

# news & views







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New Scots Christmas Appeal 2023

**Thank You!**



Thanks to the generosity of many individuals and over **35 churches**, the Appeal raised enough money to give **260 hampers** to New Scots across Edinburgh!

**p. 14**

Inside each hamper was:  
• a £30 Gift Card  
• a £50 candle and battery



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# From the Rector

*Rev Nick Wills*

It may seem a while ago by the time that you read this, but I would like to begin by thanking all those who put so much time and effort into our Christmas services and events. From our intergenerational tree team, through others who cleaned and decorated the church and hall, and those who organised parties, to Rupert, Sheila and the choir who led our musical worship beautifully, and Sue and Bishop Donald leading services and preaching, so many people did so much to enable us to enjoy meaningful worship and fun events. Thank you to everyone!

We continue to benefit from our refurbished Hall at events like these, as well as from the income it provides as a very attractive venue for community organisations, and so I also extend grateful thanks to Laura, who manages the competing demands for time and space, and Liz Mackay and the Buildings Committee for all their work in both developing the building, and ongoing maintenance.

And I am very grateful to Liz Hare and the COG team for the successful Burns Supper last week which raised £650 for church funds and which enabled church members and our neighbours from the wider community to join together in this celebration of Scotland's cultural heritage.

It seems incredible that we are almost at Lent, with Ash Wednesday falling on the 14<sup>th</sup> February this year. This year we are going to be holding Lent Groups on the following Wednesdays of Lent (apart from 6<sup>th</sup> March) prepared and led by a small planning group, drawing on words from the prophet Micah. This is following the success of the Advent groups, led by

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**News & Views**  
*February 2024*

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

The Scottish Episcopal Church

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

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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/>

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the same team and following a similar approach, that many people found very helpful for reflection and spiritual growth.

This year our Lent Appeal will be for the Newington Foodbank. Sadly, the Foodbank has recently lost a funding stream, on which it has been heavily reliant, leaving an annual shortfall of approximately £10,000. It is in great need of support week by week, including donations of both food and money, to continue to bring much needed help and dignity to those who are struggling the most. I am going to do all I can to help the Foodbank to find ways to raise the money required and to establish a secure long-term footing.

In next month's magazine we'll be sharing some photos and experiences from some of our Process services to give a flavour for those who haven't tried it yet. Each service is creative and different, and next months, when we will be focussing on the book of Ruth, is no exception. It is called Process because each service is a creative process to be engaged with and experienced, for the planning team as well as hopefully for others attending the service.

Lastly, I am of course delighted that Becky has joined our ministry team as Children's and Young People's Worker at St Peter's. I am very grateful to Bishop Donald, Fee, Laura, Ruth and Catherine for their clear and transparent handling of the recruitment process, and to Sue for agreeing to become Becky's Line Manager. Please pray for Becky as she takes on the role of co-ordinating and supporting our work with children, young people and students.

Your Rector,  
Nick

*The Crib Service  
in December 2023*



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*What is a QR Code?* On a Smartphone, open the camera and point it at the square. Click on the link that appears and you are taken directly to the given webpage, which will have more information!



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# Children's and Young People's Worker

*Donald Allister writes*

I am delighted to announce that Becky Wills has been appointed as our Children's and Young People's Worker on a ten hours per week three-year contract. The main focus of this role is to lead the Sunday morning ministry with children: this includes building and training a team, preparing lessons and activities, and getting to know the children and their families.

## **A little background:**

After Kristee moved on from her Community Worker post, the Vestry spent some time looking at our staff requirements and our finances. It was agreed to appoint a Children's and Young People's Worker with a more focussed role, fewer hours, and a time-limited contract. This is realistic in terms of affordability, but also allies more closely with our current vision and needs.

It became clear that Becky Wills might apply for this post: she has the capacity to do this alongside her other part-time job and she is well qualified and experienced in this area. Nick our Rector rightly decided to recuse himself from the appointment process and asked me to head that up.

