



Dec 22 / Jan 23

Issue 267

Scottish Charity SC000785

# GRAPEVINE

Mayfield Salisbury Parish (Edinburgh) Church of Scotland



Birth of Jesus - © José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro / CC BY-SA 4.0

**CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**A 'PICNIC OF TEDDIES'**

**MORLEY'S TREE**

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

# FROM THE MANSE

*Dear Friends,*

'So tired, tired of waiting, tired of waiting for you', as The Kinks sang in 1965. Waiting can be an endlessly exasperating pursuit. For the date of the operation to be sent out; for the good news of a safe birth; for the phone to ring with an important call; for the exam results to be announced or, on a more trivial level, the bus to eventually come, or the friend to finally emerge from the changing room in the clothes shop! Our modern mind is not programmed to accept waiting easily. In a world of instant access to all information, and where on my smartphone I can instantly order a bunch of flowers to be sent to a loved one in Sydney, Australia or just as easily buy a new car to be delivered straight to my door, why must we wait? Waiting is disappearing from the realms of acceptability as fast as a same-day delivery on Amazon. If we need it and want it, why can't we just get it now? And if you can't provide that, who will?



'Kingdom of God' where peace and justice will flow over the earth; when the gun and the bullet will be redundant and tears of weeping and pain will be no more. But we must wait for this servant King to return. And the 'Kingdom of God' that he has inaugurated can be seen only in glimpses and flashes of light, in a world where darkness and cruelty, injustice and oppression are still all too apparent after two millennia.

Imagine then a great global faith where waiting is one its cornerstones. A faith that speaks of a time when there will be the return of a servant King, a God equally human and divine, who had walked this earth two thousand years ago. And when he became one of us, this God/man spoke of repentance and forgiveness, of the acceptance of the rejected, the diseased, the stranger; of the transformation of people, communities and nations. With this servant King his weakness was his strength; his humility and sacrifice were seen as victories, not borne of power or domination. He never tired of foretelling to everyone the coming of a world of the

And now this Advent time which is upon us is a time of waiting too. Must we still wait? I wonder though whether the 'delayed gratification' that is infused through Advent is a deliberate and very beneficial pacing of a Christian season, like Lent before Easter, which forces us to stop and think rather than demand action here and now. It says in Lamentations Chapter 3, 'The Lord is all that I have, therefore I shall wait for him patiently...it is good to wait in patience for deliverance from the Lord'. 'Slow faith', like 'slow food' or 'slow TV'. The chance to pause and reflect, to chew slowly and cherish every morsel of flavour.

To think about ourselves and reflect on who we are and what we have become – what needs changing, stopping, renewing. To think about our world and how we can add a little to all that speaks of goodness and light. To think of faith and the meaning of the coming Christ-child in our lives and for all humanity, as the true light even in its darkest hours. So that when we come to sing ‘Joy to the World, the Lord Has Come’ as a Christmas carol, it might carry a depth of meaning in our hearts so that the joy might be overflowing and not imaginary.

Perhaps then this time of waiting in Advent is even more important than the end outcome of Jesus’ birth, which we celebrate with turkey and all the trimmings on Christmas Day. For it is in the act of waiting that the presence of God might be most deeply felt. To re-set and re-calibrate to God.

The violence of our world goes on. Our personal battles persist. We wait still. But maybe that waiting should not heighten anxiety or exasperation, if God is in the waiting. And maybe a religion where waiting is one of the cornerstones is not one of weakness and forlorn hope, but instead more powerful than any ‘quick fix’ solutions of self-help, or the sugar-rush of instantaneous pleasure, might ever be. Richard Holloway once said that for those who ask God for deliverance and yet still feel the bite of thorns in their flesh, it should not be an empty wait of despair. Instead, wrote Holloway:

*‘Many...learn to wait, find an answer in the waiting, and see that the waiting is not an empty thing; it is not an absence of something, it is a more powerful kind of presence...the waiting is the way they know God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness. After a while, they no longer wait for something to happen, because the waiting is the happening, it is the way they follow Christ, the waiting becomes the way’.*

In this Advent time before Christmas, as we peer ahead for the light at the end of the tunnel in our own lives, or dare to imagine a time when war in Ukraine might end, or a just peace might come to the Holy Land, or the scandal of people going hungry and cold this winter in our rich country is only a memory, maybe then ‘the waiting is the happening’. For it is then that true transformation might happen – of our hearts and souls – a time to re-connect with God, a resurgence of hope in our lives, and with it the rising potential for the greater in-breaking of God’s Kingdom in our time too.

It was a pleasure to host Revd Sally Foster-Fulton, head of Christian Aid Scotland, at Mayfield Salisbury a few weeks back, when she preached at our Harvest service. And wonderful to hear later that Sally will be the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May next year. Sally has written a moving book of prayers and reflections for Advent called *Hope was Heard Singing*. One prayer says this:

*“Be with us, God.  
In this time of waiting and watching,  
wrestle in us –  
stretch our searching souls  
so that we see our wants more clearly.  
Help us to untie the knots we  
get ourselves into  
by desiring what cannot complete us.  
Guide our longing souls back to you.”*

May that be our prayer too in this ‘time of waiting and watching.’ May God bless you and your loved ones in this Advent time. May you have a happy Christmas. And may the love, peace and hope of God be your companions in these days, and throughout the coming year.

God bless,  
*Sandy*

# CHURCH LOFT SPACE RE-INSULATION

'Fear no more the heat o' the sun,  
Nor the furious winter's rages;

....not because, as in Shakespeare's Cymbeline (Act 4, Sc 2), we are all doomed, but because after considerable effort and generosity we have finalised the re-insulation of the loft space in the Nave and Transepts. This work was first identified as part of an Eco audit and was taken on as one of many Eco related Fabric tasks by the Business Committee.

As has been reported by the Session Clerk in email correspondence to the congregation at large and also to the Kirk Session directly, the church's cast-iron, piped hot water heating system, some of which is over 100 years-old, is failing fast. We are currently only able to operate part of the heating system from the 1970s, so our ability to heat the large Church volume is very much reduced and ensuring as much of that precious heat is retained in the building is essential, from both a comfort and an economic point of view.

