



February 2020

Issue 245

Scottish Charity SC000785

# GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



**!!! SPECIAL JOINT SERVICE ON 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH !!!**

**THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**MEDITATIONS OF JOHN MUIR**

**WORLD'S BIG SLEEP OUT**

**[www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)**

# MEDITATIONS OF JOHN MUIR

## Nature's Templest

A few minutes ago every tree was excited, bowing to the roaring storm, waving, swirling, tossing its branches in glorious enthusiasm like worship. But though to the outer ear these trees are now silent, their songs never cease. Every hidden cell is throbbing with music and life, every fibre thrilling like harp strings, while incense is ever flowing from the balsam bells and leaves. No wonder the hills and groves were God's first temples and the more they are cut off and hewn into cathedrals and churches the farther off and dimmer seems the Lord.

We all travel the milky way together, trees and people, but it never occurred to me until this storm day, while swinging in the wind, that trees are travellers, in the ordinary sense. They make many journeys, not extensive ones, it is true, but our own little journeys, away and back again, are only little more than tree-wavings - many of them not so much.

Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.

This is our first *Grapevine* of 2020 and an exciting year ahead for Mayfield Salisbury as we get ready to select a committee to look for our new minister. Please remember this committee in your prayers.

In the meantime, many people are quietly working away behind the scenes ensuring

that our church and community groups carry on as normal.

Pastorally we ask you to be vigilant in informing us if anyone is absent from their normal routine or missing from worship; and also informing us of birthdays, anniversaries and deaths so that we may respond accordingly.

If you feel that you would now like to be allocated a pastoral visitor then please let me know and I shall start that process for you.

**Do come and join the vestry staff for companionship and pancakes on Sunday 23 February between the 9.30am and the 10.45am service. We thought it would be good for the two congregations to mingle together over pancakes on the journey through lent and the months ahead.**

Contact details for PV co-ordinators:

**Dorothy Cloughley**

667 3565 [dorothycloughley@googlemail.com](mailto:dorothycloughley@googlemail.com)

**Wendy Mathison**

447 5562 [wsmdance3@gmail.com](mailto:wsmdance3@gmail.com)

**Anne Mulligan**

664 3426 [mulliganne@aol.com](mailto:mulliganne@aol.com)

**Maggie Ross**

668 3859 [maggiejeanross@btinternet.com](mailto:maggiejeanross@btinternet.com)

**Hilary Watkinson**

[hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com)

Blessings

Kay

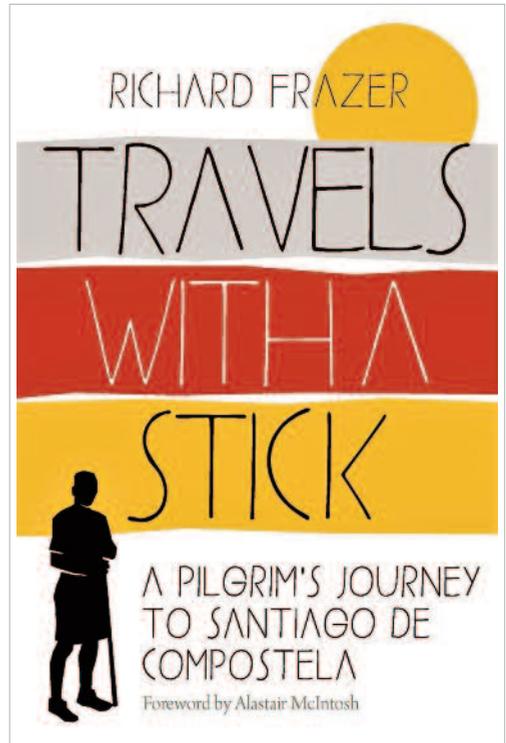
*Travels with a Stick - A pilgrim journey to Santiago de Compostela*

By Richard Frazer

Birlinn publishers £12.99

Mayfield Salisbury members will not need to be persuaded of the value of pilgrimage, having experienced the benefits of walking together in our year of pilgrimage, 2013, and in more recent times, but it is easy to forget that for the past five centuries pilgrimage has been an activity regarded with hostility in the reformed tradition.

Richard Frazer, the minister of Greyfriars church and founder of the Grassmarket Community Project is a well known figure in church circles. His account of his experiences on the ancient pilgrim route of the Camino de Compostela reveals how the spiritual rewards of his journey strengthened and renewed his commitment for service as well as his deeply held convictions regarding the importance of community, trust and friendship, and how the power structures of organised religion sadly so often serve only to obstruct the workings of the spirit. In a walk of 1,000 km starting from Le Puy in France, accompanied by the trusty stick of the book's title, he found his initial competitive urge to clock up mileage gradually giving way to an attitude of mind more prepared to accept graciously the kindness of strangers and a readiness to engage in meaningful



conversations and share insights with his fellow pilgrims. Physical weariness, hunger, thirst and blistered feet made him thankful for the simple blessings of good food and drink, shelter and rest at the end of the long day, though his patience and tolerance could be tested severely when sharing a dormitory with a heroic snorer!

While he set out to 'do the Camino', in the end, the Camino did him. Nobody reaches the end of the road unchanged.

Although this comes too late to be added to Christmas present lists, this book is a stimulating and worthwhile read at any time of the year.

# CROSSREACH PERINATAL SERVICES

Our church has committed to support the national charity CrossReach (CR), part of the Social Care aspect of the Church of Scotland. As a congregation, we give specifically to the Perinatal Services (PNS) part of the charity. The PNS is one of six CR Children and Families Services, dedicated to supporting young families affected by anxiety or depression around the time of a birth.

We hold Retiring Collections twice a year. The next one is on Sunday 23 February 2020.

CR greatly appreciates support, prayers and concern from churches like ours, especially in this time of strict financial cutbacks. There have had to be necessary, and sometimes difficult, adjustments, but the essential work is being guarded and even positive gains made, like in restructuring which give more time for

counselling and wider opportunities on offer to creche volunteers.

**Palmerston Place PNS** is always looking for creche and counselling volunteers, with new recruiting starting in late-February. Can you help, or anyone else you know? Two of our church members, currently volunteers, are happy to give informal background of what is involved. Anne Mulligan (mulliganne@aol.com) and Pamela Molyneaux (molyneaux44@btinternet.com) Or contact Palmerston Place PNS direct for service or volunteer information t: 0131 220 3547.

We are delighted our new Co-ordinator is to be Ailsa Garland.

*Eilie Blackwood, Ailsa Garland, Stewart Houston, Wendy Mathison, Barbara Mole, Pamela Molyneaux, Anne Mulligan, Catriona Stewart. (CR Action Group for MSPC)*

## CROSSREACH FORTH RAIL BRIDGE ABSEIL 2020

The Forth Rail Bridge Abseil is the ultimate experience, combining stunning views of the Forth with a sensational and challenging descent from the Forth Rail Bridge from a height of 150 feet - come and be part of it on 10 May 2020.

