

news & views

St Peter's, Luton Place

February 2023



Baptism & Confirmation on Sunday 4th December with Bishop John, see page 5



The delicious cake baked and beautifully decorated by Jane Sutherland.

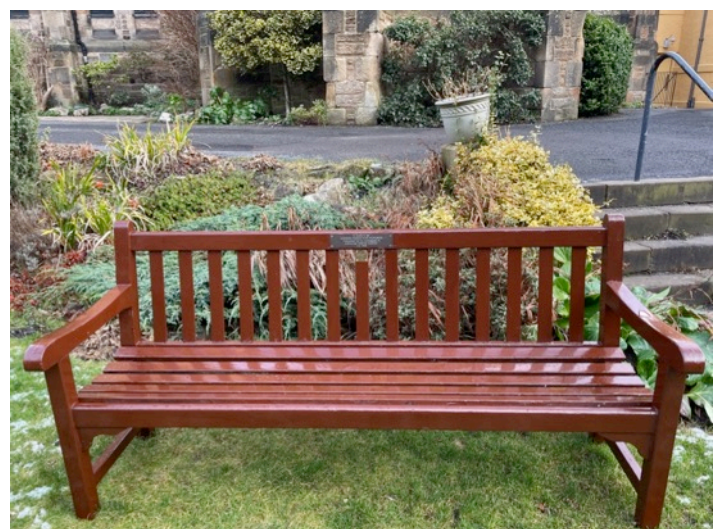
Tree Lighting Ceremony on Advent Sunday.

Monday Group, see page 10



Student Christmas Dinner.

Bench Thank You! See page 9



From the Rector

Rev Nick Wills

I hope that you all had a peaceful Christmas and start to the New Year.

I would like to begin by thanking all those who worked so hard to prepare for our Christmas services and events, from the team who were responsible for the safe location of the two Christmas trees, through those who decorated the Church and Hall, to Rupert, Sheila and the choir for their many hours of rehearsal, and to Sue for her support with leading services and preaching. Thank you!

It was my first Christmas since arriving in St Peter's, with no restrictions. And, my first 'live' Carol Service here. It was a real pleasure to share in joyful worship with you, and to welcome the wider community to our services, and the fun Tree Lighting Ceremony.

I was particularly pleased that the Toddler Group was able to continue during Kristee's trip back to Australia. Huge thanks to Ann, Maggie and Liz M for their commitment to that work and friendship to the families. As work continued in the Hall, we moved Toddlers up to the Church, and this was a huge success, with the children loving the space provided, and especially the lights on the Christmas tree. All of the families were given an angel tree topper, hand knitted by Maggie, as a gift from their friends at St Peter's.

Myself and Sue also went along to different sessions, and I really enjoyed getting to know some of the parents and children. This led into a special Crib Service for Toddlers and their parents, which included a re-enactment of the Nativity story with knitted figures and lots of discussion about the

News & Views

February 2023

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

The Scottish Episcopal Church

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

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Sheila and Laura 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.

different names for the central characters in the different languages represented in the group.

I also enjoyed the return of the Monday Group Christmas Party, after the Covid enforced absence, and we were all well entertained by Chris Hodgson's close harmony quartet. Many of us will be joining them for their Pancake Party and Silent Auction on Shrove Tuesday - put it in your diary and buy a ticket if you haven't yet!

During Advent and Christmas we raised money for Mercy Ships. Thank you to all who contributed, and especially to Catherine who donated £100 to the appeal from the sale of her Christmas Cards. (See page 16.)

Many events in recent weeks have benefitted from the refurbishment to the Hall, which is now a fantastic venue for all kinds of events. A big thank you to David for all that he has done to oversee that project. He brought in an excellent team of builders led by Wojtek, who has also made friends for life at St Peter's with his constant gifts of cakes that he had baked!

The Hall is very nearly finished. I added an extra request for a very flexible sound system, and Ian Gibson has very kindly given his time and expertise to plan this. We hope that this will be in commission during February.

One of the first events in the hall as we re-opened it was the celebration following the Confirmation of Aagash, Catherine, Emma, Lenore, Patrick and Roddy, led by Bishop John on Sunday 4th December. Thank you to Jane Sutherland for the lovely cake!

