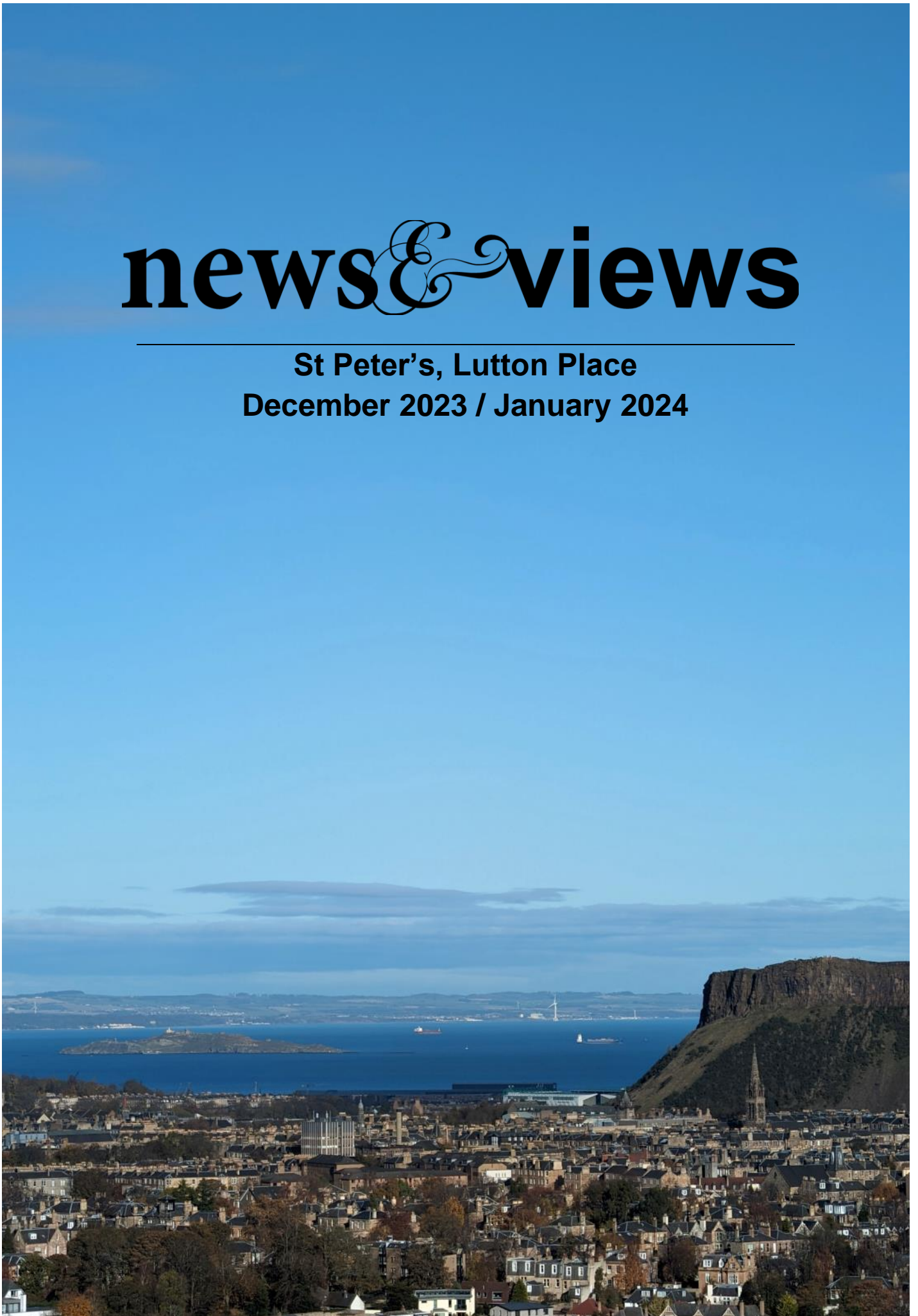


news & views

St Peter's, Luton Place
December 2023 / January 2024



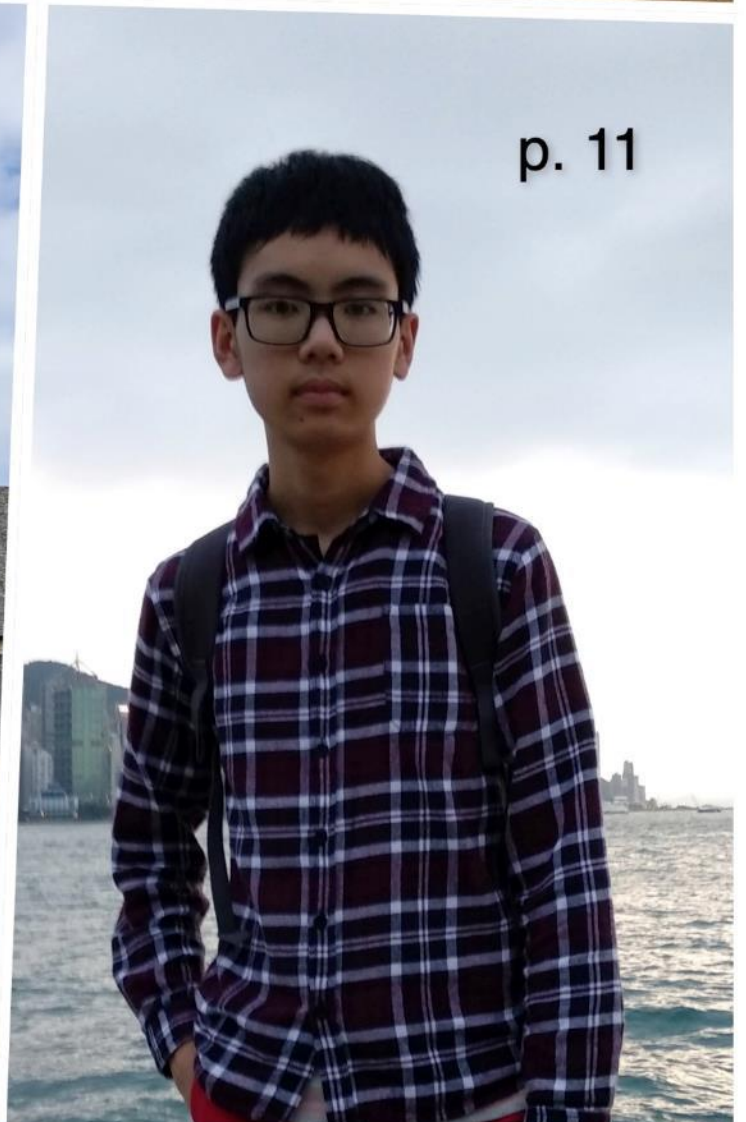
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From the Rector

Rev Nick Wills

The weather is getting colder today, with flurries of sleety snow, as we head into the new church year beginning with Advent and then on to Christmas and into 2024.

We will begin Advent with our Tree Lighting ceremony on Sunday 3rd December. This is always a wonderful community event, with the first carols of the season around the tree, activities for the children and mulled wine for the grown-ups!

We will then be holding a series of Advent study groups on the first three Mondays in Advent. These evenings will be an opportunity to explore the Sunday morning Bible readings in more depth, responding to the Sunday sermons and considering their themes and some of the questions they raise for us, and what they ask of us. We will meet in the Choir Vestry on Mondays 4th, 11th and 18th December at 7.30pm. All are very welcome.

The next Process service will be on Sunday 10th December at 6.30pm. This will be a chance to personally engage with eight different elements of the Christmas story, at your own pace as you follow the "Stations of the Birth" around the church building. Though the story is of course so familiar, we hope that these stations will help us to think afresh, and challenge us anew.

Warm congratulations to Lenore Simpson, who has been recommended for Training for Ordination in the SEC. It's a long and very involved process, and I am delighted that the wider church has recognised Lenore's gifts in this way. Lenore's training will begin in late summer next year.

News & Views
*December 2023 /
January 2024*

St Peter's
Lutton Place
Edinburgh
SC017358

The Scottish Episcopal Church

