

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Diary and Newsletter
March 2010**

EDINBURGH City
Centre CHURCHES
TOGETHER

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Thank you for such generous feedback last month. Keep us on the right track by email at inspire at standrewsandstgeorges dot org dot uk or speak to Judith Pickles, Andrena Crawford, Alison Bruce, Jean Mackinlay. Please contribute your events, news, ideas, prayers and photos so that the newsletter can reflect the life of St Andrew's and St George's West. Contributions by email as above or through the offices at Shandwick Place and George Street.

A letter from Russell

Dear members and friends,

Our Mission Statement

As we look to instruct our architect and his team to work with us on the Building Options Study and as we prepare a Parish Profile as part of the search for a future minister we need to be able to state clearly our purpose as a congregation.

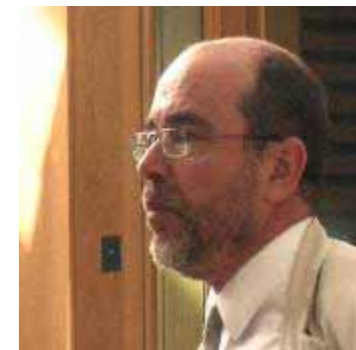
It seems to me that the great strength of the congregation is that it is very much a 'broad kirk' in terms of belief, worship preferences, activities and in providing opportunities for different people to engage in different passions. Both former congregations have websites, which clearly show this, and both stress openness - 'inclusive of all and exclusive of none'.

Different people might want to give prominence to particular strands of the congregation's life and outreach but I think that it would prove impossible to contain all of these in any one statement. This is shown to be the case where I have been given statements about the church, which extend over 2 pages and even there seem to miss points which others might want included. I wonder, therefore, if the following is a suitable banner, which might be shared by everyone in our new congregation

***St Andrew's and St George's West
- a church in the city centre open to all
- a church which gives opportunity to explore faith in different ways***

I offer this very much to test opinion over the next few months

Yours in faith and love, Russell McLarty



**Into the dark world
a snowdrop comes,
a blessing of hope and peace
carrying with it a green heart:
symbol of God's renewing love.**

**Come to inhabit our darkness, Lord
Christ,
for dark and light are alike to you.
May nature's white candles of hope
remind us of your birth
and lighten our journey
through Lent and beyond**



A poem-prayer by Kate McIlhagga from Lent & Easter Readings
from Iona Neil Paynter (ed) Wild Goose Publications

World Day of Prayer 2010

Friday 5th March

1pm at St Andrew's and St George's
West, George Street

2.30pm at Palmerston Place – ecumenical
service with St Mary's Episcopal, St
Andrew's RC, Dean Parish Church.
Please join us at these lovely Services
prepared by Christian Women from
Cameroon. All are very welcome



Services for Lent, Holy Week and Easter

March services will be held at our Shandwick Place Building

- Fri 5 Mar** **1pm** World Day of Prayer, George Street
 2.30pm World Day of Prayer, Palmerston Place
- Sun 7 Mar** **9am, 9.45am 11am services**, Shandwick Place
- Sun 14 Mar** **9am, 9.45am 11am services**, Shandwick Place.
At the 11am service we will recognise the 'Investing in
Volunteers Award' achieved at Shandwick Place
- Sun 21 Mar** **9am, 9.45am, 11am services**, Shandwick Place
At all services we will explore the theme of
Water in the Desert (World Water Day is 22 March)
- Sun 28 Mar** **9am, 11am (tbc) joint celebration service**
Palm Sunday for Palm Sunday at Shandwick Place.
Congregational Lunch for Teenage Cancer Trust
6pm TOGETHER evening service at St John's
- Mon 29 Mar** **7pm** half hour service at Shandwick Place
- Tue 30 Mar** **7pm** half hour service at Shandwick Place
- Wed 31 Mar** **7pm** half hour service at Shandwick Place

April Services will be held at our George Street Building

- Thurs 1 April** **7pm** 'Seder-Type Meal' Undercroft, George Street
- Fri 2 April** **7pm** Good Friday Service at George Street
- Sun 4 April** **7.30am** early morning service in garden-graveyard at St
Easter Day Cuthbert's followed by an early breakfast with
TOGETHER churches
9am service at George Street
9.45am breakfast in Undercroft
11am Easter Sunday service with Communion.
We will ordain and admit new elders to the Kirk Session
and recognise retiring elders and deacons

Celebration Sunday Services

The idea behind the 2-monthly Celebration Sunday Services is to allow the people who meet at 9.45AM and at 11AM the opportunity to share occasionally in one service. This was thought to be very important where we might grow to be 2 completely separate congregations if there was not such opportunity.

