

News & Views

St Peter's, Lutton Place

April 2025





p. 5



p. 4 & 14



pp. 5-7

From the Rector

Rev Nick Wills

Dear Friends,

It's been a while since I last wrote a letter for the St Peter's Magazine, and a lot has happened in that time. I hope that you had a good summer - I did! Let me explain!

I had written of my plans to spend my Sabbatical from November to February in Southern Spain but, only a couple of days before I was due to fly, the region I was due to visit was hit by a terrible series of floods.

So I cancelled the flights, spent November making alternative plans, and in December Becky and I flew to New Zealand. Becky was able to be with me for a month, and we had a wonderful time travelling from Auckland to Wellington, and many places in between, being wowed by geological wonders, dramatically changing scenery, totally different trees and birds, and a night sky that looked, well, just plain wrong to our Northern Hemisphere eyes! Orion was upside down!

I have been invited to talk to the Monday Group on 14th April about my visit, and even if you are not a regular member of the group you are very welcome to join us if you wish to. I will have a hard job whittling down my photos to a select few, and tales of my experiences to something more "The Hobbit" length than "The Lord of the Rings", but I will do my very best!

I am hugely grateful to Sue, Donald and Ruth for their support for my taking this time to rest and reflect on my ministry, and for all that they each did to ensure that the worshipping life of St Peter's flowed on, and that pastoral care continued to be extended, during my absence. I am especially grateful that they were willing to accommodate this over the Christmas period, which

News & Views

April 2025

**St Peter's
Lutton Place**

Edinburgh

SC017358

The Scottish Episcopal Church

The Rt Revd John Armes

Bishop, Diocese of Edinburgh

Church Office

14 Lutton Place

Edinburgh

EH8 9PE

office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Tel No: 0131 563 8198

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/>

was tremendously generous of them. Thank you to them, and of course to everyone who contributes to the life and work of our church.

Becky and I experienced a Southern Hemisphere Christmas for the first time, with blue skies and blistering sunshine, and joined the congregation of All Saints Anglican Church, Palmerston North. It was odd to sing Christmas carols surrounded by people in shorts and t-shirts, but an amazing experience. And why I said at the beginning of the article that I had had a good summer!

That church is currently meeting in their church hall because the main church building didn't pass Earthquake Certification which all public buildings have had to pass in the wake of the Christchurch Earthquake. A reminder that churches everywhere face challenges as they seek to witness to Christ to their local community.

I was also able to phone in from New Zealand to wish Delia a very Happy 100th Birthday at her celebration lunch (see page 14). I was sorry not to be there in person to celebrate with her, but the wonders of technology meant that I was able to share in her big day!



Having missed Christmas and Epiphany, I returned in time for Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Rev Ruth Green is leading our Lent Groups this year on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm-9pm in the Choir Vestry, following the Diocese of Edinburgh Lent Course "Christmas has no body now but yours". You are welcome to join in, even if you haven't been able to make the sessions that have already taken place. (See page 8.)

This year our Lent Collection is for The Leprosy Mission, and you can read more about the vital work that they do beginning on the next page.

Our services for Holy Week can be found outlined on the back cover. There is a range of different styles of worship, from Communion Services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Day, to the contemporary reflective service at 6.30pm on Palm Sunday, and the choir leading us through Jesus' "Seven Last Words from the Cross" on Good Friday evening at 7.30pm.

The return of better weather, and arrival of Spring, has enabled our Church Walking Group's members to dust off their boots and get back out into the beautiful landscape around us (photographic evidence on the front cover!). Their next walk will be at 10.30am on Saturday 5th April. For more information, please contact Janet H. (See page 20.) Thank you, Janet, for your work co-ordinating and leading the walks.

Thank you to all who do so much for St Peter's, including the Garden Team who have worked hard over recent months to prepare our Church Garden to be a beautiful setting for our Church, and a peaceful haven for so many in our local community.

With my prayers and best wishes for a Happy Easter,

Your Rector,

Nick

Editor's Note

We are delighted that Nick has returned! See the front inside cover for a photo of his cake on his first Sunday back.

Due to unexpected and unforeseen circumstances, there was no March magazine. This issue therefore contains some articles that were held over.

Lent Appeal: The Leprosy Mission GB

By Donald Allister

St Peter's Vestry has decided that our Lent Appeal this year should be for The Leprosy Mission. Bishop Donald Allister has been a long-time supporter of the Mission, and writes here about the work, and a visit he made to Bangladesh in 2020. (See also: www.leprosymission.co.uk)



There are many misunderstandings about leprosy. Here are the most common:

It was just a disease of Bible times

In fact, a new case is diagnosed every two minutes, now in the twenty-first century.

