

news & views

St Peter's, Lutton Place

February 2021





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From the Rector

Rev Nick Wills

So it was a Christmas like no other but, amongst the strangeness and the isolation for many, we were once again reminded of the light coming to a world in darkness.

At St Peter's we were still able to meet in church for some of our Christmas services. Thank you to those who cleaned between services to make this possible, and to all who gave up a service they may have wanted to attend in order to allow others to join. We had limited numbers and, although we missed having the whole choir for these services, our solo singers and the organ meant that we could still enjoy the Christmas music in church, and it was good to celebrate safely together before this latest lockdown began.

The sight of the tree all lit up as we arrived for the midnight service was a beautiful beacon of hope. Thank you to the team who worked so hard to ensure it was safely erected and able to survive the subsequent storms.



Sheila, Rupert and all the singers for the hours of hard work that went into recording and editing those carols, and to the readers too. And the Crib

News & Views
February 2021

St Peter's
Lutton Place
Edinburgh
SC017358

The Scottish Episcopal Church

The Rt Revd John Armes
Bishop, Diocese of Edinburgh

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Due to Covid, the office remains closed with Laura and Sheila working from home. Messages can be left on the office answer machine, but please note it will be a few days before it is heard or dealt with.

The online carol service meant that we could sing heartily from our own homes, aided by the recordings. Thank you to

Service was a lot of fun - sharing the story of the Nativity, through interactive games and chat. It was lovely to see a real spread of ages, from tiny tots to grandparents, all of us in silly hats, smiling into each others' living rooms.

We had fun on Christmas Day too - thank you to everyone who brought in gifts to challenge my brain cells - one of them even stumped me, for the first time ever! Though in my defence, without any hymns for thinking time, I had a real disadvantage. If



you haven't seen my sermon telling the Christmas story using random, previously unseen props, it's still available on my YouTube account, which is linked from the church website.

That service was the last in church for the foreseeable future, so we are back to online worship. It has been nice to see everyone's full faces again on Zoom and I look forward to sharing informal services of the Word each week live through Zoom. We will see how it goes! We have had our first experiment with somebody "phoning in" to our Zoom service from a

*We would like to make
the services more
accessible for all*

landline, which went very well. We would like to make the services more accessible for all, so hope that over the next few weeks we will be able to help others who do not have access to laptops or tablets to be able to participate in this way. If

you aren't usually able to access our Zoom services, but want to try this out then please contact either myself or Sheila.

We have also re-started Thursday's very popular Zoom coffee morning, now with a short act of worship incorporated (as we cannot hold our usual Thursday Eucharist). If you are free and able to join us, it is a great time to chat in small groups, keep in touch with friends we can't see and get to know those you might not have had a chance to chat to before.

On the 7th and again on the 28th February, we will be holding 'Songs of Praise' services on Zoom. Please see p. 21 for information about these new services, when members can explain why their favourite sacred music is special to them!

Of course many of our usual church activities are still impossible, but it's great that the COG team are still able to provide food for Bethany

shelters, and Kristee's team also continues to make food deliveries to support families in need. Thank you to everybody who has played their part in continuing this vital work.

Though this year we could not invite our local school Preston Street School into church for their Christmas service a great new link has been built.

Thank you to Liz Hare and COG for organising a Winter Art Exhibition with the school.

Staff, parents and children were delighted to see selected artworks displayed outside the church and



school on banners provided for and organised by St Peter's. If you are walking near church or the school on your daily exercise do have a look - they brighten up the railings beautifully and send out a really positive Community message. I was delighted that the school asked me to do a video introduction to their online Nativity service and I look forward to building on these really positive links as time goes on.

*They brighten up
the railings
beautifully*

Another new lockdown initiative continues the link with Embrace Middle East, our Christmas Appeal Charity this year. Kristee is organising a series of Zoom meetings over the next month or so which will teach us to cook an amazing Lebanese meal! If you sign up, you'll be able to watch, learn and cook along to build a sense of community and understanding of other cultures. Contact Kristee for more information.

