

   MARCH/APRIL 2025

ISSUE 2

NEWINGTON TRINITY NEWS

Magazine of Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland



FAMILY FEATURES

BETHANY CARE VAN MATTERS

PETE CARTHY'S ART SHOW



**NEWINGTON
TRINITY
CHURCH**

www.newingtontrinity.org

FROM THE MANSE



Laodicea

Dear Friends,

I don't know whether I would pick as the highlight the ruins of the vast Greek and Roman city of Ephesus; reading the letter to the church at Laodicea on the stage of the Greek amphitheatre there; visiting what are said to be the tombs of the apostles Philip and John; or the camaraderie between fellow staff and Church of Scotland ministry candidates culminating in a deeply moving communion service in semi-darkness in the back of a stationary bus!; or it could just be the food and the many kebabs that passed my lips! Whichever angle I might take when I describe it to you, I would tell you of a hugely rewarding six days last week in Western Turkey that was a study trip led by New College, Edinburgh and Trinity College, Glasgow.

We visited all of the fledgling first century churches addressed in the 'Seven Letters' in Revelation 2 and 3, plus as an added

bonus ancient cities such as Perge and Hierapolis. We were blessed not only with the knowledge of an excellent local guide but also having a Professor of New Testament with us, who provided invaluable background and context. Many of the sites had close associations with the apostle Paul. He had travelled through there (Perge), stayed there for around three years and founded a Christian community (Ephesus), or written to the early Christians there with words of wisdom and encouragement (Colossae).

One of the most meaningful moments was standing as a group on the stark hillside, as yet unexcavated, under which lies Colossae. One of the students read for us the first thirteen verses of the letter that Paul wrote to the early church there from Ephesus (some 100 miles inland), to be delivered to them by hand. And what was the message they would have received in that place? Firstly, there is a note of celebration of faith from Paul (verse 5): that



Colossae



Ephesus

the ‘gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God’s grace.’ Secondly, a recognition that in facing rejection from their fellow Jews and persecution from the Roman occupiers, those in the Christian community would need to be (verse 11): ‘strengthened with all power according to (God’s) glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience.’ And thirdly, an encouragement (verses 12 to 13) to ‘joyful thanks’ that God has ‘rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves.’

Faith, perseverance and joy. To stand in the place where those words from Paul were read and heard was moving, not just because of their inspiration in our hearts, but also their resonance for the church now. There we were, standing over a city which lies ruined and buried below ground, where the late first century Christians first heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ and were nurtured in faith by Paul and their local mentor and pastor, Epaphras. And now nothing visible remains at all; apart from the same high mountains that Paul crossed with Barnabas as a backdrop, and the river below where new converts would have been baptised. It was all transient in its time, and now it has gone. So too has much of the Christian presence across the

whole of modern-day Turkey, which is now miniscule. Its heyday was in the fourth to eleventh centuries, and now the Christian symbols and words of worship and praise lie with the dusty ruins.

And the lessons for now in all of this? Their labour was not in vain. Christian church institutions and communities wax and wane in that place or this. Our present time of numerical decline in the Church of Scotland is nothing new in two millennia of Christian history. Maybe we too will end up as no more than an historical memory. But the legacy of the strength of faith, perseverance in the face of the struggle and conflict of a displaced Christian minority, and, yes, the overflowing of the joy of the Gospel lives on, from first century Asia Minor to right now. They whisper across the centuries to us if you stand at a lonely and windswept place like Colossae, directly to our church here at Newington Trinity and our national denomination. And they tell us that God will always be with us, no matter what the future brings. God is our rock and assurance, our never-ending promise of hope, of light, and of love. From this letter now written two thousand years later, faith, perseverance and joy be with us too.

God bless,

Sandy

NEWS

AFTERNOON SERVICE

Tuesday, 11 MARCH
at 2.30pm



The first Newington Trinity Afternoon Service will be held on Tuesday, 11 MARCH at 2.30pm in the Bill McDonald Hall, via West Mayfield level access, a short service of Worship and this time with Holy Communion led by our Minister, Revd. Dr Sandy Forsyth and followed by light refreshments and chat until around 3.45pm.

Everyone always made most welcome – please come along !

If you would like to chat about coming, perhaps for the first time, please contact Pastoral Assistant Pauline Robertson 0758 704 3191 or Anne Sturrock.

INDUCTION OF REV DR JUNSOO PARK



Wednesday 2 April 7.00pm

AS MINISTER OF NEWTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, JOHN ROSS MEMORIAL

JunSoo is a former member of our church, having worshipped here when he was a PhD student at New College. He will be inducted as the minister of a church plant by the Presbyterian Church of Korea in the former Church of Scotland building in Danderhall on Wednesday 2 April at 7.00pm, with many guests travelling from Korea for the occasion. You would be very welcome to be part of the service – see: <https://edinburghnewton.com> for details.