Leprosy is only seen in third-world countries

Yes, most cases are seen in India. Perhaps surprisingly, Brazil comes second, and Indonesia third. Leprosy is also a major problem in Bangladesh, and in parts of Africa. It is also seen in the southern United States, especially Florida, and occasionally in Britain (currently over 20 cases, mainly among people from countries where it is endemic).

It isn't a Scottish disease

In the middle ages, Scotland had many leprosy sufferers and a number of areas set aside for them. The name of Liberton probably derives from "leper town".

Leprosy is a disease of the poor

Yes, but ... King Baldwin IV of Jerusalem 1174-1185 suffered from leprosy. So it seems did Robert Bruce, King of Scots 1306-1329.

It is highly infectious

Leprosy has always been feared, but can only be caught from prolonged close proximity to a sufferer.

Leprosy patients have to be isolated – hence the idea of “leper colonies”.

People with leprosy can live with their families and go to work, provided basic safeguards are followed.

Leprosy is incurable

Since the 1980s there has been a multi-drug treatment, given as a six-month course, which completely cures the disease.

Treatment is expensive

The World Health Organisation provides the drugs free of charge for use by the Leprosy Mission and other agencies.

Leprosy is a killer

Not so: leprosy bacteria damage the nerves, so that the sufferer loses the sense of touch and pain. This means that minor injuries are not noticed or dealt with, leading to serious infections and permanent disfigurement, most obviously on the hands, feet, and face. Even for those cured by modern drug treatment, amputations or major reconstructive surgery may be necessary unless the disease has been caught and treated early.

Leprosy means you have to live apart from others

The problem isn't that leprosy is highly contagious, or deadly. The problem across the countries where it is endemic is the social stigma. Fear of leprosy causes sufferers to be shunned, driven out of their families, communities and workplaces. Education is as important as treatment.

Leprosy should have been eradicated by now

Yes, absolutely. That is one of the aims of The Leprosy Mission. But, for various reasons leprosy hasn't attracted the major funding or government support that is needed. The Leprosy Mission GB, alongside its partner Missions in the USA and a few western European countries, are funded by Christian giving, and more recently with drugs from the WHO and some limited support from the UK Government out of its decreasing International Development aid budget.

The Leprosy Mission GB runs the only research and treatment centres, the only outreach programmes to detect leprosy early, the only leprosy hospitals (stigma means that leprosy patients are not treated in government hospitals), and the only rehabilitation programmes for cured leprosy sufferers, in Bangladesh, India, and Nepal. It does great work, and fully deserves our generous support.

Donald Allister at an outdoor skin clinic in the slums of Dhaka, Bangladesh. The Leprosy Mission doctor has just diagnosed the lesion on this young man's arm as an early sign of leprosy, and is about to arrange the six-month course of drug treatment which will cure him. Top left is part of the long queue of men waiting to be seen.



Top centre is part of the women's queue to see a woman doctor or specialist nurse. Segregation may seem odd to us, but in a mainly Muslim country it is an important way to help overcome people's reluctance to be seen. Also, advertising events like these as "skin clinics" help to avoid the stigma of leprosy: other skin conditions are seen and treated too. Note that the doctor (and Donald) are not wearing gloves or masks which might frighten patients. Use of the gel handwash seen on the table after seeing each patient is enough to keep them safe.

A more famous supporter: Princess Diana at the Leprosy Mission's hospital in Northern India, March 1993.



Lent Group

Wednesday 2nd & 9th April, in the Choir Vestry, 7.30pm - 9pm

Led by Rev Ruth Green, all are welcome. Each session is stand-alone, and one can still attend even if no March sessions have been attended.

The 2025 Edinburgh Diocese Lent Course invites us to reflect on two prayers – ‘Christ has no body but yours’ - attributed to Teresa of Avila; and ‘God be in my head’ from the Sarum Primer. These prayers build on the Christian theme of the Church as the Body of Christ.

Christianity is an incarnate faith; we bless and serve through our bodies - we live our faith through our bodies. We follow Christ through small everyday moments of grace. In our bodies we experience our frailties and infirmities, and we often struggle to ‘love’ our bodies, as we live in a culture which emphasises certain ‘good’ bodies or ‘beauty’. It is through our bodies that we show love, that we build community, and it is our bodies and their development that teach us dependency both in childhood and in old age. Together we are formed into the Body of Christ - each of us using our bodies which are then transformed into God’s Body together.

*Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks with compassion on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
Yours are the eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes with which he looks compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.*



Teresa of Avila (1515–1582)

*God be in my head, And in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, And in my looking;
God be in my mouth, And in my speaking;
God be in my heart, And in my thinking;
God be at mine end, And at my departing.*

Sarum Primer, 1558

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/2025/01/lent-course-published>

Lent Reflection

By Rev Ruth Green, adapted from what would have been included in the March magazine.

