



Oct/Nov 2019

Issue 243

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



SERMON: HEAVEN?

PURPLE4POLIO

MAYFIELD SALISBURY EMAIL LISTS

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

Dear Friends,

This is my final pastoral letter at Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church. I

remember the thrill and excitement of being called and inducted as your minister nineteen years ago in October 2000. While a student at the University of Edinburgh, Shelagh attended Mayfield Church in the 1980s under the exceptional ministry of Bill

McDonald and was very pleased to return! Our son, Murdo, was born one month later on the night of my first meeting of Kirk Session. I missed the first meeting: a good start!

There have been many formative, creative and stimulating events at Mayfield Salisbury over the years; too many to mention here. Each and every event has been possible only because of the many committed, gifted and generous people in this church. The people, the congregation, are the church. Ministers come and go. I am particularly indebted to those who helped shape and deliver the many festivals we organised: meditation and prayer, ageing and faith, science and religion, pilgrimage, sacred music, and religion as poetry. And the congregation is truly blessed with such a dignified, inspiring and beautiful worship space.



Sensitively refurbished with the addition of gold stars set in the night sky and situated high above the Communion Table, the Sacrament at the centre of the cosmos, many times visitors have told me that the sanctuary is a place of welcome, beauty and peace.

For myself, my ministry has been most marked by discussions about biblical interpretation, science, personal spirituality, and interfaith dialogue. Above all, it has been the outstanding privilege of my professional life to preach each week to such an engaging congregation. The encouragement and thoughtful response have helped deepen my own thinking and nourished my inner journey. Mayfield Salisbury's support through my continuing academic study enriched my ministry immensely: MTh and MPhil at the University of Edinburgh and PhD at the University of St Andrews. It is a treasured prerogative of parish ministry to share special and tender moments with individuals and families at life-changing moments: baptism, marriage, personal joys and sorrows, dying and bereavement. At this point of departure, many people come to mind, not least many of the tremendous people who have died: these are memories of love and friendship.

I am grateful for the support, grace and



dedication of the Elders and office-bearers over these years. Mayfield Salisbury is fortunate with an incredibly gifted ministry staff team, both paid and volunteer: Kay and Hillary, Walter and Kate. Public worship is enriched at the early service with volunteer musicians and at the later service with the magnificent Chamber Group and choir. Special mention needs to be made of our Church Manager, William. Our longest serving employee, William does so much to ensure the smooth running of Mayfield Salisbury. Mayfield Salisbury is blessed to have him and I have been blessed to work alongside him.

Edinburgh and the manse at Seton Place will always be remembered as our home when Murdo was growing up; it has been a gift to him to live here. Week by week and day by day I have been supported through thick and thin by Shelagh. My

life and ministry would not have been anything like as enjoyable or successful without her: her advice, confidence and unsolicited grammatical corrections!

After nineteen years, it is the right time for me to move on. Mayfield Salisbury has moulded my life and means so much to me but I do not want to stay too long. As I reflected recently on my departure to a friend and colleague, he kindly said, 'Scott, I'm sorry to be the one to break this to you, but Mayfield Salisbury will be fine without you!' And so you will. Be assured of my continuing love, prayers and affection. It has been great!

And, if you are ever in Ayr.....

Every blessing,

Scott

NEWS

VACANCY

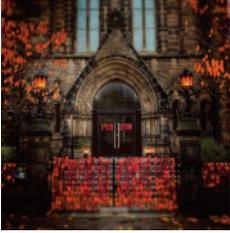


Photo by Mhairi Beasley

William Mearns

During the forthcoming ministerial vacancy, please contact the Pastoral Assistant, Kay McIntosh, for pastoral enquires.
kay@backedge.co.uk **0790 326 6307**

For all other general enquires, please contact the Church Manager, William Mearns in the first instance.
churchmanager@googlemail.com **0780 801 1234**

Further information when available will be noted in the intimations and on the church website
www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/vacancy

AFTERNOON SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

12 November at 2.30 pm



Bill McDonald Hall
via West Mayfield level access

Our mid-week services are especially appreciated by the less mobile in our parish community although everyone is always made most welcome. Assistance is given on arriving and leaving and we all remain seated at our tea tables throughout the afternoon. The service will be followed by tea and fellowship until around 3.45pm

If you haven't joined us in the past and would appreciate further information - or if you require extra assistance to be able to attend - please contact Pastoral Assistant Kay McIntosh, your own Pastoral Visitor (PV) or Anne Sturrock.

This is the last mid-week Afternoon Service in 2019 and we thank all who make them possible – those who have officiated and welcomed, the pianists, the tea team, the drivers, the helpers and, of course, William and Stewart for all they do behind the scenes.

We meet again on Tuesday 10 March 2020.

CRAFT MOMENTS

hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com
Hilary Watkinson

Whether it's bonnets for babies or beanies for homeless folk, Craft Moments is the place to come for knitting with a purpose. We meet every other Thursday, in the Fountainhall Room, 10.00 to 12.00. Bring along your craft of preference or pick up wool and needles there for our latest project. This group is also good for chatting over tea or coffee.

