



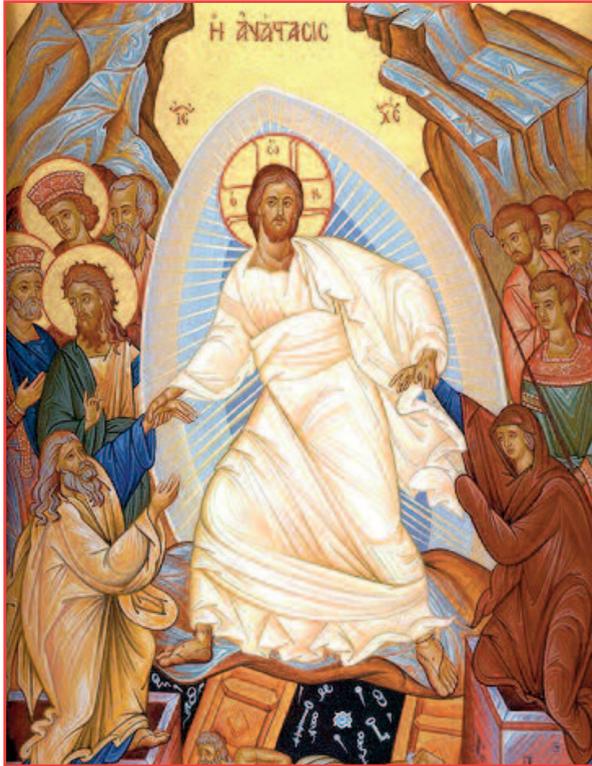
March/April 2020

Issue 246-v2

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



CORONAVIRUS SPECIAL NOTICE

PUTTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER!

FINANCIAL APPEAL

SESSION MATTERS & VACANCY

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

SPECIAL NOTICE



Coronavirus and Mayfield Salisbury

Dear Friends

In the midst of such unprecedented restrictions, the news may or may not have reached you that the Church of Scotland has now announced that all services of public worship are to be suspended with immediate effect. From our perspective this simply means that sadly there can be no Sunday services at Mayfield Salisbury Church for the time being.

This does not however mean a complete shutdown! Our website and social media will stay up and running with regular updates, photographs, prayers and reflections. Please keep a watchful eye on it.

Also, all hall users and activities has stopped for the moment.

Continue to check the website for more information.

Further information:

www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/advice-for-churches-covid-19-coronavirus

LETTER

Dear Members and Friends of
Mayfield Salisbury Parish
Congregation

As I write, the effects of Storm Dennis are still in evidence, in parts of the Scottish Borders and in swathes of England where people are still on alert as more rain is forecast. We've been lucky in Edinburgh, and our profound sympathy must surely be with those whose homes and businesses have been ruined by flooding. If anything is needed to focus British minds on climate, surely it's this. I've been thinking about storms and their names.

The forecast told us that Dennis wouldn't be as menacing as Ciara. Tell that to the poor folk of Yorkshire and Wales and the South!

Fittingly enough, dark Ciara blew to us through Ireland. To me, her name sounded too gentle for a proper storm: caring, kind Ciara, a name you might give to a warm summer breeze.

The Dennis whose exploits I eagerly awaited with the weekly delivery of *The Beano* long ago was delightfully naughty rather than out-and-out bad, if I remember correctly. But no matter the punishment, he never mended his ways, and returned each week to cause havoc again and again.

Fortunately for us perhaps, the names we give to storms change with each new one.

The next will have to be female. Storms have equal opportunities these days. What might her name be? Evangeline? Surely not: too much of a contradiction. Ermintrude?

That's better: strong and all-encompassing with a coating of wintry white even as we head for Spring. Eve? Perhaps: very lively, with disastrous consequences.

Whatever the weather, when I approach Mayfield Salisbury Church I think how firmly it stands on the corner of West Mayfield and the main road, fit for anything that might come at it, its strong, elegant spire pointing beyond itself with the right combination of confidence and hope. I confess that for years, I only knew the building from the outside beginning in the early 1950s when my family passed it every Sunday morning on the way from our home in Dalrymple Crescent to what was then Mayfield South Church, now Craigmillar Park. Sorry about that!

But you never know what's ahead of you, and now I'm delighted to have the opportunity to get to know the church and its people from the inside, so to speak.

While several months have passed since your ministerial vacancy began in October, I suggest there's much to be said for this.



It takes time to mourn the departure of a loved and much admired Minister. Deep feelings need to be honoured, and it's not always wise to hurry to the next stage in the process of seeking a replacement.

As you read this, however, the time will have come to form the Vacancy Committee to search for a new Minister. If you offer the same kindness, generosity and engagement as you have to me – as I'm sure you will – then he or she will be fortunate indeed.

I thank you all very sincerely for your warm welcome and your continued tolerance, courtesy and encouragement. It's an ongoing privilege for me to do my best to help you meantime.

