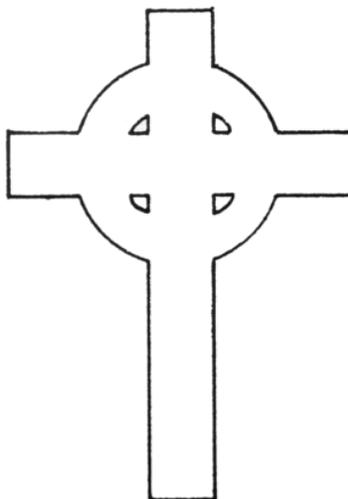


Meadowside St. Paul's

Church of Scotland



Summer, 2019

***MAGAZINE OF
CHURCH AFFAIRS***

INTERIM MODERATOR

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CONGREGATIONAL CALENDAR

June	9	11.15 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen
	12	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	16	11.15 am	Rev Caroline Taylor
	19	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	23	11.15 am	Rev Caroline Taylor (Sacrament of Holy Communion and Come to Church Sunday)
	26	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	30	11.15 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen

Please note that service times change to 10.00 am from 7th July!

July	3	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	7	10.00 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen
	10	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	14	10.00 am	Tim Xenophontos-Hellen
	17	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	21	10.00 am	Rev Caroline Taylor
	24	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer
	28	10.00 am	Rev Caroline Taylor
	31	12 noon - 1.30 pm	Church open for prayer

THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who donated to Christian Aid at the Links Ceilidh on 5th June. A total of £387 was collected and I have donated it to the Sunda Strait (Indonesia) Tsunami Appeal as I worked as a teacher of English for 2 years with VSO (Voluntary Service Overseas) in Indonesia.

SUMMER BREAK

The Magazine will be taking a break over the summer months, and the next issue will appear in September. The Editors would like to thank all their contributors over the past year, and encourage new ones to begin!

GREETINGS AND NEWS FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

In my last letter to you I mentioned Thy Kingdom Come, a global prayer movement in which both our outgoing Moderator and current Moderator, the Rt Revd Colin Sinclair, have encouraged us to participate. Preparations are well underway for that to happen in the church tomorrow (5th June): we have chosen Wednesday as that was the day the sanctuary was traditionally open for prayer. (Perhaps that is something we could revive? Even if not weekly?)

I have not long returned from the General Assembly. Much was discussed and agreed, notably the various radical action plans which aim to put the Church on a firmer, more efficient foundation in order to meet the needs and patterns of 21st century lifestyles. Amongst other things decided, Presbyteries will be fewer and more finance and authority will be devolved to local level. There is so much more to say, however, and not enough space to say it here.

I know that not all of you have access to a computer, but if you do, you can still watch the debates on the Church of Scotland website – here is the link: https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/general_assembly/general_assembly_2019. If you have a “smart” TV, the two programmes presented by Sheena McDonald are still available and include part of the debate on the radical plan presented by Professor David Fergusson, Convener of the Special Commission. You will see, I think, even from these snapshots, that there is an appetite for change and a willingness to make difficult decisions in order to ensure that the Kirk is able not just to survive, but to grow, and grow stronger. I was particularly struck by the comments made by previous Moderator, the Very Revd James Simpson, which are included in the second programme. Here was a senior figure in the Church, whom I have long admired and respected, encouraging Commissioners to vote in favour of the radical action plan, for we had waited a long time for these things to be said, and now was the time to act.

The first of the TV programmes featured young people who are involved in the Youth Assembly or as representatives at the General Assembly, as well as pupils at Tabeetha, the Kirk’s only school, which is located in Jaffa, uses English as its main language, and welcomes children of many different faiths and nationalities. Taken together, these youngsters show that it’s not all doom and gloom! I leave the last word to Stuart Townend: the last verse of a hymn we sang on the closing day.

Speak, O Lord, and renew our minds; help us grasp the heights of Your plans for us. Truths unchanged from the dawn of time, that will echo down through eternity. And by grace we'll stand on Your promises; and by faith we'll walk as You walk with us. Speak, O Lord, 'til your church is built and the earth is filled with Your glory.

May we indeed hear God speaking to us.

Caroline

THE GUILD

Although Guild meetings have finished for the 2018-19 session, we are already planning for 2019-20 – meetings will re-commence on Monday, 16th September. We would love to welcome some new members (male and female) along with our 'regulars', so do consider joining our fortnightly fellowship. Programme Secretary Irene Birse, ably assisted by Jenny Young, will undoubtedly provide us with an excellent selection of speakers and activities, and again we look forward to some joint meetings with the St Andrew's Church Guild, always particularly happy occasions. Full details of the programme will be available nearer the time.