Ash Wednesday falls on 17th February and I am preparing a reflective act of worship for that evening. Further details will follow in the weekly emails. During Lent there are a variety of ways in which we can learn with others or reflect further ourselves and these are explained in an article on p. 12.

As we all deal with the continuing restrictions in different ways, let's look out for each other, with grace and forbearance, and pray for patience and resilience that, through God's grace, as a church we will be strengthened together.

Your Rector,
Nick

Young Adult/International Students Services

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

St Peter's Young Adult/International Student Services take place every Sunday evening at 7pm on Zoom. We aim to provide a mixture of informal catch-ups, games, topical discussions and Bible studies. For the weeks ahead, we have invited some special guests! On Sunday 24th January, Rev Sue Whitehouse spoke to us about prayer. This idea came from one of St Peter's young adults who once heard the question posed, "Is it ok to pray for a parking space?" Then, on Sunday 31st January, Roddy Simson has been invited to share his personal testimony of faith with us. If you're interested in joining us, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Kristee at communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Coffee Mornings

By John Smith

On Thursday 21st January at 10.30am, the weekly Coffee Mornings on Zoom were reinstated. It was good to see and chat to a goodly number of members of our church family. During that first week, lively discussions on the American presidents (old and new), the roll out of Covid injections, and updates on what had been happening in relation to St Peter's all kept the conversation flowing.

As a short 'Thought for the Day', Nick chose verses from Psalm 139 on which to reflect. Many thanks to Janet Sinton who ably read these verses and to Nick who gave us a short 5 minute reflection on how these verses have influenced him over the years, and how it can be a comfort to everyone, especially during a time of need. We also remembered the week's 'Year's Mind'.

With lockdown here with us again for an uncertain length of time, it's great to have our weekly Thursday coffee morning Zoom back online, and thank you, Nick, for enabling it. I know others would join me in saying it is greatly appreciated. I hope to see as many of you as possible on a Thursday at 10.30am to share coffee, cakes, a short time of reflection, and most importantly, a good old chin wag!

Winter Rainbows

By Liz Hare, Community Outreach Group

Next time you're on Lutton Place or passing Preston Street Primary School, stop to take a look at an exhibition of children's art arranged by St Peter's Community Outreach Group. Before Christmas we approached the Primary School Head Teacher to offer to mount a street exhibition of the children's photos or drawings. By good fortune, the school was already running an art competition titled 'Winter Rainbows', in which all classes were taking part.

COG was invited to help the local councillors judge between the finalists. The winner, runners-up and eleven other commended art works are now displayed on banners. The winners are outside the school and the exhibition continues round the corner on the railings just past St Peter's, Lutton Place. Every design includes a message of hope in these troubled times. Take a look at them!



Preston Street Primary School staff thanked us warmly for producing the banners, which have been beautifully designed by eco-friendly Banner World. The Head Teacher invited the Rector to record an address for their on-line end-of-term assembly, and they look forward to renewing their ties with St Peter's after Covid.

Christmas Fundraising for Embrace the Middle East

A huge thank you to all who contributed towards the 2020 Christmas appeal. We are thrilled to announce that we were able to raise £890 to go towards supporting the wonderful work of Embrace the Middle East!

To find out more about the projects that your generous donations will help to support, please check out their website at: <https://www.embraceme.org/>.

Community Meals: A Lebanese Dinner Party

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

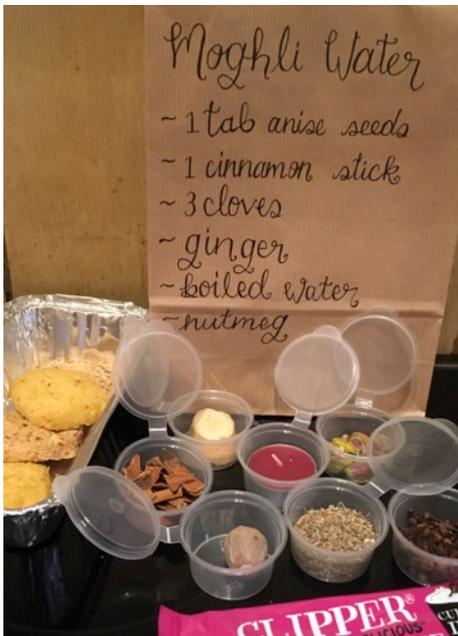
In January/February we have some funding to set up a pilot project for community meals that will be run on Zoom. In collaboration with Embrace the Middle East (EME), we have put together a Lebanese Dinner Party menu, which will be broken down into 4 separate sessions. The menu ideas were shared by a partner of EME, Chef Ramzi, who is something of a celebrity in Lebanon with his own TV show and cookbook!