COG are planning for the year ahead, and will be hosting a Burns Supper on Saturday 28th January - tickets have all sold out. I am really looking forward to participating in this traditional cultural highlight of the Scottish year!

Our next Community Meal will be a traditional Ukrainian pancake feast, on Sunday 26th February. Most Ukrainian Churches follow the Orthodox calendar, and so enter Lent later than the Western Church, and this is the date of their traditional Butter Feast Масниця - Masnytsia. More details to follow, but we are very excited to be growing our relationship with the Ukrainian Community in Edinburgh in this way. Our February Evensong service will be held on Sunday 19th February at 6.30pm.

Which brings us to news of the Rectory refurbishment... we have had several false starts in recent weeks with the matching process, but Becky and I hope to meet a family very soon, and then welcome them into the top

floor of our home. Please pray for them, and us, as they make this transition.

Our work with students and young adults continues. We had a lovely Christmas Meal, and then on Sunday 22nd January Sydney led us through our first cookalong, of her family's "Quickie" recipe- a hash brown topped tray bake. We all really enjoyed it and the students each had a full take-away container for the next day!

Towards the end of this month we begin the Season of Lent with our Ash Wednesday Communion Service on 22nd February at 7.30pm. We will also invite you to join Lent Groups – further details to follow.

So lots going on, and more plans afoot!

With my prayers and best wishes,
Nick

Baptism and Confirmation

On Sunday 4th December, The Bishop of Edinburgh came to lead a service of Baptism, Confirmation and Communion at St Peter's. During the service, Bishop John Baptised Aagash and Patrick, and then Confirmed Aagash, Catherine, Emma, Lenore, Roddy and Patrick.



Nick having begun his ministry in St Peter's within weeks of the very first Lockdown in 2020, at the beginning of the service, Bishop John was at last able to formally welcome him to St Peter's in person. It was a very special service, and we thank Bishop John for coming, and for his meaningful sermon.

After the service, those present celebrated with cake and refreshments in the hall, and a very happy time was had by all!

Special thanks are given to Jane Sutherland, who had baked a delicious cake, and to all who helped and were present for ensuring it was such a memorable and special occasion.



Our prayers and blessings continue to be with all the candidates as they continue their journey of faith, following Jesus.

A Message of Hope

By Tricia Anderson

January is grey, cold and can be a bit glum.

Sue preached on New Year's Day and spoke about hope. It inspired me to repeat a little of what she said as many were away and it is a timely reminder at the start of a new year.

"A few verses of Hardy's poem "The Darkling Thrush" describes the winter landscape that is visible...

"I leant upon a coppice gate
when frost was spectre-grey
And winter's dregs made desolate
the weakening eye of day"

A late afternoon in winter when everything in the garden or the countryside seems lifeless and grey. But then the poet hears a thrush singing and comments that there is nothing noticeable to elicit such a song of joy. So he concludes that the bird was responding to

"some blessed Hope, whereof he knew
And I was unaware"

Looking over the state of the news and society, the landscape of our current world corresponds very much with Hardy's picture of a desolate winter scene. Yet the juxtaposition of the two realities of the bleak landscape and the bird's song of joy - the seen and the unseen - reminds us of St Paul's assertion that "the things seen are transient but the things unseen are eternal". Every day life can so easily obscure the eternal.

"Hope is the state of mind, not the state of the world. It is a dimension of the soul, an orientation of the heart and it is anchored beyond our everyday horizons in the God revealed in Jesus Christ" is what Michael Mayne described in a sermon.

As we move into this year let's dig deep within ourselves through the mess of the world to the hope that lies beneath... the hope expressed in the thrush's song amid the inert landscape"

That was Sue's sermon and it resonated for me. Perhaps I heard a little of the thrush's song? May each of us find hope, noticing the unexpected (sometimes hidden) songs in our midst.....

Children's Church

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

Children's Church is back up and running after the Christmas Break. During the 10:45am service, Kristee and a second adult will take the children down to the hall for some crafts and activities. We usually stay in the hall until the end of the service. However, if you would prefer for your child to rejoin the congregation in time for communion, please do let us know!

