



September 2021

Issue 258

Scottish Charity SC000785

GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



BILL MCDONALD LECTURE

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

RETURN OF THE PEW CUSHIONS

www.mayfieldsalisbury.org

FROM THE MANSE



Dear friends,

In his 2007 poem 'Everlasting Sailing', Derick Thomson wrote of two old Lewis fisherman that he knew from his youth, 'with their cheeks chipped by the wind's chisels, and with a salt smirr on their beard bristles.' He reflected that they 'sail the seas still...kindly eyes catching glimpses of eternity, the warm home beyond the storm, Jordan and Jerusalem...the loved one awaiting.'

I hope you have had the chance over the last two months to spend time with family and friends, and perhaps to venture away on holiday for some rest and relaxation. We've just returned from spending time on the west coast of Lewis, where close family have recently moved. The sea and Christian faith are deeply embedded within the island's culture. I had the exhilarating experience of two long fishing trips among the smaller islands and on the open sea, and of lifting my brother-in-law's creels, with the catch of mackerel, haddock, ling, lobster and crabs ending up on the evening

†

dinner plates. We went wild swimming (with wet suits!) and had evenings spent on deserted beaches with the sun setting and the tide lapping in on the waves. In the remoteness and sometimes barren beauty of the land, and in a boat drifting amongst the sea stacks and the circling of the art terns, gannets and skua, seemingly far away from any trouble or care, those 'glimpses of eternity' in the 'everlasting sailing' were within grasp.

Although the Reformed faith of the people of Lewis since the Reformation has often been assumed to be a harsh and restrictive form of Calvinism, it has formed the bedrock of island and community living. Scripture reading and psalm singing have been the warp and weft of life. Visting the blackhouses, I was struck by the wall cavity where the family bible would have place of honour, and the 'Gospel Ship' picture from the late 19th Century on the wall. Later, I bought the one pictured above at an antiques shop, and the owner told me how they appear in most local house clearances. Sea and faith, devotion and community, all inextricably linked.



I reflected on the irony that I was there 'to escape' thoughts of life, work and faith for a short while by immersing myself in the scenery and seascapes, whereas I was in a place where there are no such divisions – heaven and earth are never far separated. And much as I was seeking to avoid contact with the world beyond my island haven, images and stories online of the tragedy that was unfolding in Afghanistan, as well as the natural disasters in Haiti and Louisiana, would not stop intervening. I think I've learned that we can never fully switch off the people around us, or the world. Likewise, we can never shut away God's presence. We may choose to ignore or deny that God exists, or that he can have any power or ability to act in our lives or provide help times of challenge or sadness, but then a word from a friend, an embrace with a loved one, a moment of prayer or reflection, might show us once more the 'glimpse of eternity'; they might remind us of the 'warm home beyond the storm.'

In the summer services, we have been following in the footsteps of St Paul in his missionary journeys around the Mediterranean. I was struck in reading more deeply how strong was the presence of the living Christ in Paul's life. His message of Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah provoked extreme reactions. Over fourteen years, he was repeatedly stoned, assaulted, verbally abused and imprisoned in his encounters with different places and cultures. And yet Paul never wavered from faith, and in response to the attacks on him, countered them not with inflammatory talk

or calls to retaliate, but with a Gospel focused on respect, equality before God and, most importantly, in the offering of love to the other. I'm looking forward to leading some weddings in the autumn, and to hearing again those powerful words of Paul from 1 Corinthians 13: '*Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. And now faith, hope, and love abide, and the greatest of these is love.*'

As John Donne said, no-one is 'an island'. Whilst it is sometimes so refreshing to 'get away', we are never far from the love of God, expressed in our own faith and also amongst each other as a Christian community. We will soon return to two Sunday services, open up again many of our groups and gathering points, and look forward to events when we can be with each other such as the day pilgrimage, student welcome and congregational gathering. In all of this, and also for each one of us in the quiet times in our own home or in the beauty of the countryside, be assured that God will be present and his love will be near.

God bless, *Sandy*

CONGREGATIONAL GATHERING

Saturday 9 October

Our Congregational Gathering, combined with a social gathering, will take place on Saturday 9 October from 10.30am until early afternoon. It will help us explore how Mayfield Salisbury might move forward as a congregation in the South Side of Edinburgh.

Booking arrangements will follow soon.

YOUTH UPDATE



As the summer holidays ended, we had a few opportunities for the youth to meet. We had a game night on Zoom with all ages, and the following week the S2-S6 group went on a walk to the top of Arthur's Seat! Unfortunately, the haar had come in just as we started climbing and we didn't get a great view of the city, but we had fun enjoying a warm summer evening nonetheless.

With ideas and suggestions from some of our young people, the programming for the first half of the 2021-22 school year has been put together; the Youth Committee met recently to go over the proposed programme schedule, and we are excited about the many opportunities and events on the horizon!