The plan is as follows:

- Monday January 25, 2pm: Moghli Water
- Monday February 1, 2pm: Baba Ghanoush
- Monday February 8, 2pm: Kibbeh
- Monday February 15, 2pm: Rice Pudding



Photo of Chef Ramzi, courtesy of Embrace the Middle East.



Sorry if Mondays are difficult for you, but we needed to choose days where people weren't already committed to a bunch of other Zoom calls! If this pilot initiative goes well, we might choose a different day of the week for the next one, so everyone gets a chance to join.

I will be creating ingredients kits that will be delivered to you, if you choose to participate in the community meals. There will be lots more information to follow (including a more detailed explanation of how these will run, and the assurance that you do not have to run the communal camera in your kitchen if you'd rather not!!). The aim is to make each session fun,

meaningful and easy in terms of work and timing.

By the end of February, we should all have the skills to put together a full Lebanese dinner party! In the meantime, please email Kristee directly to let me know if you would like to participate in this project: communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

After the first session, some children wrote the following comments:

Althea: *On Monday mummy, Delphy and I were gathered in our kitchen making Mogley Water with others on Zoom. We made it by mixing a load of spices together et voilà. Mummy mixed it with hot water and Delphy and I mixed it with hot milk. Mine tasted too spicy so I abandoned it, Delphy thought it was okay, mummy thought it was zingy. I enjoyed the process!*

Nyah: *The Zoom cooking was fun! I tasted the spicy drink but I didn't like it. The biscuits were good though. Can't wait for flatbreads next week. I love them!*

Lennox: *Today we met on Zoom with friends from Church and made tea from lots of little pots of spices with nuts on the bottom of the cup. It smelled too spicy for me so I just had hot chocolate, but mum liked it. I liked making a mess and eating the cookies. My mum told me that next week will probably be messier - yay!*

Food Deliveries Resuming

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

Due to the financial and social impacts of current restrictions, Building Bridges and Mosque Kitchen have decided to restart the Friday afternoon meal deliveries to those in need across Edinburgh. This time around, we are aiming to deepen our personal connections with the recipients, so as to play a part in alleviating the loneliness that many are experiencing at this time. Many thanks to the people who attended our recent Zoom meeting to brainstorm ways to deepen these connections. We agreed that we will create a small flyer to go with each meal, which will offer the recipient the opportunity to make contact if they would like to go for a walk, join a group zoom chit-chat, or if they would like to receive a friendly phone call from time to time.

Please rest assured that the only contact details shared initially will be Kristee's email address - volunteers will have the choice if they want to follow up with any requests for further befriending. This initiative is funded until the end of February at this stage, so it will not be a long-term commitment if you are considering volunteering your time on Friday afternoons! If you would like to participate, please email Kristee at communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org. All help will be greatly appreciated, as it will really help to share the workload!

Jaime's Ordination and Curacy

By Jaime Wright



Greetings, St Peter's! I am delighted to share the news that I am due to be ordained deacon on Sunday 28 February 2021. Usually, deaconings within Edinburgh Diocese take place at St Mary's Cathedral; however, we are uncertain about what COVID restrictions will be in place at that time, so I am not currently able to give you further details about the where, when, or how of my ordination. Regardless, I hope that the service will be available online either through Zoom or livestreamed.

The uncertainty around the conditions of my ordination makes it difficult to invite others at this stage. Once we know more, I will make sure to send an update to you as soon as possible, so that you can indicate your interest in attending or obtain a link to the service online. However, if you wish to get in touch before then for any reason, you are more than welcome to reach me through the St Peter's church office:

office@stpetersedinburgh.org. Any emails will be forwarded to me.

