

# news & views

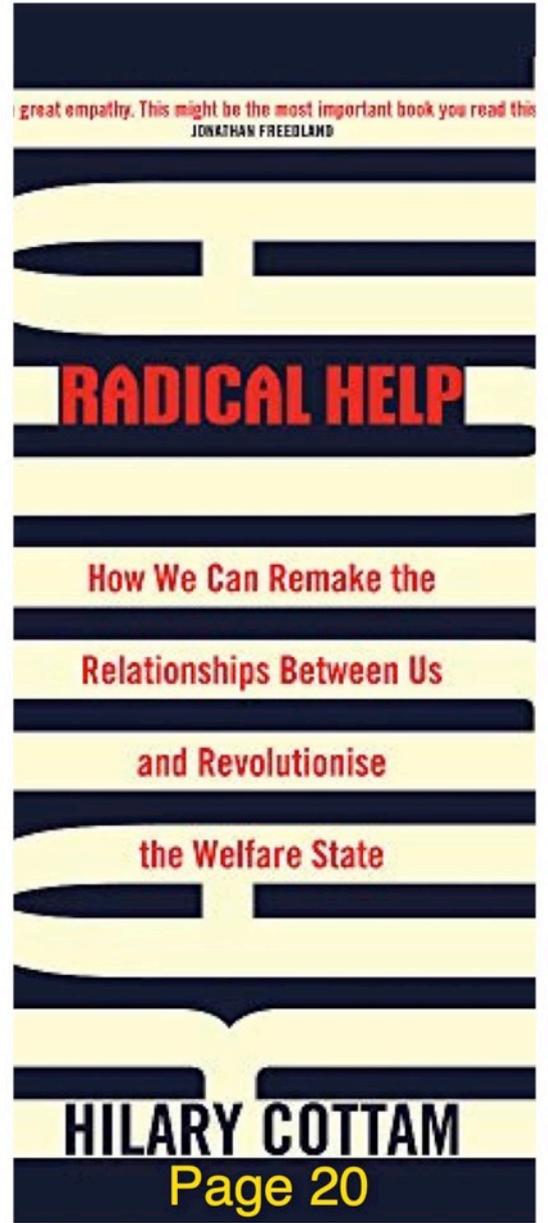
St Peter's, Luton Place

April 2021





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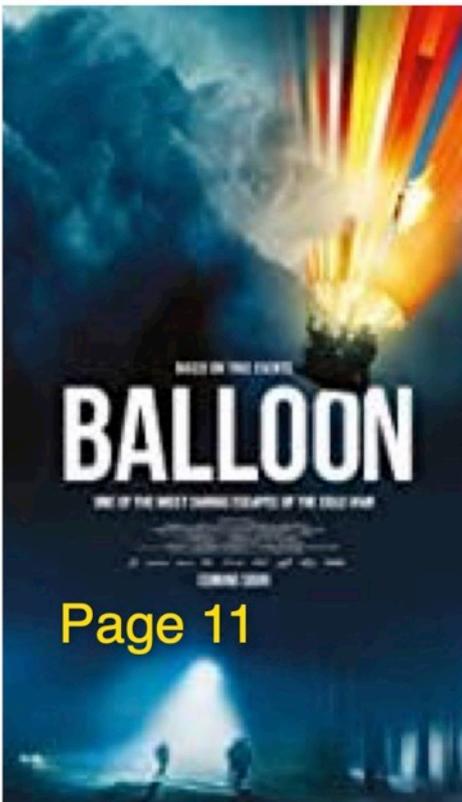


# RADICAL HELP

How We Can Remake the  
Relationships Between Us  
and Revolutionise  
the Welfare State

HILARY COTTAM

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# From the Rector

*Rev Nick Wills*

I hope you have been able to enjoy these beautiful sunny days - it is hard to believe that it is a year since we moved in, but we were greeted with the same lovely weather when we arrived here in March last year. So much has happened since then, but also so much has *not* happened... what a strange year it has been!

It is also of course the anniversary of the national lockdown and a chance to reflect on the terrible loss of life and all those whose lives have been turned upside down by the consequences of Covid-19. It is a time to mourn, to reflect and learn lessons and to move forward into a (sadly still uncertain) but hope-filled future together - it is not unlike our own season of Lent.

As the nation looks forward to a safer world where the vaccinations mean we no longer need to live in fear, we look forward to our celebration of New Life and hope: Easter.

The Scottish Government and the SEC's guidelines have been unpredictable and ever-changing, so after much discussion, listening and a strong majority decision of the Vestry, it has been decided that we will not reopen church for Easter but continue with our Zoom services and events for now, until we feel confident that we are safe to reopen with a minimum of risk, a bit further down the line.

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*We will still be celebrating Easter, but in different ways again.*

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I am sorry if this is disappointing for you, but hope that you can see that we are doing it to keep everyone safe. It was also encouraging to hear from the very many people who feel that there are genuine positives to enjoy from meeting digitally. It is hoped that we will take

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## News & Views

*April 2021*

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### **St Peter's Lutton Place**

*Edinburgh*  
SC017358

The Scottish Episcopal Church

*The Rt Revd John Armes  
Bishop, Diocese of Edinburgh*

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### **Church Office**

14 Lutton Place  
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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.*

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the good and helpful from the new ways of meeting and worshipping and not lose them completely when we return to our church buildings. In particular the ways that we can share conversations in some depth about all sorts of subjects with people we may never encounter properly in a physical church setting has brought much joy and interest to many. In order to facilitate this, our buildings group has been considering our options to improve broadband connectivity at church.