For children who wish to stay in church, there is an activity and colouring-in station set up at the back of church for them to enjoy during services.

Young Adults / International Students

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

We have set out a fun programme of social events for St Peter's young people, up until the summer break. We began 2023 with a cook-along lunch, where Sydney taught us to make a delicious casserole. It is a creation of her dad's that he simply calls "Quickie."

Thanks so much to Sydney for this workshop and the delicious lunch from America. She and Dominic are already planning a Gambian meal for our next cook-along!

Dates for upcoming activities are as follows:

19th February Cinema Trip

19th March BBQ and firepit together at Regent Park

9th April Easter Chocolate Eggstravaganza!!

21st May Trip to St Andrews

If you are a student or young adult and you would like to join us for any of these activities, or to go on our mailing list, please speak to Rev Nick Wills or Kristee after the service, or email Kristee:

communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org



Bishop Donald Allister

By Bishop Donald

As I write, in early January, I have just retired after 13 years as Bishop of Peterborough and am very much looking forward to moving to Edinburgh for good later this month.

I've been a "regular occasional" worshipper at St Peter's since 2006, when we bought a flat near Holyrood Park for our eventual retirement. Since then, we've been here for breaks and holidays, my three-month study-leave in 2016, and Janice's part-time GP work since 2018. It will be good to be together again full-time, and to be near our two daughters and grandson who are in Edinburgh and Fife.



*Official House of
Lords photo,
by Chris McAndrew*

Despite all my 46+ years of ordained ministry being south of the border, Bishop John is kindly giving me a licence to minister in Edinburgh Diocese, and I look forward to helping Nick and other local clergy as invited. I'll also have the occasional trip back to England: I am preaching at Hereford Cathedral through Holy Week at the beginning of April this year for example – that will be my re-boot after a three-month post-retirement break from preaching.

I was born in Liverpool, though with some distant Scottish blood, as my name gives away, and have lived most of my life in Cheshire. That includes schooldays, service in three different parishes, and eight years as Archdeacon of Chester (a bit like a Dean in a Scottish Diocese, but full-time with oversight of about 120 clergy).

At the start of 2010 came the move to Peterborough as Bishop, leading a diocese covering Northamptonshire and Rutland as well as the City of Peterborough, about 360 parishes (more than the whole Scottish Episcopal Church), 215 clergy to look after (30 more than I inherited) and 200+ licensed lay ministers. That has been a great joy but kept me busy too; I've also served on various national bodies in England, including chairing the Council for Christian Unity, and nine years in the House of Lords. I have loved it but am ready for a slower lifestyle – just as well since I've reached 70, the compulsory retirement age for bishops in the Church of England.

I love preaching and teaching as well as pastoral care of clergy. During lockdown I started video-recording a sermon on the gospel reading for each Sunday and a midweek meditation on a psalm. These were made available to all our parishes, and many incorporated them into online services. I have just completed the full three-year cycle of gospel readings as well as talks on all the psalms, together with teaching series on several books of the Bible.

In 2011 I inaugurated a diocesan link with the three Anglican dioceses of South Korea. Half a dozen visits there, and welcoming Korean Christians to Peterborough, has been great fun as well as educational for both sides.

Another great love is leading pilgrimages to the Holy Land. Those who have travelled with me often testify, as I do, that the Bible and their faith have come alive for them in new ways. I hope I can find ways of continuing that ministry.

What does retirement hold? Part-time ministry by invitation from Nick or Bishop John I hope. Reading, walking, more time with family. Occasional trips to England where I will continue to mentor a few senior clergy. Being at St Peter's more than six times a year for sure. I look forward to that.

Nick adds: We wish Bishop Donald a very long, healthy, satisfying, interesting and happy retirement, and we look forward to having him worship with us on a more regular basis. Once he has had a chance to rest and settle into a new pattern of life, we greatly look forward to him preaching and becoming more involved in the worshipping life of St Peter's!