I am also delighted to announce that I will be serving my curacy at Old Saint Paul's, Edinburgh, beginning the day of my ordination. This will be a full-time stipendiary post for three years, with my priesting due to take place there around this same time next year.

I want to thank you all again for your support and prayers for me and Eric throughout my discernment and training.

Magazine Articles

Please email or submit your articles and photographs asap, and by the deadline to: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Thank you!

NEWS & VIEWS

Contributions welcome.
DEADLINE for the March issue is

Friday 19th February

Hall Update

By Laura Bird, Development Officer

Last summer, when the initial lockdown receded we welcomed several new user groups into the hall at St Peter's. With the second lockdown in Scotland effective since Boxing Day, most of them have regrettably had to cancel their bookings. The karate and fencing clubs, Morag the violin teacher & the Girl Guides had all worked hard to be distant, hygienic and safe. Sadly, at this time, even their adapted clubs are not allowed.

However this lockdown is somewhat more nuanced than the first one and, thankfully, caring is still allowed under the regulations. This means that The Action Group can continue to run their day care service for learning disabled people, based at St Peter's. With all cafés now take-away only and the weather being particularly dreary, a home from home base is more important than ever for them.

A home from home base is more important than ever

With hindsight, it seems most fortuitous that we got the Link building completed while we were still blissfully ignorant of pandemics. Imagine if we'd been half way through our building project when Covid struck? It can't be emphasised enough how well all you supporters, donors, enablers and volunteers did to get the project (mostly) over the line by the end of 2019.

At some point in the future we hope to welcome back all our community groups, old, new and the ones we have yet to meet.

*I've learned that: 'people will forget what you said,
people will forget what you did,
but people will never forget how you made them feel'.
Maya Angelou (1928-2014)*

Front & back cover pictures by Janice Allister.

The front is taken in the Royal Botanic Gardens, Edinburgh.

The back is overlooking Dunsapie Loch, Edinburgh.

(If you would like a photo you take to be considered for the magazine, please send it in!)

Options for Lent

In a year where we cannot meet in person and not everyone can meet on Zoom, there is a range of Lent courses on offer.

If you wish, you are invited to choose any of the following:

St Peter's: Faith & Film: 'Balloon'

We in St Peter's are holding four sessions of Faith & Film on Zoom at 7.30pm on Wednesdays: 24th Feb, and March 10th, 17th and 24th. The Faith and Film sessions held during the last lockdown, proved to be very popular indeed. This time, we will be exploring and discussing the themes and issues raised in Michael Herbig's film 'Balloon'.

'Balloon' is a thought-provoking film following the true story of two East German families who in 1979 were desperately wanting to escape from the Communist East to West Germany. They had the crazy and daring idea of trying to make and escape in a homemade hot-air balloon...

If you wish to attend, please watch the film before the first session. It is currently available on BBC iPlayer:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000pyt7/balloon>

Newington Churches Together

By Liz Philp, Lay Representative

The Advent Study Groups organised by the NCT went ahead via Zoom. A number of members of St Peter's joined with members of other Newington churches studying a booklet from John Birch's **Faith and Worship** series entitled "**Promise of Messiah**".

The plans for Lent groups 2021 are as follows:

The groups will meet using Zoom. You can participate either on screen using a computer/laptop, tablet or mobile phone, or with sound only using a landline phone. They will meet weekly on Monday and Wednesday evenings for five weeks starting Monday 22nd February. There will be a choice of discussion material available.

Either

(a) '**Not A Tame Lion**' – looking at Christianity through the works of C.S. Lewis. This was the material used by the groups in Lent 2020, which were abruptly curtailed by the coronavirus lockdown; some were keen to complete the course this year.

Or

(b) One of the guides from the **Faith and Worship** series which can be found at <https://www.faithandworship.com/shop.htm#lent>.

If anyone is interested in participating in these Zoom Lent Study Groups could they please contact Liz Philp as soon as possible via the church office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org The NCT will only be able to proceed if enough people are interested.

Finally it is hoped that when this whole pandemic crisis is over - although who knows when that might be - the NCT should hold a joyful joint Service of Thanksgiving.