We look to make these services different from either a 9.45AM or an 11AM service in format and style. Celebration Sundays would normally be on the first Sunday of every second month and have worked well for Christmas Gift Service and the Harvest Service. I propose that the next such occasion should be Palm Sunday (the last Sunday of March) rather than Easter Sunday (the first Sunday of April), which will have ordination of elders and a more formal celebration of communion.

I encourage all to support these services with an open and encouraging spirit. I would be the first to say that we had too many ideas in the February service though, from different responses, there was much which people appreciated. Even if the format on any one occasion is not to your particular liking there would seem to be good purpose in our trying different ideas to see what works best to bring these different groups of people together.

Russell McLarty

Saturday 6th March YACS Final Fling

As many as possible are encouraged to come to the CEILIDH run by our young people at St Stephen's Centre Stockbridge 7-10PM with a Light Supper - tickets available at £7 (students and children £4)

What can we give up this Lent?

GIVE UP grumbling! Instead, "In everything give thanks."

GIVE UP 10 to 15 minutes in bed!
Instead, use that time in prayer, Bible study and personal devotion.

GIVE UP looking at other people's worst attributes.
Instead concentrate on their best points.

GIVE UP speaking unkindly.
Instead, let your speech be generous and understanding.

GIVE UP your worries and anxieties!
They're too heavy for you to carry anyway.
Instead, trust God with them.

GIVE UP TV one evening a week!
Instead, visit someone who's lonely or sick.

GIVE UP buying anything but essentials for yourself!
Instead, give the money to something better.

GIVE UP judging others by appearances and by the standard of the world! Instead, learn to give up yourself to God.

Lent Resources online

Tearfund Carbon Fast
<http://www.tearfund.org/Campaigning/Carbon+Fast.htm>

Christian Aid
Count your blessings
<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent/index.aspx>

Earth Hour

switch off your lights for an hour at 8.30pm on Saturday 27th March

www.earthhour.org

Be a community champion and help ChildLine be there for children and young people

A vital helpline is asking people in Edinburgh to be a community champion and help children in need of help and advice. The NSPCC's ChildLine service in Scotland needs more volunteer counsellors for its Edinburgh base.

The ChildLine base has already answered thousands of calls from youngsters in need of help and advice. And now, in addition to the helpline, young people can also contact ChildLine about their concerns via one-to-one online counselling and email.

Elaine Chalmers, Head of ChildLine in Scotland, said: "We urgently need people in the Edinburgh community to become volunteer counsellors and counsel children and young people in need of advice and support.

"The great thing is anyone can volunteer- you just need to respect and value children and have a commitment to help. You don't need any experience of counselling or working with children and we will provide full training."

She added: "Last year over 27,000 children and young people spoke to a ChildLine in Scotland volunteer counsellor. With more volunteers we can be there for more children whether they choose to contact us online or on the phone. Volunteers are at the heart of what we do and by joining us you can help make a difference to the lives of children and young people."

To find out more about becoming a ChildLine in Scotland volunteer counsellor please get in contact with Gail Vencker, Edinburgh Volunteer Coordinator on 0844 892 0280. Alternatively email volunteering@childline.org.uk or visit www.nspcc.org.uk

News from the Kirk Session

The Kirk Session meeting on 10 February agreed to the "Basis of reviewable tenure" which sets out the main conditions on which a minister would be called.

The review at the end of seven years will look at whether the life of the congregation showed a healthy balance of worship, service, discipleship, fellowship and evangelism; that progress has been made with Edinburgh City Centre Churches Together; that arrangements for the Christian Aid Sale have continued to develop so as to benefit the life of the congregation; and the management of paid and volunteer staff.

Generally a minister could be expected to stay for the 7 year tenure or longer. The Basis is to be discussed at a congregational meeting on 28 February.

The Session enthusiastically endorsed the proposal to invite Ben Tindall to lead the Building Options Study which will look at the church buildings and make proposals for their future use. A small group had met with Ben and were clear that he would bring a great understanding of Edinburgh and its people and a sympathetic and inspiring attitude and would present a range of options, including high and lower risk proposals. The maximum cost would be £20,000 including VAT. The congregation would be fully consulted and the final decision ours.

