



And the Word
became flesh
and dwelt
among us
John 1: 14

St Andrew's and St George's West Dec 2019 - Jan 2020 Magazine

ST ANDREW'S &
ST GEORGE'S WEST
EDINBURGH



EDINBURGH City
Centre CHURCHES
TOGETHER

EDINBURGH'S CHRISTMAS 2019



NATIVITY CAROL CONCERT

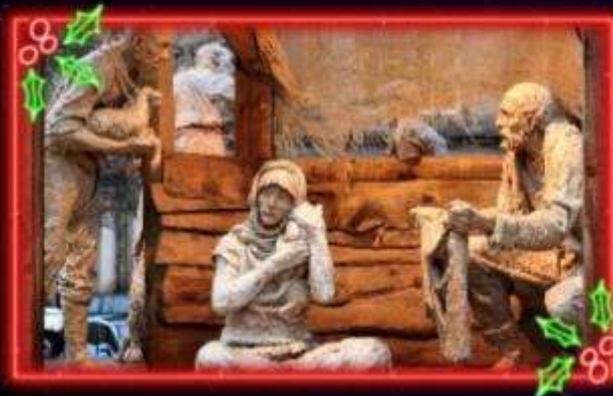
Sunday 1 December 2019
3pm | Free | Mound Place

You are warmly invited to take part in the joyful Edinburgh tradition of celebrating Christmas with an outdoor Nativity and Carol concert in the centre of the city.

It is an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to gather together to celebrate Christmas - to share the peace and goodwill of the season.

Join with choirs from across the city singing familiar Christmas carols and featuring the **Salvation Army Brass Band**.

Choirs include: **Origin Scotland and the Blackhall St Columba's Choir**, **Wester Hailes Education Centre School Choir**, and **St Andrew's and St George's West Choir**.



At the concert this scene will be blessed by Archbishop Leo Cushley, and followed by a Christmas address from Bishop John Armes and prayers for the city by Revd Angus Matheison the Moderator of Edinburgh Presbytery. The Rt Honourable Frank Ross, Lord Provost of Edinburgh, will conclude the event with a word of thanks. Andrew Gregg, the city centre Work Place Chaplain, will link the parts of the concert.

Nativity Scene donated by Sir Tom and Lady Farmer

WRAP UP WARM AND COME ALONG!



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Thanks to all contributors! [magazine\[at\]stagw.org.uk](mailto:magazine[at]stagw.org.uk)



Happy New Year!

A letter from Rosie

Rest assured I am not getting a head start on Hogmanay in expressing that wish! Rather, I am embracing the fact that with the first Sunday of Advent (December 1) we enter the start of a new church (or liturgical) year.

We normally think of the first of January as a time for establishing New Year's resolutions (often to undo the excesses of the previous month) however Advent is an especially appropriate time for determining New Year's resolutions for our spiritual lives.

As individuals it is a good time to take stock as to where our spiritual 'growing edges' might be. How best can we joyfully participate in the creative unfolding of God's Realm? Where and how can Christ be born afresh in our lives and communities? Advent is a good time to 'begin again'.

In the spirit of welcoming the 'new' we will be experiencing Advent slightly differently this year as a worshipping community. This will involve a **joint service of worship** at 11 am combining the 9.45 and 11 am services.

'Joint' means exactly that – the 11 am services through Advent will include elements from each of the usual services. Hopefully you will experience something new. And if some elements of the services are outwith your usual practice or experience, you will have the opportunity to give thanks that others are blessed through them. That in itself is a blessing.

“A worship service is not like a concert with an opening act and a main event. Worship is more like a raft ride down a river with places of rapids and calm. It has bends and curves, yet it is also a river that we have been down before. We anticipate what will come next, but every ride is different, depending on the season, the strength of the current and our travelling companions.” Kirk Hadaway

Our worship life is that from which everything else in our lives flows. We welcome new travelling companions on the raft ride of worship and welcome the gifts they bring.

In addition, from 10-10:40am each Sunday of Advent, a **Poetry through Advent** discussion group will take place in the sanctuary. The discussions will focus on two poems each week taken from *Haphazard by Starlight* by Janet Morley. As well as being named in the church notices the week prior, copies of each poem will be available Sunday mornings. This is an opportunity to listen to, and share with, one another in a relaxed format. Teas/coffees will be available in the Undercroft after the discussion group and after the 11 am service.

This is a good time to invite a friend or neighbour to experience Sunday mornings at St Andrew's and St George's West. They will be new to all of us!

Christmas can be an intense time for people in many ways. As well as the joys of family gatherings and reunions, for some, the sense of losses both past and present can be particularly poignant and painful.

Advent is a time of being watchful – for those who may be struggling even though they don't show it, for those who may feel more alone in a crowded room than they do in their own home. Added to this, the continued unpredictability of our political climate, and the uncertainty that has introduced into peoples' every life, means this is a fragile time. It requires care and gentleness in a world that so often displays neither.

In all the business, take time,
In all the 'doing' take time just to 'be'

As is written in Psalm 46:10

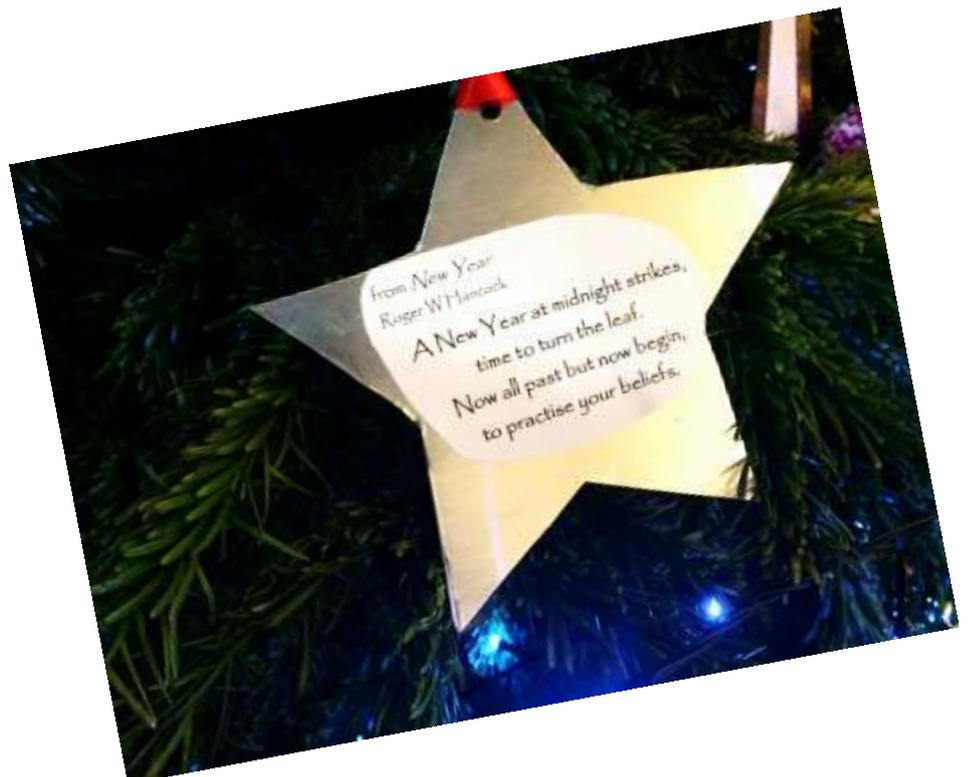
Be still and know that I am God
Be still and know
Be still
Be

We can get so caught up in the 'doing for', especially at this time of year, that we miss the gift of 'being with' one another.