'Knowing Jesus'

By Janet Young

I would like to draw your attention to a Lenten Retreat provided by the **Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow**. This year the overarching theme is, "Knowing Jesus".

The material will be accessible by email, on-line and possibly as an app; the weekly themes are to be picked up by Radio 4's Daily Service. There is the option to use the resources alone or to share in a group.

My own experience of using these on-line Lent Retreats has been that there is a good balance of scripture, poetry, art and reflections, giving ample material to choose from. This is complemented by links to suggestions and other resources to help you with prayer: whether you are new and looking for guidance; feeling your prayer life has become a bit stagnant and you are looking for refreshment; or you would like to deepen a particular area of your experience.

More information is available on this link:

<http://iscglasgow.co.uk/lent2021.html> Or get in touch with me, Janet Young, via the church office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

The Church Hall windows

By David Gibbon, Client Representative for Hall Renewal Project

The steel windows in the Hall were installed as part of the original construction of the building in 1937. They are, presumably, Crittal or Crittal-Hope windows.

The Hall comes under the A-Listing of the Church and these slender steel windows are important to its character. Ripping them out and replacing them with clunky PVC windows, although quite cheap to do, would not be an option. It would also be, as PVC windows are more generally, an environmental disaster.

Crittal still make steel windows which are nowadays more sophisticated in their construction and more energy efficient but eye-wateringly expensive. The embodied 'carbon cost' or waste inherent in scrapping the existing windows and the carbon cost embodied in the manufacture of the steel and the new windows, which is very energy intensive, would be immense and would take decades and decades (perhaps longer) to recover by way of reduced heat loss. This cost is not usually factored into energy saving calculations.

*Once they work perfectly
... they have almost
unlimited remaining life.*

However replacing the existing glazing with new sealed unit double-glazing is a relatively modest cost and we have gone for that. It also enables us to switch to clear glass in place of the existing translucent patterned glass that so contributes to the drab institutional and inward looking feel of the Hall.

The window frames themselves are caked with paint. The cord operated



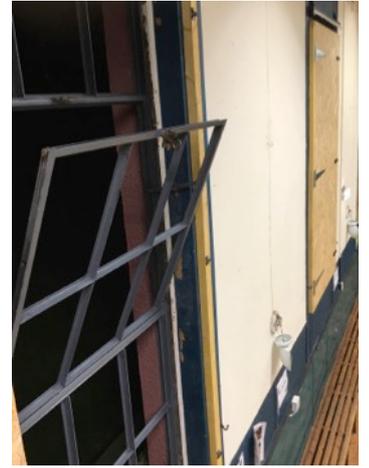
(long gone) spring loaded brass catches of the opening 'hoppers' were completely seized with paint and the hoppers stuck shut or slightly open and gummed up with silicon. With the help of paint stripper and a wire brush on a drill it takes about 3 hours



per window to get them operational again.



The windows on the Bowling Green side have now all been fitted with temporary shutters and deglazed. It takes many more hours of work per window to strip them down to the metal and to repaint them in preparation for reglazing. However, once at this point they work perfectly and with good ongoing maintenance have



almost unlimited remaining life. The opening hoppers are cleverly designed too so that there are two metal-to-metal seals. They need no further draught stripping, indeed it is ill-advised attempts at draught stripping that does so much to make them so inoperable.

In the course of this work it becomes clear that the windows have not worked properly for many decades.

During the present pandemic we have all become more conscious of the need for good ventilation and in the pre-antibiotic days when the Hall was built, they took ventilation much more seriously. Being able to freely open and shut the Hall windows and allow controlled amounts of cross ventilation will make a great difference.

We will need also to consider whether the cost of restoring the blocked up ventilation flèche on the ridge of the building is also worthwhile.

Pastoral Visits

If you know of a member of St Peter's who is ill please let Nick or Sue know.

During this latest Government lockdown, our Clergy are generally not allowed to make Pastoral Visits to people's homes. There are a few extreme exceptions where a visit may be allowed (unless the individual is in quarantine or has symptoms of Covid-19) but they have to conform to very clear SEC guidelines in order to maintain the safety of everyone. These guidelines may change at short notice. Please do not put pressure on Nick or Sue to break the guidelines as they are unable to do so.