It was agreed that the former St George's West manse in Wardie Avenue should be put on the market as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be on 15 March.

Photo Exhibition The Craft Heritage of Palestine

24 February – 6 March
10am - 4pm

in the Sanctuary
St Andrew's and St
George's West, Shandwick Place



An exhibition of photographs by Steve Sabella of craft producers in the West Bank and Gaza who are partner organisations to Hadeel in Edinburgh and Sunbula in Jerusalem.

Congratulations to Hadeel who this week won the 2010 Lord Provost's General Fair Trade Award.

Photo: Carol Morton of Hadeel receives the award from Lord Provost George Grubb. On the left of the picture is Hind El Arabi, Women's Program Officer for UNWRA in Gaza.

Eco-Congregation Annual Gathering

Saturday 20 March 2010 10am - 3.30pm
Stirling Baptist Church, 67 Murray Place, Stirling FK8 1AU
Keynote address by Alastair McIntosh, author of *Hell and High Water*. To book a place contact Aniko Schuetz 0131 240 2274
aschuetz@cofscotland.org.uk

Under the guidance of Arthur Chapman and the Wider Horizons Group, the former St Andrew's and St George's gained the eco-congregation award in 2008.

Knitting "TOGETHER" and sew on

We have wool, we have fabric, we have lots of ideas. Why not come along and help us to turn them into attractive items for sale. We also have car parking, coffee, tea and soup and lots of friendly chat. You would be very welcome any time between 10am and 4pm on Wednesday 17th March. **Maggie Morley**

Forth Bridge Crossing for Christian Aid

Would you like to come and join me on the afternoon of April 24th for a walk across the Forth Bridge? The view is lovely on a nice day. On a bad day you are too busy chatting to other walkers to notice.

If you don't want to walk, would you sponsor me, please? **Maggie Morley**

Congregational Lunch

There will be a fellowship lunch following the 11 am service on Sunday 28th March (Palm Sunday) in the Shandwick Place building. There will be an opportunity on this occasion to donate to The Teenage Cancer Trust's Edinburgh appeal. Offers of help with catering can be made to **Agnes Smith**

Open invitation

Starting very soon - an informal programme of small events, organised by members of the congregation. Maybe even by you!

If you would like to see a film or an exhibition, why not extend an open invitation to everyone in the congregation and see if anyone else would like to come along?

Pick up an open invitation card in the church to participate and keep an eye on the open invitation board in the church for other people's invitations.

Books etc

The House Group

will meet at Primrose Bank Road on Wednesday 3rd March at 7.30pm.

Anyone wishing to join us will be very welcome.

Margaret McGregor

Shandwick Place Study Group

The next meeting of the Study group in the Shandwick Place Church will take place on Monday, 22nd March at 10.30 am.

Anyone wanting coffee, and most of us do, should come a little earlier!

We are reading "Acts for Everyone-Part One" by Tom Wright.

New members very welcome

Book Review

Reformation: The Dangerous Birth of the Modern World, Harry Reid, St Andrew Press, ISBN 978 0 7152 08717

Reviewed by Alex Harper

In my own estimation I reckoned I was better informed than most laymen on the above topic - that is until Harry Reid's volume of that title fell into my hands to prove just how wrong I was!

An eminently readable book, meticulously researched and annotated, laid out with utmost clarity, compiled with the patent authority of one dedicated to the promotion of his subject, permeated with the result of a lifetime's immersion in the subject and the knowledge absorbed thereby.

Look out for the section on controversies, and enjoy his selection of quotations! All in all, a good read from Harry Reid!

Alex Harper and Harry Reid are both members of St Andrew's and St George's West

Music Notes

Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West 2010 Concert Series Concert for Passiontide

Friday 26 March 2010 at 7.30pm
St Andrew's and St George's West, George Street Building

Pergolesi Stabat Mater
Kuhnau Tristis est anima mea
Bach Christ lag in Todesbanden

With musicians from the Orchestra of Scottish Opera
Colin Tipple – Organ Directed by Brigitte Harris
Tickets £10/£7 concessions

Art, Music and Meditation

Wednesdays in March, 1pm

Informal short meditations with images, readings and music

Musicians include

Katharine Wade - Organ
Carine Tinney - Soprano
Rachael Adams – Cello
Brigitte Harris – Organ

Is your guitar gathering dust?