So, we will still be celebrating Easter, but in different ways again. More details and the times and links will be sent to you by email (please contact Sheila and ask to be added to the email list if you are not already signed up). Here are some of the highlights of Holy Week:

On **Palm Sunday**, I will be blessing our palm crosses during the Sunday service and they will be available to pick up from the Rectory during Holy Week, or will be kept for you to collect from church later in the year.

I am delighted to be helping to put together a special joint service with Newington Churches Together for **Maundy Thursday** which will be available through my YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChhYHVFO1hqHLPo4GtFjG\\_A](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UChhYHVFO1hqHLPo4GtFjG_A)

On **Good Friday** we will be on Zoom for readings and meditations based around a dramatic re-telling of the Passion Story.

On **Easter Sunday** we will have an Easter themed service on Zoom. Following this, there will be the opportunity for anyone who would like to join me (virtually) as I celebrate a Eucharist in a Zoom Breakout room. If you prefer you can join another group for a chat as usual.

We hope that you will be able to find a way to worship and celebrate this Holy Week.

And lastly, I would like to say a very personal thank you to all of you for your wonderful gifts for my recent 50th birthday. The cheese hamper is a gorgeously indulgent gift that I will enjoy very much and the cake is perfect for this cricket fan! (Thank you Jane for your delicious creation!) It was lovely to be with you all in the morning and to be greeted by the St Peter's bunting fairy on our hedge first thing in the morning!



Thank you - I felt thoroughly spoiled!

So it just remains for me to wish you a blessed and joyful Easter.

May we meet the Broken Christ in our own brokenness and the Risen Lord in our hopefulness.

Your Rector,

Nick



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## Buddies

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 during this Easter Season!

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# An Easter Thought...

*By Janet Young*

John 12:24: *'Very truly, I tell you,  
unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies,  
it remains just a single grain;  
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.'*

Although the verse alludes to Jesus' death and resurrection, I began reflecting more generally on letting go and flourishing. This led me to reminisce about the time a few years ago, when my sister and I were clearing our childhood home. It was a slow process as each cupboard, drawer and storage box held a surprise. We mulled over each item before deciding if it should be consigned to the cherish, chuck or charity pile. Some items brought happy memories, some were a revelation and others best forgotten. Our grandma's fox fur stole was certainly one of the latter. This abomination, as fascinating as it was repulsive to me as a child, was now almost unrecognisable. I can confirm, moth and dust doth corrupt. Clearly this was for the 'chuck out' pile; symbolic of decadence and cruelty, of attitudes and habits needing to be discarded, making way for something new and healthier.

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*I can confirm, moth and  
dust doth corrupt.*

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A few boxes contained things we had never been privileged to see, such as the love letter from my father to my mother. It was written shortly before their marriage while she was visiting her family in Yorkshire. My father was an archetypal Scottish fellow born in 1928, not given to overtly expressing his feelings. What a surprise to glimpse this side of him, previously unknown to us; a reminder perhaps that we all have hidden depths awaiting the opportunity for expression. This was definitely something to cherish.

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*That old photograph ...  
brought joy, reconnection  
and new ways to flourish.*

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Then there was the old newspaper cutting of a school football team winning a trophy. Our uncle John, then teenage and now in his eighties, beaming in the front row. The boys in the picture were children of the Second World War. They were the young men who lost livelihoods during the pit closures of the eighties. They were the fathers of a generation born into an area with no industry to support them, materially or in hope. We

sent the newspaper cutting to our uncle in Yorkshire. He carries the photograph around in his pocket now. He shows it to those old team mates, or their families, as he meets them in the street. Through sharing this snippet of almost forgotten good news, conversations began, copies of the cutting were distributed, old friendships rekindled and a circle of camaraderie and support emerged. That old photograph hidden away for about 70 years, once shared, brought joy, reconnection and new ways to flourish.

As I pondered over the physical process of clearing my childhood home, I found it mirroring the spiritual process of Lent. Now that the 'house clearing' of Lent is drawing to a close and Easter is approaching, I ask myself once more

- what do I need to get rid of that is unhelpful or unhealthy?
- what do I cherish and wish to nurture?
- what can I share?

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## Songs of Praise

On Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> February, our second Songs of Praise on Zoom was again well attended. During these services, which last around 45 minutes, members of the congregation pick a favourite hymn, introduce it by explaining why it is so special to them, and then everyone can sing along to it lustily at home. (Muted!)

To start the evening, John Smith introduced '**Hills of the North, rejoice**'. Acknowledging that as a Bass in the choir, it is a bit surprising that he had chosen a hymn sung in unison, it is the words that mean so much. He felt it traced his life journey, his early years on the Moray coast, living on a farm between Portsoy and Banff. The farmhouse was at the top of a hill and was open to all the elements. Then all the 'Highland' holidays with Fiona and the family, being able to appreciate the beauty of God's kingdom. To John, the words are like the gathering of the clans, bringing together peoples from the North, South, East and West, and finishing with 'In Jesus all shall find their rest and in him the longing earth be blest'.

