

**St Andrew's and St George's West  
Diary and newsletter  
February 2012**



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**SAVE A FOREST OF TREES-** read the newsletter online at [www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk](http://www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk)

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web edition

## **Pray Now: a letter from Ian**

**“Everything that happens in this world happens at the time God chooses.”**

*As we enter the second month of this year, it is good to reflect on some biblical wisdom which has strengthened earlier generations of believers. The Church of Scotland in a new edition of Pray Now has used the words of Ecclesiastes Chapter 3 to help members appreciate differing ‘times’ we may experience this year.*

**“God sets the time for birth and the time for death ...”**

Already this year in our congregation we have plans for baptisms, weddings and other obvious times of celebration. I have also led the funeral of a member. Victor Harrington, a former dentist, was born and brought up in South Africa with Zulu as his first language. He had died as an elderly man in Strachan House, Edinburgh. Victor, as a child, had learned at the feet of Mahatma Gandhi. He had been an active elder at St George’s West. His family and friends ensured that his funeral service was a marvellous positive marking of a long life well lived.

**“God sets the time for silence and the time for talk.”**

Personally, I find it helpful to have a starting point to lead me into prayer, so I am finding this year’s version of Pray Now most beneficial. In prayer it can be good to experience a mix of styles, so labyrinths, icons, candles and colourful images can help some people greatly while others prefer simplicity, silence or stillness. Carol Ford, the leader of the team who produced the Pray Now booklet outlines how to make best use of this excellent resource in a helpful introduction. She closes with this wonderful quote from Henry Van Dyke, an American writer and poet,

*Time is too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice,  
but for those who love  
time is eternity.*

I have left a copy of Pray Now 2012 in the chapel for anyone in the congregation who like me may need the stimulation of someone else's thoughts to release my own.

Ultimately, wonderfully and finally, "*God sets the time for peace.*" My experience is if you wish to enjoy God's peace, there is no better starting point than prayer, when better to pray than by starting today, this hour, so why not Pray Now?

So whatever this year's 'times' may bring for you and yours, Pray, Love and Enjoy 2012, Ian

## Sacred Pathways Evening

Thursday 15 March 7-9pm  
£5 each - only 30 places

I am delighted to announce that Dorothy and Peter Neilson have agreed to come and lead an evening on "Sacred Pathways". The evening will help us better understand our own personal pathways towards having a good relationship with God. It will take place in the George Street building, whilst everyone is welcome only the first 30 will get places, so book early!

With the help of the Neilsons we can learn to enjoy God more fully. Then God can use us collectively in a more productive way as we gradually shape our congregation around our gifts. A 'sign-up' sheet will be available in the vestibule, alternatively, please phone Joyce Garland on 225 3847 to book your place. **lan**

## Worship Workshop

available for all on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February, 10-12 noon, in the Undercroft, St Andrew's and St George's West, George Street. The Workshop will be led by Margaret McLarty who has served until recently as the musician in Iona Abbey. All who would like to learn about the leadership of worship will be made welcome, no prior knowledge necessary.

# Worship

*It is in the process of being worshipped  
that God communicates His presence.*

## C.S. Lewis

Worship is helpful for our growth as followers of Christ, so consider joining us Sunday by Sunday. You can attend Communion at 9.00am, the All Age service at 9.45am or enjoy our progressive pattern at 11.00am or come to all three!

### February worship themes

- Sun 5 Feb** 11am Morning Worship:  
**Candlemas: Luke 2.22-40**
- Sun 12 Feb** 11am Morning Worship  
**Healing Presence: Mark 1.40-45**
- Sun 19 Feb** 11am Morning Worship  
**Thin Places: Mark 9.2-9**
- Sat 26 Feb** 11am Morning Worship  
**Lent 1 Blessed Connections: Mark 1.9-15**

### March worship themes

- Sun 4 Mar** 11am Morning Worship:  
**Lent 2 Living Legacy: Mark 8.31-38**
- Sun 11 Mar** 11am Morning Worship  
**Lent 3 Cosmic Law: Psalm 19**

# Winter Diary at a Glance

## January 2012

**Sun 29 Jan** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services (George St)  
11am Morning Worship: With Authority  
Mark 1:21–28  
Quarterly Communion

**Mon 30 Jan** 12.15 pm Amnesty Group meets (p11)

## February 2012

**Sun 5 Feb** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services  
Candlemas: Luke 2.22-40  
Fellowship Lunch

**Mon 6 Feb** 7.30pm Undercroft Christian Aid Forum (p12)

**Wed 8 Feb** 7.30pm Undercroft Pilgrimage to Santiago  
(p18)

**Sat 11 Feb** 8pm (Geo St) Sing in the City Kirsty Baird  
(p20)

**Sun 12 Feb** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services  
Healing Presence: Mark 1.40-45  
7-9.30pm (p11) Amnesty Jazz

**Wed 15 Feb** 10am- 4pm Creative TOGETHER (p10)  
6-7pm, Undercroft: Begging in Edinburgh  
(p10)

**Sat 18 Feb** 10am -12 noon Undercroft Worship Workshop  
(p4 )

- Sun 19 Feb** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services  
Thin Places: Mark 9.2-9
- Mon 20 Feb** 10.15am Shandwick Place Book Group (p12)
- Wed 22 Feb** Ash Wednesday
- Sun 26 Feb** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services  
Blessed Connections: Mark 1.9-15
- Mon 27 Feb** 12.15pm Undercroft Amnesty Group meets  
(p11)
- Wed 29 Feb** 7.30pm (George St) Kirk Session Meeting