Some new things we have happening this year include a weekly reflection and prayer space on Instagram called *Time Out Tuesdays*, a monthly café, casual drop-in session for S4-S6 to come along alone or with friends, and a one-to-one meeting calendar for S4-S6 to schedule at their convenience. Our other regular

programming, such as Youth Group, Breakfast Club, Youth Worship, and S2-S6 Book Discussion Group, will continue this year, with adjustments due to ongoing Covid restrictions.

We are continuing to recruit new volunteers for Youth Group. Here's a short description of what our volunteers get up to at Youth Group!

A Youth Group volunteer should. . .

- Have an interest in working with children and young people
- Be supportive of children and young people's participation during sessions
- Be flexible, responsive, and sensitive to people's needs
- Be responsible, reliable, and trustworthy
- Have patience and time to offer to the group
- Have fun!

A Youth Group volunteer will have the following responsibilities. . .

- Assisting with set-up and arrivals
- Prepping any materials for activities (i.e. craft supplies, board games)
- Setting up equipment, chairs/tables etc.
- Taking a log of those in attendance (sign-in sheet)
- Food/Snack Preparation*
 - Preparing any food during the snack break
 - *If a special meal is on, extra kitchen help (and those with food safety training) will be required (Covid restrictions apply)
- Assisting the youth leader and contributing with running games, activities and/or discussion
- Clearing and cleaning up after the session
- Pre-planning
- Assist youth leader with any relevant pre-planning when needed, such as identifying or researching games or activities appropriate for the session

If this sounds up your alley, please be in touch as I would love to hear from you!

There are a few other exciting things that are in the works for this year which we are excited to share with everyone soon!

Hillary Leslie

Hillary.MayfieldYouth@gmail.com
0745 372 2224

OBERAMMERGAU 2022

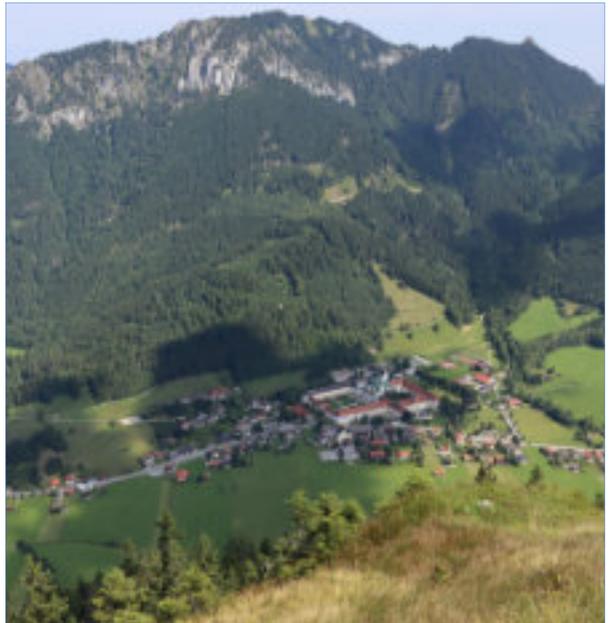
Hilary Watkinson

McCabe Travel assure me that the Austrians are already rehearsing for the famous passion play next year.

Would you like to join a select party from Mayfield Salisbury led by Kay McIntosh? If so, please contact me and I will deliver a booking form and further information to you.

The dates are 25 May to 1 June 2022 and we hope our minister, Sandy, will be able to join us.

Hilary Watkinson
hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com



AFTERNOON SERVICE



Tuesday 21 September 2021 at 2.30pm

Greetings! Do you remember the last time we met together in the Bill McDonald Hall? It was in March 2020 BC – **B**efore **C**ovid – in fact, on 10 March 2020, just days before the first Lockdown. We gathered then to share Holy Communion. The long months since then have been really testing for all but we hope you felt blessed and sustained by that special time together and we trust that after all these months at home you will feel confident enough to join us for the first Afternoon Service of 2021 when we meet again on **Tuesday 21 September**.

The Service will be led by our Minister, Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth.

To set the scene, things will be a bit different from before but **all are welcome** and we will try to assist as much as possible within the Covid rules in force.

First, we would ask you to arrange your own transport, with lifts by family members or friends/ neighbours – or by taxi - arriving at the West Mayfield entrance as usual, in good time for 2.30pm. You will be met



outside and accompanied to your seats and given assistance as usual.

This short service might well suit those in our own Congregation, and friends, who have never before attended these shorter mid-week Services and who might not be confident about attending with larger numbers present on Sundays. We will sit at tables set for four people and stay seated throughout the afternoon. We usually finish around 3.45pm after refreshments. Those who used to come regularly will have been longing for the day when we can be together again for worship in the company of friends.

Please indicate in advance if you intend to come on Tuesday 21 September by contacting Kay McIntosh (07903 266 307) or Anne Sturrock (0131 668 3524 - leave name and message) just in case our plans have to change at short notice. It would assist forward planning to know how many people we expect for setting out the safest seating plan and for serving light refreshments if we possibly can.

