



March/April 2021

Issue 255

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



ZOOM COFFEE

BOOK KEEPER NEEDED!!!

LIVESTREAMED ONLINE COMMUNION

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org



Dear Friends,

I wonder if you shared with me the feeling of a deep sense of hope, bordering on light-headed elation, when the First Minister announced on 23 February a cautious and provisional ‘roadmap’ out of lockdown. Many of you will already have received the confidence boost that has come with the first dose of vaccination, and with it the reassuring security of added protection from what has seemed over the past year to be a relentless and endless toll of suffering and restriction caused by the pandemic.

As we seek to comfort those who have lost loved ones, and support those who are suffering emotionally from continued isolation, we might allow ourselves a glimpse of the possibility of the happiness of hugging our close family and friends once more, or of visiting a favourite place elsewhere in the country or abroad, or simply of a meal out or a night at a concert.

But should we allow ourselves the indulgence of even these daydreams of future hope in the Christian season of Lent? It is traditionally seen as a time of self-denial of everything from chocolate to wine to ‘comfort buying.’ The goal is to strip back the extras in our lives in order to focus upon our relationship with God and the need to ‘repent’, mirroring the spiritual questing of Christ’s forty days and nights in the wilderness and his journey then to the Cross.

I read recently one commentator suggesting that it is very hard to imagine further self-denial after all we have been through, and that our Lenten focus this year should be on who we might become through our faith in Christ as we emerge slowly from these challenging times, rather than purging ourselves further through rigorous self-examination. I agree that we have all been ‘through the wringer,’ and there is only so much more than many of us can take. Better to focus on the potential for our human flourishing, rather than forms of degradation.



But I wonder too if the traditional symbols and themes of this time of Lent do, in any event, offer a more positive and uplifting picture than a mood of sombre introspection which might only lead to the negativity of guilt and self-loathing.

The time that we are invited to spend now 'in the wilderness' might offer for us a welcome breathing space rather than a closed room. It might be where we recognise that we are indeed 'ashes and dust' formed by God, and through that embrace our frailty and the need for God's transformative presence in our lives. But this year of all years, those realisations could bring us beyond sadness and melancholy to a more joyous and hopeful place, to be loved and held in the peace that only God can bring. In the words of Jan L. Richardson that I shared on Ash

Wednesday, being poignant for Lent this year:

So let us be marked
not for sorrow.
And let us be marked
not for shame.
Let us be marked
not for false humility
or for thinking
we are less
than we are

but for claiming
what God can do
within the dust,
within the dirt,
within the stuff
of which the world
is made,
and the stars that blaze
in our bones.

We are each 'beloved by God,' beautifully and intricately woven in God's image. As the poet Gideon Heugh puts it, God sees the world 'pulsating with the shining imagination of potential, of all that could be.' As we slowly emerge from this most troubling time in our lives, as we see the first buds of Spring emerge around us in the gardens and parks, as we journey through Lent towards Cross and Resurrection, let us hold fast to the hope and potential that they all bring, and renew our trust in God that in faith we will prevail.

God bless and take care,

Sandy

LIVESTREAMED ONLINE COMMUNION SERVICE

SUNDAY 14 MARCH 10.15am

You are warmly invited to share in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper on Sunday 14 March, when the morning service will be livestreamed from the sanctuary via the church website and YouTube page, starting at 10.15am, with recordings then available via the website and by phone from 1.00pm. This will be our first opportunity for a long while to worship simultaneously, and to share in communion together. All that is needed to join is to 'be there' online at 10.15am when the service starts, with bread and grape juice to hand. Will look forward indeed to your presence then. *Sandy.*

WE STILL NEED A BOOK-KEEPER



The logging of financial transactions of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church (MSPC) has for the last five plus years been performed on our behalf by Mr Martin Little who will be stepping down from his role shortly. We are most grateful for the work he has done so diligently for us.

We are now looking to recruit Martin's replacement. The task consists of entering each of our financial transactions (usually around 40 per month) from the Treasurer's records into a software package on a MSPC supplied laptop computer at home. Once you are familiar with the package it should take no more than 10 hours per month. Except around the year end there is no time pressure.

Training in the use of the software will be given and support is available. You need to be reasonably numerate but no accountancy expertise is required.

Some familiarity with the spreadsheet software Microsoft Excel would help, but is not essential.

This is an unglamorous but necessary job which could be done by a wide range of people. If we cannot find a volunteer we shall need to look at buying in the service, which will obviously carry a cost.