Alongside the HeartEdge Movement of churches we have been thinking about balancing 'doing for' others and with 'being with' others. What flows from emphasising 'being with' is a different way of understanding our relationships with each other and with God. What better way to journey through Advent toward the ultimate 'being with' that comes in the form of Immanuel – 'God with us.'

In this New Year may the blessings of the season swaddle you. May you receive the gift you need, to become the gift that others need.

Peace and joy, Rosie



StAGW Diary

Sun 1 Dec	9am Communion; 10am Poetry through Advent; 11am Advent Worship 12 noon Fellowship Lunch TOGETHER Homelessness <i>3pm Blessing of the Nativity and Carols, Mound Place</i> 7.30pm Mansfield School of Music Winter Concert
Mon 2 Dec	6.30pm AHSS Lecture <i>Ernest Gimson</i>
Wed 4 Dec	7pm TOGETHER Picturing Advent Study Group
Fri 6 Dec	Let there be LIGHT! Opening Night
7 24 Dec	Let there be LIGHT! Christmas Tree Festival
Sun 8 Dec	9am Communion; 10am Poetry through Advent; 11am Advent Worship
Mon 9 Dec	<i>6 for 6.30pm TOGETHER Election Hustings @ St John's</i>
Wed 11 Dec	<i>7pm TOGETHER Picturing Advent (@St Johns)</i> <i>7pm Missing People Carol Service</i>
Thur 12 Dec	6pm Taizé Time
Fri 13 Dec	6.30pm Faculty of Advocates Carol Concert
Sun 15 Dec	9am Communion; 10am Poetry through Advent; 11am Advent Worship (BSL signed)
Wed 18 Dec	7pm TOGETHER Picturing Advent Study Group
Thur 19 Dec	6pm Taizé Time
Fri 20 Dec	6pm Carols at Six
Sat 21 Dec	6.30pm Congregational Christmas Supper in the Undercroft Tix adult £10/children £5 from the office
Sun 22 Dec	9am Communion; 10am Poetry through Advent; 11am Advent Worship 4pm Christingle
Tue 24 Dec	11.30pm Watchnight
Wed 25 Dec	11am Family Worship
Sun 29 Dec	9am Communion, 9.45 All Age Service, 11am Service of Letting Go
Tue 31 Dec	<i>11pm TOGETHER Hogmanay Watchnight at St Cuthbert's</i>
January 2020	
Mon 6 Jan	10.30am Book Group meets, chapel
Thur 9 Jan	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's</i>

	<i>Albert Bogle: Sanctuary First</i>
Mon 13 Jan	St Mary's Music School Concert
Tue 14 Jan	7.30pm Kirk Session
Thur 16 Jan	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Richard Begg: From training area to regular service</i>
Sat 18 Jan	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
Sun 19 Jan	11am TOGETHER joint service at St Cuthbert's
Thur 23 Jan	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Jane Dawson: Elizabeth and the Scottish Reformation</i>
Sat 25 Jan	10.30am Messy Church
Mon 27 Jan	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group
Thur 30 Jan	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Douglas Galbraith: Church Service Society</i>
Feb 2020	
Mon 3 Feb	6.30pm AHSS Lecture Edwin Smith
Thur 6 Feb	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Kevin Douglas</i>
Mon 10 Feb	10.30am Book Group meets, chapel
Thur 13 Feb	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Sabrina Tickle/Jasbir Singh: Sikh Sanjog, Leith</i>
Thur 20 Feb	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Charmaine McMeekin: The Railway Man</i>
Sat 22 Feb	10.30am Messy Church
Mon 25 Feb	12.15 Amnesty Undercroft Group
Thur 27 Feb	<i>12.30pm Ecumenical Friends at St Cuthbert's Marjorie Paton: World Day of Prayer</i>
Sat 29 Feb	7.30pm Georgian Concert Society
Key 2020 Dates	
Sun 5 Apr	Palm Sunday
Fri 10 Apr	Good Friday
Sun 12 Apr	Easter Day
Sun 26 Apr	Christian Aid - Push n Shove Sunday
27/3 – 8/4	Christian Aid - Sorting and Pricing
9 -15 May	Christian Aid Sale
3rd party event at StAGW Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER Event Dates and times correct at TGP on 1 December. Please check church notices, website and social media for current information	

StAGW News and Notices



JJ Chalmers – Waking from a nightmare – to Living the Dream

Listen again to JJ's talk at <https://www.stagw.org.uk/event/jj-chalmers-waking-from-a-nightmare-to-living-the-dream-2019-11-19/>

Thank you

Dear Friends in St Andrew's & St George's West

I would just like to thank all those whose love and kindness helped me, and who prayed for me, when I had an accident with a Lothian bus outside the church on 26th October. I was so touched. Thank you all so very much. Blessings on you all.

Ruth Sheard

Life is short – enjoy it!

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better
To paint a picture, or write a letter.
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;
Ponder the difference between want and
need?

Dust if you must, but there's not much time,
With rivers to swim, and mountains to climb;
Music to hear, and books to read;
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out there
With the sun in your eyes, and the wind in
your hair;
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,
This day will not come around again

Congratulations to Pat McKerrow, whose perfect capture of a red squirrel won third place in the World Wildlife Fund 2019 global photo competition. Pat's *Moments in Nature Exhibition* is at the Water of Leith Café Bistro until mid-December. To purchase her greetings cards or calendars please speak to her.



Let there be LIGHT!

Sally Evans

Let there be LIGHT! will be our 10th (!) Christmas Tree Festival. The idea initially started as a one off “let’s see how it goes” idea after a visit to an established Christmas Tree Festival at St Aldhelm’s Poole, Dorset. We couldn’t have done it without the enlightened spirit of the Kirk Session and congregation, along with the businesses, charities, church groups and individuals who have sponsored and creatively decorated trees, and the volunteers who plan, organise, set up and take down the trees and welcome thousands of visitors.

As usual 39 of our 40 trees are Caring Christmas Trees supporting Bethany Christian Trust’s work, each one helping to transform lives of people affected by homelessness. Our 40th tree is being especially upcycled for us by volunteers from SHRUB Co-op!

Generous donations from our visitors have so far benefitted 22 locally based charities or international charities with a local connection or presence. This year the charities sharing the donations are **Bikes for Refugees**, **Canongate Youth** and **The Yard**. Here’s more about how their work is making a difference.

