

News & Views

St Peter's, Lutton Place
November 2025 – January 2026





Walking through Dalkeith Park p. 14

Transporting Troughs! p. 17

Making Christmas Wreaths p. 7

Bag End from the set of The Hobbit, NZ p. 16



From the Rector

Rev Nick Wills

As the wintry weather closes in, we have a bumper magazine for you...

We were unable to publish the November magazine when you would have been expecting it, due to Sheila's absence through illness, but I am delighted that she is back (with a phased return – please give her lots of space and patience) and so here is the magazine! Sheila has been much missed but I am determined that she rests and returns fully well. We are particularly grateful to Christian, and to former organ scholar Tom W, who kindly played the organ in Sheila's absence and ensured that our worship continued uninterrupted.

Remembrance Day was a poignant occasion, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to Sue for stepping in at very short notice to cover for me, as I had a short-term seasonal illness. I was very sorry to miss Bill Polson laying a wreath and Thomas L. playing the Last Post.

I am delighted to report that the work on the dry rot in the church roof has now been completed, which means we are once again able to use the main tower door. This is wonderful news for all who attend services and events.

Looking ahead, we have several festive events to look forward to. Our Tree Lighting ceremony on 30th November at 17.00. As always, we look forward to welcoming many families from our local community to share in our Advent celebration. This is followed by the Carol Service on 14th December at 18.30, and the Crib Service on Monday 22nd December at 10.00. See page 5 for a full listing of all our Christmas and New Year services.

The Annual General Meeting took place on 26th October. See page 13 for introductions to our new Vestry members and Lay Representatives.

News & Views

*November 2025 –
January 2026*

St Peter's
Lutton Place
Edinburgh
SC017358

The Scottish Episcopal Church

*The Most Rev Mark Strange
Acting Bishop for the Diocese
of Edinburgh.*

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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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all our Christmas and New Year services.

My heartfelt thanks go to Janice, who has stepped down as Vestry Secretary, and to Roddy, who has kindly agreed to take up the role.

In the past few months, we have sadly lost church members Donald McKean, Willie Waitt and Nancy Smith, and former St Peter's clergy Rev Wing Commander Paul Rennie, who was an Associate Priest at St Peters from 1990 to c. 1993, and Rt Rev Robert (Bob) Halliday, who, during his retirement, was part of our clergy team from 2009 to 2018.

October and November saw successful Folk and Acoustic Music Open Mic Nights – one of our new Autumn ventures. The safe space for creatives in the area has been much appreciated and Vestry has agreed that we should continue to promote these events supporting key community building. It has been wonderful to see members of St Peter's share their musical skills and talents alongside other folk from the local area.

Our regular daytime Tuesday Prayer Services, Bible Study, and Tuesday's Chewsdays continues until Tuesday 16th December, resuming on 13th January (not on 6th January). It has been great to pray with you all and a privilege to cook, alongside Liz M, ably supported by Sheila. Thank you, too, to Hilary and Philip for standing in for Liz and me when we were unable to cook on one of the Tuesdays.

The two Bible studies led by our retired clergy team of Sue (daytime) and Ruth and Donald (evening) have been well-supported and have enhanced the spiritual life of our church family.

Little Folk has been continuing and we are very grateful to June R for helping with playing the piano and serving refreshments in Sheila's absence, and to those supporting the Student Group activities. See page 9 for more information on this year's activities.

I was finally able to attend Monday Group to share some snapshots from my Sabbatical (photos are on the front and inside covers, and p.16). It was lovely to share some of the wonderful highlights I was lucky enough to experience.

On Sunday 16th November, the choir sang Christian's award-winning anthem, 'O nata lux' – an incredible achievement by our talented organ scholar! In October, Janet H led a beautiful autumnal walk through Dalkeith Country Park. With winter upon us, these walks will now pause until the spring.

Thank you all for your continued support, dedication, and enthusiasm. I wish you a joyful and peaceful Advent and Christmas season.