If you think you might be able to help, please contact in confidence either:

Steve Holehouse

Convenor of the Business Committee
steve.holehouse@gmail.com

or

John Graham

Treasurer
culkein@btinternet.com

PASTORAL CARE



I wonder if those of you involved in any of the church phone chains ever imagined last March that you would be still doing the same thing twelve months on. Of course we are still not allowed to be visiting whilst we try and lower the R rate for Covid-19. The telephone and online meetings have become such a help in keeping connected to friend and family.

Eventually we will be allowed to visit again and if you would like a pastoral visitor then I would be able to start that process for you. As a church we no longer have district elders covering any set area. We have a team of trained enthusiastic visitors who can make a difference to you or your family's quality of life. I have been struck recently by how strong some of the bonds have become. It certainly is a worthwhile arrangement.

Please remember to tell us if you are going into hospital or if you would like to be on the pastoral care list. We really do need you to inform us. It's a two way process! Can I remind you that if you are

having a bad day then I or any of our pastoral coordinators whose phone numbers are here would be delighted to spend some time with you on the telephone.

Blessings

Kay

Kay McIntosh DCS

Pastoral Assistant - 07903 266 307

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

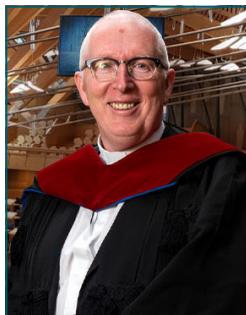
668 3859 maggiejeanross@btinternet.com

Hilary Watkinson

hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com

KIRK MODERATOR ADDRESSES SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

From the Church of Scotland website: *is - not just important, vital - that we never forget that behind every number is a name and that every statistic is a 'somebody.'*



The Moderator of the General Assembly has addressed the Scottish Parliament. Rt Revd Dr Martin Fair gave Time for Reflection, the session that heralds the start of Holyrood's three-day business week. His virtual address,

which included greetings from the General Assembly to MSPs, was beamed into the debating chamber

It is part of the Moderator's annual visit to Holyrood which includes meetings with the leaders of Scotland's political parties who hold seats and Holyrood's presiding officer. They have been held online this year due to pandemic lockdown restrictions. The Moderator of the General Assembly gave Time for Reflection. Here is what Dr Fair said:

Three weeks ago yesterday, I listened with particular interest to the First Minister's daily briefing and to the Covid stats that she announced. My wife's dad had died on the Saturday, in a care home, having contracted the virus, and I guess I just wanted to hear the numbers and to think that Mickey was included in them.

What I really would have liked would have been if the First Minister had actually mentioned him by name. If she had given the total number of those who had died and then said, 'and of course that number includes Mickey Wiley.'

Well of course that's a daft notion. I understand that. And yet how vital it

I can't put into words how devastated my wife was to lose her dad in these circumstances, not having been able to see him. And I guess the same is true in all of the other similar cases. And if this is true for Covid deaths then also for all of those other times when, as part of our national record keeping, we announce numbers. Just another' drug death is someone's precious son or daughter.

Someone who started primary school with all the potential in the world, someone who could have thrived, someone who had a name. Our hospital waiting lists, lists of those who are waiting for a referral to a cancer specialist or a mental health service.

Every line on every list is a life. Statistics relating to children living in poverty, statistics documenting numbers of families using food banks.

Behind every statistic is someone special. Everybody matters. And names matter. When we meet someone for the first time, we tell each other our names. We get annoyed with ourselves when we can picture a person but can't remember their name.

The prophet Isaiah says this: "The Lord says, I have called you by your name and you are mine. Do not be afraid for you are precious in my sight."

We all matter in the sight of God, even the least of these. Let it be that Scotland is a country in which everyone matters. In which we remember that behind every number is a name.

PRAYER CHAIN



Sandy wishes to hear thoughts on a suggestion of setting up a prayer chain and to make a call for potential helpers to organise it. Some of you will know what this involves but essentially a prayer chain is as follows. An email is sent out once or twice a week to a group of people in the congregation or friends beyond who agree to be contacted, with requests to pray for particular people or situations (who may be named or can remain anonymous) during a troubled time, or to give thanks when prayer has been answered.

The prayer requests may be brought by the person themselves, or by a friend or family member on their behalf, with permission. Trust and confidentiality are built into the chain so that everyone can have faith in it.

Do you think this would be a useful initiative for us at Mayfield Salisbury, especially now in times of pandemic and lockdown, as a way of looking out for each other?

AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk
0131 667 1286

Do you have experience to share from prayer chains elsewhere? Might you be interested in being a co-ordinator who would receive the prayer requests and send out the email? Once more, Sandy would be delighted to hear.

UNDERSTAND SELF ISOLATION AND SUPPORT

www.vimeo.com/499653519

Please see the video link above for 'Understanding Self Isolation and Support' in English. Other languages such as Arabic, Bengali, Traditional Chinese, Simplified Chinese, Urdu, Punjabi, Polish, Kurdish and BSL are also available.

Provided by
NHS Lothian

These video clips aim to clarify some myths and misunderstanding about self isolation and signpost to sources of support.

ONLINE DONATIONS



The Church is very grateful to all those who give by standing order enabling us to maintain a large portion of our income through these difficult times. We offer the ability to contribute to our work electronically through the give.net facility which appears on the home page of the Church's website.

There is also a direct link: www.give.net/20311853

Hugh Somerville, Free
Will Offerings Treasurer

This provides the possibility of adding Gift Aid to donations.

28TH BRAID SCOUT GROUP



Alan Dickson
Scout Leader

Scottish Charity
No SC006141

Our online meetings continued throughout February with a regular attendance of around thirty Scouts. With the help of Leaders working remotely, we were able to have as close to normal meetings as possible.

The annual knotting nutter competition took place with the assistance of parents who carried out the timing. The competition was won by Sorley Scott and the presentation of the shield was made by last year's winner at mid-point between their respective houses.

We were able to carry out badge work and training with progress being made on the Creative Challenge Award and the traditional scouting skills of estimation taught. Another evening was based on the popular television programme, *Taskmaster*, with the month ending on patrol challenges and a talk from one of our leaders, Hector Friend. Hector spent the seven months in Nepal teaching English as part of Project Trust before his trip was cut short by the pandemic in March last year.

We are now looking forward to the possibility of face to face meetings resuming outdoors before the end of the term.

ZOOM COFFEE



Charles Garland
Session Clerk

If you would like to join a 'virtual tea and coffee' at 11:30 on Sunday mornings, details for joining are available on the church website - worship page (visible Sunday mornings only).

It is a good opportunity to catch up with people you may not have seen for a while, and most of the time is in small groups which makes it more like a chat in the Bill McDonald Hall. It usually lasts for around half an hour. Feel free to come along and say hello!

A phone number (rates may apply) is also available. Please contact William (0131 667 1522) at the office for further information.

CORNER- STONE BOOKSHOP



If you are looking for a book to help you on your inward journey, expand your knowledge of Christian history, doctrine or the Bible, then please support our local bookshop Cornerstone Books.

The physical store is closed during Level 4 restrictions, but purchases can be made at www.bookshop.org - nominating Cornerstone for all your book buying needs. More information at: www.cornerstonebooks.org.uk

EQUIPMENT SHARING SCHEME



0131 667 0582

[booth378@](mailto:booth378@btinternet.com)

[btinternet.com](mailto:booth378@btinternet.com)

David Booth

The Eco Group are setting up a scheme whereby church members can lend and borrow from each other a range of household/leisure items which, though useful, are infrequently used (eg. stepladders, pasting tables, tools, camping, childcare, car equipment, freezer space). This shares and saves some of our planet's resources and so both eco-friendly and people-friendly!

A list of items without contact details will be provided on the church website; the interpersonal loans would be arranged through a scheme manager as secure first point of contact. Offers have already been made; further offers are welcome! Contact David Booth.

ECO BOOKS



With increasing interest and concern for environmental issues, there are many books and links available. Although this list is, therefore, in no way comprehensive, here are some suggestions which are recommended by the Eco Group.

There is No Planet B by Mike Berners-Lee; readable, informative and constructive.

The Uninhabitable Earth by David Wallace-Wells; comprehensive if rather forbidding. *The Washington Post* called it this generation's *Silent Spring*.

Riders on the Storm by Alastair McIntosh; outstanding, combining science, politics and spirituality. Google also Alastair McIntosh's homepage or see Jonathan Rowson's review on YouTube.

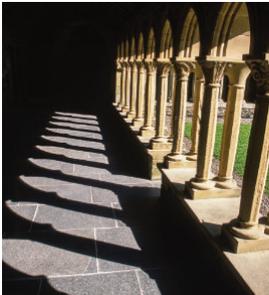
My Life on our Planet by David Attenborough; very readable.