## **March 2012**

- Sun 4 Mar** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services  
Living Legacy: Mark 8.31-38  
Fellowship Lunch
- Sun 11 Mar** 9am, 9.45am, 11am services  
Cosmic Law: Psalm 19  
7-9.30pm Amnesty Jazz (p11)

**Bellringers meet Mondays**  
**Choir and Scouts meet Thursdays**

## Diary dates March-May

**Thursday 15 March: Sacred Pathways Evening**

**Saturday 31 March: Choir Concert for Passiontide**

**Sunday 1 April (Palm Sunday): Giving Day**

**Sunday 8 April: Easter Day**

**Sunday 29 April: Christian Aid Sale Push n shove Sunday**

**Monday 30 April (until Friday 11 May) Christian Aid Sale receiving and sorting in the George Street Building**

**Sunday 6 May: worship moves to Shandwick Place**

**Saturday 12 May, Monday 14 May – Friday 18 May:**

**Christian Aid Sale in the George Street Building**

**Saturday 19 May (until Friday 25 May) General Assembly**

**Sunday 20 May Heart and Soul 2012 Princes Street Gardens**

### **Announcements**

#### **Deaths**

Victor Harrington beloved husband, father and grandfather 6 January 2012

#### **Funerals**

Captain Alexander Hamilton 6 January 2012

#### **Baptisms**

Aiden Patrick Stewart 9 December 2011

## Workplace Chaplaincy: Tony Bryer



First, I want to thank you all for my welcome since my arrival four months ago in October; I have felt very supported in my new role, and have really enjoyed sharing worship with you over these first few months.

Out in the city centre, I have also found a welcome. That has been true where I have taken over chaplaincies from Crispin, who has done a great job as 'locum', as well as in the new companies where I have either begun a chaplaincy or have started to talk about the possibilities of one. I have the sense that I am beginning to be a known face and my presence is appreciated.



The months leading up to Christmas are a good time to begin a new role like this. There are plenty of special events which give opportunity for networking and making the workplace chaplaincy known to people, and now in the New Year I am following up the people I met then. I am delighted that both the George Street Association and Essential Edinburgh are making my work known through their websites. I am grateful to them for this. In the near future I am attending a retail consultation run by the City Council (in connection with the Local Development Plan) as well as meeting members of the Council's city centre team.

Business conditions are difficult at present, as you will be aware. Restructuring and change in the workplace lead to uncertainty and anxiety for many people in work, let alone those unable to find a job. Hold the city centre and those who work here in your prayers each Sunday and through the week, as well as praying for those of us who are in workplace chaplaincy.

## **Begging in Edinburgh** **Veronica Crerar**



The TOGETHER Homelessness Committee has arranged a talk on 'Begging' from Claire Gibson, Head of Services at Streetwork. Many church people find it hard to know what to do (or not do) about the beggars they pass on the pavements of our city. Streetwork has daily patrols to check on those begging and others on the streets, and Claire will explore how best to approach the issue and suggest some alternatives to giving cash. This should be a valuable session. It is open to all members of the three TOGETHER congregations and friends. Do come along if you're interested, 6 – 7 p.m. on Wednesday February 15<sup>th</sup> in the Undercroft

## **Knit and sew on TOGETHER/Creative TOGETHER** **Maggie Morley**

We are aware that our group title may make people think we only want knitters and sewers to help us raise funds for Christian Aid. This is not the case. There are many types of craftwork which people are already undertaking e.g. paperwork, cardmaking, small paintings, jewellery making, rug making, woodworking and others we have not thought of. We realise they may not lend themselves to working in a group over a cuppa as we do. However, if there is anyone who would like to join us to help raise funds they would be very welcome to join us for that cuppa at our monthly sessions even if they have to "create" somewhere else.

For this reason we feel it appropriate to change our name to **Creative TOGETHER**. We meet next on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February anytime to suit you between 10 and 4 for as long or as short a time as suits you. **Maggie Morley**

**Au revoir...** Joe Evans, our TOGETHER Co-ordinator moves to Paris at the end of January. Huge thanks to Joe for great work on togetherness magazine and on all things design and digital.

## News from Church Groups

### Amnesty Undercroft Group

We will meet on the **last Monday of each month in 2012 - please note the change of day.** Our next meetings will take place on Monday 30th January at 12:15  
Monday 27 February at 12.15  
Please join us - all welcome.



## Amnesty Jazz

### **blow away those winter blues**

spend a Sunday evening listening to hi fi jazz on CDs

Feb 12 ~ Swing

Mar 11 ~ '50s and '60s

7.00 till 9.30 chez Bob and Maggie  
*light refreshments*

suggested donations £10 for Amnesty International  
*can be gift aided*

everyone welcome if you're coming please let us know so  
we can organise and cater  
Bob Morley