Flowers during September were donated by the family of Rhoda Drummond and arranged by Hilary Watkinson, Anne Graham and Jane Main.

Sincere thanks are due to the ever shrinking band of flower arrangers and distributors who deliver the bouquets on Sunday mornings, a service which is very much appreciated. Needless to say, we would love to welcome new recruits and look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you for your support.

Calling all country dancers! Country Dancing will next take place on 1 October. We meet fortnightly in the Bill McDonald Hall from 7.45pm to 9.30pm. Dances are walked through first -new and old favourites. All standards welcome. A full list of dates will be issued

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.

We've been meeting twice a month since the beginning of June. These informal gatherings have been very well attended and enjoyed by all. They've made the summer months fly by, getting to know folk more and making some new friends.

A big THANK YOU to all who came and the many volunteers who helped the Coffee and Blethers meetings go with a swing. We are now having a winter break.

Having now passed the 100 mark, **we are now aiming to save 200 paper copies**; that's 4,800 pages per edition! Please help us by offering to receive your copy of *Grapevine* electronically. All you have to do is send your email address to the Church Manager, William Mearns at churchmanager@googlemail.com

As soon as a new issue of *Grapevine* is ready (and before hard copies are even printed!), you will receive a blind copy email with *Grapevine* attached in PDF format.

FLOWERS - HELP WANTED!



Jane Main
0131 667 1711
Christyine Patterson
0131 662 4506

COUNTRY DANCING

[aathie@
hotmail.com](mailto:aathie@hotmail.com)
Anne Aithie

FIRST FRIDAYS FRIENDS

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

COFFEE AND BLETHERS



Christine Somerville

GRAPEVINE BY EMAIL

100 mark passed! Can
we reach 200?



William Mearns

PASTORAL ASSISTANT



During the vacancy, our pastoral care should continue as normal. We would very much appreciate everyone being particularly vigilant in noticing if someone hasn't been to church for a few weeks and letting us know so that we may follow that up.

We are happy to visit members of our congregation and people living within our parish boundaries in the comfort of their own home, nursing home or hospital.

If you now feel that you would like to have your own pastoral visitor then please let me know and I will start that process for you.

If you would like to be remembered in prayer then please let me know or by

placing a prayer card in the prayer box in the south transept. The Ministry team check the prayer box every Tuesday morning at prayers.

Our flower team like to be aware of special anniversaries or birthdays or perhaps if there has been a family bereavement so that they may respond accordingly.

Please notify me if you are going into hospital and would like to have a pastoral visit.

I can be contacted on 07903 266 307

Contact details for PV group co-ordinators:

Dorothy Cloughley

0131 667 3565

dorothycloughley@googlemail.com

Wendy Mathison

0131 447 5562

wsmdance3@gmail.com

Anne Mulligan

0131 664 3426

mulliganne@aol.com

Maggie Ross

0131 668 3859

maggiejeanross@btinternet.com

Hilary Watkinson

hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com

Changes of address etc. should continue to be passed to the roll keeper, Hugh Somerville.

Kay

MAYFIELD SALISBURY EMAIL LISTS



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

Mayfield Salisbury maintains several email lists to help distribute information throughout the congregation. The lists are as follows:

0930 Service list

Information pertaining to the Sunday 0930am All-Age Worship and related events.

Youth Newsletter

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

Congregational list

General information relevant to the entire congregation. This includes general news, notices of lectures & special events and,

importantly, details on the forthcoming ministerial vacancy.

Grapevine list

The parish magazine, *Grapevine*, which is sent out seven times per year in PDF format. See separate notice about this in the news section.

Should you be interested in receiving these informative emails, please complete and return the form at the bottom of this page or email me direct at the address supplied. If, after reflection, you change your mind I can remove your address from the list quickly - just let me 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 very happy to discuss any aspect of the office administration (or anything else Mayfield Salisbury related!).

William Mearns
Church Manager
0780 801 1234
churchmanager@googlemail.com

Please add my email address to the following distribution lists:

0930 list Youth Newsletter Congregational list Grapevine list

Name _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Please return this form to; *William Mearns, Church Manager 18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ; place in the Church Manager's pigeonhole in the entrance hallway or email direct to churchmanager@googlemail.com*

Troop meeting resumed in September with the Troop remaining at full capacity.

Our Summer Camp was held near Carrbridge and attended by 21 Scouts with a strong team of experienced Leaders. Activities included: Bushcraft, a Conservation Project, Campanology (the appliance of Science at Camp), Watersports, Swimming and Fishing.

The programme for the first month of the new term included Krypton, the start of the Global Challenge Award which will be aligned with the Global Goals for Sustainable Development. The first part asked the Scouts to identify where their

clothing was made. They were asked to discuss why companies might choose to have the items made in other countries and what are the advantages and disadvantages of overseas production.

In preparation for the first hike of the term, the Scouts were taught navigation, involving map and compass work. This was particularly important given that the first hike was a Night Hike. Starting at Bonaly, the Scouts hiked up through the darkness to the top of Allermuir Hill which gives magnificent views of the Lothians and Fife. After trekking back down, the Scouts camped overnight at Bonaly.