These books can be borrowed by emailing:

marjorygrant2001@yahoo.co.uk

Marjory Grant

OUTSIDERS HELD WITHIN



Join us in the Quiet Corner of Iona Abbey for a time of stillness, beauty and surprise. With many adrift, rejected, exiled and forgotten, our time together will include contemporary icons and new music to remember God's promise of justice, peace and love for all in our world. Please bring a candle to light. Led by Catriona Robertson, Meg Wroe and Martin Wroe with guests from different parts of the world. There will be an opportunity to meet together in chat rooms.

Sunday Evenings from Iona Abbey: a time of stillness, beauty and surprise 7, 14 and 21 March. 21:00 (doors open at 20:50) until 21:40 on Zoom. Link here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85049339055?pwd=aWdSSHBxc1BoYXBKNEVMeDN4U2VOQT09>

NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

Easter Ribbons

Easter is a time of joy and thanksgiving. So we'd like to invite you to write messages reflecting the things you're grateful for: from the beauty of the natural world, to the support of friends and neighbours during difficult times, and of course the great gift of Easter itself.

Following the success of our Christmas ribbon project, when our church railings carried greetings from our members to the congregation and the wider community, we've decided to repeat it at Easter – with ribbons of suitably Spring-like colours, of course!

Please send your messages by email or phone, and we'll transcribe them on to ribbons for you and attach them to the church railings. Short phrases, ten words or so, would be ideal, but you can have as many ribbons as you want!

Either email your message to Kate O'Brien, kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk or alternatively phone Kate on 0131 667 4362 or Deirdre Eustace on 07785 301182. Add your name if you wish, but first names only please, for security reasons.

Whether or not we are allowed to gather in person at church, we can demonstrate to the whole community that our congregation is as active, involved and positive as ever!

Speaking of Easter, if you'd like to purchase a Real Easter Egg, which is made from fairly-traded chocolate, comes with an Easter storybook, and supports charitable projects, you can



order one online at Real Easter Egg - Meaningful Chocolate. Sadly, the Real Easter Egg will not be available in supermarkets this year.

Chocolate, and other gifts and treats, are available in abundance from Edinburgh's One World Shop, which offers both delivery and click-and-collect. You can reach them at info@oneworldshop.co.uk

Christian Aid Week

Christian Aid Week this year runs from 10 to 16 May, and will be marked at Mayfield Salisbury by a special service on Sunday 16. The focus is on Climate Chaos, described by Christian Aid as 'one of the greatest injustices we face.' As an illustration of the problem, and Christian Aid's response, we are introduced to Florence Muthiani, who lives in Kenya:



'A few years ago, her husband died, leaving her a widow. At that time, she had no water to grow crops. Her children were hungry. She had to walk for hours on a dangerous journey to collect water. Florence could easily have been defeated. But Florence is a fighter, and she shows the women in her farming group that they can be fighters too. Next to her farm, Florence is proud to show us something remarkable – a dam, full of fresh water. It's thanks to Christian Aid that Florence and her community have built this water dam, with the help of our partner Anglican Development Services Eastern, just a short walk away from her village.'

Look out for more information about Christian Aid's work in the fight against climate chaos, and how you can help, in the next edition of *Grapevine*.

The Christian Aid Team

Prayer Thoughts

Loving creator God and Lord of all, the hungry and the poor, the vulnerable and the marginalised. You bring down powerful people from their thrones.

You invite us to join you in your global mission to bring about justice

and equality, dignity and love. You challenge our choices and our lifestyles. You challenge our vision and our hearing.

As we daily make our selfish choices to buy this or that luxury, you see those whose choices for the basics have been taken from them. As we dither about what we can do about fossil fuels, you see those whose homes are being washed away. As we debate about whether gender justice really matters, you see women who are excluded from owning land. As we look for the best of education for our children, you see those who never get to survive infancy.

Lord open our eyes and ears to see the world that you see. To hear the voices that you hear. To listen to the people who ache for justice. To rage with them. To hope with them. To trust and work with them for a better tomorrow.

Even as you fill the hungry with good things, may we not be among those who are sent away with empty hands. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

Liz Hughes, Presbyterian Minister (retired), and presently Chair of Christian Aid Ireland and Chair/Convener of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland's Global Mission Council.

Worshipping Together

Readings: Psalm 95: 1 – 6 and Colossians 3: 14 - 17

This reflection is available to listen to online at: www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

I'm part of a Special Commission appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to look at the future of our Presbyterian form of governance. Sounds dry as dust, I'm sure, what a dull start to a sermon you might be thinking! 'Hold on there', I say. For the last line of our draft report says this: 'We need to rediscover, and live out again, the joy of the Gospel.' Or put more simply and bluntly elsewhere, in the church, we do need to 'cheer up'!