## News from Church Groups

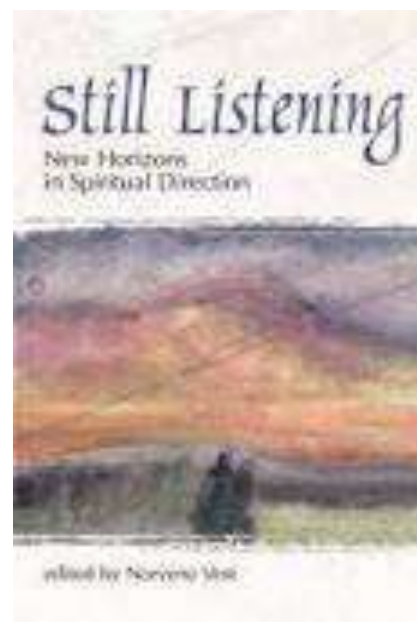
### Christian Aid 2012 Forum

#### Monday 6 February, 7.30pm in The Undercroft

The Treasurer, Don Rolls, will present the accounts for 2011. The Forum will be an opportunity for discussion on issues we need to address this year. 2012 key dates: The George Street Church will be cleared on Sunday 29 April; sorting will take place from Monday 30 April to Friday 11 May; and the Sale will open on Saturday 12 May and close on Friday 18 May.

### Shandwick Place Book Group

We shall meet as usual in Shandwick Place on 20<sup>th</sup> February, the third Monday of the month, at 10.30 (10.15 if you want coffee). We are between books this month and will be studying a chapter entitled "Generations, Our Differences and Similarities" from a collection entitled "Still Listening-New Horizons in Spiritual Direction" edited by Norvene Vest. This was spotted as perhaps being of interest to the congregation by Jean Morrison, and we are very pleased that Jean has agreed to come and introduce the topic. All welcome.



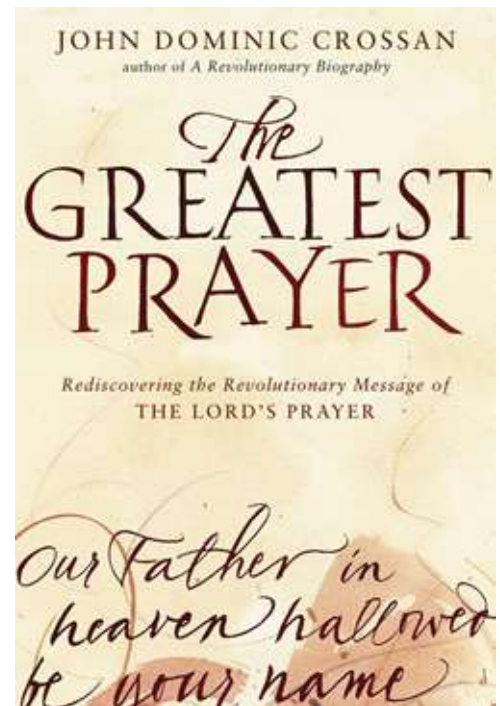
### Mary's Meals Appeal – thank you Jean Mackinlay

The final total for our appeal for Mary's Meals, which ran in both our church cafes before Christmas, including the donations from the December fellowship lunch and from members of the congregation, was £1440. If we think of the Mary's Meals work in Malawi that works out at roughly 232 children who will eat a nourishing school dinner every day this year. Phyllis Thomson, who has just returned from Malawi, tells us that things are bad there and that what we give is very necessary. Thank you for your generosity.

# The Greatest Prayer

## Trevor Leach

The Learning Together Adult Discussion Group have been looking at “The Greatest Prayer” by John Dominic Crossan. This book is a careful consideration of the Lord’s Prayer with lots of references to the Old and New Testaments. So far we have discussed the prologue and the first 4 chapters, and thought it might be useful to share a little of what we have got from the book at this half way point.



The prologue highlights the strangeness of the prayer. It highlights the “poetic parallelism” in the Bible, and points to its emphasis on God as a God of “justice and righteousness”. It begins a portrayal of God as Householder of the world house.

Chapter 1 “Pray Then This Way” suggests that we might think of prayer as empowerment by participation in and collaboration with God. It highlights the Psalms as examples of prayers of request, contrasts them with the message of the prophets, and concludes that God wants both prayer and justice. The chapter turns to Paul who included an early version of the Lord’s Prayer in a single exclamation “Abba, Father!” which might be seen as “daddy, the father”. “When we cry “Abba! Father!” it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ” Romans 8:15-17.

Chapter 2 “Our Father in Heaven” considers “Father” as metaphor, and having celebrated metaphor returns to that of God as Householder of the World: Creator, Protector, Provider and Model. Children are apprentice householders to their parents.

We, as children and heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, are apprentice householders of the world. The prayer is seen as having a Divine first half (God's name, kingdom and will) and a human second half (our bread, debt and temptation).

Chapter 3 "Hallowed Be Your Name" starts off on Sinai with Moses on holy ground. It considers the names of God, the unnamable name and the unburnable bush, before considering the verb "to hallow", to make holy. It turns to Leviticus to explore God's holiness and concludes that "divine holiness models human holiness" in "delivering the endangered, freeing the oppressed, and protecting the impoverished". The chapter then takes us to Genesis and consideration of Sabbath Day, Sabbath Year and Sabbath Jubilee. It proclaims Sabbath as rest from work as worship, as putting things right.

Chapter 4 "Your Kingdom Come" starts with the book of Daniel, the Son of Man, and the Kingdom of God, an everlasting kingdom that opposes earthly kingdoms. It moves on to empire and eschaton. Eschaton is seen as the transformation of the world into a place of freedom and peace. It then moves on to apocalypse and messiah and contrasts two ideas of how God will restore justice and righteousness. John looked forward to the immediate establishment of God's kingdom by an avenging God. Jesus proclaimed that they had been waiting for God, while God was already there waiting for them. God's clean up is non-violent. "God's kingdom did not, could not, and will not begin, continue or conclude without human collaboration".