Scouts

28th Braid Scout Troop

Worldwide, it is estimated that 100 million children are living on the streets, a silent army deprived of education and basic care. Every year, 6 million will die from malnutrition before they reach the age of five.

Sri Lanka is a land of great scenic beauty, but its tragic recent history of a prolonged and brutal civil war has left it with an added burden to those faced by other developing countries.

On 15 September, Mrs Debbie Edirisinghe told us about the work of Child Action Lanka, the organisation which she founded in 2006, and how from small beginnings it has grown to a network of centres which provides care for hundreds of disadvantaged children.

CAL child development centres focus on healthcare, education and child protection, and, by providing a loving, caring and safe environment, transforms life for the children who attend them. Many have been exposed to severely traumatic life experiences but, with support, show great resilience and a determination to equip themselves with the skills that will give them the prospect of a better future.



Volunteers are welcome, both for the practical skills they bring and for the opportunity they provide for children to improve fluency in English, a valuable economic benefit.

Further information and details about volunteering and financial support are available on the website www.childactionlanka.org.

Child Action Lanka is in the UK partnered with Epiphany Trust, (www.epiphany.org.uk) which is a UK charity Reg No 1006653. This enables Gift Aid to be claimed by UK tax payers.

Colin Mackenzie



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.

HEAVEN?

Sunday 22 September 2019

Exodus 3: 1 – 6, 13 - 15

Psalms 113

St John 14: 1 -3, 27

At the centre of life's journey, there is mystery; a distant horizon that invites our exploration; and an Emptiness that fills our soul's emptiness. Bless our reflections and meditations. Amen.

Jesus said, 'In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you'. Read very frequently at funeral services, these haunting words of Jesus about heaven, His Father's house, are offered as a metaphor of comfort; a vivid image of expansiveness, warmth and welcome. Do you take to heart this sensitive, pastoral care of Jesus? Facing His disciples who were anxious about His impending death, Jesus spoke soothing, peaceful words of reassurance: 'I go to prepare a place for you....I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also'.

This is tender and potentially dangerous ground for the preacher. What can we say of life beyond this life, the resurrection, the world to come and heaven? It is potentially dangerous because it concerns not only ourselves but our loved ones departed. Many Christians believe in heaven and hell and, measured by denominational allegiance, most Christians in the world believe in purgatory; that place of cleansing. What do you believe and is life beyond this life a central tenet of your faith? If so, what do you imagine resurrected life to be like? Looking into

their searching eyes, Jesus said, 'Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid'.

Jesus, son of Mary, the rabbi from Nazareth, stood squarely within the Jewish tradition. Born in the land of Judah, Jesus lived in a dynamic and changing faith tradition, a tradition which had evolved across the centuries and which continued to mutate after His death. Let me take a moment to sketch briefly that history.

There is no simple, straightforward answer to what the Jewish people believed about what happens after death. In the Jewish Bible, the Tanakh, it was said that Jews and Gentiles went to the netherworld called She'ol, a dark and deep place filled with shadowy figures; She'ol was humanity's final destination. This bleak and uninspiring belief was shared with the Babylonians and Greeks.

It was during the exile and in the years that followed that the Jewish tradition began to hear new insights in Scripture. With fresh ears and open minds, they heard new meanings in the Book of Samuel: 'The Lord killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up'. In Ezekiel's most famous vision of the dry bones, they imagined a new meaning and possibility. In part, the search for



Purgatory, 1419 drawing by unknown artist from Strasbourg

something more than She'ol was driven by the slaughter of Jewish heroes during the Maccabean Revolt of 167 – 160BCE. The Revolt was a Jewish rebellion against the Hellenistic empire. Many came to believe that the Jewish martyrs did not die in vain; rather, after a temporary death, they entered a future of just rewards. In the Book of Daniel, we read, 'And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt'.

In the time of Jesus, the Sadducees (the priestly cast), did not believe in an afterlife but the Pharisees did. Like Jesus, the Pharisees believed in some form of resurrection. When the Temple was

destroyed in 70CE, the Sadducees disappeared along with it, leaving only those in the Jewish family who believed in some form of afterlife. It is during this period that concepts of hell also emerge. As the centuries passed, Jewish thought came under the influence of Plato and Aristotle. Following Plato, the soul of a human being was an emanation of God released from the body at death. By the twelfth century, the Jewish philosopher Maimonides understood the soul to be part of the intelligence of God. After death, the righteous would partake in the divine intelligence. Only a philosopher would come up with that sort of possibility! In the Middle Ages, Judaism entertained the possibility of reincarnation.



Clement of Rome

It has been said that today, in the twenty-first century, Jews of faith continue to believe a whole range of possibilities about life beyond death except, perhaps, in the existence of She'ol, the only belief mentioned in the Jewish Bible. What do we believe? In our scientific age, when the pattern of things, from the smallest mother cell to the largest star, is one of death and life, death and rebirth, what do we believe?