While many individuals have been supportive in particular areas, my special appreciation and thanks go to William Mearns, Kay McIntosh, Hillary Leslie, Walter Thomson and Kate Pearson. I couldn't have wished for more open, good-humoured wisdom, help and understanding. To a man - and woman – they are just great to work with, not to mention the Interim Moderator Neil

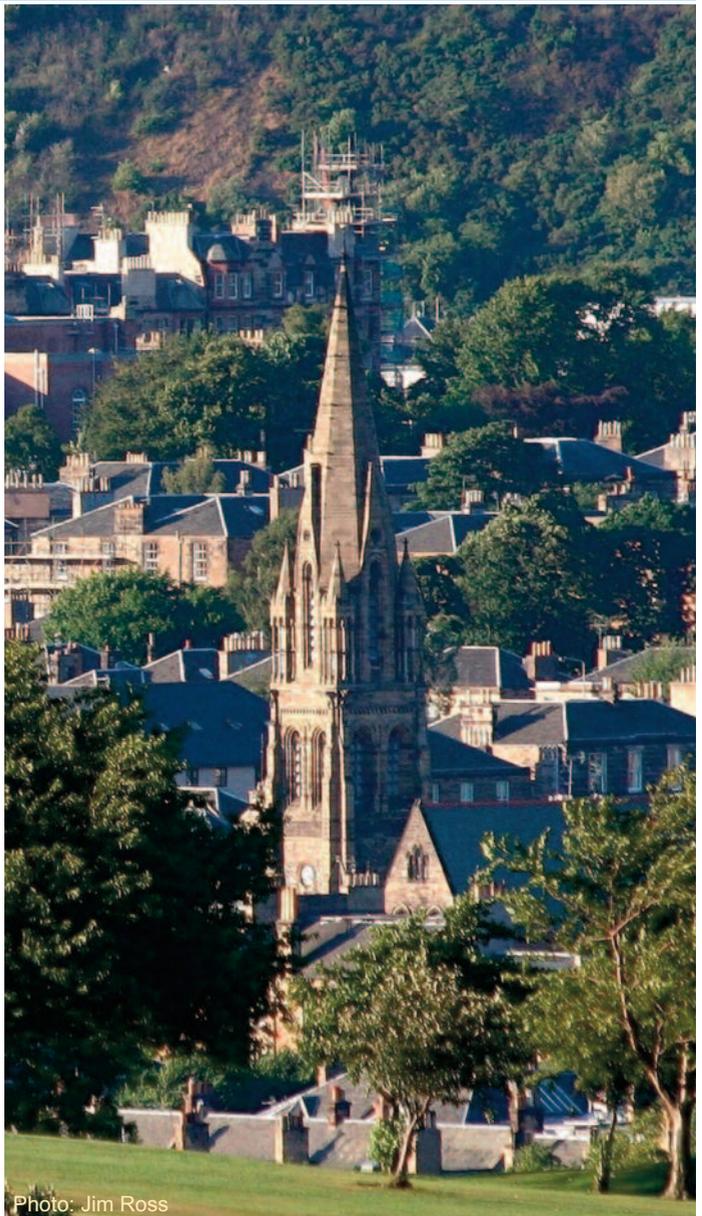


Photo: Jim Ross

Gardner, whose kind 'hands-on' approach keeps us all going whatever the weather, within and without!

With very good wishes to you all

Helen Alexander

PASTORAL CARE

At Mayfield Salisbury we have a team of five pastoral care coordinators who liaise with their group of pastoral care visitors. Each pastoral visitor is allocated to an individual who has requested visits and between them they work out how often that will take place.

The pastoral coordinators are: Dorothy Cloughley, Wendy Mathison, Anne Mulligan, Maggie Ross and Hilary Watkinson.

All of our pastoral care team adhere to the latest safeguarding regulations.

We cover hospitals, sheltered housing, nursing homes, and the individual homes of members of our church and people living within our local community.

If you would like to receive a visit or to become a visitor then please contact me and I shall start that process for you.

During Tuesday morning 9.30am prayers, our Ministry team remember those who have asked for specific prayers. We also look within the prayer box or on the prayer tree for similar requests, both of which are situated over in the south transept.

Our flower team arrange and deliver flowers to families and individuals with specific anniversaries. We need your help in advising us of important dates.

Recordings are made of the service and can be delivered if requested.

We also have a team of drivers who will collect and bring people to church on Sunday mornings. Contact person for travel is Diana Tudhope 0131 669 4819.

Contact details for PV co-ordinators:

Dorothy Cloughley

667 3565 dorothycloughley@googlemail.com

Wendy Mathison

447 5562 wsmdance3@gmail.com

Anne Mulligan

664 3426 mulliganne@aol.com

Maggie Ross

668 3859 maggiejeanross@btinternet.com

Hilary Watkinson

hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com

If I can be of any help or you have any questions relating to any of the above, please contact me at kay@backedge.co.uk or 0790 326 6307

Kay

Kay McIntosh Pastoral Assistant.

MORNING PRAYERS

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.

PUTTING YOUR AFFAIRS IN ORDER!

A few years ago we held a number of events and workshops about ageing. Having celebrated old age we were asked to cover the difficult topics of dementia, death and dying. As a result we have a monthly dementia group called First Fridays Friends to support people with memory loss and their carers.

