

news & views

St Peter's, Luton Place

JUNE 2019





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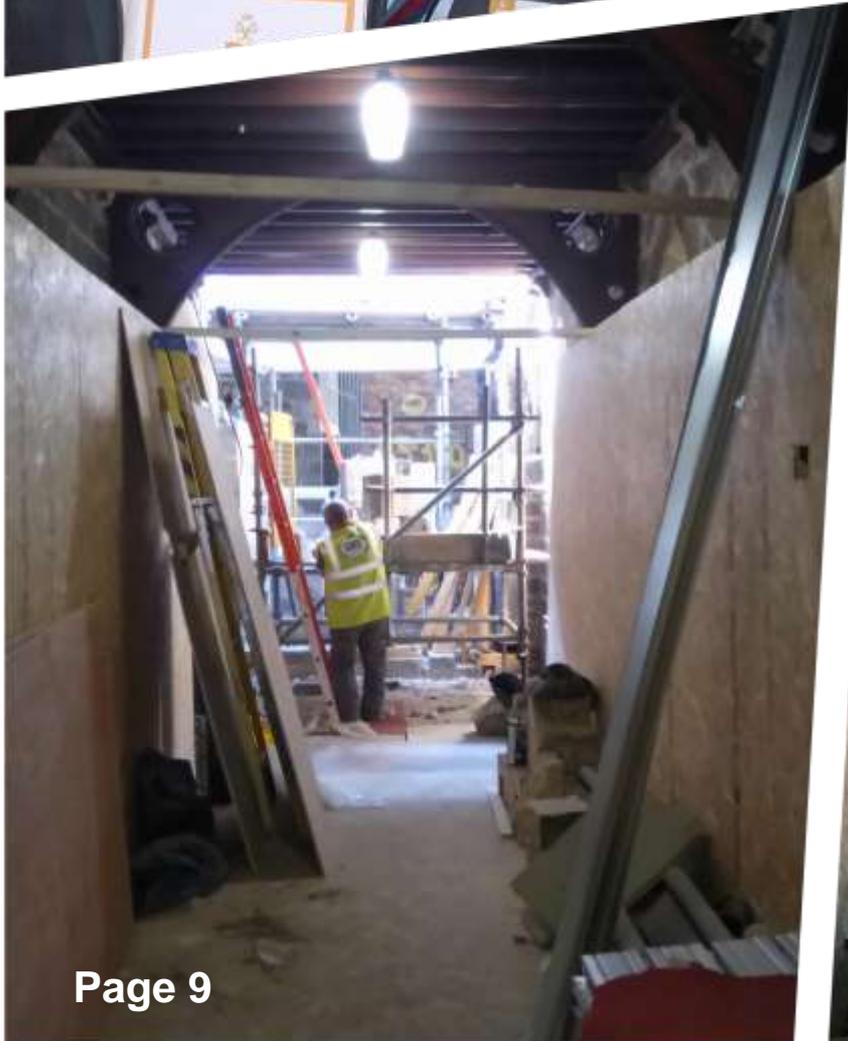
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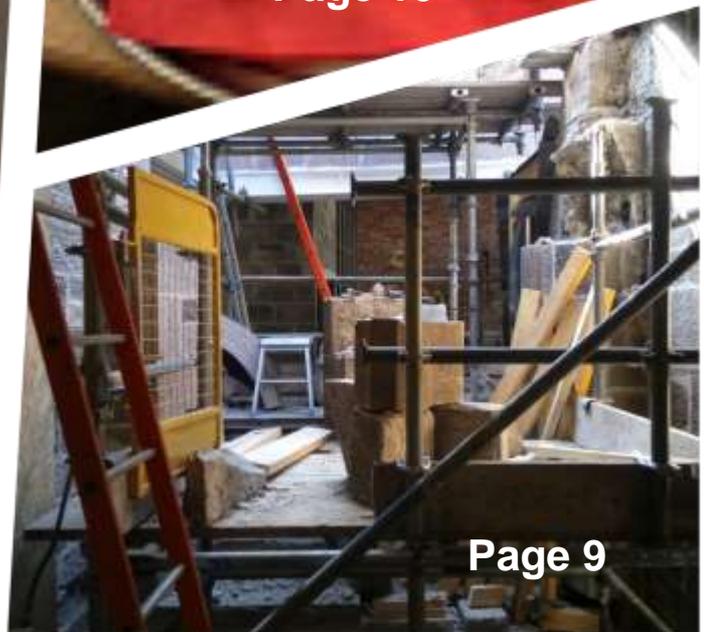
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A Letter from Bishop David

Dear Friends,

The Fourth Sunday of Easter is commonly called Good Shepherd Sunday. In many churches, including the Scottish Episcopal Church, it is kept as a day on which we pray for vocations to the ministry of our church. At this moment, we pray particularly for the process of calling and discernment through which a new Rector for St Peter's will be chosen.