The church address is: Newton Church Road, Danderhall, Dalkeith EH22 1SR. Note: not at the church community hall.

DR MAIRI COLLIE

A PRESENTATION AFTER MORNING WORSHIP ON SUNDAY 30 MARCH Mairi will bring us an introduction to her inspirational medical work in Africa, her medical charity and her new book, all highlighted recently in an article in The Scotsman.

THE BIG BETHANY SLEEP OUT


Whether you're totally new to the event, or have slept out with Bethany nine times before, this is an event that challenges you. Leave your comfort zone and join us in raising awareness of the various difficulties and realities facing people experiencing homelessness in Scotland. We'll be sleeping out in various locations across Scotland on Friday 21 March from 9.00pm. There are two options for signing up: Bethany Hero and Super Supporter. For further details call 0131 561 8930 or via the Bethany website at this link:

<https://register.enthuse.com/ps/event/TheBigBethanySleepOut2025>



MODERATOR!



 **Rev Dr Alexander Forsyth**
Moderator of Presbytery of Edinburgh & West Lothian

On 7 February, our minister, Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth, was inducted as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian for the following year. Congratulations Sandy! The Presbytery Moderator oversees the meetings of Presbytery and conducts worship at ordinations and other ordinances seen as acts of the presbytery.

PARISH REGISTER

Departures

Norman and June Henderson

New members

Pauline Robertson
Elisabeth and Denise Spence
Hamish and Kirsty Storar



Congratulations to Netta Watson on receiving the H. G. Wells medal from Diabetes UK to mark her living 80 years with type 1 diabetes. Netta was presented at a party with friends on 22 January.

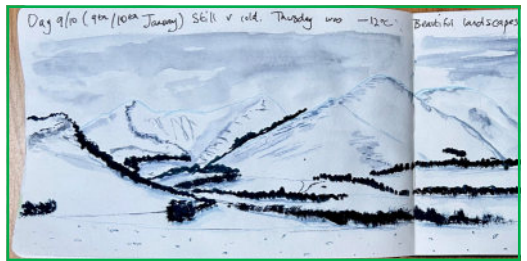
PASTORAL CARE

Keep watch over yourselves and over all the flock, of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God. Acts 20:28

Please contact Pauline Robertson DCS in relation to any pastoral issues or concerns and/or if you wish anyone to be remembered in the confidential prayer chain or wish to be added to the email circulation list. The contact details for Pauline are: pastoralassistantms@gmail.com or phone 0758 704 3191.



PETE CARTHY'S ART SHOW



811 Days of Nature Journaling at Newington Trinity Church: Mayfield

Join Pete on Saturday, 22 March 2025 10.00am to 4.00pm, for an extraordinary celebration of art, nature, and storytelling as Pete Carthy presents his remarkable exhibition, 811 Days of Nature Journaling. This inspiring showcase features Pete's journey of documenting the natural world daily over an incredible two-year period. Through stunning sketches, vibrant watercolours, and insightful observations, Pete captures the beauty, complexity, and ever-changing rhythms of nature.

The exhibition promises to engage visitors of all ages, whether you're an artist, a nature enthusiast, or simply someone who appreciates creativity and mindfulness. Pete's work highlights the profound connection between art and the environment, inviting us all to slow down,

observe, and reflect on the world around us.

Pete is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to help ensure the smooth running of the event. Tasks include assisting with setting up the exhibition, welcoming guests, and providing support during the show. Volunteering is a great opportunity to meet Pete, learn more about his creative process, and be part of this unique event.

Pete is based in Romannobridge, near West Linton, and came to the church service just before Christmas. He attends Newlands Kirk. He will come back before his show in March to meet prospective volunteers.

Please get in touch with Pete at

- Mobile: 0755 544 5605
- Email: peter_carthy@hotmail.com
- Website: www.petecarthy.co.uk



BETHANY CARE VAN MATTERS

From the Jan 2025 Care Van Newsletter:

A warm welcome to **Tori**, Edinburgh City Mission's new Care Van Co-ordinator and to **Emily**, National Outreach Manager at Bethany Christian Trust.

Hello! I'm Tori and since September 2024, I've been looking after the Care Van and Outreach Referrals at Edinburgh City Mission. I moved to Edinburgh with my two young children in April 2024, after 20+ years living in the Middle East and South Africa.