This work has been carried out under the careful supervision of Chris Nuttall, the Fabric Convener, and comes on the back of



an earlier successful insulation of the Bill McDonald Hall.

The Church (Nave and Transepts) re-insulation cost us ca. £10,000.00, which was paid for by a generous legacy from the late Miss May Miller, who died in January 2021.

We are most grateful for Miss May Miller's legacy and the benefit it bestows upon us.

Steve Holehouse, Convener  
Business Committee

## GIVING AND QR CODE

You will see we have added a QR code to this magazine and larger versions near the church exit doors. Our Quick Response code is a handy way of using your smart phone or tablet's QR app to link you to our Giving Page. Once you have joined the Giving Page, all the usual protocols and safeguards are still operative. The Kirk Session wishes to express its continuing gratitude to those who support the Church's work through their offerings. Covid restrictions have prevented circulation of the 'plate' during services but those who would have wished to use it may make use of the bowls marked Plate Collection situated in the vestibule and halls entrance, at the close of the service .



Regular and one-off donations are possible online at [www.give.net/20311853](http://www.give.net/20311853) or please contact our Freewill Offerings Treasurer, Hugh Somerville.  
Hugh Somerville - [hs.somerville2@gmail.com](mailto:hs.somerville2@gmail.com) 0131 466 2446

## CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

Our tradition of splitting the offerings from the Watchnight and Christmas morning services equally, between our supported charities of Christian Aid and CrossReach, will continue in 2022

The Christmas morning service is a joint one including Craigmillar Park and Priestfield churches and will take place here at Mayfield Salisbury. Please see dates for your diary for more information.

## MUSICAL CONCERT ON 11 DECEMBER



Walter Thomson,  
Choirmaster.  
[walterthomson@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:walterthomson@hotmail.co.uk)  
07517 050140

Our choir and Chamber Group will present an evening of Advent and Christmas music on 11 December. We would be delighted if we were joined by other singers from Mayfield Salisbury and indeed from Priestfield and Craigmillar Park, to make an extra special joint musical event. While you would not need to be brilliant sight readers, and there will be a chance to learn the music, a degree of musical literacy would be required. A number of singers have volunteered, mostly ladies, so it would be good if some singing men joined us.

Rehearsals will be on Thursday evenings. If you would like to take part or to ask any questions about it, please let Walter know as soon as possible so he can know the numbers of copies of music required.

## SOUTHSIDE GUILD – TWO DATES FOR DECEMBER

A joint meeting of all Guilds in Edinburgh at Craigmillar Park Church on 6 December at 2.00pm when the speaker is Joanne Brown, the Development Worker from the national Guild.

The next Southside Guild meeting is 13 December at 2.00pm. It is our Christmas party. All welcome - bring a secret Santa present!

## WARM HUBS



Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth  
[AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
0131 667 1286

To provide places each day of warmth and welcome over the winter for members of the churches and their friends, six local churches, including Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, Baptist and Jewish congregations, are intending to work together to provide such a space in their respective places of worship, hopefully starting soon.

Mayfield Salisbury may well do so on a Friday afternoon, say between 1.00pm and 4.00pm. If we are to do so, we would need two volunteers to give their time on every such afternoon, to welcome folk and be available if there are any issues. Might you be willing to do so?

Please do consider and let the minister know – thank you.

## MAYFIELD MILERS



Jean MacGilchrist  
077102 13754  
[jbleitch@gmail.com](mailto:jbleitch@gmail.com)

Mayfield Milers is a walking group made up of members and friends of Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church. If you would like any further information about these walks or the Mayfield Milers group, please contact Jean MacGilchrist using the details on the left.

### Friday 16 December

Meggetland Sports Centre, along Union Canal to Craiglockhart Ponds. 2.5 mls  
Meet at Church 10am travel by bus.

### Wednesday 4 January

Planning Meeting 6pm Quiet Room Church House. Come with suggestions for walks, long, medium and short.

### Friday 6 January

North Berwick Shore Walk Transport Bus/car share

### Saturday 14 January

Aberlady to Gullane 8 mls. Meet at Church 10.00am. Car share.

## JUBILO CHRISTMAS CAROL CONCERT

FRIDAY 16 DEC  
FROM 7.30PM

You are warmly invited to join Jubilo for their annual Christmas Carol Concert on Friday 16 December at 7.30pm in St Cuthbert's Church, Lothian Road. Libby Crabtree will conduct the Choir, who will be accompanied by the Edinburgh Players.

Tickets are priced at £14 and £12.50 conc. Available from Honey Ballantine, Winifred Hodge, George Ross and from [www.ticketsource.co.uk/Jubilo](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/Jubilo) This will be our first Carol Concert since the pandemic. We do hope you can join us!

## GIFT SERVICES - SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER



Anne Graham  
0131 667 6331

Warm thanks to all who have been able to contribute gifts, cash, vouchers and wrapping paper to the annual appeal. The boxes will be hugely appreciated by our recipients. One of the 'smaller' donations goes to the Stopover Hostel for homeless teens. In January 2020 their Residential Services Manager said:

*Some (residents) had nobody to visit them on Christmas Day and many had no cards or gifts from family or friends. It was really wonderful to be able to give everyone staying here gifts to open on Christmas Day. We cannot thank you enough for your ongoing support of our services.*

## A CHRISTMAS GIFT IDEA

0131 460 7487  
[www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org)  
Code XMAS22

Why not give yourself or someone else a subscription to Life and Work, for a year of news, features and opinions within the church and beyond. A special offer of 12 issues for the price of 10 is currently available, delivered directly to your address. To subscribe, phone 0131 460 7487 or visit [www.lifeandwork.org](http://www.lifeandwork.org), quoting the promotion code XMAS22

# CONGREGATIONAL REGISTER

### Death

Irene Scott

### Departures

Alasdair and Sheena Macdonald

*The pastoral care team would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and we send you blessings for peace and good health for 2023.*



If you would now like to have a pastoral visitor or regular phone calls, please contact Kay on 07903 266 307.