In the Christian tradition, would you be surprised to learn that different thinkers

have stressed different thoughts over the course of two millennia? The first century Church Father, Clement of Rome, did not mention entry into Heaven but belief in a general resurrection of the dead at the Second Coming of Christ. The second century Church Father Irenaeus did not believe that every 'saved' Christian would be received into heaven. In the Eastern Church, the poetic phrase of Jesus, 'many mansions', is said to suggest heaven having different levels. It was not until the sixth century that, against a significant minority of Christians, Pope



Icon of Second Coming - Greece. c. 1700

Gregory the Great declared belief in reincarnation to be a heresy. According to recent polling in the US, American Christians, Catholics and Protestants, to different degrees believe in heaven, hell, purgatory and reincarnation!

In the Roman Catholic tradition, heaven is described as 'the ultimate end and fulfilment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness'. In the Protestant tradition, some suggest that entering heaven is immediate at death while others suggest that it is later, after

judgement! Can you believe Protestants stressing judgement? In St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians, Paradise is located in the Third Heaven. What do you believe?

It should perhaps be no surprise that we cannot imagine the reality of 'heaven'; that heaven is beyond our capacity to conceptualise. Religion is steeped, saturated, in metaphor! In my view, it is incredibly easy to slip, almost unconsciously, into literalism. The Dominican priest Thomas Brodie said that

the New Testament is a work of fiction: you have to kill the historical to free the poetry. Fiction does not mean it is not true; it simply means that it is not historical. Truth or truths are released through imaginative engagement with the text. In The Lord's Prayer, 'Our Father in heaven', 'heaven' is no less a metaphor than 'Father'. 'Heaven' means no more than that God is more than and ultimately beyond this earth, this physical universe; a different reality; an eternal essence or Life Force. In the Gospel of Matthew, the evangelist wrote repeatedly of 'the kingdom of heaven'. Properly translated, it is the kingdom of the heavens. The phrase is a metaphor for God, for the Divine Absolute, the Most Real. The psalmist sang of God as 'above the heavens'.



Moses and the Burning Bush, c. 1450–1475, attributed to Dieric Bouts

In the Book of Exodus, we hear that the name of God is Yahweh. It is often translated as 'I am' or 'I will be'. In the rabbinic tradition, it is said that 'I am' is an abbreviation for 'I am with you'. God said to Moses, 'This is my name for ever'. That phrase 'for ever' can also be translated as 'concealed'. In the rabbinic tradition, we may say that the God is who with us, with us always, 'I am with you', is the God who is hidden, concealed. Do you remember the saying: for every doctrinal headache, take paradox! God is the paradox, the mystery, of absence and Presence.

Let us take ourselves back to Jesus speaking to His anxious and fearful disciples. Gently, He told them. 'In my Father's house are many mansions.....I will

come again....where I am, there you may be also.' If we listen with the heart, that 'I am' takes us back to Moses, the burning bush, and God's silent voice, 'I am with you', with you always. The God who is hidden is the God who is with us always. For me, all the images of heaven and every suggestion or hint that it is a physical reality fail and fall. What does not fail or fall is listening to the voice of God from the bush not consumed, and from the lips of Jesus. At its best, religion is about relationship with the Divine, trust in the voice we hear in Scripture, trust in the soul's deepest intuition, in the tone and love of the Eternal: where I am, there you may be also.

The master of mystics, Meister Eckhart, said that 'Eternity is now'. The Divine is to be encountered in this life. The Scottish theologian, John Caird, said that in life beyond this life we will be no closer or further from God than we are in this life: we already live our life in God if we but stop and listen for the silence, the thinnest silence, of God. For Caird, the Creator of all things will always be beyond us, beyond our understanding. Writing in 1956, the Trappist monk, Thomas Merton said:

As soon as [we are] fully disposed to be alone with God, [we are] alone with God no matter where [we] may be – in the country, the monastery, the woods or the

city. The lightning flashes from east to west, illuminating the whole horizon and striking where it pleases and at the same instant the infinite liberty of God flashes in the depths of [our] soul and [we are] illumined. At that moment [we see] that though [we seem] to be in the middle of [our] journey, [we have] already arrived at the end. For the life of grace on earth is the beginning of the life of glory. Although [we are travellers] in time, [we have] opened [our] eyes, for a moment, in eternity.

The God who is concealed, hidden, is with us always. God holds us eternally. God is our truest friend; we are to trust in that truth. Amen.

CHRISTIAN AID

The Christian Aid Committee

CHRISTIAN AID Prayer Thoughts

Long term support after a disaster

Read Luke 18: 1-8

Give thanks for our partner Yakkum Emergency Unit that delivered essential supplies to people affected by the tsunamis and earthquakes that struck

Indonesia last year. Pray for the ongoing restoration work with the thousands who were bereaved, injured and displaced. Pray for the rebuilding work in Kerala, India, after the devastating flooding that also occurred last year, and for the work to reduce the risk of water-borne diseases, including cleaning-out wells, rain-water harvesting tanks and de-sludging of septic tanks. Pray these communities get ongoing support and help and know they are not forgotten.