With every blessing, Nick, your Rector

Christmas & New Year Services in St Peter's

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



Sun 30th Nov	9am	Said Communion
<i>Advent Sunday</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns and choir
	5pm	Tree Lighting Ceremony
Thur 4th Dec	11am	Monthly Thursday said Communion
Sun 7th Dec	9am	Said Communion
<i>2nd Sun of Advent</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns and choir
Sun 14th Dec	9am	Said Communion
<i>3rd Sun of Advent</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns and choir
	6.30pm	Carol Service
Sun 21st Dec	9am	Said Communion
<i>4th Sun of Advent</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns and choir
Mon 22nd Dec	10am	Crib Service for children up to age c. 6.
Wed 24th Dec	11.30pm	Midnight Communion with Carols and choir
<i>Christmas Eve</i>		
Thur 25th Dec	10.45am	Communion with Carols and choir
<i>Christmas Day</i>		
Sun 28th Dec	9am	Said Communion
<i>Christmas 1</i>	10.45am	Communion with Carols and choir
Sun 4th Jan	9am	Said Communion
<i>Epiphany Sunday (Trans 6th)</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns and choir
Thur 8th Jan	11am	Monthly Thursday Communion
Sun 11th Jan	9am	Said Communion
<i>Baptism of Christ</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns, choir and Baptism
	6.30pm	Process
Sun 18th Jan	9am	Said Communion
<i>2nd Sun after Epiphany</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns, choir and Baptism
Sun 25th Jan	9am	Said Communion
<i>3rd Sun after Epiphany</i>	10.45am	Communion with hymns and choir
	6.30pm	Choral Evensong

Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

Sunday November 30th, 5pm

To mark the start of Advent, at 5pm on November 30th, which is Advent Sunday, we will be holding our annual Tree Lighting Ceremony.

We switch on the lights on the tree in the church garden and then move into the hall to sing more carols and enjoy festive refreshments. It is very child-friendly with lots of community carol singing and children's craft activities.



All are very welcome!

We also greatly thank all those who helped to collect and put up the trees!

Crib Service **Monday December 22nd 10am - 11am**

An informal interactive and fun re-telling of the Christmas Story.

Especially for children up to c. 6 years old in our Church family, Toddler Group and Little Folk. (*Please use the hall entrance.*) *Figures kindly knitted by Maggie.*



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 in the Children's Corner.

During the 10.45am service, children and their leaders usually leave for Children's Church in the hall during the Kyrie / Gloria and return to the service in time for Communion. Fun activities based on the day's Bible theme are organised by Becky, our Children and Young People's Worker, and a group of PVG covered volunteers help her to run the activities.

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.

Advent Course December 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd 7pm

Led by Ruth Green & Donald Allister, in the Choir Vestry

To help with our preparation for the coming of the baby Jesus at Christmas, we are planning an Advent course. This will run for four weeks starting on 2nd December and replace the current Bible study group that starts at 7pm on Tuesdays.

We will study the Gospel as found in Isaiah, looking at various passages including those that prophesy about Jesus. Different parts of Isaiah are quoted at least 66 times by eight different New Testament writers.

Come and join us as we learn and study together, discerning how God is speaking to us through this book.

Christmas Wreath Making

Wednesday December 3rd, 10.00am - 12 noon St Peter's Hall

Do you love making a Christmas wreath? Come and make it in company at St Peters. Please bring lots of greenery to share and any decorations. If you have your base from last year, please bring it too. We will also share convivial advent chat.

Wire, scissors and secateurs provided. Not sure what to bring?
Contact Laura on development@stpetersedinburgh.org



LITTLE FOLK Traditional rhymes and folksongs

A relaxed and fun introduction to music through a mixture of song, stories and movement!

- For all young children
- No session in December; resumes January 11th.
- meets in the hall on Sundays during term-time
- 3.00pm-4.00pm
- Led by Sheila, Nick & Becky
- £2 per family per session
- Finishes with refreshments



*All children must be accompanied by an adult who is responsible for them, and whom we also encourage to join in!
Please ask Becky, Sheila or Nick if you have you any questions.*



Tuesdays in St Peter's

11am Morning Prayer Service Nick Wills (*Millar Chapel*)

December 2nd, 9th, 16th; Resumes January 13th, 20th, 27th, February 3rd

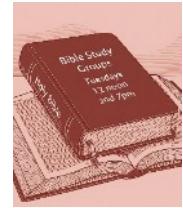
An opportunity to pray together for St Peter's, and those in need in our local community, our nation and the wider world.



12 noon Bible Study Group Sue Whitehouse (*Millar Chapel*)

December 2nd, 9th, 16th; Resumes January 13th, 20th, 27th, February 3rd

Everyone is invited to come and join in - no prior knowledge is required. Reading scripture is one of the ways in which we can grow in our faith. We engage together, learn more about God, listen to each other's ideas and experiences, and learn to recognise what God intends for us in our lives, church community, and in the world.