The Medical Foundation for the Care of Victims of Torture is looking for musical instruments to use in therapy sessions and to develop a short term lending facility to clients.

Guitars, African drums and small percussion pieces are especially welcome. Could you help by donating an instrument you no longer use?

Alison Bruce
via the Church Office

St Andrew's and St George's West

You are invited to our first

Swish

Saturday
20 March
3.00 – 5.30pm
George Street



Get to know new people in the congregation, over tea and delicious home baking, and a drop of pink fizz.

Find some gorgeous 'new' clothes or accessories to take home with you.

What is a Swish?

It's a fun, sociable way of swapping unwanted clothes or accessories that still have plenty life left in them.

- Something that you just couldn't resist but has never quite fitted might be just right for someone else.
- And you may find something in your perfect colour or style in exchange.
- It's also a great chance to try on things you might never think of wearing.

What kind of things can be swapped?

- Clothes – anything from vintage designer to M&S, as long as they still have life in them.
- Accessories – jewellery, bags, scarves, belts, shoes
- Hats – bring the hat you bought for that wedding and have never worn again!
- Fabric – as long as there's enough to make something.

How the Swish works.

- Doors open at 2.30 for you to bring your clothes and accessories.
- These will be displayed for all to browse and there will be changing rooms and mirrors available.
- The exchange starts at 4pm – we'll ask for a donation of £2 per item to cover costs.
- Afternoon tea will be served throughout, and the event will end at 5.30.
- Any clothes, accessories or money left over will be donated to one of the city's charity shops.

Don't worry if you don't have anything to swap – you're very welcome to come for tea and conversation.

We'd like to get a rough idea of numbers for catering, so if you plan to come, please phone Joyce in the George St office on 225 3847 or email charitychic@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk

Don't worry if you can't phone or e-mail ahead – come anyway!

If you need advice about what to donate, or have any questions, please speak to Alison Bruce or Veronica Crerar

This is a Charity Chic event.
"Reduce, re-use, recycle"



March 2010 Diary at a Glance

A diary of events at, connected with or of interest to St Andrew's and St George's West. Keep up to date – visit our online diary at www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk/diary.php

Services in March will be held in our Shandwick Place Building

- Mon 1 Mar** 3pm Retired Ministers *Presbyterian Politics* George St
5.30-9pm TOGETHER Story-Gathering George St
7.30pm *Leave to Remain* St John's
- Wed 3 Mar** 1pm Music and Meditation George St
5-9pm Sanctuary in the City, St Cuthbert's
7.30pm House Group Primrose Bank Road
- Fri 5 Mar** World Day of Prayer services
1pm George St
2.30pm Palmerston Place Church
- Sat 6 Mar** 7-10pm YACS Final Fling Ceilidh St Stephen's Centre
- Sun 7 Mar** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services at Shandwick Place
- Wed 10 Mar** 1pm Music and Meditation George St
- Fri 12 Mar** 7.30-9pm Edinburgh Uni Change Ringers, George St
- Sun 14 Mar** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services at Shandwick Place
recognising Investing in Volunteers at 11am
- Mon 15 Mar** 7.30pm Kirk Session, George St
- Wed 17 Mar** 10am - 4pm Knitting TOGETHER (Maggie Morley)
1pm Music and Meditation George St
- Thur 18 Mar** 10am - 4.30pm Banking on Justice Conference,
Shandwick Place
- Sat 20 Mar** 10 am -3.30pm EcoCongregation Gathering, Stirling
2.30 – 5.30pm Charity Chic Social Swish, George St
- Sun 21 Mar** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services at Shandwick Place
exploring the theme of Water in the Desert.
Blessing at the 9.45am service
- Mon 22 Mar** 10.30am Study Group meets, Shandwick Place
6-9pm TOGETHER Story Sharing George St
- Wed 24 Mar** 1pm Music and Meditation George St

