

news & views

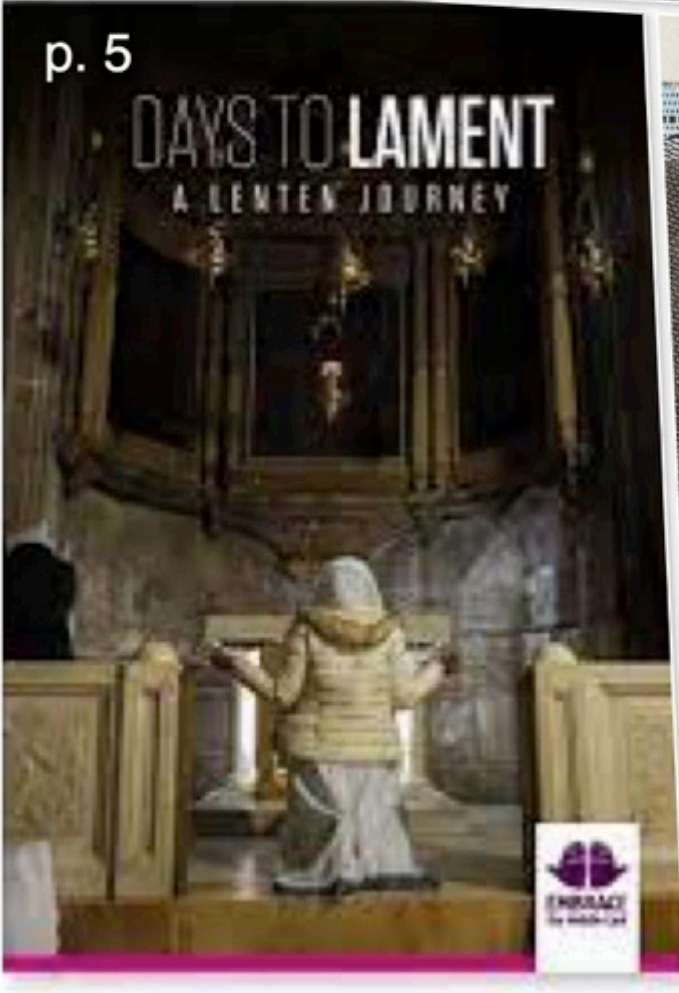
St Peter's, Lutton Place

May 2022





p. 12



p. 5

DAYS TO LAMENT

A LENTEN JOURNEY



Mary Samerville
1780-1872

From the Rector

Rev Nick Wills

A very Happy Eastertide to you all!

We had wonderful celebrations on Easter Sunday, particularly at the 10.45am service where the music gave an extra expression of joy. A huge thank you to Rupert, Sheila and the choir who worked so hard to rehearse not just for that service, but also for the Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday Communion services and to sing a setting of St John's Passion on Good Friday.

The congregation was also able to sing unmasked at services from Palm Sunday onwards, which, after two years of restrictions including the church being completely locked up at times, has been hugely appreciated, and it was particularly fitting that we were able to get the full benefit of the relaxation of restrictions in time for our Holy Week services. A significant number within our congregations still wish to wear masks, to protect themselves and others. We all need to respect the fact that people will be able to emerge from the restrictions at different paces, depending on their circumstances or the vulnerabilities of people that they live with or work amongst.

We have resumed receiving both bread and wine at Communion, but do so together by intinction at the moment, that is a drop of wine placed onto each wafer. I am one of those who is not confident about a return to a shared cup at this point, and this seems like a sensible step at the moment.

I was also able to represent St Peter's at the Newington Churches Together Walk of Witness on Good Friday, and we had a good number of St Peter's folk amongst the crowd.

News & Views

May 2022

**St Peter's
Lutton Place
Edinburgh
SC017358**

The Scottish Episcopal Church

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

Church Office

14 Lutton Place
Edinburgh
EH8 9PE

office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Tel No: 0131 563 8198

Post pandemic Sheila and Laura continue to work flexibly part-time, mostly working from home. Messages may be left on the office answer machine, but please note it may be a few days before it is heard or dealt with.

May will see the return of Evensong at 6.30pm on Sunday 15th May. We hope that lots of you will join the choir and me at this service. Then, on 26th May, at 8pm, we invite you to join us to celebrate Ascension Day at Crichton, which I will be presiding at, and our choir will lead the sung worship. It is lovely that we are finally able to resume Evensong and this practice of supporting one of the smaller historic churches after two years.

Our regular church walks continue. A big thank you to Alec Mann who organised a very interesting walk through Roslin Glen Country Park to Penicuik, and to Roddy Simson who organised one from Balerno, along the Water of Leith to Slateford. Photos of these can be found on the back page. The next walk will be on Thursday 28th April, when John Smith will lead a walk from South Queensferry to the site of the old Cramond ferry, and Janet Hodgson is leading us on 14th May over the Capital view walk traversing the lower slopes of Caerketton Hill to the historic Swanston Village and back.