Our Clergy are still not being permitted to visit hospitals, but are able to put patients in touch with the Hospital Chaplaincy for Pastoral Visits.

Uplifting Ideas

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

During our Sunday Zoom chat, a member of St Peter's shared some activities that her family has been doing to stay connected during this past year of being socially distanced. She shared some wonderful ideas, including each household having a slice of cake with a candle on it (even though some are as far away as Australia!) to celebrate a family birthday over Zoom. Her family have also been holding monthly quizzes and other fun activities, in order to keep in touch and to lift their spirits.

If you have ideas that you would like to share, in terms of how you are keeping your social connections 'alive' via video or telephone, we would love to hear them! Feel free to email Kristee at: communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org and let me know if you are happy for me to use your first name in sharing your idea, or if you would prefer to remain anonymous (totally fine too!).

Counselling Services

If you find yourself struggling during this difficult period of time and you would like to speak to a counsellor, please be aware that St Paul's and St George's Church (P's & G's) have reopened their waiting list and they are now taking referrals and requests for counselling via Zoom or telephone. They provide trained counsellors that are experienced in working with individuals of all ages, as well as with couples. Find out more on their website at <https://www.psandgs.org.uk/counselling>.

Fresh Start Update

By Pat Whike



Fresh Start is sorry they have been unable to accept donations during January. Guidance permitting, they are hoping to be able to begin again in February. For their latest information, please check their website: <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/>

Climate Corner

By Anna Mattinson and Christine Bethune

Cows vs Plants!

There's much discussion about going dairy free these days, reasons including land use, emissions, compassion to animals and allergens. And now there are many options. Here are some of our thoughts and discoveries!

Anna writes:

A 2018 study found making a glass of dairy milk produces almost three times more greenhouse gas emissions than any plant-based milk, and consumes nine times more land than any of the milk alternatives.

However, plant-based milks don't come without their own problems.

- Coconut milk – recent global demand has led to destruction of rainforests.
- Almond milk – requires more water than any other dairy alternative: 371 litres water for 1 litre of milk. Demand places pressure on commercial bees, drafted in every spring for pollination.
- Soy milk – vast areas of the Amazon rainforest have been burned to make way for soy farms, so soy milk from organic North American soybeans is preferable.
- Oat milk – most oats are mass produced on farms using pesticide.

Other factors:

- Nutrition: plant-based milks are not nutritionally comparable to dairy milk. Soy milk is the most similar to dairy in terms of fat and protein content. Almond has virtually no protein. Many are artificially sweetened, and coconut milk is very high in fat. Only animal milks have naturally occurring calcium, although some plant-based milks are fortified with calcium.
- Packaging and storage: plant-based milk doesn't require chilling, but aluminium is needed in packaging to keep products aseptic .
- Transport: transport of plant-based milks, largely produced abroad, impacts on their eco credentials.
- Cost: plant milks are two to three times more expensive per litre.
- And what about taste? I confess I haven't tried any plant-based milks yet!

Christine writes:

Last autumn I reckoned that milk in cartons was my biggest single-use plastic crime! I asked around and signed up with a milk delivery service using glass bottles. It's more expensive, but the milk is all UK-produced and comes from a cooperative owned by the farmers, who set the prices. Factoring in the impact of transport, one reason I chose this company was that they already deliver to a neighbour. I've been delighted – milk is on the doorstep very early (it even came with a Christmas card).

I've yet to be swayed by the non-dairy alternatives. But a family member makes his own oat milk – for environmental reasons - by simply blending rolled oats with water and straining it. His vitamins and calcium come from other foods. He uses it on muesli and a little in tea (for cocoa he uses dairy!). The strained sludge mixed with oatmeal and butter makes very good oatcakes, lasting about as long as the milk!

Please consider Automated Donations to St Peter's during Covid lockdown

By Chris Hodgson, Gift Aid Secretary

Thank you all for your continuing financial support of St Peter's church. Amounts donated should be affordable to you, with no embarrassment if they are small: all contributions are valued. Congregational giving makes a vital contribution to staff costs, expenses such as Diocesan Quota, building maintenance and other administration, outreach and worship costs.