The Rt Revd John Armes
Bishop, Diocese of Edinburgh

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office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Tel No: 0131 563 8198

Sheila and Laura work flexibly part-time. 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. Webpage;

<https://stpetersedinburgh.org/>

I am also delighted that we are able to welcome Christian Wong as our Organ Scholar this year. You can read more about Christian on page 11.

We are supporting Mercy Ships again as our Advent and Christmas Charity. One of our members, Phil Booth, has again returned to work with this life-changing charity as an Engineer. (See page 14)

I have really enjoyed being part of our Toddler Group team this term, and getting to know the children and their families, and I am looking forward to inviting them to join me for a toddler-friendly Nativity Service on Thursday 21st December at 10am.

Our choir have been working hard preparing for all of our Christmas services but especially the atmospheric and beautiful traditional Service of Lessons and Carols which will be on Sunday 17th December at 6.30pm. This replaces the December Choral Evensong.

On Christmas Eve, this year Sunday 24th, as well as the usual Sunday morning 9am and 10.45am Communion services, there will be a Midnight Communion, starting at 11.30pm, and then on Christmas morning there will be one service for all at 10.45am.

We hope that everyone at St Peter's can find a way to engage with Advent, and celebrate the joy of Christmas, through self-reflection, creativity, music, crafts, community and through sharing Communion together as a family.

So, it remains for me to wish you a peaceful and blessed Christmas. I pray that you will experience joy and community as we worship the Christ-child together and look to 2024 with hope in the Light of the World.