The Afternoon Service Team members all look forward to welcoming you back - and safely!

STUDENT MINISTER - REUBEN ADDIS

We're delighted to welcome our new student minister, Reuben Addis, who begins his placement at Mayfield Salisbury on 1 September.

Reuben has completed his theology degree and is now entering a probationary period to become an Ordained Local Minister.

Reuben's placement will be in addition to his full-time job as a social worker, where he works with young people and families. He will be with us for a year, spending ten

hours during the week plus involvement on most Sundays.

During his placement, Reuben will also be working with Rev. Dr Richard Frazer at the Greyfriars Charteris project.

We're excited to welcome Reuben to the church community, and hope his time with us will be very fruitful for him in his continuing formation in training.

Sandy

THE WILDLIFE & ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY OF MALAWU



Over 70 years
supporting schools
and community
conservation in Malawi

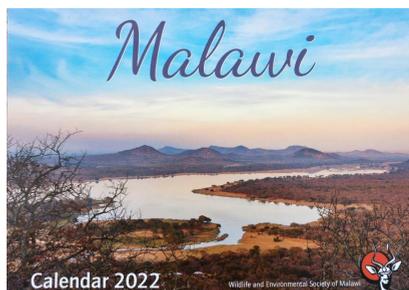
Buy our 2022 calendar
and support us!

PRICE £11

Available from:

Hilary Watkinson
Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church

Please contact:
hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com



REMEMBERING YOUR GENEROSITY...

While on holiday in the Orkney Isles in July, I chose some silver jewellery designed by Orcadian, Sheila Fleet, with which to remember a happy time as locum in Mayfield Salisbury. I hope the congregation thinks this a fitting use of a proportion of the very generous cheque given to me on my departure in January.

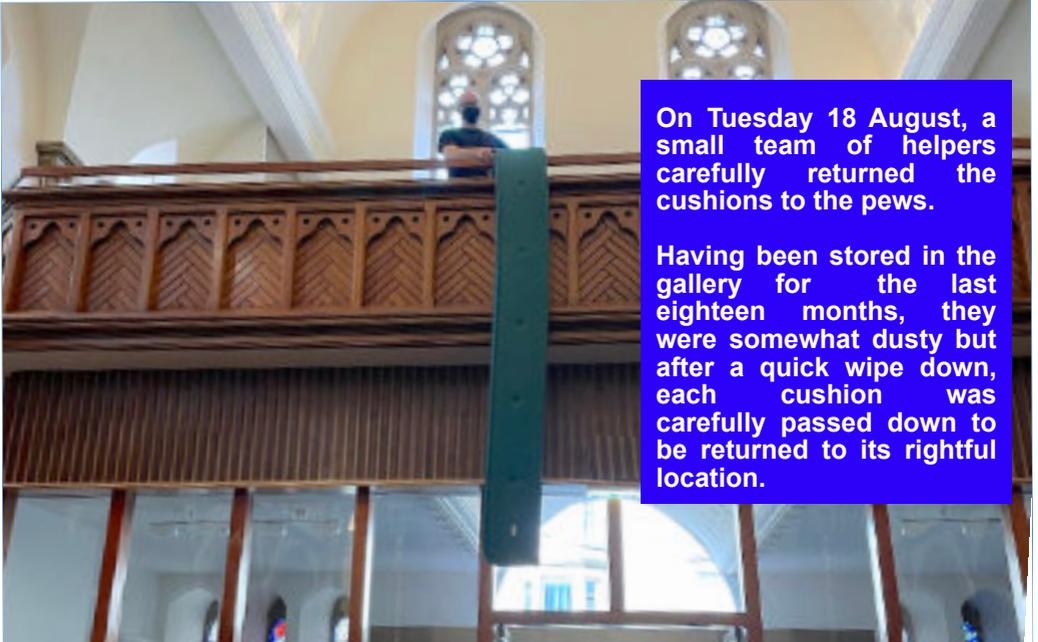
The inspiration for the pendant came from a circular whorl stone found at Birsay in Orkney's North West Mainland. This spinning stone is carved with ancient Ogham script which dates from 500AD. Its meaning is said to be A Blessing on the Soul.

I love wearing my jewellery and send my renewed thanks to you all with good wishes and much blessing on the soul of the congregation.

Helen Alexander



RETURN OF THE PEW CUSHIONS



On Tuesday 18 August, a small team of helpers carefully returned the cushions to the pews.

Having been stored in the gallery for the last eighteen months, they were somewhat dusty but after a quick wipe down, each cushion was carefully passed down to be returned to its rightful location.

PASTORAL CARE

The beginning of September and a sense of change is beginning in the weather. It has been lovely to see some of you face to face over the past few weeks. Hopefully we will see everyone soon with the hope of resurrecting our short afternoon services too.

Our pastoral visitors have all updated their safeguarding training and I include a couple of training events for anyone who would be interested in attending.