Let there be LIGHT! opens at 10am on Saturday 7 December.

We’re usually open Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Thurs until 8.30pm. There’s live music most days and Taize Time at 6pm on Thursdays.

We close at 1pm on Fri 20 Dec to prepare for **Carols at Six** and close our doors at 4pm on Tue 24 December.

Follow us on facebook @EdinburghChristmasTreeFestival and twitter @EdTreeFest for updates.

Bikes for Refugees

Bikes for Refugees (Scotland) SCIO is a grassroots community project that has been refurbishing and distributing (donated) bikes free to New Scots (refugees and asylum seekers) since April 2017. Over 900 donated cycles have been gifted, providing individuals and families with freedom of movement and a cheap means of travel.

Bikes empower New Scots to connect with communities and essential services such as language classes; volunteering and work opportunities; school and college, and help to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

"The bike provides me with mobility and easy access to all parts of the city without being dependent buying expensive bus tickets. If you are an asylum seeker you are not allowed to work and have an allowance of just over five pounds a day. It is also very important for personal health. When you don't have time or money to go for gym and swimming, cycling makes you always active."

Zozan, Asylum Seeker

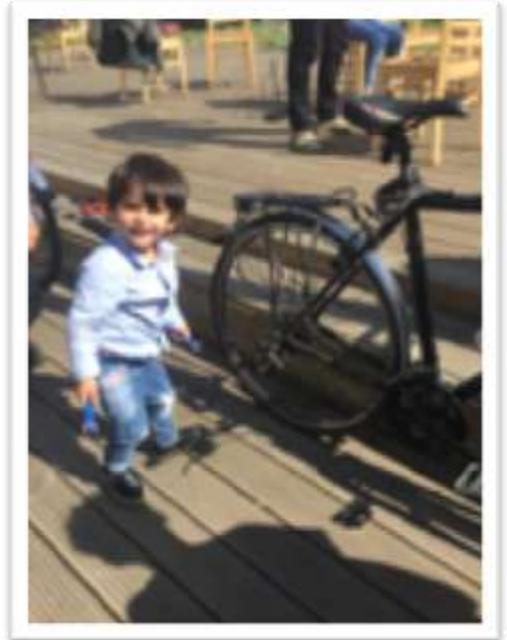
"Asylum seekers have told us that having a bike changes their lives"

"when we give people a bike we invite them to our cycling group where you can meet many people from many different countries with people from Scotland" Mehdi, Asylum Seeker

**Steven McCluskey,
Founder/Director**

www.bikesforrefugees.scot

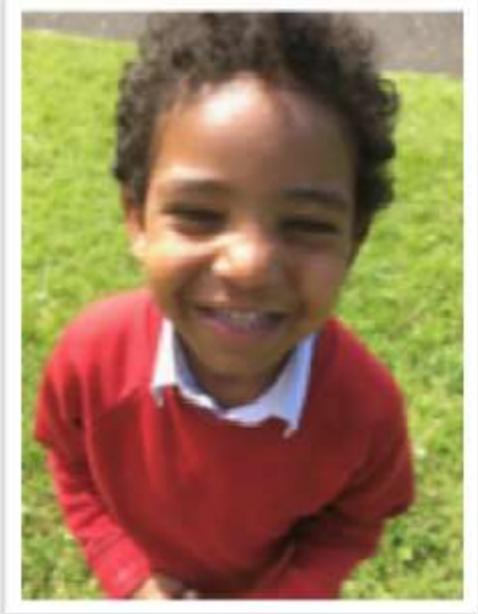
Facebook and Twitter @bikes4refugees



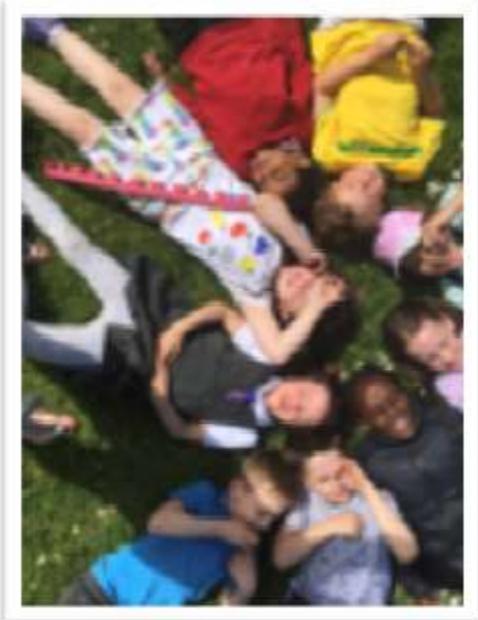


Canongate Youth

Canongate Youth has been working in Edinburgh city centre for 42 years. It provides a safe space that gives vital support to around 700 vulnerable children and young people between the ages of 5-25



every year. All those we work with are from the top three deciles of poverty as per the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation and are experiencing the negative impact of issues including poverty, the care system, neglect, abuse and mental health difficulties to varying degrees. We work alongside these children and young people to support them to overcome barriers from the very beginning of their school lives until they go into further education or find employment. We do this by providing the tools and skills needed to enable all the children and young people we work with to have the confidence, the power and the opportunities to progress in the most positive way they can, ensuring they get the maximum benefit from their educational years.



In the current political climate it is more crucial than ever that the disadvantaged children and young people of Edinburgh find support and encouragement to reach their potential.

We are enormously grateful to have been chosen as one of the charities for St Andrew's and St George's West's Christmas Tree Festival. Thank you.

Monica Sutcliffe, Fundraising and Development Officer

www.canongateyouth.org.uk

Facebook and Twitter @canongateyouth

The Yard

The Yard runs adventure play services for disabled children and young people (aged 0-25), and their families in the east of Scotland. We offer creative, adventurous indoor and outdoor play experiences in a well-supported environment.

Since we opened in 1986, set up by a group of parents, teachers and social workers who recognised the need for a safe place to play, our services have grown significantly, but we retain our holistic approach and ethos of child-centred and child-led play.

Our flagship Edinburgh centre in Canonmills was refurbished by BBC's DIY SOS The Big Build in 2012. It now offers twice-weekly family sessions, as well as special schools sessions, early years play sessions, youth and respite clubs, which add up to a six day a week service. Last year, we supported over 1,000 families.

We encourage families to let go, promoting challenge, adventure, personal growth and supported independence. Besides informal respite, meeting other parents who face similar challenges lets them build a network of support and understanding that helps ease the difficulties they face.

It was great to be a part of the Christmas Tree Festival last year and we are already looking forward to decorating our tree this year!

Christy Thomson
Community and Volunteering Officer
www.theyardscotland.org.uk
Facebook @TheYardScotland
Twitter and Instagram @theyardscotland



Music @ StAGW

James McNeill



Generously supported by a number of members of the congregation, the 2019 Scholars line-up is:

Andrew Carvel The Richard Baxter Assistant to the Director of Music, in the organisation of music at worship, choice of music and hymns, preparation of the monthly music lists, conducting and in supporting the collegiate welfare of the choir. Our skilful composer-in-residence who plays a mean Jazz Saxophone (often when you are not expecting it!)