I convened a small panel: Laura Bird, Catherine Rednall, and Ruth Tiplady, with Fee Reynolds joining us as Diocesan Advisor. Vestry authorised us to produce a job description, to advertise, interview, and appoint. We have done all that and are very confident that we have the right person. I am most grateful to the panel for their support, encouragement, and hard work.

## **Looking ahead:**

We wrote the job description and contract in such a way as to ensure that Nick need have no role in managing or overseeing the worker. The Vestry is the employer, and a vestry member serves as line manager to encourage and oversee the work. I am very pleased that Sue Whitehouse has agreed to be Becky's line manager.

As we welcome Becky to this role, I emphasise that she is only expected to work about half the hours that Kristee did. Although I believe that she will do an excellent job, please do not expect the degree of availability to pick up other responsibilities. She will share in the work with students, and she

will be able to pop into the toddlers group from time to time, but Sunday mornings will be very much the main focus.

Please keep Becky, and our church children and families, in your prayers.

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## A Note from Becky

I am very pleased to be taking up the new role of Children's and Young People's Worker at St Peter's, and excited to work with others in building a strong multi-generational church family. Thank you to the Vestry, +Donald and the appointment team, as well as to Sue Whitehouse who will line-manage me and my work, for entrusting me with the task of supporting St Peter's ministry to young people.



A little background on my experience coming into this role: I have been working with children in a ministry setting since I was a junior team member at a Beach Mission in Abersoch, North Wales in my teens (a long while ago!!). Since then, I have been in continuous and overlapping roles, running children's churches, toddler groups, youth groups, holiday and after school clubs in various churches and settings, from my home church in Warrington, via my student church in Birmingham and in Durham and Sutton Coldfield during our early married life. I became a paid children's, youth and families minister in Kettering, where amongst other things we developed a weekly family "pantomime" church which ran for 10 years and helped to connect with many local families. We then adapted it into a more intergenerational and creative model, which strengthened relationships and grew faith more deeply. I then moved into a Diocesan role, working as one of two Children's and Youth Missioners, within the Youth Team of Peterborough Diocese. My remit was to support churches in working with young people and their families; in reaching out and drawing young people into their church family, and in loving and nurturing the children and young people already in their congregations. It was a challenging but rewarding role and I particularly enjoyed meeting up with youth advisers from around the UK and learning more about some of the latest thinking about church growth and ministry to young people.

Along the way, I trained as a teacher, but chose the voluntary/informal childcare sector rather than education. I am currently working as the manager of an After School Club in Portobello (a not-for-profit, regulated

childcare setting), which I will continue alongside my St Peter's role, and I am also studying for a professional qualification in Childhood Practice Leadership and Management. I hope that my experience in working with children and young people, both within and outwith the church will help me in this new role, but one of the things I have learnt many times over the years is that with young people there's always something new to learn!

I believe that children and young people are precious and vital members of the Church - not *just* "the future of the church" but to be valued in the here and now too. And in my experience, it's possible to have a lot of fun at the same time!

I hope to build on Kristee's openness and welcome, and the strong relationships she forged with many families. One of my first priorities will be in building and training a team of helpers and leaders to work with. I will also be spending time getting to know the families, young people and students we have contact with or who are members of our church family already. I will look to develop activities and strategies so that children and young people can worship, learn and encounter the living Christ at St Peter's alongside the rest of the church family. Everything we do will be within the context of safeguarding children and young people. This will sometimes be a slow process and I'm sure there will be ups and downs. Please pray for this work and for those who God may be calling to be involved too. And most of all pray for the young people, that they will be at the heart of our church family, that they will know that they are loved by God and precious in his sight.

*I will be using the St Peter's email address [becky@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:becky@stpetersedinburgh.org)  
Please do get in touch.*

### ***Editor's Note about Church Email Address changes;***

*Please note there are some changes to the church email addresses;  
Remaining the same are Sheila's [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org) and  
Laura's [development@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org).*

*However, in due course both the [communitydevelopment@](mailto:communitydevelopment@stpetersedinburgh.org) and  
[childrenandfamilies@](mailto:childrenandfamilies@stpetersedinburgh.org) email addresses will be closed and please send any  
emails to the relevant person.*



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# Children's Church

All children are very welcome to our services.