1pm Tuesday's Chewsday! (*Church Hall*)

December 2nd, 9th, 16th; resumes January 13th, 20th, 27th, February 3rd

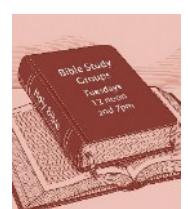
A freshly cooked two-course lunch to eat socially together - for congregational members, and we hope it will be especially attractive to those who attend the 12 noon Bible Study Group. *It would be helpful if you could please let the office know by the Sunday before if you plan to come, especially if you have any dietary requirements.* There is a suggested donation of £6, but we would not want this to be an obstacle to anyone who wants to join us.



7pm Bible Study Group Ruth Green & Donald Allister (*Choir Vestry*)

Weekly year round

In December, this will be the Advent Study Group. No prior learning is required, just an enthusiasm to engage with the text, bringing our fervour for the writing together with our questions and doubts.



The Office There are currently no set office hours with Laura and Sheila working flexibly part-time, sometimes from home. If you want to see either of them in the office, please make an appointment.

Contact details for Nick, Sue, Donald, Ruth, and Sheila in the Office can all be emailed via office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Toddler Group

Our Toddler Group runs from 9.30am–11.30am on Mondays and Thursdays. It is for those aged 0-3. All children must be accompanied by an adult, who is responsible for their own child/children at all times. Donation £1 per family and tea/coffee and snacks are provided.



The final sessions before Christmas are on Monday December 15th and Thursday 18th. It resumes on Thursday January 8th and Monday 12th.

See p. 6 about our Crib Service on Monday December 22nd, to which all up to c. age 6 are very welcome!

Our international groups are very welcoming and friendly!

If you would like to attend or have any questions, please email Becky via becky@stpetersedinburgh.org.



Students & Young Adults

We have a lovely group of students who have returned or joined us this year at St Peter's.

We have begun a regular schedule of Tuesday evening activities including meals, games nights, Bible Studies, Pub quizzes and the Open Mic Music nights. These have been great opportunities to get to know each other and become a strong group to support and challenge each other.

Some of our students have also joined in with wider church activities such as welcoming, serving coffee after services and joining the Process service planning team, as well as helping out with our Advent Tree Lighting event. We are delighted that Thomas has been co-opted onto our Vestry to represent our student group.

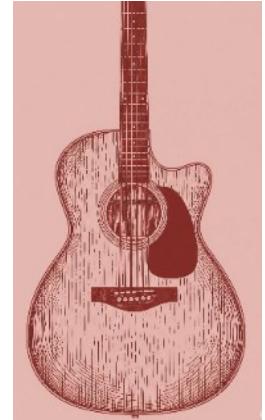
The group usually meets weekly on Tuesday evening.

Any students or young adults who want further details are invited to join our student and young adult email and WhatsApp lists and hear about the forthcoming activities. You can also speak to Becky or Nick, or email becky@stpetersedinburgh.org.



FOLK AND ACOUSTIC MUSIC OPEN MIC NIGHT

Hosted by Adam Holmes, one of Edinburgh's finest folk and roots musicians, the first three evenings held so far have been greatly enjoyed by all who attended. It was super to hear members of our congregation playing harmonica, piano, trumpet and violin!



- Do you want to share and listen to folk and roots standards and maybe some new and original music?
- Are you talented and creative, and looking for an outlet to share your skills and learn from others, in a supportive atmosphere?

If so, look out for future dates to continue creating Edinburgh's friendliest Open Mic Night together!

Process

In October we explored, through music, food and shared experience, Elijah's dramatic encounter with God at a moment when he felt completely abandoned.

We have started a series on the theme of peace, beginning in November with 'Building peace', using a liturgy from the Iona Community and taking as our starting point a video of the rebuilding of Notre-Dame Cathedral.



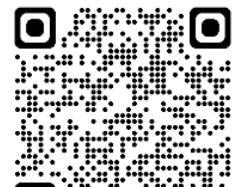
Our Carol Service is on December 14th, and our next Process services are on Sunday January 11th and February 8th, 6.30pm – 7.30pm. We gather in the hall for this contemporary evening service, which is reflective, sometimes interactive and always different! The service lasts about an hour, and refreshments are always shared afterwards.



As the services are planned each month, updated information is included in our Saturday emails and online: <https://stpetersedinburgh.org/process> If you would like to be part of the team who creates the services, please speak to Nick!

St Peter's Book Club

The Book Club meets in the Choir Vestry and one can just turn up to discuss the chosen book. The group usually meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7pm. (*Not in December*)



The next meeting is on January 28th. The upcoming books are **January** *Don't forget we're here forever: a new generation's search for religion*, by Lamorna Ash. (Described by The Telegraph as 'A Pilgrim's Progress for our time'.)