If you haven't managed to join us on one of our walks yet, then I hope that you have been managing to enjoy the lovely Spring weather in other ways.

With my prayers that you will know the Peace of the Risen Christ this Eastertide,

Your Rector,
Nick

Loop System

Happily our Loop System in church is now working very well. If your hearing Aid has a 'T' position, when in church, please turn it to that. If your hearing aid does not have a 'T' position, we have been advised to suggest to those who wish to ask their audiologist to please enable their hearing aid to 'link into a Loop System'.



Children's Church

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

Children's Church runs every Sunday during the 10.45am service. Kristee and a second adult take the children down to the hall during the first reading. There are always plenty of toys and games for all ages. All children are most welcome to join us. For more information, please email Kristee: communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

International Students / Young Adults

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

We are on a short break for Easter but our prayer group will continue to run via email. This is quite a personal prayer group where everyone is welcome to share current issues or concerns, all of which are kept within the small group.

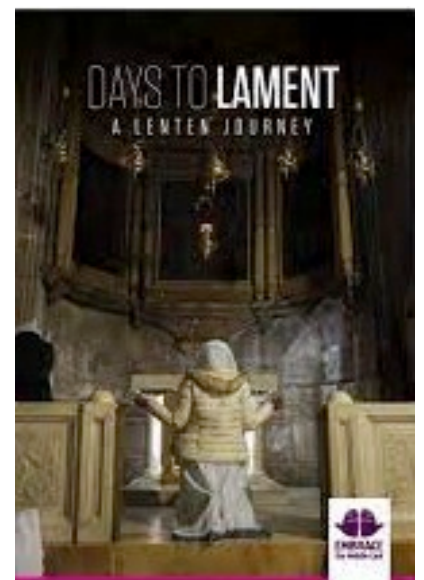
If you are a student or young adult and you would like to join us in prayer, please contact Kristee at communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

“Days to Lament” : a book review.

By Rev Sue Whitehouse, Associate Priest

“Days to Lament” is the title of the study book that was produced for this Lent by Embrace, the charity working with partners in the Middle East, which was our 2020 Christmas charity. It is written by Mark Calder who spoke to one of our Monday Group Zoom meetings.

Lament is an important part of biblical worship. It engages with difficult questions and troubling realities and encourages our relationship with God to be open and honest. Because of his connection with Embrace the author uses illustrations from the Middle East – Palestine and Israel, Syria, Lebanon – but points to other conflicts – Afghanistan, Yemen



and now most immediately to the horrors unfolding in Ukraine. He uses Psalm 13, a very short psalm of just 6 verses to map out the journey that lament entails for both individuals and communities.

Our travelling begins with a period of what the American theologian Walter Brueggeman, calls “disorientation”. Our settled, known and safe life is dismantled. This could be through a gradual dawning that things are not what they should be or through a sudden change of circumstance – a diagnosis, a bereavement or invasion and war as in Ukraine. And, we cry out. “How long, O Lord? Will you forget me forever?” (Psalm 13: 1)

In an outburst of raw emotion we allow our anger, tears, fear and heartbreak to pour out for ourselves and in solidarity with those who are suffering. We join in the complaint of the Ukrainian mother burying her son, “What sort of a God allows this?” And, in our crying, says Mark Calder, there is a glimmer of hope. Neglected children often cannot cry because they do not expect an answer. Our crying out like Jesus on the cross – “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” – indicates that, consciously or not, we are turning to God even though we may find Him silent.

It is then important to name what is wrong. “How long must I bear pain in my soul?” (Psalm 13: 2) Our crying is the effect of what is amiss. In naming what is causing our anguish we are facing up to its reality and perhaps helping others to find a voice also.

This leads us on to our asking – “Consider and answer me, O Lord my God” (Psalm 13: 3) The study guide engages with the difficult question of unanswered prayer. There are no easy answers. I found the section on the Lord’s Prayer petition “Your Kingdom come” helpful. The theologian Walter Wink is quoted: “Intercession visualises an alternative future to the one apparently fated by the momentum of current forces.” And, the American singer Nightbirde has said of the God who is with us, “He doesn’t take away my darkness. He adds light”.

Our psalmist then remembers past sorrows and God’s presence and deliverance in those times - “But I trusted in your steadfast love”. (Psalm 13: 5) For us the great remembrance is the Eucharist when we remember the new life and hope that Jesus gives us through His death and resurrection. Mark Calder reminds us also of Jesus’ promise to deliver this world to “the poor, the meek, the hungry for justice...the peacemakers, the persecuted” and asks “How?... Well, Jesus said, through mustard

seeds that disappear into the ground...until they emerge in God's time as great and uncountable fruit."