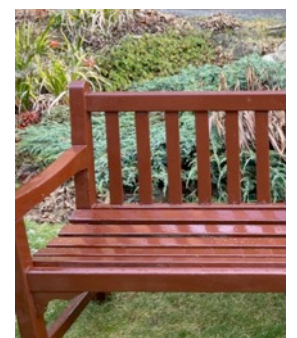
'New' Garden Bench



Pre-repair...

Mr John Spencely CBE has spent time in his workshop during these cold winter months, fixing up another of St Peter's broken garden benches. Not only has he fixed the bench, he also customised the paint colour to match the old one!

We greatly appreciate his beautiful craftsmanship! See the photos of the work in progress that are on the wall in the hall.



Rev Nick Wills will bless the newly restored bench after the Thursday service on 2nd February at around 12pm.

Befriending Craft Sessions

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

St Peter's, with Edinburgh Interfaith, will be running Befriending Craft Sessions for the next 6 months. This is an extension of our previous craft club, in which people brought along their personal projects and, as I am told, "put the world to rights" over tea and craft!

Starting in January, we will have one craft session per month, with the option of a craft activity (or your own project), a cuppa and good conversation. Edinburgh Interfaith is working with some local organisations to refer individuals who may be in need of social connection.

In January we learned Mandala Art. Our schedule of activities is as follows:

22 nd February	Pressed Flower Lanterns
29 th March	Clay Pinch Pots
26 th April	Origami Flowers
31 st May	Mosaic Art
28 th June	Bookmark Weaving

If you want to join us, please let me know, so that I can keep an eye on numbers. Email: communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Monday Group

By Liz Philp

Our Christmas Party on Monday 12th December ushered in the festive season nicely with excellent entertainment by Chris Hodgson and his Barbershop Quartet, Christmas crackers, tea / coffee and posher-than-usual cakes, with quizzes and anagrams for people to do at their tables.



On Monday 9th January we welcomed St Peter's member Morag MacCormick who gave a most interesting talk about Teaching Nursing in China. Morag was one of the first university graduates in Nursing Studies at Edinburgh University and later taught in the Nursing Studies department of Queen Margaret University. She has also carried out many international

consultancies and has worked in over twenty countries. With its one-child policy in place for many years, China is now facing a problem of caring for its elderly population.

To help to rectify the shortage of trained personnel, Morag led the development of a Care of the Elderly nursing curriculum in Nanning, Gaunxi Province, in south-west China. She was also invited to act as a consultant in Care of the Elderly for one of the large Nanning hospitals which was keen to develop Care of the Elderly policies and procedures. In two universities in Guangzhou and Yunnan provinces, Morag delivered programmes on collaborative and active methods of teaching and learning, the current approach being traditional and rather rigid. Morag entertained us with descriptions of life in China including the food, which was not adapted to western tastes - chicken feet and ducks' beaks a speciality!

Our next Monday afternoon meeting is on 6th February when we will have a speaker from Christian Aid. 2.30pm in the Hall as usual. All welcome. We ask only £1 per afternoon for members, but £2 from non-members. Refreshments are served at the end.

Two further events are coming up. On Tuesday 21st February, after a long Covid gap, we are happy to say that we will once again be holding a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party and Silent Auction in the Hall at 6.30pm. Tickets are £5, Students £3, and Families £12. Tickets include 1 savoury, 1 sweet pancake and soft drinks. If you want to drink wine it's BYOB. Do not take your unwanted Christmas gifts and other good quality items to a charity shop, ring 0131 667 1191 or 07974 958 262 to arrange to have your donations collected. You can even bring them to the church hall on the afternoon of 21st February. Please bring all your friends and neighbours – the more people who come, the more money we will raise.



On Friday 3rd March the World Day of Prayer is being held at St Peter's at 2.30pm. The service this year has been prepared by Christian women in Taiwan. This ecumenical service is no longer only for women; all are welcome, it would be great if as many St Peter's people as possible could come to join our friends from various other Southside churches – including Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, Methodists, Salvation Army and Congregational Church.

For further information about the Monday Group you can contact the committee via office@stpetersedinburgh.org

January Vestry Update

By Janice Allister, Vestry Secretary

We met online on 11th January, as agreed for the winter months. The Christmas Tree was due to be taken away that day by the council! We reviewed the Christmas services, which were generally felt to have gone well.