As we travel through the 40 days of Lent, preparing for the joy of Easter. Lent is the time to ready ourselves through prayer, repentance, giving to charity, simple living and self-denial. When we are honest and confess our brokenness and are made aware of our finiteness, there is a sense of relief and liberation that comes with knowing it's not all up to us. We know that God loves and welcomes us without condition or exception.

In Lent, some Christians find it useful to commit to giving up certain luxuries in imitation of Christ's sacrifices during his 40 days in the desert. Some very devoted Christians fast. Others may feel that these practices make Lent feel grim and very serious and so we ask whether it possible for us to deny ourselves in a more positive way? Can we give more in our everyday lives, more compassion, more prayer, more of our time and energy for others, remembering Jesus' maxim, "Freely you have received, freely give." The answer will be different for each person.

Coming back to St Peter's after nearly 11 years away, I've been so impressed by the number of volunteers – faithful church members – often unseen, who are committed to give whatever they can offer of their time and energy. We have all been given gifts to offer, some more visible than others. If nothing else, we can all continue to pray for the vision of our congregation so that the church may be used by God to further his kingdom on earth.

Our Holy Communion liturgy says: "Help us, who are baptised into the fellowship of Christ's body, to live and work to your praise and glory; may we grow together in unity and love." My favourite of the Prayers of Thanksgiving is: "May we who have received the pledges of the kingdom, live by faith, walk in hope and be renewed in hope."

I pray that God will continue to guide and bless us all in our journey together.

Young Adults & Students

We warmly welcome new students and young adults, and any students or young adults who want further details are invited to join our student and young adult email lists and hear about their activities. For more details speak to Becky or Nick, or email becky@stpetersedinburgh.org

Children's Church

We always welcome children to our services.

At all 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, for children who would like to join in, there are fun activities based on the day's Bible theme in the church hall. Organised by Becky, our Children and Young People's Worker, a group of volunteers help her to run the activities. Children and their leaders usually leave during the Kyrie or Gloria and return to the service in time for Communion.

If you have any questions, please speak to a Welcomer or to Becky before the service. Or you can email becky@stpetersedinburgh.org any time.

Easter Crafts and Egg Hunt

By Becky Wills, Children's and Young People's Worker

On Thursday 10th April from 9.30am-11.30am, I will lead an Easter egg hunt (in the garden if weather permits) and Easter crafts for all children of our Church family and Toddler Group who are aged around 6 and under.

There will also be a child-friendly retelling of the Easter story - and possibly even an Easter treat! Amongst the themed activities, there will also be time for free play. All are welcome!

All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Please contact me for more details. becky@stpetersedinburgh.org

Toddler Group

During term time, our Toddler Group runs from 9.30am–11.30am on Mondays and Thursdays. It is for those aged 0-3. Donation £1 per family per session and tea/coffee and snacks are provided. Our international groups are very welcoming and friendly, with families from all over the world! If you would like to attend or have any questions, please email Becky via above.

The final Toddler Group session before the Easter holidays is on Thursday 3rd April, and resumes again on Thursday 24th April.



Youth & events in Edinburgh Diocese

Crazy Golf, eating and chatting together for those in P6 to S2. On April 26th, from 3pm-7pm, younger members of the Dioceses are invited to join together for lots of fun at Volcano Falls in Fountainbridge. A [Registration and Consent form](#) must be completed ahead of time, with a £5 contribution per person.



Pilgrimage to Taizé for those aged 18 to 35, led by two Diocesan priests who have visited regularly before and can attest to its transformative impact. 29th June-6th July. *Information and Registration:*

<https://edinburgh.anglican.org/2025/03/pilgrimage-to-taize-summer-2025/>

The Diocesan BIG Day, 2025: is on Saturday 10th May, 10.30am-3pm. Called 'Blessings on the way!', for more information, see; <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/event/the-big-day-2025/>

For information about all the above events, and other Diocesan youth events, please contact Rev Fiona Reynolds, The Diocesan Advisor for Christian Life. Email: freynolds@dioceseofedinburgh.org or phone 0131 346 9089.

To register for the 6-monthly youth newsletter, see:

[Youth and Children Newsletter | Diocese of Edinburgh \(anglican.org\)](#)

To read about other Diocesan events, and to sign up to receive emails, see <https://edinburgh.anglican.org/category/adventures-in-faith/>

St Peter's Book Club

The Book Club always welcomes new members to discuss a wide range of titles. It meets in the Choir Vestry and one can just turn up to discuss the chosen book. Although the group now usually meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm, the March meeting is on Monday 31st at 7pm.