In the final verse of Psalm 13 the psalmist emerges from the journey in praise –“I will sing to the Lord”. This may seem to jar with the outpouring of emotion at the beginning of the journey, But, says the guide's author, “It is the praise of someone gazing on an unjustly tortured body whose suffering has brought salvation” and it is expressed in action as well as words.

In “Days to Lament” the reader is invited to travel with others on a journey. Though Psalm 13 presents the different elements of lament as a linear progression the guide reminds us that our experiences are less orderly.

I think that recognising the wider context of God's Kingdom and timing helps us to emerge from times of Lament into a “new orientation” (Walter Brueggeman) of new life and hope. But it is not straightforward and this is summed up in quiet confidence and trust by Serop Ohanian, who is facing the realities of a medical centre in Beirut. “Sometimes I don't have all of the answers, but I know who is in charge and I know that God is faithful. He always delivers his promises whether it is in my lifetime or not.”

The Lent Study Guide can still be purchased at:

<https://shop.embraceme.org/products/days-to-lament-lent-study-guide-2022>

Toddler Group

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

Our Toddler Groups continue to thrive and we have new families join us every week. All parents, grandparents and carers are most welcome to bring their little ones along. We serve excellent coffee, as well as tea and snacks for adults and children. The lovely Liz Mackay has also recently introduced cucumber water, so we are becoming very fancy indeed!

We run on Mondays and Thursdays, 10.00am–11.30am and, on Mondays, we end with a 10 minute family dance session, led by professional dancer, Oxana! Email Kristee if you have any questions:

communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Sponsored Fast & Litter Pick

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

A huge thank you to all who contributed to our Sponsored Fast. I have seen some beautiful gestures during this fundraiser, including donations, both large and small, fasting, contributions from as far as Australia and America and - I have asked permission to share this! - a personal donation from St Peter's youngest choir member, Lennox, who gave something from his own savings toward this cause! It feels very special to me to see the support our community has shown for Hadil and her family, particularly given that so many people give to other causes as well. We were able to raise £665.69 all together, which is an excellent start to helping Faten and Huda with cost of living while they are unable to earn or to access benefits. We have set this up as an allowance for the coming months.

We have a couple more fundraisers coming up. The first will be a Community Meal, organised in partnership with Building Bridges, on the late afternoon / early evening of 14th May. Please save the date as, for many of us at St Peter's, it will be the first chance to meet Huda and Faten. We will be sharing a Syrian meal together. Stay tuned for more information in the near future!

We also have a loose plan for a Sponsored Litter Pick! Many thanks to Laura who has secured funding for some Litter Pickers! If you want to get involved in helping to organise any of these activities, please contact Kristee: communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Vestry Update, April

By Janice Allister, Vestry Secretary

We met on 6th April and welcomed new guidance allowing a further review of our Covid arrangements and enabling us to look forward to celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter together in church.

Members of the Vestry were mindful that we need to respect each others' needs and preferences as we adapt to living with Covid. They agreed from now on wearing a mask or not in church, and where people choose to sit, will be for each person to decide.

There will be no “register” as people come in. When sharing the Peace, please feel free to shake hands, or wave as before, respecting one another.

Sharing the communion cup might be more difficult for some, so a step towards this will be the minister giving bread wafers to which a drop of wine has been added.

Vestry looks forward to celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter Day. Palm crosses will be given as people come in. On Easter day, the first hymn will be sung when everyone is in their place rather than in procession.

In this spirit of freedom, people will be encouraged after each service to take their refreshments and move outside or to stay in the hall without tables if preferred.

Vestry is glad that groups are meeting. It agreed the purchase of a new coffee machine. There are ongoing Hall renovations including shutters on the windows. The church has been awarded a grant to help with ventilation improvements that have been made. The hope is that everyone feels respected and safe to enjoy fellowship and worship.

Several members of Vestry had technical difficulties joining this time, and some were prevented by illness, so please continue to pray.

Funding

By Laura Bird, Building Manager

St Peter's has been fortunate to claim a small grant to finish off the windows in the hall. The Business Ventilation Fund paid just over £900 to get the eight hopper heads in safe working order. The windows are now painted - carefully - so they open and close. We were also able to purchase two long hooked poles to reach up to the catches. St Peter's may not be quite ready for big socials in the hall yet, but when we are, it will be straightforward to get good cross ventilation through the room.

The small grants trust, Faith in Community, has given St Peter's a grant of £500 to buy top quality litter pickers for future eco church litter pick outings, and for use in the garden. Look out for details of a sponsored litter pick in the weeks to come!