- Fri 26 Mar** 7.30pm Concert for Passiontide, George St
- Sat 27 Mar** 8.30pm Earth Hour – lights off!
- Sun 28 Mar** 9am, 11am (time tbc) joint Palm Sunday Celebration
Service followed by a Congregational Lunch in aid of
Teenage Cancer Trust. All at Shandwick Place
6pm TOGETHER service at St John's
- Mon 29 Mar** 7pm short service for Holy Week at Shandwick Place
- Tue 30 Mar** 7pm short service for Holy Week at Shandwick Place
- Wed 31 Mar** 1pm Music and Meditation, George St
7pm short service for Holy Week at Shandwick Place

Services in April will be held in our George Street Building

- Thur 1 Apr** 7pm Seder Meal in the Undercroft, George St
- Fri 2 Apr** 7pm Good Friday Service, George St
- Sat 3 April** 10.30am, 2.30pm Easter Play, Princes Street
Gardens
- Sun 4 Apr** **7.30am** early morning service in garden-graveyard at
Easter Day St Cuthbert's followed by an early breakfast with
TOGETHER churches
9am service at George Street
9.45am breakfast in Undercroft
11am Easter Sunday service with Communion. We
will ordain and admit new elders to the Kirk Session
and recognise retiring elders and deacons

Regular meetings in our George Street building

- Brownies** meet on Monday evenings at 6pm
Bell Ringers meet on Monday evenings at 6.30pm
AA meet on Wednesday evenings in the Davidson Room
Choir practice 7.30pm Thursdays in the Davidson Room
Scouts meet Thursday evenings at 7.30pm

Update on Together



2009 was our first year where the Trustees worked hard to produce a business plan which was then agreed by the Kirk Sessions and Vestry.

2010 will be the year where we look to develop the areas of shared work in the city centre involving new staff with our members. These include

- Appointment of a **Workplace Chaplaincy** by May-June building on existing work in shops and offices carried out through "Retail Chaplaincy" and "Oasis"
- Appointment of Debbie Bayne as **Creative Space Co-ordinator** which will allow this initiative of exploring spirituality in new and creative ways to be shared through all three congregations
- Appointment of a part time **Co-ordinator** who will help us to take things forward and ensure good communications including a quarterly **TOGETHER** magazine with in-depth features

We are also working together to develop joint volunteer-led initiatives including:

- *Christian Aid*
- *Work alongside the homeless*
- *Street Pastors (in conjunction with other city churches)*
- *Involvement with civic bodies*
- *Programmes for children and young people*
- *Explorations of "new forms" of church*

The Trustees for 2010 will be
Rev Russell McLarty (Chairman), Frances Currie, Jack Thompson & Gordon Reid – *St Andrew's & St George's West*
Rev David Denniston, Kenneth MacKenzie (Vice Chairman), Ian Percy, Maggie Romanis – *St Cuthbert's*
Rev John Armes, David Hill (Treasurer), Robert Philp, Anne Fletcher – *St John's*

Events at our Together Partners

LEAVE TO REMAIN

An invitation to:

...a ceremony, an event, a ritual

Something we can all be part of together.

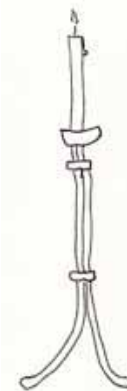
Something to help us through the dark journey of mourning...

...and help us emerge into the bright sunlight and the joy of living...

with Jo Clifford & Suzanne Dance (writers/performers) and Sarah Whiteside (cello)

"..the most beautiful, spiritual and touching experience I ever experienced in a play"

7.30 pm 28th February-1st March St John's Episcopal Church



Edinburgh International Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace

This festival of films, exhibitions, poetry, gatherings and lectures in venues across Edinburgh runs from 5th to 18th March
Pick up a programme in the foyer of both our buildings or visit the website at www.mesp.org.uk

Events at our Together Partners



Sanctuary In The City

Wednesday 3 March at St Cuthbert's

'Sanctuary In The City' is a new venture for St Cuthbert's Church the church is open between 5pm - 9pm - come and go when you want

**sacred space in the heart of the city
space to explore creative worship or silent reflection
stop, take a deep breath, and be refreshed from the busyness of life**

this is not another formal service full of words!
this is a place of stillness and beauty
where you choose how to spend your time, and how much time
the church is open between 5pm and 9pm
come whenever you can, stay as long as you want
there will be quiet music playing
and various points set up around the church
that you might find helpful to focus your thoughts or prayers
you may choose to engage with these areas or simply ignore them
there is no right or wrong way of spending your time on these evenings
we offer you the space – you choose how to use it

Wednesday 3rd March (Lent) 7 April (Easter) 26 May (Pentecost)



What happens at Shandwick Place?