February *The Island of Missing Trees* by Elif Shafak.

March *Colonialism* by Nigel Biggar

Even if you do not come to the group, if you have read something of interest, please do let the group know via the office email! New members are always welcome to discuss a wide range of titles. For more information about the Book Club, please contact the office, or see <https://stpetersedinburgh.org/book-club>

Music Notes

By Rupert, Director of Music



Choral services will continue as usual throughout the Christmas period with the exception that there will be no service of Choral Evensong on Sunday 21st December. Our annual Carol Service will be on Sunday 14th December at 6.30 pm.

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

There will be no choir rehearsals or Voice for Life on December 25th or January 1st 2026; these resume at the usual times on January 8th.

Do you enjoy singing?

For information about joining the choir, where to meet and the commitment required, please speak to me after a morning service, or email me via the office: office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Rehearsals are held on:

Thursdays 7.00pm–8pm: Junior Choir; 7.45pm - 9.30pm for adults.

Sundays 10am for the 10.45am service, and 5.30pm when Evensong.

Vestry Update October

By Janice, Vestry Secretary (until October 26th)

Editor's note: This would have been included in the November magazine. The November Vestry update is below.

The Vestry met on October 8th in the Choir Vestry, earlier than originally planned, in order to be able to approve the Annual Accounts before the AGM on October 26th.

Laura, our treasurer, circulated a summary and outlined key features. Approval was unanimous.

Nick gave an encouraging report on the Strategy of Connection and Engagement, which started on September 16th. The recent addition of "Little Folk" for young children, on Sunday afternoons in term time, with singing and other activities, had been well received. The Tuesday term time Morning Prayer service, noon Bible Study and a lunch which Nick prepares, are going well with up to 12 participants. The evening Bible Study at 7pm takes place every week and is appreciated. The next "Open Mic" folk music sessions are on October 21st and November 18th, 7.30pm to 9.30pm.

On to mundane business, the work on the church dry rot has involved joiners, roofers and now painters and decorators. Entry to the church continues to be via the Narthex door or through the Hall door from the car park. Outside painting of the Rectory is complete. Negotiations continue over the updating of the mobile phone mast.

A more pressing and concerning problem is that of the behaviour of the few who take advantage of the beauty of church garden in the week, abusing alcohol or drugs. We were reluctant to limit access and will seek further advice. In the meantime a notice forbidding the use of alcohol without Vestry's permission will be posted.

Please continue to pray for us and all these matters.

Chair: Nick Wills

Elected members: Janice (secretary), Chris H, Liz M, Jacob, Christine R, Jan S, Roddy, Janet Y.

Staff: Laura (treasurer, non-voting)

Annual General Meeting

Sunday 26th October, 2025

A convivial AGM was chaired by Nick, our Rector. During it, the 2023-2024 Minutes and Accounts to June 2025 were unanimously agreed, with these and the annual reports having been distributed beforehand.

Grateful thanks were expressed to Janice and Chris H who, having completed two three-year terms were standing down. In appreciation for all Janice's hard work and support as Vestry Secretary, she was presented with flowers.

Jacob Peterson and Liz M continue as serving Vestry members.

Elections to Vestry

Elected: Hilary, Robin

Re-elected for a second three-year term: Roddy, Christine R, Janet Y, Jan S.

Lay Representative: Jan S Alternate Lay Representative: Hilary

We thank them all for being willing to support the continuing faith and development of our church in this way.

Vestry Update, November

By Roddy, the newly elected Vestry Secretary

The first Vestry after our AGM met on November 19th, with two new members, Hilary and Robin, who were welcomed at the start of our meeting. Some time was spent going over structure and procedures, briefly we have two sub-committees, Buildings and Finance, who make recommendations to Vestry. The Connect group organises outreach and the Pastoral group comprises members of the church who visit some of our church community. Thanks to all members of these groups who work quietly in the background doing often unseen work.

Much of the meeting looked at regular agenda items such as the state of our finances, with no significant recent changes, and the dry rot work in the church, happily now finished. The Open Mic night on Tuesdays was discussed, and it was reported that it has a very positive feel and a good number of people attending. The Connect group are planning for the Advent Tree Lighting event and it was suggested that the benches in the garden be taken in and stored over the winter.

Finally, we were delighted to co-opt Thomas L, a second-year medical student, onto Vestry. He starts in January, when we next meet. Thanks, Thomas, for agreeing to this and to new and returning members for your time and thoughtful consideration of the practical running of the church.