Before that, our summer outing has been scheduled for the afternoon of Monday, 24th June. The venue has still to be confirmed, but Guild members should put the date in their diaries – further details will be circulated in the next week or so.

Members continue to be involved in national Guild activities, attending the Dundee Gathering (a 'mini' version of the much larger September event) on 9th May. We heard about various national initiatives, different ways Guilds across the country organise to maximise participation, and came away with some interesting resources which may well make their appearance at our own meetings over the coming year! Jannette Walker and Ann Black attended the 'Big Sing' during General Assembly week – Ann's report appears elsewhere in this Magazine. The Annual Gathering, with the theme 'Companions on the Road', is on Saturday, 7th September at the Caird Hall. As well as providing two stewards for the day, we have two tickets available for any Guild member who would like to attend what is always an enjoyable and inspirational event – see Morag for further details. Once again, the MSP Guild will be providing teas and coffees in our Hall for

delegates bringing their own packed lunches - a service much appreciated by those attending, many of whom are 'regulars' coming year after year.

Just as our session ended, we were saddened by the loss of another Guild member, Bede Pounder, who was a regular participant in our meetings, with Dorothy, until quite recently. Our sympathies go to Dorothy and her family.

Morag Stalker

GUILD BIG SING, TUESDAY 21st MAY 2019

Jannette Walker and I were delighted to attend the Guild Annual Big Sing held in the Assembly Hall during the General Assembly.

Although it was a very wet evening the atmosphere was very warm and welcoming.

The meeting started with opening worship led by The Very Rev John Christie, a former Moderator of the General Assembly, and the opening hymn was "Amazing Grace".

Hymns were then chosen by various people who were connected with the Guild, including previous office-bearers, Tamsin Dingwall, Moderator of the National Youth Assembly, and new Guild members including Conor McFadyen, a young Guild member and member of the National Youth Assembly. The people who chose the hymns explained why they had chosen a particular hymn.

We enjoyed readings and the reflection was given by Very Rev John Christie. The final hymn "Now we thank thee all our God" was chosen by Very Rev John Christie who conducted the Benediction.

This was a very happy evening enjoyed by all.

Ann Black

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

We are indebted to the following for provision of flowers from May to August:

May	5	The Dorcas Society
	12	Mr George Morris
	19	Mrs Margaret Ingram
	26	Mrs Margaret McRobbie
June	2	Mr Earl Scott
	9	Ms Margaret Adamson - in memory of Iain & Robin Adamson
	16	Flower Fund
	23	Mr Brian Millar
	30	Miss Irene Birse
July	7	Mrs Isobel Miller
	14	Flower Fund
	21	Eric and Tricia Hughes
	28	Flower Fund
August	4	Mrs Cathie Robertson
	11	Mrs Dorothy Pounder
	18	Flower Fund
	25	Miss Jan Ireland

You will notice that the Flower Fund is having to meet the cost of the flowers for several Sundays over the summer. If anyone who does not already donate to the Fund would like to 'step in' for one of these weeks – or any others through the year, perhaps for a special anniversary - please contact Morag Stalker (tel.202044) or speak to any member of the Flower Committee. Flower arranging skills are not required – Turriff's Nursery generally provide the arrangements and deliver them to the church for display.

The Committee are always grateful to hear suggestions of who might receive flowers after the service on a particular Sunday, or to have help with delivering these.

Morag Stalker

THE FOUR SEASONS

Spring flies in on angel wings
Softly as the silver dew
Daffodils sing songs of hope
As morning breaks anew

A warm embrace of summer sun
Enfolds fields of yellow gold
Apple orchards clothed in red
Hear nature's song unfold

A melody of silence
Greets the whispering autumn sky
Grey mist rolls across the ground
We hear the blackbird cry

Winter wears her cloak of white
A crown of garnished blue
Silent are the empty hills
Where once the skylark flew

Each season has her magic
Her harmony of days
Creation's trumpet cries aloud
In symphony of praise

Jim Adams

HEART AND SOUL

Heart and Soul, an event celebrating the life of the Church takes place in Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh on the afternoon of Assembly Sunday, this year on Sunday 19 May.

This year I attended this event, travelling through by train after the morning service. Fortunately the weather was fair, making visiting the marquees, stages and open-air exhibitions in West Princes Street Gardens an enjoyable and stimulating experience.