Holy God, help us to pray always and not to lose heart, to never give up on the cause of fullness of life for all. Amen.



christian
aid

Polio cases have been reduced significantly since Rotary took on the challenge, in 1985, of eradicating the polio virus in the world. The figure then was 350,000 cases world wide. Today there are only 69 cases of the wild polio virus in only two countries - Afghanistan and Pakistan. August saw Nigeria, and thus the African continent, celebrating being wild polio virus-free. It is Rotary's primary aim to eradicate the polio virus and rid the world of this terrible disease.



Photo by Meneerkehlhem CCBYSA30

Purple4Polio is one of the symbols which Rotary International uses for its end polio campaign. In mass immunisations, when a child gets immunised the little finger is dipped in purple dye to show who has been immunised; hence the adoption of purple, purple crocuses, purple ice cream and Purple4Polio.

Rotary highlighted polio in the world by holding an evening in the Scottish Parliament. On a business day, MSPs wore our purple fabric crocus badges. A show of fabric crocuses was 'planted' in front of the Walter Scott Monument - Walter Scott had polio. Crocus corms have been planted at various prominent places. Purple icecream has been sold through supermarkets.

Last year, a number of buildings in Edinburgh the UK and internationally, were floodlit in purple to celebrate World Polio Week. This year it is hoped that many prominent buildings in Edinburgh and the UK will turn purple. World Polio Day is on the 24 October. Why that date?

It is the date of birth of the virologist and medical researcher, Jonas Edward Salk who discovered and developed the first successful polio vaccines.

Look out for Mayfield Salisbury Church and many other buildings turning purple during 21 - 27 October this year.

For more information go to www.myrotary.org

As long as Polio threatens even one child, anywhere in the world, all children where ever they live remain at risk.

Bill Gates

Regards

Ken

Kenneth Logan

Polio Coordinator
Rotary District 1020

Telephone Number 0780 051 0067

THURSDAY CLUB

We are looking forward to the restart of the Thursday Club on 3 October at 2.00pm in the Bill McDonald Hall when once again we will be delighted to host *The Second Row Singers*. This is a group of talented ladies who sing in the second row of their choir - not a group

of rugby players!

If you have a friend or neighbour you think might be interested, please bring them along. All will be welcome. We meet every Thursday, except for Christmas and Easter breaks.

October

3 Singalong
10 Sex, drugs and windy nights
17 The Show in the Meadows
24 Our trip to China
31 Don't Panic!

Second Row Singers
Lady Joyce Caplan
Graeme Cruikshank
Kozo Hoshino and John Ferguson
Christine Short

November

7 Band Music
14 Bring and Buy / AGM
21 Some Travels in Germany
28 SACRO

Dixieland Band

Kathleen Hendry
Tom Halpin

December

5 Christmas Singalong and party
12 Members' Desert Island Discs

The Dunns
Deirdre and co.

January 2020

9 Scottish Songs
16 Talk –title TBC
23 Birding and Beetling Ladies
30 A trip to South America

Caroline Hood
Margaret Collingwood and Alison MacDonald
Catherine Booth
Senga Andrews

February

6 Budapest
13 The Changing Botanics
20 My Famous Aunt!
27 Singalong

Boyd McAdam
Heather McHaffie
Sheana Stephens
George Ross and Susan Wooding

March

5 Remarkable Ruins
12 Scottish Musical Afternoon
19 Some Incompetent Spies
26 Lip reading

John Graham
Ceilidh Band
Alan Tulleth
Erna McEvoy

April

2 Up the Creek talk
9 Easter Break
16 One World Shop
23 Sing-along
30 Posies with weeds and wildflowers!

Simon Fairnie
Rachel Farey
Isabel Lunn +others from choir
Anne Sturrock

May 7 TRIP

TBC

SESSION MATTERS

The Kirk Session met on 10 September 2019 when the following was discussed:

Matters Arising: Anne Aithie raised an issue relating to the West Door steps which had been mentioned to her. This is that those with limited vision can find them hard to use, as the edge of each step is not very clear. This could be considerably improved if there were markings added along the front edge of each step, making it more obvious where a new step began.

The Moderator gave an update on the Listening Service in that he has recently discovered that Priestfield Parish Church has had a similar conversation with Edinburgh University about assisting students through a listening service. After further discussion, it was agreed that we would have a conversation with the University Chaplain and the Head of Counselling Services at the University. The Moderator would liaise with one or two elders on this, including Douglas Blackwood.

At this point one item of Business Committee business was taken concerning Kay McIntosh's contract. Following two review meetings, it was clear that a 30 hour week was easily justified by the work to be done and that this arrangement was satisfactory for Kay. It was agreed that the 30 hours per week should be continued for the two calendar years beginning from the start of 2020. The Moderator thanked the review team for their valuable work.

Correspondence: The Session Clerk mentioned that he had received correspondence in July from Susie Martin, Eileen Malloch's daughter, noting that her mother had left a legacy of £1,000 to Mayfield Salisbury. The Treasurer has received the money. The Session Clerk had written to thank Ms Martin over the summer but wished to report the donation to Session, who expressed their gratitude for it.