Your Rector,
Nick



Christmas & New Year Services

As we light the Advent Candles, each Sunday there is a particular focus which places the coming of Jesus into the story of God's saving relationship with God's people through the ages:

Advent Sunday Patriarchs & Matriarchs

Advent 2 The Prophets

Advent 3 John the Baptist

Advent 4 Mary

3rd Dec 9am Said Communion

Advent Sunday 10.45am Communion

5pm Tree Lighting Ceremony on Advent Sunday

7th Dec 11am Monthly Thursday Communion

10th Dec 9am Said Communion

Advent 2 10.45am Communion

6.30pm Process

17th Dec 9am Said Communion

Advent 3 10.45am Communion

6.30pm Carol Service

21st Dec 10am Crib Service for pre-school children

24th Dec 9am Said Communion

Advent 4 10.45am Communion

Christmas Eve 11.30pm Midnight Communion with Carols

25th Dec 10.45am Communion & Carols for Christmas Day

Christmas Day

31st Dec 9am Said Communion

Christmas 1 10.45am Communion with Carols

4th Jan 11am Monthly Thursday Communion

7th Jan 9am Epiphany Sunday Said Communion

Epiphany 10.45am Epiphany Sunday Sung Communion

14th Jan 9am Said Communion

Epiphany 2 10.45am Communion

6.30pm Process

21st Jan 9am Said Communion

Epiphany 3 10.45am Communion

28th Jan 9am Said Communion

Epiphany 4 10.45am Communion

6.30pm Choral Evensong

A retiring collection for 'Mercy Ships', our Christmas Charity, will be held during all services and events over Advent & Christmas.

Children's Church

All children are very welcome to our services. During the 10.45am Sunday service, Children's Church activities take place with children leaving during the first Bible reading. Children are also very welcome to use and enjoy the activity and colouring-in station set up at the back of church, in the Children's Corner.

If you have any questions, please speak to a Welcomer before the service.

Epiphany Youth Meet-Up: Saturday 6th Jan, 6-9pm

Held in Old St Paul's, the next Diocesan Youth Meet-Up (12-18) will include time together socialising, time with and for God, and eating. Any questions can be directed to [Fee Reynolds](#).



Young Adults / Students

On Friday 24th November, a number of our students and young adults met together to celebrate American Thanksgiving. The delicious dinner was an amazing spread, and a great evening was had by all. A big 'thank you' is extended to Christian Anderson for organising, cooking and hosting the event. See the photo on the front inside cover!



We warmly welcome new students and young adults, and there will be a varied programme of special events throughout the year for them to get to know each other better.

Any students who want further details are invited to join our student email list. For more details speak to either Nick or Sheila, or email communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org.

Process

Forthcoming dates for our creative, interactive and hopefully spiritually uplifting evening worship experience are Sundays 10th December: a reflective service exploring the Christmas Story; 14th January and 11th February.

We usually meet in the hall, but may move around the building, into the church, Millar Chapel, or if it is nice weather, outside.



The service is from 6.30pm – 7.30pm, usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month, lasts about an hour, and refreshments are available afterwards.



All are very welcome.

Advent Study Groups

Mondays 4th, 11th & 18th December, 7.30pm-9pm

On the three Mondays during Advent, 4th, 11th & 18th December, we are holding our Advent Study Group from 7.30pm-9pm in the Choir Vestry. Based on the sermon given at the 10.45am service the day before, the leader will give some questions for reflection and discussion, and the group can ask questions about the sermon and Bible passage(s).

Attending the service the day before is helpful but not essential. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Toddler Group

Our Toddler Group, for those aged 0-3, runs on Mondays and Thursdays during school term time, 9.30am – 11.30am. Cost is £1 per family per session and tea/coffee and snacks are provided. Our groups are very welcoming and friendly, with families from all over the world!



The last Toddler Group before Christmas is on Monday 18th December. Then from 10am-11am on Thursday 21st December, Rev Nick Wills will lead a fun, interactive and child-friendly re-telling of the Christmas Story, to which all pre-school children and their parents / grandparents / guardians / carers are very welcome. In the New Year the Toddler Group resumes again on Thursday 11th January.

If you know a family with young children who would like to join us, email; childrenandfamilies@stpetersedinburgh.org

Befriending Craft Group

A 'Christmas Special' Craft Group for adults will be held in the hall from 10am-12 noon on Wednesday 6th December. This will be led by Sarah and please let Laura know if you plan to go. development@stpetersedinburgh.org

November Vestry Update

By Janice Allister, Vestry Secretary

Vestry members met on the 1st November online, following the in-person AGM on 29th October.

We welcomed Christian Anderson as a newly elected member and Lenore Simson for her second three-year term. We thanked Roddy Simson, the elected Lay Representative and welcomed Jan Sidaway's election as the Alternate Lay Representative.

We had updates on the Church Buildings:

Work on the Hall roof is nearly complete thankfully; despite and especially with the storms which have tested it!

They caused only minor flooding in the organ chamber, again testing the new drainage.

There remains the small area of dry rot in the Church roof, which will be next on the list.