Another aspect of getting older that is often put aside until it's too late is dealing with matters that affect the end of our lives. Some of the simple, practical things that we can do in terms of planning and paper work that, once in place or even just tidied up, enable us to feel that things are in order and so we can relax.

In today's society it is becoming easier to talk more openly about death and dying and as a church community we want to be able to provide support to each other and deal with some of the issues that become more important and relevant as we get older.

We are planning to repeat the informal afternoon session we had in 2014, where we can get hold of the information that will be helpful and have a chance to ask the questions. It is not about an individual's personal affairs but the general facts about how to go about organising what you would like to happen when you die, or to help those who will have to make decisions about what you want if you can no longer do so for yourself.

It's a big subject and so on this occasion the areas we are going to cover are wills; power of attorney; funeral wishes; and communication. Two practising family law specialists are coming back to discuss informally these points and explain how it all works; what is important; how to put what you want in place; how to recognise the time to involve others; and who to speak to. They also understand that it is not always easy to talk about these things with family and friends, and the group may together be able to suggest good ways of introducing the subject.

And we shall round off the afternoon with a cup of tea and a comforting slice of cake. It's on **Tuesday 17 March at 2.30pm** in the Youth Room in Church House, and if you would like to come along please contact Anne Mulligan (07790 892594) or Sandra Carter (07531 696240) who are usually around on Sunday mornings after both morning services.

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.

CANDLEMAS

Sunday 2 February 2020

A SEASON OF CLEAR SHINING

If you were to take that word Candlemas and break it in two you'd end up with two conveniently churchy words, Candle and Mass, that are neither of them particularly Presbyterian. Mass is still strictly the term used in Roman Catholic and Anglo-Catholic congregations for the celebration of the eucharist, where the use of candles is I think probably obligatory. Such usage is by no means compulsory in the Church of Scotland but my instinct is that more of our congregations are comfortable with candles these days and I'm sure that's a good thing. There's something both powerful and vulnerable about a candle flame which somehow speaks to people when words fall short. In last week's marking of Holocaust Memorial Day candles played a central part in the major commemorations both in Westminster and at Auschwitz itself and watching them I was reminded of the First World War poet John Macrae's famous lines about the poppies in Flanders fields in which he speaks for the dead:

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.*

Candles are often used to represent just such a passing on from one generation to another, and at the same time a standing alongside in solidarity, a visual symbol of a



John Macrae c.1914

determination not to forget but to keep faith. Just as Simeon kept the faith all those years, never forgetting that one day the Lord would come, the one who would redeem Israel, and nor had he lost sight of the hope that one day he would see him with his own failing eyes and even hold him in his own failing hands. As a good, God-fearing man patiently waiting for Israel to be saved and in the meantime quietly studying the Scriptures, he would be all too familiar with the prophecy of Malachi, where it is written 'Suddenly the Lord whom you seek will come to his

Temple; the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight...’ How many years Simeon had been seeking him we can hardly begin to imagine, but how fervently he had longed, more than anything else in the whole world, to see God’s messenger, the messenger of the covenant come to His temple. Generations of good, God-fearing folk before him had done the same of course, looking for the Lord, longing to see his messenger, and nothing had happened, their prayers it seemed had not been answered and no salvation had been forthcoming. Generations had risen and passed away and just why now there should be anything different about Simeon is difficult to tell; all we are told is that the Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s promised Messiah and it was to this assurance that Simeon had now clung for as long as he could remember.

And was still clinging when on that fateful day the Holy Spirit led him into the Temple. It wasn’t as if he hadn’t been there before. He must have been there hundreds of times, maybe thousands, for if Malachi was right and it was in the Temple that the Lord would suddenly appear, then that’s where Simeon would have been waiting, waiting and wondering and looking and longing all these years. And he must have seen hundreds of first-born children brought to the Temple to do as the Law required; hundreds of tiny babies, hundreds of proud parents, coming through the Temple courtyards with their precious bundles, not to mention their lambs and their doves. The Book of Leviticus, right at the very heart of the Books of the Law, is very particular about



Simeon the Godreceiver by Alexei Yegorov. 1830s

the rules and regulations concerning both the Purification of women after childbirth and the Presentation of the first born. ‘When the time of her purification is completed’ it is written, ‘whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest at the entrance of the tent of the Lord’s presence a one year old lamb for a burnt offering and a pigeon or a dove for a sin offering. ...if the woman cannot afford a lamb’, it is further explained, ‘she shall bring two doves’. Now let’s go back to the second chapter of St Luke’s Gospel, where we hear that ‘when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord’. And also to sacrifice as similarly stated in the law of the Lord: ‘a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons’. But the law of the Lord you remember only required a pair of doves or pigeons if the couple could not



since disappeared from our hymnbooks represents a setting of words by the 18th century poet William Cowper:

*Sometimes a light surprises
the Christian while he sings;
It is the Lord who rises with
healing in his wings:
When comforts are declining,
He grants the soul again
A season of clear shining,
To cheer it after rain.*

afford a lamb, and obviously Mary and Joseph came into that category. So this whole episode, is amongst other things, a clear reminder of how ordinary they were, this young couple who had been chosen for such extraordinary things, too poor even to afford a lamb, with no reason to draw attention to themselves. And yet Simeon knew. As soon as they came in nervously carrying the child and the doves, like so many other poor parents before them, Simeon knew in his heart that this was the one that he had been waiting for, the light to bring revelation to the gentiles and glory to God's people Israel. *'For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people'*. He prays in the old familiar language of the Church's ancient hymn the Nunc Dimittis.