Introducing our new Vestry Secretary

Unbelievably, my wife Lenore and I have now been coming to St Peter's church for 13½ years. We were looking for somewhere rooted in the community near to where we live and never needed to look beyond St Peter's to find this. I have been involved since near the start with welcoming, making coffees, intercessions and more recently children's church. I was a little worried, as a schoolteacher, that this would be a bit of a bus drivers' holiday, but I quickly learned that it is very different to my day job, teaching Physics to teenagers. I love doing both but in very different ways. Thanks so much to Becky for organising this so well and making it so enjoyable to be part of.



More recently, I became involved with Process, the monthly evening service, with a creative and varied feel to it. I am also just starting my second three-year term on Vestry, now as Vestry secretary, an interesting and wide-ranging role which I am enjoying learning about.

Finally, when I am not at work or in church I love walking my black Labrador, Seamus, pottering in the garden or just being in a comfy armchair with a good book and one of our two cats on my lap and a mug of tea nearby.

Walking Group

By Janet H

Saturday October 11th October



Town Gate of Dalkeith Country Park circular route via oak woodlands and Rivers Esk.

What a contrast to the last walk in Dalkeith Country Park- this time there were blue skies, sunshine, warmth and no wind!

Our route took us from the Town Gate to the old stable area now called Preservation Yard where there are refreshments, shop, and seating area. We passed the ornate remains of the conservatory; the boilers beneath this

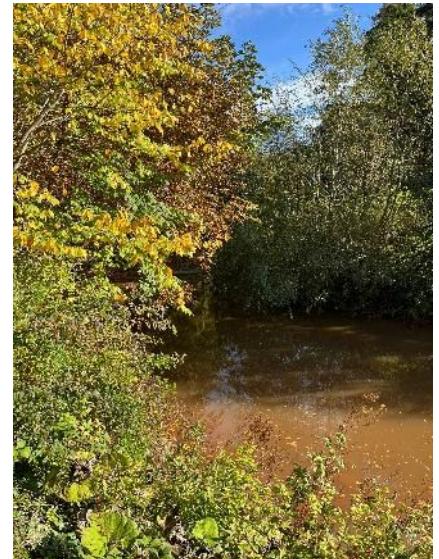
once used a ton of coal a day so oranges and figs could be grown inside. Mind you, there were plenty of coal mines in the area. The Laundry Bridge beside it was built by William Adam. We followed a path to the side of the Laundry House to enter the ancient oak woodlands. This year is a “mast” year for nuts and seeds and our narrow path was littered with acorns. There were some lovely old tree specimens. Our path undulated through the woodlands above the River South Esk which is quite red due to the iron in the water from the old mine workings such as Bilston Glen nearby. There are plans to treat this at the source and allow the ecosystem to recover.

At the northern tip of our walk we reached the ‘Meeting of the Waters’ where the South and North Esk combine to continue their journey to Musselburgh as the River Esk. In contrast to the South Esk the North Esk flows clear.

Our route eventually zig-zagged down close to the North Esk and we climbed up to reach Montagu Bridge. This impressive bridge was built in 1792 by William Adam. It was a gift from the Montagu family to the Queensberry family to celebrate a marriage between the two families who had neighbouring estates. After crossing this we did a loop curving round with the North Esk again and passing some magnificent sweet chestnut trees until we came back to the Bridge, we followed the track back with good views of Dalkeith Palace to reach Restoration Yard and refreshments.

A good walk of about 7km, the trees were starting to show their autumn colours and the sky stayed clear blue.

During the winter months the walks have been suspended, but Janet would also be delighted if you would let her know the days / times which would suit you for walks so she can plan accordingly. If you would like to receive Walking Group emails with information about forthcoming and last-minute walks, please speak to or email myself, or email Sheila via the office.



Giving to St Peter's

For 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:
Treasurer Laura development@stpetersedinburgh.org

Monday Group

By Liz P

On Monday October 20th we welcomed Rachel Lyagoba who gave us an illustrated talk about the charity she founded, “Educate and Empower Uganda”. Rachel is Margaret Garden’s goddaughter. We had given them the £265 proceeds of our 2023 Strawberry Tea and Silent Auction. She talked to us about the excellent work the charity is doing in the slum township of Masese, not far from Lake Victoria. They sponsor children at the local primary school and train women to be seamstresses so they can support their families. Recently they have built some clean toilet and shower blocks.

On Monday November 17th Nick, our Rector, gave an illustrated talk about his time in New Zealand during his sabbatical. It was an excellent presentation, followed by coffee & biscuits and chat with friends. A number of non-Monday Group people joined us for this enjoyable afternoon.