While Kristee was on leave in December and hall work was being done, the toddler group had met in the church on Mondays and Thursdays, thanks to volunteers who helped. The children were able to make forts out of piles of kneelers, and use the aisles for mobile toys and bikes. There were opportunities to answer parents' questions about what the church means to us, and some of the families came to the Crib Service on 19th December. We hope that the Toddlers will continue to meet in church from time to time as the children seemed to enjoy it so much.

We were encouraged to hear of the near completion of the Hall inside work. The varnish smell was still evident on the next Sunday! Our next job is the roof, which is badly in need of repair. Leaks have already started to spoil the new ceiling. We appreciate the patience of all our hall users.

Laura gave us an update on finance. There will need to be a special effort and appeal for the roof, as the inside work has been very extensive and spent all the money allocated. As reported at the AGM, the general funds are also projected to be in deficit this year by over £40,000.

Hope Park Crescent has needed work on the windows and general improvements, which used up all the rent money.

Encouraging news was the SEC grant for the Rectory preparations for receiving a Ukrainian refugee family. Due to complications, the family originally expected is no longer coming, but another is expected soon.

A major item was the result of the torrential rain bouts which could not be dealt with by drainage in the corner of the roof where the bowling shed is situated. There was an ingress of water into the church and flooding in the organ chamber cellar. The pump could not cope. Thanks to friends and members of the church, temporary solutions have been found. The organ electrics were at risk. There will be more investigations of the drainage systems and the organ pump.

Please pray for all these concerns. The next Vestry meeting is scheduled for 1st February 2023.

Toddler Group

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

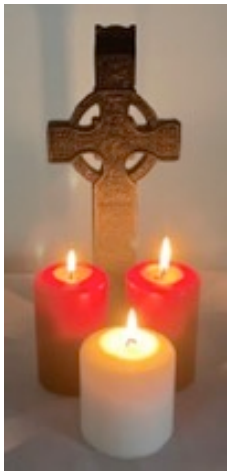
We are finally back in the hall! As you can see from the photo on the back page, taken by the talented Nicole Chinnappen, the hall is looking gorgeous and it's been great to be back in the warm open space, and to use our new toy cupboards! We have also reverted to our original times, 9.30am-11.30am, every Monday and Thursday during term time.

If you know any parents, grandparents or carers who would like to join us, feel free to email Kristee:

communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Music Notes

By Rupert Forbes, Director of Music



CHORAL EVENSONG SERVICES

Choral Evensong will next be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 29th January. We hope that many will come and share this beautiful service.

Please note that the February Evensong has been moved to 19th February, at 6.30pm.

Dates of Choral Evensong in 2023:

19th February, 26th March, 30th April, 28th May, 25th June.

If you and/or your child are interested in joining the choir, or for information about Voice for Life, please email Rupert and Sheila at office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Front cover photograph: Arthur's Seat, taken by Aderonke Shoyinka, during the Walking Group Winter Walk on 14th January, 2023. See p. 14

Walking Group

Regular walks will resume in the spring. If however you would like to hear about any 'last minute' walks such as that below, and are not already on the Walking Group email list, please email the office and ask to be added to it. office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Winter Walk along some Auld Ways

By Janet Hodgson, Walk Co-ordinator

On Saturday 14th January some 10 brave souls set out on the first St Peter's walk of the year. We started at the Commonwealth Pool steps and headed down Holyrood Park Rd to enter the Innocent Railway tunnel.

Many of you might have used the Innocent Railway tunnel to head towards Duddingston and beyond but have you realised that it is the first railway tunnel in Scotland? The tunnel is 518m long and bored through the bedrock of King's Park; it has an incline of 1:30 heading toward Edinburgh which maybe doesn't sound much but I can say if you are cycling back that way after a long day is very noticeable. The railway was constructed to bring coal from the



Midlothian coalfields to "Auld Reekie". It was referred to as the Innocent Railway due to it being horse drawn. In an age when the early steam engines were viewed with mistrust for being too dangerous and too fast, this was thought a safer alternative. The incline through the tunnel was too steep for the horses and wagons were hauled up on rope drawn by two steam engines. When it opened in July 1831 it was only a limited track from the terminus at St Leonards to Craighall but it was quickly extended to Dalhousie and on to Newtongrange.