## FOODBANK DONATIONS

With the great concern about the cost of living over the winter, we are re-starting collections of tinned and dried food (not fresh food) to give to those who will be in need. Most of the food will be donated to the foodbank which is open on Wednesday afternoons by our friends at Priestfield Parish Church, run via the **Edinburgh Food Project**. Some will be retained here, in case anyone comes to the church looking for food.

If you would like to donate, there will be a marked collection point (under a bench!) at the side door (West Mayfield) for bags of food to be placed in. Thank you!

## COLLECTION POINT



# NEWS FROM CHRISTIAN AID

It was a great pleasure to have Sally Foster-Fulton, head of Christian Aid Scotland, with us at our service on 16 October. Her thought-provoking sermon drew many appreciative comments. And we were delighted to hear that she has recently been named as the next Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland!



The bread and soup lunch which followed was organised jointly by Christian Aid supporters from Mayfield Salisbury, Priestfield and Craigmillar Park churches. It was an enjoyable occasion, and a great opportunity to work together and get to know our partner churches a little better.

We are grateful to everyone who supported Christian Aid on Harvest Sunday, and to all who gave so generously through the retiral collection and at lunch. Proceeds from the colourful and successful Traidcraft stall helped to swell our total, and in all we raised over £2,600. Every penny will help make a difference to the lives of our neighbours in some of the world's poorest communities.

## Christmas appeal

Fyness Tembo, a 50 year-old mum of five from Mzimba district, Malawi, describes how her community celebrates at Christmas:

*'Here in our area, we host dances. The young people play football matches. And we celebrate by eating the special food we have prepared.'*

But sadly, this Christmas, many families in Malawi will struggle. Hunger has

grown, due to the climate crisis, and Fyness knows what a Christmas with no food is like. 'In the past, I struggled to find food,' she says.

Through Christian Aid's local partner SOLDEV (Synod of Livingstonia Development Department), Fyness learned to farm in a way that helps her get her crops through times of drought, and nourishes them at no cost.

*'We have learnt about irrigation, and how to make fertiliser from manure and apply it to the fields,'* she explains, showing us her new garden. Fyness is now growing maize, other much-needed foods like soya, groundnuts and beans, plus vegetables and fruit. There's even some left over that she can sell, to earn an income.

Then there are her seven fruit trees: 'Since I have planted the trees, I know in the future I will have fruits. Then I and my children will no longer struggle to look for wild fruits in the forest. We will get them at home.'

*'I used to lack food, but now, I am able to feed my family. I am grateful to Christian Aid. Thank you very much.'*

This Christmas, you could help mums like Fyness to lift their families out of hunger. Give the gift of love this Christmas.

You can contribute via the offerings at this year's Watchnight and Christmas morning services, which will be shared equally between Christian Aid and CrossReach. Alternatively you can give directly, and take advantage of gift aid, through the Christian Aid website at [www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christmas-appeal) love this Christmas

## Marmalade Sale

And finally, advance warning that we plan to hold our popular Christian Aid marmalade sale early next year. So if you're getting out the preserving pans after Christmas, please consider making a little extra for our stall – we'd really appreciate it!



## A Prayer from Christian Aid

God of love. We thank you for the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, who selfishly, seeking only our own joy this came to earth so that we may be loved and Christmas. so that we choose to love others.

We pray that our lives be filled again with the power of your love, so that we may make a difference in this world. As we get caught up in the busyness and abundance of the season, we thank you, Lord, that your love is patient, your love is kind. Lord, as we walk through Advent, help us not to live

We ask you, Lord, that you once again remind us what love really means, as we share your love this Christmas with our brothers and sisters in Malawi, so that their plates may be piled high once again and the Earth be restored.

Amen.

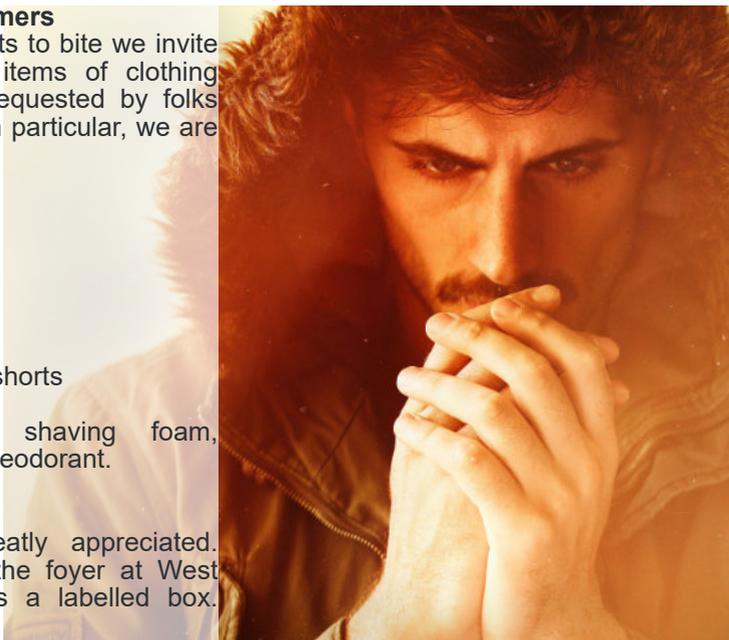
# BETHANY CHRISTIAN TRUST

## Request for winter warmers

As the cold weather starts to bite we invite you to donate certain items of clothing which are most often requested by folks who use the care van. In particular, we are looking for men's

- Warm jackets
- Sweatshirts/ hoodies
- Jogging trousers
- New thermal vests
- Ordinary T shirts
- Warm socks
- New briefs or boxer shorts
- Gloves / beanie hats
- Toothpaste, soap, shaving foam, dispose razors and deodorant.
- Sleeping bags

Your help will be greatly appreciated. Please leave items in the foyer at West Mayfield where there is a labelled box. Many thanks.