We will be having a Christmas celebration on Monday December 15th, probably in the Millar Chapel, with festive fare and silly games – details to be confirmed.

All are most welcome to our meetings, men and women of any age. For those who wish to become members the annual subscription is £10. Suggested donations at meetings are £1 for members and £2 for non-members – but in these cash-free days we wouldn’t turn anyone away!

For further information about the Monday Group you can contact Jane S or Liz P via the office email.

Front cover photo: Christmas 2024 in Auckland, New Zealand

Magazine Articles

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

Thank you!

The DEADLINE for the February issue is Thursday 22nd January

Eco-Matters

Troughs in the garden

By Hilary

When Philip and I were working in the church garden recently a family approached us and asked if the church could use a couple of 6ft long wooden flower troughs. The family had moved out of a ground floor flat and couldn't use these in their new home. The troughs were in Montague Street so not too far away. We didn't know when the new tenants might move in so decided we needed to move quickly.

We cut down the shrubs to a manageable height, took them out and moved them to the church by wheelbarrow along with soil. The troughs once emptied were temporarily mounted on wheels and towed along the streets to their new home. (See the picture on the inside cover!)

We were ignored until we arrived on Lutton Place when we had lots of smiles and comments! It took a number of trips but all done over 2 days and they are now in their new home with some of the original shrubs and awaiting additions. One possibility is getting the children involved with planting various seeds we have been given. Look out for these troughs outside the lodge and by the church steps.

Christian Aid: 'The Unstoppable Power of Hope'

By Anna M

Christine recently wrote about a lecture series I had heard about hosted at Morningside Parish Church, called Ecology Matters. I joined by live stream the lecture titled '*The Unstoppable Power of Hope: Christian Aid at 80*', given by Val Brown, head of Christian Aid in Scotland. I was interested to learn of the range of Christian Aid's work, aside from emergency disaster relief.

Climate adaption and resilience is a key focus of their work, and I've been looking further into this. Natural disasters generally impact the most vulnerable communities around the world, so people living in poverty feel the effects hardest.

Christian Aid works with local partners and crisis-affected communities on the causes and consequences of climate change, so the most marginalised can adapt, build resilience, and reduce their vulnerability to climate change and disasters.

The charity has longstanding involvement in climate change research, development and innovation in climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, establishing early warning/early action and locally-led adaptation. Other areas of work include food value chains, climate resilient agriculture and access to local renewable energy. Christian Aid provides advocacy, enabling communities to come together to influence policy makers and work for greater equity and justice.

Here's part of the rallying cry from Christian Aid Week 2025: 'Together, we can play our part in God's work to restore creation and see the flourishing of all people.'

Helping Those in Need

Bethany Christian Trust & Edinburgh City Mission

These charities jointly run a van distributing food, hot drinks, and clothes to the homeless on the streets of Edinburgh. It goes out every night, and five lunchtimes a week. There is a need for clothes to distribute such as shirts/tops, sweaters, or fleeces, hoodies, and trousers or joggers. Waterproof, and warm jackets are also good, socks, and underwear, ideally new, but clean is acceptable, and blankets or sleeping bags. Donated clothing should be adult sizes, and in reasonable condition. <https://edinburghcitymission.org.uk/ministry/care-van/>



Newington FoodBank⁺

The donations that keep appearing in the box at the back of church each week are all greatly appreciated! They particularly need sardines, cooking oil, custard, coffee, sugar, biscuits, shampoo and shower gel.



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>

In Memory...

Editor's note: it is with great sadness that we announce the following deaths. I am sorry that due to my illness we have been unable to include tributes in this magazine, as is our custom. They will be included in the next issue.

Professor Donald McKean

6th May 1927 - 30th September 2025



Willie Waitt

27th July 1933 - 1st October 2025



Nancy Smith

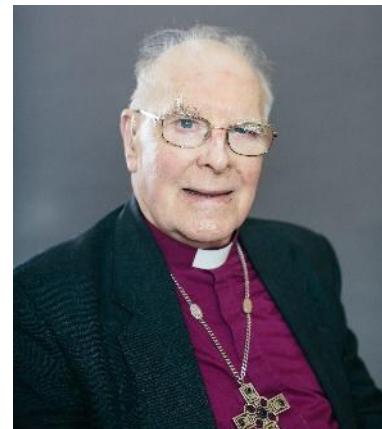
23rd October 1929 - 2nd October 2025



Rt Rev Robert (Bob) Halliday

7th May 1932 - 11th November 2025

*Bishop of Brechin (1990-1996)
Associate Clergy at St Peters (2009-2018)*



Rev Wing Commander Paul Rennie

28th September 1958 - 10th October 2025

Associate Priest at St Peters (1990-c. 1993)