Children are very welcome to use and enjoy the activity and colouring-in station set up at the back of church, in the Children's Corner.

During the 10.45am Sunday service, if there is a group of children who would like to join in, there will be fun activities based on the day's Bible theme in the church hall. Children and their leaders usually leave during the first Bible reading.

If you have any questions, please speak to a Welcomer or to Becky our Children and Young People's Worker before the service. Or you can email [becky@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:becky@stpetersedinburgh.org) any time.

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## Young Adults / Students

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, Becky or Sheila, or email [becky@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:becky@stpetersedinburgh.org)

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## 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!



*Due to the school half term, there will be no Toddler Group on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February.*

If you know a family with young children who would like to join us, email; [becky@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:becky@stpetersedinburgh.org)



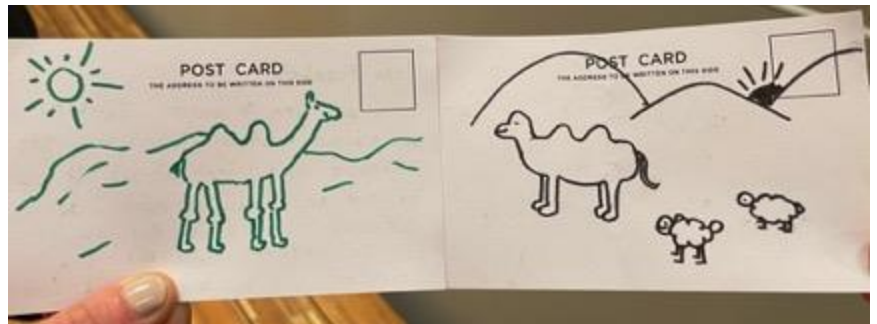
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# Process

All are very welcome to this monthly creative, interactive and hopefully spiritually uplifting evening worship experience. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, lasts about an hour, and refreshments are available afterwards. While thinking about the flight to Egypt, the pictures were sketched by two members who attended the January service.

The service on 11<sup>th</sup> February will tell the Old Testament story of Ruth.



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# Ash Wednesday

To mark the start of Lent, we will be holding a reflective service of Communion on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm. All are very welcome.

After the services during Lent we will be having a retiring collection for our local Newington Foodbank. See pages 10-11 for more information.



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# St Peter's Book Club

*By Liz Hare, Book Club*

The Book Club usually meets in the Choir Vestry on the last Monday of the month, and will meet on 29<sup>th</sup> January and 26<sup>th</sup> February. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Liz Hare via the office. Email [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org).

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# Lent Study Groups

**Wednesdays 21<sup>st</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> February, 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30pm-9pm**

This year there will be four Lent Group meetings to be held on Wednesdays February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> and March 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> in the Choir Vestry from 7.30pm to 9pm. Lenore, Roddy, Janet Y and Rev Sue Whitehouse will be leading them and the format will be similar to that of last year....quiet opening and closing prayers, Bible passages for reflection and discussions in small groups, and at 8.30pm refreshments and the opportunity to chat and get to know each other.

We shall explore the themes raised in the Book of Micah Chapter 6 verse 8.... "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with your God?"

All are welcome! Each session is complete in itself so you can come to as many or as few sessions as you are able. Do just turn up but, if you know in advance that you hope to come, it would be helpful if you could tell one of us so that we know about how many leaflets to print!

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## St Peter's Lent Appeal



### Newington FoodBank+

*This year, our Lent Appeal is supporting Newington Foodbank which is based just around the corner at the Community Church. After all our services during Lent there will be an opportunity to also give financially through a retiring collection for the Newington Foodbank.*

#### **Tricia Anderson writes;**

The Foodbank is grateful for any non-perishable items but the particular requirements at the moment are: sugar, instant coffee, biscuits, long-life milk, pasta sauce, shampoo and shower gel. St Peter's is remarkably generous in their donations as I'm often lugging bags, but it is also important to highlight the reality of the situation.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, funding to Edinburgh City Mission for foodbanks was running low. It has now run out. Supplies from the storehouse where we topped up things that were lacking, have dwindled



almost to nothing and we now rely on donations of food (and toiletries) from churches, businesses and individuals.