Remember we do not have district elders anymore and so if you would like to have a visit from a church visitor, please contact Sandy, myself or one of our five coordinators and we shall organise that for you.

Kay McIntosh DCS

Pastoral Assistant

0790 326 6307



Faith in Older People Death, Dying and Bereavement

A seminar:

*How do we develop
compassionate support?*

**Thursday 23 September
At 2.30pm (BY ZOOM)**

Booking Link:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/faith-in-older-people-seminar-death-dying-and-bereavement-tickets-162392758111>

Church of Scotland Regional Conversations On Pastoral Care

**Thursday 2 September
At 7.30pm to 9.00pm
Edinburgh and West Lothian.**

Booking:

<https://regional-conversations-on-pastoral-care.eventbrite.co.uk>

Contact:

learn@churchofscotland.org.uk

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@icloud.com

Maggie Ross
668 3859 maggiejeanross@btinternet.com

Hilary Watkinson
hilary.watkinson@btinternet.com

28TH BRAID SCOUT GROUP



Whilst we managed to operate successfully from the start of the pandemic, the loss of camping was a major blow. There was therefore great joy when we learned that we could have a Summer Camp with the only major restriction being the need for single occupancy in tents. We had been contingency planning for months and the hike tents bought from the generous gift from the Church proved to be invaluable.

We returned to our favourite site near Carrbridge and took 22 Scouts and 9 Leaders, enjoying 5 days of glorious sun followed by an acceptable level of dampness. Despite the lack of experience, the Scouts settled in quickly and were soon up to our normal high standards of camping.

During the course of the 10 days, the Scouts enjoyed a varied programme that included challenges, camping skills, hikes, watersports, mountain biking, visit to a Zip

Wire park, wide games and helping the estate owners with a conservation project. We also took the opportunity to send a 'Thank You' to one of our former Scouts, Sandy Douglas, who is part of the Oxford University Vaccine team. We wanted to express our gratitude to Sandy, and asked him to pass it on to the rest of the team as, without them, camping and so many other things would not have been possible this summer.

We now look forward to starting up again in September with a mix of outdoor activities and more normal meetings in the hall. Thank you to the MSPC Covid Task Group for their assistance in helping with a return to a new normal.

Alan Dickson

Scout Leader

Scottish Charity No SC006141

Readings: Acts 17:16 - 34 and 2 Timothy 4: 1 - 7

Paul in Athens: Seeing Faith Through Another's Eyes



communicated that strikes a chord, that makes scripture come alive in our hearts, and through that mutual unpacking of the word of God, we might feel the closer presence of God, and begin to think about our own lives and how God relates to it. At its very best! At its worst, preaching might give you a few minutes to think about what's for lunch, or of how bodily comfort and hard pews don't often go together.

The point of preaching is to find new and revealed meaning for

Mark Twain said of a particularly dull minister, 'when the pastor prays, he closes his eyes, and when he preaches, I close mine'.

Is this stuff striking the right chord? There's an unwritten assumption about preaching that it has a value. Some argue that now our digital and visual culture has rendered preaching irrelevant and meaningless. Words, words, words, when feelings and emotions, the deeper experience of the divine should be 'where it's at'. So what's the point anymore?

Not that blind adherence to tradition should be applauded, but for starters it has been one of the focal points of the whole Reformed tradition over the past 500 years that we're part of. That the word of God, founded in the Scriptures, should be read to all of the people in public, in a language they can understand, and then those who are trained or ordained, speak to the gathering of the Christian community and they interpret the Scriptures, together – as the whole people of God they raise questions and look for answers, they share the story. And the hope is that, with the work of the Holy Spirit, something is

life. Activist Yolanda King said, 'the best sermons are those that are lived'. Not just for me in what I've discovered. Or to show off some learning I've picked up along the way. It's about what works for you too. One of my favourite descriptions is that the preacher should imagine that he or she is sitting beside a person in the pew, that the Bible is open in front of them both, and together they are trying to work out, through the Bible passage, what God is saying and where he is leading them. Or that of the philosopher Soren Kierkegaard, who said that the people think that the preacher is an actor on the stage and they are the critics, whereas in fact they are the actors on the stage, and the preacher is merely the prompter in the wings, reminding them of their lost lines.

Finding again those lost lines, or striking the right chord, is like having four of your fingers on the keyboard of a piano or the fretboard of the guitar – one note from God's word in Scripture, one note from the preacher, one note from the listener, and one note from the Holy Spirit sparking ideas, thoughts, reflections: all meeting together at once to make a lively, coherent, occasionally beautiful sound.

And the listener, (you), is such a central part of it. You bring your whole self to it. Without you this is pointless, it's shouting at the wind. Without you, there is discord, like a child's first scratchy attempts on a violin, or Les Dawson clumsily bashing away at the piano.