Finalising Business: Two people had contacted the Moderator seeking membership of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church: Elvyne Struthers (transferring from Uphall South) and Revd. Neil Campbell. Session approved both requests and extended a warm welcome.

On **Tuesday 8 October** George Whyte, Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, will be installed at MSPC as a Chaplain-in-Ordinary to the Queen. All are invited to attend.

Mike Sharp of the **Christian Aid Committee** had been in touch to ask if MSPC would once again support Christian Aid as part of our Christmas service collections. Session agreed to continue with the arrangement whereby the Christmas collections are divided equally between **Christian Aid and CrossReach**.

Additional Kirk Session Meeting: The Moderator intimated that, in the light of his imminent departure from Mayfield Salisbury, it would be advisable to hold an

Kirk Session meeting soon thereafter, at a date to be agreed. Session noted this.

Finance Paper From Business

Committee: Steve Holehouse introduced the finance paper which had been circulated in advance. He mentioned that it had been drafted by the Treasurer and then examined by a small sub-committee over the summer before being discussed by Business Committee. The paper contains a summary of the current position and raises a number of issues for discussion and for Session's views. BC's advice in respect of each question was set out in the paper for guidance.

After discussion, it was decided that the Shierlaw Fund will be kept as it is rather than being de-designated at this stage. The target minimum level for the Longer-Term Reserves will be reduced from £230,000 to £210,000; the policy of stock-piling legacies for future choral commitments will cease but the current Chamber Choir Fund of some £160,000 will be reserved for Choir purposes; the Spiritual Growth Fund will be reduced to £10,000 (releasing approximately £7,500); the 'released' funds (namely c.£7,500 from the Spiritual Growth Fund and £20,000 from the LTR) will be split equally between the Salisbury Fund and Mission Fund; the investment policy will remain unchanged (i.e. CoSIT at BC's discretion); and an appeal for increased giving, to tackle the projected deficit approximately £30,000 per year was approved, with a planned launch date of February 2020. Session expressed its thanks to all those involved in this work.

Autumn Lectures: The Moderator drew attention to two lectures in the coming weeks: Professor Robert Hillenbrand, Professorial Fellow at the University of St Andrews and Honorary Fellow at the University of Edinburgh, will speak on 29 September and David Gorman, Director of Social Responsibility and Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh, on 6 October, both at 7pm. In addition there was a talk on behalf of Child Action Lanka.

The previously arranged talk by the Minister on Revd George Matheson (the subject of his recent doctoral thesis) will not take place as planned as the date falls after his induction in his new charge. It has not proved possible to reschedule it for an earlier date. However, there is the possibility that, if a suitable date can be found, Revd McKenna will accept an invitation from Session to deliver the talk at a later time.

Minister's Announcement: The Moderator outlined some of the changes which are likely to arise. MSPC is in good heart and his reason for accepting St Columba's invitation is to seek a new challenge and also a concern not to stay over-long in one place. Among the strengths of MSPC the Moderator pointed to experienced and dedicated staff and he also acknowledged the support and encouragement of Session.

The Moderator's last Sunday of preaching at MSPC will be 6 October and he will arrange cover for the two following Sundays. His induction in his new parish

will be on 24 October, probably at 7.00pm. At that point an **Interim Moderator** will assume responsibility. Although he or she will be decided upon by Presbytery, the **Revd Neil Gardner, Minister at Canongate** was suggested as a possibility which Session approved.

In addition to an Interim Moderator there will be a need for a **regular preacher**. This may be supplied by a locum, as has been the case at MSPC in past vacancies, or alternatively by pulpit supply. The main difference is that a locum would be expected to undertake some pastoral work, maybe around two days a week, in addition to preaching. Although this is a decision for Session, the fact that we have a Pastoral Assistant (and her team of pastoral visitors) may mean that pulpit supply would meet our needs adequately. **The Revd Helen Alexander**, who has recently retired as Assistant Minister at St Giles has been suggested. There was a short discussion of procedure, including the formation and duties of a Nominations Committee.

The Moderator ended by offering three reflections which might guide those involved in the task of identifying a potential new Minister: the experience of team ministry, especially working with a number of specialist staff members, is not something which can be taken for granted; the regular diet of three Sunday services may be more than in many other churches; and the emphasis on the quality of preaching is an important factor at MSPC.

Business Committee: The Convenor, Steve Holehouse, spoke to his report,

which had been circulated in advance. It was agreed that an application should be made to extend the visa of Hillary Leslie. Steve thanked Anne Robertson for her many years' service as Health and Safety Officer. She will be replaced by Alison Bogle. The Moderator echoed the thanks, as did Session.

Christian Aid: The Convenor, Aileen Nimmo, spoke to her report: The Mayfield Salisbury Christian Aid team is very grateful to the Kirk Session and congregation for their generous support and to the Trustees of the Salisbury Fund for matching sums raised in special collections. So far to date this year we have raised over £11,000.