# CROSSREACH PERINATAL SERVICES



We had a bucket collection for CrossReach Perinatal Services (PNS) during our morning services on Sunday 6 November. We raised over a thousand pounds and the CrossReach committee is very grateful for the generosity shown by the congregation.

As you will know, CrossReach PNS provides vital support to families expecting a baby and those with small children and this support includes counselling, infant massage, creche facilities and more.

Our orders of service that Sunday included Jacqueline's story from CrossReach's website ([www.crossreach.org.uk](http://www.crossreach.org.uk)) who had been a recipient of support a number of times. She described how her GP had pointed her in the direction of CrossReach's Bluebell Perinatal Counselling Service. She wrote: 'I was so lost, so desperate for someone to look at me and help and she said to me three words that I will never forget. 'I see you' and that was all it took. I knew she meant it. I got more from our conversation in that moment than I had ever had with anyone since becoming a mum. With this Bluebell

counsellor, we did some great work together and I left those sessions better equipped and with the tools to use to navigate myself.

There was a long time when I didn't want to be here, but I also didn't want to die. That limbo is a scary place. No one deserves that. I am grateful to CrossReach for helping me when I needed that most. I'm not sure where I'd be without it.'

If you would have liked to give to CrossReach PNS but missed the chance you can still give online by visiting [crossreach.org.uk](http://crossreach.org.uk) page and clicking the purple "Donate" button at the top right of the page. This takes you to a Just Giving page which is for general CrossReach donations but there is a box in which you can "Add a message of support" and please would you type in there that the donation is for Perinatal Services (or PNS) which will ensure funds are routed to PNS.

Ailsa Garland, CrossReach committee coordinator [ailsa.garland@gmail.com](mailto:ailsa.garland@gmail.com) / 077 931 97 858)



# Scouts

## 28th Braid Scout Troop

### Troop

It has been a busy and varied term beginning with an overnight camp in the woods used by Edinburgh Combat Challenge followed by the activity in the following morning. Other highlights were - working on the Teamwork Challenge Award and Environmental Conservation Badge, a Night Hike over the Pentlands, a visit to the Festival Theatre for the Scout & Guide Gang Show and our annual Parents Night. The evening was the usual mix of the video of our Summer Camp and awards to Scouts for the past Session and for Summer Camp.

### Scout, Cub and Beaver Coffee Morning

Our recent Coffee Morning was the first in three years due to the pandemic. Any concerns that the attendance would not match previous years were soon dispelled. We were delighted to see lots of familiar faces, old friends and the wonderful support of the congregation.

There was a great atmosphere in all 3 halls as people enjoyed coffee & scones, a variety of stalls and fun games. The end result was that we broke the previous record for past Coffee Mornings with a marvellous total of £2,236 raised for our group funds. Having not had any meaningful fundraising for 3 years, this was a welcome boost. Thank you to everyone that came along and supported us.

### Leaders Awards

We were delighted that dedication of so many of our Leaders was recognised with these awards:

### Beavers

Jim Meehan  
*25 years service*

### Cubs

Kevin Parker  
*Medal of Merit & 20 years service*

Philip Hunsley  
*20 years service*

Andrew Mobberley  
*Chief Scout's Commendation*

Jonathan Hall  
*Chief Scout's Commendation*

### Scouts

Kenny Falconer  
*40 years service*

*Alan Dickson*  
Scout Leader

*Headquarters: Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church  
Edinburgh Scottish Charity No SC006141*

# MORLEY'S TREE



**'Everything God created is good'  
(1 Timothy 4)**

Tree planted at Royal Dick Vet School Easter Bush campus in memory of Morley Sewell

On Friday 18 November, members of Mayfield Salisbury Church drawn from the Eco Group and from Mayfield Milers, joined Morley's widow Cynthia and other family members and close friends at the Easter Bush campus of the Royal Dick Vet School. Professor Sewell had been Dean of the Vet School, an ardent campaigner on environmental issues, a keen walker and a much loved member of Mayfield Salisbury congregation until his death earlier this year.

The Eco Group's suggestion of planting a tree in Morley's memory was welcomed by Cynthia and the Sewell family and enthusiastically taken up by his former colleagues at the Dick Vet, who suggested that the tree be sited in their memorial garden at the Easter Bush campus.

We braved the inclement weather to attend a very moving ceremony. Our minister, the Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth led the ceremony with some well-chosen words and the family then scattered some of Morley's ashes and planted a wonderful oak sapling, marking the site with a plaque funded by donations from Mayfield Salisbury congregation. Afterwards, Professor David

Argyle, Dean of Veterinary Medicine and Head of School, spoke warmly of Morley's legacy and everyone enjoyed refreshments and conversation.

Our thanks to Prof Argyle and his staff for hosting such a memorable occasion and especial thanks to Marjory Grant, the leader of the Eco Group, whose hard work brought this idea to fruition. All agreed that it was a moving and fitting tribute to a wonderful man.

*Alastair MacGilchrist*



# SESSION MATTERS

Since my last report on the Kirk Session, we have had only one meeting. This had to be postponed due to clashes with Presbytery meetings which in turn were delayed due to the funeral arrangements for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This meant that, unusually, our meeting was held on Wednesday but this allowed us to get up-to-date reports from Anne Steele our Presbytery Elder, and Sandy Forsyth, on the previous evening's Presbytery meeting. This had looked again at the draft Presbytery plan proposing the new structure in Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery to develop mission in our community.

We heard that that meeting had reinstated the two full-time posts of Minister of Word and Sacrament, one of which is intended to promote and develop pioneer ministry in the new parish.

The Session meeting gave an indicative vote on the plan which was unanimous in its support. Session agreed to consult the congregation on the current draft plans which I undertook through the congregational email. I received no adverse comments and we can conclude that the congregation continues to be supportive of the direction of travel. The draft plan is expected to be finalised in December.

