Funding has been obtained for a new X-

ray dept., and beekeeping has been introduced and is proving very popular, with local beekeepers unable to keep up with demand for honey. The beehives are hung in trees – which also protects the precious cedar trees.



Malawi's first "Solar tree"



We will be looking at needs over the next 12 months, including support for a post-graduate qualification for the Hospital Finance Officer, and funding to enable the Prison Clinics to continue. If anyone would like to contribute, donations can be given to Allan Sim, Ruth Forrester or James McNeill, and more information about contact with MMH will be circulated soon.

St Andrew's & St George's West • Edinburgh
2018 Music and Reflection
 Autumn Series | 1pm Wednesdays

Composers in their Lives and Music
 Enjoy lunchtime recitals by young Scottish musicians - with biographical reflections from **James McNeill, Verena Jantzen, Eleanor Wilson and John Ramsay.**

- 24 October, 1pm | **Claude Debussy**
 Drew Crichton, piano | Speaker: James McNeill
- 31 October, 1pm | **A Musical Reformation**
 St Andrew's and St George's West Vocal Ensemble | Speaker: Rev Verena Jantzen
- 7 November, 1pm | **Robert Schumann: Piano Trio**
 Alex Prentice, violin | Speaker: Eleanor Wilson
 Joanna Stark, cello
 Max McWhirter, piano
- 14 November, 1pm | **Edith Piaf**
 Caitlin McGillivray, soprano | Speaker: John Ramsay

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

Free Entry

St Andrew's & St George's West
 13 George Street Edinburgh EH2 2PA
 Find out about more events at www.stagw.org.uk
 Scottish Charity No. SC009996

Singing our way into or out of belief
 The 2018 Donald Gorrie Lecture
 Tuesday 23rd October | 7.30-9.30pm

with **Rev'd Dr John Bell**

Join the hymn writer, broadcaster, and Iona Community member, as he reflects on how songs, traditional and contemporary, shape popular Christian thinking.

Event supported by **THE MONTGOMERY TRUST**
 Speak - Listen - Understand

St Andrew's & St George's West
 13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA
stagw.org.uk | [stagw](https://www.facebook.com/stagw) | [@stagw](https://www.instagram.com/stagw)

Free entry and refreshments

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland. No. SC009996

Music and More

Autumn events me at StAGW includes **lunchtime recitals**, our annual **Donald Gorrie Lecture** given by John Bell, and **Seeking Peace**, a unique reflection on Armistice from different perspectives in partnership with the German Consulate and German Speaking Congregation.

All are free – Seeking Peace is **ticketed**, [online here](http://bit.ly/2QqfvAN) or through the church office.

Seeking Peace
 Reflecting on Armistice
 Friday 2 November | 7pm

7pm music • 8pm symposium • 9pm reception

Join this special **international evening** of music, reflection and discussion
 Commemorating the centenary of the **WW1 Armistice** in November **1918**

A joint event of St Andrew's and St George's West Church, the German Speaking Church in Edinburgh and the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Edinburgh.

Ticketed Free entry
 Please register via Eventbrite:
<http://bit.ly/2QqfvAN>

Generously supported by
 The German Consulate General in Edinburgh

St Andrew's & St George's West
 13 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PA | stagw.org.uk | [stagw](https://www.facebook.com/stagw) | [@stagw](https://www.instagram.com/stagw)

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland Edinburgh is a charity registered in Scotland. No. SC009996



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

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

As with many things in my life, the interest was probably sparked during my schooldays. I had certainly never seen one in the 'fur' at that stage, but I do recall the cartoon-like image, becoming a member of the club, and confidently reciting the obligatory rhyme. Who am I talking about? Well, those over a certain age will hopefully remember Tufty, or Tufty Fluffytail, to give him his full name, the red squirrel from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents. Born in 1953, and probably at his peak in the 60s-70s, Tufty introduced clear and simple road safety messages for children.

At that time I was ignorant of any sensitivities surrounding squirrels; it didn't register with me that Tufty was red, as opposed to grey, or that our red population was, and remains, in decline. It was only after leaving the formative years, Tufty, and Beatrix Potter's Timmy Tiptoes and Squirrel Nutkin well behind, and coming face-to-face with my first grey squirrel in Edinburgh's Royal Botanic Gardens, that the world of

squirrels became much more fascinating, and also much more complex. From William Henry Davies's poem 'Leisure':

*"What is this life if, full of care
We have no time to stand and stare?
...No time to see, when woods we pass,
where squirrels hide their nuts in grass..."*

Living now in the heart of Edinburgh, I see grey squirrels almost daily; during outings along the Water of Leith walkway, randomly crossing busy city streets, in Princes Street Gardens, and on my window ledge trying to steal from 'big bird proof' feeders. I always enjoy seeing them, but then an overwhelming sadness kicks in, triggered by concern for our native, smaller, and vulnerable reds.