Folk can donate items, and it is likely that different items will be highlighted each month in the newsletter, as it will depend on what has been given. But we can also use donations of money to cover a shortfall of items if that is easier for you. Funds also mean that we can do a little extra e.g. today we gave a bus ticket to a gentleman who said he'd seen a job in Loanhead but hadn't the means to get to it.

Keep praying!

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## Music Notes

*By Rupert Forbes, Director of Music*



Choral Evensong will be held at 6.30pm on Sundays 28<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> February and 31<sup>st</sup> March.

For our Good Friday meditation at 7.30pm on 29<sup>th</sup> March, we plan to sing J. H. Maunder's Olivet to Calvary. More information will be given in due course, but please do put the date into your diary!



Choir rehearsals are held on a Thursday night.

**Junior Choir** (aged 8-18) meets from 7pm-8pm, with the option of also attending the Voice for Life session with Sheila at 6.15pm.

**Adults** (aged 17+) join at 7.45pm until about 9.30pm.

We are always looking for new members, particularly in the lower voices. Experience in choral singing and sight-reading is an advantage though not essential. So please come along on any Thursday evening, or speak to the Director of Music, Rupert Forbes, after a morning service.

*This QR Code links to the webpage about Evensong, including the music being sung.*

For information regarding **Voice for Life**, when choristers learn about music, liturgy and many aspects of church life through graded levels and coloured ribbons, please speak to the organist, Sheila Chisholm.



Both Rupert and Sheila can also be contacted through the church office at: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org)

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# December 2023 & January 2024

## Vestry Update

*By Janice Allister, Vestry Secretary*

Vestry members met on the 6<sup>th</sup> December and 10<sup>th</sup> January online.

The Christmas arrangements were reviewed, especially appreciating the contributions and involvement of children, including those from young families and the Toddler group. There will be further reflection on the pattern of these services which the ministry team will decide in September this year.

Another priority has been the appointment of a Children's and Young People's Worker. The Rector declared a conflict of interest as his wife, Becky, might apply, as she had particular interest and expertise. Donald Allister was tasked with writing a job description based on our agreed ten hours a week, and forming an appointment and interview committee. He decided to make this broadly representative, including a young person, Catherine Rednall, as well as Laura Bird, Fee Reynolds (Diocesan Youth Officer) and Ruth Tiplady. They contributed enormously. Becky Wills did apply, was interviewed and appointed. Her line manager is a crucial role and we are relieved that Sue Whitehouse has been appointed to this. Becky's start date was 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.

We had further updates on the Church Buildings:

The Hall roof is complete and keeping the hall dry. However there is still outstanding work on the rainwater goods which are essential to keep the windows and outside walls dry too. The final bill has not yet been submitted. Account predictions will be clearer when it has.

The small area of dry rot in the Church roof has yet to be seen to. We are asking for estimates for external repairs at the Rectory.

A copy of the draft accounts was circulated.

Please continue to pray for your Vestry.

Our next Vestry meeting is scheduled for 7<sup>th</sup> February.



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# Monday Group

*By Liz Philp*

Our Christmas Party on 11<sup>th</sup> December was great fun. Food, crackers (hence paper hats), quizzes and games, including reverting to childhood and playing pass-the-parcel, Chris Hodgson singing Christmas favourites and Sheila playing the piano for us to sing carols at the end were much enjoyed by all.

On 8<sup>th</sup> January Mike Scott gave a most interesting illustrated talk on the Colinton Tunnel, which now contains Scotland's largest heritage mural. The tunnel was part of the Balerno Branch Line which brought people from Edinburgh for days out in the countryside and also meant that the villages along its route, like Colinton, developed into dormitory suburbs since the building materials could be brought in by rail.