So let's all forget sermons that say, 'you'd better listen up, people', usually to the sound of my voice or be damned, that speak more of power than God. For sometimes, as the song says, depending on your era, it's by Ella Fitzgerald or by the Fun Boy Three with Bananarama, 'it ain't what you say, it's the way that you say it, and that's what gets results'. This is more about me, or indeed you in life, making sense of God to another person. For if there's no communication of the Gospel that has context and meaning, that takes account of the culture, needs, the life, the joys and woes of the other person, it's just a series of hectoring, confrontational propositions dressed up in doctrine. Who could then blame those beyond these walls for thinking, Christianity is totally irrelevant for reality as I live it? It's all moralising, or pie in the sky.

How do we then ground faith in the life of the other, without selling out, or losing its meaning and power? How do we ground faith not only in its words, spoken from a pulpit or chatted in a café, but engage with another in faith in a genuinely empathetic way? In a way that respects and even understands, that listens and loves and does not condemn, so that for the other the sparks of faith begin to fly from where they are, perhaps even unaffected by the cultural baggage that we bring? How can we allow other people to grow in faith in a way that works for them, and not expect them to become like us? How do we find the open space to allow God to be seen through another's eyes? Those are some of the big questions, for me, that should drive thoughts of mission as the church moves forward.



The Jesuit missionary Vincent Donovan wrote a very influential book in the 1970s called *Christianity Re-discovered*, memoirs of his missionary experiences with the Masai people in southern Kenya. He travelled from village to village, greeting local people, helping them in any way if he could, speaking if he was invited to about his faith. After a few months, he asked what they thought of this God he had been describing and of Jesus, and whether they had considered baptism, prayer, worship.

When Donovan was not present, unbeknown to him, the Masai has been assimilating the ideas he had given them, in the context of their own lives. Those ideas had been percolated through their own culture and indigenous beliefs. Unexpectedly, Donovan was then presented with a series of almost impossible theological questions, that he could not answer from his own training. It dawned on him that he had assumed that his own understanding of the Gospel was normative for the world, coming out of an affluent Western Christendom culture - it had many of the trappings of the thought processes and cultural assumptions of the West which made no sense there. None of that had encumbered the Masai. Donovan said, 'now truly I was becoming the learner as well as the teacher'.

Paul's encounter with Greek philosophers in Athens in Acts 17 at the Areopagus



Council sharply raised just those issues, and his response is informative for where we are now as people living in a society: where the Christian message is often a **foreign language wrapped up in an unknown culture, and where as a church as we seek to move ahead and navigate in those swirling waters where all tides of thought and belief collide.** Paul talked to the Greeks about their Gods, their beliefs, their philosophy, and made sense about who God and Jesus were in that context. He spoke of the philosophy of the Epicureans and the Stoics, he quoted their poets. He sought to ground faith through their eyes, as much as he could. But at the end of his sermon, he did not shy back from boldly stating the central points of the Gospel that Jesus had come to proclaim: repentance and resurrection. Just as he urged Timothy in the second letter: proclaim the message, be persistent, convince, rebuke and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. All of these were on display in his brief time in the great cultural and intellectual capital of its day.

Paul was there in Athens alone, waiting for Silas and Timothy to arrive, at the very epicentre of the whole classical tradition, with its intellectual refinement and a whole variety of deities to choose from – ‘pick and mix’ religion indeed. Invited to address the great collective wisdom of the Areopagus Council, a governing authority who met on a hill in the shadow of the Acropolis, Paul was speaking to a highly educated crowd completely unfamiliar with the Jewish

culture which ungirded this new Christian religion.

How did he choose to communicate in this strange and possibly hostile world? First, he observed and he respected. Verse 22 – I see how extremely religious you are in every way, for as I went through the city I saw the altar to the unknown god.

Second, he argued in verses 24 to 29 that this unknown God was actually the one he had been accused of babbling about. Were he speaking to Jews he could have quoted the Scriptures in support, but instead he spoke of God as creator in a way that would have been entirely familiar in the Greek philosophical tradition, quoting two Greek poets in verse 28 to affirm that all humanity is the offspring of God. So far, everyone would have recognised his language and that the laying of common ground between them was established – the two had met on equal terms.

And when in verses 30 to 31 Paul then explicitly set out the Christian message that repentance and judgment were on the horizon, underpinned by Jesus and the resurrection of the dead, he did not condemn his hearers for believing what they did, despite having beliefs that we are told that distressed Paul, nor did he do so when some scoffed, some asked for more, and some accepted. Paul simply moved on.

In our day of religious pluralism, and of many self-describing as ‘spiritual but not religious’, we stand in a similar place – a melting pot of ideas and theories, none granted exclusive rights or dominance any more. If our engagement with the world is to be modelled on Paul in Athens, then respect of all spiritually seeking is central, as is understanding, observation and walking alongside. Like Paul, we should not expect that Christianity will resonate with all, if indeed with many, and it is not our place to condemn those that choose a different path.

But we welcome those who do engage, and those who may want to think and listen again. As Clifton Black says, 'all other religious views do not have to be dynamited to prove the gospel true.'