Among the questions emerging from our Congregational Meeting in early February were "what happens at Shandwick Place?" and "what happens at George Street?"

This month we take a look at what does happen in Shandwick Place with contributions from Becky Duncan, the Centre Manager, elder Jean Mackinlay and volunteer co-ordinator Neil McCulloch.

Next month we will take a look at what happens in George Street – maybe you could help put this together? Please speak to any of the editorial team or email us at

inspire at [standrewsandstgeorges dot org dot uk](mailto:standrewsandstgeorges@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk) .

A Day in the Life of Shandwick Place

The caretaker arrives to open up at 8 am, followed by the chef, Colin, and some of his kitchen assistants. They make soup, bake scones, prepare fillings for ciabattas and baked potatoes, grill bacon and sausages for the early morning rolls, very popular with many customers. There is also always a "Special" on the menu, which has to be prepared.

Office staff arrive by 10 am – Becky the Centre Manager, Joe the secretary, Neil the volunteers' co-ordinator and Debbie, Creative Space.

By this time, early customers are arriving for coffee. Volunteers arrive to work at clearing tables, operating the dishwasher, serving soup, etc.

The reception desk is staffed by two volunteers, from 10.30 am. They check the notice boards and display of leaflets, answer enquiries and deal with the mail.

Staff in the office are kept busy with telephone calls; enquiries about bookings; people coming to view rooms prior to booking; interviews with potential staff or volunteers, as well as all the paperwork/ forms/ reports/ letters.

Every Monday the senior caretaker, Diego, and the secretary Joe have a meeting to go over the week's bookings, checking what is required in the way of associated catering or room furniture, screens etc. During the day, caretakers may be busy with on-going DIY and re-decorating.

Some staff and volunteers may well be involved in an in-house training programme to update their Health and Safety records. Fire training and building emergency plan are also covered. Becky arranges this important training.

A Day in the Life of Shandwick Place

Meantime, all our tenants are at work in their own premises. The Hadeel shop is open from 10.30 and attracts many customers. During the lead-up to Christmas, the charity Christmas card shop is well-patronised, and of course, many of these customers stop for coffee or lunch. Tenants come to the reception desk to collect their mail and often stop to chat. There are regular tenants' meetings with Becky, to discuss/ explain various matters or to air concerns.

Between 12 and 2 pm, the cafe is busy serving lunches. At the moment, there is a "Coffee and Cake" promotion with a variety of delicious cakes for sale. Volunteers from the congregation help staff during these two hours.

After 2 pm, the kitchen closes for the sale of hot food and the cafe quieters down, closing at 3 pm. The all-important cleaning takes place during this period.

Throughout the day, in various parts of the building, you might find: the congregational house group, currently discussing "Acts"; Tai Chi or Pilates classes; A.A. meetings; talks for the University of the Third Age; performances; organ practice; small meetings; Creative Space events; the Holyrood Art Club.

Someone comes to say that she thinks her great-grandparents were married here in 1920 and can we verify this... Someone comes in asking for help and is given food from our harvest thanksgiving stores... Someone comes to ask about having a wedding in the church and a reception in the hall...

It's all in the day's work at St Andrew's and St George's West, Shandwick Place!

Jean Mackinlay

Becky Duncan Centre Manager

I first came to St George's West in 2004 when I was production manager for Assembly Theatre during the Festival.

Peter Macdonald, then minister, asked me to apply for the new position of Centre Manager. Before that I had spent the last ten years working in theatre and dance as a stage manager with Rambert Dance Company and The Hobbit, which took me all over the world.

I married in 2003. My husband Justin is an actor but currently works for ipsos Mori. I have a wonderful, but knows his own mind little boy called Gabriel, who was baptised here in 2006 and goes to school this year.

We recently moved to a house in Longniddry, where I am loving having a garden. I am great reader especially crime novels, like films of all kinds and good food. I trained as a singer until 23 and look to take it up again this year.

We attend both St George's West and Longniddry Parish Church

For Lent the family are looking to go swimming once a week, visit more Historic Scotland properties and go the church more !!!!!