However, it is not possible currently to donate using Freewill Offering (yellow) envelopes or as one-off donations using Gift Aid (white) envelopes or by cash during church services. An alternative approach is to hold your donations until we are able to worship together again. Otherwise you may wish to donate directly into St Peter's bank account. In this way we can prevent disruption to our giving and continue to contribute as fully as we can to support God's mission and ministry through St Peter's.

Regular payments to St Peter's, either weekly or monthly, can be set up by internet banking directly into St Peter's bank account or, if internet banking is not an option, by setting up a Standing Order with your own bank using forms available from the Gift Aid secretary (Chris Hodgson) or from your own bank.

For this you need St Peter's bank details which are:

- Bank of Scotland, 51 South Clerk St, EH8 9PP
- Account number: 00439927
- Sort code: 80-02-83

If you have already filled out a Gift Aid declaration then St Peter's can claim tax relief on the sum donated. If you have not filled out a Gift Aid declaration and wish to do so then forms are available from me (details below) – you need to be a UK taxpayer to be able to do this.

You can also make a donation to be used for a specific purpose, e.g. the Building Fund. In which case, please mark your donation appropriately. If this isn't possible then write to me and I will assign the donation accordingly.

Another way of giving is via our new Give.net page, which can be accessed via the St Peter's web-site (<http://stpetersedinburgh.org/giving-to-st-peters>) or by typing: <https://www.give.net/stpetersedinburgh>

Wishing you all continued good health

To contact either Chris Hodgson, the Gift Aid Secretary, or Duncan McKinnell, our Treasurer, please email the church office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Listening...

*Most people do not listen with the intent to understand;
they listen with the intent to reply.
They're either speaking or preparing to speak.
They're filtering everything through their own paradigms,
reading their own autobiography into other people's lives.*

Stephen R. Covey
(Contributed by Liz Mackay)

In Memory...

Alanna Knight MBE: 24th Feb 1923 – 2nd Dec 2020

Known for her kindness and generosity of spirit, Alanna will always be remembered in St Peter's for her quiet membership and her attendance at early morning Communion services. A leading figure in Edinburgh's literary scene, her life as a renowned published author was rich and fulfilling. She also enjoyed a wide and eclectic range of interests. As was said at her funeral, 'Alanna didn't allow barriers to stultify her growth and engagement with the life that God had given her.'

Ann Wotherspoon: 19th Oct 1929 – 5th Dec 2020

Ann had a heart of gold, was an interesting conversationalist, and did not have a bad word to say about anyone. She was a keen reader, embraced technology, enjoyed singing and sang in the Colinton Community Choir. After moving to St Peter's when St Hilda's in Oxfgangs closed, she embraced the life and activities being held. A willing helper at church events, she sang in the choir for Hall Services and often helped to arrange the flowers.

Arthur Hopkinson: 28th Sept 1927 - 25th Dec 2020

A keen member of St Peter's walking group, Arthur always carefully researched any walk they did. With a passion for the history of St Peter's, he devoted a massive amount of time researching the history of the church through reading the archives of the Vestry Minutes. He later created a detailed account of its history. A former member of Vestry, Arthur enjoyed singing hymns, and spent many a happy hour cutting the hedges in the church garden.

Robin MacCormick: 15th May 1940 - 28th Dec 2020

A Writer to the Signet, Robin had a great sense of humour, was thoughtful, kind, and interested in many things, especially Scottish Opera. Although not a believer, he was a great supporter of St Peter's, and regularly attended concerts and social events at the church, always encouraging his wife, Morag, in her wish to be involved. He appreciated the service St Peter's gave to the local community, and for many years willingly helped the gardening group. Understanding and enjoying the important therapeutic benefits of the church garden, Robin later generously paid for part of it to be revamped.

Sundays & 'Songs of Praise'

Due to the Government regulations in this latest lockdown, all services in church have been cancelled. We now meet each Sunday morning on Zoom for a 'live' service.