Our call to worship from Psalm 150 begins 'praise God in his sanctuary, praise God in his mighty heavens' and ends with 'Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.' Throughout the Psalm there is the clash of cymbals, the sound of every kind of musical instrument imaginable, there is singing and dancing, it sounds like a party on the scale of VE day, or the turn of the millennium, all of our Hogmanays rolled into one, an almighty joyous celebration, a sudden outburst of happiness and praise.

Our reading from Psalm 95 starts, 'O come, let us sing to the Lord, let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.' And Paul in Colossians: 'with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs to God.'

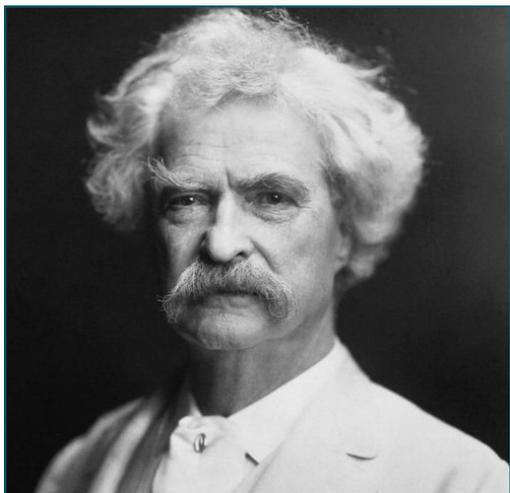
This is happy, this is exuberant, this celebrates our life together as a Christian community. In coming weeks, I do



want us to explore further the point and purpose of our worship – what it gains us to gather together, in person or online as we are now: to simply be in each other's presence, but also to pray together, to open the pages of the Bible together and to investigate what lies within.

What does it mean to do that? What does our reformed tradition and being part of the Church of Scotland lead us to believe about the purpose and form of worship, help us to think about the unity of the word of God with the sacraments of baptism and communion?

The tradition of reformed worship over the past five hundred years has often followed the pattern which we are using today. We're in the middle bit at the moment, of course, the sermon reflecting on the meaning of God's Word for our lives right now.



Mark Twain in 1907

What is a sermon meant to be? At its worst, it can be time lost that you'll never get back, wriggling on a hard pew and thinking about lunch. Mark Twain wrote, 'when the pastor prays, he closes his eyes, and when he preaches I close mine.' Is it a dull interruption between the interesting parts of the service that we all get to take part in? Is it hopelessly lost now in our visual culture? Or can it somehow, at its best, be a partnership between preacher and congregation, a common journey, a joint investigation.

My favourite description of what a preacher is meant to be doing in a sermon is to imagine that she or he is sitting alongside each one of you, that we have the bible passage open in front of us, and together, we are humbly trying to work out how God is speaking through it into our lives, humbly, recognising our own flaws and misunderstandings. Preaching and all worship, when it happens well, is shaping and forming us together, as people and as a Christian community. It draws us into the common stories and rituals that we share, forms our identities, and sends us out into our lives and communities with a new

energy and perspective, to live life to its fullest in our faith.

Paul talks about that sense of re-fuelling, of growth and formation through worship, in our passage from Colossians. Notice that he does not simply mention worship in verse 16 in a vacuum, as acts to be carried out from obligation or expected habit. This is not just repeating the same old stuff as a tradition, going through the motions, when Paul says in verse 16:

'Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.'

Instead, look at the context set out elsewhere in the passage in which he writes these words about worship through the Word of God and through song. These are clearly acts for the growth of spirit-filled virtues and character traits which will enrich our own lives deeply and those of the whole of society, Christians or not. For the context of worship for Paul is in (verse 14), 'clothing ourselves in love', 'which binds together everything in perfect harmony' (verse 15), in thankfulness for the peace of Christ to be in our hearts as we are called to be one body, and (verse 17), 'doing everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.'

There is a far greater and higher purpose beyond our mere words or sounds to worship God, as in Psalm 95: 'let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.' Just how joyful is our noise?

Two years ago, in that world we knew before lockdown, I was in Harlem in New York City, and went to Sunday worship in a church where the congregation was mostly African American. In the singing, and also during the sermon, the regular worshippers moved, they swayed, danced, raised their



hands, shouted out for joy. Let the church say AMEN: 'AMEN!!' The stuffed shirts like me nearer the back clapped politely in time to the music!