**We're looking forward to reading and discussing the second half of the book. You would be very welcome to join us.**

The Learning Together Adult Discussion Group meets in the chapel after the 9.45 service finishes – usually about 10.15am.

## What's holding you back?

The Sunday 9.45 service recently looked at Jesus' call to the fishermen to become fishers of people. We asked ourselves

### What holds us back from following Jesus' call to us?



So to answer, quite a lot but does any of it really matter?  
May we feel strength and urgency to move forward in God's way.

### Alison Campbell

9.45 Learning Together is led by lay people – mainly but not exclusively members of the congregation. We read, discuss, sing and make things! Mostly we use material from “Seasons of the Spirit.” Singing is supported by a pianist or other instrumentalist and the Learning Together (sic) Band (led by David Dow) The service lasts half an hour and there's an optional discussion group afterwards. Why not drop in and join us for a bit?

## Lent Resources

### Christian Aid Count Your Blessings

Follow this programme of daily reflection and giving.

### Lent and Easter 2012

Ash Wednesday 22 February  
Palm Sunday 1 April  
Good Friday 6 April  
Easter Day 8 April

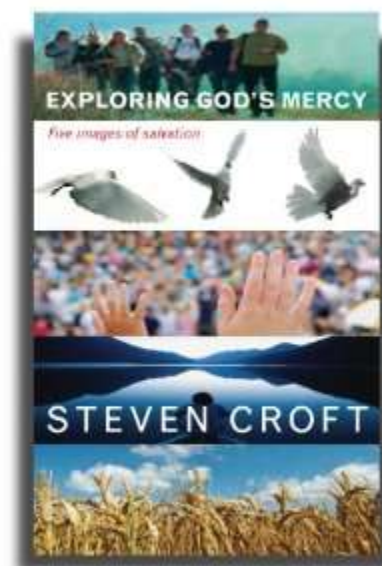
Resources are available in hard copy and to download on the Christian Aid website.

<http://www.christianaid.org.uk/getinvolved/lent-2012/index.aspx>

### Ecumenical Lent Groups 2012: Exploring God's Mercy:

Congregations in West Central Edinburgh and City Centre Churches invite you to join with them as they meet together in small groups for Bible study, discussion & prayer over five weeks of Lent.

The resource material chosen for Lent 2012 is Exploring God's Mercy, a Lent group study book written by Steven Croft, Bishop of Sheffield. Groups begin 27 February



**Please register now.** Details and forms are available in the church vestibule. Closing date for applications – Monday 13 February.

### Church and Society Resources

Find Lent resources on Fair Trade; One Scotland, Many Cultures; Mental Health; The Internet; Nuclear Weapons; Money Matters?

## In the City

My name is **Heather Bownass** and I have recently set up a small company called: ***THE HELP EDINBURGH:***

My professional aim is to **MAKE YOUR LIFE EASIER** by helping out with everyday tasks at times when you may be injured, convalescing from illness or perhaps just very busy with other things.

Your confidentiality is respected in all tasks and I am Disclosure Scotland certified.

Make day to day life easier...  
WITH  
**THE HELP EDINBURGH**

Taking care of your everyday tasks,  
as and when you need us.

You may be a **BUSY** professional or parent;  
convalescing from illness or injury, or perhaps  
elderly and struggling to maintain your independence.

**Services tailored to suit YOU include:**

Household chores	Errand running
Administrative tasks	Dog walk <b>COVER</b>
Home decluttering	Supplier sourcing
Events	Entertainment sourcing
Shopping	Delivery wait in

20 years of professional organising experience.

For more information: [www.thehelpedinburgh.co.uk](http://www.thehelpedinburgh.co.uk)  
Tel: Heather 07974 213962