Caroline told us about her visit to the event, where she collected souvenirs from the General Trustees, Law Department, Boys' Brigade and Girls' Brigade displays. My souvenirs came from World Mission, Iona Community, Scotland's Pilgrim Journeys.

There was an area for children's activities. An "In conversation" tent, hosted various short panel discussions where topics included Faith and Activism, 150 years of Crossreach, and Jane Haining. Panel members for different discussions included MSP Ruth Davidson, BBC Health Editor Hugh Pym and Former Moderator Lorna Hood. Organisations and Congregations from the Borders to the Highlands were represented, including Lochee and Camperdown Churches who showcased their work with "Messy Church". At the far end of the Gardens, an aeroplane from MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) was on display, and St Cuthbert's Church was host to an Ecumenical Service for Renewal of Baptismal Vows, as well as short performances and an exhibition celebrating 150 years of Crossreach.

Having refreshed myself with tea and cake at St Cuthbert's, I returned to the Ross Bandstand, on the way picking up an envelope and price list from Sequi, the company who provide the envelopes for Weekly Freewill Offerings and other types of donations. The event ended with open-air worship at the Ross Bandstand, addressed by previous and current Moderators. A Lone Piper on the ramparts of Edinburgh Castle played Amazing Grace, the closing hymn.

I thoroughly enjoyed my afternoon, and have only managed to give a flavour of what was on offer. I would recommend the event to anyone who can visit in future years.

KRAKOW TRIP

Dear Friends

I would like to express our warmest thanks to you all for enabling us to take a trip to Krakow a couple of months back. It was undoubtedly very interesting, invigorating and informative.

We left Edinburgh Airport in pleasant weather but our arrival in Krakow was somewhat different - it was snowing pretty heavily, blowing a 'hooley' and we wondered if this was what we are going to experience for our week there. But no – the weather improved by the next morning and we were able to enjoy the lovely sights and fascinating history of Krakow. On our second last day we were able to walk about in shirt sleeves witnessing the ice-cream shops doing a roaring trade with long queues forming in the street. Quite a contrast.

Staying in the Old Town allowed us to explore the city very easily. We visited the Ryniek underground museum under the main square and here we saw and experienced what it was like to live in the city 700 years ago through exhibits, film and by walking through the remains of all that had been dug out and uncovered from the past.

We visited the Wieliczka salt mines which stretch for around 178 miles which I assure you we did not walk, only a small part, but a very long way down. As we made our way through a labyrinthine of passageways and shafts we saw displays of salt-mining technology, an underground lake, four chapels and numerous statues carved by the miners out of the salt rock as well as also more recent sculptures by contemporary artists. It is even possible to be married down there.

On the same site as the mine is the Wieliczka Graduation Tower which is built of larch wood. This wood was specially chosen as larch is extremely durable. Larch wood stored in dry conditions can last up to and beyond 1800 years and whilst held in water, for approximately 500 years. This is the only kind of wood that will not rot in sea water. The larch construction is covered with bundles of blackthorn branches otherwise known as sloe. The tower has one of the most pleasant forms of inhalation therapies. A natural brine mist that forms in the area of the Graduation Tower is like being at the seaside. During the whole day our lungs accumulate dust (amongst other things) through the air we breathe. Inhaling this natural brine mist permits the cleansing of the respiratory system.

It is also referred to as nebulisation therapy and thanks to its therapeutic properties it facilitates the treatment of selected chronic respiratory ailments. There are plans for this area to re-emerge as a 'holistic' spa and well-being destination with hotels and accommodation being built to encourage people to visit. It is recommended that the best treatment can be achieved while standing not closer than 30 metres for the duration of no longer than 15 - 30 minutes following which a brisk walk is advised or pleasant stroll along the avenues (which we took) and after which we visited the platforms on the roof and admired the magnificent views of the surrounding countryside.

On one of days we went out walking to find the Jewish Quarter. Unfortunately we got a wee bit lost and were wandering around the Christian sector when a gentleman in his small electric buggy (like a golf cart) came to our rescue. We took a short tour with him and it transpired that he had driven the famous Rod Stewart in that very same buggy. He too was apparently captivated with the stories and history of such a historical place.

Our driver took us on a fascinating tour of the main parts of this area where we learned a great deal. We visited the Jewish sector and Ghetto, stopping off at Schindlers factory which is very very popular and needs to be booked well in advance starting from a very early 7.30 in the morning. Our next stop was Plac Zgody - a large square in the middle of the Ghetto, now renamed 'Heroes Square' (in honour of the Jewish deportees.). This was where thousands of Krakow Jews were forcibly moved from the Podgorze Ghetto before being moved to Auschwitz and other camps.