Drew Crichton Assistant organist, also contributing generally to the organisation of music at worship, supporting the younger members of the choir. Also a very fine classical pianist and mimic.

Caitlin McGillivray Voice coach, helping the less experienced younger members to prepare for early morning singing and heavy duty concerts. Also a brilliant performer on the cabaret stage with some deadly songs in her repertoire.

Eleanor Wilson The Fifer Organ scholar, a choir member for three seasons, and comes to the studentship already technically very proficient.

Eleanor Cozens Choral scholar, also a choir member for three seasons, a very fine soprano, and a very good communicator.

Tim Cooper Choral scholar, has been a member for three seasons and, when not in the choir loft, keen on barbershop performance and able to transcribe by ear. Also the choir's baker and pâtissier, helping them regain energy between the early morning rehearsal and the third service.

A number of these and former scholars and other young member choir members are also regular crofters and the source of fun concerts.



Come and sing favourite Christmas Carols among the trees. Join **Andrea Baker, St Andrew's and St George's West Choir** and **Cantilena Orchestra** for a feast of festive music.

Music includes

For unto us a child is born Handel
Star Carol Rutter
Silent Night Chilcott
My Lord has come Todd
Go, tell it on the mountain arr Carvel

Directed by Brigitte Harris

Free entry

Donations to Bikes for Refugees, Canongate Youth and The Yard

Christian Aid at StAGW

Pictures from the Autumn Sale



Thanks to Donald Gollan for these pictures



Christian Aid at StAGW

Mary Davidson

Thirty years ago Dr James Strachan, Consultant Psychiatrist at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, appealed to our minister, Rev Andrew McLellan, to try to find some books for the patients in his ward. Ever since then there has been an unbroken link with the Royal Edinburgh. After each annual Sale books have been reserved and taken there. Latterly Marie Austin has been dedicated to this important part of our endeavour. In the summer we received a letter from Katie Smith who is in charge of the Volunteering Hub at the Royal Edinburgh Library. Here are some highlights:

Thank you so much for your kind donation... As always, David and Marie made a huge effort to find the things that we needed.

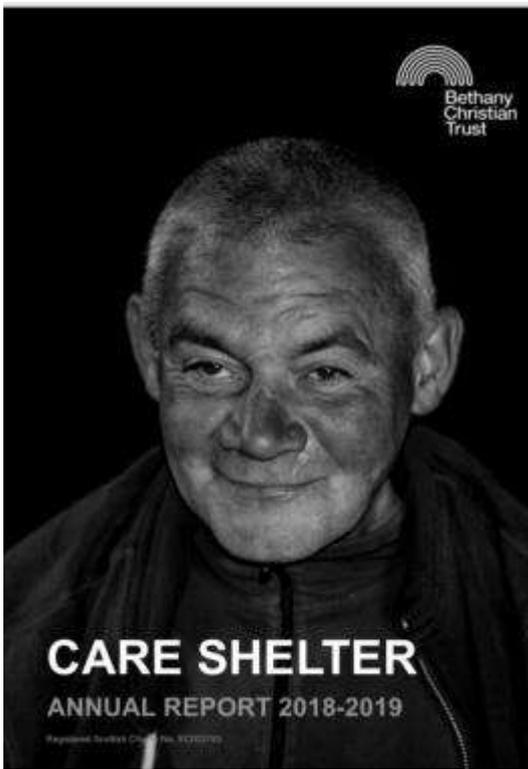
Our new Trivial Pursuit Cards are going down a storm. Quizzes are a regular part of library life and it was great for the regulars to have a whole new set of questions. In fact the whole hospital is Trivial Pursuiting... Activities like this... uncover people's hidden talents and knowledge, give everyone a chance to feel interesting and create endless new topics of conversation.

This year we are working to increase patients' connections with nature... The wildlife and plant guides are very useful, and enable people to discover things themselves, without needing an expert around.

We could continue for pages about the different books we have received and uses for them... like Christmas for the library volunteers... Having donations like this allows us to involve patient volunteers in sorting, processing and display of books, games, CDs and DVDs and gives people a peaceful, sociable and useful role in the hospital community.

Inspired by Katie's account of the marvellous work done by her team, the members of our cellar work party have been setting aside surplus and duplicate books for them. Ronnie Turnbull's willingness to deliver these to Morningside is much appreciated.

Following our October Sale our Treasurer, Don Rolls, was able to send a cheque to Christian Aid for their Christmas Appeal for £10,000, bringing our total giving for Christian Aid in 2019 to £105,000.



Bethany Care Shelter Report 2018-2019

Jimmy Campbell

Every winter Bethany Christian Trust provides a Night Care Shelter in Edinburgh for people experiencing homelessness. Sadly the annual report for 2018-2019 recorded the busiest season since it began back in 1996 with an average of 59 guests attending each night compared to 43 the previous year.

Last season the Care Shelter found a fixed venue at the former Stenhouse St Aidan's church, providing better facilities including beds and showers, as well as consistency for guests and a larger capacity. Nearly 70 different catering teams from churches throughout Edinburgh volunteered, including a team from StAGW, cooking for up to 80 guests at a time.

The figures are staggering. A total of 764 individuals accessed the shelter last winter. The average length of stay was longer at 17 nights, indicating it is increasingly difficult in Edinburgh to move on to more suitable accommodation.

The average age was 39; of those the youngest was 17 and the oldest 83. Almost 1 in 5 were women, who tended to return on more occasions than men. While these figures are overwhelming we must not lose sight of the fact that each one is an individual.

The most common reason given by guests for their homelessness was a relationship breakdown often coupled with another expressed issue. Eviction, not having a local connection and mental health illness were the next most common.

The Care Shelter relies heavily on volunteers and church support and couldn't function without their dedication, commitment, financial

contributions and prayers. Bethany wish to pass on their sincere thanks to everyone who was involved.

Thank you especially to the volunteers from our church who gave up their time on three occasions through the winter of 2018/19, providing guests with an excellent three course dinner.

And thank you too for all of the other initiatives that so many of you promoted and supported during the year, including our fellowship lunch in December and our special Sunday Prayer Service in October. It is a heart stopping thought is it not, that experience tells us there will be those who begin this winter in their own accommodation, but who will end up at The Care Shelter at some point.

The Night Shelters are again up and running for 2019-20 and will run through until the spring. And once again St. Andrew's and St. George's West are providing catering on three evenings this winter.

Please keep Bethany, care shelter guests and volunteers from all across in Edinburgh in your prayers.

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all that are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy.
(Proverbs 31. 8-9)

Read the full Bethany Care Shelter Annual Report online at <https://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/services/emergency-resettlement/>



cheerful service



at the Care Shelter





10 Nov 2019 Ellen Campbell (2nd right) who made the first move

40 Years of Seeking Peace Together

So how did our Scottish-German Remembrance service begin?