I'm a copy and ghostwriter by profession but having always loved working pro bono within the voluntary sector, I felt called to embark on this new chapter in a new direction so here I am! I am loving both my new role and this magnificent city.

Many years away has enabled me to appreciate all that we have here, right on our doorstep and I continue to feel overwhelmed by how many big hearts and helping hands we have around us, passionate about serving those in need. I look forward to getting to know all our faithful and loyal volunteers in due course.

My very best wishes, Tori

Hello, I'm Emily, I started working for Bethany Christian Trust in 2019 in, what was then, the Care Shelter and my life changed forever! I had found a place where I could live out my faith and work alongside others with the same passion for supporting those who are on the fringes of society.

It has been an immense privilege to be part of an organisation and services where we aim to bring the hope we have received to those who are experiencing the darkest of times. In Summer 2024 the role of National Outreach Manager

was created in recognition that there is more outreach happening than ever within Bethany Christian Trust and the services needed their own support system.

Having a background in outreach ministries it is really exciting to be part of the Care Van team. I am in awe of the faithfulness of volunteers and look forward to serving alongside you all on this shared mission.

Emily

New Volunteer Induction Training

The next New Volunteer Induction Training will take place Thursday 7 March at the Learning Centre, Bethany Christian Trust Head Office, 65 Bonnington Road.

- General Homelessness Training: 7pm to 8pm
- Care Van Induction: 8pm to 9pm

All are welcome to join in all or part of the training. Please note parking is available.

Meeting the Lord Provost at Edinburgh's City Chambers

A particular highlight for the Care Van in recent months was an invitation to meet with the Lord Provost at Edinburgh's City Chambers on the 28 October. Emily, Agata and Tori, along with five care van volunteers, attended the event. The invitation served as a follow up to receiving the Queen's Award in 2022. The Care Van was honoured with this prestigious award in recognition of the commitment and dedication of each and every one of our volunteers.

Following the meeting, Emily walked down to Market Street with the Lord Provost to see the Care Van during the lunchtime shift. He very much enjoyed this experience.

A heartfelt thank you to Muriel Adam, Cameron Gilmour, Andrew Young and Susan Simison for joining us on this special occasion.



Trying to play football whilst encased in a bubble is perhaps one of life's sillier ideas but lots of fun for the scouts, uses up lots of energy and safer than most activities. For 90 minutes they attempted to score goals whilst bumping off each other and frequently spending periods stuck upside down. It was certainly not the most elegant of sports and some of the scouts were happy to spend the time bouncing off each other with no regard for the ball.

The remainder of the month was spent working on the Teamwork Challenge Award. With scouts built around the patrol system, teamwork is already ingrained in

the programme but this award is built around more flexible options and concentrates on a team centred approach to solve problems and to overcome challenges. It helps scouts to understand better that there is value in everyone and helps to teach respect, which is a core value of the troop.

Alan Dickson Scout Leader

Headquarters

Newington Trinity Church: Mayfield
18 West Mayfield,
Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ
Scottish Charity No SC006141

FAMILY FEATURES

Or rather children, young people, students, young adults & families features! find times that fit with their ever pressured balance of commitments too.

The year feels to be moving ahead so fast and, hopefully, the season will be shifting to spring soon too. Our lives can seem to consist of many different time strands moving at different speeds, all clamouring for prominence: academic terms or markers, financial deadlines for payments or tax submissions, cultural or social like Valentines day or government elections, pastoral times of waiting, grieving, planning or celebrating.



Then there is our church or liturgical year. We are about to step into Lent with Easter ahead of us. In Godly Play terms, we are now in the purple 'waiting & preparation' time.

I had the privilege of sharing the Godly Play story of the Circle of the Church Year with the P2 class from Prestonfield Primary last autumn as they prepared for harvest time. Back at school they led the whole school Super Soup collection for the foodbank they support. The week afterwards, Newington Nursery here took up the same challenge and loaded up our foodbank boxes with tins too.

We are getting ready to share Easter stories with both those groups of children again and planning more opportunities to connect with our wider community too.

The Newington Trinity (NT) Young Adults are starting up their new-look bible study and socials calendar (beginning with pancakes) and the Youth Group are planning their spring programme, as we

It is hard to balance all the strands of life. Holding on to our faith foundations, our 'deep roots' amongst it all is a 'practice' that takes practice! That's where the whole church family come in. By sharing life, worshipping and serving, generations together, we can all encourage, remind and practice this; especially showing our newer and younger 'family' the way and reconnecting ourselves.

Please never underestimate the role we all share as God's family; role models, cheer leaders, ballast in choppy waters, wisdom and fun! Some parts may not be our own style or preference, but it may be for someone else.