The committee has decided not to proceed with the Harvest Festival this year. This was due to a variety of reasons including the onerous risk assessment and insurance regime imposed as standard conditions by Edinburgh Council.

The team provided tea, coffee and cake on the afternoon of Saturday 28 September 2019 at Doors Open Day.

In addition the committee hopes to hold an Advent coffee, cake and craft morning in late November / early December and will also organise the congregational Christmas card.

The Christian Aid team has considered the changing demands of a fluid environment and team dynamic. Following a review of the team's strengths, weaknesses and resources the team are considering a

vision for the future and will report to the Kirk Session. The deliberations will bear in mind the Christian Aid aims of: Climate, Economic and Gender Justice.

In addition the team is to consider how to work towards including and engaging the whole congregation. These themes are tackled by other committees in this congregation and the team wish to plan sharing resources and energy with those teams to tackle the issues efficiently.

Jane Main has retired from Fairtrade stall and was thanked for her years of sterling service and hard work. The next Fairtrade stall is intended to be at the Advent event.

CrossReach: The next collection for the Perinatal Service will be on 3 November.

Research Committee: Alastair MacGilchrist, the Convenor, spoke to a number of current items. Student contact - this has already been discussed (under Matters Arising). The screen has now been installed and is in operation. To post an item on the screen full details including draft text should be provided to William. Social media is an ongoing project; Five Minutes' Peace is under way again and was complemented by Doors Open Day (on 28 September); Caring for the environment - the lecture by David Gorman (mentioned above) will be

chaired by Professor Elizabeth Bomberg.

First Friday Friends: The Convenor, Sandra Carter, spoke to her report. Activities had continued over the summer with activities in the Bill MacDonald Hall. Singing and music activities, simple crafts or games, sometimes both at once, act as vehicles that trigger memories which stimulate conversations. This is only possible with a good group of volunteers. Sandra thanked the volunteers as well as supporters of the Grange Fair who sent a donation of £200 for the second year running, and others in the congregation who have given financial support. The group also enjoyed their annual cruise on the canal from Ratho.

New Friends generally arrive from word of mouth contacts and, if you know of someone in your local community who might benefit, then please contact Sandra. The Moderator thanked all of the convenors for their reports and they and their teams for their hard work.

AOCB: Sandra Carter raised a matter about possible re-use of the poppies created for last year's Remembrance centenary. Session approved the re-use of the poppies for a smaller indoor arrangement for the coming Remembrance observance. Sandra was thanked for raising this.

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Death

Angus MacConnachie

New member

Elvyne Struthers

Revd Neil Campbell

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

OCTOBER

Sun 6	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (SSM) Traditional Worship: Creation Covenant Service (SSM) LECTURE: Climate Change (David Gorman)
Tues 8	9.30am 7.00pm	Prayers in the sanctuary Service of Installation of Revd Dr George Whyte as Chaplain to the Queen
Sun 13	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Hugh Davidson) Traditional Worship: 17th Sunday after Trinity (HD) Evening Service (KM)
Tues 15	9.30am	Prayers in the sanctuary
Sun 20	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Hugh Davidson) Traditional Worship: 18th Sunday after Trinity (HD) Evening Service (Anne Mulligan DCS)
Tues 22	9.30am	Prayers in the sanctuary
Sun 27	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander) Traditional Worship: 19th Sunday after Trinity (HA) Evening Service: Godly Play (EB)
Tues 29	9.30am	Prayers in the sanctuary

NOVEMBER

Sun 3	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Neil Gardner) Traditional Worship: 20th Sunday after Trinity (NG) Evening Service (Éilie Blackwood)
Tues 5	9.30am	Prayers in the sanctuary
Sun 10	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander) Traditional Worship: Remembrance Sunday (HA) Service of Remembering (Kay McIntosh)
Tues 12	9.30am	Prayers in the sanctuary
Sun 17	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander) Traditional Worship 22nd Sunday after Trinity(HA) Evening Service (TBC)
Tues 19	9.30am	Prayers in the sanctuary
Sun 24	9.30am 10.45am 7.00pm	All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander) Traditional Worship: Christ the King (HA) Youth Worship Night (Hillary Leslie)

Tues 26 9.30am Prayers in the sanctuary

DECEMBER

Sun 1 9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Helen Alexander)
10.45am Traditional Worship: Advent Sunday (HA)
7.00pm Evening Service (TBC)

MAYFIELD MILERS UPCOMING WALKS

If you require any further information about these walks please contact Jenny McCallum on 0131 667 2888 or at jennymccallum15@gmail.com

October

Tue 15 Pressmennan Wood 3 - 4 mls
Car Travel. Meet at Church at 10.00am

Tue 22 Gowklie Moss to Bilston via Kilburn 3mls
Meet at Church at 10.00am

November

Sat 9 Caerketton Hill 3mls strenuous with steep ascent
Car Travel meet at Church at 10.00am

Wed 13 Linlithgow - (Basin to Palace) 3mls
Meet at bus stop on West Approach Rd (near Lothian Rd) at 10.15 for Express bus to Linlithgow at 10.25.