St Peter's Giving and Gift Aid

By Chris Hodgson, Gift Aid Secretary

Thank you to all who continue to contribute financially to the work and life of St Peter's. For those who donate or want to donate regularly on a weekly basis please ensure you get the new supply of blue Sequi FreeWill Offerings (FWO) envelopes from me (these are individually numbered and gift-aided which saves you having to fill in your specific details each time) for the new church year starting July 2022. Alternatively you may set up a Standing Order with your own bank using forms available from me or from your 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

Less regular or one-off payments to St Peter's can also be made by Internet banking directly into St Peter's bank account. For one-off donations in church, if you are able and wish to Gift Aid your donation, please use the small white envelopes found at the back of church, writing your name, address, date and, importantly, the value of your donation on the envelope. If you want your donation to be used for a specific purpose, e.g. the Building Fund or a particular appeal, please write the purpose of your donation on the envelope.

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

This year's Retiring Collection for the 2022 Bishop's Appeal raised £185, including Gift Aid. This is towards the Edinburgh based charity 'The Welcome', whose mission is to welcome New Scots to Edinburgh and make Edinburgh more welcoming to refugees and migrants. More information can be found at, <https://www.thewelcoming.org/>, and donations can still be given directly to the charity through their webpage.



Now that Hadil Ayoubi's parents, Faten and Huda, have safely arrived from Aleppo, Syria, to live with Hadil's family here in Edinburgh, the recent sponsored fast and further fundraising events planned and organised by our indefatigable Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer, has so far raised a grand total of £665.69, including Gift Aid.

This is towards the commitment St Peter's made to contribute to their living expenses during their first year when they are not entitled to benefits. The cost of the visas, tickets, bedding, etc, had been covered by the initial donations. Faten and Huda are now living with Hadil, Mouaz and Bachir, and our help has made it possible for them all to unite here in Edinburgh after a long separation.

With best wishes.

Chris,

Chris can be contacted via the office, email office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Helping Ukrainians

With the on-going humanitarian disaster as a result of the war in Ukraine, if you would like to help Ukrainian refugees, various charities are helping. These include:

Sanctuary Foundation supports new arrivals from Ukraine.

<https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/>

For those considering taking in refugees, there was a very helpful webinar event, which can be watched here: <https://youtu.be/4n-Wmru5LIA>

If you have difficulties typing this link in and would like it sent to you, please email the office.

Christian Aid is working with two partner organisations in the ACT Alliance (a global faith-based coalition), to offer assistance to Ukraine refugees who are fleeing the deadly violence. One can donate here:

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/ukraine-crisis-appeal>

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) brings together leading UK aid charities to raise funds quickly and efficiently in response to large-scale disasters. The UK government has promised to match donations to the DEC's Ukraine Appeal up to £20 million.

<https://www.dec.org.uk/appeal/ukraine-humanitarian-appeal>

Walking Group

Our church walks continue to be very popular!

Balerno, walking towards Leith along the Water of Leith, Saturday 2nd April

Roddy Simson, Co-ordinator

It was a beautiful day as a group of five members left Balerno to walk towards Leith along the Water of Leith. Much chat was had as the map was followed, which had various interesting historical facts. As our packed lunches were eaten in Colinton Dell, another walker joined in. It was a very good 'flexible' walk where one could join in or depart as they wished.

The murals in the Colinton Tunnel, Scotland's largest heritage mural celebrating our history and heritage, follow Robert Louis Stevenson's poem, '*From a Railway Carriage*'. At the other end of the tunnel, Roddy pointed out his mother in the final mural of everyone standing on the platform with a steam train departing! More information about the old railway tunnel can be found at, www.colintontunnel.org.uk.

A wonderful walk finished with refreshments at the Water of Leith Visitor Centre at Slateford, the building being a renovated schoolhouse.



Roslin to Penicuik, Wednesday 13th April

By Alec Mann, Co-ordinator

Five of us went on this walk. It was cool and cloudy, and it had rained for most of the previous day so there were some puddles and mud.



We started at Rosslyn Chapel, and walked down to the gorge of the River North Esk, with a look at Roslin Castle, then down a lot of steps to the river and Roslin Glen Country Park. The banks of the river were covered with wild garlic and tricorn leeks. The North Esk, like the Water of Leith which we followed on our last walk, is a fast-flowing river and in the past it

powered several water mills. After crossing the busy Roslin-Rosewell road (the only through road we had to cross) at a hairpin bend, we passed the remains of a gunpowder works, with buildings well separated in case of accidents. The works (but not those ruined buildings) produced gunpowder until the 1950s.

We then had to leave the river briefly and climb lots of steps to reach the former Rosewell-Penicuik railway line, now converted to a foot and cycle path. Continuing along the river valley, the path goes over a long curved viaduct and through two tunnels to Auchendinny and Eskmills, passing the sites of several paper mills. We then followed a side path beside a mill race. Near Valleyfield a stretch of the river flows quite slowly and has a sandy beach with some steps leading down to it.