So we encourage and 'bear with' one another. That might be dodging an enthusiastic arm wave during a song, or being patient during the last piece of music to get to the garden. It might be sharing with someone younger going through an extended waiting stage that we have lived through and thrived after a long hard wait. With God. And God's family around us.

Thank you for keeping our young folks and families and the volunteers that support them in your lives; through prayer, support and encouragement.

Let's look forward to the next season of our New(ington Trinity!) church family, together. I believe there is rejoicing and chocolate ahead!

Bettina

EDINBURGH STREET PASTORS

'See that bridge sometimes I feel like jumping off it'

Encounters from Street Pastor patrol on Friday night in the Cowgate and City Centre, Edinburgh.

We meet John who epitomises the struggles endured by all those afflicted by addictions.

We only pick up on a few scraps of his story as chaos abounds and there is pushing and shoving as we try to listen, and pour tea into cups swaying about in grimy hands made unsteady by the influence of alcohol. There is a lot of angry shouting and swearing. John lunges back and forth. He is incensed because his hat has been swiped off his head by one of the Night Club Security Staff. He claims it was given to him by a staff member but of course it is inappropriate for him to be wearing their uniform. We come to John's rescue with a new hat, tomato soup and at his request prayer which he finds calming. He says 'see that bridge I just feel like jumping off it.'

He is not long out of the Ritson Clinic for detox but has already relapsed and is back on the streets. Anger bubbles up readily in him and can erupt into violence especially when people wind him up. There has been time spent in prison. He laments the fact that although he can shower and shave at Streetworks he then has to put all his dirty clothes back on. He is a large XXL man and we certainly have nothing to offer him except fresh socks, the replacement hat and gloves. What keeps him going is the knowledge that his wife is pregnant and his son has come back into his life. These are the thoughts that will keep him from jumping off the bridge; perhaps also those who listen, care, support and pray with him.

Chaos also clutters around Chrissie, her belongings scattered around her in a doorway on the Bridges. 'Can you help me put this up,' she asks. It is an emergency plastic shelter provided by Streetworks. This is the fourth one she's been given as

fire, theft and loss have befallen the others. She has a sleeping bag but has her eye on our only blanket. We tell her if no one else needs it we will give it to her later. When we return she is nowhere to be seen just some empty bottles and food wrappings.



Maggie is at the top of Waverley Steps. Too cold to sit any longer, she will try 'tapping' passers by for money as she walks the streets. She has a sleeping bag and will spend the night in the tunnel. 'What about the Night Shelter?' we ask. 'Too many bad influences there' she says. She asks for prayer to restore her husband to health. He is in hospital and due to be discharged to rehab. We know not how she ended up on the streets but there is an empty wine bottle beside her.

We come across two young homeless men who have arrived from India. They look exhausted. They tell us they have been wandering the streets, sometimes sleeping at the airport. They came to Scotland because although working in banking in India, salaries are low, and living expenses high. They hope for better opportunities here. They were making their way to the Night Shelter. We hope they will be offered help from Bethany and we tell them about Streetworks and how to find food at Social Bite and the other free food outlets.

The town is relatively quiet and there are not so many revellers but sadly alcohol takes its toll on young men & women who are to be found vomiting, staggering, and collapsing, wrecking what should have been a fun night out. We comfort, assist into taxis and help them return home safely.

Street Pastors patrol the City Centre most Friday and Saturday nights. They listen, care and support vulnerable people on Edinburgh's streets.

In Their Lifetime (ITL) is an innovative programme within Christian Aid, driven by creative ideas from inspiring local organisations. With the help of ITL supporters, we invest in bold initiatives in the search for sustainable, transformational change.

How does ITL change lives? We work with communities across the world, bringing to life ideas which target areas of critical need, ideas which offer the opportunity to speed up the pace of poverty eradication. These projects are designed and delivered by our local partners, to capitalise on opportunities they have identified, and supported by a small, engaged group of supporters who believe in the vision of ITL and want to join with us on this incredible journey.

There are three current projects, which all aim to get communities into livelihood markets: in Malawi, working with communities who grow bamboo; in Afghanistan, working with women to cultivate silk and saffron; and in Zimbabwe, working with women to use their cows for dairy production.

Three reasons to become an ITL supporter

- **Impact:** the chance to make a meaningful contribution. Connect with others to support high impact projects that tackle poverty, inequality, and injustice, while also helping to shape our work, and the work of others in the sector, for years to come.

- **Insight:** a closer view of the difference you're making. You'll receive regular in-depth reports and updates that give a transparent view of the successes, the challenges, risks and setbacks - and any revisions we need to make.