All funds raised will support children and families in Scotland. Your descent could fund support for a child whose daddy is in prison or counselling for a struggling parent.

To sign up, please use the link below and select CrossReach:  
[www.rcsqsales.org.uk/register](http://www.rcsqsales.org.uk/register) or by calling 0131 454 4391.

# AN APPEALING TIME TO HAVE A WORD?

## Is this an Appealing time to have a word?

In September 2019, the Kirk Session approved the decision to launch a General Appeal in the early part of 2020 with the aim of increasing regular giving. This decision was made because our regular costs have increased over the seven years since the last appeal and because we have also expanded our activities.

We gratefully acknowledge the generosity of our regular donors, week-after-week, month-after-month and also the tremendous responses we have received since the last general appeal to the one-off appeals for special projects.

Although Mayfield Salisbury is proud to be one of the best funded churches within the Church of Scotland and contributes substantially to the central organisation through our Ministry and Mission contribution, the accounts for 2019 show a substantial deficit in the General Fund and an even larger projected deficit in 2020.

Our financial situation results from a combination of the spending pattern and commitments we have made, (for example

to Youth and Pastoral Care) coupled with a declining trend in offerings as the congregation has shrunk and members find additional calls on their resources. We clearly cannot continue to top up our day to day running costs from our reserves. In order to carry on the work we believe is required we need an increase in giving.

Our last appeal was in 2013: it is not our practice to ask for money for every change in outgoings as too much focus on housekeeping can so easily harm our prime function as a worshipping community. Instead we ask our members at intervals of 4 - 6 years to carefully consider and if they can, increase their regular giving. This strategy does, however mean that these appeals are extremely important.

The 2020 Appeal will launch on 9 February and individual letters will on that Sunday and Sunday 16 February be available for you to collect at church.

Please respond as generously as you can.

Thank you very much.

*Steve Holehouse*

**Convener, Business Committee**

## DESIGN A CROSSREACH CHRISTMAS CARD FOR 2020

The winning entry will be printed as a card and sold it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2020 catalogue and website. The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design as printed cards.

**Closing date: Tuesday 31 March 2020**

Send your entry to: Christmas Card Competition CrossReach, 47 Milton Road East, Edinburgh, EH15 2SR. Full information at [www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)

## ADVENT SUNDAY

01.12.19

**Isaiah 2: 1-5**

**Matthew 24: 36-44**

**Romans 13: 11-14**

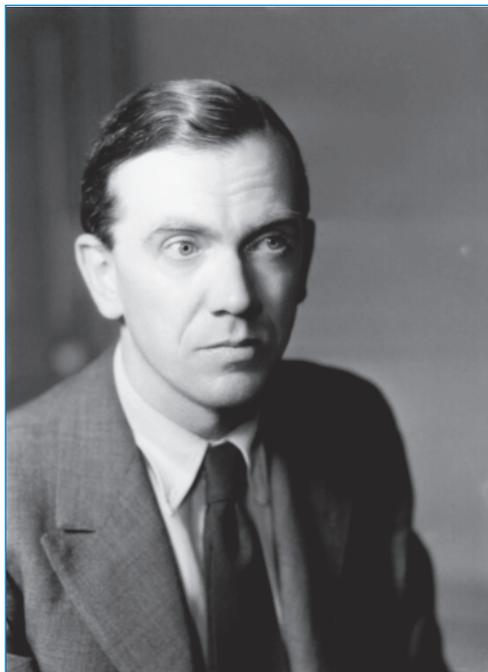
The season of Advent is a time of great hymns, to be followed, and the greatness possibly qualified, by the songs of Christmas, in some ways similar to how the deep and powerful music of Passiontide is followed by Easter and its undoubtedly uplifting celebration, even hilarity.

I think of someone choosing to come to church on Advent Sunday for the chief purpose of singing O come, o come Emmanuel. But think also of Hail to the Lord's Anointed, great David's greater Son; Christ is coming! Let creation from her groans and travail cease; Lo, he comes with clouds descending; Wake, awake! For night is flying.

The explanation, or a great part of it, for the quality of depth and greatness lies in the double direction of the Advent season, towards the birth of Jesus and to his coming again, in judgment and fulfilment. The second chapter of the Prophecy of Isaiah gives us the background and basis of the eighteenth paraphrase, Behold the mountain of the Lord, much loved by generations of Scottish worshippers.

*'Behold! The mountain of the Lord in latter days shall rise.*

*On mountain tops above the hills, and draw the wondering eyes.*



Graham Greene 1939

*No strife shall rage, nor hostile feuds disturb those peaceful years; To ploughshares men shall beat their swords, To pruning hooks their spears.*

*No longer hosts encountering hosts shall crowds of slain deplore; They hang the trumpet in the hall, and study war no more.'*

When Bernard Fergusson, the old soldier, published a book of memoirs, he gave it the title *The Trumpet in the Hall*, presumably

to indicate that he was studying war no more, though I wonder how many of those who read it recognised the title as coming from the 18th Scottish Paraphrase.

Fergusson, Lord Ballantrae, had a great sense of humour. He once sent me a card, after he had attended a service in St Giles' when two assistant ministers were located in different places, one of them bearded, the other with longish hair. The postcard contained only this: One in the chancel, one in the nave, one needs a haircut, one needs a shave.

The epistle, from that of Saint Paul to the Romans, is the ground from which today's collect, the Advent collect, is taken, where we are led to pray for grace 'that we may cast away the works of darkness, and put upon us the armour of light' from the twelfth verse of chapter 13 of Romans, 'The night is far spent, the day is at hand; let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on us the armour of light.'

It is, I think, possible, to detect among those of us of Presbyterian background and culture a suspicion that churches with prayer books and prescribed prayers are not as close to the Bible as we think they should be. Such judgment strikes me as largely ignorant prejudice. The central presence of the psalms in Roman Catholic monastic services, and the close dependence of the Book of Common Prayer of the Church of England on the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, testify strongly against such prejudice.