Regular Services in St Peter's

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

Tuesdays (during term-time) ♦ 11am ♦ Prayer Service ♦ no music or sermon

1st Thursday of the month ♦ 11am ♦ Holy Communion ♦ Traditional language, no music and usually no sermon ♦ followed with a picnic lunch in the hall

Liturgy Books for Services

Large print Liturgy Books, and for those who find it easier to read on coloured paper, copies on yellow, pink, green and blue paper are available at the back of church. If you would like it printed in another specific colour, or as a colour large print, please let a Welcomer or Sheila know.

Summary of regular activities in St Peter's

Sundays (term-time only)

- ♦ 3.00pm-4.00pm ♦ Little Folk

Mondays & Thursdays (term-time only)

- ♦ 9.30am-11.30am ♦ Toddler Group

Third Monday of the Month ♦ 2.30pm ♦ Monday Group

Tuesdays (term-time only)

- ♦ 11.00am ♦ Prayer Service ♦ weekly in Millar Chapel
- ♦ 12 noon ♦ Daytime Bible Study Group ♦ in Millar Chapel
- ♦ 1.00pm ♦ Tuesday's Chewsday! ♦ lunch in the hall

Tuesdays (weekly year round)

- ♦ 7.00pm ♦ Evening Bible Study Group ♦ in Choir Vestry

Last Wednesday of the month (usually)

- ♦ 7.00pm ♦ St Peter's Book Club

Thursdays

6.15pm Voice for Life ♦ **7.00-8.00pm** Junior Choir ♦ **7.45-9.30pm** Adult Choir

Sunday Readings

**The passages being read*

30th November Advent Sunday

Isaiah 2: 1-5 ; Psalm 122; *Romans 13: 11-14; *Matthew 24: 36-44

7th December Second Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 11: 1-10 ♦ Psalm 72: 1-7,18-19 ♦ *Romans 15: 4-13 ♦ *Matthew 3: 1-12

14th December Third Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 35: 1-10 ♦ Psalm 146: 4-9 ♦ James 5: 7-10 ♦ *Matthew 11: 2-11

21st December Fourth Sunday of Advent

*Isaiah 7: 10-16 ♦ Psalm 80: 1-7 ♦ Romans 1: 1-7 ♦ *Matthew 1: 18-25

24th December Midnight Communion

*Isaiah 9: 2-7 ♦ Psalm 98 ♦ Hebrews 1: 1-4 ♦ *Luke 2: 1-14

25th December Christmas Day

*Isaiah 9: 2-7 ♦ Psalm 96 ♦ Titus 2: 11-14 ♦ *Luke 2: 1-14

28th December First Sunday after Christmas

*Isaiah 63: 7-9 ♦ Psalm 148 ♦ Hebrews 2: 10-18 ♦ *Matthew 2: 13-23

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4th January & Thursday 8th Epiphany Sunday (trans 6th Jan)

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

11th January The Baptism of Christ

*Isaiah 42: 1-9 ♦ Psalm 29 ♦ Acts 10: 34-43 ♦ *Matthew 3: 13-17

18th January Third Sunday of Epiphany

Isaiah 49: 1-7; Psalm 40: 1-12; *1 Corinthians 1: 1-9; *John 1: 29-42

25th January Fourth Sunday of Epiphany

*Isaiah 9: 1-4 ♦ Psalm 27: 1, 5-13 ♦ 1 Corinthians 1: 10-18 ♦ *Matthew 4: 12-23

25th January Evensong Third Sunday after Epiphany

*Jeremiah 3: 21 – 4: 2 ♦ *1 Peter 1: 3-12 ♦ Psalm 113

1st February & Thursday 5th Candlemas

*Malachi 3: 1-4 ♦ Psalm 24: 1-10 ♦ Hebrews 2: 14-18 ♦ *Luke 2: 22-40

Weekly email to keep in touch

An email with the weekly notices, together with the Sunday readings, Collect and Year's Mind is sent to our congregational members. If you attend services but do not already receive these emails and would like to keep in touch, please fill in a GDPR form, available at the back of the church, and give it to Sheila, a Welcomer, or hand it into the office.