Candlemas is exactly that, a season of clear shining, a time when we recall not just the presentation of Christ in the temple six weeks after his birth at Bethlehem, but his instant recognition by Simeon as the light to lighten the Gentiles, a candle's gentle but inextinguishable ray. And a time when we too can acknowledge those moments of recognition in our own lives, those times of illumination when we have known a particular sense of comfort or strength or encouragement that somehow seems to come from beyond ourselves and carries us through. Sometimes longed for and looked for, at other times unexpected and surprising, yet each time a recognition of God's power at work in our lives. A season of clear shining, for which like Simeon we should always be on the lookout, and by which, like Simeon, we too can say in the fullness of time 'Lord now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word, for mine eyes have seen thy salvation'.

And now may God bless to us this preaching of his most holy word, and to God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory now and forever. Amen.

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. **Revd Helen Alexander and 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.

90 kg Rice Challenge! It takes just 90kg of Kilombero rice to enable farmers in Malawi to send one of their children to secondary school for one year. The rice will be on sale each Sunday at £3 per bag. Change a life one bag at a time. Let's do it again!

Help offered to Craigmillar Park Church in serving breakfast after the morning service at 7.45 during Holy Week is always welcomed. If you can help set out and serve breakfast, and clear up after, one day between 7.20 and about 9.15, please contact David, who is co-ordinating our team of helpers.

**AFTERNOON
SERVICE OF
HOLY
COMMUNION
TUESDAY, 10
MARCH 2.30 PM**



Anne Sturrock

**RICE
CHALLENGE**

Jean MacGilchrist

**HOLY WEEK
BREAKFAST
SERVICES**

David Booth - 667 0582

DESIGN A CROSSREACH CHRISTMAS CARD FOR 2020

The winning entry will be printed as a card and sold 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

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 was launched on 9 February and individual letters have now been distributed to those on the role. Forms for members and non members alike can be found on pages 11 and 13 of this magazine. These pages may be removed (having first read the Scout and Christian Aid articles on the reverse!), completed and returned to the Church Office:18 West Mayfield, Edin, EH9 1TQ

Please respond as generously as you can.

Thank you very much.

Steve Holehouse

Convener, Business Committee



GIFT AID DECLARATION

Donor's full name (in CAPITALS) _____

Title Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other _____

Donor's address (in CAPITALS) _____

_____ Postcode _____

I want Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signature of donor _____

Date of signing _____

Notes

1. **If you pay income tax at the higher rate** and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your self assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your tax code.

- 2. If you -want to cancel this declaration
 - change your name or home address
 - no longer pay sufficient tax in the relevant tax year on your income and/or Capital Gains
- Please notify the church to that effect.

BANKERS STANDING ORDER

Date _____

To: The Manager _____

(bank) _____ (Sort Code - -)

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Please pay from my account, number _____ on _____ monthly/quarterly/half yearly/annually **(please delete as appropriate)**,

the sum of £_____ (in words

_____) to Bank of Scotland, 1

Liberton Drive, Edinburgh EH16 6NL (Sort Code 80-02-73) for account

Mayfield Salisbury Church, number 00514627 quoting

reference _____ (leave blank)

Normal signature _____

Name _____

(Block capitals please)

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

This instruction supersedes any payment I may already be making to this account

28TH BRAID SCOUT TROOP



Our annual Mystery Night took place on a Sunday evening early in February with parents being given instructions to drop off at point A and pick up later at point B. The assembly point was at the bridge that leads over to Murrayfield Stadium and the Scouts assumed they were about to get a tour of the Stadium. Instead, we veered right to the Ice Rink to enjoy a thrilling evening watching Murrayfield Racers play Paisley Pirates at Ice Hockey. With the Racers losing two early goals, we were treated to a great fightback by the home team when they went on to win 5 - 3.

The main activity for the normal Troop nights centred around the Skills Challenge Award. This covered a range of skills – photography, cooking, learning some of the constellations and making a moon compass. There were also more traditional Scouting skills – throwing a rescue line and making lightweight structures for camp using speed lashing techniques.

Alan Dickson
Scout Leader

Scottish Charity No SC006141

See page 10: an Appealing time to have a word?