It seems to me to be a pity, if nothing like



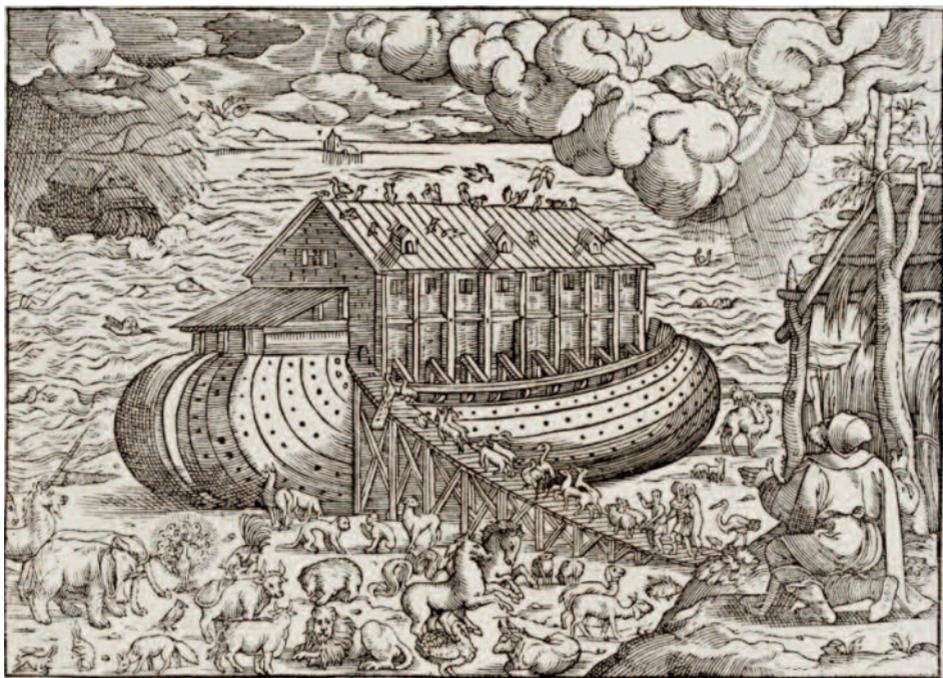
*Sir Bernard Fergusson, 1963*

a tragedy, that the re-designation of the Sunday next before Advent should have deprived many people of the 'stir up' collect, complete with its happy association in the popular mind with Christmas puddings –

*'Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people; that they, plenteously bringing forth the fruit of good works, may of thee be plenteously rewarded; through Jesus Christ our Lord.'*

Watchfulness marks the advice of the apostle and the recorded teaching of Jesus, in today's epistle and gospel.

Matthew's Jesus is depicted giving teaching to his disciples as he faced the near future, with his suffering and death central to that future. He taught that out in the future he



would come, and take his own to glory. The people who did not receive shelter in Noah's ark were drowned in the flood, and similar fate will befall those not chosen in the coming rescue, whatever form that might take.

*'Then shall be two in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.'*

*'Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.'*

I remember being intrigued as a child on the Isle of Mull shortly after the end of the Second World War that milestones had been removed, presumably to prevent the invading Germans from discovering how far it was to Tobermory. It still strikes me as quaint, but it undoubtedly demonstrated watchfulness.

To give advice, even warning, about the

future, by calling to mind events of the distant past, specifically Noah and the ark, is an example of how the past influences and informs our response to the challenges of today and the future. We may say that everything in us which we use as the basis of wisdom and judgment has come to us from the past, whether from earlier times or from our own past.

Looking at the death column in *The Times* a fortnight ago I saw that Glen Cavaliero had died in Cambridge at the age of 92, and that news brought back to me the great gratitude I felt for something he had done which had a huge impact on me, and contributed a vast benefit to my life. He was chaplain to Anglicans at Edinburgh University when I came from school in 1960, and sometime in my first few years I took part in a study weekend on modern fiction, for which the reading list was

largely compiled by the said Glen Cavaliero. I set about filling the vacuum of my considerable ignorance of modern fiction by reading everything on the list, and continued after the study weekend - Faulkner, Steinbeck, Lawrence, Camus, Graham Greene, Somerset Maugham, Angus Wilson, Muriel Spark, Mary McCarthy, Thomas Mann, Ernest Hemingway, James Joyce, and more. I had not seen or heard about Glen Cavaliero since that time almost sixty years ago, but my gratitude to him is great, and the enrichment of my life by that stock of writing to which I was exposed and guided remains incalculable. That is one instance of how our knowledge and experience in the past can have a continuing significance for the present and the future.

Among the original list to which I have been returning in retirement is Graham Greene's *A Burnt Out Case*, which is set largely in a leprosy hospital in what was then the Belgian Congo, with human misery and disease accompanied by mental disturbance and a sense of failure,



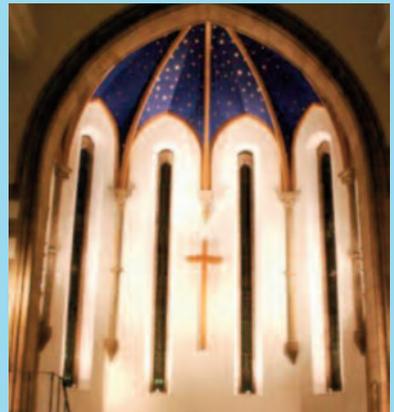
chiefly represented by a world-famous architect who had shut himself away at the hospital. In Greene's eloquent way we are led into learning more about misery and the complexity of the human personality, and therefore with ultimate things, if expressed in immediacy.

Was Jesus urging his followers to face ultimate things, and not necessarily future things? Is Advent an opportunity of standing in the presence of things in the realm of eternity? Is Christmas a reminder that eternity reaches us in time, and ultimate things come to us in immediate things?

## THE WEB AND THE WORD

A selection of sermons in audio, text and video, preached at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church can be found on the church website at:

[www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)





On a very cold, wet and windy Saturday evening in December, Craig and I joined three of Mayfield Salisbury's teenagers to take part in the World's Big Sleep Out. The Sleep Out saw multiple cities worldwide joining together in a global effort to raise money and awareness for the homelessness existing in our communities.

In Edinburgh, we were partnering with the local organisation Social Bite, which held its first Sleep Out in Edinburgh in 2016. In its beginning, Social Bite was a small sandwich shop in Edinburgh which offered free food and employment opportunities to homeless people. Since their establishment, they have grown to become a major charity with a mission to 'eradicate homelessness' in Scotland.

We were outside from 5.30pm – 6.30am and were fortunate to receive free hot

drinks throughout the night, as well as a show to entertain us, and teach us more about Social Bite. Spending the night outdoors without shelter, on a miserable Scottish winter evening, made the experience of homelessness realistic, tangible, and ultimately unforgettable. It personally taught me just how difficult, stressful and unsettling it can be when you don't have a warm place to call home.