Today the entire square is a memorial to the Krakow Jews and comprises 70 empty chairs placed at regular intervals throughout the open space – a chilling reminder of the final deportations and the razing of the Ghetto in 1942 and 1943. Situated on the corner of the square is the Eagle Pharmacy where the Pharmacist, Tadeusz Pankiewicz, who is real unsung hero, rescued many Jewish people during the Holocaust. A tiny place but with a fascinating history. We spent quite some time there reading of personal experiences and stories of many people assisted by this very brave Pharmacist.

Another fascinating place to visit is Wawel Castle and Cathedral where we wandered through grand courtyards, regal chambers learning about the castle's long and illustrious history.

We also visited St Mary's Basilica where we saw the largest Gothic Altarpiece in the world carved by Viet Stoss - a German Sculpture which was taken apart by the Poles but unfortunately the Germans found it and transported it to Germany and put in the basement of Numemberg Castle. It was recovered in 1946 and following major restoration put back in its rightful place in 1956.

Krakow is not just a city of historical interest but a city that is modernising with a very forward-looking administration and hard-working population. Their public transport hub is to be much admired and we made very good use of it to get around. It also has some great shopping with many high street shops and small stores as well as tiny arty, crafty shops selling their very popular amber jewellery, art work and delicious artisan cakes and pastries. Frequent coffee and cakes stops were high on our priority list of course.

As a couple who enjoy good food and refreshments, Krakow is a place where one can enjoy these in great variety and at a range of very affordable prices. The local people treated us with much kindness and helped us out on a number of occasions.

Krakow is a very popular destination, particularly for short breaks, and we enjoyed all it had to offer and would certainly hope to visit again. There is still so much to see and experience.

Lewis and Joyce



LINKS CEILIDH

Members and friends of both Meadowside St Paul's and St Andrews congregations thoroughly enjoyed the Links Ceilidh organised by Caroline on 5th June at the Woodlands Hotel. Excellent music and dancing, and a lovely supper made for a fine evening of fun and fellowship.

Thanks to Caroline for putting this event on and allowing us all to join in the celebration of being back to full power, as well as getting us to know each other a little better.



NEW FROM ST ANDREWS

St Andrews are running a series of events as part of their Stewardship Programme - 'Stewardship Seasons – A Season of Time' in August. All are welcome.

Sunday 4th August

Time to praise God - Songs of Praise

10am - in the Sanctuary, followed by tea/coffee and buffet snacks

Tuesdays and Thursdays

6th, 8th, 13th, 15th and 20th, 22nd, 27th, 29th

Time to Rest and Reflect, Church Open for prayer and reflection

11am - 1pm (Teas/Coffees light snacks served in hall)

Wednesdays 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th

Time to share God's Word

Bible Group (name tbc)

7pm - Davidson Hall

Saturday 10th August

Time for Family & Fellowship

Picnic/BBQ

12pm - on the Terrace

Friday 16th August

Time for Friends, Family & Fun

All Age Movie Night

6.30pm for 7pm – Glasite Hall (popcorn, snacks, refreshments)

Saturday 31st August

Time for Faith & Fellowship

Cafe Church

12pm for 12.15pm - Glasite Hall

Sunday 1st September

Time to offer thanks to God

Service of thanksgiving

11.15am - followed by soup and sandwich lunch

Session Clerk:

Miss M Adamson

Tel. [REDACTED]

Congregational Board Clerk:

Dr J Burns

Tel. [REDACTED]

Beadle:

Mr B Millar

Tel. [REDACTED]

Hall Allocation Convener:

Miss I Birse

Tel. [REDACTED]

Editor of Congregational Magazine:

Miss MA Robertson

Tel. [REDACTED]

Health & Safety Officer:

Mrs K Strachan

Tel. [REDACTED]

Fabric Convener:

Mr E Hughes

Tel. [REDACTED]

Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Miss J Ireland

Tel. [REDACTED]

Christian Aid:

Dr F Smith

Tel. [REDACTED]

Cubs, Scouts & Beavers:

Dr F Smith

Tel. [REDACTED]

Guild:

Miss M Stalker

Tel. [REDACTED]

Life and Work:

Miss MA Robertson

Tel. [REDACTED]

Sunday Club (Trailblazers) & Crèche:

Miss MA Robertson

Tel. [REDACTED]

Organist:

Dr W Stevenson

Tel: [REDACTED]