The following books are being discussed

Monday 31st March 'Wintering' by Katherine May.

Wednesday 30th April 'Conclave' by Robert Harris.

For more information about the Book Club, please contact the office, or see: <https://stpetersedinburgh.org/book-club>

Process

Our next service is at 6.30pm on Palm Sunday, 13th April.

The February Process was organised and led by our students. During it, everyone engaged with Biblical and spiritual themes inspired by fire, around a fire bowl in the garden.



In March, three parables about the Kingdom of Heaven found in Matthew 13 were explored: The mustard seed (vv. 31-32); The yeast (v. 33); The treasure and the pearl (vv. 44-46). Between the opening and closing liturgies, participants could choose which station they wanted to attend. These included working with yeast, a church trail and a meditation, and all included very interesting discussions.

*One station:
Parable of the
Mustard Seed.*



This interactive and creative monthly evening worship experience is different every month and open to all. We meet in the hall but may move around the building into the church or Millar Chapel. From 6.30pm – 7.30pm, usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month, it lasts about an hour, and refreshments are shared afterwards. Come along and try it!



Updated information is given in our Saturday emails and online: <https://stpetersedinburgh.org/process>

Vestry Update, February & March 2025

By Janice, Vestry Secretary

The Vestry met on the 19th February and again on 19th March 2025 in the Choir Vestry.

It was Chris A's turn to act as chair in February, as agreed for Nick's Sabbatical. We welcomed Nick back as chair at the March meeting.

We reviewed a paper on Vestry Standing Orders in February and deferred further discussion until March. Nick summarised his immediate thoughts with terms of reference and functioning of the Finance and Works committees, "keeping an eye" on reports and Vestry having informed

discussions. Important decisions should not be taken by one or two individuals independently. On Outreach, "Connect" should be a working group rather than a separate committee. All expenses and receipts should be submitted to the Treasurer. We should defer further discussion.

We have regular updates on building maintenance such as our approving an estimate for outside painting of the Rectory in February. We discussed other aspects at both meetings. We have received advice that we do not need planning permission for the demolition of part of the low wall in the car park to create more space.

Nick shared some reflections from his time away:

- A Vestry "Away Day" each year, ideally soon after the AGM.
- Morning Prayer on a weekday, with attention to the sick list.
- Opportunities for students to perform musically using the church buildings.

There was interest in these topics; further discussion to follow.

We look forward to our continuing preparations for Easter. The Lent course follows the diocesan recommended course "Christ has no body now but yours". Becky plans a special Easter Event for children. Other plans are: Maundy Thursday evening communion, Good Friday evening choral meditation, Easter Day Communion 9am and 10.45am. Evensong due on 27th April is cancelled.

There was an update in February from our treasurer, Laura Bird. We have asked the Finance committee to look in detail at our income and expenditure and make recommendations in order to balance our budget. In March we made decisions about the backdated staff and Rector's salary upgrades for this year. We agreed recommended rises consistent with inflation. There is a need to be aware of the effect on us of the increase in National Insurance Employers' contributions: Vestry asked again for the relevant figures.

Vestry voted to make a gift to help support a young former member of the Choir working for a charity.

Chris A informed Vestry that he will have to step down this summer as he finishes his studies and seeks employment elsewhere. We thank him for his contributions to the life of St Peter's on Vestry as well Welcoming, and being available and willing when help has been needed.

Please continue to pray for the Vestry.

Happy 100th Birthday Delia!

Heartiest congratulations to Delia who turned 100 on 6th February! Delia is the oldest member of St Peter's church family who still regularly attends worship.

A celebration lunch was held in her honour after the monthly Thursday Communion on her birthday.

Photos of the happy occasion can be found on the inside back cover.



Helping Those in Need

Newington FoodBank⁺

The donations that keep appearing in the box at the back of church each week are all greatly appreciated! Very helpful items include coffee, sugar, biscuits, breakfast cereal, cooking oil, shampoo/shower gel, washing-up liquid and soap powder.



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/>



Ukraine and Middle East Crisis Appeals

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>

Christian Aid Middle East Crisis Appeal

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

Music Notes

By Rupert, Director of Music



Seven Last Words of Christ by Dubois.

For the Good Friday Meditation on 18th April at 7.30pm, the choir will be presenting the cantata: 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' by Théodore Dubois. It will last around an hour.