However the railway line was closed to passengers in 1943, having been superseded by buses and trams, and it closed to freight in 1967. Although part of the Water of Leith Walkway the tunnel was rather dark and scary. In 2019 a group of local volunteers got together to clean all the years of soot and graffiti from the tunnel and employed a professional artist to design a mural based on Robert Louis Stevenson's poem "From a Railway Carriage". RLS's grandfather was the minister of Colinton Parish Church.

Our next meeting will be on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February when we will have a talk by Bob Mackintosh on Scottish Lighthouses.

In previous years at this time of year we have asked people to hand in items for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Party and Silent Auction, saying that unwanted Christmas gifts are our speciality. That is still the case; HOWEVER, we are not having a Pancake Party this year. The more stringent Food Hygiene regulations meant that last year everything had to be cooked from scratch in the church kitchen which resulted in congestion and chaos. So this year we have decided instead to hold our Silent Auction in conjunction with a Strawberry Tea in the summer, on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June at 2.30pm. However if you can't hang on to those unwanted items until then please contact Liz Philp via the office and she can arrange to collect them from you.

The cost of annual membership of the Monday Group remains at £5. We would like to encourage all those who come and enjoy our meetings to become members. We ask £1 per meeting for members, but £2 from non-members.

For further information about the Monday Group speak to our secretary Pam Dugan or our president Jane Sutherland.

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## **Burns Supper Thank You**

*By Liz Hare, Convenor of the Community Outreach Group*

A big thank you to the Community Outreach Group, the helpers, and to all who supported the very successful Burns Supper held recently. Alongside congregational members, the sixty-five who attended included people from Poland, China, Japan, Germany and America. All really enjoyed themselves and it raised £650 for the continuing work and ministry in St Peter's. Congratulations to all!

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## **Christmas Hampers**

For several years St Peter's congregation has teamed up with Edinburgh City Mission to pay for and deliver Christmas hampers and vouchers to asylum seekers, migrants and refugees in Edinburgh. In December 2023, over 35 churches were involved and raised enough money to give 260 hampers to New Scots!

Members of our congregation funded 28 of these Christmas hampers and delivered 15 to people across the city. The other 13 were delivered by Edinburgh City Mission staff. Each hamper contained a £30 gift card which could be used in a range of shops including Lidl, Aldi, Sainsburys, and Morrisons. There was also a tub of chocolates, a Christmas card, and a battery-powered candle inside a nice gift bag. Included in the Christmas card was a verse from John 1: 5 from the Easy English Version of the Bible: *“The light shines in the dark, and the dark cannot put out the light”*.

The letter of grateful thanks from Lydia, the Mission Strengthenener, with more information from Edinburgh City Mission is on the wall in the hall. Please read it and find out more about the people you have helped through your gift.



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# Walking Group

A one-off winter walk; Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> February, departing at 10.30am.

## St Andrew Square to Newhaven

Janet Hodgson is leading a walk from St Andrew Square to Newhaven. The meeting point is near the coffee kiosk at St Andrew Square. Walking via Dublin Street, King George V Park and onto walking/cycle paths to Newhaven near the tram terminal, it is all on good surfaces and will last about 75 minutes. Just before the end, there will be an opportunity for a stop in the Milk Café by the Sculpture Workshop. It is early February so please wear appropriate clothing/footwear!

Please contact Janet via the office to let her know if you are going. Email: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org).

The Walking Group is having a break over the winter. However walks may be arranged at the last minute and if you would like to hear up-to-date information about the meeting points, etc, and are not already on the Walking Group email list, please email the office and ask to be added to it!



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# Year's Mind Update

*By Liz Philp*

Those who attend services at St Peter's will know that during the Sunday morning Prayers of Intercession a list is read out of those whose Year's Mind falls on that day and during the following week.