I asked our three young people to share their experiences:

**Lucia:** *I did the sleep out to get more of an insight into what life is like for those facing hopelessness and to raise money, too. The night was pretty wet and I didn't sleep at all which really made me think about the people who have to do it every night. The lesson I took away was probably just that one of the best things you can do to help is just to smile or say hello to a homeless person.*



**Catherine:** *I did the sleepout to raise awareness for the homeless people we have in our community and obviously to contribute to the money going towards helping them. I didn't imagine how wet and cold the entire night was actually going to be and it was hard, but I would never change my experience because I learned so much and now appreciate everything I have a million times more. The main thing I thought throughout the night was that I am able to go home in the morning, whereas some people have no home to go to and have to do it over and over again. The whole experience taught me to appreciate the little things that we take for granted and that we all have to take care of everyone else because we are all part of one community.*

**Elizabeth:** *I decided to take part in the Big Sleep Out to raise awareness about the homeless community and to put myself in the situation that many people experience every night. It was cold, wet and windy but the night really helped me to understand how hard life is for those who cannot go home to a warm bed every night. I learnt that things such as a roof over my head or a bed to sleep in are great privileges and the experience has made me more grateful for the simple things in life.*

Not only does the sleep out raise money and awareness about homelessness, but it

also offers Hope to those in the homeless community, by showing them how many folk care about them, and are working to make our world more hospitable and accommodating to those seeking shelter, refuge and jobs.

Our experience left me thinking about the Christmas story. Joseph and Mary left Nazareth and headed toward Bethlehem, where Joseph was originally from. Once they arrived, they were tired and needed to find a place to rest their heads – and a place to give birth, as it was Mary's time to do so.

They went to a house for refuge, and although there wasn't room in their guest room for them to stay, they were shown hospitality by this family, and welcomed into the family room where the animals also stayed at night (this is the stable image we so often see in our nativities). Mary and Joseph trusted God, and put their hope in God, and God provided for them through the radical love of others.

I think the message to take away from this past Christmas and Advent, is that Jesus' birth is a reminder, and a lesson, for how we can also bring hope, love, peace and joy into the world. By knowing God's love, we can show love to others, and offer hope for a better world – and that is a beautiful thing!

Thank you again to everyone who supported our Big Sleep Out efforts this year in Princes Street Gardens! In addition to our individual fundraising pages, our team page and bake sale raised a total of £981.25 including Gift Aid. Thank you for helping us make a difference in Edinburgh!



A large part of the programme for last term has been based on the Global Challenge Award which we have aligned with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. One project had the Scouts working in Patrols to learn about an international health issues including Malaria, Ebola, HIV/Aids, Hunger and Tobacco.

The programme also includes learning about another faith and we were pleased to be able to visit the Synagogue in Salisbury Road. The scouts were very attentive as the Rabbi gave a description of a typical service and read from the Torah. At the following troop meeting we discussed what the scouts remembered

and the similarities with and differences from the Christian faith.

A Sunday hike took the Troop over the Pentlands with one half starting near Balerno and the other at Carlops. The two groups met at the Borestane, a natural stone marking the col in the pass and marks the boundary of Midlothian, the Borders and Edinburgh.

The Troop was chosen by Scout Headquarters to trial programme material based on Healthy Lifestyles. Games and activities were based on exercise, fresh air and healthy food. It helped the Scouts to identify those foods that were the most nutritious and how to make use of the



‘traffic light’ system on food packing.

The Great 28th Bake Off is now becoming a popular annual event in the Troop calendar with each scout challenged to produce six delicious and well decorated cupcakes. The scouts showed great imagination with various scout themed decorations including badges and camp fire scenes.

Remembrance Sunday saw the scouts bagpacking at Morrison’s in Gilmerton Road in aid of Poppy Scotland. The local shoppers were very generous with both their donations and compliments to the Scouts. A total of £472.36 was raised for Poppy Scotland.

January saw the start of our eagerly anticipated Centenary Year. The troop

was founded by John Wood Smith at Fountainhall Road Church (the site now occupied by the library) in 1920 and merged with the troop that was based at Mayfield North Church when the two churches amalgamated. We are trying to have a special event for most of the months throughout the year. January was launched with a 1920’s night when the programme was based on the sort of activities that scouts would have enjoyed in the period in the early years of the troop. We also launched the Centenary Challenge which gives the scouts 100 activities to attempt during the course of the year. The scouts were also each given a special badge to wear that commemorates the centenary.

*Alan Dickson*  
Scout Leader

In 2019 the Congregation raised the superb total of £17,600.00 for the work of Christian Aid. This includes 50% of the Christmas offerings and matched funding of £2,200.00 from the Salisbury Fund for which we and Christian Aid are very grateful.

The Christian Aid Committee has had the opportunity of meeting socially to thank Aileen Nimmo (and her family) for her energetic leadership role over the past 3 years and we also expressed our appreciation to Mike Sharp, Jane Main and Jan Melvin who have retired after very many years' involvement on the Committee in various capacities.

We announce with great pleasure that Kate O'Brien is assuming the new title of Coordinator of the CA Team with immediate effect. Kate is a perfect fit because, as an Elder of the Kirk Session, she has been Mayfield Salisbury World Mission representative and has been involved with VSO for many years.

And so we look forward with a clear 20-20 vision! We have agreed that with a reduced team things will be different – there will be no larger-scale fund-raising events. As Aileen announced recently to the Kirk Session, 'we are keen to focus our efforts on the priorities of Christian Aid:

- to expose poverty throughout the world
- to help in practical ways to end it
- to highlight, challenge and change the structures and systems that favour the rich and powerful over the poor and marginalised.

all in terms of the Gospel'.

We will be represented on the new M-S Eco-Group and look forward to highlighting to members current CA campaigns to which we could lend our individual support.

We will continue to respond to major global Emergency Appeals with bucket collections.

We are always keen to welcome new members to the Committee so please make it known if you would like to hear more about joining our Christian Aid team.

We invite you to support our annual Marmalade Sale (details below) after which our main focus of this year will be CHRISTIAN AID WEEK (10 - 16 May 2020) – the opportunity for Members to make their personal annual commitment to Christian Aid in the envelopes which will be made available beforehand. And, in the next issue of *Grapevine*, we will also explain more about the alternative CA campaign *In Their Lifetime* which is





supported by a number in our congregation already. Watch this space!

Further information Christian Aid information see:

[www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us)

**MARMALADE SALE** in aid of Christian Aid will be held on **SUNDAY 16 FEBRUARY** with a table in West Mayfield area before and after the 10.45am Service. Ever popular! Please bring your strong bags!

(Receiving marmalade contributions for the sale 10.30am – 12noon on Saturday 15 February or direct to Church Office during the week. No empty jars required meantime, thank you).