MAYFIELD SALISBURY (EDINBURGH) PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

(Scottish Charity Number SC000785)

APPEAL FOR REGULAR GIVING 2020

I wish to respond to this as follows (please tick and delete as appropriate)

- I enclose a completed standing order to my bank. (please complete and return the enclosed instruction).
- I have arranged for a revised payment to be made by my bank for the sum of £ _____ (monthly/quarterly/half yearly/annually) with effect from _____.
- I intend to increase my offering through the Freewill Offering Envelope Scheme to £ _____ per week. My envelope number is _____
- I intend to increase my offerings by other methods to £ _____ per month/quarter/half year/annum with effect from _____.
- I intend to increase the amount I contribute by the Plate
- I enclose a cheque payable to Mayfield Salisbury Church for £ _____ as a one-off contribution
- I regret I cannot respond to this appeal at this time.
- I have not already completed a Gift Aid Declaration and wish to do so. (please complete and return the Gift Aid Declaration enclosed).

Signature _____

Date _____

Name _____ (Block capitals, please)

Address _____ (Block capitals, please)

Postcode _____

CHRISTIAN AID – MARMALADE!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christian Aid marmalade sale on 16th March - all those who spent long hours shredding, boiling and potting up this unique preserve, and of course also those who bought the delicious result. Thanks to your generous efforts, we raised a magnificent £467, a significant increase on last year's total.

We look forward to **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** (10 - 16 May 2020) – more details in the next issue of *Grapevine*. In the meantime please look out for *Count Your Blessings 2020*, which offers daily reflections and challenges for the period of Lent. This year's focus is on the climate crisis. Booklets are available from the table in the West Mayfield entrance.

CHRISTIAN AID: IN THEIR LIFETIME PROGRAMME One of the main aims of our church's Christian Aid committee is to educate and campaign.

Many of you will recall the very moving and vital talk last May from Christian Aid's Nadia Cunden, speaking about maternal health issues in Sierra Leone. Nadia heads the Christian Aid *In Their Lifetime* programme. This year, we celebrate ten years of ITL, an important part of Christian Aid's work which takes responsibility for long-term and lasting solutions to causes of poverty. It is therefore different from traditional emergency work and mainstream

development. For example, ITL would actively support a long-term project to become locally-led and viable, through discussion with local communities.

There are two ITL projects this year: *Access to Justice* in Afghanistan, and *Tackling Gender Justice* in Zimbabwe. This sensitive work takes time to deliver because of social issues and political contexts. The financial support for ITL must be assured for several years, unlike one-off donations, however very important these are. ITL supporters have the great satisfaction of being kept informed and educated by Christian Aid about ITL's long-term work and its progress over time. Several members of Mayfield Salisbury are ITL supporters, endorsing the inevitable risk and innovation involved, when giving their pledge. To find out more, see www.christianaid.org.uk/about-us/programmes/their-lifetime-itl or contact the Philanthropy and Partnerships team at itl@christian-aid.org.

With best wishes from the Christian Aid Committee: Eilie Blackwood, Robin Cavaghan, Deirdre Eustace, Stewart Houston, Anne Mulligan, Neil Newton, Aileen Nimmo, Kate O'Brien, Catriona Stewart, Anne Sturrock.

PRAYER THOUGHTS

Read: Romans 5: 3-8

The International Day of Forests is 21 March. Give thanks for the incredible role

of forests as the lungs of the planet. Pray for the protection of the Amazon rainforest that is under great pressure, fuelled by our incessant appetite for consumption.

As Rowan Williams wrote in *The Guardian*, pray that we would listen ‘... **with intensified attention to the voices of those who call the rainforest home, voices all too often sidelined or deliberately silenced.**’

Pray that their lives and home will take priority over Western obsession with growth and development.

*Loving God,
we pray for the communities of the Amazon.
May their home and hopes be protected.
May the way of life that fuels fires
and threatens their livelihoods
be extinguished.
Amen.*

CROSSREACH INFORMATION SHEET

Taken from the March 2020 edition. More info:
www.crossreach.org.uk/news

Looking to share ideas on local social care and outreach projects? The Social Care Forum is your one-stop-shop for social care resources. Visit:

www.socialcareforum.scot

CrossReach Events 2020 Are you looking for something exciting and adventurous to do this year? CrossReach has events taking place throughout 2020, where you can have fun whilst supporting its work across Scotland. For more info:
www.crossreach.org.uk/events

Zip Wire Challenge Aviemore

Zip through the trees over a stunning gorge in Aviemore. Dates available on 2 May 2020 and 5 September 2020.

Scottish Half and 10k 2020

The Scottish Half Marathon + 10K is the ultimate running experience, with stunning views of East Lothian's Golf Coast.

CrossReach @150

2020 dates, times and locations for the 150th Anniversary Exhibition will be made available on the website:

www.crossreach.org.uk/150th-anniversary

Moderator's Time February 2020 In February, the Church of Scotland Moderator, Rt Revd Colin Sinclair visited two CrossReach services in continuation of the *Moderator's Time* visits made in 2019. **Palmerston Place** Visiting CrossReach's Palmerston Place Perinatal Service the Moderator, and his wife Ruth, met staff and volunteers who offer support to expecting and new parents.