The second hymn, '**How can I keep from singing?**', was introduced by Janice Allister. She first heard this hymn earlier in the pandemic when a group of children from a deprived area were singing it for a competition. Echoing in her soul was the memory of her mother, who as a child

learned joy through practising for the Welsh Music Festival held in Port Talbot where she lived. Her mother carried on singing despite her difficult life. As children Janice, her sister and brothers loved hearing her sing when doing housework, as well as being rocked on her knee when little. The words of lamentation, tumult, strife, loss and storms, have great comfort too: 'Songs in the night he giveth. No storm can shake my inmost calm while to that refuge [meaning Jesus] clinging; since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?'

Pam Dugan's hymn '**Be thou my vision**' has lovely memories for her of her teenage years when she attended Abbeyhill Baptist Church with her friend. Chosen as one of her wedding day hymns, it has special memories of that day, and also of those who were there, some are still living, others not. It reminds us all of the 'cords that cannot be broken', especially during this lengthy lockdown, and how lovely it is that family and friends from afar can and are joining in some of our Zoom services.

Purcell's unaccompanied eight-part anthem, '**Hear my prayer O Lord**', composed in c. 1682, was chosen by Gloria. From Psalm 102, it uses the words from the King James translation: 'Hear my prayer O Lord, and let my crying come unto thee.' The simple words create the feeling of longing to be heard and yearning to be loved in our broken world. Originally intended to be longer than the mere 34 bars, the texture and harmonic complexity gradually builds from one voice to an intense dissonant climax before resolving again. Very apt with all the difficulties we face both as individuals and globally, Gloria loves singing this eight-part anthem, and cannot wait to get back to choir rehearsals and singing in church again.

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*It appeals to the sense  
of inclusion and equity.*

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Ian Gillespie commented that a benefit of being retired meant that he can now regularly enjoy listening to Choral Evensong on Radio 3. He felt that the marrying of words and music of '**How shall I sing that majesty**' to the tune 'Coe Fen' is a 'marriage made in heaven'. At the time of composing the tune, Kenneth Naylor (d. 1991), was the very highly regarded Head of Music at Leys School. Coe Fen, a semi-rural meadowland area on the outskirts of Cambridge, has a footbridge at the back of The Leys School. For those who have never come across them, a 'fen' is a type of wetland common to East Anglia.

To finish, Christine Rednall had chosen '**All things bright and beautiful**'. A lovely cheerful hymn full of joy, it absolutely appeals to Christine's sense of inclusion and equity. 'The Lord God made them all' is such a

wonderful line. It is also a lovely hymn best enjoyed with children. As a teacher, she has lots of special memories of singing it at end of term church assembly with her class, and the whole school community. This is why she and Anthony also had it as a hymn at their wedding in Rosslyn Chapel many moons ago.

Once again, it was a great service of sharing memories and singing. Thank you to all the contributors, and we look forward to the next Songs of Praise on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> April!

To put forward your favourite hymn(s), anthem(s) or organ piece, email the office, [office@stpetersedinburgh.org.uk](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org.uk).

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## Easter Daffodils

*By Rev Sue Whitehouse, Associate Priest*

On Mothering Sunday we used the central part of our cover photograph for the service slides. That Sunday, the fourth Sunday in Lent, is also known as Refreshment Sunday, an oasis the middle of our Lenten wilderness. The purple of the heather reminded us that we were still in that solemn and austere season. The daffodils held the promise and hope of the new life that Easter brings.



For the front cover of our Easter magazine we have the full photograph, which shows that it is taken in St Peter's garden. In many ways the close-up detail spoke to us as individuals on our personal journey with Christ through Lent. We now see that intimate section in its community context. This reminds us that Jesus' saving love and the new possibilities that his Resurrection brings are there both for us as individuals and for the life of the whole world.

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*The yellow of the daffodils  
symbolising the joy of new life*

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The low-lying heather representing in its purple the difficulties that life undoubtedly brings and the yellow of the miniature daffodils symbolising the joy of new life emerging from within its midst are not immediately noticeable in the bigger picture. But once discovered the effect in raising spirits far out measures the small space in which they inhabit.

As a small church community set within the larger population of Newington we are called both to stand with the community in its desert experiences and also, like the daffodils, to shine out with the love, reconciliation and hope that Jesus' Resurrection brings.

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# Young Adult/International Student Services

*By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer*

One of the highlights of the last month was Rev Nick Wills' talk on 'Decision-Making.'

Beginning with his own story of how he came to believe that he was meant to become a vicar, Nick's talk centred around the practicalities of entering into the vocations we feel called to. Gone are the old days where a person felt 'the calling' into church ministry and then simply forged ahead into this field of work! In Nick's case, there was a steady progression of personal Christian experiences, during which his personal faith remained aligned with the Anglican tradition, as well as an ongoing affirmation from others that this was a suitable vocation, based on his faith, gifts, experiences and personality.

There are a number of questions to consider in the process of making a major decision:

- Is this realistic? (enter jokes about untalented X-Factor competitors!)
- Is my decision good for everyone else in the big picture?
- Does a pros and cons list reaffirm that the benefits outweigh the risks?
- What is my gut feeling/emotional pull concerning this decision?