Laura Bird, as treasurer, reported that she will be more able to give financial projections for this year's accounts (June 2023 -June 2024) at the January 2024 meeting.

Donald, asked by Nick to lead the small group for the recruitment of a new children's and youth worker, reported on their meeting. Until the worker arrives, Becky Wills and Rachel Petrie are arranging activities for children in the Hall or the Millar Chapel during part of the 10.45am service. We are grateful to them.

We noted Christian Wong's appointment as organ scholar and looked forward to his involvement.

The results of the discussion following the question raised at the AGM about the administration of Communion was reported in the November issue of News and Views. Our focus was considering welcoming children and others for whom alcohol was not appropriate. No changes would be made to the present arrangements.

Please continue to pray for your Vestry.

Our next Vestry meetings are scheduled for 6th December and 3rd January.

Hall Roof Update

By Laura Bird, Buildings Manager

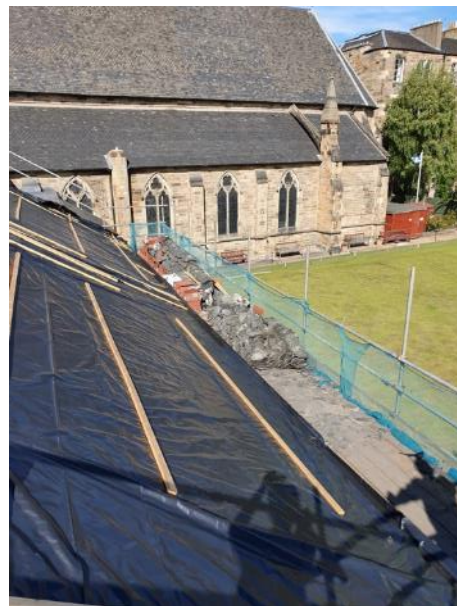
With financial support from Valencia Communities Fund, Benefact Trust and St Peter's congregation our new hall roof is almost complete.

The scaffolding went up in late August and the tiny old Scotch slates were stripped off. Since then ventilation points were cut in, a breathable membrane laid and new large slates laid.

The original roof had space for a fan in the ridge although never seen in living memory. This has now been replaced with a new zinc and lead capped fleche (or spirelet) to house an extractor fan. Although the windows were refurbished recently to open and close the extractor fan allows controlled air change without letting loads of cold air into the building. It also means that for noisier events stale air (and sound) can be extracted upwards instead of out at the neighbours.

The final bill has yet to be settled but has been made easier thanks to £25,000 from Valencia Communities Fund and £3,000 from Benefact Trust.

Photos of the roof work in progress are on the back cover.



Bishop Donald in Hereford

Donald writes: I shall be away the first week of December, doing a week of Advent Bible studies, each morning and afternoon, at Hereford Cathedral. I'm quite strict on following the Church of England convention that retired clergy don't go back to minister (or to interfere!) where they have served, which rules out Chester, Rochester and Peterborough Dioceses for me; but I love teaching the Bible, the Dean (C of E speak for Provost) of Hereford has asked me to do a week of this from time to time (this will be my third visit), and the Bishop of Hereford has given me his permission to officiate there. I also do some online YouTube studies specifically for Hereford Cathedral.

I'd be grateful for your prayers for that ministry, and for safe travel.

Bishop Donald's Online Bible Teaching

By Bishop Donald Allister

Donald's YouTube Bible teaching continues every Monday.
<http://www.youtube.com/@feedmysheep2023>

On 4th December he finishes his four studies in Hosea. 11th, 18th and 25th December will see a short Advent and Christmas series on the Prologue to John's gospel, John 1: 1-18. On New Year's Day he begins a series on Paul's letter to the Colossians.

Donald always welcomes comments, questions, and suggestions. He can be contacted via the office.

Music Notes

By Rupert Forbes, Director of Music



We are delighted to announce and introduce our 2023-2024 Organ Scholar, Christian Wong. We wish him all our best wishes as he pursues his organ studies. Grateful thanks too is given to the donor of the scholarship this year.



Our Carol Service is at 6.30pm on 17th December.

Choral Evensong will next be held at 6.30pm on 28th January and 25th February.



Choir rehearsals are on a Thursday night and new members are always very welcome to join the choir!

6.15pm-7pm Voice for Life for Junior Choristers (*optional*)

7pm-8pm Junior Choir (aged 8-18)

7.45pm-9.30pm Adults (aged 17+)

If you or your child are interested in joining the choir, please contact Rupert by emailing office@stpetersedinburgh.org

For information about Voice for Life, please contact Sheila: office@stpetersedinburgh.org



Welcome to Christian, our new Organ Scholar!

Christian writes;

Hello! I'm Christian. I am very grateful to be invited to St Peter's as this year's Organ Scholar. I feel privileged to worship with you all and have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities so far to meet you all and sing together in the choir. It's been a new experience singing the tenor line, especially with my changing voice!