**Fair Trade Fortnight**  
27 Feb – 11 March 2012

<http://step.fairtrade.org.uk/>



**Magnus McFarlane Barrow**  
(founder of Mary's Meals)  
**Feeding the Future**

Wed 22 Feb 18.30  
Hawthornden Lecture Theatre  
National Galleries of Scotland

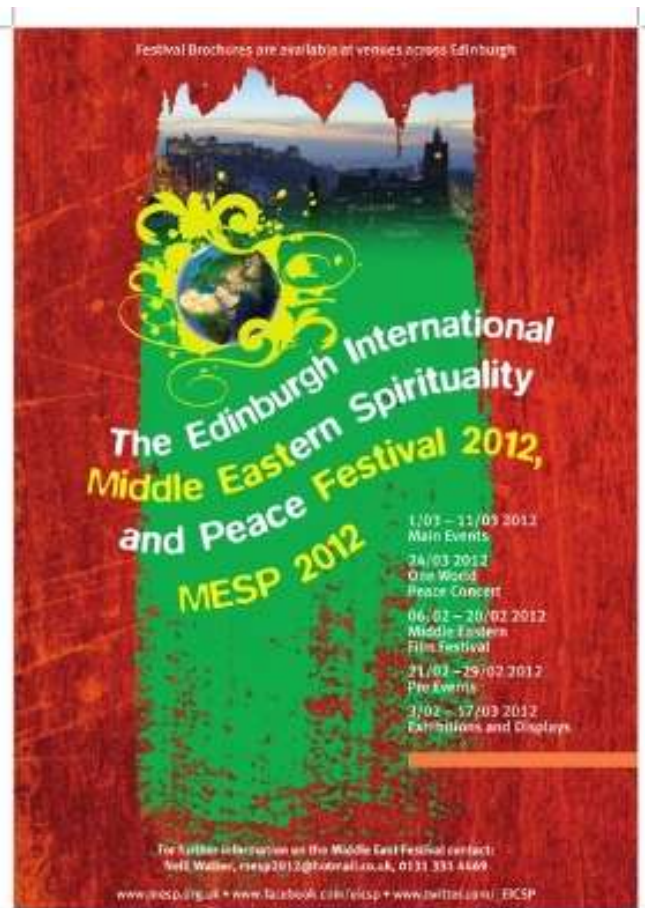


**A Pilgrimage to  
Santiago de  
Compostela  
Wednesday 8th February,  
7.30 pm - 9.30 pm**

Join us for an evening of reflections on 21 days walking 'The Way of St James', the meaning of hospitality, life and pilgrimage. Light refreshments with a taste of Spain.

Donations invited to promote hospitality at St Andrew's and St George's West.

**Arthur and Judy  
Chapman, Nick and Sally  
Evans**



**MESP 2012  
from 3 February**

Kurdish Cinema –  
Byzantine icons - find all  
this and more in the  
programme for this eclectic  
festival

Pick up a programme in  
the vestibule or visit  
[mesp.org](http://mesp.org)

## Music News



Above: Carols at Six Concert in George Street. More at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/standrewsandstgeorgeswestedinburgh>  
Sound files of the concert coming soon

**Save the date - Saturday 31 March, 7.30pm**  
**A Concert for Passiontide**  
**Rutter Requiem**  
**And works by Cecilia McDowall and Felix Mendelssohn**  
The Choir of St Andrew's and St George's West  
directed by Brigitte Harris

***Music and Reflection*** - 1pm Wednesdays  
The next series will start in March and will continue up to Easter.

## Music in our buildings in February

### George Street

#### Sing in the City 2

**Saturday 11 February 8pm**

tickets £6 from [Kirsty@singinthe.city.kirstybaird.co.uk](mailto:Kirsty@singinthe.city.kirstybaird.co.uk)

(almost sold out at TGP)

### Shandwick Place Building

#### The Edinburgh Quartet: Beethoven Quartets

**Wed 1 Feb 7.30pm**

Beethoven Quartet in F major Op 18 No 1, F minor Op 95 and C sharp minor Op 131

Tickets £12 (£8) on the door

Further concerts in the series on 7, 27 and 28 March

#### Hebrides Ensemble Rush Hour 1

**Thursday 2 February 6pm**

Beethoven's *Septet Op 20* and Peter Nelson's *Lost Landscapes*

Tickets £10 (£6 concession) or £16 (£10 for both concerts) on the door or from the Queen's Hall Box Office 0131 668 2019

#### Hebrides Ensemble Rush Hour 2

**Thursday 9 February 6pm**

Brahms' *String Quintet No 2* and Alasdair Spratt's *The Black Tree*

Tickets £10 (£6 concession) or £16 (£10 for both concerts) on the door or from the Queen's Hall Box Office 0131 668 2019

#### Edinburgh Studio Opera: Handel's Semele

**Friday 24 – Tuesday 28 February at 7.30pm**

Tickets £12 (£8, students £6)

Tel 07543 596 155 or from Ed Uni's arts booking website

<http://xtspro.com/-/semele/>

## **Are YOU Ready?**

### **Alan Taylor, Fabric Group**

This is the first in a series of regular articles that aims to keep you informed of the major refurbishment works that are to be carried out on the George Street building during 2012.

As you may already be aware we are to vacate the George Street building immediately following the Christian Aid Sale in May and we expect to be back in time for Christmas. During this period of time we will be using the Shandwick Place building to continue all aspects of congregational life.

Worship will take place in Shandwick Place from the first Sunday in May.

The only group that will have access to the George Street building during the course of the works will be the Bell Ringers as the tower is largely unaffected (and they can't really be expected to move the bells). Almost every other area of the building will be affected by the works and so must be entirely emptied. If you are responsible for anything that is used, located or stored within the building then you should ensure that you make arrangements for what is to happen to it during the course of the works. If you fail to do so it might not be there when you come back in December so please start thinking about what you need to do now!

If you intend to continue activities which currently take place in George Street you will need to make alternative arrangements. Please do not assume that you will be accommodated at Shandwick Place without first making arrangements through Becky the Centre Manager.

In undertaking these refurbishment works we have set ourselves a number of very challenging objectives:-

- The sanctuary floor will be strengthened.

- Sound insulation will be installed between the sanctuary and the undercroft.
- The undercroft kitchen and servery area will be remodelled.
- The ladies toilets will be relocated
- A lift will be installed to improve access to the undercroft for those with limited mobility.
- Fire containment will be improved.
- A new lighting scheme will be installed in the sanctuary.
- A new audio visual system will be installed.
- The sanctuary windows will be altered to improve levels of natural light within.
- Some of the box pews will be removed to provide open, flexible spaces.
- The sanctuary will be rewired and the undercroft will be partially rewired.
- The sanctuary will be entirely redecorated and a new carpet provided.

The organ will be overhauled and extended. Some work to the organ may take place early in 2013.