(Picture painted by Catherine Rednall)



The family of Théodore Dubois (1837–1924) was not a musical one – his father was a basket-maker and his grandfather a primary school teacher. Whilst studying at the Paris Conservatoire he won the coveted *Prix de Rome* which enabled further study at the French Academy in Rome. On his return to Paris in 1866 he was chosen by César Franck to be Maître de Chapelle at the newly opened church of Ste Clotilde where his *Les Sept Paroles du Christ* was first performed on Good Friday in 1867. In 1871 he replaced Saint-Saëns as choir-master at the Church of the Madeleine, and six years later became organist there, being succeeded by Fauré as choir-master. He was appointed professor of harmony at the Paris conservatoire in 1871, later becoming its director, maintaining its traditional forms of teaching and eschewing modern harmonic developments by composers like Ravel and Debussy.

Dubois had ambitions to be an opera composer but was largely unsuccessful in having his works performed. His other compositions, apart from sacred music, include numerous orchestral works and chamber music, as well as pieces for piano and organ. His cantata 'The Seven Last Words of Christ' was frequently performed in France during his lifetime but remains virtually unknown in this country.



Choral Evensong

Choral Evensong is usually held on the last Sunday of the month, but not in April. Our next is at 6.30pm on Sunday 25th May.

Do you enjoy singing?

Choral music lies at the heart of the worshipping life of our church, and we sing a wide variety of Anglican repertoire. We would love you to join our four-part choir! **Contact** Rupert, Director of Music via the office email.

Monday Group

By Liz P.

On Monday 17th February Rebecca M., a former member, gave an interesting talk about Estonia. Rebecca grew up in Canada, but her parents were Estonian and were very much part of the expat Estonian culture there, Estonian was Rebecca's first language. She gave us a brief background history about the country from the Viking era through being part of the kingdom of Sweden, then the Russian Empire. It was independent between the two world wars but then was subsumed into the USSR; however since 1991 Estonia has been an independent nation, becoming a member of both the European Union and NATO in 2004. Rebecca showed us slides of a recent visit to her ancestral homeland. She is very proud of the fact that she now has an Estonian passport since both her parents were born there.

On Monday 17th March Laura gave a most interesting talk about the apothecary and pharmacist William Duncan. The stained-glass window behind the organ console is dedicated to his memory. Born in humble circumstances in Laurencekirk, Aberdeenshire, he came to Edinburgh as a teenager to train as an apothecary. He worked at the Royal Public Dispensary in West Richmond Street, which had been founded in 1776 to serve the poor. In the 1880s, still in his 20s William founded a School of Pharmacy, 'Duncans', as part of the Public Dispensary. Student pharmacists paid the tuition fees which funded the dispensary. After WW1 there was a large influx of students. A battle over examination and registration of pharmacists ensued between Heriot-Watt College and Duncans. William retired in 1924 and handed over to a successor. Edinburgh University Medical School now teaches General Practice on the site.

Elizabeth Ezard moved from Bath to Edinburgh with her family as a child. Elizabeth's stepfather practised as a pharmacist so may well have been trained by William. On the date of her marriage Elizabeth and family lived at Lutton Place. As a couple the Duncans lived at 10 East Preston Street, right behind St Peter's car park. Elizabeth's mother and grandmother were close by at 7 Lutton Place. Towards the end of William's life, the family moved to a much grander house in Cumin Place. Possibly Heriot-Watt paid him off to cede control of the pharmacy school, but that is just conjecture. William Duncan died in 1929. Elizabeth lived until 1956, like her own mother and grandmother she kept close to her daughter Dorothy who by that time lived in Surrey.



After hearing about their life we all trooped into the church to look at the window, which is in the Arts & Crafts style. It shows Isaiah being visited by an angel, Daniel in the lions' den and also various people we had difficulty identifying.

Florence Nightingale, St Francis of Assisi and St Peter are there but who are the rest of them? Go take a look and see what you think!

We will be holding our AGM on Monday 14th April. After the AGM business is over Nick, our Rector will be giving a talk about his sabbatical, much of which was spent in New Zealand.

Hopefully this will start at about 3pm, we will try to keep the AGM short!

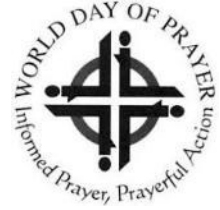
For further information about the Monday Group you can contact; secretary Pam Dugan or Liz Philp via the

office email.

*The stained-glass window behind the organ.
Dedicated to the apothecary and pharmacist William Duncan. (1860 - 1929)*

World Day of Prayer, 2025

By Agatha Kai-Kai, member of the committee.



The World Day of Prayer for the Newington area was held at St Columba, Upper Gray Street on Friday 7th March. Attending the service were ministers and members of the churches of Newington Churches Together.



The service this year was prepared by the ecumenical women of the Cook Islands in the Pacific Ocean. The theme was *'I Made You Wonderful'* (from Psalm 138: 14). By the 'World Day of Prayer' we are challenged to become aware of other countries and cultures and encouraged to reflect the burdens of other people, to sympathize with the problems and to pray with and for them. The service aims to demonstrate that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence in the world.