Wed 20 Easter Road to (i) Constitution Street - 2.5mls (ii) Inverleith Row - 4mls
Meet at Church 10.00am - Coffee shops near both destinations

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Oct. 5 Jeremiah 3,4 / John 2

Oct. 6 Jeremiah 5,6 / John 3

Oct. 7 Jeremiah 7,8 / Psalms 114,115

Oct. 8 Jeremiah 9,10 / John 4

Oct. 9 Jeremiah 11,12 / John 5

Oct. 10 Jeremiah 13,14 / John 6

Oct. 11 Jeremiah 15,16 / Psalm 116

Oct. 12 Jeremiah 17,18 / John 7

Oct. 13 Jeremiah 19,20 / John 8

Oct. 14 Jeremiah 21,22 / Psalms 117,118

Oct. 15 Jeremiah 23,24 / John 9

Oct. 16 Jeremiah 25,26 / John 10

Oct. 17 Jeremiah 27,28 / John 11

Oct. 18 Jeremiah 29-31 / Psalm 119: 1-24

Oct. 19 Jeremiah 32,33 / John 12

Oct. 20 Jeremiah 34,35 / John 13

Oct. 21 Jeremiah 36,37 / Psalm 119: 25-48

Oct. 22 Jeremiah 38,39 / John 14

Oct. 23 Jeremiah 40,41 / John 15

Oct. 24 Jeremiah 42,43 / John 16

Oct. 25 Jeremiah 44-46 / Psalm 119: 49-72

Oct. 26 Jeremiah 47,48 / John 17

Oct. 27 Jeremiah 49,50 / John 18

Oct. 28 Jeremiah 51,52 / Psalm 119: 73-96

Oct. 29 Lamentations 1,2 / John 19

Oct. 30 Lamentations 3-5 / John 20

Oct. 31 Ezekiel 1 / John 21

Nov. 1 Ezekiel 2,3 / Psalm 119: 97-120

Nov. 2 Ezekiel 4,5 / James 1

Nov. 3 Ezekiel 6,7 / James 2

Nov. 4 Ezekiel 8,9 / Psalm 119: 121-144

Nov. 5 Ezekiel 10,11 / James 3

Nov. 6 Ezekiel 12,13 / James 4

Nov. 7 Ezekiel 14,15 / James 5

Nov. 8 Ezekiel 16,17 / Psalms 119: 145-176

Nov. 9 Ezekiel 18,19 / I Peter 1

Nov. 10 Ezekiel 20,21 / I Peter 2

Nov. 11 Ezekiel 22,23 / Psalms 120-122

Nov. 12 Ezekiel 24,25 / I Peter 3

Nov. 13 Ezekiel 26,27 / I Peter 4

Nov. 14 Ezekiel 28,29 / I Peter 5

Nov. 15 Ezekiel 30,31 / Psalms 123-125

Nov. 16 Ezekiel 32,33 / II Peter 1

Nov. 17 Ezekiel 34,35 / II Peter 2

Nov. 18 Ezekiel 36,37 / Psalms 126-128

Nov. 19 Ezekiel 38,39 / II Peter 3

Nov. 20 Ezekiel 40,41 / I John 1

Nov. 21 Ezekiel 42,43 / I John 2

Nov. 22 Ezekiel 44,45 / Psalms 129-131

Nov. 23 Ezekiel 46,47 / I John 3

Nov. 24 Ezekiel 48 / I John 4

Nov. 25 Daniel 1-3 / Psalms 132-134

Nov. 26 Daniel 4,5 / I John 5

Nov. 27 Daniel 6,7 / II John

Nov. 28 Daniel 8,9 / III John

Nov. 29 Daniel 10-12 / Psalms 135,136

Nov. 30 Hosea 1,2 / Jude 1

Dec. 1 Hosea 3-6 / Revelation 1

Dec. 2 Hosea 7,8 / Psalms 137,138

Dec. 3 Hosea 9,10 / Revelation 2

Dec. 4 Hosea 11,12 / Revelation 3

Dec. 5 Hosea 13,14 / Revelation 4

Dec. 6 Joel 1,2 / Psalm 139

Dec. 7 Joel 3 / Revelation 5

Dec. 8 Amos 1,2 / Revelation 6

Dec. 9 Amos 3,4 / Psalms 140,141

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

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

Web 2.0

Interim Moderator

Revd Neil N. Gardner

ngardner@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 556 3515

Locum Preacher

Revd Helen Alexander

HAlexander@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 346 0685

Pastoral Assistant

Kay McIntosh DCS

kay@backedge.co.uk 0790 326 6307

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 0131 668 4296

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

Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits,
contact the Pastoral Assistant.

Mayfield Radio

mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com

0131 667 7742

Grapevine Submissions

William Mearns 0131 667 1522

churchmanager@googlemail.com

Grapevine Distribution

Kirstine Baxter 0754 991 3813

churchmanager@googlemail.com



Staff Days Off

Minister: Monday (generally)

Pastoral Assistant: Friday and Saturday

Youth Worker: Friday and 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



Copy date for next issue: 7.00pm on **Friday 22 November**