Jesus in parables and stories used arguments that the people before Him could understand in their language, to address the important questions for them, as did Paul. That too is the challenge as a preacher. But if we are all a community of saints, a priesthood of all believers, it is also your challenge, as our faith meets our lives in the world.

The big questions for all of us are - How do we make it real? How do we ground faith in our everyday lives, and also the lives of those all around us, at home, at work, at play? How does it make sense to believe in God when we are there?

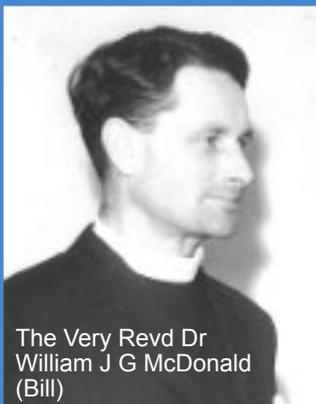
As Paul said in Athens, God does not live in shrines made by human hands. If the message of God only faces inwards, if it's something that stays in this building, and makes sense only if you have the knowledge and the lingo, that is not a Gospel that is living and breathing in the world.

The great leader of the Iona Community in the last century, George MacLeod, wrote:

'I simply argue that the Cross be raised again at the centre of the market place as well as on the steeple of the church...Jesus was not crucified in a cathedral between two candles, but on a cross between two thieves; on the town garbage heap; at a crossroads...the kind of place where cynics talk smut, thieves curse and soldiers gamble. Because that is where he died. And that is what he died about.'

The Gospel is never communicated in a vacuum. It's always about context and culture - who we are, who other people are, how they understand the world. There is no pure message to be swallowed like a pill, but only as it is translated to the marketplace, just like that crossroads at Calvary, amongst all the glory and the mess of real life. This is not a God contained in a shrine made by human hands.

Whoever we are, however we hear the Gospel, or feel our faith to be real, let us rejoice in this life, this world, this God, the promises of faith, resurrection and new life. As we step forward into the unknown as a church, as the followers of a loving and ever faithful God, maybe we might find together the presence of the divine once more as we hear again those lost lines, as we strike the right chords, here in God's house and in the world around us. Amen.



The Very Revd Dr
William J G McDonald
(Bill)

THE BILL MCDONALD LECTURE

A date for your diary is Sunday 3 October at 7.00pm when we will hold the second Bill McDonald Lecture in the church sanctuary.

We will confirm the details shortly but you will wish to pencil in the date. The speaker will be Dr Rutovitz, founder of Edinburgh Direct Aid.

CHRISTIAN AID

**THE PLANET IS FLOODING, ABLAZE,
SUFFERING A PANDEMIC AND AT WAR**

WHAT CAN I DO ? HOW CAN I HELP ?

Things have become very uncertain for us Afghans since the Taliban take over. This is the start of a new grim and stark chapter in the history of Afghanistan.

Izhar, Christian Aid Programme Funding and Development Manager, Afghanistan

WE CAN PRAY

Pray for Afghanistan

O God of mercy and of peace, We hold before you the peoples of Afghanistan. Be living bread to those who are hungry each day. Be healing and wholeness to those who have no access to health care amidst the ravages of pandemic. Be their true home to all who have been displaced. Be open arms of loving acceptance to those who fear because of their gender, ethnicity, religious or political views. Be peace to those engaged in armed conflict and those who live within its shadow. Turn our hearts and minds to your ways of just and gentle peace. Open our eyes to see you in all acts of compassionate care.

Strengthen our hearts to step out in solidarity with your suffering people and hold us all in your unfailing love. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, who emptied himself of all but love in order to bring life in all its fullness. Amen

WE CAN DONATE TO THE AFGHANISTAN HUNGER APPEAL

In this desperate time of violence in Afghanistan, it is easy to feel powerless. However, by supporting the Christian Aid team and local partners to reach those in urgent need, our actions can make a difference when the people of Afghanistan need it most.



Donations can be made by cheque, CAF, Foundation Scotland, or via BACS to Christian

Aid account number 23179621 | Sort code: 20-00-00

Please include a reference to your name and **'Afghanistan'** with your donation.

You can also donate online at <http://caid.org.uk/globalhunger2021>

Please note all donations received for our **Global Hunger Appeal** during the appeal period will be directed specifically to Afghanistan.

WE CAN ADD OUR VOICES TO THE CHRISTIAN AID CAMPAIGN

Join with Christian Aid in calling on the UK Government to support people in Afghanistan, their neighbouring countries, and to welcome those seeking refuge in the UK.

Stand with Afghanistan - Christian Aid
www.christianaid.org.uk/get-involved/campaigns/stand-afghanistan

Stand in solidarity with Afghanistan and all those fleeing conflicts or persecution, as they seek refuge around the world.