The line carried a lot of coal into Edinburgh; between 130 and 190 wagons a day could be moved to the depot and coal yard at St Leonards. It didn't take long for an enterprising businessman to put a stagecoach on the tracks to carry passengers, this proved to be a great success with over 14,000 passengers travelling on the first month alone. The St Leonards Branch, and the tunnel, was closed to passengers in 1847, but it carried on in use for coal and goods. It was only in 1968 with the closure of the last coal yard that the line became was redundant and was closed down.

From the end of the Innocent Railway track at Duddingston Rd we turned sharp right onto the King's Haugh. A haugh is low lying meadow in a river valley and indeed it follows the Braid Burn though much of the meadow is now built up leaving what is now Prestonfield Golf course on the other side. When we reached Peffermill Road we past Peffermill House which dates back to the 17th century and is still occupied today. The house is reputedly connected to Craigmillar Castle by an underground passage. Both properties were held by the Gilmour family for hundreds of years. Dr Johnson and Boswell are thought to have visited Peffermill. Sir Walter Scott is believed to have used the house in *The Heart of Midlothian*, calling it Dumbiedykes.

On crossing Peffermill Road we entered Craigmillar Castle Park, another historic area. If you have never visited the park there are numerous routes through different habitats and you can, of course, visit the castle. We followed the western edge to arrive at Bridgend Farmhouse for some very welcome refreshments in their community café. Bridgend is a community owned and run charitable organisation with a mission to ensure the renovated farmhouse exists as a sustainable community-owned centre for learning, eating and exercise. Chris Hodgson can be found there on most Wednesdays providing lunch for the volunteers.

From there you can cross Old Dalkeith Rd to go through Inch Park passing the 17th century Inch House or simply walk, as we did, to Cameron Toll for various options for homeward travel.

Although it was cold and blustery we managed to avoid most of any showers. Our walk was about 3.2 miles.

St Peter's Book Club

By Kristee Boyd, Community Development Officer

Over the Christmas/New Year break, we have been reading an excellent book called *Breath: The new science of a lost art* by James Nestor.

We will start the year with an in-person meet up at Tricia's house to discuss this book and to choose our next one. If you are interested in joining our Book Club, feel free to email Kristee:

communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Mercy Ships

This Christmas St Peter's supported the medical charity Mercy Ships.

One of our members, Phil Booth, is spending a year working as an Engineer with this Christian charity.

During Advent and Christmas, the congregation and visitors donated £788.65 to help provide life changing surgical procedures in countries where a National Health Service is a distant dream.



Coincidentally, over Christmas Mercy Ships then had a match funding arrangement, so St Peter's donation effectively became £1,577.

On the Narthex notice board is a lovely 'thank you' letter we recently received from Mercy Ships. If you are able, please do read it! Information about the charity can be found at <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>

Thank You, again!

For Christmas, Catherine Rednall, our Head Chorister, designed and painted a beautiful Christmas picture and sold them to the congregation and friends. Catherine generously decided to support Mercy Ships, our Christmas Charity, by donating £1 from every card she sold. No actual cheque was presented this time, but a big thank you is given to Catherine for her donation of £100, and for her continued kindness and generosity!



Magazine Articles

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

Thank you!

*The DEADLINE for the
March, 2023 issue is
Thursday 16th February*

Eco-Matters

Flowers *by Liz Mackay*

To add to our eco status of gaining our Silver Eco-Congregation Award, it would be good if the congregation could contribute flowers from their gardens, eliminating the air miles used by commercially imported flowers. Nowadays we only have flowers at festival times such as harvest, but I am old fashioned and would love to see flowers in church often.

I have ideas to plant flowers for cutting in the church garden. Please remember this when you are dividing suitable plants in your own gardens or have excess seedlings.

Any help with the church garden will be hugely appreciated!

Those hard-to-recycle items *by Christine Bethune*

We've mentioned before the problems of disposing of items made of composite materials and which therefore can't be recycled via normal local recycling facilities. These include such items as dental products (toothpaste tubes, toothbrushes, floss cases) and pump dispensers. This month it was suggested that we also look at blister packs – the packaging used for medical tablets – and inhalers.