Ellen Campbell (German Congregation)
"After Britain joined the Common Market I thought it would be good to reach out to a Scottish congregation. At that time, Andrew Wylie was minister here. Our daughters were at school together at St George's and we became friends. So I invited our minister Pastor Schroeder and his wife and Mr and Mrs Wylie for dinner at our house. They got on well and decided it would be a good idea to celebrate Remembrance Sunday together."

And how was the idea received?

Barbara Ramsay (StAGW)
"I don't remember anyone walking out... but I do remember some debate at Session meetings. The younger elders, including me, were keen to build bridges and open our arms to people who must have been hurting. It must have been much harder for our parents' generation"

Ellen remembers that not all of the Scottish congregation was happy *"It took great bravery and courage to persist with this idea."*

And now, in 2019?

Pastor Schroeder sent warm greetings from Germany. *"I have to admit that my knees were shaking at that first service. And Ellen: "I can say that this arrangement makes us all extremely grateful and happy. It is important to reach across divides and celebrate that which joins us"*



Headline news Nov 1979



Continuing to Remember

Alec Hope

From August 1914 to November 2018, special attention was given to the 100th anniversary of particular events of the First World War. With this anniversary now over, the intensity of remembrance has, of course, reduced; but surely it will not have ended, nor should it.

It is probable that, as it continues in smaller, more intimate ways, remembrance could be focused more on war memorials and war cemeteries, rather than on events and their locations. North Eastern France and Belgium probably have the largest number of war cemeteries. No visit to any of them can be anything but a sombre experience.

However, it is not necessary to travel abroad to visit a cemetery with war graves. The nearest such site to this church, and a significant one, is only minutes from George Street at Rosebank Cemetery on Pilrig Street and it has at least one direct connection with the congregation here.

The troop train disaster at Quintinshill near Gretna on 22 May 1915 took the lives of over 200 men on active service, before they had even left Scotland. The 7th (Leith) Battalion of the Royal Scots was just setting out for Gallipoli when the crash occurred.

One of the dead was Lt. Christian Salvesen, aged 24, and the eldest of seven children in the family from Rothesay Terrace; his name is



Rosebank cemetery in Pilrig Street



Memorial doorway in St George's Charlotte Square

included in the memorial plaque in this church which replaces the former war memorial doorway of St. George's in Charlotte Square.

The name of one of his younger brothers is there too. 2nd Lt Eric Salvesen served in the same regiment and died in action at Arras on 23 April 1917 aged 19. His name is listed on the Menin Gate. A further loss to the Salvesen family, shown on the same plaque, is that of Major Harry Cheyne, Royal Field Artillery, killed by shellfire on 10 July 1917, whose wife, Anne, was a sister of Christian and Eric Salvesen. He is buried near Ypres.

The numbers of those killed during the First World War and the scale of the losses still appal us; it is so often the individual stories that make the strongest impression and provide a focus continuing remembrance.

At setting of sun, and at break of day, remembering surely should and will continue, keeping faith with the fallen and with those who suffered not just in the 1914-18 war but also in countless other conflicts since then.

News from your Kirk Session

Crispin Longden

This is the first of what is intended to be a regular slot in the magazine, recognising a wish by many to learn more about what goes on at Kirk Session meetings. Kirk Session meets formally roughly every 6 weeks, principally to discuss business brought before it by the working groups – Communications; Education; Fabric; Finance and Stewardship; Music; Pastoral Care and Fellowship; Staffing and Management and Wider Horizons. But, once a year, there is the opportunity to meet informally and this allows Elders to explore important issues and initiatives in greater depth. Two ‘live’ issues for St Andrew’s and St George’s West right now were discussed at the most recent of these gatherings – HeartEdge and Worship.

HeartEdge

We learned about the HeartEdge network of which St Andrew’s and St George’s West is now a member alongside our Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together partners. HeartEdge was launched by St Martin’s-in-the-Fields in 2017 for churches working at the heart of community, culture and commerce with those at the margins and on the edge. The Kirk Session had wholeheartedly endorsed Rosie’s suggestion that we join HeartEdge, recognising that its ethos is very much in keeping with who we are and what we’re about at St Andrew’s and St George’s West. The HeartEdge network supports churches in blending their mission around 4 key areas – the 4 ‘Cs’:

- *Congregation*: Inclusive approaches to liturgy, worship and day-to-day communal life.
- *Commerce*: Commercial activity and social enterprise generating finance, creatively extending and enhancing mission and ministry.
- *Culture*: Art, music and ideas to re-imagine the Christian narrative for the present moment.
- *Compassion*: Models of outreach serving local need and addressing social justice.

Working in groups, we looked at all the initiatives and activities we do currently and assigned them to one or more of the 4 ‘Cs’. What emerged was a picture of areas of overlap and gaps:

And this is where being a member of HeartEdge really comes into its own. As it says on their website, *“HeartEdge is fuelled by its members. Members are people and churches who are makers and takers – people and churches that both give to the network and take from it”*. Having completed the 4 ‘Cs’ exercise and providing a snapshot to the network, we can benefit from a peer review. Early next year, a team of 5 or 6 drawn from other HeartEdge member churches will visit and meet with us to help us find the right blend for our mission in the centre of Edinburgh today.



Worship

Rosie invited Elders to think about the values of worship and shared some useful quotes. One, by Emily Brink, resonated in particular: *“Imagine a worship service as a drama. Who is the audience? Who are the actors? At first glance, most would say that the congregation is the audience and the leaders are the actors. Kierkegaard states that God is the audience; the worshippers are the actors, and the leaders the prompters.”*

The purpose of worship is to please God and we are all active participants in this. Rosie encouraged us to harness and bring together the creativity and talent of all those involved in our services of worship. Our ‘Away Morning’ concluded, aptly, with the celebration by all of Holy Communion.

All regular Session meetings are open to anyone to attend as an observer unless there is confidential business to be discussed. Formal minutes are taken by the Session Clerk and these are available to read on request, any confidential business being recorded as a minute set apart.

Crispin Longden, Session Clerk

Kirk Session Meetings in 2020 are 14 Jan; 11 Mar; 18 May; 17 June; 28 July; 30 Sep; 24 Nov. Observers are welcome!

Postcards from the (Heart)edge

Alison Bruce

It's mid-morning in St Cuthbert's one fine day in October and I am listening to some Very Important People consider the future of the church in Scotland. This is the annual HeartEdge Conference, two days of stories of renewal shared by churches around the world.

I am still rather dazed by the first, keynote speaker, who rattles through Trinity Wall Street's community outreach programmes in New York. An historic church in the heart of the commercial district – for a moment I'm on familiar ground until I learn that Trinity has a massive surplus from property investment and reinvests this aggressively. Trinity Commons, a 5-storey Parish Centre of arts, gymnasium and community space topped by over 20 floors of income-generating office space, is about to open. Surplus? Millions? ... isn't church about deficits and shoestrings? But Director of Outreach Winnie Varghese is firm. This is mission through the marketplace, working in partnership to address local issues of homelessness, racial justice, and incarceration. "We are working to develop leadership for the church and for the world. We do theology with our lives."