The Christian Aid Committee will be submitting a longer review in the next issue of *Grapevine*, which will also include:

- An October date for the Autumn Jams and Jellies (and Marmalade) sale at Mayfield Salisbury.
- COP26 GLASGOW – further information about how we plan to lend our M-S support.

With good wishes from
The Christian Aid Committee

NEWS

BETHANY VAN NEWS



We now have a super team of helpers, having welcomed several new people, but can always welcome others. Thanks are due to those who have stepped down, Dick and Jo Scott, Hilary Watkinson, Danny McQueen, Nigel Ostrowski and Evelyne Struthers. Their contributions have been greatly valued. We have welcomed Alan Fairley, Anne Wilson, Eleanor Ross, Kirsty Montgomery and Sandy Forsyth to the team and we hope they enjoy being part of the group.

But it's not only those who volunteer to go out on the van who support the Bethany Christian Trust - you can too! As the cooler weather approaches, we are looking for donations of warm clothing, including undergarments, hats, scarves and gloves. Also much appreciated are any items of personal hygiene. A collection box will be in the foyer where you can put your donation.

Anne Robertson
amr.ar106@gmail.com

Thank you.

THE GUILD



A new joint Church of Scotland Guild is beginning for the churches on much of Edinburgh's south side, including our own, which you are very welcome to join.

Come along to a taster session for the new beginning on Tuesday 14 September at 2.00pm at Marchmont St Giles, to hear Karen Gillon, the Guild Associate Secretary, talk about the Guild and moving forward into the future.

WILL RELIEF SCOTLAND



We're happy to be supporting Will Relief Scotland, a campaign that comes into effect every September.

Participating solicitors all over Scotland set aside their fees for making or amending a will, and instead accept a donation for their services. That donation goes to four charities: Blythswood Care, EMMS International, MAF and Signpost International. These are four Scottish, Christian charities that have a shared vision to see the lives of people in need touched and transformed across the world.

If you are interested in making or amending your will as part of the campaign, for more information take a leaflet as you leave church, or visit willreliefscotland.org, the Will Relief Scotland Facebook page or phone Mairi who is co-ordinating the campaign on 01349 830777.

BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Please note the contact email for Mr Steve Holehouse, Convenor of the Business Committee, is now: cbcmSPC@gmail.com

It has long been a tradition for congregations, on welcoming a new Minister to a Church, to offer a welcome gift to mark his or her arrival. With various forms of lockdown and limited opportunities to get together it has not proved possible to get this organised before now. With the agreement of the Kirk Session I am writing to you now to invite such contributions as you feel able to give towards this induction present. I have discussed this with Sandy who is very appreciative of the thought. After some reflection, he has indicated that any funds could go towards expanding his clerical attire.

If you feel able to contribute, might I invite you to hand in donations to myself or William by the end of September. If you prefer to transfer funds electronically, please email me at clerkmspc@gmail.com and I will forward the necessary bank details.

Life and Work was recognised on Sunday 29 August. It has been the magazine of the Church of Scotland for over 140 years. *Life and Work* has a website, www.lifeandwork.org on which they offer up-to-date news, exclusive features and free downloadable resources, such as guides to the decisions of General Assemblies. You will also find them on Facebook, at facebook.com/lifeandwork, and on Twitter @cofslifeandwork .

There is a special promotion to encourage new subscribers underway at £6 for 3 months for new subscribers or from £1.99 for download of the digital version. Details are on the Life and Work website or from Colin MacKenzie– who manages MSPC subscriptions and is happy to be contacted by email cmackenzie@doctors.org.uk

My parents always were subscribers, so I have been aware of it for many decades! It suffered from the limitations of the time, poor paper, terribly small print and little colour. But it has gone from strength to strength always benefitting from modernisation. (I say this because I think people were put off by its limitations) and now it is a vibrant production.

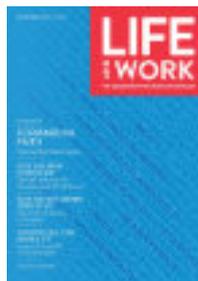
Lovely use of colour photography, excellent articles and interviews, often amusing but always informative; prayers and poems, snippets of news, of local and global contexts, and a crossword, make up the bulk of the content. Even the adverts are interesting!! In short, I would wholeheartedly recommend it. Why not give it a try?

You can buy single copies.

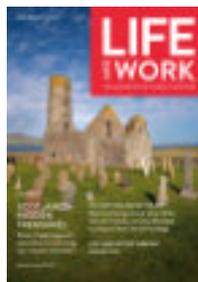
INDUCTION WELCOME FOR THE REVD DR SANDY FORSYTH



LIFE AND WORK



Boyd McAdam



Rosemary Currie



REVD PHILIP HACKING

Congratulations to our former Pastoral Assistant and Organist Philip Hacking. He was appointed and ordained as an Ordained Local Minister at Polmont Old Parish Church on Thursday 12 August.

We wish him every success in his new position.