After online searching, contacting and visiting various selling points, I often knew more than sales staff about who recycles what and even what their own stores offer. Nearly everyone thought that Superdrug took blister packs – but read on...

- X Blister packs: a very disappointing result. Superdrug, the only company with a recycling scheme, no longer accept these unless they have an in-store pharmacy. The nearest one is in... Stirling Thistle Centre! Perhaps it's worth saving the packs for your next visit or if someone can take them for you...
- ✓ Dental products, cosmetics dispensers and packaging (not soft wrapping), can be recycled using the Boots Scan2Recycle programme. This is worth a look: see the website at <https://boots.scan2recycle.com/> Scan the container you want to recycle for the website to verify. The FAQs include a wide list of accepted and excluded items, and it's possible to scan brands not specifically listed. I tested it and it accepted all my items including a one-off Lidl hand lotion pump dispenser.

The only participating Edinburgh store is in Princes Street, at the back of the shop. Advantage card rewards are given for accepted items. I think, however, that you could pop unscanned items in the recycling box without going through the reward scheme.

- ✓ Inhalers: these should be returned to a pharmacy, not put into landfill. They may contain gases which contribute to global warming. Pharmacies can dispose of them responsibly although they cannot recycle them.

There is a long way to go before these everyday items can easily be disposed of responsibly and conveniently. Like Superdrug's blister pack scheme, they are subject to the company deciding whether and where to continue with the scheme. Customer pressure is needed! And if anyone out there has better information, we'd be delighted to hear it!

Fresh Start

By Pat Whike



A special thank is given you to all who have recently donated such useful and good quality equipment to Fresh Start. It is greatly appreciated!

Fresh Start is always in need of various household donations. If you would like to help, please pick up a leaflet at the back of the church, or see their webpage; <https://www.freshstartweb.org.uk/>

Helping Ukrainians

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

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

Christian Aid offer assistance to Ukraine refugees who are fleeing the deadly violence.

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

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)

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

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. Changes brought about by Covid have led to an increasing number of donations being submitted directly via bank transfer but a few stalwarts maintain their use of blue free-will offering envelopes. If anyone wants to donate by this latter method regularly on a weekly basis then please see me to obtain a supply of envelopes - they are individually numbered and gift-aided which saves having to fill in specific details each time.

Donations via Standing Order from your own bank can be made 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

*Gift Aid
Envelope*



Small white envelopes found at the back of church are available for less regular or one-off donations to St Peter's. If you are able and wish to Gift Aid your donation, please write 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.

One-off donations can also be made by Internet banking directly into St Peter's bank account.

Another way of giving is via our 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>.

The generosity of St Peter's additional giving is evident with several charity appeals being well supported in recent months. These include the Harvest Meal in October which raised £174 for St Peter's work with refugees and support for the Ukrainian family that Nick and Becky will soon be hosting, which benefitted tremendously from the production and the sale of "Sunflower for Ukraine" greetings cards painted by Catherine Rednall who, with mother Christine, has donated all the profits (£250) to this cause.

St Peter's Christmas appeal was for Mercy Ships and raised a magnificent total, including gift aid, of £788.65. Additionally, through a most generous anonymous Mercy Ships supporter offering to match every gift made in recent months, this sum will be doubled!

Other charities supported by St Peter's church include Newington Foodbank and Fresh Start, co-ordinated by Tricia Anderson and Pat Whike, respectively.

For further information on how you can help to support God's mission and ministry in St Peter's through giving, or to update your tax status, please contact:

Gift Aid Secretary Chris Hodgson or the **Hon. Treasurer** Laura Bird
via development@stpetersedinburgh.org

Keeping in Touch

Each Saturday evening the service information and notices are emailed out to congregational members. If you do not already receive these emails and wish to keep in touch, please email Sheila via the church office; office@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Sheila and Laura work flexibly part-time, mostly working from home. The office telephone number is 0131 563 8198. 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 email:

The Rector, Rev Nick Wills, and our Associate Priest, Rev Sue Whitehouse via email: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

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>

If you have moved, have a new phone number, or are not sure whether we hold your contact details, please contact Sheila in the office.