In respect for our sisters and brothers of there, as we gathered for worship, we tried to create the Cook Island environment. We displayed their national flag and imaginary Pacific Ocean and beach with shells and their fruits. And as we prayed, we directed our minds and hearts to Cook Islanders' spirituality and emotions to be one with them and the world in prayer.

The service was followed by refreshments in the main Hall. It was a beautiful celebration of ecumenicism.

First Aid Courses

Janice Allister has already run several practical first aid courses for initial training or upgrading skills. **The next courses will be on 17th May (Resuscitation) and 31st May (Basic First Aid).**

Prior booking is essential and if you would like to take part, please email janice.allister@gmail.com.

You can also read more on our webpage, <https://stpetersedinburgh.org/first-aid-training>



Emergency First Aid Courses

By John S.

I would like to thank Dr Janice Allister for holding the two sessions covering the basic first aid procedures that I recently attended.

In the first session, we had the opportunity to practice CPR on lifelike manikins, use a defibrillator, identify and deal with choking, heart attacks and strokes. The second session covered breathing problems, bleeds, breaks and burns. Chatting within the group when they shared past experiences was also a benefit and added to the knowledge we learnt on the days. I found the course very helpful as it has been over 10 years since I last attended one and as the years have progressed, my confidence has waned. I was surprised how it all came back to me although some things have changed - CPR for an adult is now 30 chest compressions followed by 2 rescue breaths and 'Nellie the Elephant' is no longer the preferred song to time the compressions. (Janice did say that it was not wrong to use 'Nellie' - administering the 30 compressions was the important part!)

My thanks to Janice for organising these courses and I would urge everyone to consider attending future courses as you never know when the information learnt could help save a person's life.

I am delighted to see that the church now has a defibrillator installed in the church garden. This can be a lifesaver - the more people trained to use the equipment, the better for all!



Editor's note: The defibrillator is now connected to the national network. When one phones 999 or 112, an operator will answer and give you instructions. Thank you to all who have contributed to its installation!

Magazine Articles

The May magazine is due to be issued on 27th April.

Please email or submit your articles and photographs to Sheila,
office@stpetersedinburgh.org Thank you!

*The DEADLINE for the
May issue is
Thursday 17th April*

Walking Group

Walk on 15th March; By Old Railway & Craigmillar Castle Park



By Janet H., walk co-ordinator

What a beautiful weather day for a walk we had. This was a route partly followed before at a different time of year. We met at the Commonwealth Pool on a Saturday morning and headed down to Holyrood Park and on to the Innocent Railway path with the wild garlic appearing, nettles too (good for cooking at this time of year), and ending at Duddingston Road West where it meets the Braid Burn. As the trees are without leaves at this time there are open views to Duddingston, Arthur's Seat and the Pentlands. Next we turned onto King's Haugh and followed the burn to pass Pepper House and over the road to enter Craigmillar Castle Park. We climbed up through the trees to reach open ground to a great view of Craigmillar Castle and out over a blue Firth of Forth to see Fife and East Lothian. The route then descended through the trees to the path which led to Bridgend Farm for some welcome refreshments in their café.



The sun shone all day, and there was no wind. It is a good route for a walk, with 8km and 80m of climbing. It can also be extended or shortened at various points.

The sun shone all day, and there was no wind.

It is a good route for a walk, with 8km and 80m of climbing. It can also be extended or shortened at various points.

Walk on Saturday 5th April, 10.30am

Janet will again be leading this walk. If you would like to go, please email Janet via the office email to let her know you are going and to find out where the meeting point is.

We are very grateful to Janet (H), who is going to start helping with Walking Group organisation and administration.

If you would like to receive Walking Group emails with information about forthcoming and last-minute walks, please speak to Janet or email Sheila via the office.

.....
Front cover photo: Taken by Janet H. on the walk on 15th March.

‘I pray ... that all of them may be one’

[John 17: 21]

By Rev Chris Martin

One recent Saturday morning I went to the meeting on Ecumenism at St Columba's Church in Upper Gray Street. As a way of filling in time before the Six Nations finale, you might say. The speaker was Father Basil Clark, the Vicar Episcopal for Ecumenism and Interfaith Dialogue in the Edinburgh Diocese. There were twenty or so people there. The title of his talk was The Church in Scotland: The Quiet Exodus - Ecumenism in a Time of Decline. Which was indicative.