Former Vestry Secretary Jim Phillips compiled an excellent list, in alphabetical order of surname, of all whose names appear in St Peter's Funeral Register from 1950 onwards, this includes the date of death and the age of the person when they died. You can look at this list in the Millar Chapel. From this information Jim extrapolated a second document which lists all those people by the date of their death for each month of the year – this is the Year's Mind list we use for the Sunday Intercessions. Jim carefully went through all the names and highlighted those of people who were known to have been St Peter's members. On a Sunday morning the names of all those who died on that date are read out, followed by the names during the following week of those identified by Jim as members of St Peter's.

Many names are not thus highlighted. This is because, in times gone by, particularly in the 1950s and 60s, pretty well all funerals were conducted by a minister of religion. When undertakers visited a family who were not regular churchgoers they would ask what religion the deceased person was. If the answer came back something like “Oh, um, we think Aunty Flossie was Church of England”, then they would contact the nearest Episcopal Church and so the Rectors and Curates of St Peter’s often took funerals of people who had no connection whatever with the church. I have been through the list of names, colour-coding all those who died between 1950 and 1969 whom Jim Phillips had not highlighted, and have consulted three of our members who have been members of St Peter’s since childhood Gavin Gemmell, Bill Polson and Ann Stevenson kindly gave up their time to go through this list. Mostly they agreed with Jim’s highlighted names with a few additions, such as “Miss X was a Sunday School teacher, Mr Y was in the choir or Mr Z was on the Vestry”. We ended up with a list with lots of names of people who died between 1950 and 1969 of whom nobody seemed to have heard. I have removed these names from the Sunday morning Year’s Mind (with further names from 1970 to 1979 whom we can remove in 2030), although, of course, they are still included in the alphabetical Funeral Register list.

Our Rector, Nick, asked me to write this article so that anybody who is anxious to find out if the names of their loved ones who died in the 1950s and 1960s will still be read out on a Sunday morning can get in touch and make sure they are still on the list.

Do please contact me via the office if you wish to ask about this new revised Year’s Mind list.

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## Mercy Ships, Christmas Appeal

Our Christmas charity this year was for Mercy Ships. A cutting from the Church Times on the hall noticeboard gives information about a young girl called Umu from Sierra Leone. She was born with a facial tumour which grew rapidly and was in danger of suffocating her. Through the work of Mercy Ships she had a lifesaving operation and the photographs of her before and after the operation show how important the work of that charity is.



All the donations to Mercy Ships were greatly appreciated and most grateful thanks is given to all who contributed. With Gift Aid, we raised £640! <https://www.mercyships.org.uk/>



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# Stewardship and Gift Aid

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

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](mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org)  
**Treasurer** Laura Bird [development@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org)

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## Eco-Matters

### Lent Vigil for Climate Justice: No Faith in Fossil Fuels

Over the 10 days from Ash Wednesday, Christian Aid are holding a 24/7 Lent Vigil for Climate Justice. Held at the UK Parliament (Westminster), anyone can register to take part and turn up on the days/at the times they choose. It is also possible to participate from home by choosing a suitable time and setting aside time for private prayer. Simple downloadable resources are available from the following webpage.

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/climate-change/nfiff-lent-vigil-climate-justice>

Participants can choose when they wish to pray (suggested time of an hour or more), either singly or in a group.

Other Christian organisations participating include Operation Noah, Cafod, and the Salvation Army.

### The Edinburgh Diocesan Environment Group webpage

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/environment/> includes sections on Sharing Stories, Resources and Funding. The group is being led by Bethany Nelson, and you can contact her at [bethany@psandgs.org.uk](mailto:bethany@psandgs.org.uk).

Bishop John writes *“The biggest ongoing challenge facing our world is the climate crisis. For Christians it asks hard questions not only of our lifestyle choices but about what we believe. What does it mean to be good stewards of the*



*beautiful and fertile planet which we share with so many living creatures? What does it mean to say that 'the earth is the Lord's'?*

*I commend this webpage to you and encourage you to use it as we journey towards carbon net zero. We have some hills to climb and corners to turn on this journey, but if we travel together we shall find much to enjoy. It's a journey we make not just for ourselves but also for people unknown to us and generations as yet unborn."*

## **Sustainability topics revisited**

*By Christine Bethune*

You have probably disposed of your Christmas cards and gift wrap by now, but the following applies to cards and wrap of any season! I have a lot of family birthdays early in the year, so I at least need to be aware of all this.