In my sermon on that day, I mentioned that the Scottish Episcopal Church has been going through a period when increasing numbers of people enter training for the ministry of our church—and there are more people under 30 years.

Writing in a Report to be presented to our General Synod next month, Bishop Kevin says, 'formation and education are a part of all ministry and leadership at every level for everyone in every congregation, as we seek to build the Kingdom of God in our communities.'

I also reminded us that congregations have a vocation too:

'And congregations do have a vocation. After all, 29 of us met in two groups to look at the future of St Peter's. We didn't of course arrive at a clearly defined and timetabled plan. But we were able to sketch the outline of possible ways forward—identify challenges and opportunities—thinking which the Vestry and congregation can explore together with your new Rector as you move forward. And those who may be considering whether they are now being called to ministry here will see that thinking as a sign of a congregation which is learning to think vocationally about its future mission and ministry'.

News & Views
June 2019

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Please remember in prayer all who are involved in the process of discernment through which the new Rector will be chosen and those who will explore whether God may be calling them to serve in this congregation.

Music Notes

by Christine Bethune (on behalf of the choir)

A big thank you from St Peter's Church Choir!

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make the choir's concert, 'Magnificat' on Friday 10 May, a success: all those who assisted with administration and promoting the event, and who on the night gave up their time to serve refreshments, greet the audience and hand out programmes, and interpret Laura Bird's display about the Hall Refurbishment Project.

Our thanks go especially to Rupert for selecting the repertoire and directing our singing; and to Sheila for her superb accompaniment and solo—and the programmes!

We were very pleased indeed that our Junior Choristers were able to join us and demonstrate their hard work in learning the anthems.

And, of course, we are truly grateful to our audience! We were delighted to welcome you and hope that you enjoyed the gems of church music from Tudor times to the present day. Your generous donations towards the Hall Refurbishment Project, which came to £410 (including Gift Aid), are very much appreciated. It was a great night for us all.

and from Rupert Forbes:

A huge vote of thanks is also due to our Concert Manager, Christine Bethune, for designing and distributing the poster and for making all the necessary arrangements, without which a concert could not take place.

People Need to Eat!

by Janet McKinnell

A week ago, I attended a meeting of Newington Churches Together (NCT). One of the things NCT does is to work alongside Edinburgh City Mission (ECM) to provide our local Basics Bank. Community Church, around the corner from us, hosts and provides the space and miscellaneous expenses for this to run. Volunteers to sort and distribute the food and toiletries come from various churches.

Basics Bank provides much more than a bag of food. Clients are truly welcomed and there's always a cuppa, a piece cake and a listening ear. Clients find non-judgemental fellowship and feel valued as fellow human beings. A huge gift in itself, as going into a Foodbank isn't easy.

Clients are referred from various sources and help is limited to six weeks at any one time. Even after their weeks at Basics Bank are over, some clients drop in from time to time simply because they developed good relationships and wish to stay in touch.

The current main reasons for attendance at the Food Bank do not so much relate to homelessness, as to temporary circumstances: relationship breakdowns, a sudden and unexpected large bill, suddenly finding themselves between jobs or living in B&B accommodation—with only a kettle to help with feeding themselves, and so relying on cold food and pot noodles, etc. The transfer to Universal Credit leaves people with no income for weeks before the first payment arrives. Loans are available, but have to be repaid once payments begin.

Basics Bank reported that current supplies are at a critical level. Use of the foodbank has been increasing 50% year-on-year. Unfortunately, in the first 4½ months of 2019, more food and toiletries have been handed out than in the whole of 2018. The figures are derived from the weight of bags handed out.

Items most in need are tins of meat, vegetables and fruit, along with tins of custard and rice pudding. Toiletries are also always in demand.

Could YOU bring something to help Basics Bank to feed our neighbours? If each of us were to bring even one item a week, it would help to keep the cupboards adequately stocked. The need continues to grow!

By Royal Appointment

by Tom Wrench

After the morning Eucharist on 12th May, I made a swift exit to catch a train to London, with my mum joining me at York. Our brief trip was to be an exciting one: we had been invited to Buckingham Palace.