I remember my first sighting of a red in the Drumlanrig estate in Dumfries & Galloway. I'd set off early, camera in tow, on a desperate search for a red squirrel. I had already tried and failed in Perthshire some days before. I can still hear my words to the groundsman... "I've come to see your squirrels and will stay as long as it takes"! He smiled a knowing smile, and immediately directed me to a screen showing footage from a remote camera...not at all what I was after, but as he said, the only means of a guaranteed sighting. Undeterred, I headed off along pathways, craning my neck to see tops of the very tall Scots Pine trees. Hours later I finally spotted my first red...but alas, so high in the trees it was just a hint of something red moving between branches. There had to be an easier way and a better place. My innate determination kicked in; the challenge to find a red had truly begun. As the bible says "...seek and you will find..." (Matthew 7:7).

I'm very happy to say that in the years that followed, 'find' I certainly did, and in various parts of Scotland, including the Highlands around Aviemore and Kingussie, and Perthshire around Dunkeld and Aberfoyle. Without doubt, the highlight being my time spent with the renowned red squirrel expert, fabulous wildlife photographer, and my friend, Neil McIntyre. A couple of idyllic days in Highland woodland, Creation's autumnal glory the perfect backdrop, nature's music the sweetest accompaniment, and wild red squirrels the best entertainment. I even had the privilege of having one climb on my hand to feast on hazelnuts.

If you like red squirrels, I recommend Neil and Polly Pullar's book

‘The Red Squirrel – A Future in the Forest’. Neil’s images are an absolute joy, and the book is packed with interesting facts and stories of personal encounters with this most delightful of creatures. It also sounds a rallying call in terms of the loss of woodland forest habitat, plus the threats posed to reds by the introduction of the larger and disease-carrying North American greys.

What is it about the reds that appeals so much? Perhaps the diminutive stature and gymnastic-like movements? Perhaps the personalities and hugely expressive faces? Perhaps the ear-tufts, short in summer, long in winter? Or, perhaps it’s tied in with them being such an iconic symbol of Scotland.



Whatever it is, just writing about them has made me anxious to find and photograph them again. Definitely something to plan, to eagerly anticipate, and to relish in the right peaceful setting. As John Clare says in ‘Lines: I Am’:

*“...I long for scenes where man hath never trod,
A place where woman never smiled or wept,
There to abide with my Creator, God,
...The grass below – above, the vaulted sky.”*

By curious coincidence I find that I’m writing this in what The Woodland Trust has designated ‘Red Squirrel Week’; I confess to being unaware that such a time of homage and celebration existed. However, if it raises awareness of the species and its plight, then I am all for it. As Jane Goodall says *“Only if we understand can we care, only if we care will we help, only if we help shall they be saved.”*

Less straightforward to dismiss is my ongoing inner conflict about the presence and impact of greys. I doubt that I could ever join the ‘cull’ camp, and I doubt that seeing one upside down in my bird feeders will ever cease to amuse. At the end of the day, *“... ask the animals, and they will teach you...in his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind”* (Job 12:7-10 extract).

Every blessing, Pat McKerrow



Moments in Nature

Pat McKerrow has new packs of her blank greetings cards available for purchase.

Two designs, 'Youngsters' and 'Wildflowers'. Each pack has 8 cards with 8 different photographs. Limited stocks of Pat's 2019 desk calendar are also available.

Each item £10; a donation from profits will go to 'The Thompson Scholarship Fund', in memory of Jack & Phyllis, and to support education for girls in Northern Malawi.

Please speak to Pat.

The Thompson Scholarship Fund

*Supporting education
in Northern Malawi*



Jack and Phyllis Thompson supported education in Malawi throughout their lives.

You can help to continue this work through the scholarship fund set up in their name at

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/thompsonscholarships>



How Do I Love Thee?

Oceans roll across our turning Earth,
wave on wave on wave,
from shore to shining shore,
an echo of our turning universe,
a harmony of fluid time and space,
light-wave on light-wave,
from star to shining star.