- **Engagement:** a deeper exchange with Christian Aid. You'll receive invitations to events, briefings and meetings with key Christian Aid and project staff, so you can clearly see the transformational effects of this initiative. For further information about ITL, current projects and how you can support them, please visit the webpage at: www.christianaid.org.uk/our-work/programmes/in-their-lifetime-itl

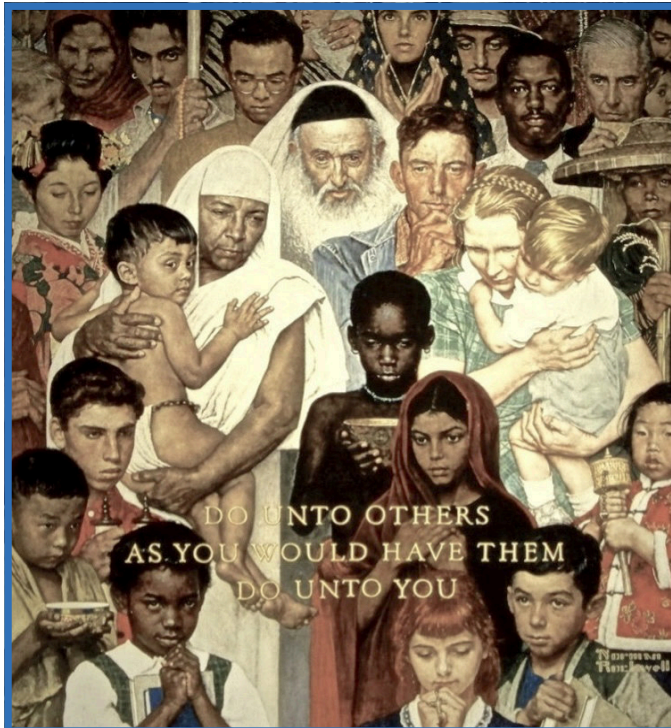
Booklets about ITL will also be available on the table in the Mayfield halls entrance.

Marmalade Sale Our Christian Aid group's marmalade sale will be held after both services on Sunday, 16 March. Please don't forget to bring cash, as well as bags to carry away your purchases. Every jar you buy will help Christian Aid pursue its aim: to create a world where everyone can live a full life, free from poverty. If you have marmalade to contribute, we'd be very grateful! You can hand it in to the Salisbury Room between 10 and 11am, on Saturday 15 March, but if you're unable to do so, please bring it directly to the stall on the day of the sale. Alternatively, contact Kate O'Brien on 0131 667 4362 / 07593 768 08 or kate.obrien@hotmail.co.uk to make another arrangement. Please label your jars on the lid. THANK YOU!

Prayer for an end to poverty

Creator God, you loved the world into life. Forgive us when our dreams of the future are shaped by anything other than glimpses of a kingdom of justice, peace and an end to poverty. Incarnate God, you taught us to speak out for what is right. Make us content with nothing less than a world that is transformed into the shape of love, where poverty shall be no more. Breath of God, let there be abundant life. Inspire us with the vision of poverty over, and give us the faith, courage and will to make it happen. Amen.

The Christian Aid Team



'Peace in our Time'

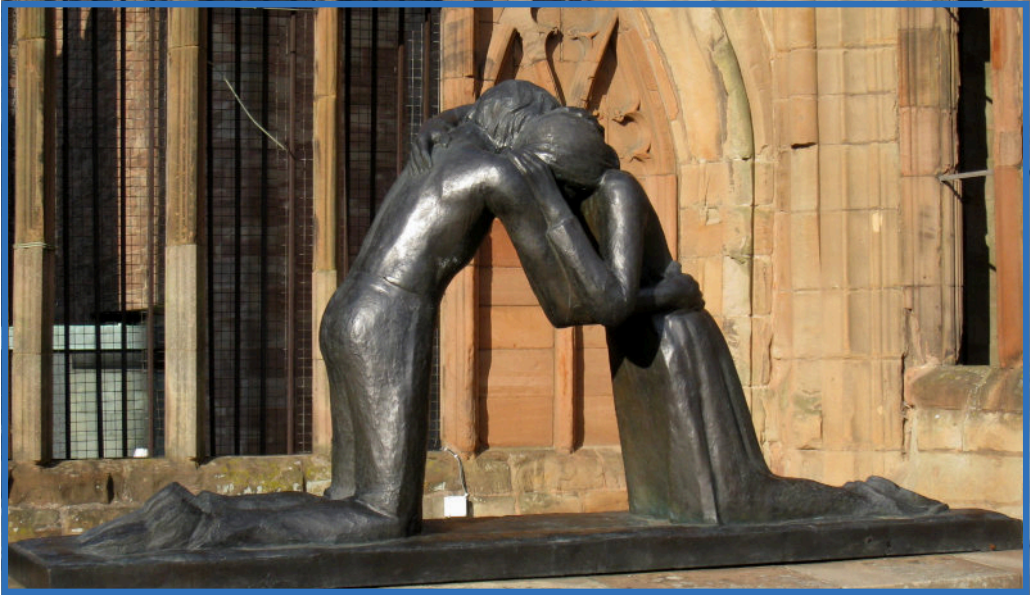
**Passages:
Psalm 37:1-11
& Luke 6:27-38**