We need a good shipwreck

Now I **am** paying attention! The church in Scotland, facing up to radical change, has too many buildings (because we have had too many conflicts) a reluctance to say sorry and a tone that has not always spoken of love. Should we, like Paul in stormy seas on his journey to Rome, jettison the cargo and abandon the sinking ship? But there are inspiring stories to come, and here are two that resonated with me.

St Paul Old Ford, East End of London

St Paul's closed 20 years ago because of falling numbers and an unsafe building. But it has reopened, with a much smaller worship space, an accessible gym for all abilities, a community café and meeting spaces to serve the community. James Hughesdon, the vicar, takes up the story. "Our Café and Disability Gym do make money – **and** what we do through them, and caring for our staff, is as much "doing church" as our worship on Sunday mornings. We don't define ourselves theologically – we're a broad church in a very diverse

Working Together in the City Centre

Diana Thurston-Smith

The Trustees of **Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together** (“ECCCT”) representing the three congregations of STAGW, St Cuthbert’s and St John’s Churches, Edinburgh held an away-day at Whitchester Christian Retreat Centre recently.

STAGW representation includes our minister, Rosie (vice chair) alongside Trustees Helen Cox and George Russell with myself as Secretary. ECCCT supports and promotes outreach work the nature of which can better be achieved with all three congregations working **together**.

Encouraged by our Kirk Session the vision of ECCCT has been improved and now states that

*“As city centre churches we are committed to work **Together** in mission as effectively as possible and to engaging where we can with the residents of and the many people coming in and out of the centre of Edinburgh every week as citizens, workers, visitors, shoppers and people looking for entertainment or shelter. We hope to demonstrate the Christian Faith through outreach projects in the types of work we undertake.”*

ECCCT’s core focuses are enacted through the following initiatives:

Workplace Chaplaincy

Andy Gregg, who visited us on Sundays throughout September, is the Workplace Chaplain for Edinburgh City Centre and is part of the ECCCT Ministry Team. Through his work he has been able to reach out to thousands of people working in the city centre. His role is seen by the Trust as being a vital part of what ECCCT is about and the Trustees are clear that this work must continue. To demonstrate ECCCT’s commitment to Workplace Chaplaincy in the city centre it is increasing its financial support for 2020. In addition, ECCCT is paying towards the salary of a Sheppard Scholar who will give Andy assistance with administration one day per week for

the next year. The Sheppard Scholar programme is an initiative of the HeartEdge Movement of which STAGW recently became a member.

Homelessness Group

The Trustees believe that services to people experiencing homelessness are best coordinated by and through the ECCCT Homelessness Group which includes representatives from each of the three congregations. We can achieve more through pooling our resources and coordinating our efforts.

Two members of the Group have been invited to attend an upcoming meeting organized by the Inclusive Edinburgh Homelessness Manager of Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership to help develop a winter resilience plan for the city.

Just Festival

ECCCT will continue giving support to Just Festival which is held at St John's primarily during the Edinburgh Festival.

Eco-congregations

The sharing of information between the three congregations continues. Currently they will be using the Church Notices as a forum to present ideas to the congregations for being eco-friendly. ECCCT's Eco-congregations group is also currently encouraging Palmerston Place Church as they become an eco-congregation.

Messy Church

Messy Church meets one Saturday morning a month alternately at STAGW and at St John's. Families from all three congregations are encouraged to attend. The Youth Worker from Old St Paul's has also asked to be involved so that may lead to interest from families attending Old St Paul's for worship.

Creative Together

The Trustees praised Creative Together for the splendid total of over £5000 raised for Marie Curie at the On the Button sale in September. The social gatherings to knit for good causes continue

the third Wednesday of the month as notified in the Church Notices.

Christian Aid

The three congregations are well represented on the ECCCT Christian Aid Group. The Group organises social events for the three congregations, spreads information about the current work of Christian Aid and raises some funds for that charity as well. Its next event is a Quiz to be held in St John's on Wednesday 12 February 2020. Details will be publicised nearer the time.

Ecumenical Friends

Ecumenical Friends meets 12.30-1.45pm every Thursday (Oct - Mar) in St Cuthbert's for a varied programme of lectures and discussions.

Christmas Leaflet

ECCCT is producing and funding a Christmas Leaflet giving details of all the Advent and Christmastide services being held in the three churches in December and other relevant services.

Worshipping Together

ECCCT member churches commit to joint acts of worship and hold an annual joint service of worship each January. The next joint service will take place on Sunday 19 January 2020 at St Cuthbert's.

For more detailed information about any aspects of what ECCCT undertakes and supports, please do contact me,
Diana Thurston Smith, Secretary, Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together (otherwise known as the "Together Trust"), Registered Scottish Charity Number SC040773.

Web: togetheredinburgh.org.uk

Facebook: [Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together](#)

Twitter: [@ECCCTogether](#)