Nick emphasised that ordained Christians do not have a higher calling than any other Christians or other fields of work. To emphasise this point, he closed with the following verses:

*Colossians 3:23-24*

*Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.*

Many thanks to Nick and to St Peter's lovely young adults who regularly contribute so much to these services. On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March we shared

about books and podcasts that are personally meaningful to us of late. (See the article on p. 21.)

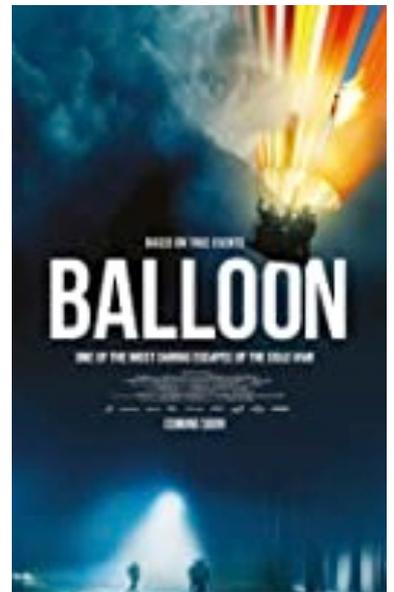
If you are a young adult or international student and you are interested in joining our Sunday Services, please email Kristee: [communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org).

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## ‘Film and Faith’ for Lent

*By Janet Hodgson*

The Film and Faith group met during Lent for discussion based on the German language film “Balloon”. This film, based on a true story, was set in East Germany in 1978/79. It concerns the efforts of two families - four adults and four children - to escape to the West by the dramatic means of using a home-made hot air balloon constructed in a cellar of one of the homes. The film charts their adventurous plans for escape and the difficulties they encounter. We see the extensive efforts of the Stasi to stop them. One family makes an initial attempt in the balloon but it fails.



Will they make it or not?

We considered different elements of the film and related them to some of the Parables, discussing whether they could be a metaphor for aspects of the lockdown.

We also related aspects of the film to our lives in the current pandemic. Although our current lockdown is not as extreme as the situation was in East Germany there are parallels to the situation with the Government restrictions, our fears and uncertainties.

The first session started by gathering people’s overall views, then thinking in more detail about the issues the film brought out. In general there seemed to be a positive response to the film with it being thought of as tense, fast paced, though there was some criticism of the lack of characterisation and the little attention paid to the danger the parents were prepared to subject the children to and the effect their escape would

have on others left behind. The film is told from the families' perspective with little being known about the police's feelings. We could see a parallel between the people in the film being fearful of their neighbours watching them and people now reporting on their neighbours for breaking Covid restrictions.

The film raised various topics for discussion: risk, family, awakening of teenage emotions, fear, hope, making choices, nature of Communism, ability to adapt and learn.

Using the Parable of the Tower (Luke 14: 28-30), discussions continued around what the film could symbolise and whether there were parallels with the cost of discipleship. We left the first session with some questions to ponder:

- How did you prepare for Lockdown back in March 2020?
- What would you tell your March 2020 self now?

The second session focused on the families in the film under stress and how the different individuals dealt with this. We considered this in relation to our present situation, comparing feelings in the current and first lockdown.

There is a lot of uncertainty which can be difficult to handle, especially given the increased isolation of individuals.

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*The importance of trust  
and of perseverance was  
also considered.*

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- How good are we at communicating with each other?
- How aware are we of others and their feelings?

Part of our discussion referred to the Parable of the Widow and the Unjust Judge (Luke 18).

We talked about prayer and the point that we don't always get the answer we want or we may not understand the answer. The importance of trust and of perseverance was also considered.

We were left to contemplate:

- How hard has the uncertainty of the last year been?
- Are there signs of people struggling under lockdown, and can we see them?
- Are we able to pray?

In the third session another interesting discussion followed on from the previous week about prayer and the need for perseverance.

- Is our faith strong enough to maintain our trust in God when things go wrong?

We discussed how to regard failure - whether we learn through failure; whether we ourselves are failures when our actions do not resolve a problem. This was illustrated by a film clip showing the despair of the father regarding the failed first escape attempt contrasted with the support and encouragement from his family to keep going, emphasised as we saw his son coming up with an alternative plan for getting help.



We referred to the Parable of the 10 Bridesmaids in Matthew Chapter 25.

The discussion considered what this meant in terms of being prepared:

- How we might react with or without sympathy with those unprepared, and the implications for the way we live.
- How the need for preparedness can cause anxiety.
- The importance of encouragement,
- The need to have others who can help pick up the pieces if something fails.
- How has it felt to be constantly changing plans during Covid?

The final session again led to some wide-ranging discussion.

- What we would miss most and what would we take if we suddenly had to leave Edinburgh? Answers included:

Missing: 'friends', 'Arthur's Seat', 'a daily routine', 'Church'...

Would Take: 'photos', 'favourite book', 'bus pass', 'bike'...

The film clips illustrated the difficult choices the families had about leaving, with new relationships developing and loved ones to be left behind. The dichotomy between the pull of freedom in the West and the pull of leaving loved ones/familiar situations in the East was a major factor they had to deal with. There is a poignant scene where we glimpse grandparents through a window of their home unaware that their son accompanied by

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*This had resonance with our current situation*

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the young lad of the other family had made a detour and stopped outside on a motorbike about to make their bid for freedom, wanting one last look but unable to say farewell.