**With all good wishes from the 2020 Christian Aid Committee:**

*Eilie Blackwood, Robin Cavaghan, Deirdre Eustace, Stewart Houston, Anne Mulligan, Neil Newton, Aileen Nimmo, Kate O'Brien, Catriona Stewart, Anne Sturrock*

## **CHRISTIAN AID PRAYER THOUGHTS**

Read: Micah 6:8: *He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?*

As we look back, and now look forward, take time to give thanks for the abundance of God's steadfast love towards the work of Christian Aid's partners across the world. Pray for all our partners and friends as we transition into a new stage of our global strategy, which means saying goodbye to some country programmes and deepening our engagement with others. Give thanks for the kindness and generosity that have brought transformation to many communities and lives across the world.

*Thank you, incarnate Jesus,  
for your redeeming love  
that lifts and carries us  
through times of upheaval  
and guides us through times of  
change, Amen*

# MORNINGSIDE JUSTICE AND PEACE

*The Tree of Peace has its roots in Justice*

international or local concern followed by questions and discussion.

The Morningside Justice and Peace Group exists to promote informed opinion on matters of concern to the community at large.

To cover costs, a contribution of £2 is requested at each meeting.

Meetings are held every Wednesday during the autumn and spring months from 10.30am - 11.30am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road in Edinburgh.

Steering Group

*Willie Farquhar, Alan McKinney, Peter Edwards Alison Macleod, Sid Gardner, Patricia Robson, Barbara Darcy.*

These meetings are open to all and consist of a short talk on a topic of national,

For further information:

b.darcy20@gmail.com 0131 228 1807.

[www.morningsidejandp.org](http://www.morningsidejandp.org)

## February

- 5 Leigh Fell, Founder and CEO, Caritas Neuro Solutions, based in Edinburgh.  
*Neurological research is 40 years behind cancer research. New initiatives*
- 12 Professor Walter Humes, Honorary Professor in the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Stirling.  
*What have we learned about educational reform from Curriculum for Excellence?*
- 19 Rhona Kent, Fisheries Policy Officer with WWF UK.  
*The role of Scottish fisheries in the fight against climate change.*
- 26 Julia Calvert, Lecturer in Political Economy, University of Edinburgh.  
*Political Economies of South America: Crisis, Change and Progress since the 1970s.*

## March

- 4 Christina Naismith, Head of Implementation and Caroline Sautter, Policy Manager, Health and Social Care Integration, Scottish Government.  
*The Integration of Health and Social Care - aims, funding and progress.*
- 11 Elva Bannon, Senior Research Engineer, Wave Energy Scotland.  
*Wave Energy - current research, progress and challenges.*
- 18 Kathryn MacGregor, Assistant Secretary to the Citizens' Assembly, and Graeme Holloway, Member of the Citizens' Assembly.  
*Citizens' Assembly of Scotland: Doing politics differently.*
- 25 Councillor Kate Campbell, Convener of Housing, Homelessness and Fair Work, City of Edinburgh Council.  
*Housing Expansion in Edinburgh and beyond, with particular reference to 21st Century homes.*

# NEWS

Everyone is very welcome at the next Afternoon Service on Tuesday 10 March in the Bill McDonald Hall at the usual time of 2.30pm until around 4.00pm. The Revd Neil N. Gardner, our Interim Moderator, with Kay McIntosh, DCS will be officiating.

Level access to the Bill McDonald Hall is provided by the West Mayfield entrance.

These mid-week gatherings are especially appreciated by the less mobile in our parish community. The short service is followed by tea and fellowship. Assistance is given on arriving and leaving and we all remain seated at our tea tables throughout the afternoon.

If you like further information or if you are unable to arrange a lift, please ask your own Pastoral Visitor or any Elder. They are welcome to liaise with Anne Sturrock.

Members of the congregation will remember Louise Purden who spent time with us as a student in training for Ministry of Word and Sacrament.

Louise was Ordained and Inducted as Minister of Bonnyrigg Parish Church on 23 January. Several members of Mayfield Salisbury attended the service and took our greeting to Louise.

We wish her every blessing in this exciting new stage of her ministry. *Anne Mulligan*

On 13 January 1948 Stuart King and Jack Hemmings took off in MAF's first flight to leave UK for Africa. As part of its commemoration of this anniversary MAF's *Partners in Prayer* video for this month includes an interview with the two pioneers and other material from the inaugural flight.

The video may be found online at:

[www.maf-uk.org/partner-in-prayer](http://www.maf-uk.org/partner-in-prayer)

## AFTERNOON SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

TUESDAY, 10  
MARCH 2.30 PM



Anne Sturrock

## REVD LOUISE PURDEN



## MISSION AVIATION FELLOWSHIP

Morley Sewell

---

## YOUTH CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTU- NITY



Hillary Leslie

Mayfield Salisbury runs a Youth Club on Sunday evenings for ages P6 to S1 from 6.00pm to 7.00pm and S2 to S6 from 7.00pm to 8.00pm. We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in becoming a part of the team. Volunteers will be helping our youth leader run each session with a variety of activities, including sport, games, craft, discussion, etc.

To find out more about this opportunity, **please contact our Youth Worker, Hillary Leslie at [Hillary.mayfieldyouth@gmail.com](mailto:Hillary.mayfieldyouth@gmail.com)** . Volunteers must be 18 or older; PVG required (the church will help with this process).

---

## SUNDAY WELCOME TEAMS



Honey Ballantine

At present we have seven teams of six volunteers who, on rotation, provide a friendly and helpful presence on Sundays, a welcome which is very much appreciated by regular attenders and visitors alike!

However, we are always looking out for new people to join a team, particularly as team members retire or move on to other things. Newer members of our congregation are especially encouraged to think about this service. If you feel that you would like to be part of this very important Ministry of Welcome and join one of our Welcome Teams, please contact either Honey Ballantine ([honey@balhend.com](mailto:honey@balhend.com)) or Anne Sturrock ([sturrocks@uwclub.net](mailto:sturrocks@uwclub.net)), either of whom would be delighted to give you further information, and equally delighted to welcome you into one of our welcome teams!

---

## FLOWERS -



Jane Main  
0131 667 1711  
Chrystine Patterson  
0131 662 4506

During December the flower arrangement was replaced by the Advent Candles. The Tree and Nativity scenes on aisle windows made the whole church such a lovely celebration of Christmas. During Christmas week Anne Sturrock sourced some beautiful poinsettias which brought a lovely warm glow to the Sanctuary steps and lasted well into 2020. Thanks Anne for bringing them in and good luck to those who took the survivors home in getting them to thrive. Perhaps you can bring them in next December if you have managed to get them to turn red again.

---

The ECO group mentioned in previous issues of *Grapevine* is now up and running, and recently held its third meeting. Plans are well advanced for activities during Lent, with a special service on February 23 on the theme of Climate Change and Sustainability. An ECO workshop will take place on Sat 7 March, with distinguished guest speakers to help us consider what we can do as individuals, as members of the church, and as a civic community.