On the fortieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1985, this 23,000-piece mosaic created by glass artists from Murano Island beside Venice was presented by the USA to the UN, where it remains on display in their headquarters in New York. The representatives of all world nations walk past it day after day after day. The mosaic recreates a painting by Norman Rockwell from the early 1960s, which shows people of many different ethnicities, colours, religions, ages, national dress and social backgrounds looking out with dignity towards the eye of the painter; who may well be standing in the centre, pondering the meaning of this international and multi-

cultural gathering. And across the lower half of the painting is written the explanation, in words that are sacred in the texts of many religious traditions, but in Christianity find their home in our passage today in Luke 6, verse 31: 'do unto others as you would have them do unto you'. A universal message of unity that celebrates the glorious diversity of human life, 'the golden rule', as the painting is entitled - which if it was ever fully enacted might re-tune all people's attitudes to the others and the strangers amongst them, from one of sometime disdain to a fuller empathy, and hold the key to a true 'golden age' of peace and human flourishing.

And where are we now with that, after a further forty years? The war of words continues between America, Russia, Ukraine and the EU, and the prospects of a fair and just resolution of the real war, one that might prevent it re-igniting, seem slim. Meanwhile, the ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians hangs precariously in the balance, each side accusing the other of renegeing, with threats of demolishing Gaza for luxury resorts and with sporadic terrorist attacks continuing. The words that a Christian God they named 'the Prince of Peace' must surely invite us to speak into these situations are 'do unto others as you would have them do to you'. Or, in other words, do not pause and reload, but stop the killing. Lay the weapons down. And seek a lasting peace so that you might live alongside each other.

But how easy it is for us to talk from here about loving your enemies and praying for



Reconciliation, by Josefina de Vasconcellos, in St. Michael's Cathedral, Coventry
By Martinvl - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46444357>

those who persecute you, rather than seeking revenge on those who threaten you and yours; those who attack you, try to kill you and take your land. How difficult it must be for those in the eye of the storm to see any sense in those words. How difficult, given our human nature and our animal instincts to protect and survive.

How easy it is to talk of it, but that is what Jesus undoubtedly does in Luke 6 in the Sermon on the Mount. He tells us that if we love only those who love us, what effort does that require, what reward does that produce? We can all do that. No - love your enemies, said Jesus, do good to those who hate you, pray for those who abuse you. Turn the other cheek to be struck again. If they steal your coat, give them your shirt too. And expect nothing in return, for your reward is eternal. Be merciful, just as God is merciful. Do not judge or condemn, lest you will be judged and condemned. Forgive, just as you have been forgiven. All summed up in this 'golden rule' of verse 31: 'do to others as you would have them do to you.' The most deeply challenging of words, calling to end the cycle of human violence,

and for forgiveness and reconciliation with those whom you might hold in bitter dislike and even hatred.

And here's the really challenging part - for Jesus to say that all of this is not just for each one of us to shout out glibly towards other people in Christ's name, it is for each of us to act out day by day, fundamental to our calling as Christians. Like many of his sayings, sometimes I wish he hadn't uttered these words at all. Sometimes I wish he had just said, follow the law that not only the people of Israel but all civilisations had enacted for three millennia before his time, what the Romans called the 'Lex Talionis'. Don't choose life - choose retaliation, inflict the same injury in return, get your own back, an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Why didn't Jesus say hit back harder, teach them a lesson, wipe them out, do as I say or 'all hell will break loose,' it will solve all your problems if your enemies are annihilated? A living mantra, or even a foreign policy, that is based on bigger guns, larger threats, insults, contempt and revenge. Who could imagine? But no, afraid not.

Instead, Jesus as in so many other ways, turns all this upside down, and pronounces that retaliation, revenge and contempt has no place in a Christian life. Like the apostle Peter wrote in his first letter, having been there in Galilee when the original words were said, 'Do not repay evil for evil or abuse for abuse; but, on the contrary, repay with a blessing. It is for this that you were called, that you might inherit a blessing.'