The path ends at Valleyfield, now a housing estate, and earlier the site of another paper mill, but during the Napoleonic Wars it housed a large prisoner-of-war camp. Several hundred prisoners died in the camp, and after the war a monument to their memory was erected on the site; it now forms the focus of one of the housing estate's streets.

Near the bridge at Penicuik are two buildings (the South Kirk and Park End) designed by Frederick Pilkington, architect of Barclay Church here in Edinburgh, in a similarly eccentric style. On a hill to the south stands the impressive ruins of Uttershill Castle.

We finished the walk with lunch at a café before returning home. One of the participants had arranged for his wife to meet him at Penicuik, so they gave a lift back to Roslin to those who had left their cars there.

Future Walks

Thursday 28th April, 11am, South Queensferry to the site of the old Cramond ferry, via Barnbogle Castle and Dalmeny House. It follows the John Muir Way. *Co-ordinator: John Smith*, email: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Saturday 14th May, 11am, Capital view walk traversing the lower slopes of Caerketton Hill to the historic Swanston Village and back. *Co-ordinator: Janet Hodgson*, email: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

More details of both walks will be sent out in due course in the Saturday and Walking Group emails.

For those who are not already on it and would like to receive emails about the Walking Group together with the updated information about our walks, please email the office and ask to be added to it.

Details of previous walks can be found online at,
<https://stpetersedinburgh.org/st-peters-walking-group>

Music Notes



By Rupert Forbes, Director of Music

During the month of May we will be singing two evening services.

After a gap of over two years Choral Evensong returns on May 15th at 6.30pm, and on May 26th we visit Crichton Collegiate Church, near Pathhead, to sing Eucharist for Ascension Day at 8pm.

Choral Evensong

The service of Evensong was established by Archbishop Cranmer based on medieval monastic offices of the Roman Church for the Book of Common Prayer in 1549. It usually comprises a psalm, a setting of the two canticles: Magnificat (Mary's Song of Praise) and the Nunc Dimittis or Song of Simeon which follow readings from the Old and New Testaments, an anthem, prayers and hymns and normally lasts about 45 minutes.

The service has inspired numerous composers from Tudor times to the present day to set the canticles to music and is a choral service which can be followed in most cathedrals and collegiate establishments in the Anglican tradition on most days of the week around sunset. The service of Choral Evensong is the BBC's longest running outside broadcast having started in 1926.

Choir rehearsals are held each Thursday evening in the church;

6.15pm; *Voice for Life* for Junior Choristers

7pm; Junior Choir

7.45pm; Adult Choir

All are very welcome!

If you or your child are interested in joining the Choir, or Voice for Life, please contact Rupert or Sheila:

office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Monday Group

By Liz Philp

On Monday 4th April we romped through the business of our AGM pretty quickly, although it was the first one we had been able to hold in person for three years. Three years' worth of accounts were approved; we have had a small deficit during those years, but are still in funds due to having held the annual Pancake Party and Silent Auction in 2020 just before Lockdown.

Attendance on 4th April was poor compared to other recent meetings, but those who avoided it due to the thought of a dull AGM missed a treat as Catherine Booth gave a most interesting talk about notable Scottish Women Scientists of the past. Mathematician and astronomer Mary Somerville (1789-1872), who is featured on the current Royal Bank of Scotland's £10 note, was a mentor to the more famous Ada Lovelace. Mary Somerville is the first woman other than the Queen to appear on a mainstream RBS banknote since they were first printed in 1727! We also learned about Charlotte Carmichael, one of the first Scottish women to attend university and her daughter Marie Stopes, a paleo-botanist who also became well-known for her pioneering work on birth control. Then there was Winifred Rushforth (1885-1983) a psychotherapist who lived in Lauder Road and Nora Miller, marine biologist (1898-1994). We learned that the Royal Society did not admit women until 1945, the Edinburgh Royal Society in 1949. Happily now there are many Scottish women scientists and their number is increasing.



We normally stop having meetings after April, but this year it will again not be possible to have a May Drive so we will have one more meeting on Monday 2nd May at 2.30pm in the hall. Chris and Susie Martin will talk to us about the six weeks before Christmas which they spent in Kyiv, Chris being locum chaplain at the Anglican church in the city. At the time they could not have imagined the current appalling devastation in Ukraine.