This had resonance with our current situation where people have had to see family through a window or have not been able to say farewell at the end of their lives.

We considered two of the three Parables of the Kingdom in Matthew, 13: 44-46, emphasising man's willingness to sacrifice all in the pursuit of undreamt of material wealth, and the need to channel that same degree of dedication and desire in order to gain entry into the Kingdom of God.

- If we were to sell all that we had in order to inherit the treasure/pearl (ie Kingdom) what would be the hardest things for us to give up?
- How single minded could we be?

Having been asked 'Do Christians in the West have to give up much to be a Christian?', we talked about whole-hearted dedication being Jesus' lesson and pondered whether Christians now would give up much to follow Jesus.

- Are we just too comfortable?
- Should we be more radical?

There was extensive discussion about the nature of Christian faith. We wondered if we, as Christians, should be more visible and involved but also considered was that there is a place for quiet faith and prayer. This left us with a core topic for further consideration.



These Film & Faith sessions certainly led to wide-ranging and deep discussions. Although we have not been able to meet in person for some time one positive outcome from lockdowns has been that we have had the opportunity to talk about faith and Christianity in a deep and meaningful way. Topics have been raised which certainly give us starting places for thought and further discussion.

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*For information on how you can help to support God's mission and ministry in St Peter's through giving, please contact the office:*

[office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org)

Gift Aid Secretary: Chris Hodgson

Treasurer: Duncan McKinnell

# Community Meals

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

This month, Chris Hodgson taught a workshop on making Soda Bread (see photos). Many thanks to all who participated and to Chris for his patience in walking us through this simple recipe. The feedback from participants was very positive and I, for one, have already made a second soda bread this week! In case you missed it, please find the recipe below.



Don't forget that Chris has also offered to teach us how to make sourdough bread, beginning with a short lesson on making a starter. A number of people have already expressed interest in this workshop via email. If you want to participate, remember to email Kristee at [communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh), so that we will know how many to expect and Chris can set a date and time for the sourdough workshop.

## Soda Bread Recipe

### Equipment

- Mixing bowl
- Baking sheet
- Jug
- Scraper - can be made from eg a plastic milk container.
- Sieve
- Scales
- Timer

### Ingredients

- Plain flour, sifted 425g
- Baking soda 1 teaspoon
- Salt 1 teaspoon
- Buttermilk\* 380ml

*\*OR use maślanka OR kefir from Polish shop or supermarket shelves OR make your own (see method below.)*

### Oven temperature:

230°C for 10min, 200°C for 25min.

### Method

- Turn oven on at 230°C (450°F, gas mark 8)
- Wash hands carefully.
- If making own 'buttermilk', squeeze ½ lemon into milk
- and let stand for approximately 10mins while you get things ready.
- Sift flour, baking soda and salt into bowl and mix.
- Add buttermilk OR milk/lemon juice mix.



- Mix with stiff fingers, scraping fingers clean.
  - Flour hands and transfer dough to baking sheet.
  - Shape dough, flatten to approximately 1 inch thick and mark into 4 quarters with a sharp knife.
  - Bake 10min at 230°C.
  - Turn heat down to 200°C (400°F, gas mark 6) and bake a further 25min.
- Test readiness of loaf by tapping base and listening for hollow sound, using oven mitts to hold loaf.  
Cool on rack.




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## Keeping in Touch

We continue to try to keep in touch with the congregation and give whatever support is needed, with updates and additional material for services and upcoming events being emailed out to congregational members each Saturday evening.

If you do not already receive these emails and would like to, or wish to get in touch, and/or attend our Sunday morning and/or evening 'Songs of Praise' Zoom services, please email Sheila via the church office: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org).

The Ministry team can also be contacted through the Office:

Rector: Rev Nick Wills, Associate Priest Rev Sue Whitehouse

Kristee: [communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@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>*

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# Vestry Update: March

*By Andrew Sikes, Secretary to the Vestry*

Following recent announcements by the First Minister on the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, the Vestry has been giving careful consideration to the possibility of hosting in-person services in St Peter's at Easter. However, as discussed elsewhere in the magazine, the Vestry has agreed to continue with online services. Amongst a number of considerations, we do not want to rush into opening until the situation with the pandemic improves further and a greater number of people have been vaccinated. In arriving at its decision, the Vestry was mindful of the faster transmission rates of the new variants, and the need to ensure that clergy, staff, and those attending St Peter's are safe. Finally, the use of Zoom allows many more people to participate in Easter services than might otherwise be the case.

In other business, the Vestry agreed a final contract price for the construction of the link building (Phase II), which is less than that sought by the contractor but more than that originally estimated. It also discussed the refurbishment of the hall and noted the good progress on re-glazing windows. The Building Group will meet in due course to develop a draft work programme for the comprehensive refurbishment of the hall and consultation arrangements with church members and hall user groups.