And it's not just a New Testament God who's turning everything on its head, but an Old Testament God too, the God of the people of Israel, from the words of the Psalmist, in our passage in Psalm 37:

*Do not fret because of the wicked;
2 for they will soon fade like the grass,
3 Trust in the Lord, and do good;
6 He will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the
noonday.
and delight in abundant prosperity.*

It's all inspiring promise and vision and aspiration...but is it reality? Can there really be peace, love and reconciliation between people in a place like the Crimea or Israel/Palestine? Verses 7 and 8 of the Psalm: 'be still before the Lord, do not fret, refrain from anger and forsake wrath, and you shall inherit the land and be prosperous if you are meek;' I wish all the leaders in the Middle East could meditate on those words. But how can those words come to fruition when there has been so much killing, where towns and cities, and peoples' lives, have been laid waste and Gaza lies in rubble? What will be left to inherit? With all that, peace and reconciliation this side of heaven, really? Be merciful, concludes Jesus in verse 36 of Luke 6, just as your Heavenly father is merciful. Merciful, is it? Who could blame the man in our local church when I was a boy that was a veteran of World War II and had been a prisoner of war in a Japanese camp, that thirty years later would sound off loudly at anyone who bought a car or a telly that had been

manufactured there. So how in the name of God can Jesus expect this in the here and now, when wounds are so raw and unhealed?

And yet, when you dig deeper, maybe all this does not seem so 'out there' and beyond possibility now. Maybe it's more than honourable words, more than inviting passivity and weakness. Instead, maybe at its core there is a dynamism, a might and a power all its own. For deep down, turn the other cheek and love your enemies is about overcoming humiliation, deflating and exposing the evil of the aggressor, seizing the initiative, reversing the roles, imitating what God's Kingdom might be like, acting in the image of God Himself. By saying 'bring it on,' standing up to the humiliation and not backing down; saying 'I will persevere and show faith in God,' I will respond by showing not hate but love. Love as an act of resistance.

And so, the power of the first act is broken, the menace and fear of the aggressor is deflated; his pleasure in the victim's pain is revealed. It's not fighting fire with fire but dousing fire with water, breaking a cycle of hate with love. Beyond retaliation, the energy of aggressive force is turned back without more force being used. These are the very Bible passages which Ghandi so admired, and which Martin Luther King used to found the non violent resistance of the Civil Rights Movement. Oh, if such thoughts were ever to cross the minds of Presidents and Prime Ministers in the great world conflicts of this moment.

And in all this, we might also be doing what Jesus did. We might be foreshadowing the Kingdom of heaven. Rejecting the stance that will only show love to those who deserve it. Why? Because that's what God does too. This is not about taking a beating, or being taken advantage of. It is not cowardly or weak, not saying that we shouldn't escape from inflicted violence or abusive relationships. Nor does it negate the right to defend yourself, to prevent yourself being attacked, but showing there

are limits to what self defence might mean. But Jesus says right here in this passage, that cycle must be broken for it knows no ending - the hate, the violence, the retribution, the killing will go on forever—break it with love - stop now!



Perhaps the real prospects for peace in loving enemies ARE minimal in a bitter and cynical world, whose divisions appear sharper, deeper and more vitriolic than ever in the age in which we live. But we are called still, for our sake and that of the world, to reflect the image of God and implement the 'golden rule' even to the smallest of extents that we can; imitating God and foreshadowing a new world, the Kingdom of Heaven. We will never attain that

perfection, of course, but we might point ourselves and others towards it. William Barclay wrote that we move towards 'Christian perfection when we learn to forgive as God forgives, and to love as God loves.' Amen.

SCOTTISH LOVE IN ACTION (SLA)

CINEMA NIGHT 2025

Join us for some fun, fizz and a film to give children in India the opportunity to thrive. For our Charity Cinema Night this year, we will be screening the classic workplace comedy *9 to 5* (1980) starring Dolly Parton, Lily Tomlin and Jane Fonda at the Dominion Cinema. Thursday 13 March 2025 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start. For Tickets, See:

www.citizenticket.com/events/scottish-love-in-action-4/charity-cinema-night-2025/

SLA's roots stem from 1999, when our founder Gillie Davidson took the 'QII' youth group from Greenbank Church in Edinburgh to a town in Andhra Pradesh in India. The group helped an Indian NGO to build a home for 120 homeless children. The number of children in the home later grew to around 500.



To date, SLA has supported thousands of children and young people through our Indian partners, who have used the funds we raise to support, care for, educate, empower and nurture vulnerable children.