Suggestions of actions that we can take will be appearing on the pews at Sunday worship, so look out for these 'thoughts for the week.'

Anyone wishing to get involved more directly is asked to contact Alastair MacGilchrist. [a.macgilchrist@gmail.com](mailto:a.macgilchrist@gmail.com).

---

When using the stairs from the Kitchen or Lower Hall to the Bill McDonald Hall please make sure the stair light is always on. The door at the top of the stair should be secured in an open position.

Please be careful when carrying trays, teapots etc

---

Would you have time to spare to join the volunteer teams from our church who help to staff the Bethany Care van once a month in Edinburgh?

We have had a number of committed and experienced volunteers for some time but new helpers are most welcome.

If you're interested in finding out more, please feel free to contact me.

---

Do you find you are affected by memory loss?

First Fridays Friends is a support group which meets each month on the first Friday at 2.30pm in the Bill McDonald Hall. Why not come along to see what happens and join us for a cup of tea?

For more information contact Sandra.

## ECO GROUP



## LIGHT ON STAIRS

Anne Aithie  
Kitchen Convener

---

## BETHANY CARE VAN & MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Tricia Stevenson  
Team Co-ordinator  
[triciaduncan3@gmail.com](mailto:triciaduncan3@gmail.com)

---

## FIRST FRIDAYS FRIENDS

[sandra.carter@barts.myzen.co.uk](mailto:sandra.carter@barts.myzen.co.uk)  
Sandra Carter

# THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

## A USERS' GUIDE

Any congregation which is temporarily without a minister is inevitably thrown back on its own resources. That is where we are just now. We are of course very fortunate to have the preaching of Revd Helen Alexander and the leadership of Revd Neil Gardner, our Interim Moderator. They offer continuity through, respectively, the high quality sermons in our weekly worship and invaluable guidance and advice, especially to our elders in the Kirk Session. Kay, Hillary and William also support us through all of their usual work (and more), and we are hugely grateful to them for bearing the additional burden which the vacancy creates.

But in this period of change and transition it is ultimately up to us, the members and worshippers at Mayfield Salisbury, to determine what the church of the future will be like. There is much work involved in this, some relatively visible and some of which may perhaps seem a bit mysterious. In addition we will each have our own priorities, cares, and hopes for the future. I encourage everyone to share their thoughts and to ask each other if they have any questions - and particularly to ask the elders who, as members of the Kirk Session, have responsibility for a number of decisions. We are all keen to make the transition into a positive experience; equally we need to acknowledge that the path may not be clear or easy at times.

The next phase of the transition is to elect a Nominating Committee. (There will be those who say that if the answer is to create a committee then the question isn't a good one, but please don't stop reading just yet...) This will be made up of 13 members of our congregation, and the

core of their task is to receive applications for filling the vacancy, interview the applicants, and come up with the name of a sole nominee as our new minister. He or she will be invited to preach and a vote of members will be taken immediately afterwards. That, then, is the task of the Nominating Committee. Their work may take some time and it is conducted confidentially. The rest of us will need to be patient, and trusting.

### **But how is the Nominating Committee elected? Who can stand? Who can vote?**

Taking these in reverse order, only people whose names are on the Electoral Register can vote. An early job is for the Kirk Session to finalise the Register. It will contain the names of everyone who is currently registered as a member of Mayfield Salisbury, but an invitation will be extended, by means of intimation, for anyone else to be added, either as a communicant member or as an adherent (which may include young people who have not yet been confirmed, and any others who are regular worshippers). If you are not on the current Roll, or are not sure if you are, this is your opportunity to make sure you have a vote.

**Who can stand?** The answer as to who can stand as a member of the Nominating Committee is that anyone on the Electoral Register is eligible. There are some exceptions, such as ministers and employees of the congregation. You need a proposer and a seconder. But that is only the formal position. More importantly, we need to ensure that the membership of the Committee is as broad as possible so that as many views and perspectives of those in our congregation as possible are represented. Please therefore consider standing yourself. Or, if you think that someone you know would be a good candidate, please

encourage him or her to think seriously about it. The value of having all views represented cannot be underestimated. If you are unsure about what's involved, just speak to an elder or one of the staff. A question will not be interpreted as a statement of intent, so please don't be shy about this.

**How is the Nominating Committee elected?** We expect that this will be by secret ballot (though the final decision is for the Kirk Session to make), and the hope is that we will be in a position to hold the election after a service on a Sunday in the middle or second half of February.

**What can I do?** For the moment please feel free to use the intervening time to consider the work of the Nominating Committee. Do you think it might be for you? Do you think a person you know might be a suitable member? Do you have any questions?

It may be that the thing you are unsure about is something that others also want to know, or indeed it may be something that no one has yet thought of and needs addressing. Either way, this is a task which belongs to, and affects, all of us and we each have a role we can play if we wish to do so.

## STOP PRESS!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Kirk Session has decided to have one joint service of worship on Sunday 1 March at 10.00am. This will enable worshippers from both services to attend and participate in the election of the Nominations Committee. This is a vitally important part of the process in the search for our next Minister so please do come along and join in. Put the date in your diary!

More information will follow on the website vacancy page and repeated in the intimations.

*William Mearns*

## GENERAL VACANCY INFORMATION

During the ministerial vacancy at Mayfield Salisbury, we welcome the Revd Neil Gardner, Minister of Canongate Kirk as Interim Moderator. We also welcome the Revd Helen Alexander as Locum Preacher. Helen will principally conduct the Sunday services during the vacancy period. During this time, please contact the Pastoral Assistant, Kay McIntosh, for pastoral enquires. For all other general enquiries, please contact the Church Manager, William Mearns in the first instance. Further information when available will be noted in the intimations and on the church website [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/vacancy](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/vacancy) Contact details may be found on the back page.

# SESSION MATTERS

Session met on 10 December 2019 when the following was discussed:

**Correspondence:** The Session Clerk had received an email from The Revd Scott McKenna thanking the congregation for their warm appreciation and good wishes on his departure and for the thoughtfulness of their gift to him. He added that it was a particular delight to see so many of the congregation at his induction service at St Columba's, which meant a great deal to him.

**New Members:** Christopher Hamill had been in touch seeking to become a member of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church. Session approved this request and extended a warm welcome to Mr Hamill.

**Presbytery Advisory Committee** The Interim Moderator welcomed The Revd Andrea Price and Mr Reuben Addis, from the Advisory Committee of Edinburgh Presbytery, and invited them to address Session.

Revd Price began by saying that, although we do not yet have formal permission to call but there are a number of steps we can usefully begin to take now. First, we can consider the kind of minister and ministry we might want; we can prepare our parish profile; and thirdly, we can prepare the electoral roll, which will be needed for the election of vacancy committee members.