About our Associate Clergy

We are fortunate at St Peter's to have three associate clergy as well as Nick, our Rector. You might be interested to know that Sue, Donald and Ruth each have a wider role as well, with permission to minister across the diocese as requested. This autumn and winter both Sue and Donald are covering services for St Fillan's, Buckstone, during their vacancy, and Ruth is helping out at St James, Goldenacre; so if they are missing on a Sunday morning that might be why. Do remember this wider ministry in your prayers.

Clergy

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

Bishop Donald Allister's Bible Teaching Videos

Each Monday, Donald uploads a new Bible teaching video to his YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@feedmysheep2023> Once published, the talks are free to access and remain indefinitely. The five Mondays of December will see his teaching on the intriguing Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, and in January he will begin a series on John's gospel.

Dates for the Diary

NOVEMBER

Sun 30th Advent Sunday ♦ 9am & 10.45am
Sun 30th Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony ♦ 5pm

DECEMBER

Tue 2nd Morning Prayer Service ♦ 11.00am
Tue 2nd Daytime Bible Study Group ♦ 12 noon (*Millar Chapel*)
Tue 2nd Tuesday's Chewsday! (lunch) ♦ 1.00pm
Tue 2nd Advent Course ♦ 7.00pm (*Choir Vestry*)
Tue 2nd Student and Young Adult pre-exams Christmas event
Wed 3rd Christmas Wreath Making ♦ 10am-12 noon

DECEMBER

Thur 4th Monthly Communion ♦ 11am
Tue 9th Usual Tuesday events (p. 8) ♦ 11am ♦ 12 noon ♦ 1.00pm
Tue 9th Advent Course ♦ 7.00pm
Sun 14th Carol Service ♦ 6.30pm
Mon 15th Last Monday Toddler Group before Holidays ♦ 9.30am-11.30am
Mon 15th Monday Group Christmas Party ♦ 2.30pm-4pm
Tue 16th Final daytime Tuesday events (p. 8) ♦ 11am ♦ 12 noon ♦ 1.00pm
Tue 16th Advent Course ♦ 7.00pm
Thur 18th Last Thursday Toddler Group before Holidays ♦ 9.30am-11.30am
Mon 22nd Crib Service for children up to age c. 6 ♦ 10am-11am
Tue 23rd Advent Course ♦ 7.00pm
Wed 24th Communion on Christmas Eve ♦ 11.30pm
Thur 25th Communion on Christmas Day ♦ 10.45am
Tue 30th Evening Bible Study ♦ 7pm-8pm

JANUARY

Sun 4th Epiphany Sunday (*trans 6th Jan*) ♦ 9.00am ♦ 10.45am
Tue 6th Evening Bible Study ♦ 7pm-8pm
Thur 8th Thursday Toddler Group Resumes ♦ 9.30am-11.30am
Thur 8th Monthly Communion ♦ 11am
Sun 11th Little Folk resumes ♦ 3.00pm-4.00pm
Sun 11th Process ♦ 6.30pm
Mon 12th Monday Toddler Group Resumes ♦ 9.30am-11.30am
Tue 13th Usual Tuesday events resume (p. 8) ♦ 11am ♦ 12 noon ♦ 1.00pm ♦ 7pm
Tue 13th Student evening events resume
Sun 18th Little Folk ♦ 3.00pm-4.00pm
Mon 19th Monday Group ♦ 2.30pm-4pm
Tue 20th Usual Tuesday events (p. 8) ♦ 11am ♦ 12 noon ♦ 1.00pm ♦ 7pm
Tue 20th Student evening event
Thur 22nd February Magazine Deadline
Sun 25th Little Folk ♦ 3.00pm-4.00pm
Sun 25th Choral Evensong ♦ 6.30pm
Tue 27th Usual Tuesday events (p. 8) ♦ 11am ♦ 12 noon ♦ 1.00pm ♦ 7pm
Tue 27th Student evening event
Wed 28th St Peter's Book Club ♦ 7 pm

FEBRUARY

Sun 1st Little Folk ♦ 3.00pm-4.00pm
Tue 3rd Usual Tuesday events (p. 8) ♦ 11am ♦ 12 noon ♦ 1.00pm ♦ 7pm
Tue 3rd Student evening event
Thur 5th Monthly Communion ♦ 11am

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
<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	
Organist & Voice for Life	Sheila	office@stpetersedinburgh.org

Church Officers

Vestry Secretary	Roddy	
Treasurer	Laura	development@stpetersedinburgh.org
Lay Representative	Jan	
Alternate Lay Representative	Hilary	
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
Thursday Lunch Club (1 st Thursday)	Delia

*All of the above can be contacted by emailing
office@stpetersedinburgh.org*