When creation's waves flowed in the deep,
like dreams new forming in a sleep,
the Spirit brooded on them,
and found them good,
and God so loved the world.

As a child I stood upon the beach
waiting for the seventh wave,
'That was a big one!
one, two, three,
four, five, six,
seven!
Wow!'

Truth to tell it was sometimes six or eight,
or more, or less.

But seven's the one I'd wait.

...

Now I am older I see the waves on waves,
small upon larger,
large on larger still.

And the seventh, seventh wave,
that like some moving hill
comes with thrust and thunder
like the boom in sea caves yonder
that echo with the thrill
of rising, turning sea-storms
which pass, and all is still.

Oh, You who love the world:

How do I love thee?

Let me count the waves.

Tony Shephard

www.anthonysinuk.com

Corporal James McPhie VC

Alec Hope

The brass plaque on the east stairway of St Andrew's and St George's West Church lists 68 names in alphabetical order, along with the name of the Minister of St. George's, Rev. Gavin Pagan, who died in action in the First World War. The plaque is a replacement for the original war memorial doorway which used to be in the Charlotte Square building (and which was unveiled by Mrs. Pagan on 23 October 1921).

The original doorway included details of rank and regiment for each; intentionally or not, the replacement plaque suggests that each life lost was of equal significance by naming each simply, a view with which Rev. Gavin Pagan, whose own name headed the doorway, might very probably have agreed.

Of these 68 names, only 2 seem to be mentioned in the Kirk Session Minutes of St. George's for 1914 - 1919, apart from Gavin Pagan himself, of course. One of these was James Clark, a member of the Kirk Session since 1897, who died at Ypres on 10 May 1915, serving as a Colonel in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders. The Minutes of 7 June 1915 record that a memorial service was held for him on 19 May - for which the General Assembly was suspended, with the Moderator as well as Rev. Gavin Pagan conducting the service.

The other one of the 68, and possibly the last of them to lose his life during the war itself, was **James McPhie**, a Corporal in the Royal Engineers. His name does stand out to some extent on the brass plaque, having been awarded the VC posthumously after his death, less than a month before the Armistice, on 14 October 1918.

The exhibition in June 2014 to mark the bicentenary of the opening of St. George's for worship included some information about James McPhie and the action in which he was killed.





It took place at the Canal de la Sensee, about 12 km NW of Cambrai by the small settlement of Aubencheul-au-Bac. A cork float bridge, possibly a fairly new piece of equipment, was being used for troops to return to safety from the far side when under serious pressure from enemy forces. The float bridge crossing for the canal, some 30 -

40m wide, began to break loose. At first it seems that James McPhie tried to keep it intact in the water himself. When this failed, he swam to collect items to help to keep it useable but, in continuing to try to do so, he was severely wounded by enemy fire from the far bank and died very shortly afterwards.

His gravestone, with the VC inscribed on it, is in one of the very small war cemeteries, at the hamlet of Naves, about 6 km E of Cambrai. The file of information at the Naves cemetery includes an account of James McPhie's death. It does seem to suggest that, after being wounded, he was rescued from the canal by a sapper in his platoon, who was himself seriously wounded in assisting his corporal and who died some days later himself, but whose own courage in action does not seem to have been recognised with an award. Whatever the exact circumstances, James McPhie's unhesitating attempt to try to maintain a safe escape for fellow troops was clearly considered worthy of his award for valour.

For its part, the Kirk Session of St. George's noted his VC, as the Minutes of 3 February 1919 record. James McPhie, of 112 Rose Street, had been a member of the Morning Sunday School. The Kirk Session agreed to donate £10 to Mrs. McPhie from its members to assist her in travelling to London to receive her son's medal from King George V.

James McPhie is also commemorated by a bench to him and his colleagues in West Princes Street Garden, below the equestrian statue for the Royal Scots Greys opposite Frederick Street. This bench has been renovated in the last two years, in time to look good for the centenary of his death. Perhaps Edinburgh City Council will be able to mark this date in an appropriate way.

Sheila Douglas (1951-2018)

Sheila was born in Buckie in the north east of Scotland to Bill Smith. Her mother died when Sheila was 8. Her father remarried a few years later to Joey.

Sheila moved to Edinburgh to work with children first at Clerwood Children's Home and then Viewforth Nursery. She married Barry Douglas in 1973. Barry died 8 years later.