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

September

5	Isaiah	6,7	/	II Timothy	2
6	Isaiah	8,9	/	Psalm	102
7	Isaiah	10-12	/	II Timothy	3
8	Isaiah	13,14	/	II Timothy	4
9	Isaiah	15,16	/	Psalm	103
10	Isaiah	17-20	/	Titus	1
11	Isaiah	21,22	/	Titus	2
12	Isaiah	23,24	/	Titus	3
3	Isaiah	25,26	/	Psalm	104
14	Isaiah	27,28	/	Philemon	
15	Isaiah	29,30	/	Hebrews	1
16	Isaiah	31,32	/	Psalm	105
17	Isaiah	33,34	/	Hebrews	2
18	Isaiah	35,36	/	Hebrews	3
19	Isaiah	37,38	/	Hebrews	4
20	Isaiah	39,40	/	Psalm	106
21	Isaiah	41,42	/	Hebrews	5
22	Isaiah	43,44	/	Hebrews	6
23	Isaiah	45,46	/	Psalm	107

24	Isaiah	47,48	/	Hebrews	7
25	Isaiah	49,50	/	Hebrews	8
26	Isaiah	51,52	/	Hebrews	9
27	Isaiah	53,54	/	Psalms	108,109
28	Isaiah	55,56	/	Hebrews	10
29	Isaiah	57,58	/	Hebrews	11
30	Isaiah	59,60	/	Psalms	110,111

October

1	Isaiah	61,62	/	Hebrews	12
2	Isaiah	63,64	/	Hebrews	13
3	Isaiah	65,66	/	John	1
4	Jeremiah	1,2	/	Psalms	112,113
5	Jeremiah	3,4	/	John	2
6	Jeremiah	5,6	/	John	3
7	Jeremiah	7,8	/	Psalms	114,115
8	Jeremiah	9,10	/	John	4
9	Jeremiah	11,12	/	John	5
10	Jeremiah	13,14	/	John	6
11	Jeremiah	15,16	/	Psalm	116

NEWS DISTRIBUTION

Many thanks to all who have opted to receive *Grapevine* by e-mail, thereby saving printing and paper costs and, in some cases, postage as well. Please reconsider this from time to time and amend your preferred choice(s) for receiving relevant Congregational News by revising and submitting the following options.

I/We wish to receive church news as follows:

- By email incorporating *Grapevine* PDF file
- In *Grapevine* printed issue standard size
- In *Grapevine* printed issue LARGE PRINT
- In 0930 Congregational News emails
- In Youth Newsletter emails
- In Congregational News emails - regular news sent in addition to a magazine.

Please return this form to:

- Church Manager, 18 West Mayfield, Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ.
- Phone on 0780 801 1234
- Email to: churchmanager@googlemail.com

Name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Address _____

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Please note that all services and times are subject to change

The 10.45am service will be broadcast live each Sunday on the church website here: www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/online

And also on our YouTube page here: www.youtube.com/user/MayfieldSalisbChurch

Please note the dial-a-sermon phone service has been discontinued. At the time of publication, there is no requirement to book a space at worship. We have enough space for everyone who wishes to attend so please do come along. This, of course, may change depending on the prevailing covid restrictions and rules.

Please refer to the church website www.mayfieldsalisbury.org/attend or phone the church office on **0131 667 1522** for up-to-date service information.
Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost -

September

Sun 5 9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth - SF)
10.45am Service of Worship Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (SF)

Sat 11 Congregational Pilgrimage (fully booked)

Sun 12 9.30am All-Age Worship (SF)
10.45am Service of Worship - Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost (SF)

Tue 14 2.00pm Guild at Marchmont St Giles (see page 16)
7.30pm Kirk Session

**Thu 16 6.30pm Welcome Event for Postgraduate Students of the School of Divinity
(Booking required)**

Sun 19 9.30am All-Age Worship (SF)
10.45am Service of Worship - Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (SF)

Tue 21 2.30pm Afternoon Service (SF)

Sun 26 9.30am All-Age Worship - Holy Communion (SF)
10.45am Service of Worship - Holy Communion - Pentecost +18 (SF)

October

Sun 3 9.30am All-Age Worship (SF)
10.45am Service of Worship - Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (SF)
7.00pm **The Bill McDonald Lecture (Dr Denis Rutovitz)**

Sat 9 Congregational Gathering

CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

Deaths

Robert Black
Neil Lucas

Deaths continued

Margaret Muir
Angus Duncan

Departure

Elizabeth Curran

WHO'S WHO IN MAYFIELD SALISBURY

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

Minister

Rev'd Dr Alexander Forsyth AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 667 1286

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

Boyd McAdam clerkmspc@gmail.com 0777 358 7579

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

Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits,
contact the Pastoral Assistant.

Online Giving

Secure online offerings: www.give.net/20311853

Staff Days Off

Minister: Fridays
Pastoral Assistant: Friday & Saturday
Youth Worker: Friday & Saturday
Manager: Monday-PM & Fridays



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 1st October