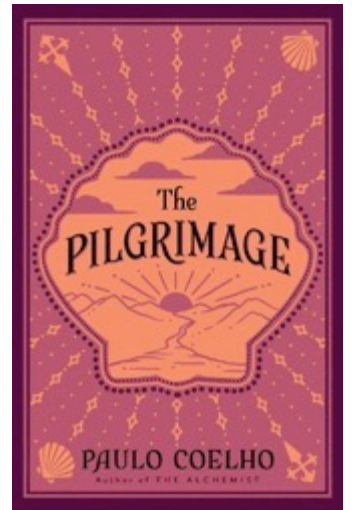
All are most welcome to any of our meetings, you don't have to be a Monday Group member, nor even a member of St Peter's. Bring your friends, just expect to pay £1 if you come. For further information about the Monday Group you can contact Jane Sutherland, Pam Dugan or Liz Philp via the office. Email office@stpetersedinburgh.org

St Peter's Book Club

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

St Peter's Book Club is taking a short break over Easter and we will resume in May. Our May book is *The Pilgrimage* by Paulo Coelho. We will meet to discuss this book over Zoom on May 30th, 7.30pm. Please email Kristee if you are interested and she can send you the link beforehand. Email:

communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org



Our most recent book was *Syria's Secret Library* by Mike Thomson. This fantastic book reminded us all about the importance of having access to books, which we often take for granted! In our discussion, we talked about setting up a 'Take a Book, Leave a Book' box in St Peter's garden.

This is now in the works, free of charge, thanks to the lovely John Spencely, CBE (Kristee's neighbour who has had a distinguished career as an architect and chartered town planner)! If you see a kindly gentleman in our garden, setting this up, make sure you say hi! The box will be waterproof and we will try to make sure that it is always stocked with good quality books.

Eco-Matters

The Big Plastic Count

By Tricia Anderson



The Big Plastic Count is the UK's biggest investigation into household plastic waste. Between 16th- 22nd May, Greenpeace are asking those who wish to tally all the plastic packaging they throw away for one week.

There are three stages;

1. Sign up and receive a free pack.
2. Between 16th-22nd May, tally all the plastic packaging thrown away.

3. You will then receive a personal plastic footprint, and be told what really happens to plastic when it leaves your home.

The plan is to uncover the truth about how much plastic passes through our homes and what happens to it, and gather new game-changing evidence that will push the government to tackle the plastic crisis.

Will you join too? <https://thebigplasticcount.com/share/email>

Find out more here: <https://thebigplasticcount.com>

Bird Seed & Fat Balls

The bird feeders in our church garden are well used! Any donations of birdseed / fat balls, etc, are gratefully received. Please either leave any donations of seed or fat balls in church, or hand them into the office.

Thank you!

Dental products

By Christine Bethune

After all those sweet treats, time for a dental products update!

Anna and I have both tried various *non-plastic floss* products (such as Georganics, Flon, Brushd) and we aren't very happy with any yet. Our main problem is that the floss is too thick and therefore breaks easily in our close-set teeth - and feels as if it's pulling our teeth out! (Not everyone has this problem so these products may work well for you).

The plant-based plastic used isn't home compostable but has to go in the food waste collection.

Other materials used could be beeswax or silk – not for the vegans. We hope that products will increase in quality and choice, and we will keep experimenting.

I am pleased to say that the *toothpaste for sensitive teeth* I am using really works. It's called Happier from happierbeauty.com, contains fluoride, and comes in a fully recyclable aluminium tube. You can get a 'squeeze key' to extract every last drop. It's not cheap but you only need a tiny bit to clean with. My teeth are more comfortable than they have been for months.

Diocesan Big Walk to Carbon Neutral

On Saturday 28th May, churches in the Diocese of Edinburgh are invited to 'pilgrim' to our Mother Church, St Mary's Cathedral. There are several walks planned from South Queensferry, Roslin and Portobello, and down the Water of Leith.

There will be a walk around the grounds of the Cathedral for those who can't manage a longer walk. These walks will meet at the Cathedral in time for lunch and worship.

The afternoon will include workshops and speakers to help us on our Big Walk to Carbon Neutral, as we share resources, ideas, frustrations and joys.

To register please visit the Eventbrite website:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-big-walk-to-carbon-neutral-tickets294436105317?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

More details from The Revd Willie Shaw:

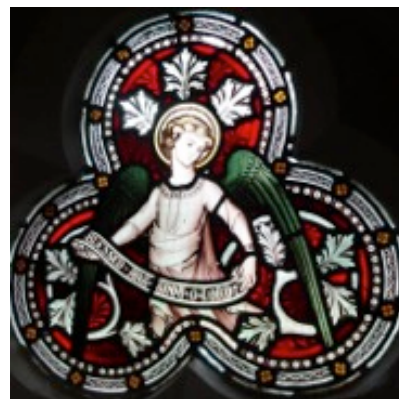
stmarysandstcatharines@virginmedia.com

Memorial Window 2

By Laura Bird, Building Manager

Photographing church stained glass windows is tricky. Balancing light on both sides can be unpredictable. And the overwhelming height of such windows creates awkward angles from ground level. For St Peter's 2021 Christmas card I thought one of the angels that top most of the windows would be a pretty picture.