Soul inhabitants of God's earth

Pat McKerrow's Wildlife Diary

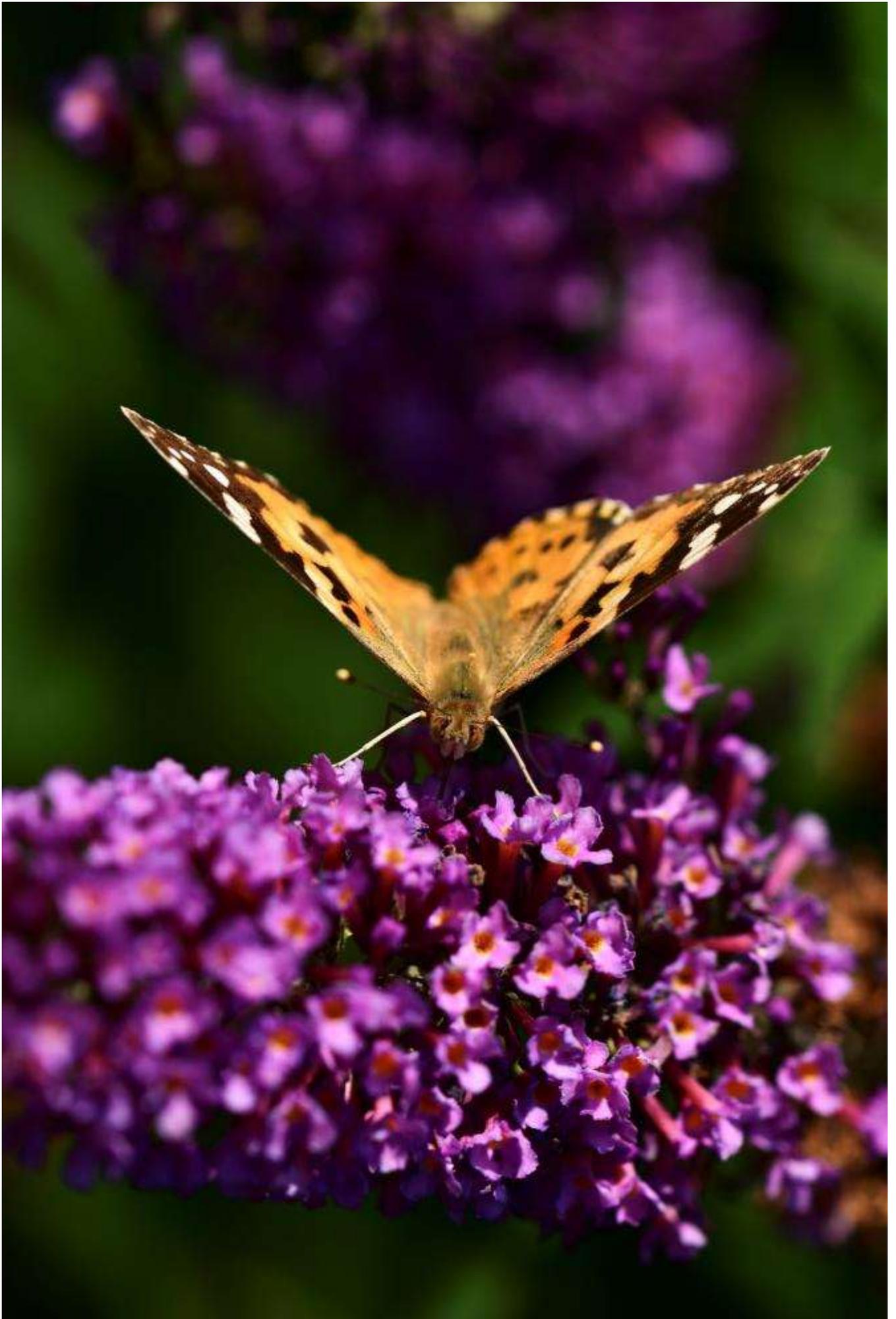
Magical. I heard this word, spoken by a passer-by, as I lay on the ground striving for a perfect photograph. I understood instantly what the gentleman meant – and he wasn't referring to me! Yes of course the word is used in a myriad of situations and to describe places, memories, stories, and so on. And, let us not forget as we prepare to celebrate the most wonderful story ever told, many see the Christmas season as magical too, as Charles Dickens wrote:

“There seems magic in the very name of Christmas”.

However, I digress. In this instance, the word I heard was being used to express how one passer-by felt sharing a moment in nature with me. What was I focussed on as he walked past me in my unladylike pose? Butterflies. Hundreds and hundreds of butterflies - collectively known as a kaleidoscope. You may remember reading about this summer's much publicised Painted Lady invasion? I was thrilled to find these beautiful and delicate creatures enjoying the greenery just metres from my home. Their wonderful fluttering flight movements, their colourful outspread wings when sitting, and their amazing wings folded, stick-like camouflage stances. Too many to count, and certainly too many for me to easily select which to photograph at any given moment!

The invasion began for me quite unexpectedly while working in my study, a gentle breeze wafting from the window. Suddenly, my attention was drawn to movement on the window ledge, and there she was, a Painted Lady. Within seconds, she flew towards me and landed on my hand. I could not help but wonder why, of all the nectar-filled places outside would she opt to come inside, and then why, of all the places in the room, did she choose my hand as a resting place? How curious. I recall the feeling of her legs against my skin, the antennae too; gentle yet something else that I can't quite describe. For a few moments it seemed as if we were frozen in time, as if we were the soul inhabitants of God's earth. My concentration entirely fixed on her. It was one of those glorious moments of oneness, God-given and spirit-filled.

When our brief reverie came to an end, I carried my little friend, still clinging to my hand, to the window through which she was in no hurry to exit. Not surprisingly, every instinct within me wanted to photograph



this little creature, to capture and preserve the moment, and then go in search of more of these impressive invaders. My butterfly vanished as my attention shifted to gathering up my camera kit. Gone, as if it had all been a dream. But when I reached outside, what a vision, Painted Ladies were literally everywhere, flying around, on fences, on the soil, and of course, on their favoured Buddleia shrubbery. It was indeed a magical sight, and another stunning example of God's beautiful creation. I love Hans Christian Andersen's quote:

*“Just living is not enough,” said the butterfly,
“one must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower.”*

Since that day, my knowledge of butterflies has grown immeasurably. For example, I now know the brevity of their lives, which for the Painted Lady is around 5-8 weeks for an entire life cycle (egg to adult). And, in line with their lifespan, their 9000-mile round trip migration from North Africa to the UK via South West Europe each summer, is done by successive (up to six) generations rather than individual butterflies completing the entire journey.

*“The butterfly counts not months but moments,
and yet has enough time”. (R Tagore)*

I was interested to find that butterflies symbolise many things in different traditions, including the resurrection, and the spirit/soul – I like the idea of the stages of their lives illustrating that our time on earth is not all there is. Around the world too, people view the butterfly as representatives of hope, endurance, and of life itself. And, apparently a butterfly landing on you can mean that something great is about to happen, or that you are moving in the right direction...

Despite migration taking place annually, an invasion happens only when weather conditions and food sources are ideal; the last influx on this scale being in 2009. Hard to imagine it may be another 10 years before this occurs again. I feel privileged, blessed, and enriched to have experienced these meaningful and magical moments in nature.

*“For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies...
for each perfect gift and sign...
Lord our God to you we raise, this our joyful hymn of praise.”*

Every blessing Pat McKerrow

Cornerstone Bookshop Reviews

Amanda Bruce

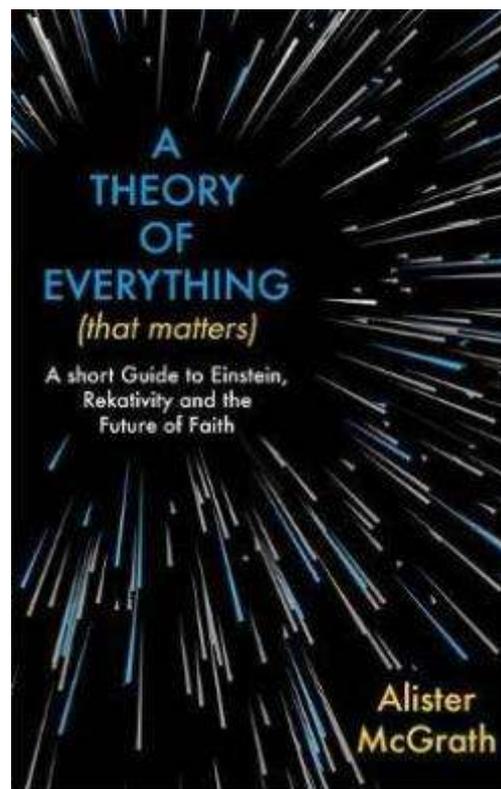
A Theory of Everything (That Matters)

Alister McGrath £14.99

November 2019 marks one hundred years since the confirmation by British astronomers of Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity. A sensation in his own day, Einstein continues to be respected and admired by both academic and popular thinkers and his influence on our everyday lives is substantial.