Having completed the Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award several years ago at school, I bypassed Silver to work towards the Gold Award with the Edinburgh University Duke of Edinburgh Award Society. I had opted to use my organ studies, take up croquet, and continue my political activism to fulfil the skill, sport and volunteering sections of the Award. For the residential section, I spent five days at the Cathedral of the Isles on Great Cumbrae, where I assisted the Director of Music, Alastair Chisholm, in cataloguing the cathedral's music, and played for the Sunday Eucharist. I had also enjoyed taking part in a four-day hiking expedition around Aviemore with six other award participants. And now I was to receive my Gold Award at Buckingham Palace.

We only had twenty-five hours in the Big Smoke, but Mum and I were determined to make the most of it. On the Sunday evening, we'd booked a box in the Criterion Theatre (I said we were determined to make the most of our time there!) to watch *The Comedy About A Bank Robbery*, an hilarious two-hour play of wit, slapstick humour, and cleverly-integrated snippets of music devised and performed by Mischief Theatre.

The following morning, we ascended thirty-five storeys (thankfully with the help of a lift) to admire the stunning views of central London from the Sky Garden.

And then to Buckingham Palace. We made our way through the North Gate into the Palace gardens, where we joined a thousand other Award recipients and their guests. Before the Princess Royal, the Earl of Wessex and Princess Beatrice arrived, we had time to wander around the gardens and enjoy such serenity within the heart of a busy city, and some supremely green grass! Once we'd stood for the National Anthem and welcomed the Royal party, my group—participants from Scotland—enjoyed a conversation with the Earl of Wessex before being presented with our certificates by the actress Phyllis Logan, known more recently for her portrayal of Mrs Hughes on *Downton Abbey*. She reminded us about the

importance of passion, resilience and achievement in working towards the Award and in the rest of our lives.

With the formal presentations over, we had time to explore the gardens, and I was thrilled to meet singer and radio and television presenter, Aled Jones. He was most pleased to know that we listen to his Christmas album at home each year!

I would sincerely like to thank Sheila for her help and guidance in enabling me to achieve the skill section of this award—and making it to Buckingham Palace—and the choir and congregation of St Peter's for their continued support.

Psalm 23 re-written!

by members of our Junior Church

Kristee reports that members of our Junior Church have been thinking about shepherds and Psalm 23. Last Sunday they were encouraged to rewrite Psalm 23 in their own language and in a way that meant something to their lives. Involved in this activity were Catherine, Emma, Gwen, and their awesome adult helper, Ruth Tiplady. Here is what they wrote:

1. The Lord is my friend, who will take care of the things I need
2. He makes me feel calm instead of feeling stressed.
3. He makes me feel youthful and He leads me in the right direction.
4. He is with me, even at the times I am the most afraid.
5. He looks after me even when people don't like me. God gives me more than I need.
6. I am nice to others and, in a chain reaction, it comes back to me.
I will go to Heaven when I die.

The photo on the collage page is of the cupcakes the girls made. A couple are sheep running in a circle around a field and there is a couple of 'gay pride' sheep faces too (as described by the girls themselves).

Building Project Update

by Laura Bird

There are lots of you to thank this month.

Firstly, thank you to The Baird Trust, our most recent institutional donor, which has given £10,000 towards the cost of our new lift. The wheelchair lift will link the hall and church together for people of all mobilities, as well as making the upper choir vestry room fully accessible for the first time. The lift will give equal access into the building from street level. Very few trusts give money for lifts in public buildings, so we are very fortunate and grateful.

St Peter's choir performed a magical and well attended concert in May which has raised an additional £410 towards the cost of rebuilding the Link building. Thank you to Christine, Rupert and Sheila, for organising the event and to everyone who sang and attended.

Our contractors, Cornhill Building Services, are making excellent progress: the roof is mostly finished, the new double height window is going in; the new opening between the Narthex and Link Building is being created; the loo partitions are starting to go up.

Site manager Andy White is working hard to co-ordinate the numerous subcontractors and their vans coming and going. It's amazing how many cars can fit in the car park if you don't want to get out again!

Colin, our office manager and Euan, our caretaker and cleaner, have worked with Scottish Power and our contractors to ensure that the church can be heated on Sundays during the works.

Thank you to everyone who uses the hall for your patience at this busy time: Liz Philp's army of Sunday coffee volunteers, Kristee and the toddler mums, Edinburgh Grand Opera, Thistle Foundation, Girl Guides, NHS Lothian Fit for Life, St Peter's Craft Club, Edinburgh Uni staff Scottish country dancers, Pakistan Society, Gaelic speaking toddlers and all of you holding parties & ceilidhs at the weekends. You have all been wonderfully practical and adaptable.

Thank you to the Buildings Committee, who are juggling oversight of the current project, Phase 2, while planning for the final stage, Phase 3.