A new Zoom service of 'Songs of Praise' is also starting, the first one being held at 6.30pm on Sunday 7th Feb. During these 'live' services, members will talk for 2-3 minutes about why a hymn or piece of sacred music is special to them. We can then sing along or listen to a recording. *Please send your hymn / music request to the office email!*

Currently, no services are being recorded, but all the services that have been recorded since lockdown can be watched online:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChhYHVFO1hqHLPo4GtFjG_A

Additional material and updates for services and upcoming events are emailed out to congregational members each Saturday. If you do not already receive these emails and would like to, or you would like to attend our Sunday morning and/or evening 'Songs of Praise' Zoom services, please email Sheila via the office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org.

For the most up-to-date information about what is happening, please check the website: <http://stpetersedinburgh.org/> and blog:

<http://stpetersedinburgh.org/blog>

Sunday Readings

7th Feb *Isaiah 40: 21-31 ♦ Psalm 147: 1-12 ♦
1 Corinthians 9: 16-23 ♦ *Mark 1: 29-39

14th Feb 2 Kings 2: 1-12 ♦ Psalm 50: 1-6 ♦
*2 Corinthians 4: 3-6 ♦ *Mark 9: 2-9

17th Feb *Ash Wednesday:* Isaiah 58: 1-12 ♦ *Psalm 51: 1-18 ♦
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10 ♦ Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

21st Feb Genesis 9: 8-17 ♦ Psalm 25: 1-10 ♦
*1 Peter 3: 18-22 ♦ *Mark 1: 9-15

28th Feb *Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 ♦ Psalm 22: 22-30 ♦
*Romans 4: 13-25 ♦ Mark 9: 2-9

**The passages being read.*

Dates for the Diary

February *(All Events are being held on Zoom)*

Thursdays ♦ 10.30am-11.30am ♦ Coffee Morning

Sundays ♦ 10.30am-12 Noon ♦ Sunday Service & Zoom chat

Mon 1st ♦ 2pm ♦ Community Meal

Sun 7th ♦ 6.30pm-7.15pm ♦ Songs of Praise

Mon 8th ♦ 2pm ♦ Community Meal

Mon 15th ♦ 2pm ♦ Community Meal

Wed 17th ♦ 7.30pm ♦ Ash Wednesday ♦ Reflective Act of Worship Online

Fri 19th ♦ Magazine Deadline

Wed 24th ♦ 7.30pm-9pm ♦ Faith & Film for Lent

Sun 28th ♦ 6.30pm-7.15pm ♦ Songs of Praise

March

Wed 10th, 17th & 24th ♦ 7.30pm-9pm ♦ Faith & Film for Lent

(There will be no Faith & Film on the 3rd March as Vestry will be meeting.)

Keeping in Touch

We continue to try to keep in touch with the congregation and give whatever support is needed. The office is still closed with Laura and Sheila continuing to work from home. Telephone messages can be left on the Office answer machine. *Please note it will take a few days before these are heard or dealt with:* 0131 662 9171.

If you would like to get in touch more quickly, please email Sheila in the office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

The **Buddy System**, designed to help us keep in touch with each other, is still being much appreciated. If you have any questions about it, please contact Kristee. If you haven't spoken to your Buddy in a while, please do give them a call!

People

CLERGY

Rector: Rev Nick Wills
Associate Priest: Rev Sue Whitehouse

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Lay Representative: Liz Philp
Alternate Lay Representative: Roddy Simson

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

Director of Music: Rupert Forbes
Organist: Sheila Chisholm
Organ Scholar: Ifeanyichukwu Ezinmadu
Choir Warden: Fiona Barton
Community Development Officer: Kristee Boyd:
communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org
Servers' Guild: Bill Polson
Parents & Toddlers (Monday & Thursday): Kristee Boyd
Monday Group: Liz Philp
Thursday Lunch Club (Usually 1st Thursday at 11.00am): Delia Keir
Magazine Distribution: Liz 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: Laura Bird: development@stpetersedinburgh.org
Finance Convenor: Ralph Garden
Works Convenor: Liz Mackay
Social/Outreach COG Convenor

All these people can also be contacted via: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