First I tried with a long ladder, footed by Liz Mackay, wobbling about in the air in the cold church. But I was still too far below and the pictures came out squint angled. Then I managed to borrow a giant selfie stick with a bluetooth camera on the end, that sends the photos to your phone. The angel I most fancied turned out to have a particularly delicate face, that bleached out in the light. The best and most usable angel picture was the one atop A. I. List Family Memorial.

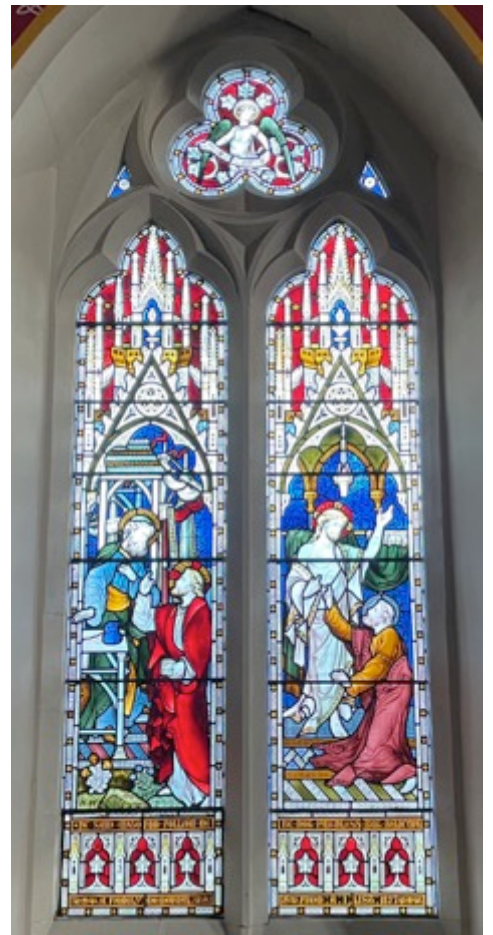


It has long been an ambition of mine to research the various memorials in St Peter's. I presume that's what the people who put them up would have liked. And now, with digitised records, it is feasible to gather large amounts of information while sitting at a laptop.

So in November 2021 I quickly found out the basic facts about Alfred John List, who paid for the memorial window. There were, however, one or two anomalies. Like him being in two places at once for the 1841 census, and that his wife seemed to have died twice, once in London and once in Edinburgh. The story was almost ready to go into News & Views for February.

With the deadline approaching, I bought some credits for the digital archive 'Scotland's People'. Little did I know then what an addictive treasure trove that would turn out to be. Like some desperate gambling addict I kept buying more and more credits, in order to get photographs of original, contemporary records. But instead of clarifying Alfred's life story; death certificates, wills and census returns threw up more and more questions.

So I asked Sheila for an extension to spend more time (and money) on the story. Eventually I found Alfred's grave in the Grange Cemetery. That and a trip to Central Library on George IV Bridge revealed the whole truth, some 140 years after his death.



Laura hopes to tell the story behind Alfred John List's family memorial as part of the Monday Group programme next winter. Keep an eye out for information!

Magazine Articles

Please email or submit your articles and photographs to Sheila asap to office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Thank you!

The DEADLINE for the June issue is
THURSDAY 19th May

Christian Aid Sale



After two years of being unable to hold it, the highly popular annual Christian Aid Sale, held in St Andrew's and St George's West Church begins on Saturday 14th May, from 10am-4pm. The following week, it is open from Monday 16th until Friday 20th May, 10am-3.30pm, with a late night opening on Thursday 16th until 7pm.

It is requested that any donated items are taken to St Andrew's and St George's West Church on George Street between 9am and 9pm on 2nd-11th May. (Saturday 7th is from 9am until 5pm.)

Items for sale include books of every kind, paintings / drawings / prints, collectables, linen, household goods, printed ephemera, stamps, postcards, sheet music, records, CDs, DVDs, toys, games, jigsaws, and many other things too!

An Art Sale will also be held in the church on 20th - 22nd October.

Further Information can be found on their website:

www.standrewsandstgeorgeswest.org.uk, Church office: 0131 225 3847

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 wish to keep in touch, please email Sheila via the church office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org.

The office telephone number is 0131 563 8198. Post pandemic Sheila and Laura continue to work flexibly part-time, mostly working from home. Messages may be left on the office answer machine, but please note it may be a few days before it is heard or dealt with.