A bit about myself: I am 13 and from Edinburgh. I have a passion for piano, organ and violin (and occasional composition), particularly the music of J. S. Bach and Brahms. I am currently playing Brahms' Intermezzo in E-flat minor on piano, and Smetana's Aus der Heimat on violin. My hobbies are cycling, badminton and table tennis. My favourite food is pan-fried pork and cabbage dumplings!

Thank you for your kindness in welcoming me so warmly. I look forward to meeting many more of you over the coming few weeks. I pray that I will be able to serve God humbly and faithfully through my musical contributions. 'Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith and purity.' (1 Timothy 4: 12) Glory to God in the highest!

Monday Group

By Liz Philp

On Monday 13th November John Graham gave a most interesting illustrated talk about Isfahan in Iran. He commenced by giving us some background such as the difference between the Shia and Sunni branches of Islam - the Muslims of Iran are Shia, as opposed to most of the surrounding Arab nations who are Sunni. In 1598 Shah Abbas the Great made Isfahan the capital of Persia due to its pivotal trading position on the Silk Road. During the seventeenth century it flourished and was considered by many to be the largest and most beautiful city in the world with its many amazing decorated buildings built around the



St Peter's, Lutton Place • 11

Naqsh-e-Jahan Square – mosques, palaces, minarets, all accessed by decorated covered bridges.

Our next meeting is our Christmas Party on Monday 11th December at 2.30pm in the hall. There will be food, crackers, quizzes and games; Chris Hodgson and his Barbershop Quartet have kindly agreed to provide entertainment and Sheila will play for us to sing carols at the end. All are most warmly invited to this event, but if you are coming please inform our secretary, Pam Dugan via the office, as we will need to know numbers for catering purposes. (Members £1/Non-members £2)

On Monday 8th January Mike Scott will be giving a talk on the History of the Colinton Tunnel.

The cost of annual membership of the Monday Group remains at £5. We ask £1 per meeting for members, but £2 from non-members.

We would like to encourage all those who come and enjoy our meetings to become members. For further information about the Monday Group speak to Pam, our president Jane Sutherland, or Liz Philp. They can all be contacted via the office.

COG

By Liz Hare, Convenor of the Community Outreach Group

This is always the busy time of year for St Peter's Community Outreach Group. We're looking forward to the Christmas Tree Lighting event on 3rd December at 5pm. For many people in the local community this marks the true start of the festive season – never mind the glittery displays and cheesy music we've been suffering since early November!

Our big garden tree lights are switched on, we sing a few carols outside then move into the hall where mulled drinks, warm mince pies await us while we sing more carols round the piano. There are arts activities for the children. It's totally informal and child friendly. Please encourage friends and family to come along.

On 20th January at 7pm we hold the St Peter's Burns Supper. Tickets for this popular event are £15 full, £10 concession for children, students and OAPs. There are the usual entertaining speeches, songs, music, a few dances, and a three-course meal of cock-a-leekie soup, haggis (meat and veg), neeps and tatties, and cranachan. There will be a bar and tombola to

raise funds for the church. Please hand in any unwanted gifts for the tombola. Last year's Burns Supper sold out so please book your tickets early and tell your friends.

Laura has designed an attractive flier so please take a few to pass to your neighbours. Help COG spread the word! These occasions attract people from our local community so we want them to keep them informed.

Please contact Liz Hare via the office to volunteer to help with delivering hampers to the New Scots, an important part of our church's outreach.

St Peter's Book Club

By Liz Hare, Book Club

The Book Group meets once a month in the choir vestry and welcomes anyone who likes reading and wishes to discuss books with friendly, like-minded people.

At our next meeting on Monday 29th January, we'll be talking about Harper Lee's classic novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This humane and much-loved novel tackles racism and the experience of childhood in the Deep South, with Atticus Finch, a courageous lawyer who defends an Afro-American man against false charges of rape.

For any further information about the group, please email Liz Hare via the office.

Magazine Articles

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

Thank you!

*The DEADLINE for the
February issue is
Thursday 18th January*

Front Cover Photo taken by Rev Nick Wills.

Mercy Ships, Christmas Charity

Our 2023 Christmas Charity will again be Mercy Ships.

One of our members, Phil Booth, is spending a second year working as an Engineer with Mercy Ships, a Christian charity that operates hospital ships. These bring life-changing surgical and medical care to communities which would otherwise be without them, and where healthcare is very limited or sometimes non-existent.



With 44% of the population in Africa living within 100 miles of a coast, the most efficient way to bring a state-of-the-art hospital to thousands in need is by using their two ships, Global Mercy and Africa Mercy, Global Mercy being the largest charity-run hospital ship in the world. The two ships enable safe, affordable and timely access to health care and surgery to developing countries in Africa.

More information can be found about Mercy Ships at <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>

There will be an opportunity to give to support this important charity during all our Advent and Christmas services.