Sheila enjoyed the church, photography and nature. She loved attending the Edinburgh Book Festival every year until she was no longer able as she was an avid reader. Sheila moved back to Buckie 4 years ago for a quieter pace of life and loved it. She made many friends in Burnside Court, the sheltered accommodation she moved to, and attended many of the social activities including crafts and church services. She also loved sitting in the conservatory or in the sun watch the local wildlife.

Sheila kept in touch with many people not just in Edinburgh but world-wide. She travelled a lot when she was younger going to a California to visit friends. She was an Auntie to many of us and will be remembered as a kind lady who always had time to lend an ear. Sheila will definitely be remembered by the letters she wrote and the long phone calls as she did like to chat!

She worked as a volunteer counsellor for Cruse Bereavement for many years and also supported the Neonatal Unit at Simpsons in Edinburgh.

Sheila died suddenly but peacefully in August after a short illness.





New Life

The 8th Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival

Sally Evans



New Life! is the theme of the 2018 Edinburgh Christmas Tree Festival running from **8-24 December**. A forest of 40 trees will light up the sanctuary, each decorated by a business, charity, voluntary group or an individual. The three charities who will benefit from donations at the Festival this year are **Birthlink, Blood Bikes** and **The Welcoming**.

Birthlink aims to enhance the well-being and promote the welfare of all people affected by adoptions with a Scottish connection.

Blood Bikes Scotland provides a free of charge courier service to NHS Lothians, Borders and Fife

The Welcoming welcomes migrants and refugees to help them start new lives in Edinburgh, by fostering integration through friendship, language learning, cultural education and many other activities.

Here are some ways you can get involved:



Get creative and sponsor or decorate a tree:

to reflect what you do or your interests on behalf of a cause you support for your company or charity of the year



Be a star:

Donate to support this year's charities
Pledge to match donations
Be a Festival sponsor.

Interested, or know someone who might be?

Speak to Sally Evans, Barbara Ross or Katie McNeill. Or you can email [info\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:info@stagw.org.uk) or contact us through [facebook](#).

News from Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER



TOGETHER Christian Aid Margaret McGregor



On Saturday 29 September the Together Christian Aid committee hosted an afternoon of Ikebana (Japanese Floral Art) followed by tea in St Cuthbert's. **Deborah Hathorn** gave a short introduction to Ikebana and then demonstrated her skills. It was obvious why she had gained many awards for her work, as well as The Order of the Rising Sun with Gold and Silver Rays, awarded by the government of Japan for her contribution to Japan-UK cultural relations through the promotion of Ikebana. Nearly 40 guests enjoyed afternoon and £431 was raised for the 2018 Christian Aid Harvest Appeal 2018. Thank you very much to all who contributed to this afternoon.



Martyrs? In our times?

**Wed 31 Oct at 7pm
Laudate House, 1 Chalmers
Crescent, Edinburgh EH9 1TW**



An ecumenical service on All Hallows' Eve to remember and learn from Christians who paid the ultimate price for challenging the powers of this world and for standing up for God's love, God's majesty, God's peace, and God's justice. There will be a special focus on the blood witnesses of the "Weiße Rose" (executed by the Nazis 75 years ago) and other Christian resisters.

German Congregation & Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together
Led by Rev Verena Jantzen – Rev Tony Bryer – Rev Markus Duenzkofer

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

Tel: 0131 225 3847

stagw.org.uk



stagw



stagw1

Scottish Charity No. SC008990



Au revoir

A letter from Ian

Thanks to all concerned for a most marvellous birthday send off from St Andrew's and St George's West on Friday 7 September.