Cards with foil, plastic embellishments or glitter can't be recycled. (It is very annoying to see on the backs of these that they have been produced from sustainably managed forests!) You can, of course, cut off the bits without these substances unless they are completely all over the surface, but sadly foil and glitter sections have to go to landfill. You can also usually peel off embellishments (such as stick-on gems or googly eyes) and remove batteries from 'singing' cards. The only way to reduce their use is to stop buying them! The caveat as regards foil also applies to gift wrap. Happily Oxfam and other charities such as RSPB have a much better selection these days.

I also try and avoid cards with cellophane wrap. Yes, you can dispose of this responsibly, but if you prefer not to get cellophane in the first place, Oxfam and Sainsburys, to name just two retailers, sell cards with no wrap so it is clearly possible to do so!

It's not the first time I've recommended this website, but I always find Moral Fibres at [www.moralfibres.co.uk](http://www.moralfibres.co.uk) worth reading. It is Edinburgh-based and compiled by a Scottish woman with a professional background in sustainability. There are loads of links and articles about ethical lifestyle, sustainable clothes, cosmetics, household/garden items, where to buy them, which ones are worthwhile, how to dispose of them sustainably and much, much more. Articles are updated when new information or technological advances are available. You can sign up to get a monthly blog update.

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# Helping Those in Need

## Fresh Start

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, is 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 offers 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>

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# Magazine Articles

Please email or submit your articles and photographs to Sheila asap to [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org)

Thank you!

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*The DEADLINE for the  
March issue is  
Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February*

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*Front cover photo taken by Janice Allister*



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## *In Memory...*

### **Joan Steven (27<sup>th</sup> October 1930 – 30<sup>th</sup> December 2023)**

A much loved and valued member of our congregation, Joan died on 30<sup>th</sup> December. She had been a member for 60 years and very involved in many church groups and events. Living a full and varied life, she was always very interesting, and interested in people and what was going on. She will be greatly missed. As her Memorial service was held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, it was too late to provide a fuller tribute. This will however be included with the March issue. Please remember in your prayers her daughters Elizabeth, Rosemary, Wendy, and their families.



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

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# Clergy

Our Clergy Team can be contacted directly and their contact details are on page 24.

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](mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org)



**Sheila** is the Church Administrator. She deals with anything concerning church matters and supporting the Clergy Team. She works 20 hours a week, usually working on a Monday and Tuesday, and Thursday and Sunday mornings. Church emails are usually attended to on Mondays and Tuesdays: 10am-4pm, and Thursdays 10am-1pm. The rest of her hours are taken up with other tasks. Sheila's email: [office@stpetersedinburgh.org](mailto: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.

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# Sunday Readings

*\*The passages being read*

## February 2024

**4<sup>th</sup> February Presentation of the Lord** (*transferred from 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb*)

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

**11<sup>th</sup> February Transfiguration Sunday**

Daniel 7: 9-10, 13-14 ♦ Psalm 97 ♦ \*2 Peter 1: 16-19 ♦ \*Luke 9: 28-36

**Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February Ash Wednesday**

\*Isaiah 58: 1-12 ♦ Psalm 51: 1-18 ♦ 2 Corinthians 5: 20b - 6: 10 ♦

\*Matthew 6: 1-6, 16-21

**18<sup>th</sup> February The First Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 9: 8-17 ♦ \*Psalm 25; 1-9 ♦ 1 Peter 3; 18-22 ♦ \*Mark 1: 9-15