Father Basil was an engaging and fluent speaker. A former Scottish Episcopalian. Who ranged widely. He said that the secular mindset of Scotland [Britain] was a tough nut for the gospel to penetrate. He acknowledged the steady decline of all the major denominations in Scotland. In particular the Church of Scotland. In terms of membership and of money. He pointed to the disappearance of ACTS [Action for Churches Together in Scotland], which closed Scottish Churches House in Dunblane in 2006 and which ceased to exist in 2021. He suggested that some enthusiastic evangelicals are delusional. He regretted the post-Constantine 'imperial' nature of the church; pointing instead to the suffering Christ and the idea of the wounded healer. To Bonhoeffer's writings. And to Pope Francis's image of the church as a hospital for a needy world.

Institutional ecumenism is dead. Partly because declining churches have become focused on their own shrinking congregations. Partly because young people have no interest in denominational labels. Partly because too many of the first- and second-generation ecumenists concentrated on the *quaestiones disputatae*, like the nature of the sacraments, and the status of the priesthood and the Blessed Virgin Mary. That is, on things that separate us. Rather than on things that could/should bring us together, like environmental degradation or the plight of the Palestinians in Gaza. He suggested that the churches in Scotland have leaders, but no leadership.

It was a good and provocative talk. Under the auspices of the Peace and Justice group at St Columba's. I am not very good at recognising people. But I am fairly sure that I was the only non-Roman Catholic there. Which too is indicative.

Eco-Matters

Garden turfing *by Hilary & Philip*

When we saw that a neighbouring garden was being restored with turf being laid, we asked the contractor if he had any left over at the end. He was delighted to offer us far more than we could manage as it was otherwise going to waste. So areas of dead grass on the church lawn have been cut out and 'patched' with new donated turf.

We believe that the principal reason for the grass dying in these areas is because so many dogs are relieving themselves on the lawn and the urine kills the grass, especially if not washed away by rain. Many children also play on the grass. Hence the notice about this area not being a dog's toilet!



Recycling old prescription packs & more *by Anna*

I recently learned that Boots now offer an extensive recycling scheme for medicine packets, as well separate recycling bins for empty beauty and health containers. The Boots website describes an app (Recycle at Boots) that can be downloaded in order to earn advantage points for the recycling done, and to ensure the items are approved for recycling. However, a friend was able to use the recycling bins at the Prince's Street store without having to use the app, so I don't think this is essential.

Recyclable items include: tablet blister packets, toothpaste tubes, empty makeup containers like mascara and concealer, deodorant, denture cleaner packaging and many more.

The Boots website has a store locator, and it looks like all the big branches nearby are part of the recycling scheme: Cameron Toll, Prince's Street, Craigleith, The Gyle. So far I have accumulated two toothpaste tubes - once I have a reasonable amount collected I'll go and check out the scheme myself. It looks like Superdrug offer a similar scheme, but only in stores that have a pharmacy. Sainsbury's at Cameron Toll also have a recycling bin by the checkouts for makeup containers.

Bishop Donald Allister's Bible Teaching Videos

Donald uploads a new Bible teaching video every Monday to his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@feedmysheep2023> These are free to view, and it is fine to pass the link on to anyone who might be interested.

During Lent there is a series of studies in the passion narratives of Luke 22 and 23, and in the Easter season there will be a series on the resurrection appearances as recorded in Luke 24.

Sunday Readings

**The passages being read*

April 2025

Sunday 6th April

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Isaiah 43: 16-21 ♦ Psalm 126 ♦ *Philippians 3: 4b-14 ♦ *John 12: 1-8

Sunday 13th April

Palm Sunday

Isaiah 50: 4-9a ♦ Psalm 118: 19-29 ♦ *Philippians 2: 5-11 ♦ *Luke 19: 28-40

Thursday 17th April

Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12: 1-4, 11-14 ♦ Psalm 116: 1, 10-17 ♦ *1 Corinthians 11: 23-26 ♦ *John 13: 1-17, 31b-35

Sunday 20th April

Easter Day

*Acts 10: 34-43 ♦ Psalm 118: 14-24 ♦ 1 Corinthians 15: 19-26 ♦ *John 20: 1-18

Sunday 27th April & Thursday 1st May

Second Sunday of Easter

*Acts 5: 27-32 ♦ Psalm 150 ♦ Revelation 1: 4b-8 ♦ *John 20: 19-31

Sunday 4th May

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 9: 1-6 ♦ *Psalm 30 ♦ Revelation 5: 11-14 ♦ *John 21: 1-19

Daffodils on Mothering Sunday, 30th March

On Mothering Sunday, little bunches of daffodils will be given to the congregation as they leave church. Thank you to Sue Whitehouse for organising this, and to the team of helpers who helped her to put the bunches together!

Clergy

Contact details for our Clergy are on page 25.

Rector Rev Nick Wills

Associate Clergy Rev Sue Whitehouse
Bishop Donald Allister
Rev Ruth Green



Nick



Sue



Donald



Ruth

Nick and all the Associate Clergy Team are very happy to spend time with members of St Peter's who have concerns or are facing difficult situations.