The 'shout for joy', the spontaneous outpouring is not an obvious part of worship in the mainstream European Protestant tradition. It's too charismatic. We don't do that movement so well here, we're British, come on – we don't do the instant outburst in joyous word or song unless it's Andy Murray winning Wimbledon, or a move back to Tier 3. After the Enlightenment and the Reformation, the Protestant tradition promoted head knowledge, bible learning, Sunday school, finding your way into faith through reason, above heart knowledge, feeling your way into faith through the senses and the emotions, through the transcendence of divine beauty. And so somehow we feel that outward displays are not quite right here, they are unnatural, showy, should be unnecessary.

A couple of weeks back, it was Martin Luther King day in the United States. At the start of his famous *I Have a Dream Speech* at the march on Washington in 1963, you can hear the Gospel singer Mahalia Jackson say to Dr King on the platform, 'tell them about the dream, Martin', and King put aside

his notes and began spontaneously to say some of the most famous words of the twentieth century. And as he did so, Andrew Young who was also on the platform turned to his colleague and said 'now we're going to church.' That brilliant spontaneous outburst by King – 'now we're going to church!!!' Wow.

We might not be good at doing 'that sort of thing' in church outwardly, the spontaneous physical or verbal outpouring of inspirational joy, but what God cares most about is not the fact of the outward display, but what is happening inwardly -the sounds of joyful noise and praise that are in our hearts, the metaphorical clanging of cymbals and the blasting of trumpets, whether we're moving round at great pace, being moved by the Spirit to shout or dance, or sitting down quietly and calmly, in church or as now in our living rooms, as the hymn says, 'lost in wonder, love and praise.'

Whichever way, we offer our worship and praise, from the depths of our souls. Join me today as we do that together. Psalm 95:6: 'O come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the Lord, our Maker!' Amen.

MAF in Liberia



Regular accounts of all MAF's activities can be obtained by asking via their website www.maf-uk.org or from Morley Sewell to receive their "News for Prayer" or "Flight Log"

Every blessing *Morley*

Dave and Becky Waterman, currently serving with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) Uganda, made a look-see visit to Liberia, where they will be moving later this year. Becky shares her first impressions of the country following an MAF flight to Zwedru and Harper.

Introduction from Morley Sewell

Throughout the pandemic, MAF has sought to maintain its services to isolated communities wherever government regulations and restrictions on travel allowed. For instance, a recent flight was to take mattresses and surgical equipment needed for the patients of a Ugandan consultant obstetrician working in South Sudan. A new regular task in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is to fly medics and/or patients to and fro between isolated villages and Panzi Hospital for the Nobel Peace Laureate, Dr. Denis Mukwege, thus saving some women walking for up to a month along dangerous roads to get treatment. Following hurricanes Eta and Iota in Central America, MAF worked with local charities and Samaritan's Purse to supply medicines, search and rescue flights and food aid. At the same time MAF looks to ensure that it has the right staff in the right place. The following is an personal account of one pilot's preparatory visit for a move from East to West Africa for this purpose.

Twenty-three hours of travelling across Africa, from Uganda's Kampala, to Ethiopia's Addis Ababa, to Ghana's Accra, culminated in this moment.

From the coveted window seat, I peered down on the unfamiliar terrain of Liberia, seeing a carpet of green spreading as far as the eye could see — until that same eye was distracted by the brilliant blue ocean, bracketed by seemingly endless golden, sandy beaches.

This was the Liberia I had heard of. Sea breezes evaporating the sweat accumulated in the 90% humidity the country calls normal, the long coastline looking perfect from above, and the capital city of Monrovia, hugging the ocean and the rivers reaching inland.

My inbound commercial flight offered a brief snapshot of Liberia's terrain, but it was when I took to flight in 5X-SCO, one of MAF's own Cessna Caravans, that my appreciation for MAF's work in West Africa grew.

MAF pilots Roy Rissanen and Andrew Mumford steered us to the east, toward the town of Zwedru, and away from Liberia's coastline. The sparse vegetation surrounding the sea quickly gave way to dense, impenetrable jungle, punctuated occasionally by tiny villages reached by winding dirt tracks that cut through the undergrowth.

This was the green carpet I had seen from higher above, but now I could make out the enormous trees and the sheer density of the diverse plant life beneath me.

From our first stop at Zwedru, we flew by the tiny airstrip of Sabo, visible only as a small section, bare of trees, in the midst of thick jungle.