Learn more at: vimeo.com/390693401

Heart for Art - St Andrews Church Carluke. *Heart for Art* is a vehicle of encouragement for people living with dementia to 'express themselves not in words or memory but in hand, in colour and in painting'. Watch and experience his visit at: vimeo.com/391280299

SESSION MATTERS

Correspondence The Session Clerk had received a letter dated 21 January 2020 from Alasdair Macdonald to say that he wished to retire as an elder of Mayfield Salisbury. However, he and his wife, Sheena, look forward to continuing their happy and supportive membership. The Clerk and the Interim Moderator both expressed thanks and appreciation to Alasdair for his dedication and years of active support as an elder, and Session unanimously joined in. The Clerk was instructed to write to Alasdair to express these sentiments.

The Session Clerk mentioned that Louise Purden, who was attached to Mayfield Salisbury a few years ago when training for the ministry, was inducted as minister of Bonnyrigg Parish Church.

The Interim Moderator mentioned that Hazel Hastie, the Deputy Presbytery Clerk, had contacted him to say that Bristo Memorial Church in Craigmillar is currently going through a difficult period in that its membership is declining and suitable office bearers are not coming forward. Would someone from our church be willing to assist, for example by acting as Session Clerk for a limited period of around six months? This is the sort of contribution which members of Mayfield Salisbury have made in the past. Anyone who is interested - and they need not necessarily be an elder - was invited to contact the Interim Moderator.

New members The Session Clerk said that requests for membership had been received from Professors Robert and Carole Hillenbrand, who were present at the meeting. They have both worshipped at Mayfield Salisbury for many years.

They have also given well-received talks here, notably on the Islamic tradition.

The Clerk mentioned that he had received a request from Professor Morley Sewell to transfer his membership to Mayfield Salisbury. His wife is already a member here, and they have both been part of our congregation for some ten years.

Session approved each of these requests and warmly welcomed the Hillenbrands in person and Professor Sewell too.

The Session Clerk also reported that a number of requests had been received from regular worshippers for inclusion on the Electoral Register as adherents:

Dale Finlayson
Craig Kennedy
Sir Andrew Cubie
Alexander Jackson
Adam Jackson
Catherine Mole
Elizabeth Mole
Lucia Garland

Session was pleased to approve all of these requests and extended a warm welcome to all of the new adherents.

Attestation of the roll The Membership Roll had been made up by Hugh Somerville, the Roll Keeper, as at 31 December 2019. Elders were content that the Roll be attested on their behalf by the Session Clerk, who proceeded to do so

Second secret ballot under the ministers and deacons in civil partnerships and same sex marriages act (act i 2015) The Interim Moderator reminded Session that a preliminary vote had been taken at the Kirk Session

meeting in December at which elders had voted in favour of departure, in other words we had voted for allowing a minister in a same sex marriage or civil partnership to be eligible to be called as our next minister. A second vote is now required in order for a final decision to be taken.

In moving to a vote by secret ballot, which had been duly intimated by the Session Clerk at each morning service on two preceding Sundays, ballot papers were distributed. Once completed and collected, they were scrutinised by the Interim Moderator and Pastoral Assistant, who found the result to be 35 votes in favour of departure and 1 vote against departure. This meant that the required simple majority had been reached and a decision to depart had been taken.

In terms of the Act the Clerk is required to intimate this decision to the Presbytery Clerk.

Making up of the electoral register and associated items A number of issues related to the Nominating Committee were discussed.

i) There is to be a Presbytery Committee meeting on Tuesday 4 February at which it is anticipated that permission will be given for us to call a minister.

ii) The date of the congregational meeting to hold the election of the Nominating Committee was discussed. Sunday 1 March was agreed upon as a suitable date.

iii) There was also discussion about the timing of the service(s) on 1 March. It was felt that it would be more inclusive to have a single service at 10.00 am. The congregational meeting would be held immediately afterwards, and there would

be provision for age appropriate activities during the service and after.

iv) Questions were raised about the procedure at the election. Would proxy votes be permitted? No; only those present may vote. Would a person who is allowing their name to go forward for election to the Nominating Committee require to be present? This would be helpful (especially as it would allow the first meeting of the Committee to be held more or less immediately after the vote) but it was not absolutely necessary. Would a person wishing to propose or second someone for election need to be present? Yes (a view which was later confirmed after discussion with the Presbytery Clerk). How will the voting be carried out? It is likely that each voter will be given an envelope with 13 blank pieces of paper on which to write the names of up to 13 candidates for whom the person wishes to vote.

v) Membership of the Nominating Committee would be likely to be an onerous task. Any necessary expenses, such as travel costs to hear potential candidates preach, will be met from congregational funds. Equally, cover could be provided for duties which a member of the Committee might otherwise have within the church. The running of the Committee would be a matter for its members; one of its first tasks would be to appoint its officers.

vi) We will draw up a Parish Profile in support of our search for a new minister. It will be put on our website and made available to all who may be interested in applying for the charge. In preparation for the Nomination Committee approving a final draft, the Session Clerk invited those with an interest in helping draw up a first draft to let him know. Work will

begin as soon as possible, with a view to having a working draft by the end of February.

vii) As a final point the Session Clerk noted a minor error which had been drawn to his attention in the publicity about the Nominating Committee. Various categories of person are ineligible to serve on it, one (erroneously) being stated to be employees of the Church of Scotland. It should read 'employees of the charge', and future intimations would be corrected.