From Advent Sunday, a box for cash donations and Gift Aid envelopes marked 'Christmas Charity' will be at the back of the church.

Eco-Matters

Emails and their Environmental Impact

By Anna McKinlay

We send billions of emails daily, and their environmental impact is larger than you might think. Each email takes electricity to type, and to send through the network. There's then the energy used by large data centres to store emails in inboxes. In 2019 293.6 billion emails were sent each day globally. The carbon emissions produced by one year of global emailing is equivalent to an extra seven million cars on the roads.

Emails with attachments equate to around 50g CO2 emissions, whereas text only are around 4g.

What can I do to improve my email impact?

- Delete emails you no longer need
- Don't send unnecessary emails
- Delete spam emails before opening them (this will save on energy for downloading it)
- Unsubscribe from marketing emails that you don't read / don't want to receive
- Don't send unnecessary attachments.
- I for one should turn my laptop off each night too, rather than leaving it on standby!

Info and facts from 'Is it Really Green?' by Georgina Wilson-Powell (Dorling Kindersley, 2021)

Christine Bethune comments: Sounds like a really good focus for my New Year's resolution!

Stewardship and Gift Aid

By Dr Chris Hodgson, Gift Aid Secretary

We thank the many members who regularly give and contribute financially to aid the continuation of the work of God in St Peter's.

No collection is taken during our services, and for those who would like to give by cash or cheque, there is a basket at the back of church and a card machine available in the hall. When required, a special box is available for Charity donations.

For those using Gift Aid Envelopes

We now use white envelopes printed ourselves and available at the back of church for donations that are Gift Aided. Currently we have 3 types of envelope for congregational members to use.

How to fill in St Peter's Gift Aid donation envelopes.

1. Numbered anonymous envelopes for general giving
2. Named envelopes for general giving
3. Named envelopes for giving to a specific charity

Gift Aid Donations to St Peter's Episcopal Church
16 Lutton Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9PE. Charity No. SC17358.

GENERAL FUND

We can claim 25p from HMRC for every £1 you give.

- Donation amount £ Cash Cheque
- Contact Name
- Date
- I have signed a Gift Aid declaration form for St Peter's.
Yes No further action is required
No If you are a UK taxpayer, please fill in the details overleaf.



Please notify the Gift Aid Secretary if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

When making donations via one of these 3 types of envelope please follow the following guidelines:

- If you donate via numbered anonymous envelopes then all that is needed is for you to write the amount offered on the envelope.
- If you donate using a General Fund or a Charity Collection envelope and have filled out a GA declaration form then all that is needed is for you to write the amount offered and your name on the envelope.
- If you donate using a General Fund or a Charity Collection envelope and have NOT filled out a GA declaration form but wish the sum donated to be eligible for GA please write the amount offered and fill out your contact details on the back of the envelope.

The gift aid system allows St Peter's to reclaim tax on almost all of these donations which adds significantly to our total giving and thank you to all who have filled out GA declaration forms for this purpose.

How to give by Standing Order or regular payment

Donations can also be made directly into 'St Peters Church' bank account.

These details are available from our Treasurer.

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 development@stpetersedinburgh.org

Hon. Treasurer Laura Bird development@stpetersedinburgh.org

Home thoughts from abroad

By Rev Chris Martin

By the time you read this, we shall be back at St Peter's. Not St Peter's, Luton Place, but St Peter's, Chantilly. This is an Anglican chaplaincy within the Diocese in Europe. Chantilly is a town of some 11,000 people, north-east of Paris, not far from Charles de Gaulle airport. The church has been here since 1863. It is a neo-Gothic building, very English in style, built on land gifted by the fabulously wealthy Duc D'Aumale; an anglophile who inherited a fortune from his uncle, the Prince de Condé.

Chantilly is well-known for lace-making and for horse-racing. It is twinned with Epsom. The church was originally built to serve the needs of expat English-speakers who worked in the horse-racing industry. At one time a significant proportion of the population was British. But the racing establishment of the Aga Khan is much diminished and there are fewer Brits than in the past.



Services are in English, based on *Common Worship* liturgy. Not very different from Luton Place. But the hymnody is more contemporary; singing is from *Songs of Fellowship* vols. 1 and 2. Susie and I have been in Chantilly before; we were there for some 12 weeks in 2017, and I spent some 14 weeks there last year. The last permanent chaplain, 2017-2022, was psychologically fragile and it turned out to be an unfortunate appointment. In consequence the Sunday attendance and the church giving are substantially lower than 6 years ago. But the Church Council have produced a mission strategy, and the church are now advertising for a new chaplain and hope to be able to pay a full stipend. As with many congregations there are some tensions within the community: some members would like to stick with the *Book of Common Prayer* and traditional hymnody, while others would prefer to move towards a less Anglican, more contemporary, family-friendly form of worship.