The trees brushed the edges of the strip, and as we made a low pass for training purposes, I could see how travel by air is the only way to reach destinations such as this without spending hours bumping along tiny tracks.

The coastal town of Harper was our next stop, and the trees gave way as soil turned to sand once again. I asked a doctor travelling to a medical clinic in Harper how long the journey would take her by road. Two days, she explained, and that's in the dry season.

When Liberia's heavy rains drench the nation, the journey takes four days. The MAF flight takes 90 minutes.

As we flew north along the coastline, returning to Monrovia, I could see why. Many waterways branched out from the ocean, and none of them

had bridges.

There's no pretty paved coast road here. Reaching the capital from outlying areas means driving great distances around the encroaching rivers and estuaries, using dirt roads that can become completely impassable in particularly bad rains.

In every conversation I had with passengers on my flight, one sentiment was clear — MAF is providing an essential service within Liberia, facilitating the work of missionaries and health workers, NGO staff and local pastors.

It was a real privilege to survey Liberia from the air. Now, more than ever, I'm convinced that not only is the service MAF provides here useful, but that it's a real lifeline to our ministry partners in reaching a wider community with the Gospel message.

Please pray

For Dave and Becky as they prepare for their move to Liberia later this year. May their growing passion for Liberia's people be fanned into flame throughout the couple's service there. For the MAF team in Liberia, particularly Roy Rissanen who transferred there recently to help out the programme after serving in our recently closed Mongolia programme. Pray for good relationships and fellowship among the national and international staff serving there.

For the future of our Liberia programme, serving as a maintenance hub for West Africa. Give thanks for MAF's vision to see the people of West Africa reached.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

March

4	Numbers 12-14 / Psalms 28,29	5	Joshua 10,11 / Psalm 38
5	Numbers 15,16 / Acts 18	6	Joshua 12-15 / Romans 13
6	Numbers 17-19 / Acts 19	7	Joshua 16-19 / Romans 14
7	Numbers 20,21 / Acts 20	8	Joshua 20-22 / Psalm 39
8	Numbers 22,23 / Psalm 30	9	Joshua 23,24 / Romans 15
9	Numbers 24,25 / Acts 21	10	Judges 1,2 / Romans 16
10	Numbers 26,27 / Acts 22	11	Judges 3,4 / Mark 1
11	Numbers 28,29 / Psalm 31	12	Judges 5,6 / Psalms 40,41
12	Numbers 30,31 / Acts 23	13	Judges 7,8 / Mark 2
13	Numbers 32,33 / Acts 24	14	Judges 9,10 / Mark 3
14	Numbers 34,35 / Acts 25	15	Judges 11,12 / Psalms 42,43
15	Numbers 36 / Deuteronomy 1 / Psalm 32	16	Judges 13,14 / Mark 4
16	Deuteronomy 2,3 / Acts 26	17	Judges 15,16 / Mark 5
17	Deuteronomy 4,5 / Acts 27	18	Judges 17,18 / Mark 6
18	Deuteronomy 6,7 / Psalm 33	19	Judges 19,20 / Psalm 44
19	Deuteronomy 8,9 / Acts 28	20	Judges 21 / Mark 7
20	Deuteronomy 10,11 / Romans 1	21	Ruth 1,2 / Mark 8
21	Deuteronomy 12-14 / Romans 2	22	Ruth 3,4 / Psalm 45
22	Deuteronomy 15,16 / Psalm 34	23	I Samuel 1-3 / Mark 9
23	Deuteronomy 17,18 / Romans 3	24	I Samuel 4-6 / Mark 10
24	Deuteronomy 19,20 / Romans 4	25	I Samuel 7-9 / Mark 11
25	Deuteronomy 21,22 / Psalm 35	26	I Samuel 10,11 / Psalms 46,47
26	Deuteronomy 23,24 / Romans 5	27	I Samuel 12,13 / Mark 12
27	Deuteronomy 25,26 / Romans 6	28	I Samuel 14,15 / Mark 13
28	Deuteronomy 27,28 / Romans 7	29	I Samuel 16,17 / Psalm 48
29	Deuteronomy 29,30 / Psalm 36	30	I Samuel 18,19 / Mark 14
30	Deuteronomy 31,32 / Romans 8		
31	Deuteronomy 33,34 / Romans 9		