For all of the above works to take place there is a raft of enabling and supporting works that also need to take place.

For all of this to happen within the timeframe that we have allowed it must all go without a hitch and this is the biggest challenge of all. The current programme of works contains no spare time whatsoever and so any delay or unplanned event will be a potential extension to the programme.

The architects and designers have already started work but they can only make it happen with the full support of everyone involved and that is each and every member of the congregation. We have already decided that we need to undertake this work and now we need to make it happen.

The Fabric Group have been tasked by the Kirk Session to oversee the works but we will need a great deal of help and support throughout. We will do our best to keep you informed but if you have any questions please feel free to get in touch via the church office.

**Alan Taylor, Joint Fabric Convener**

## **Stewardship Update**

### **Stewardship Steering Group**

The Stewardship Steering Group continues to meet to plan the Stewardship Campaign which will take place later this year. We want to be a viable, worshipping congregation with a vision, and one which leaves a living legacy for future generations. Everyone will be asked to review thoroughly the time, talents and giving they can bring to further the work of God in the City Centre and beyond. A fuller report will be put to the Kirk Session on 29<sup>th</sup> February and more details will appear in future editions of this Newsletter.

In the meantime the Group would like to intimate that everyone will be asked to participate in a formal Giving Day on Palm Sunday - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012 - when there will be an opportunity at all three Services to allow people to celebrate the work which, with sacrifice, we are able to do to make our George Street building not only a beautiful place in which to worship but also a hub for outreach to our community. More information on this will follow.

We also commend what promises to be a very interesting evening on 'Sacred Pathways' on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March referred to in Ian Gilmour's letter on page 4 of this Newsletter, and believe this will reveal some hidden gifts and talents

## **The Structure of the Visiting Elders' Scheme**

### **Deborah Miller, Pastoral Care Convener**

A number of members have asked for clarification as to how the 'Visiting Elders' Scheme' works at St. Andrew's and St. George's West. What follows is an attempt to explain the structure which was adopted and agreed when the two congregations amalgamated.

The Ministry Team is the hub, and is led by the Minister, the Rev. Ian Gilmour. The Minister tries to visit any member whom he hears is ill or in hospital. He is supported in his work by the Rev. Alistair McGregor, who works part time. Alistair McGregor has a rota which consists of housebound members and members who are either in care or in a nursing home. He tries to visit them all every two months, and should a member desire it he will offer them Holy Communion.

Responsibility for visiting members of the Church lies with five Area Team Leaders. For administrative purposes the City has been divided into five sections – North, South, East, West, and Central, and each Area Team Leader is in charge of one section. The Area Team Leaders support and are responsible for about five visiting elders, each of whom, in turn, is responsible for a group of members (usually no more than ten). At the amalgamation of the two congregations every effort was made to keep each member with the previous Visiting Elder, but inevitably this was not always possible.

About ten years ago the Church of Scotland decided that the distribution of quarterly communion cards was no longer necessary, and that is the practice that has now been adopted by St Andrew's and St George's West.

In 2005 St Andrew's and St George's decided to look at its pattern of visiting members, and it asked its members what form of contact they wanted from their Visiting Elder as quarterly visits

were no longer a prerequisite. Some wanted only minimal contact, whilst others were keen to continue to have regular visits. It is recognised that the information held on members' preferences for visits is now out of date, and steps are being taken to update this information.

In addition to the Visiting Elders there is also a small group of people known as Church Visitors (they used to be known as Pastoral Carers). Not all Church Visitors are elders. Visiting Elders, if they feel that a member would appreciate more Church contact/visits, can request the assistance of a Church Visitor. The Church Visitor will normally, at any one time, be visiting only one or two members, but the visits will be more frequent, possibly fortnightly or monthly.

Every effort is made to match members with their Visiting Elder. However, if for whatever reason members are not happy with the present arrangement, they should, in the first instance, get in touch with their Area Team Leader. Equally they should let their Visiting Elder or the Team Leader know if they would like to be visited by a Church Visitor.

If members would like to receive home communion or would like a visit from a member of the ministry team they should contact Joyce Garland, the Church Secretary, on 0131 225 3847.

It is hoped that the above will help to clarify how the Visiting Elders Scheme is managed, but if you would like any further information please do not hesitate to contact Deborah Miller, the Convener of the Pastoral Care Group.

# News from the Church of Scotland

## Stewarding at the General Assembly Arthur and Andrena Crawford

Why do we steward at the General Assembly each year? We suppose the expected answer to that question is that it is a way of giving service to the church. However there is so much more to it than that although that is probably the most important reason.

However some of the other reasons are the wonderful feeling of being part of something so important in the life of Scotland. The great friendships which we have made over so many years. The Stewards come from many different congregations and not all of them are from Edinburgh and it is lovely to meet up each year and renew these friendships. Then of course there are the coffees and lunches where we all chat about everything, from affairs of the Church to our families and where we have all been on holiday during the past year. Finally we are all invited to a Reception in June where the Moderator and his wife attend and express the gratitude of everyone for all that we do.

The only qualification you need is a willingness to smile and be welcoming to the Commissioners and guests. We would encourage you to come and join us, you really will enjoy it.