Likewise, Benjamin Tindall Architects who are working closely with the contractors while planning for the next phase.

SUMMARY OF FUNDS RAISED SO FAR:

Reserves	£900,000
Viridors Landfill Tax Credits	£ 45,000
The Robertson Trust	£ 20,000
Allchurches Trust	£ 12,000
The Baird Trust	£ 10,000
Swinton Paterson Trust	£ 1,000
Concerts & summer fair	£ 1,900
VAT reclaim (estimate)	£160,000
Individual gifts	<u>£ 10,500</u>
Total	£1,160,400

TIMING OF BUILDING WORKS

Phase 2 is on schedule to complete by mid-July in time to hand over to C Venues as an Edinburgh Festival Fringe venue.

As soon as Phase 3 is properly scoped and costed then fundraising efforts for the final work will begin in earnest.

Later this year, St Peter's will throw open its doors to celebrate completion of the new link building as part of Doors Open Day on Saturday 28 September. Please contact Laura Bird if you can help on the day.

LATEST PHOTOS

This month's photos show the view through the boarded-up narthex to the widened access to the stairs and rest of the building—and the view of the scaffolding used for support as the large stone window is removed.

International Student Café

by Kristee Boyd

Our most recent International Student Café was at Nile Valley Café. As the collage photo shows, coffee was served in a rather unusual way! It was a lovely evening with good food and even better company!

Our conversation covered many topics, one of which was why young adults make the choice to join St Peter's congregation. I wanted to share some of their answers, as I found them very encouraging in terms of what we have to offer at St Peter's.

People were more welcoming at St Peter's than other churches that were tried. This answer was offered more than once!

Every Sunday, we have a traditional Holy Communion that is not found in some other churches.

We have, not one, but two female ministers!

The music at St Peter's was a huge draw card to more than one student.

The conversation about St Peter's as a church was very positive, which reminds us that—despite the turmoil over the last year—we are still offering an inviting place for newcomers to Edinburgh!

Magazine Articles

by Janet McKinnell

DOUBLE ISSUE NEXT MONTH!

Please remember to include your contributions to cover both July and August... and perhaps the date your activity restarts after the summer.

Articles and photos should be sent to me by email.

NEWS & VIEWS

Contributions welcome.
DEADLINE for the July / August issue is

Thursday 13 June.

Children and Families News

by Kristee Boyd

TODDLER GROUP: Our Toddler Groups continue to grow every week, with a new mum telling me last week that she had heard that ours is one of the best! Toddler group will run up until Thursday 27th June and then we will break for the Summer. All mums, dads, grandparents and carers most welcome.

WHO LET THE DADS OUT? Our next Who Let the Dads Out? Building and Breakfast morning will take place on Saturday 8th June, 9:30-11:30am. This will be the last one before the Summer break, so if you are a dad, stepdad, granddad or carer, please join us for breakfast! It is a great place to meet other parents and grandparents while the kids play.

The Fresh Start Story: Part 1 of 2

by Pat Whike

I first became a volunteer worker at Fresh Start in 2000 through my membership at St. Peter's. Originally working from a tiny corner of a large, leaky and cold warehouse on Slateford Road, our core activities at that time were receiving and itemising donations, from a variety of sources, of mainly second-hand domestic articles and then passing these on to identified, needy clients. Understandably, we were all delighted when in 2002, we were moved to better premises on Bonnington Road before finally moving to our current ideal premises, the old Scotmid Retail Store at Ferry Road Drive.

Throughout the intervening years, although our core activities have remained the same, the on-going and chronic housing shortage, coupled with current austerity policies, has meant demand for our services has increased exponentially and consequently we now work ever more closely with the Local Authorities who are by far the biggest housing stock-holders in the area. A knock-on effect of this has been the creation of a volunteer "Hit-Squad" which helps to prepare and decorate properties

for selected tenants. We also have a trained electrical safety tester who checks over electrical appliances which are then passed on to needy clients.

Just to make sure there is no misunderstanding about our core objectives (and the clue is in our name FRESH START) we exist primarily to help people who, possibly through no fault of their own, may have fallen on hard times and in many cases may actually be homeless and need help and support. We do not exist simply to act as a distribution point for free hand-outs—a hand up would be much more appropriate! Over the years, we have helped thousands of people to get their lives back on track after a rocky period and we receive many letters of appreciation from grateful clients. I enclose one of these from Janice (not her real name) who was one of our success stories. As you can tell from her letter, she was not only delighted with the “Starter Pack” she received but was also eager to reciprocate in any small way she could in order to help others.