This book aims to introduce his thinking about the universe and what his revolutionary scientific discoveries mean for religious faith – a question Einstein himself gave great consideration.

As McGrath says in his introduction, “Einstein wasn't just a great scientist, he was also a reflective human being who realised the importance of holding together our key ideas and beliefs,” and here we are presented with an exploration into how he attempted to develop a coherent view of the world – ‘a grand theory of everything’ – where scientific objectivity and the quest for meaning and value in our lives can be held in tandem. A very accessible read and fascinating for all who are interested in exploring the bigger picture.



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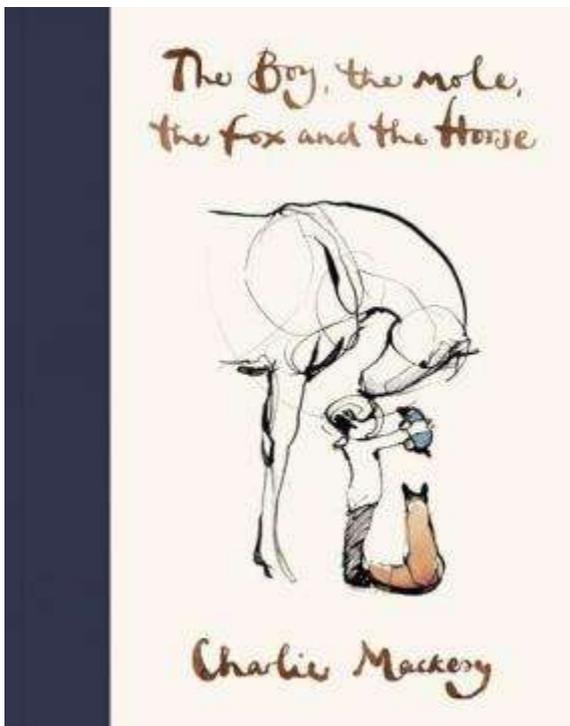
St John's Church Terrace, Princes Street, Edinburgh EH2 4BJ

Tel 0131 229 2776 e [Edinburgh\[at\]cornerstonebooks.org.uk](mailto:Edinburgh@cornerstonebooks.org.uk)

When Poets Pray Marilyn McEntyre £14.99

“Poetry provides a language of the heart, a way of hearing and imagining, that makes us more human, more alive, more attuned to God and to ourselves. Prayer, of course, does the same thing.” So writes Winn Collier in his endorsement of McEntyre’s latest book exploring the realms of language and faith and the close relation between poetry and prayer. Both allow us to witness and wrestle, both allow us to “play at the edges of mystery,” both have the ability to slow us down and become aware through our senses of the world within and the world out-with, the known and the unknown. McEntyre explores all these things through a series of meditations on poems from a number of poems from the Western tradition. Hildegard of Bingen, Thomas Merton, Mary Oliver and Denise Levertov are just some of those on whose words she reflects as she invites the reader on a journey of spiritual pilgrimage into a deeper presence of the divine.

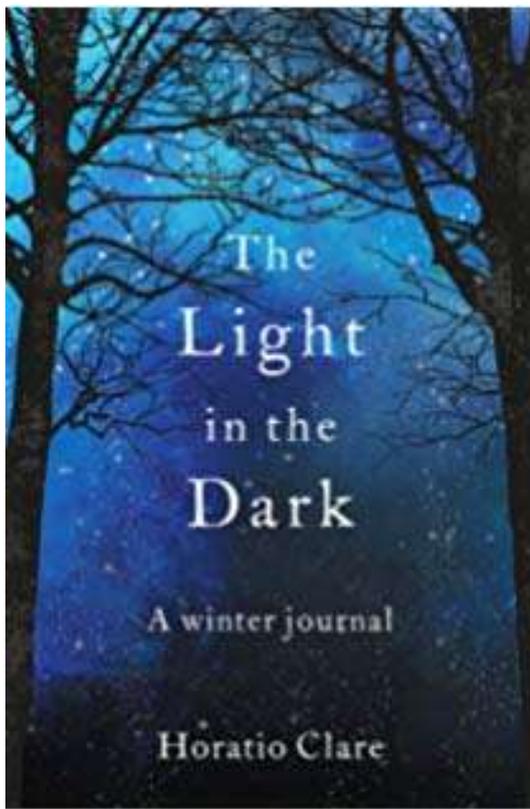
The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse Charlie Mackesy £16.99



This, quite simply, is an extraordinary book both in content and design. The text is in handwritten script, is sparse and is accompanied by beautiful ink illustrations which together depict a young boy, who is brought out of his loneliness as he encounters companion on the way, each with their own strengths and weaknesses and each with their own ways of looking at the world. Together they spend time together, gazing at nature, asking questions about life and learning that the simple gifts of love and kindness and the greatest gifts we can bestow on others

and ourselves. If that sounds sentimental, this book is anything but.

It is beautiful and profound. It is about friendship. It is about what it means to be ‘at home’ and deserves to find a place in everyone’s home.



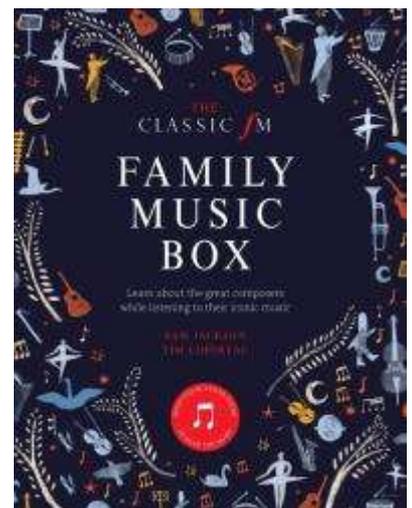
The Light in the Dark – a winter journal Horatio Clare £9.99

Published now in paperback, this is a beautiful piece of writing from the award-winning author and journalist, Horatio Clare, in his typically lyrical style, facing up to the darkness of winter and the effects the winter months can have on us. Clare himself is one of many who suffer from a lower mood in the winter but this meditative sketchbook, peppered with all that sparkles and shines in the natural world – “the pearlescent cloud,” “a new day, blue and hopeful” – kindles

light within as you read. Clare’s honesty about his feelings, mixed with striking imagery and poetic language leave a real mark on the heart in what is essentially a celebration of all the shades and shadows of life and the light that beckons.

The Classic FM Family Music Box Sam Jackson & Tim Lihoreau £18.00

This long-awaited book will likely be a Christmas present in many households! Packed with information about composers – their lives, their pieces and the times they were written – it also introduces some of the instruments used to play them and explains what an orchestra does. It is beautifully illustrated, has eight sound-chip buttons which play short excerpts and suggestions of recordings to listen to in full are made throughout. One for all the family to enjoy exploring together.



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Weekday worship 1pm Monday – Friday

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