Please feel able to speak to any of them to arrange a time to talk. We are 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 Sue, Donald or Ruth know if you hear of a member of St Peter's who is ill.

The Office

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



Laura Amongst several 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. She works 20 hours a week, usually working on 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

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.

Contacts

Clergy and Staff

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

Children's & Young People's Worker Becky

becky@stpetersedinburgh.org

Hall Bookings / Development Laura

development@stpetersedinburgh.org

Administrator / Magazine Sheila

office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Church Office

Sheila or Laura

0131 563 8198

(Please note, messages left on the office answer machine may take a few days before they are heard and dealt with.)

Director of Music

Rupert

Organist & Voice for Life Sheila

Church Officers

Vestry Secretary Janice

Treasurer Laura

development@stpetersedinburgh.org

Lay Representative Jan S.

Alternate Lay Representative Roddy

Finance Convenor Ralph

Works Convenor Liz M

Connect Becky

becky@stpetersedinburgh.org

Sacristan Liz M

Fire Warden Pam

Church Organisations and Groups

Servers' Guild Bill

Monday Group Jane S.

Thursday Lunch Club (1st Thursday) Delia

All of the above can be contacted by emailing the office.

Dates for the Diary

Services

Sundays ♦ 9am ♦ Holy Communion ♦ Traditional language, no music and sometimes no sermon.

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

2nd Sunday of the month (usually) ♦ 6.30pm ♦ Process

Last Sunday of the month (usually) ♦ 6.30pm ♦ Choral Evensong (*Not April*)

1st Thursday of the month ♦ 11am ♦ Holy Communion ♦ Traditional language, no music and sometimes no 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 Wednesday of the month (usually) ♦ 7pm ♦ St Peter's Book Club

Events in April

Wed 2nd Apr Lent Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

Thur 3rd Apr Last Toddler Group before Easter holidays ♦ 9.30am-11.30am

Thur 3rd Apr Monthly Thursday Communion service ♦ 11am

Sat 5th Apr Walking Group ♦ 10.30am

Mon 7th Apr No Toddler Group

Wed 9th Apr Lent Group ♦ 7.30pm-9pm

Thur 10th Apr Toddler & church family Easter Special ♦ 9.30am-11.30am

Sun 13th Apr Palm Sunday ♦ 9am & 10.45am

Sun 13th Apr Process ♦ 6.30pm

Mon 14th Apr No Toddler Group

Mon 14th Apr Monday Group ♦ 2.30pm-4pm

Thur 17th Apr No Toddler Group, May Magazine Deadline

Thur 17th Apr Maundy Thursday Communion ♦ 7.30pm

Fri 18th Apr Good Friday choral meditation ♦ 7.30pm

Sun 20th Apr Easter Day Communion ♦ 9am & 10.45am

Mon 21st Apr No Toddler Group

Thur 24th Apr Toddler Group resumes ♦ 9.30am-11.30am

Sat 26th Apr Diocesan Crazy Golf for P6- S2 ♦ 3pm-7pm

Wed 30th Apr St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7pm

Thur 1st May Monthly Thursday Communion service ♦ 11am

Happy Birthday Delia! (See p. 14)



Holy Week and Easter in St Peter's



Palm Sunday 13th April



9am (said) 10.45am (& music)

Services of Holy Communion celebrating the arrival of Jesus into Jerusalem. It reminds Christians of the wish to welcome Jesus into our hearts, and the willingness to follow him.

6.30pm Process

A contemporary service which is reflective, sometimes interactive and always different!

Maundy Thursday 17th April 7.30pm (with music)



Service of Holy Communion, commemorating Jesus's institution of the Eucharist during the Last Supper.

Deriving from the Latin word 'mandatum' (command), the word 'Maundy' reflects on the words Jesus spoke, which are written in John 13: 34; 'A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another as I have loved you'.

Good Friday Meditation 18th April 7.30pm



Dubois: The Seven Last Words of Christ

A choral meditation recalling Christ's last words on the cross. Sung by St Peter's choir.

(Picture painted by Catherine Rednall, 2024)

Easter Sunday 20th April



9am (said) 10.45am (with music)

Services of Holy Communion joyfully celebrating the life the Risen Christ shares with us all.

Holy Week with Newington Churches Together

Monday 14th - Friday 18th April 7.45am

As in previous years, fifteen minutes of reflection to start each day of Holy Week, followed with a light breakfast of juice, cereal, rolls, tea & coffee is being held from at Newington Trinity Church (formerly Mayfield Salisbury).

Donald is leading the reflection on the morning of Good Friday.