The Ministry Team can also be contacted via the office:

Rector: Rev Nick Wills, Associate Priest: Rev Sue Whitehouse
Kristee Boyd: communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org

The most up-to-date information can be found on the website:
<http://stpetersedinburgh.org/> and blog: <http://stpetersedinburgh.org/blog>

Pastoral Care

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

If you would like to book a home visit with Nick, please contact him directly. He would especially like to bring Home Communion to those who have not received Communion because they have been unable to come to Church. Nick can be contacted via the office, email office@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Sunday Readings

**The passages being read*

May

- Sunday 1st** **Easter 3**
*Acts 9: 1-6 ♦ Psalm 30 ♦ Revelation 5: 11-14 ♦ *John 21: 1-19
- Sunday 8th** **Easter 4**
Acts 9: 36-43 ♦ *Psalm 23 ♦ Revelation 7: 9-17 ♦ *John 10: 22-30
- Sunday 15th** **Easter 5**
*Acts 11: 1-18 ♦ Psalm 148 ♦ Revelation 21: 1-6 ♦ *John 13: 31-35
- Sunday 22nd** **Easter 6**
*Acts 16: 9-15 ♦ Psalm 67 ♦ Revelation 21: 10, 22-22: 5 ♦
*John 14: 23-29
- Thursday 26th** **Ascension Day at Crichton Collegiate Church**
*Acts 1: 1-11 ♦ Psalm 93 ♦ Ephesians 1: 15-23 ♦ *Luke 24: 44-53
- Sunday 29th** **Sunday after Ascension**
Acts 16: 16-34 ♦ Psalm 97 ♦ *Revelation 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20-21 ♦
*John 17: 20-26
-

Office Hours

Sheila works part-time as Administrator on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, with emails regarding church usually being attended to on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, the rest of her hours being taken up with other tasks. Post pandemic, she continues to work flexibly, mostly working from home. If you need to see her at the office, please arrange a time with her to be there. Email, office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Dates for the Diary

Services

Sundays ♦ 9am ♦ Holy Communion ♦ Traditional language with no music or sermon.

Sundays ♦ 10.45am ♦ Holy Communion ♦ Modern language, with choir & congregational singing.

1st Thursday of the month ♦ 11am ♦ Holy Communion ♦ Traditional language with no music or sermon.

Regular Activities

Mondays & Thursdays 10am-11.30am ♦ Toddler Group *(In the Hall)*

Thursdays (In Church.) 6.15pm, Voice for Life ♦ 7pm-8pm, Junior Choir
♦ 7.45pm, Adult Choir

Last Monday of the Month 7.30pm ♦ Reading group *(On Zoom)*

Special Events in April

Thur 28th April Walking Group ♦ 11am

Special Events in May

Mon 2nd May Monday Group ♦ 2.30pm-4.30pm

Thur 5th May Holy Communion ♦ 11am

Sat 14th May Walking Group ♦ 11am

Sat 14th May Community Meal ♦ Late afternoon / early evening

Sun 15th May Choral Evensong in St Peter's ♦ 6.30pm

Thur 19th May May Magazine Deadline

Thur 26th May Ascension Day Service ♦ *Crichton Collegiate Church* ♦ 8pm

Sat 28th May Diocesan Big Walk to Carbon Neutral

Mon 30th May St Peter's Book Club *(On Zoom)* ♦ 7.30pm

Rector's days off

In this day and age when technology means everyone can be contacted constantly, the SEC policy is that all serving Clergy should have two days off a week. Friday and Saturday are our Rector's days off, and we hope that all will respect this. On these days, please only contact him if it is an emergency. Thank you.

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 & *Voice for Life*, Sheila Chisholm
Organ Scholar, Ifeanyichukwu Ezinmadu
Servers' Guild, Bill Polson
Parents & Toddlers (Monday & Thursday), Kristee Boyd
Monday Group, Jane Sutherland
Thursday Lunch Club (1st Thursday at 11.00am), Delia Keir
Social/Outreach COG Convenor, Liz Hare

CHURCH OFFICERS

Vestry Secretary, Janice Allister
Hon Treasurer, Laura Bird, development@stpetersedinburgh.org
Gift Aid Secretary, Chris Hodgson
Community Development Officer, Kristee Boyd,
communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org
Buildings Manager/Hall Bookings, Laura Bird,
development@stpetersedinburgh.org
Administrator/Magazine, Sheila Chisholm, office@stpetersedinburgh.org
Sacristan, Liz Mackay
Fire Warden, Pam Dugan
Finance Convenor, Ralph Garden
Works Convenor, Liz Mackay

All these people can also be contacted via office@stpetersedinburgh.org or phone 0131 563 8198. A message can be left on the answer machine, but please note it may be a few days before messages are heard and dealt with.

Front cover & these photographs taken on the two walks. (See pages 12&13)



*Colinton Tunnel,
Roddy's Mother is
in this picture!*

*An old Water Mill,
on the North Esk*