Sharing our space

Shandwick Place is a host to a number of tenants in the charity, social enterprise and arts sectors. These include

**Amos Scripture
Care Trust**

**Befriending
Network**

Bridges
actors' cooperative

Hadeel fair trade
crafts from Palestine

Hand Up Media
ethical media

**Hebrides
Ensemble**
contemporary music

**Reforestation
Scotland**

Scotdec shaping a
fairer world

Scots Music Group

Volunteer Centre

Shandwick Place 2009 Report Abridged from the 2009 Centre Management Report

Security

Security remains an ongoing problem. It is a fine line between providing a safe and welcoming environment to all who want to come in and looking after the Staff and Volunteers we have here.

Earlier this year we sought help from the West End Police and their Crime Prevention Team. They recommended ten points of improvement. Following this advice we have now introduced security name badges for all staff and volunteers to the building. This makes us look more professional to client groups and enables the public to know who is a volunteer and who is a staff member. This is especially important given the range of the special needs volunteers we have.

We have upgraded the toilets and made other changes which have led to a drastic reduction in the amount of drug waste.

Fire and Health and Safety

We have introduced in house training in health and safety. Each staff member has a training log and by early 2010 each will have an up to date First Aid and Manual Handling Certificate. Everyone who looks after the building on their own will have completed Fire Marshall Training. Our caretakers have kept a really good fabric level within the building which has left the church and main building in the best shape for years.

Bookings

It has been a challenge to maintain bookings and rentals this year and we have had to work hard at keeping existing clients as well.

Shandwick Place 2009 Report

Moving the office upstairs to the Stafford Room has been a great success. We now have the booking diary on the main computer in the office.

We have had high points to the year with Peter's leaving event (not him leaving) and the Festival. Outsourcing the bar this year at the Festival made a huge difference to our workload and was a great success.

Olive Tree Café

In late 2009 we improved the café layout, seating mix and temperature control. New white china shows the food in a better light and a new menu includes healthier options alongside our best sellers. The introduction of bacon rolls has been a great success and has brought a different kind of customer into the building that we have not seen before. By Spring 2010 we should have feedback from our questionnaire to users and staff about what people like and dislike.

The café has seen a marked improvement in the number of volunteers and the training they receive. We still have a waiting list (30) for the café work.

We are applying again for our Healthy Living Award and have in preparation for this added fruit bowls for all the staff and volunteers which have been a great success.

Fabric

2009 saw many cleaning, repainting, repair and improvement projects throughout the building. Large scale projects planned for 2010 include the roof, resanding and sealing of floors in Candlish Hall and the Shandwick Rooms and upgrading of the courtyard.

Shandwick Place 2009 Report

Volunteers

Volunteers have again been growing in strength. Applying for the Investing in Volunteers award has led to a number of changes such as detailed risk assessments for each role and letting volunteers have a greater say in how they are managed. We have also looked at the staffing supervision of volunteers.

The reception desk has been set up and is now running well with one to one training given to all. Each month this desk improves and it has been great to see volunteers with mobility problems involved in the building. The volunteers are a tight support group now who provide much needed support for each other. Next year we hope to move some volunteers on to employment or increase their training.

Funding for our volunteer co-ordinator post runs out in October. We have been highly successful in this field and I do believe we could find additional funding for this role but we need to have someone in place that can not only look after the volunteers but also source this money. We will also have the new law to manage as well which is expected in July 2010.

In conclusion As I write this report I am delighted to announce we have been awarded our Investing in Volunteers Award. I believe we are one of the first churches in Scotland to have received this and I want to say thank you to all Volunteers and Staff and Visitors who made this possible. We are also being considered for our Healthy Living Award again which we shall hear about in April.

The Centre is a diverse and hectic place at times but it does also provide a safe haven for many Charity Groups and individuals where they may blossom and gain strength from the Congregation and the long history of its past.

Becky Duncan, Centre Manager (abridged)

Investing in Volunteers Award

St Andrew's & St George's West (Shandwick Place) and the Olive Tree Cafe are very pleased to announce that we have been successful in achieving the Investing in Volunteers Award (IiV).



Investing in Volunteers is the UK quality standard for all organisations involving volunteers. *Investing in Volunteers* aims to improve the quality of the volunteering experience for all volunteers and for organisations to acknowledge the enormous contribution made by volunteers.

We were assessed against a range of best practice standards and were proved to excel in all aspects of working with our volunteers.

Investing in Volunteers is based on four areas of volunteer management; planning for volunteer involvement, recruiting volunteers, selecting and matching volunteers and supporting and retaining volunteers.