Other matters covered by the October session meeting were:

- Noting the sad deaths of Chris Mitchell, the Revd Ken Pattison, Alf Hannay and Bob Maiden. Also the departure of Katherine and Wade Robertson.
- Recording our deep appreciation for the contribution made over many years by Professor Heather Cubie and wishing her and her husband Andrew well in their new life in the west of Scotland. Her most recent work on the chairing of the Covid task group has been greatly valued. On her recommendation, the Covid task group was disbanded and public health arrangements reabsorbed into the risk register managed by the Business Committee

- Marking the amazing 50 year involvement of Alan Dickson as leader of the 28th Braid scout troop.

- Reports on installation work which had been completed in the Bill McDonald hall; plans for insulating roofs in the Nave and Transept (now completed); plans for other insulation work.

- Worship plans up to the start of the New Year were agreed, including joint worship arrangements with Craigmillar Park and Priestfield congregations. Options for re-visiting regular Sunday worship were considered and it was agreed that before any trial changes might be implemented, consultation would be undertaken to ensure that any trial would be supported by those who might be affected. A key issue would be any impact on the family service and those attending.

- Agreeing to incorporate in due course the Thursday Club as a Mayfield Salisbury organisation

- Approving grants from the Salisbury Fund for this year and plans for 2023.

- The report presented by Craig Kennedy on the youth committee activity and plans for the coming year: e.g. Breakfast clubs on Sunday morning to explore the traditions of the church and understanding of different beliefs within the church. It was also planned to repeat some of the successful events with the aim of improving in growing the youth group.

- Receiving updates on safeguarding issues including the rolling programme of training. Charles Garland was approved as a youth volunteer.

- While the main issue of Presbytery had been the Presbytery Plan, discussed above, there were also reports on Giving to Grow which will replace Ministry and Mission in 2023. Also it was noted that a hardship fund had been put in place to assist eligible ministers with heating costs.

Continued /



Reports from the Business Committee were received and it was noted that the budget for next year was being drawn up and will be presented at the December meeting. Sandra Carter reported positive developments in the setting up of the independent charity for Southside Faith Care and that the board of trustees was being formed. A three-year grant from the TOR Christian foundation was a significant step forward but financial planning would be required to sustain the project.

The value of groups such as **A Place at the Table** and **First Friday Friends** was recognised. A proposal on their behalf to reinstate the hymn numbers on the pillars was approved.

Hillary Leslie presented a significant report on her experience of undertaking the Princeton theological seminary certificate in youth ministry from October 21 to April 22. The paper provided an overview of the four main courses she had undertaken; set out what she had subsequently undertaken and some reflections on how young people might be better engaged and experience worship. Following the course she had interviewed four young people to seek their views. The skills she had acquired on the course were of considerable benefit in helping to elicit their views. Her paper posed some issues for discussion. These were:

*What traditions and rituals are important to Mayfield Salisbury? How do we wish to maintain them and incorporate them into a potential future service structure?*

*What do we currently offer to those who attend? What is missing?*

*How can we cater to the variety of age groups and the demographics of people that attend so that there is something for everyone?*

*How can we be open to change? What are areas in which we don't wish to compromise, if any?*

*How will we ensure we are working together with our partners to create a worship experience that is life-giving to all three sets of congregants?*

Session thanked Hilary for her thoughtful and interesting analysis and constructive report and agreed to devote time in future meetings to discuss these issues in more detail.

Session continued its series of discussions on eldership. On this occasion Session explored what triggered the call to be an elder; what fulfils or frustrates you as an elder; the role of an elder now at Mayfield Salisbury and the possible future role of elder under the proposed union.

**Dates of future meetings (all at 7.30pm):** 13 December 2022 and in 2023: 24 January; 14 March; 2 May; 6 June; 19 September; 5 December.

Boyd McAdam  
Session Clerk

## 'THANKS BE TO GOD'

PSALM 66:1 - 12 and LUKE 17:11 - 19



It was soon after Christmas that the box of cards would be fetched from the cupboard under the stairs; and the seemingly endless stream of messages had to be scribbled down and sent out to an expectant world of great aunties, grandparents, next door neighbours and the kindly ladies from the church. Thank you for my knitted gloves; thank you for the jumper; thank you for the plastic football that I have already burst on the rose bush; thank for the Corgi toy car; thank you for the book with stories from the Bible, of Moses in the bullrushes and Jesus healing the lepers. Is that them all done? Can I go now?

And from early times, the words 'what do you say?' would repeatedly sing in the air when anything that resembled a treat, even if it wasn't really in a wee person's world, had been purchased and proffered towards me. From the wonder of sweets and crisps and ice lollies, to the banality of a new school blazer, after the question 'what do you say?', 'thank you' was always the expected response.

And when it came to meal times, for a prayer of grace it was not for us the shock value of the one I later heard, from a former Moderator no less – 'thank you Lord for the 'f words' that now I now bring to my lips

(pause with baited breath!)...the 'f words' of friendship, fun and food'. Instead, for us, it was the familiar, everyday pattern of:

*Thank you for the world so sweet  
Thank you for the food we eat  
Thank you for the birds that sing  
Thank you Lord, for everything. Amen.*

Receiving everything with gratitude, and not taking it all for granted as a right or expectation, seemed to be the way that life ought to be led. Perhaps that was a mark of a civilised person, the kind of polite and polished boy my parents would have wanted me to be, when they could stop me from sliding down the banister or getting covered in mud playing football. As Samuel Johnson rather snobbishly said, 'Gratitude is a fruit of great cultivation; you do not find it among gross people.'