Finally, the Vestry received the staffing, ministry team, and quarterly finance reports. Copies of Vestry minutes are available on request via the church office: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org)

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## Diocesan Synod

**Lay Representative's Report** *By Liz Philp, Lay Representative*

I attended the Diocesan Synod which was held via Zoom on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2021. In his Bishop's Address Bishop John praised the churches in the diocese for all the ways they have adapted to lockdown. He wondered if this pandemic has made us more attentive to God, urging us to be kind not only to others but to ourselves quoting Jesus in the

Gospel of Luke: 'Do not be afraid little flock'. Last year he warned us that in the coming weeks the telephone would be our friend – turns out it has been our computers and Zoom which have kept us going!

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*Bishop John wondered if this pandemic has made us more attentive to God, urging us to be kind not only to others but to ourselves*

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This year we fairly romped through the reports from the various committees, since during lockdown nothing much has been happening. The Financial Report showed that there has been an unforeseen surplus this year, but this is not really a good thing since is due to lack of activity needing to be paid for due to Covid-19. To help with the hardship caused by lockdown all churches in the province were given the opportunity to pay 10% less than their quota payments to the diocese but, along with several others, St Peter's chose to pay our full quota so that this 10% could go into the 'Covid Support Fund' which has been set up to support those churches which are struggling financially. General Synod passed a resolution in December that all our churches should aim to be carbon-neutral by 2030. There was some discussion about the problems which will need to be faced if we are to achieve this.

There was a long discussion about the possibility of changes to Canon 4, which had been already discussed by all Area Councils. This is to do with the election of Bishops. It is felt that in the past few years many good people have been discouraged from applying. There are two choices – to hold to the long-held tradition of elections solely within a diocese or to depart from this and whilst retaining diocesan involvement a group of people chosen on the basis of their gifts and experience from the rest of the province would be included. The majority of Area Councils reported that they were on the whole in favour of retaining the existing process although with some representation from experienced people from outwith the diocese.

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*... It turns out it has been our computers and Zoom which have kept us going!*

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There were reports from around the diocese about the experiences of various churches during lockdown. Many activities had been supported including Basics Banks, putting together and delivering home-learning packs to families, book sharing, delivering Christmas hampers, opening church gardens to the community, online study – and, of course, Zoom Worship.

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# Monday Group

By Liz Philp

So far our resuscitated Monday Group via Zoom has been a success. On Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March we held a short postponed 2020 AGM followed by playing the game of 'Categories' in Breakout Rooms. On 15<sup>th</sup> March we had a talk by Mark Calder of 'Embrace the Middle East', the charity St Peter's supported over the Christmas period. It was interesting to hear about the work they do. They are a Christian organisation whose vision is based on the text 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of them who are members of my family, you did it unto me'. [Matthew 25: 40].



EME aim to transform lives affected by poverty and injustice, serving people of all religions and beliefs. They are not just a fundraising organisation, although this is important. They work in partnership with Christian groups in several Middle Eastern countries who have local trust and knowledge and who have already demonstrated their effectiveness in their work with the marginalised in society. For more information about EME, do feel free to email Mark directly: <https://embraceme.org/>

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*They work in partnership with Christian groups in several Middle Eastern countries*

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We are not meeting in Holy Week or on Easter Monday, so our first meeting in April is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup>. This will just be a Social Meeting so people can chat to their friends and catch up with how they have coped during this last difficult year. Monday 26th April is an illustrated talk by Joe Gilhooley, a very talented local photographer - anyone visiting the lodge in the last couple of years may have seen his lovely calendars. We have yet to find a speaker for the meeting on 10th May. Anyone who can give ideas of speakers for our Zoom meetings or who would be prepared to give us a talk themselves please contact our secretary Pam Dugan through the office: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org)

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*Anyone visiting the lodge in the last couple of years may have seen his lovely calendars.*

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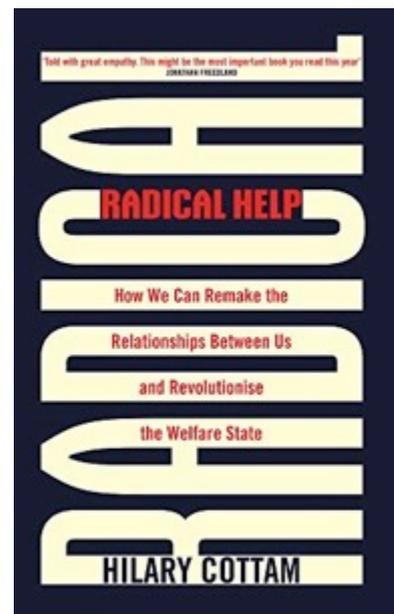
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# Reading Group

*By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer*

In a recent meeting to discuss St Peter's Friday meal deliveries through Mosque Kitchen/Building Bridges, a member of the group recommended that we read a book called *Radical Help*, by Hillary Cottam (to find out more, [check out her website](#) or her Ted Talk: [Social Services are Broken. How we Can Fix Them](#)).

The book is about "new ways of organising living and growing," which shift away from previous understandings of help, charity and welfare. So far, we have four participants in our Reading Group but it's not too late to join us! Email Kristee if you are interested: [communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org)



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# Gardening Help Needed

*By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer*

The current round of Friday meal deliveries from Building Bridges/Mosque Kitchen is almost complete. All involved have been working to 'round out' these relationships, so that they do not begin and end with an act of charity but rather, progress into healthy and sustainable friendships. It has been lovely to get to know one of the young ladies, in terms of meeting for walks from time to time, as well as phone calls and texts during the week.