It is the only quality standard that has independent external validation with a UK Quality Assurance Panel that makes recommendations to the UK Volunteering Forum, the awarding body.

Thanks go to all the volunteers, staff and other colleagues whose hard work has led to us achieving this – with special thanks going to **Nadia Alonzi**, Volunteer Co-ordinator until December, who worked tirelessly on this and steered the organisation through the process.

We will shortly be taking delivery of our award plaque – to go in pride of place – and we will be presented with the award officially at an event at the City Chambers on 3rd June.

Neil McCulloch, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Thursday 18th March 2010
10am – 4.30pm
St George's West Church, Edinburgh
Banking on Justice
Churches investing for a fairer future

Conference speakers:
Ryan Brightwell, Co-operative Financial Services
Alex Connor, Triodos Bank
Kathy Galloway, Christian Aid Scotland
Doug Gay, co-author *Justice & Markets*
Jamie Hartzell, Ethical Property Company
Miles Litvinoff, ECCR
Victoria Woodbridge, EIRIS

Conference fee: £10 (£5 concessions)
Lunch and refreshments included

For more information and to book:

www.eccr.org.uk/module-htmlpages-display-pid-76.html

Helen Boothroyd, ECCR 01325 580028 helen.boothroyd@eccr.org.uk
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Scotland)
Christian Aid (Scotland)
CTPI (Centre for Theology and Public Issues)
Iona Community



Lent is not for the faint-hearted

Lent is not for the faint-hearted.
It demands that we, like Thomas,
put our hand into the side of the crucified Christ.

Lent is a journey towards the cross,
a journey of enlightenment:
from wilderness to feast,
from desert to oasis.
It's an attempt to identify with the powerless
and the suffering in the world.

Lent is not tidy.
The days grow longer,
the ground thaws, there's mud and dirt everywhere
and the windows need cleaning.

Lent is a journey.
So at the end of Lent
we should expect to find ourselves
somewhere different from where we started.

Lent can be an opportunity
to explore what is the Kingdom of God on earth
that we long for;
a time to discern
how we are called to work for it.

No, Lent is not for the faint-hearted!

From 'The Green Heart of the Snowdrop' by Kate McIlhagga,
Wild Goose Publications. Thanks to Mary Godden for this prayer.

Marriages: Emma Gregory and Michael Edwards were
married on 14th February 2010 in our George Street Building

St Andrew's and St George's West, Edinburgh

Interim Minister Russell McLarty 018756 14496
russellmclarty@yahoo.co.uk

Joint Session Clerks Alison Campbell 0131 556 2895
Barbara Finlayson 0131 312 6351

Joint Treasurers John Innes 0131 332 2702
Allan Sim 0131 552 9254

Director of Music Brigitte Harris 0131 556 1759

Key Staff at our Shandwick Place Building 0131 225 7001

Creative Space Debbie Bayne mail@creativespacesgw.org.uk
Centre manager Becky Duncan becky@stgeorgeswest.com
Administrator Joe Doody mail@stgeorgeswest.com
Volunteer Neil McCulloch
Coordinator volunteers@stgeorgeswest.com
Senior caretaker Diego Musazzi
Cook Colin Sharp

Key staff at our George Street Building 0131 225 3847

Church Secretary Joyce Garland
info@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk
Church Manager Cathie Donaldson
Church Officer Eddie McRiner
Café Manager Wayne Williams

St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland, Edinburgh.
Registered charity number SC 008990.

**St Andrew's and St George's West
Shandwick Place Building**

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Centre open Mon – Fri 9am - 5pm
Olive Tree Café Mon - Fri 9am - 3pm



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Church open
Mon- Fri
10am - 3pm

Undercroft Café
Open Mon-Fri
10am - 2.30pm



Hospitality is not to change people but to offer them space where change can take place.

It is not to bring men and women over to our sides, but to offer freedom not disturbed by dividing lines

the paradox of hospitality is that it wants to create emptiness

not a fearful emptiness; but a friendly emptiness where strangers can enter and discover themselves as created free

free to sing their own songs, speak their own languages, dance their own dances

free also to leave and follow their own vocations.

Hospitality is not a subtle invitation to adopt the life style of the host, but the gift of a chance for guests to find their own.

Henri Nouwen

Reaching out