April

1	Joshua 1-3 / Psalm 37
2	Joshua 4,5 / Romans 10
3	Joshua 6,7 / Romans 11
4	Joshua 8,9 / Romans 12

May

1	I Samuel 20-22 / Mark 15
2	I Samuel 23,24 / Mark 16
3	I Samuel 25,26 / Psalm 49
4	I Samuel 27,28 / I Corinthians 1
5	I Samuel 29-31 / I Corinthians 2
6	II Samuel 1,2 / Psalm 50
7	II Samuel 3-5 / I Corinthians 3
8	II Samuel 6,7 / I Corinthians 4

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

Doris Aitken

Ruth Logie

Geoffrey Smith

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note: due to the current lockdown conditions the church building is closed. Therefore, in-person events will not take place until restrictions are lifted. Please check the church website(www.mayfieldsalisbury.org) or call the church office (0131 667 1522) for further updates. The online worship page is: www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/online The dial-a-sermon telephone number is: 0131 546 4337

MARCH

Sun 7 Third Sunday of Lent / Mothering Sunday - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

Sun 14 Fourth Sunday of Lent - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth
10.15am onwards Online Worship: Holy Communion - livestream
1.00pm onwards Phone Worship: Holy Communion

Sun 21 Fifth Sunday of Lent - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

Sun 28 Palm Sunday - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

APRIL *(Depending on lockdown restrictions)*

Fri 2 Good Friday - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

3.00pm onwards Online Worship: Website

3.00pm onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

Sun 4 Easter Sunday - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

Sun 11 Second Sunday of Easter: Low Sunday - Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

Sun 18 Third Sunday of Easter - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

Sun 25 Fourth Sunday of Easter - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

MAY

Sun 2 Fifth Sunday of Easter - Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth

8.00am onwards Online Worship: Website

8.00am onwards Phone Worship: Dial-a-Sermon

NEWS BY EMAIL!!!

Stay up-to-date on news, programmes, and events at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church with our news lists

We hope this finds you well. This magazine has been sent out to ensure all our members are fully up to date with our latest news.

Would you like to be on one of our permanent lists? We maintain several to help distribute information throughout the congregation. They are:

Grapevine (church magazine) email list
A copy of the church magazine sent to your inbox in PDF format each edition. **If you are currently on the paper distribution (see below) please consider switching to this electronic version to save postage and printing. This is additionally important just now as we are required to discontinue (for the moment) our usual volunteer delivery system.**

Grapevine (church magazine) printed list
A paper copy of the church magazine delivered to your door by volunteers if you are relatively local to the church (when covid restrictions allow). Read online to save postage

Congregational email list
General information relevant to the entire congregation. This includes general news, notices of lectures, special events and, important updates on the covid restrictions.

Youth Newsletter email list
Hillary Leslie, our Youth Worker, sends out a Youth Newsletter to parents of P6 - S6 youth. This keeps everyone in the loop about important youth-related events and activities

If you are interested in joining any of the lists, please complete and return the form at the bottom of this page (or contact us direct using the details below). If, after reflection, you change your mind we can remove you from the list quickly: just let us know.

Your information is secure and will not be shared with any third party. All emails are sent out privately to you only in a bcc'd (address not visible to others) email.

If you would like any additional information then please do get in touch. I am always very happy to discuss any aspect of Mayfield Salisbury.

William Mearns
Church Manager

Please add my details to the following news lists:

- Grapevine printed standard size
- Grapevine printed large print
- Grapevine email
- 0930 email
- Youth Newsletter email
- Congregational email

Please return this form to:

*William Mearns,
Church Manager
18 West Mayfield,
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ.*

Call the Church Manager on 0780 801 1234

Email direct to churchmanager@googlemail.com

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Minister Revd Dr Alexander Forsyth	AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk	0131 667 1286
Pastoral Assistant Kay McIntosh DCS	kay@backedge.co.uk	0790 326 6307
YouthWorker 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
Treasurer John Graham	culkein@btinternet.com	0131 667 6331
Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper Hugh Somerville	hs.somerville2@gmail.com	0131 466 2446

Church Office

18 West Mayfield,
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ
0131 667 1522 or
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Mayfield Radio

mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com
0131 667 7742

Grapevine

William Mearns 0131 667 1522
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Print Run: 250 WebPrint

Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits,
contact the Pastoral Assistant.



Give.net

Secure online donations www.give.net/20311853

Staff Days Off

Minister: Weekends (for the moment!)
Pastoral Assistant: Friday & Saturday
Youth Worker: Friday & Saturday
Manager: Monday-PM & Thursday



Social Media



www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury



www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch



www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06/



www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

**Copy date for next issue:
6.00pm on Friday 23 April**