Business Committee The Convenor, Steve Holehouse, spoke to his précis, noting in particular that a new health and safety policy has been prepared and issued to all relevant parties. He also mentioned the draft appeal letter, saying that a good deal of work has gone into the preparation of it and associated documents and that the intention is that envelopes be made available for collection on Sundays 9 and 16 February. No comments were raised on the letter and it was approved in the form in which it was presented to Session.

Steve reported that some hand sanitisers had been ordered and that these would be installed near the entrance doors together with posters with a 'Wash Your Hands' message in numerous languages.

Thanks were given to Steve and his Committee for their work in preparing the appeal papers.

Christian Aid The outgoing Convenor, Aileen Nimmo, indicated that Kate O'Brien would be taking up the role of co-ordinator of the Mayfield Salisbury Christian Aid team. Kate was welcomed to her new position and Aileen thanked for her work as Convenor.

CrossReach Ailsa Garland was welcomed as the new co-ordinator of the CrossReach committee and thanks were given to Eilie Blackwood for all she had done in leading the committee.

Research Committee Alastair MacGilchrist gave an update on some of the current work of the Committee:

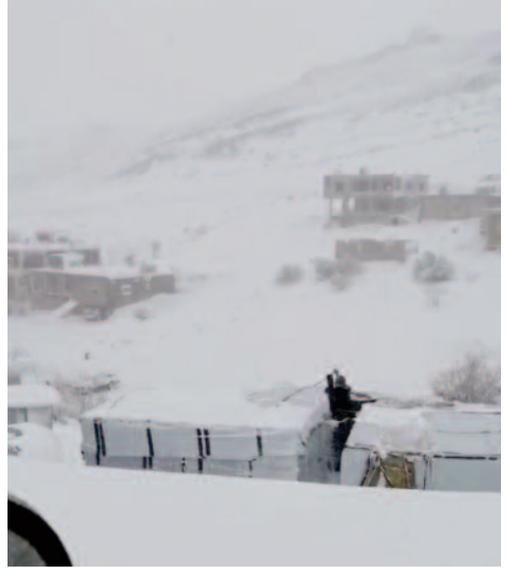
- Work being done on web-based communications and student engagement - but no news for Kirk Session yet
- there will be a workshop in March as part of A Place At The Table (a new grouping which aims to take a critical look at aspects of our congregational life that could exclude or discriminate against older people); the workshop will focus on legal issues of particular relevance to older people
- there are two eco-group events planned. On Sunday 23 February our worship will have a theme of sustainability (and will launch some new initiatives such as a 'pledge tree' and weekly 'eco tips' in the order of service); and on Saturday 7 March there will be a climate change workshop featuring talks by David Bethune (the former Eco-Congregation Scotland programme coordinator) and Adam McVey (leader of Edinburgh City Council)

AOCB Stewart Houston mentioned that there had been a police charity concert last Saturday in Mayfield Salisbury. Approximately £1,000 had been raised.

EMERGENCY APPEAL



EDA volunteer delivers heating oil, Arsal.



Clearing snow from the tent roof, Arsal.

EDINBURGH DIRECT AID WINTER STORMS WORST YET FOR HOMELESS SYRIANS

While we cope with miserable travelling, floods, colds and flu in the British winter, severe storms are creating unimaginable hardship for Syrians already enduring dire conditions, as the war drags on into its 10th year. So many are living in tents and makeshift shelters which are now enveloped in snow in sub-zero temperatures, with access to vital supplies of heating oil, food and medicines under threat. In north west Syria, hundreds of thousands of civilians recently displaced by intense fighting in Idlib gather in such conditions around the closed Turkish border. On the other side of the border with Lebanon, tens of thousands of refugees in Arsal, which lies at an altitude higher than Ben Nevis, contend with rising prices, road closures, and diminishing access to aid. For all, the immediate issue

is keeping the snow out of the tents and getting enough food and heat for their families. Other problems will follow – floods as the snows melt, increasing illness as immunity lowers. And ever present is the fear and lack of hope as the war drags on.

Edinburgh Direct Aid (www.edinburghdirectaid.org / 0131 552 1545) is a small Scottish charity (SC021007) of volunteers doing what they can to help those in desperate need as a result of war or natural disaster. EDA is currently sending supplies of clothes & blankets to Idlib and distributing heating oil and food in Arsal, where it also provides more long term support with education and training.

Edinburgh Direct Aid is urgently appealing for financial donations to support the refugees through their worst winter yet.