Sheila will then be able to update our records. Thank you!

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 Pastoral 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.uk](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org.uk)

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.

Sunday Readings

**The passages being read*

February, 2023

Thursday 2nd & Sunday 5th February Candlemas

Malachi 3: 1-5 ♦ Psalm 24: 1-10 ♦ *Hebrews 2: 14-18 ♦ *Luke 2: 22-40

12th February Epiphany 6

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 ♦ Psalm 119:1-8 ♦ *1 Corinthians 3:1-9 ♦ *Matthew 5:21-37

19th February Transfiguration Sunday / Sunday before Lent

Leviticus 19: 1-2, 9-18 ♦ Psalm 119: 33-40 ♦ *1 Corinthians 3: 10-11, 16-23 ♦ *Matthew 5: 38-48

19th February Evensong Epiphany 7

*Amos 9: 5-15 ♦ Psalm 10 ♦ *Mark 2: 1-12

22nd February Ash Wednesday

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

26th February Lent 1

Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7 ♦ Psalm 32 ♦ *Romans 5: 12-19 ♦ *Matthew 4: 1-11

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.

Usually Last Sunday of the Month ♦ 6.30pm ♦ Choral Evensong

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

Regular Activities

Mondays & Thursdays ♦ 10am-11.30am ♦ Toddler Group

Thursdays (*In Church.*)

6.15pm, Voice for Life ♦ 7pm-8pm, Junior Choir ♦ **7.45pm,** Adult Choir

Last Monday of the Month ♦ 7.30pm ♦ St Peter's Book Club (*On Zoom*)

Special Events in February

Sun 29th Jan Choral Evensong ♦ 6.30pm

Mon 30th Jan St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7.30pm

Thur 2nd Feb Communion Service ♦ 11am

Thur 2nd Feb Blessing of the mended garden bench ♦ c. 12.15pm

Mon 6th Feb Monday Group ♦ 2.30pm

Thur 16th Feb March Magazine Deadline

Sun 19th Feb Student Cinema Trip ♦ After the 10.45am service

Sun 19th Feb Choral Evensong ♦ 6.30pm

Tues 21st Feb Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party & Silent Auction ♦ 6.30pm

Wed 22nd Feb Befriending Craft Session ♦ 10am-12noon

Wed 22nd Feb Ash Wednesday Communion Service ♦ 7.30pm

Sun 26th Feb Ukrainian Community Meal ♦ Time TBC

Mon 27th Feb St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7.30pm

Thur 2nd Mar Communion Service ♦ 11am

Fri 3rd Mar World Day of Prayer ♦ 2.30pm (*In St Peter's*)

People

CLERGY

Rector Rev Nick Wills
Associate Priest Rev Sue Whitehouse

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

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
Toddler Group (Mondays & Thursdays) Kristee Boyd
Monday Group Jane Sutherland
Thursday Lunch Club (1st Thursday) Delia Keir
Social/Outreach COG Convenor, Fair Trade, Liz

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 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.*

A big thank you to David Gibbon and Laura Bird for all that they have done to oversee and ensure that the Hall project has been a success. David brought in an excellent team of builders led by Wojtek (Left).



Ian Gibson refurbishing the sound system being installed soon...

The Hall Refurbishment has included David stripping the paintwork on the windows and repainting them.

Wojtek stripping the walls back to the brickwork before adding 4" of wood fibre insulation to the walls & ceiling...



Liz Mackay and Sue Rotter cleaning, vacuuming and mending the curtains...



Amongst many unseen things, a new and flexible lighting system has been installed, and there are new benches. Wojtek has installed shutters, cupboards, and a new pelmet to the stage, painted the hall with a new colour scheme, and revarnished the floor...

*An enormous and grateful 'Thank You' to Nick, David, Laura, Wojtek, Liz M., Sue R., Ian G., and all who have helped with the project. And to all our Hall users, who have been very patient during the work!
It has been worth the wait!*

Photograph of the hall taken by Nicole Chinnappen.



Next month we will have a fuller description of all the amazing work that has been done!