**25<sup>th</sup> February The Second Sunday of Lent**

Genesis 17: 1-7, 15-16 ♦ Psalm 22: 22-30 ♦ \*Romans 4: 13-25 ♦

\*Mark 8: 31-28

**25<sup>th</sup> February Choral Evensong The Second Sunday of Lent**

\*Genesis 12: 1-9 ♦ Psalm 74 ♦ \*Hebrews 11: 1-3, 8-16

**3<sup>rd</sup> March The Third Sunday of Lent**

Exodus 20: 1-17 ♦ Psalm 19 ♦ \*1 Corinthians 1: 18-25 ♦ \*John 2: 13-22

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# Bible Teaching Videos

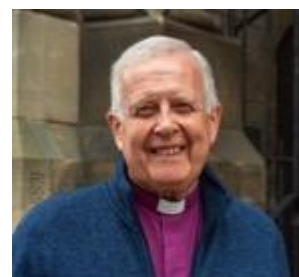
*By Bishop Donald Allister*

A new Bible teaching video by Donald Allister appears first thing every Monday, on his YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/@feedmysheep2023>

During January and most of February he is presenting an eight-part series on Colossians and Philemon. From 26<sup>th</sup> February and through March he will be offering five Bible studies showing how to read, study and teach the Bible. Some may find this helpful as a Lent course for private study or in the home.

If you find accessing and navigating YouTube difficult, Donald would be very happy to send you MP4 files of his talks, which should work on any modern computer or mobile phone. Contact him via the office.





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# 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

**1<sup>st</sup> 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 February

**Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Jan** Choral Evensong ♦ 6.30pm

**Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Jan** St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7pm

**Thur 1<sup>st</sup> Feb** Monthly Communion ♦ 11am

**Sat 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb** Walking Group ♦ 10.30am

**Mon 5<sup>th</sup> Feb** Monday Group ♦ 2.30pm-4pm

**Wed 7<sup>th</sup> Feb** Vestry Meeting

**Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Feb** Process ♦ 6.30pm

**Mon 12<sup>th</sup> Feb** No Toddler Group

**Wed 14<sup>th</sup> Feb** Ash Wednesday Service ♦ 7.30pm

**Thur 15<sup>th</sup> Feb** No Toddler Group

**Thur 15<sup>th</sup> Feb** Magazine Deadline

**Wed 21<sup>st</sup> Feb** Lent Study Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

**Sun 25<sup>th</sup> Feb** Choral Evensong ♦ 6.30pm

**Mon 26<sup>th</sup> Feb** St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7pm

**Wed 28<sup>th</sup> Feb** Lent Study Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

**Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Mar** Vestry Meeting (*No Lent Group*)

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# Contacts

## Clergy and Staff

Rector	Rev Nick Wills
Associate Clergy	Rev Sue Whitehouse
	Bishop Donald Allister
Children's & Young People's Worker	Becky Wills <a href="mailto:becky@stpetersedinburgh.org">becky@stpetersedinburgh.org</a>
Buildings Manager/Hall Bookings	Laura Bird <a href="mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org">development@stpetersedinburgh.org</a>
Administrator/Magazine	Sheila Chisholm <a href="mailto:office@stpetersedinburgh.org">office@stpetersedinburgh.org</a>
Church Office	Sheila or Laura 0131 563 8198 <i>(Please note, messages left on the office answer machine may take a few days before they are heard and dealt with.)</i>
Director of Music	Rupert Forbes
Organist & Voice for Life	Sheila Chisholm

## Church Officers

Vestry Secretary	Janice Allister
Treasurer	Laura Bird <a href="mailto:development@stpetersedinburgh.org">development@stpetersedinburgh.org</a>
Lay Representative	Roddy Simson
Alternate Lay Representative	Jan Sidaway
Gift Aid Secretary	Chris Hodgson
Finance Convenor	Ralph Garden
Works Convenor	Liz Mackay
Sacristan	Liz Mackay
Fire Warden	Pam Dugan

## Church Organisations and Groups

Servers' Guild	Bill Polson
Monday Group	Jane Sutherland
Thursday Lunch Club (1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday)	Delia Keir
St Peter's Book Club	Liz Hare
Social/Outreach COG Convenor, Fair Trade	Liz Hare

*All the above people can be contacted via the Office.*