One issue for us is whether we wish to depart from the Church's traditional stance on ministers (and deacons) in a same sex marriage or civil partnership. Revd Price urged us to consider the decision prayerfully and collectively. Any

decision as to whether or not to depart would be indicated in the parish profile which will be considered carefully by any applicant

In relation to the Nominating Committee, Revd Price said that it should be left to do its work confidentially. Its central task will be to identify a sole nominee for election and appointment as our new minister. It will advertise the vacancy, accept applications and conduct interviews.

At this point Revd Price and Mr Addis were thanked for their very informative and helpful contribution and they left the meeting.

**Draft Budget** John Graham, the Treasurer, spoke to the two papers which had been circulated in advance of the meeting: a draft budget and a commentary on it. He mentioned that, since the current version of the budget had been prepared, Hugh Somerville, our Offerings Convenor, had revised upwards his estimate of the 2019 outturn, raising it from £213,700 to around £219,000. This would then lead to a revised estimated deficit for 2019 of around £27,000.

John said that many of the figures in the budget for 2020 represented 'business as usual'. However there was likely to be a continued decline in offerings. Following the recent decision to stop building up the legacies fund the income on its investments would now be credited to the General Fund. As to expenditure, the current vacancy creates some savings and some additional costs, which largely balance each other out. The Outreach and Youth figure is higher than in the current year because the initial donation we

received towards the cost of employing a Youth Worker has been exhausted, though the generous donation to salary is still ongoing. In relation to Manse costs, nothing serious was anticipated, though the garage roof needs to be replaced. Some of the redecoration will be left until shortly before a new minister moves in, so that he or she can have a say.

A point was raised about our Ministries & Mission contribution. How would this be affected by the vacancy? This is decided centrally, as are the fees payable for locum or pulpit supply work, and the slight diminution of M&M levies during the vacancy will roughly be balanced by fees for supply. We need to maintain a Manse of the size of our current one so that any minister, regardless of his or her particular family situation, is likely to be capable of being accommodated. Congregational funds cannot be used to contribute to heating bills largely because of HMRC rules. Session approved the budget and expressed its thanks to John and his team for all of the work involved in producing it.

### **Secret Ballot Under The Ministers And Deacons In Civil Partnerships And Same Sex Marriages Act (Act I 2015)**

The Interim Moderator introduced this item by reminding us all vacant congregations face the option of deciding whether to depart from the Church's traditional stance, which is that a minister in a same sex marriage or civil partnership may not be called as our next minister. In moving to a vote by secret ballot, which had been duly intimated by the Session Clerk at each morning service on the two preceding Sundays, ballot papers were distributed. Once completed, they were scrutinised by the Interim Moderator and Pastoral Assistant, who found the result to be 36 votes in favour of departure and 2

votes against departure. This meant that the required simple majority had been reached and a second vote could be held in due course. The Interim Moderator indicated that this was likely to be at the January Kirk Session meeting.

### **Committee reports**

**Business Committee:** The Convenor, Steve Holehouse, introduced his two papers by asking if there were any questions on his précis. In response to a query about what the 'confidential Employee Assistance Programme' is, Steve explained that it is a service offered nowadays by many good employers by which employees are able to phone a helpline, staffed by qualified staff, to discuss any issue which is affecting them. The content of any conversation will remain entirely confidential, and all Session, as employer, will be told is the number of calls which are made in total by our staff each year.

Turning to the paper entitled 'Dealing with Special Funds', Steve introduced it by saying that it represents the final element of a three-part review which Business Committee had promised to undertake during 2019: on financial policies (allied to the forthcoming appeal), financial controls, and the current paper on special funds. After the paper had been approved, thanks were extended to Steve, his Committee, and the Treasurer for their work in preparing and considering the papers.

**Christian Aid:** The Convenor, Aileen Nimmo thanked the Salisbury Fund for their generous donation of £1000 and to all who have supported the Coffee morning and the Christmas card. A number of members are retiring; Mike

Sharp after 25 years; Jan Melvin after years of masterminding events' catering; and Jane Main who supported all of the events and who ran the fairtrade stall.

Christian Aid attended the Committee's away day in the Spring and they made it clear that they wanted focus on campaigning as well as fundraising particularly in light of climate change challenges. The Committee as a result proposes two key changes:

First, that there will no longer be the role of convener but there will be a coordinator who will call meetings, prepare minutes and reports to session. Secondly, the remaining members of the team will be allocated roles as follows:

- Special Collections
- Treasury team
- Communication and publicity
- CA Office
- Youth group
- Research Committee
- Climate Change

Aileen said that it has been a real honour to work with such a talented, hard working and dedicated team and to share their vision. She will be remaining on the committee but in a lesser role

Session expressed their deep appreciation to Aileen for her dedication as Convenor

and for all her work on behalf of Christian Aid.

**Presbytery Elder's Report** The report from Anne Steele, our Presbytery Elder, was noted. Anne mentioned in particular that the LCR report had been presented the previous week. In its presentation the LCR team had stressed the humility which they felt had come across in our congregation and work. Anne was thanked for her report.

**First Friday Friends** Sandra Carter said that the group was in good heart. It is taking inspiration from a strap-line which had inspired its creation: Winding Down and Gearing Up. She was thanked for all her work in FFF.

**AOCB:** The Interim Moderator acknowledged that three young people from the congregation, with Hillary Leslie and her husband, had participated last Saturday, 8 December, in the Big Sleep Out in Princes Street Gardens. The night had been a particularly awful one to be outside. They had raised a commendable sum for Social Bite and other charities supporting the homeless, and thanks were expressed to those who had donated. There may be scope to build on this experience, for example by the youth making a visit to Bethany or another organisation working to alleviate homelessness.

**FIVE MINUTES' PEACE**

Five Minutes peace sees the sanctuary at Mayfield Salisbury open as a place for peaceful meditation - without a church service - on Tuesdays from 6.30pm to 8.00pm and Saturdays from 10.00am to 11.30am. We invite people of all faiths and none to come and enjoy five minutes' peace.



Have a listen to our first episode of the *Ground We Share Podcast Series* available now! [www.thegroundweshare.com/podcast](http://www.thegroundweshare.com/podcast)

In the new monthly, *Ground We Share Podcast Series*, presenter Iain Stewart, Executive Director of EIFA, gives us a glimpse into the lives of people of different faiths living in Scotland.