But gratitude can be more than an expected social convention to show an outward cultivation to an admiring world; it can be more than that when it reaches beyond the expectations of the childhood 'thank you card' and it actually becomes heartfelt – when you smile like you mean it. Perhaps as Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote - it is only with '*gratitude that life becomes rich.*' Maybe in a much deeper sense than the

show of life, as Amy Collette has said *'Gratitude is a powerful catalyst for happiness. It's the spark that lights a fire of joy in your soul.'*

For the Christian life, that fire of joy might be lit within your soul when giving thanks is linked closely with faith and praise. If the urge to seek out and worship God might for a Christian be an almost primal desire, an essential mark of being human, then gratitude, giving thanks to God in praise and prayer, must also be an innate part of who we are; made in God's image. John Burkhart wrote that 'to withhold acknowledgement, to avoid celebration, to stifle gratitude, may prove as unnatural as holding one's breath.' For a Christian, not to be thankful despite all that life might throw at us might be like King Canute trying to force back the waves. Or as the old African American spiritual says of a hymn to a new creation in Christ:

*Through all the tumult and the strife  
I hear its music ringing,  
It sounds an echo in my soul.  
How can I keep from singing?*

The simplicity of the childhood message of 'please' and 'thank you', might not be a bad summary after all of what our approach to God should be. The novelist Anne Lamott says that her two favourite prayers are, in the morning, 'Help me. Help me. Help me'. And at bedtime, 'Thank you. Thank you. Thank you.' But when I think back to the simplicity of the message in my Bible Storybook of the healing of the ten lepers in Luke's Gospel, I wonder whether there is a bit more to it than those simple pictures and words suggested. A simple message that when Jesus said to the healed leper who returned to see him, 'Your faith has made you well', it means that if we are faithful and holy enough, Jesus will make sure you will

be alright. Through my adult eyes, and the bitter tang of human experience, of for example two good friends dying young, or loved ones struggling with mental health or addiction, that tells me, and perhaps you too, that this is not enough. 'Your faith has made you well', if it's treated as a simple childhood cause and effect in relation to our physical wellbeing, is maybe a Bible passage that has done as much harm as good. Whereas, what this passage is actually revealing, is a far more nuanced and profound understanding of faith, of praise, and of thanksgiving, where the healing itself is almost a sideline event.



Let's set it out in a bit of context. We are in the company of Jesus and his followers walking the long road south from the sea of Galilee where Jesus lived to Jerusalem, passing through or close to Samaria. That very word is a red flag, of course. Observant Jews went no where near Samaria or Samaritans, a despised group of people seen as culturally inferior and theological heretics. These people were social and religious lepers to a 1st century Palestinian Jew, never mind any physical affliction. And with their disease, these ten that Jesus met would have been lepers amongst lepers. When Jesus encountered them, all ten were sent off to see the priests to show that they are now cured and so no more ritually unclean. And on the way there for all of them the dreaded skin blemishes and eruptions suddenly left them and they were made new. Gone too would be the terrible social distancing and banishment that had marked their lives till now.

But nine of them did not return to Jesus and just go on their way, despite their initial pleas for his mercy. Presumably for the other nine, they either couldn't believe their luck ('well, that calling out for mercy seemed



*Healing of the Ten Lepers, from the Codex Aureus Epternacensis, 1035-40*

to work didn't it?), or they felt it was no more than they actually deserved. Who knows who the others were, who knows how they really stood in terms of faith – indeed, the story seems to confirm to us Jesus' unflinching love for all, no matter where they come from or how far they stand on the margins of society. Those on the borderlines, in the borderlands. But Jesus spoke with the healed leper who returned and gave thanks for a wellness from faith that ran far beyond the physical. Was there something about this man that was 'more well' than the other nine, who were also physically cured? Was it something about his gratitude being linked with his faith?

This story is, I think, less about the quantity of faith and more about the nature of faith. It says 'to have faith is to live it, and to live it is to give thanks to God.' A life of faith is a life of gratitude, and it is this grateful kind of faith that has made the man from Samaria fully well, and not just in the narrower physical sense. A gratitude which does not mean grinning like a Cheshire cat when life is frankly tough, but instead suggests an holistic wellness - a wholeness in life, wellness as in spiritual wellbeing too, wellness as in salvation. Wholeness and wellbeing, gratitude to God for his love in

Jesus Christ, hope and trust no matter our worldly troubles, these all are closely inter-linked in the leper's story and our own.

Worshipping then, not just to get something out of it, like the other nine lepers might have done, but to truly give thanks and praise to God like the one who came back. Prayers and praise of thanksgiving are part of the soul's healing, no matter the physical circumstances we find ourselves in.

Yes, we might count our blessings as praise to God, for all good gifts around us that are sent from heaven above. For the gifts of life, of food, of warmth and shelter, the company and love of family and friends, times of joy and fulfilment, for our comparative prosperity. But our thanksgiving and gratitude to God, like the one cured leper who returned, arises also because we have been where life hurts: because of what has happened, not because it hasn't occurred at all. That we might call out like the Psalmist in Psalm 66 to make a joyful noise to God, to sing the glory of his name and offer him praise, not because life has been one long soft-focussed, saccharine joyride, like an endless episode of *Little House on the Prairie*, but instead sometimes a complex and messy struggle to get through. Like the

people of Israel returning from exile in Babylon, like them crossing the Red Sea from decades of slavery toward the promised land, like the poor people of Florida in the teeth of Hurricane Ian escaping to the high ground and to safety; like us in the face of our own struggles, worries and hardships, or in our church life of unions and closures and the stale musty air of decline. The Psalmist wrote for all of us:

*You, Lord God, brought us into the net;  
you laid burdens on our backs;  
you let people ride over our heads;  
we went through fire and through water;  
yet you have brought us out to a spacious place.*

God has been and will be there, that we might get through to a 'spacious place', no matter whether outcomes seem wonderful or very challenging. Still, for the resilient hope of our deliverance, for the constant presence of God alongside, for the knowledge and trust of a resurrection in this life and

the life to come, God's name be praised.

I don't know about the 'f words grace', it's a bit borderline perhaps, but then again 'thank you for the world so sweet' doesn't cut it that much for me anymore either. Maybe we're better off with this one from Robert Burns:

*O Thou who kindly dost provide  
For ev'ry creature's want!  
We bless Thee the  
God of Nature wide.  
For all Thy goodness lent.  
And if it please Thee,  
heavenly Guide,  
May never worse be sent;  
But, whether granted, or denied,  
Lord, bless us with content.*

Thanks be to God. Amen.

## IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER

### 20 YEARS AGO

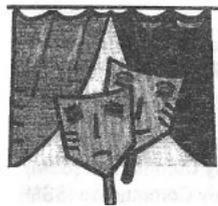
In early January 2003, the Mayfield Salisbury Players presented in the Church Halls their fifth annual Pantomime - with enthusiastic audiences, a triumph of staging, costumes and props; stage lighting courtesy of the Radio Unit; 'sound' expertly controlled by John; and Front of House well organised by Alistair. Regretfully this was the final panto, though we did hold other presentations in the Halls - an Old Time Music Hall, Choir recitals; plenty of Community Singing, and other concerts.

The 2003 Panto was *Little Bo-Peep* with a stupendous cast, including the then Church Officer, his wife and younger daughter, Isabel, Rhoda, Dorothy, Eileen, Grace, Bina, Graham (and some youngsters I've ashamedly forgotten!).

Back Stage, the team, (admirably led by Alf) of Irene, Alistair, Peter and others occasionally, built the scenery, made the props AND kept the show flowing with not too many blips(!)

Being Director in most shows, I had previously little chance of a major part

### MAYFIELD SALISBURY PLAYERS



onstage. This time my dream was realised; Rosemary took over the directing, allowing me to be the Pantomime Dame, Lady Muck, for the first and probably the only time. Rosemary also sat with the pianist, Philip, at each stage rehearsal and performance, keeping him on track if any unrehearsed changes took place - only a few!

Ah! memories! Sombre regrets of those no longer with us. I spare a thought or two for those loyal but now absent folks. D.N.C.

P.S. If you cannot identify those listed above, please ask around.

*Douglas Currie*

# CHRISTMAS

At Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church



## Happy Christmas

A very happy Christmas from your parish church, Mayfield Salisbury! We'll be celebrating the wonder of Christmas and the birth of Jesus with a variety of services at which you are very much welcome, including our ever-popular Christingle service. Come along to share in the real meaning of Christmas in carols, readings and prayers. We would love to see you there...

May God bless you and your loved ones at this special time, and in the New Year.

*Rev'd Dr Sandy Forsyth*

For more details, see our website:  
[www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)

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



Mayfield Salisbury  
Parish Church

## Forthcoming Services

### Christmas Choir Concert

Sunday 11 December at 7.30pm

### Service of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 18 December at 10.30am

### Christingle Service

Sunday 18 December at 6.30pm



### Christmas Eve Watchnight Service

Saturday 24 December at 11.30pm

### Christmas Day All-Age Service

Sunday 25 December at 10.30am

*You would be welcome also at our regular Sunday services just before and after the Christmas period, as follows:*

### Sunday 11 December

All-Age Service at 9.30am - Communion  
Traditional Service at 10.45am - Communion

### Sunday 1 January 2023

Joint service at 10.30am held at  
Priestfield Parish Church, 2 Marchhall  
Place, just off Dalkeith Road

# OUR DEFIBRILLATORS



External Defibrillator

At Mayfield Salisbury Parish Church, we have two automated external defibrillators (AEDs). One is situated on the external wall to the right of the halls entrance on West Mayfield. The other is situated inside just to the right of the information screen.

The external machine is part of the network of community defibrillators and is registered with the ambulance service.

You must first call 999 and the operator will request the Emergency Reference which is displayed on a plaque to the left of the Defibrillator Box. The reference number is **SJS 170**. Once this is known the operator will be able to provide the access code for the Defibrillator box. Although there is no need to call 999 to operate this AED, calling 999 is the first step in any emergency response.

In either case the emergency call operator will ask that someone stay with the casualty and carry out CPR while another fetches the AED.

**Using the AED** Switch on the AED. The AED will then provide voice prompts explaining how to apply the pads and operate the device.

**For more information** [www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfvL7wTFz10](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UfvL7wTFz10) for a video demonstrating how to use an AED.



Internal Defibrillator

# DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

## NOVEMBER

### Sun 27 **First Sunday of Advent - GIFT SERVICES**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
7.00pm Youth Worship Evening  
**7.00pm Service of Remembering - at Priestfield Church**

Tue 29 10.00am Morning Prayers

## DECEMBER

Thu 1 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall

### Sun 4 **Second Sunday of Advent**

10.30am Joint Service of Worship at Craigmillar Park Church  
*No morning service at Mayfield Salisbury. Please support this service with our friends from Craigmillar Park and Priestfield Churches*

6.15pm to 7.15pm: P6 - S1 Youth Group  
7.15pm to 8.30pm: S2 - S6 Youth Group

Tue 6 10.00am Morning Prayers  
2.00pm Southside Guild @ Craigmillar Park Church

Thu 8 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall  
**3.30pm to 5.00pm Youth: s4-s6 Cafe drop-in @ Costa Holy Corner**

**Sat 10 2.30pm Bob Maiden's Service of Thanksgiving at Colinton Parish Church**

### Sun 11 **Third Sunday of Advent**

9.30am All-Age Worship - Holy Communion (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)  
10.45am Traditional Worship - Holy Communion (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

5.30pm to 7.30pm: All-Age Youth Group Christmas Party

**7.30pm Christmas Carol Concert - Followed by mince pies and mulled wine**

Tue 13 10.00am Morning Prayers  
2.00pm Southside Guild @ Craigmillar Park Church  
7.30pm Kirk Session

Thu 15 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall

### Sun 18 **Fourth Sunday of Advent**

10.30am Service of Nine Lessons and Carols  
**6.30pm Christingle Service**

Tue 20 10.00am Morning Prayers

**Sat 24 Christmas Eve**  
**11.30pm Watchnight Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)**

**Sun 25 Christmas Day - The Nativity of the Lord**  
**10.30am Joint Service of Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)**

Tue 27 NO Morning Prayers

---

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY CONTINUED

### January 2023

#### **Sun 1 First Sunday after Christmas**

10.30am Joint Service of Worship at Priestfield Church

*No morning service at Mayfield Salisbury. Please support this service with our friends from Craigmillar Park and Priestfield Churches*