There will be a Service of Christmas Readings and Carols on Sunday, December 17th. Which will be candle-lit. Some of the readings and some of the carols will be in French. The scratch choir will be organised by Michelle, a Brit, whose husband Vincent, a Frenchman, has recently been posted to head up Air France at Geneva Airport. And there will be a formal Midnight Service at 11.00pm on Christmas Eve and a shortened Family Communion service on Christmas Day. We would like to think of a participatory Advent and Christmas Family Service on December 10th. But it is not clear whether there will be enough children and young people to make that possible.

Craig and the little girls, Amelia and Eloïse, will join us in Chantilly over Christmas. Which pleases Susie enormously. They and Joanna came for a weekend when we were in



Chantilly 6 years ago. Amelia is hoping that we will have lunch in Paris, in *Chez Janou*, during their visit. “*I always eat there when I’m in Paris*”, she says!

Walking Group

The Walking Group is having a break over the winter. Walks may be arranged at the last minute and if you are not already on the Walking Group email list, please email the office and ask to be added to it and receive any updates!



Helping Those in Need

Newington Foodbank+ *Tricia Anderson*



We have been receiving a regular supply of donated food since Harvest Festival which is wonderful. A big thank you to all who donate as I’m often laden down taking the supplies to the foodbank! Newington Foodbank+ has been touched by folk’s generosity. With less cash to provide top-ups, it’s meant our supplies to give out can remain solid at the moment.

It’s sobering to talk to some guests and realise how easy any of us could find ourselves using a foodbank: a business gone wrong; relationship breakups; bills piling up and suddenly the security of a job and home are no more. The cost of living is definitely affecting people. But despite circumstances, there’s laughter, folk are grateful of the support and there are indications of some lives being turned around, which is the ultimate hope.

Your steady, regular donations of fish, meat, vegetarian meals and oil as well as toiletries are appreciated. Tinned vegetables, soups (vegetarian and other) plus long-life milk and tomatoes remain staples. Toilet paper, soap powder, shower gel and shampoo are also diminishing. And with Christmas approaching, a few goodies like chocolate, Christmas treats or nuts would be an added treat.

Fresh Start *Pat White*

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/>



Humanitarian Crisis in the Gaza Strip

Due to the uncertainties around safety for Aid Workers, and the terrible loss of life of those serving in the UN, humanitarian projects in Gaza, international aid and development charities have currently suspended their work in the region.

Oxfam, amongst other members of the DEC, are still accepting donations, but there is no guarantee when such aid will be able to be provided. If you would like more details, follow updates through this link: <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/oxfam-in-action/current-emergencies/gaza-crisis-appeal/>

Ukraine

Christian Aid offer assistance to Ukraine refugees;

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

Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC)

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

Pastoral Care

By Rev Nick Wills, Rector

I am very happy to spend time with members of St Peter's when you have particular concerns or are facing difficult situations. Please feel able to speak to me to arrange a time to talk. I would be happy to meet you at my home or yours, or in a coffee shop, or to go for a walk if you prefer.

I also understand that sometimes you may feel it more appropriate to speak to either Sue or Donald, and I am grateful for their willingness to minister in this way.

If you, or someone you know, have not received Communion because you/they have been unable to come to Church, then members of our Clergy and Lay Pastoral Team would be happy to bring you Communion at home.

Please let Nick, Sue or Donald know if you hear of a member of St Peter's who is ill.

Nick can be contacted via the office.

Clergy

Our Clergy Team can be contacted via the office. Email:

office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Rector Rev Nick Wills
Associate Clergy
 Rev Sue Whitehouse
 Bishop Donald Allister



The Office

There are currently no set office hours with Laura and Sheila working flexibly part-time, sometimes from home.



Laura Amongst a number of jobs, Laura covers finances, building maintenance and hall bookings. If you would like to book the hall please contact or email Laura; development@stpetersedinburgh.org



Sheila is the Church Administrator. She deals with anything concerning church matters and supporting the Clergy Team. Usually working on a Monday and Tuesday, and Thursday and Sunday mornings, church emails are usually attended to on Mondays and Tuesdays: 10am-5pm, and Thursdays 10am-1pm. The rest of her hours are taken up with other tasks.

Sheila's email: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Rector's days off

Friday and Saturday are usually Nick 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. 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.

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.

Sunday Readings

**The passages being read*

December

3rd December Advent Sunday

Isaiah 64: 1-9 ♦ Psalm 80: 1-7,16-18 ♦ *1 Corinthians 1: 3-9 ♦ *Mark 13: 24-37

10th December The Second Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 40: 1-11 ♦ Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13 ♦ 2 Peter 3: 8-15a ♦ *Mark 1: 1-8

17th December The Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61: 1-4,8-11 ♦ Psalm 126 ♦ *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24 ♦ *John 1: 6-8,19-28