In Episode 1, Dharmveer Singh describes his upbringing growing up as a Sikh in Leith, Edinburgh. He describes his

journey to becoming a baptised Sikh, swapping the music of the dance floors for the shabads/hymns of the Gurdwara. He describes the commitment it requires to be a baptised Sikh and what it means to him. He talks about the key beliefs of the Sikh faith including 'sewa' selfless giving and the perceived clashes between Punjabi culture and practising the Sikh faith. Join us for a fascinating insight into what it means to practice one of the world's youngest religions in Scotland today.

## MORNING PRAYERS ON TUESDAYS

Morning prayers take place in the Sanctuary each Tuesday morning from 9.30am. This provides an opportunity to pray in silence for those known to us who are ill or who are passing through difficult times. If you, or someone known to you, would like to be remembered this way in prayer, please inform Kay.

# THURSDAY CLUB

## February

- |                          |                                      |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 6 Budapest               | <i>Boyd McAdam</i>                   |
| 13 The Changing Botanics | <i>Heather McHaffie</i>              |
| 20 My Famous Aunt!       | <i>Sheana Stephens</i>               |
| 27 Singalong             | <i>George Ross and Susan Wooding</i> |

## March

- |   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 5 Remarkable Ruins: Angkor and Persepolis | <i>John Grabam</i>  |
| 12 Scottish Musical Afternoon             | <i>Ceilidh Band</i> |
| 19 Some Incompetent Spies                 | <i>Alan Tulleth</i> |
| 26 Lip reading                            | <i>Erna McEvoy</i>  |

## April

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| 2 Up the Creek talk                   | <i>Simon Fairnie</i>                         |
| 9 <i>Easter Break</i>                 |  |
| 16 One World Shop                     | <i>Rachel Farey</i>                          |
| 23 Sing-along                         | <i>Friends from Mayfield Salisbury choir</i> |
| 30 Posies with weeds and wildflowers! | <i>Anne Sturrock</i>                         |

## May

- |        |     |
|--------|-----|
| 7 TRIP | TBC |
|--------|-----|

# THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Feb. 2 Exodus 17,18 / Matthew 24     | Feb. 19 Leviticus 13,14 / Acts 8           |
| Feb. 3 Exodus 19,20 / Matthew 25     | Feb. 20 Leviticus 15,16 / Acts 9           |
| Feb. 4 Exodus 21,22 / Psalm 17       | Feb. 21 Leviticus 17,18 / Acts 10          |
| Feb. 5 Exodus 23,24 / Matthew 26     | Feb. 22 Leviticus 19,20 / Psalms 23,24     |
| Feb. 6 Exodus 25,26 / Matthew 27     | Feb. 23 Leviticus 21,22 / Acts 11          |
| Feb. 7 Exodus 27,28 / Matthew 28     | Feb. 24 Leviticus 23,24 / Acts 12          |
| Feb. 8 Exodus 29, 30 / Psalm 18      | Feb. 25 Leviticus 25,26 / Psalm 25         |
| Feb. 9 Exodus 31,32 / Acts 1         | Feb. 26 Leviticus 27 / Numbers 1 / Acts 13 |
| Feb. 10 Exodus 33,34 / Acts 2        | Feb. 27 Numbers 2,3 / Acts 14              |
| Feb. 11 Exodus 35,36 / Psalm 19      | Feb. 28 Numbers 4,5 / Acts 15              |
| Feb. 12 Exodus 37,38 / Acts 3        | March 1 Numbers 6,7 / Psalms 26,27         |
| Feb. 13 Exodus 39,40 / Acts 4        | March 2 Numbers 8,9 / Acts 16              |
| Feb. 14 Leviticus 1-3 / Acts 5       | March 3 Numbers 10,11 / Acts 17            |
| Feb. 15 Leviticus 4,5 / Psalms 20,21 | March 4 Numbers 12-14 / Psalms 28,29       |
| Feb. 16 Leviticus 6,7 / Acts 6       | March 5 Numbers 15,16 / Acts 18            |
| Feb. 17 Leviticus 8,9 / Acts 7       | March 6 Numbers 17-19 / Acts 19            |
| Feb. 18 Leviticus 10-12 / Psalm 22   | March 7 Numbers 20,21 / Acts 20            |

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

## Deaths

David Strachan  
Avril Crosbie  
Jenny Hughes

## New Member

Christopher Hamill



# WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

<b>Interim Moderator</b> Revd Neil N. Gardner	<a href="mailto:ngardner@churchofscotland.org.uk">ngardner@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	0131 556 3515
<b>Locum Preacher</b> Revd Helen Alexander	<a href="mailto:HAlexander@churchofscotland.org.uk">HAlexander@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	0131 346 0685
<b>Pastoral Assistant</b> Kay McIntosh DCS	<a href="mailto:kay@backedge.co.uk">kay@backedge.co.uk</a>	0790 326 6307
<b>Youth Worker</b> Hillary Leslie	<a href="mailto:Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com">Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com</a>	0745 372 2224
<b>Church Manager</b> William Mearns	<a href="mailto:churchmanager@googlemail.com">churchmanager@googlemail.com</a>	0780 801 1234
<b>Organist</b> Kate Pearson	<a href="mailto:kate.q.kate@gmail.com">kate.q.kate@gmail.com</a>	0744 238 2296
<b>Session Clerk</b> Charles Garland	<a href="mailto:charles.edin@gmail.com">charles.edin@gmail.com</a>	0776 290 8343
<b>Treasurer</b> John Graham	<a href="mailto:culkein@btinternet.com">culkein@btinternet.com</a>	0131 667 6331
<b>Gift Aid Donations &amp; Roll Keeper</b> Hugh Somerville	<a href="mailto:hs.somerville2@gmail.com">hs.somerville2@gmail.com</a>	0131 466 2446

Print Run 6L  
20:370  
Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of  
Scotland Scottish Charity Number SC000785

## Church Office

18 West Mayfield,  
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ  
0131 667 1522 or  
[churchmanager@googlemail.com](mailto:churchmanager@googlemail.com)

## Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits,  
contact the Pastoral Assistant.

## Mayfield Radio

[mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com](mailto:mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com)  
0131 667 7742

## Grapevine Submissions

William Mearns 0131 667 1522  
[churchmanager@googlemail.com](mailto:churchmanager@googlemail.com)

## Grapevine Distribution

Kirstine Baxter 0754 991 3813  
[churchmanager@googlemail.com](mailto:churchmanager@googlemail.com)



## Staff Days Off

Pastoral Assistant: Friday and Saturday  
Youth Worker: Friday and Saturday  
Manager: Monday PM & Friday

## Social Media

-  [www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury)
-  [www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch](http://www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch)
-  [www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06/)
-  [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)

Front cover: The Transfiguration of Christ: Part of  
an iconostasis in Constantinople style. c. 1250s.



Copy date for next issue: 6.00pm on Friday 21 February