Tue 3 10.00am Morning Prayers

#### **Sun 8 First Sunday of Epiphany**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

TBC Youth Group

Tue 10 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 12 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall

#### **Sun 15 Second Sunday of Epiphany**

10.30am Joint Service Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

7.00pm Evening Service (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

TBC Youth Group

Tue 17 10.00am Morning Prayers

Thu 19 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall

#### **Sun 22 Third Sunday of Epiphany**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

TBC Youth Group

Tue 24 10.00am Morning Prayers

7.30pm Kirk Session

Thu 26 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall

#### **Sun 29 Fourth Sunday of Epiphany**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

TBC Youth Group

Tue 31 10.00am Morning Prayers

### February

Thu 2 2.00pm Thursday Club - Bill McDonald Hall

#### **Sun 5 Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany**

9.30am All-Age Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

10.45am Traditional Worship (Revd Dr Sandy Forsyth)

TBC Youth Group



A joint project with Priestfield's Knitting Together and Mayfield Salisbury's Craft Moments is sending a 'picnic of teddies' to a charity providing firefighters, paramedics and the police with knitted teddies to give to traumatised children they meet in the course of their duties.

## THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

### December

1	Hosea 3-6	/	Revelation 1
2	Hosea 7,8	/	Psalms 137,138
3	Hosea 9,10	/	Revelation 2
4	Hosea 11,12	/	Revelation 3
5	Hosea 13,14	/	Revelation 4
6	Joel 1,2	/	Psalm 139
7	Joel 3	/	Revelation 5
8	Amos 1,2	/	Revelation 6
9	Amos 3,4	/	Psalms 140,141
10	Amos 5,6	/	Revelation 7
11	Amos 7,8	/	Revelation 8
12	Amos 9	/	Revelation 9
13	Obadiah	/	Psalms 142,143
14	Jonah 1,2	/	Revelation 10
15	Jonah 3,4	/	Revelation 11
16	Micah 1-3	/	Psalm 144
17	Micah 4,5	/	Revelation 12
18	Micah 6,7	/	Revelation 13
19	Nahum 1-3	/	Revelation 14
20	Habakkuk 1-3	/	Psalm 145
21	Zephaniah 1-3	/	Revelation 15
22	Haggai 1,2	/	Revelation 16
23	Zechariah 1,2	/	Psalms 146,147
24	Zechariah 3,4	/	Revelation 17
25	Zechariah 5,6	/	Revelation 18
26	Zechariah 7,8	/	Revelation 19
27	Zechariah 9,10	/	Psalm 148
28	Zechariah 11,12	/	Revelation 20
29	Zechariah 13,14	/	Revelation 21
30	Malachi 1,2	/	Psalms 149,150
31	Malachi 3,4	/	Revelation 22

### January 2023

1	Genesis 1,2	/	Matthew 1
2	Genesis 3,4	/	Matthew 2

3	Genesis 5,6	/	Matthew 3
4	Genesis 7,8	/	Psalms 1,2
5	Genesis 9-11	/	Matthew 4
6	Genesis 12,13	/	Matthew 5
7	Genesis 14,15	/	Psalms 3,4
8	Genesis 16,17	/	Matthew 6
9	Genesis 18,19	/	Matthew 7
10	Genesis 20,21	/	Matthew 8
11	Genesis 22,23	/	Psalms 5,6
12	Genesis 24,25	/	Matthew 9
13	Genesis 26,27	/	Matthew 10
14	Genesis 28,29	/	Psalms 7,8
15	Genesis 30,31	/	Matthew 11
16	Genesis 32,33	/	Matthew 12
17	Genesis 34,36	/	Matthew 13
18	Genesis 37,38	/	Psalm 9
19	Genesis 39,40	/	Matthew 14
20	Genesis 41,42	/	Matthew 15
21	Genesis 43,44	/	Psalm 10
22	Genesis 45,46	/	Matthew 16
23	Genesis 47,48	/	Matthew 17
24	Genesis 49,50	/	Matthew 18
25	Exodus 1,2	/	Psalms 11,12
26	Exodus 3,4	/	Matthew 19
27	Exodus 5,6	/	Matthew 20
28	Exodus 7,8	/	Psalms 13,14
29	Exodus 9,10	/	Matthew 21
30	Exodus 11,12	/	Matthew 22
31	Exodus 13,14	/	Matthew 23

### February

1	Exodus 15,16	/	Psalms 15,16
2	Exodus 17,18	/	Matthew 24
3	Exodus 19,20	/	Matthew 25
4	Exodus 21,22	/	Psalm 17
5	Exodus 23,24	/	Matthew 26

# 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 pastoralassistantms@gmail.com 0758 704 3191

## 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 clerkmosp@gmail.com 0777 358 7579

## Treasurer

John Graham culkein@btinternet.com 0131 667 6331

## Safeguarding Co-ordinators

Aileen Nimmo and Dougie Robertson mayfieldsafeguarding@gmail.com 0131 667 1522

## Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

Hugh Somerville hs.somerville2@gmail.com 0131 466 2446

## Mayfield Radio Unit

The Studio mayfieldradiounit@gmail.com 0131 667 7742

## Church Address and Office

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

## Pastoral Care

For Home or Hospital visits, please contact the Pastoral Assistant, Kay McIntosh DCS.

## Staff Days Off

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

## Social Media Accounts

-  [www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury](http://www.facebook.com/MayfieldSalisbury)
-  [www.youtube.com/c/MayfieldSalisburyParishChurch](http://www.youtube.com/c/MayfieldSalisburyParishChurch)
-  [www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06](http://www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06)
-  [www.twitter.com/churchscotland](http://www.twitter.com/churchscotland)
-  [www.instagram.com/the.msyt](http://www.instagram.com/the.msyt)
-  [www.mayfieldsalisbury.org](http://www.mayfieldsalisbury.org)



The Church of Scotland

## SCAN TO GIVE



[www.give.net/20311853](http://www.give.net/20311853)

**Copy date for next Issue:**

6.00pm on Friday  
27 January 2023

**Print Run: HelloPrint: 300**