*Volunteers are required to act as Stewards at the General Assembly (Saturday 19 to Friday 25 May inclusive). Stewards are normally on duty for "shifts" of two to three hours.*

*Names and contact details should be sent to David McColl, 220 1690, Email: [mccoll@palmerstonplace.plus.com](mailto:mccoll@palmerstonplace.plus.com)*



# Heart & Soul 2012

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> May Celebrating the Life of the Church

Last year, five thousand people enjoyed Roll Away the Stone, a day of Celebration, Inspiration and Discovery in Princes Street Gardens on Assembly Sunday in May.

*“so many people and a great atmosphere... the enjoyment on everyone’s faces... excellent... to see so many people worshipping together... children so entranced ... celebrating a living God ...showing the Church is very much alive ... did feel I belonged to a special family.”*

There has been overwhelming support to plan another event. We’re calling it HEART and SOUL and it will be held on the afternoon of **Sunday 20 May 2012**.

**seek** - now devote your Heart and Soul to seeking the Lord your God

**love** - love the Lord your God with all your Heart, Soul...”

**serve** -serve the Lord your God with all your Heart and with all your Soul

Fischy Music and the Scotland African Massed Choir will be back again and there will be even more activities for children and young people.

For more information and to sign up for congregational involvement, youth events and the massed choir visit

**[www.heartandsoul2012.org.uk](http://www.heartandsoul2012.org.uk)**

**Rev John Chalmers, Principal Clerk**

## **Hadeel Palestinian Craft Shop Edinburgh**

### **Vacancy for Assistant Retail Manager**

24 – 30 hours per week

You should have

- Previous retail experience at supervisory level or above preferably in voluntary sector,
- High level competency in computer and internet based skills
- Commitment to Fair Trade principles

Application for this position should be made by sending a CV and personal supporting statement with two references, preferably work related, to

Veronica Crerar

veronica dot crerar at yahoo dot co dot uk  
from whom further information can be obtained

**Closing Date: 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

### **Coordinator, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre:**

Person with understanding of and enthusiasm for peace and justice issues. Able to lead staff and relate to public. IT literate. Up to 20 hrs per week, £10 per hour.

Appointment initially for 6 months. Enquiries to [phil.lucas1@gmail.com](mailto:phil.lucas1@gmail.com).  
Closing date 24 Feb 2012

### **Carrick Knowe Parish Church Edinburgh**

*'The friendly church at the heart of the  
community'*

### **Children's and Families Worker Research Project Tender for Work**

6 month project involving at least 80 hours of work  
Full details at  
[www.ckchurch.org.uk](http://www.ckchurch.org.uk)

# Valued and Values

Nancie Swan

Valued and values - these two words kept cropping up and impinging on my consciousness over Christmas and the New Year.

It began at Waverley when I had Travel Assistance from George one of the platform staff. Anxious that this assistance should continue I always ask the name of the person assisting me and say how much I appreciate the help because I couldn't travel without it. He must get fed up escorting old ladies. "Not a bit!" he said. It's good to be valued".

Changing at Peterborough it was Mark who helped me – and then came back to tell me his surname because there are two Marks there on platform duty and he was keen that he should have the credit. That evening I asked a grandson about his new job. "It's great", he said and I'm lucky enough to be valued both by my IT and my HR managers. It makes all the difference."

I realised I hadn't heard the word valued very much recently and then I heard it three times in the space of seven hours.

At New Year I kept hearing the word 'values' on the radio. Sometimes in terms of financial or political matters and sometimes in personal relationships. What sort of values matter these days? Celebrity more than volunteering? Is a singer a better role model than a hero?

What are our values when considering bankers' bonuses, welfare benefits and who receives them, the country's indebtedness, homelessness. These are just a few of the subjects on which we need perhaps to challenge ourselves.

And referring to my chat with George at Waverley it shouldn't just be for self-interest that we say thank you. Any thank you goes a long way to making someone feel valued.

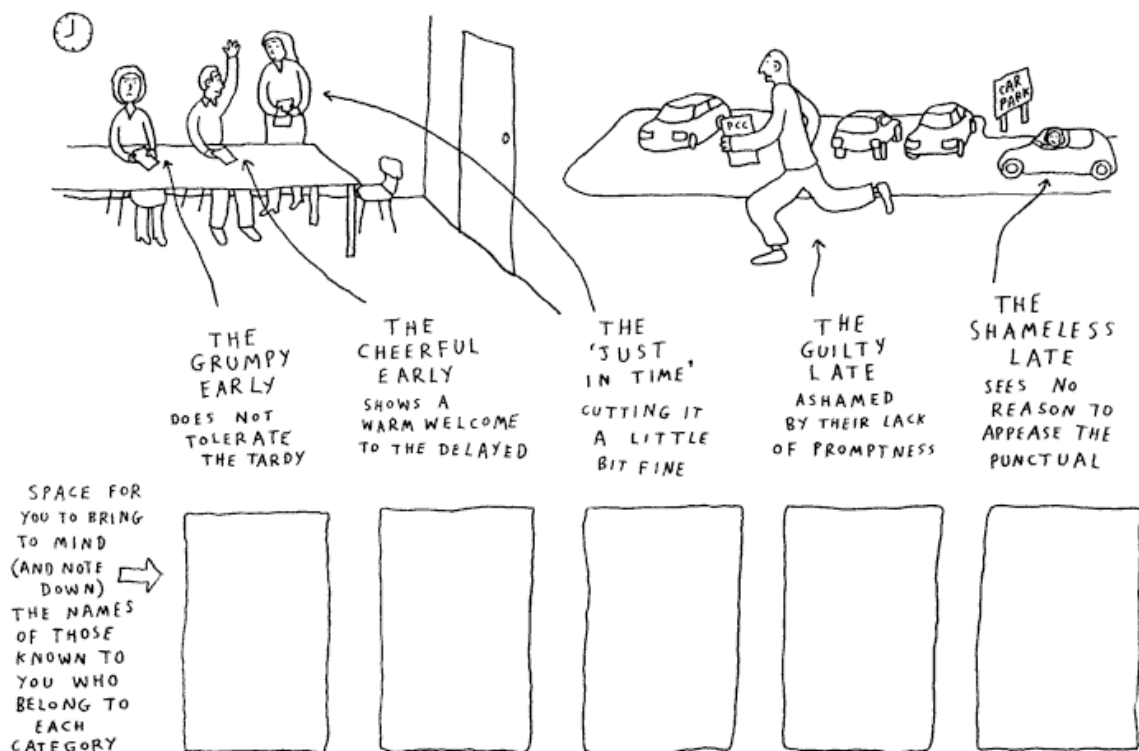
# Why Go To Church?