“Oh you are so kind! Honestly I am impressed. Very helpful and fast in times of need, very polite, amazing. I hope I will be able to help you too sometime, I might not be Christian in the strict term, but I am also a giving and considerate person and I appreciate all your good work. Grateful.

“The truth is I could use some pots and pans still as well as kitchen utensils. I have bought the basics though. I could get some only if you have enough to give to those who need it more than I do. I have a part time job now and I am able to slowly provide the basics to my son.

“Please let me know, honestly only if you have plenty. I will give you back some towels, a coffee machine and perhaps some other items I do not need. I had some stuff in storage with the council.

“Please let me know where I could bring stuff.

Thank you again. You were a bright light in hard times, after we had been in a b & b for 3 months, starved, sick and tired. My best thoughts to you all.”

In Part II next month, I hope to tell you how Fresh Start has developed over the years and how it has branched into other supporting and complementary activities.

Sunday Services

8.30am A quiet said service of **Holy Communion** using the *Book of Common Prayer*.

10.45am A sung service of **Holy Communion** using liturgies from 1970 and 1982; includes children's activities.

First Sunday of the month:

Sung Matins in the church

Informal all-age Communion service in the Hall

6.30pm **Choral Evensong** (*usually the 4th Sunday of the month*)

Sunday Readings

2 June Acts 16.16-34 • Rev. 22.12-14,16-17,20-21 • John 17.20-26

9 June Acts 2.1-21 • Romans 8.14-17 • John 14.8-17

16 June Proverbs 8.1-4,22-31 • Romans 5.1-5 • John 16.12-15

23 June Isaiah 65.1-9 • Galatians 3.23-29 • Luke 8.26-39

30 June St Peter's Day -- readings to be confirmed.

Weekday Services

Monthly services of **Holy Communion** are held at St Peter's at 11.00am on the **first** Thursday of the month, followed by lunch in a local restaurant. The next services will be on **Thursdays** **30 May** and **4 July**.

Monthly services of **Holy Communion** are also held on the **third** Tuesday of each month at 2.30pm followed by refreshments. For the next few months, these services will be held in **Craigmillar Park Church**.

Next afternoon services: **Tuesdays** **18 June** and **16 July**.

General Synod

The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church takes place at St Paul's and St George's on 6-8 June. Anyone may attend Synod—just sign in as a visitor. Alternatively, proceedings are expected to be live-streamed.

Full details will be on the SEC website, allowing you see to see when any debates you are interested in will take place.

Janet McKinnell and Pam Dugan will attend, representing the Diocese of Edinburgh.

Dates for the Diary

MAY

30 ASCENSION DAY • services at 11.00am in the West Meeting Room and at 8.00pm at Crichton Collegiate Church, near Pathhead.

JUNE

- 1 COG SUMMER FAIR • 11.00am - 3.00pm
- 5 Craft Club • 10.00am
- 6-8 General Synod at St Paul's and St George's
- 18 Tuesday Afternoon service • 2.30pm **at Craigmillar Park Church**
- 19 Craft Club • 10.00am
- 19 Vestry Meeting • 7.30pm (*subject to change*)
- 23 Choral Evensong • 6.30pm

Notices for the Newspaper

Notices need to be with the office by noon on the preceding Wednesday. Additional notices may be passed to the clergy to be read at the various Sunday services.

People

CLERGY

Interim Pastor: The Rt Revd David Chillingworth

Associate Priest: The Revd Sue Whitehouse

LAY READER: Mrs Janet McKinnell

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Lay Representative: Pam Dugan

Alternate Lay Representative: Elizabeth Philp

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

Director of Music: Rupert Forbes

Organist: Sheila Chisholm

Organ Scholar: Tom Wrench

Choir Warden: Fiona Barton

Children & Families Worker: Kristee Boyd

Servers' Guild: Bill Polson

Parents & Toddlers (Monday & Thursday): Kristee Boyd

Monday Group: Elizabeth Philp

Thursday Lunch Club (1st Thursday at 11.00am): Delia Keir

Magazine Distribution: Elizabeth Philp

CHURCH OFFICERS

Vestry Secretary: Andrew Sikes

Hon Treasurer: Duncan McKinnell

Gift Aid Secretary: Chris Hodgson

Sacristan: Liz Mackay

Verger: Deborah Waterson

Fire Warden: Pam Dugan

Hall Bookings: Colin Harrison

Finance Convenor: Ralph Garden

Works Convenor: Liz Mackay

Admin & Gen Purposes Convenor: Alison Mowat

Social/Outreach COG Convenor: Liz Hare

All these people can be contacted via the Church Office: 0131 662 9171