One of the families is a large family with 8 children who came to Edinburgh as refugees a couple of years ago. They have moved house in the last year and they are at a loss as to how to set up and maintain a garden. They have asked if I know anyone that could help to guide them in this. I confess that I am the very last person who can help with a garden!! However, if you are a skilled gardener who has a little time to help with this, please email Kristee: [communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org).

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# Reading recommendations from St Peter's Young Adults

*By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer*

At the St Peter's Young Adult Service on March 21<sup>st</sup>, everyone shared what they have been reading recently. There are some great suggestions here, so I thought I'd share them in case you've been looking for some new ideas! I've linked each book to a local bookstore, so that you can find out more about the book, while simultaneously avoiding lining Jeff Bezos' pockets any more during the current crisis!

Most books could be found at a great local bookshop called [Lighthouse \(Edinburgh's Radical Bookshop\)](#). The books that weren't at Lighthouse, I could find at [Topping & Co](#) (and I'm at sure other large bookstores here in Edinburgh). I know various members of our congregation also shop online at [Hive](#). Here are the books that were discussed:

- ❖ [Brit\(ish\): On Race, Identity and Belonging](#) by Afua Hirsch
- ❖ [Just My Type: A Book about Fonts](#) by Simon Garfield
- ❖ [Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow](#) by Yuval Noah Harari
- ❖ [Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind](#) by Yuval Noah Harari
- ❖ [Desert Flower](#) by Waris Dirie
- ❖ [Guest House for Young Widows: Among the Women of Isis](#) by Azadeh Moaveni
- ❖ [Untamed: Stop Pleasing, Start Living](#) by Glennon Doyle
- ❖ [Cellular and Molecular Immunology](#) (note: this one is obviously a textbook that is currently being read by one of our bright uni students! If you're particularly interested in this topic, he also recommended a podcast that you can find on Spotify called '[Immunology](#)'. During the current pandemic, this might be a subject of particular interest to our congregation! The same student recently shared details of an uplifting podcast called [Living Gratefully](#), which can also be found on Spotify.

A third recommended podcast is: [Dr Mind Body and Soul](#), which also discusses immunology, as well as mind-body connection and many other interesting topics.

If you're a student or young adult, and you would like to get involved in Sunday evening services, please email

Kristee: [communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org).

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# Climate Corner

*By Christine Bethune*

## How does your garden grow?

No doubt you with gardens have already prepared for your 2021 season – especially after some of the lovely recent weather! But during the St Peter's SEA Change Challenge (examining our shopping habits from an ethical standpoint) I realised that - despite always gardening organically, without artificial fertilisers or pesticides, using only peat-free and home-made compost – there were some bad habits I should be questioning.

What about all that plastic in pots – bags – labels – equipment? What about seeds and plants I buy – their propagation, soil, packaging? It's very frustrating when even items from 'green' suppliers come packaged in plastic. But I recently enjoyed a very practical article by Sally Nex from Garden Organic: you can read it in full at <https://bit.ly/3cC3eVS> but here are her main recommendations along with a few other ideas – you will have plenty of your own!

- Allow no new plastic into your garden! Find alternatives to replace any equipment. Check out online organic and natural material suppliers. Buy plants bare-rooted where possible.
- Reuse plastic pots, bags, trays, eventually replacing them with wooden/fibre/paper ones, cardboard toilet roll and other tubes. Plants raised in many of these can go straight in the ground in their containers without disturbing the roots. Take old plastic pots to garden centres for recycling. (Black plastic pots are the worst for recycling, then green/brown, then terracotta.)
- Untidiness is your friend! We've heard about Monty Don advising us to let our lawns grow tall to encourage wildlife. A stick pile in a neglected corner makes a good bug hotel.

- Make labels out of sticks, old bamboo toothbrushes, lolly sticks...
- Reuse plastic bags from compost and soil improvers. And get a compost bin to make your own – free! - mixes using kitchen and garden waste, leaves, paper, cardboard... Peat is an absolute no-no. Its use unlocks carbon, destroys biodiversity and is unsustainable. Alternatives have improved enormously since their early days, with several good brands available – some even suitable for acid soil-loving plants.
- Grow what suits your location and soil and save on artificial resources (e.g. heating). Choose plants a thriving slug and snail population won't enjoy quite so much! Many pesticides will kill friendly insects as well as thugs: buy only those, if you must, which will target the problem. Greenfly appear on my roses but soon vanish into hungry beaks without my interference!
- Water isn't often a major problem here: collect rainwater in a butt, and water by hand rather than a hose – good exercise! Windowsill or indoor gardeners can use cooled water from your hot water bottle, kettle etc rather than fresh from the tap.

Got any good eco-tips for the garden? Let us know!

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# Bishop's Lent Appeal

## The 'Together in Unity' Appeal

During this pandemic, much is being done at a local level to help the disadvantaged, anxious or lonely through food banks and support services.

This year, the Bishop's Lent Appeal is more outward looking and is aimed towards other parts of the world where there is no NHS, benefits safety-nets, and where life is constrained by poverty.