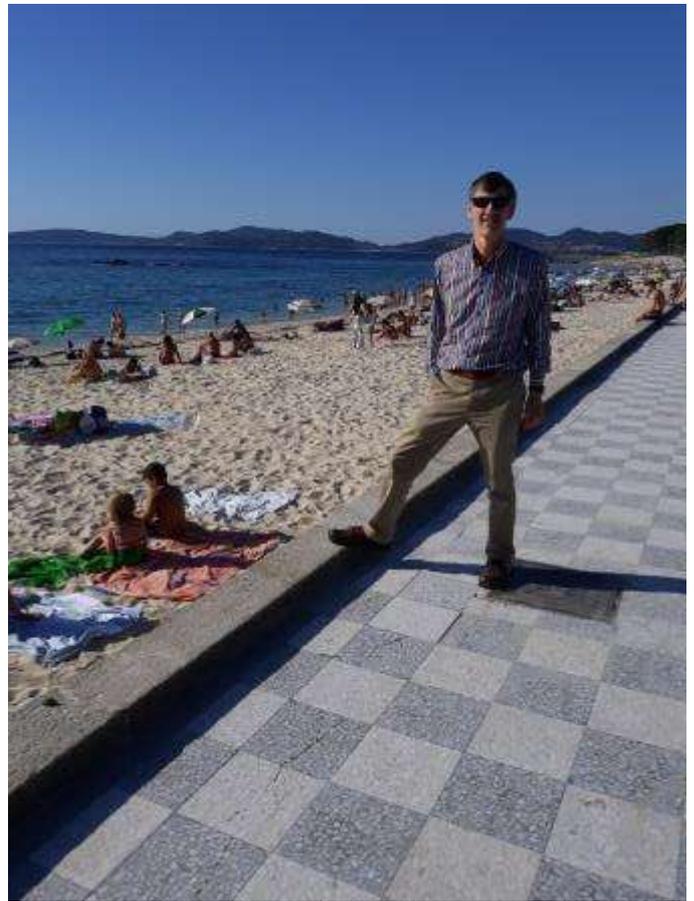
It was exciting to see so many people at the 'do', organised by MM, and for the excellent musical contributions from Michael, Caitlin, Jamie and Andrew. I appreciated the talks from Crispin and George, the lovely poem from Shona and a fine painting from John. I was more than delighted with my gifts –

a meal at Gleneagles Hotel, a hugely generous cheque and our flat is now toilet-twinned with a school toilet block in the developing world.

Donna and I have moved from Bordeaux to northern Spain as we unwind after a busy spell of farewells plus a house move. It may have been better to write a special thanks to the whole list of individuals who have worked hard alongside me at St AGW, but it is easy to omit a contribution, so I have decided to thank everyone in the congregation through the work and witness of two representative members, whose funerals I conducted – Judith Pickles and Alex Harper.

They were to the fore in the church in Edinburgh when I came to Drylaw 33 years ago and it seemed everywhere I turned I would meet them. They were at education meetings, supporting their congregations or the General Assembly, writing for their congregational magazine, Judith even served as a Session Clerk.

Only when I became your minister did I realise that both former congregations had had so many members just like them – hard working, intelligent, committed and incredibly generous. They committed themselves to our 'new' St AGW congregation, then helped make it work, accepting the sensitive yet progressive George Street



building refurbishment, the frustrating months of snagging, then the sale of Shandwick place.

They both loved books – Judith was a specialist architect and world traveller, telling stories of places I hadn't even heard of. Alex's career was as an outstanding teacher, working in vital settings like the school camp network. They had wonderful family relationships, many friends and with each of them I had some deep, stretching conversations.

Both supported the extraordinary Christian Aid sale. Judith, a skilled 'Creative Together' person, did some beautiful embroidery on our contributions to the Great Tapestry of Scotland. It was a pleasure to work beside people of such quality. They were quietly extraordinary, and it was a privilege to lead their funeral services. What I am saying is that I learned about life and faith from Judith, Alex, indeed from all of you. I miss them and will miss you.

One of our session clerks said to me of their contribution in that role, "I am not quite sure why they chose me, but they needed a safe pair of hands and I provided them", that pretty well summarises how I feel about my own efforts. However, I am glad that you are all still able to continue together to allow God's kingdom to break through by being part of the dynamic, caring, purposeful congregation which is St AGW.

I wish you well on your journey as you seek to call a new minister to 13 George Street. You certainly have a superb team, from session clerk to congregation; from conveners to elders and your very able staff. Be assured that my prayerful support will continue as I offer you my richest blessing.

Paul puts it this way,

"Don't worry about anything, but in all your prayers ask God for what you need, always asking him with a thankful heart."

Thanks to everyone for everything and **enjoy** the next phase of life,

Ian



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

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Office open Mon - Fri 10am-3pm
Church open Mon - Fri 10am - 3pm: Sat 11am-2pm
Undercroft Café Mon - Fri 10am - 2pm
Sunday worship 9am, 9.45am, 11am + Albany Deaf Church 2pm
Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

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Locum Minister Very Rev Dr John Chalmers
JChalmers[at]churchofscotland.org.uk
Locum Minister Rev Colin Douglas (pastoral support)
Albany Deaf Church Rev Rosie Addis
RAddis[at]churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk Crispin Longden
Joint Treasurers John Innes
Allan Sim
Safeguarding Barbara Finlayson

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