THURSDAY CLUB

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

MAYFIELD MILERS UPCOMING WALKS

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Feb. 28	Numbers 4,5 / Acts 15	April 12	Judges 5,6 / Psalms 40,41
March 1	Numbers 6,7 / Psalms 26,27	April 13	Judges 7,8 / Mark 2
March 2	Numbers 8,9 / Acts 16	April 14	Judges 9,10 / Mark 3
March 3	Numbers 10,11 / Acts 17	April 15	Judges 11,12 / Psalms 42,43
March 4	Numbers 12-14 / Psalms 28,29	April 16	Judges 13,14 / Mark 4
March 5	Numbers 15,16 / Acts 18	April 17	Judges 15,16 / Mark 5
March 6	Numbers 17-19 / Acts 19	April 18	Judges 17,18 / Mark 6
March 7	Numbers 20,21 / Acts 20	April 19	Judges 19,20 / Psalm 44
March 8	Numbers 22,23 / Psalm 30	April 20	Judges 21 / Mark 7
March 9	Numbers 24,25 / Acts 21	April 21	Ruth 1,2 / Mark 8
March 10	Numbers 26,27 / Acts 22	April 22	Ruth 3,4 / Psalm 45
March 11	Numbers 28,29 / Psalm 31	April 23	I Samuel 1-3 / Mark 9
March 12	Numbers 30,31 / Acts 23	April 24	I Samuel 4-6 / Mark 10
March 13	Numbers 32,33 / Acts 24	April 25	I Samuel 7-9 / Mark 11
March 14	Numbers 34,35 / Acts 25	April 26	I Samuel 10,11 / Psalms 46,47
March 15	Numbers 36 / Deuteronomy 1 / Psalm 32	April 27	I Samuel 12,13 / Mark 12
March 16	Deuteronomy 2,3 / Acts 26	April 28	I Samuel 14,15 / Mark 13
March 17	Deuteronomy 4,5 / Acts 27	April 29	I Samuel 16,17 / Psalm 48
March 18	Deuteronomy 6,7 / Psalm 33	April 30	I Samuel 18,19 / Mark 14
March 19	Deuteronomy 8,9 / Acts 28	May 1	I Samuel 20-22 / Mark 15
March 20	Deuteronomy 10,11 / Romans 1	May 2	I Samuel 23,24 / Mark 16
March 21	Deuteronomy 12-14 / Romans 2	May 3	I Samuel 25,26 / Psalm 49
March 22	Deuteronomy 15,16 / Psalm 34	May 4	I Samuel 27,28 / I Corinthians 1
March 23	Deuteronomy 17,18 / Romans 3	May 5	I Samuel 29-31 / I Corinthians 2
March 24	Deuteronomy 19,20 / Romans 4	May 6	II Samuel 1,2 / Psalm 50
March 25	Deuteronomy 21,22 / Psalm 35	May 7	II Samuel 3-5 / I Corinthians 3
March 26	Deuteronomy 23,24 / Romans 5	May 8	II Samuel 6,7 / I Corinthians 4
March 27	Deuteronomy 25,26 / Romans 6	May 9	II Samuel 8-10 / I Corinthians 5
March 28	Deuteronomy 27,28 / Romans 7	May 10	II Samuel 11,12 / Psalm 51
March 29	Deuteronomy 29,30 / Psalm 36	May 11	II Samuel 13,14 / I Corinthians 6
March 30	Deuteronomy 31,32 / Romans 8	May 12	II Samuel 15,16 / I Corinthians 7
March 31	Deuteronomy 33,34 / Romans 9	May 13	II Samuel 17,18 / Psalms 52-54
April 1	Joshua 1-3 / Psalm 37	May 14	II Samuel 19,20 / I Corinthians 8
April 2	Joshua 4,5 / Romans 10	May 15	II Samuel 21,22 / I Corinthians 9
April 3	Joshua 6,7 / Romans 11	May 16	II Samuel 23,24 / I Corinthians 10
April 4	Joshua 8,9 / Romans 12	May 17	I Kings 1,2 / Psalm 55
April 5	Joshua 10,11 / Psalm 38	May 18	I Kings 3-5 / I Corinthians 11
April 6	Joshua 12-15 / Romans 13	May 19	I Kings 6,7 / I Corinthians 12
April 7	Joshua 16-19 / Romans 14	May 20	I Kings 8,9 / Psalms 56,57
April 8	Joshua 20-22 / Psalm 39	May 21	I Kings 10,11 / I Corinthians 13
April 9	Joshua 23,24 / Romans 15	May 22	I Kings 12,13 / I Corinthians 14
April 10	Judges 1,2 / Romans 16	May 23	I Kings 14,15 / I Corinthians 15
April 11	Judges 3,4 / Mark 1	May 24	I Kings 16,17 / Psalms 58,59

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland Scottish Charity Number SC000785	Interim Moderator Revd Neil N. Gardner	ngardner@churchofscotland.org.uk	0131 556 3515
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	Youth Worker Hillary Leslie	Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com	0745 372 2224
	Church Manager William Mearns	churchmanager@googlemail.com	0780 801 1234
	Organist Kate Pearson	kate.q.kate@gmail.com	0744 238 2296
	Session Clerk Charles Garland	charles.edin@gmail.com	0776 290 8343
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Staff Days Off

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

Social Media

 www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury
 www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch
 www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06/

 www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

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Front cover: Icon of the Resurrection depicting Christ having destroyed the gates of Hades and removing Adam and Eve from the grave. Christ is flanked by saints, and Satan, depicted as an old man, is bound and chained. From Wikipedia.



Copy date for next issue: 6.00pm on **Friday 24 April**