With the UK cutting international aid, the 'Together in Unity' Appeal provides an opportunity for us to reach out in solidarity to our sisters and brothers, our neighbours in this small world, whom Jesus calls us to love as we love ourselves.

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*'You held our hand during our most trying moments'*

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The Anglican Communion Fund has already begun responding to COVID related needs, allocating over £180,000 across 21 provinces of the

Communion. Speaking of the huge support given in the South Sudanese Diocese of Maridi, Bishop Moses Zungo said, 'You held our hand during our most trying moments'.

It is not too late to still give to this important appeal. Given the pandemic, everyone is being encouraged to give donations directly, rather than collecting via congregations. The link is on the diocesan web-site page and is: [https://www.give.net/Together\\_In\\_Unity/oneoff](https://www.give.net/Together_In_Unity/oneoff)

Or: To donate via by BAC, using the reference

DIOCESE OF EDINBURGH;

Please give to: Friends of ACF / Account no. 00030397 /

Sort code 40-52-40

*It would be appreciated if any donations could be sent in by Easter or shortly after. Thank you.*

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## 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.

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## Magazine Articles

Please email or submit your articles and photographs asap, and by the deadline to: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org) Thank you!

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### NEWS & VIEWS

Contributions welcome.  
DEADLINE for the April issue is

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April**

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## *In Memory...*

**Valerie Ross: 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 1948 – 28<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021**

Val Ross was one of the people to whom we took Communion in her nursing home each month. She was diagnosed with MS thirty years ago and despite her loss of independence she still embraced life without complaint. St Peter's was important to her because she was married there. For her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday we were able to arrange for her to come to church for her Communion service. That was special both for her and for us.

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Members can phone into our Zoom services. If you would like more information, please contact Sheila: 0131 629 9085.

The '**Daily Hope**' phone line has a selection of recorded reflections, prayers and hymns. Run by the Church of England, the free phone number is: 0800 804 8044.



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## **Human Rights Hustings**

Ahead of the Scottish Parliament elections on 6<sup>th</sup> May, Edinburgh Amnesty International volunteers are hosting a Hustings on Human Rights online 7-8:30pm on Tuesday 6th April.

There will be representative Edinburgh & Lothians candidates from all major parties and the discussion will be hosted by Malcolm Dingwall-Smith - the Amnesty International Scottish Regional Representative.

There will be a series of human rights-focused questions and an opportunity for attendees to ask their own questions.

Free to attend - please sign up via Eventbrite to receive a joining link:  
[Edinburgh Hustings on Human Rights Tickets, Tue 6 Apr 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

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# Sunday Readings

**4<sup>th</sup> April**     Isaiah 25: 6-9 ♦ Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24 ♦  
\*Acts 10: 34-43 ♦ \*John 20: 1-18

**11<sup>th</sup> April**     \*Acts 4: 32-35 ♦ Psalm 133: 11-20 ♦  
1 John 1: 1 - 2: 2 ♦ \*John 20: 19-31

**18<sup>th</sup> April**     Acts 3: 12-19 ♦ \*Psalm 4 ♦  
1 John 3: 1-7 ♦ \*Luke 24: 36b-48

**25<sup>th</sup> April**     Acts 4: 5-12 ♦ \*Psalm 23 ♦  
1 John 3: 16-24 ♦ \*John 10: 11-18

*\*The passages being read.*

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# Dates for the Diary

## March

Sun 28<sup>th</sup> ♦ 6.30pm-7.15pm ♦ Songs of Praise (On Zoom)

## April     *(All Events are being held on Zoom)*

Thursdays ♦ 10.30am-11.30am ♦ Coffee Morning

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

**1<sup>st</sup> Maundy Thursday** ♦ 7.30pm ♦ A YouTube Joint Service with  
Newington Churches Together.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday** ♦ 2pm ♦ A Reading of the Passion Story

**2<sup>nd</sup> Good Friday** ♦ 7.30pm ♦ A service of Evening Prayer

**(3<sup>rd</sup> Holy Saturday** ♦ 3pm ♦ Passion Play in Princes Street Gardens,  
postponed from last year will be available: <https://easterplay.org/>)

**4<sup>th</sup> Easter Day** ♦ 10.45am ♦ An Easter service of celebration. *After this,  
those who wish can join Nick as he celebrates a Eucharist, or can join discussions in  
a Zoom Breakout room.*

Mon 12<sup>th</sup> ♦ 7.30pm ♦ Monday Group: A Social Evening

Fri 16<sup>th</sup> ♦ Magazine Deadline

Sun 25<sup>th</sup> ♦ 6.30pm-7.15pm ♦ Songs of Praise

Mon 26<sup>th</sup> ♦ 7.30pm ♦ Monday Group: A talk by Joe Gilhooley

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# 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](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org)  
Servers' Guild: Bill Polson  
Parents & Toddlers (Monday & Thursday): Kristee Boyd  
Monday Group: Liz Philp  
Thursday Lunch Club (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](mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org)  
Finance Convenor: Ralph Garden  
Works Convenor: Liz Mackay  
Social/Outreach COG Convenor: Liz Hare

*All these people can be contacted via: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org)*  
Church Office: 0131 662 9171 (A message can be left on the answer machine, but please note it will be a few days before messages are heard and dealt with.)

*Easter Hope Watercolour: A painting by Catherine Rednall*