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. "I've gone for 30 years now," he wrote, "and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the pastors are wasting theirs by giving sermons at all."

This started a real controversy in the "Letters to the Editor" column, much to the delight of the editor. It went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

"I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my spouse has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this. They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If I had not been given these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!"

## PUNCTUALITY



CartoonChurch.com

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

**Minister**                      **Rev Ian Y Gilmour**

**Joint Session Clerks**        **Alison Campbell**  
**Barbara Finlayson**

**Joint Treasurers**        **John Innes**  
**Allan Sim**

**Director of Music**    **Brigitte Harris**

**Key Staff at our Shandwick Place Building 0131 225 7001**

**Centre manager**        **Becky Duncan**  
[becky@stgeorgeswest.com](mailto:becky@stgeorgeswest.com)

**Deputy manager**        **Joe Doody** [mail@stgeorgeswest.com](mailto:mail@stgeorgeswest.com)

**Volunteer**                **Becky Duncan/ Joe Doody**

**Coordinator**             [volunteers@stgeorgeswest.com](mailto:volunteers@stgeorgeswest.com)

**Caretaking**              **Alan Hynd**

**Cook**                      **Colin Sharp**

**Key staff at our George Street Building 0131 225 3847**

**Church Secretary**        **Joyce Garland**  
[info@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk](mailto:info@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk)

**Church Manager**        **Cathie Donaldson**

**Church Officer**         **Eddie McRiner**

**Café Manager**          **Wayne Williams**

**Edinburgh City Centre Churches TOGETHER**

**TOGETHER**                **Ian Gilmour**  
**Chair**

**TOGETHER City**        **Tony Bryer 0131 229 6542 or 07834**  
**Centre Chaplain**        **748129 [tbryer.wpcscotland@gmail.com](mailto:tbryer.wpcscotland@gmail.com)**

**St Andrew's and St George's West Church of Scotland,  
Edinburgh is a registered charity. Charity number SC 008990.**

## **St Andrew's and St George's West George Street Building**

13 George Street  
Edinburgh EH2 2PA  
Tel 0131 225 3847

[www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk](http://www.standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk)  
[info@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk](mailto:info@standrewsandstgeorges.org.uk)



### **Church open**

**Mon- Fri -10am - 3pm**

### **Undercroft Café open**

**Mon - Fri 10am - 2.30pm**

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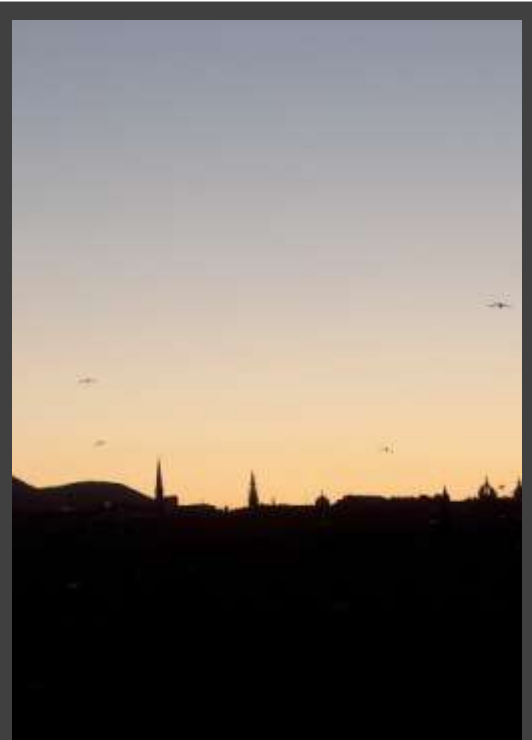
## **St Andrew's and St George's West Shandwick Place Building**

58 Shandwick Place  
Edinburgh EH2 4RT  
Tel 0131 225 7001

[www.stgeorgeswest.com](http://www.stgeorgeswest.com)  
[mail@stgeorgeswest.com](mailto:mail@stgeorgeswest.com)

**Centre open Mon – Fri 9am - 5pm**

**Olive Tree Café Mon -Fri 9am-3pm**



## **TIME**

**is too slow  
for those who wait,  
too swift  
for those who fear,  
too long  
for those who grieve,  
too short  
for those who rejoice,  
but for those who love  
time is eternity**