24th December The Fourth Sunday of Advent

*2 Samuel 7: 1-11,16 ♦ Magnificat (Luke 1: 46b-55) ♦ Romans 16: 25-27 ♦

*Luke 1: 26-38

24th December Christmas Eve Midnight Communion

Isaiah 62: 6-12 ♦ Psalm 97 ♦ *Hebrews 1: 1-4 ♦ *John 1: 1-14

25th December Christmas Day

*Isaiah 9: 2-7 ♦ Psalm 98 ♦ Titus 3: 4-7 ♦ *Luke 2: 1-20

31st December First Sunday after Christmas

*Isaiah 52: 7-10 ♦ Psalm 148 ♦ Galatians 4: 4-7 ♦ *Luke 2: 8-20

January, 2024

7th January Epiphany Sunday (*transferred from 6th Jan*)

*Isaiah 60: 1-6 ♦ Psalm 72: 1-7,10-14 ♦ Ephesians 3: 1-12 ♦ *Matthew 2: 1-12

14th January The Second Sunday after Epiphany

1 Samuel 3: 1-20 ♦ *Psalm 139: 1-5, 12-17 ♦ 1 Corinthians 6: 12-20 ♦

*John 1: 43-51

21st January The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10 ♦ Psalm 62: 6-14 ♦ *1 Corinthians 7: 29-31 ♦ *Mark 1: 14-20

28th January The Third Sunday after Epiphany

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20 ♦ Psalm 111 ♦ *1 Corinthians 8: 1-13 ♦ *Mark 1: 21-28

28th January The Third Sunday after Epiphany Evensong

*1 Samuel 3: 1-20 ♦ Psalm 71: 1-6, 15-17 ♦ *1 Corinthians 14: 12-20

4th February Presentation of the Lord to the Temple (*trans from 2nd Feb*)

*Malachi 3: 1-4 ♦ Psalm 84 ♦ Hebrews 2: 14-18 ♦ *Luke 2: 22-40

Dates for the Diary

Services

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

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

Second Sunday of the month (usually) ♦ 6.30pm ♦ Process

Last Sunday of the Month (usually) ♦ 6.30pm ♦ Choral Evensong

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

Regular Activities

Mondays & Thursdays ♦ 9.30am-11.30am ♦ Toddler Group (*term-time*)

Thursdays (in Church):

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

Last Monday of the Month ♦ 7pm ♦ St Peter's Book Club

Events in December & January

Sun 3rd Dec Advent Sunday ♦ 9am & 10.45am

Sun 3rd Dec Tree Lighting Ceremony ♦ 5pm

Mon 4th Dec Advent Study Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

Wed 6th Dec Befriending Craft Club ♦ 10am – 12 noon

Thur 7th Dec Communion Service ♦ 11am

Sun 10th Dec Process ♦ 6.30pm

Mon 11th Dec Monday Group Christmas Party ♦ 2.30pm-4pm

Mon 11th Dec Advent Study Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

Sun 17th Dec Carol Service ♦ 6.30pm

Mon 18th Dec Last Toddler Group before Christmas ♦ 9.30am-11.30am

Mon 18th Dec Advent Study Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

Thur 21st Dec Crib Service for pre-school children ♦ 10am-11am

Sun 24th Dec Morning ♦ 9am, 10.45am

Sun 24th Dec Christmas Eve Midnight Service ♦ 11.30pm

Mon 25th Dec Christmas Day ♦ 10.45am

Thur 4th Jan Communion Service ♦ 11am

Sat 6th Jan SEC Epiphany Youth Meet-Up (*aged 12-18*) ♦ 6pm-9pm

Mon 8th Jan Monday Group ♦ 2.30pm-4pm

Thur 11th Jan Toddlers resume ♦ 9.30am-11.30am

Sun 14th Jan Process ♦ 6.30pm

Thur 18th Jan February magazine deadline

Sat 20th Jan Burns Supper ♦ 7pm

Sun 28th Jan Choral Evensong ♦ 6.30pm

Mon 29th Jan St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7pm

People

CLERGY

Rector	Rev Nick Wills
Associate Clergy	Rev Sue Whitehouse
	Bishop Donald Allister

DIOCESAN REPRESENTATIVES

Lay Representative	Roddy Simson
Alternate Lay Representative	Jan Sidaway

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & GROUPS

Director of Music	Rupert Forbes
Organist & <i>Voice for Life</i>	Sheila Chisholm
Organ Scholar	Christian Wong
Servers' Guild	Bill Polson
Toddler Group (Mon & Thur)	childrenandfamilies@stpetersedinburgh.org
Students / Young Adults	communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org
Monday Group	Jane Sutherland
Thursday Lunch Club (1 st Thursday)	Delia Keir
St Peter's Book Club	Liz Hare
Social/Outreach COG Convenor, Fair Trade	Liz Hare

CHURCH OFFICERS

Vestry Secretary	Janice Allister
Hon. Treasurer	Laura Bird development@stpetersedinburgh.org
Gift Aid Secretary	Chris Hodgson
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. *Please note, messages left on the answer machine, may take a few days before they are heard and dealt with.*

Hall Roof being replaced. See page 8.