Main website: www.sla-india.org

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Activity Groups, Kirk Session and Youth Group meetings TBC.
Please check the weekly news and email for updates**

**Events at Mayfield Building = (MS). At Priestfield Building = (PF)
Services will take place at the Mayfield building unless otherwise noted.**

March

Sun 9 First Sunday of Lent

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 11 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
2.30pm Afternoon Service (MS)

Thu 13 2.00pm Thursday Club: Rosemary Gold: *Dr Andrew Gold* (MS)

Sun 16 Second Sunday of Lent

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 18 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
7.00pm Book Launch - See page 18

Wed 19 7.30pm Kirk Session (PF)

Thu 20 2.00pm Thursday Club: Joe Waterfield *Historic Castles Of Scotland* (MS)
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Sat 22 10.00am Pete Carthy's Art Show (MS) See page 7

Sun 23 Third Sunday of Lent

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Tue 25 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Thu 27 2.00pm Thursday Club: Heather Cubie *My Work In Malawi* (MS)

Sat 29 4.00pm Messy Church (PF)

Sun 30 Fourth Sunday of Lent

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
Dr Mairi Collie – A Presentation After The Service.

April

Tue 1 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

Thu 3 2.00pm Thursday Club: Simon Fairnie *Fishwives Part Two!* (MS)
7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)

Fri 4 2.00pm First Friday Friends (MS)

Sun 6 Fifth Sunday of Lent

10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
7.00pm Evening Service (TBC)

Tue 8 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)

Thu 10 2.00pm Thursday Club: John Knox *Bridgend Farmhouse* (MS)

Sun 13 Palm Sunday

9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)

Monday 14 April to Friday 18 April at 7.45am
Fifteen minutes of reflection to start each day.
Followed by breakfast

- Tue 15 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
- Thu 17 2.00pm Thursday Club: Easter Break - No Meeting
- Fri 18 tbc Join with Christians from local churches on a Walk of Witness.
 7.30pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service (MS)
- Sun 20 Easter Sunday**
 5.45am Early morning dawn worship at the top of Blackford Hill (SF)
 9.30 am Easter Day Breakfast and Informal Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
 10.30am Easter Day Service (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 22 10.00am Morning Prayers (MS)
- Thu 24 2.00pm Thursday Club: Tom Halpin *Folk You Meet Whilst Antarctic Cruising!* (MS)
 7.30pm Praise and Prayer (PF)
- Sat 26 4.00pm Easter Messy Church (PF)
- Sun 27 Second Sunday of Easter**
 9.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
 10.45am Service of Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
- Tue 29 10.00am Morning Prayers (at MS)

MAY

- Thu 1 2.00pm Thursday Club: *Early Music And Summer Party* (MS)
 7.30pm Newman Association in Bill McDonald Hall (MS)
- Fri 2 2.00pm First Friday Friends (MS)
- Sun 4 Third Sunday of Easter**
 10.30am All-Age Worship (Rev Dr Sandy Forsyth)
 7.00pm Evening Service (TBC)

WORDS & ACTIONS 4 PEACE
 58 Ratcliffe Terrace Edinburgh EH9 1ST

BOOK LAUNCH & DISCUSSION

FOUR SPECIAL GUESTS TO DISCUSS A NEW BOOK ABOUT PALESTINE

a unique, factual and evocative narrative that raises awareness of Britain's historic responsibility and role in the Israel Palestine conflict.



TUESDAY
18 MARCH 7:00PM



MONICA SPOONER
AUTHOR



FRANCES GUY
SIDA



ROGER SPOONER
BALFOUR PROJECT



SANDY FORSYTH
MINISTER
NEWINGTON TRINITY



THE MILERS

The Milers are on the move again. We have three walks lined up for March. Even if you're not yet a signed up member of the Milers you might find one or all of these interesting. You would be most welcome to join us.

Monday 10 March A medium walk along the beach at North Berwick with an option to climb Berwick Law. Contact Winifred Hodge on ewh@winifredhodge.co.uk or mobile 07796 463596

Saturday 15 March A long circular walk from Abbey St Bathans taking in Edin's Hall Broch. Contact Jean: jebileitch@gmail.com or mobile 07710 213754.

Tuesday 25 March A visit to the War Poets Museum with a tour guided by the curator of the collection.

There is also an optional short walk starting at Napier University's Campus and



following the Poets Trail over Wester Craiglockhart Hill.

As numbers on the tour are limited book before Saturday 8 March to reserve a place.

Contact Sally on sallyfowler@talktalk.net or 07804 209908

THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

March

6	Numbers	17-19	/	Acts	19
7	Numbers	20,21	/	Acts	20
8	Numbers	22,23	/	Psalms	30
9	Numbers	24,25	/	Acts	21
10	Numbers	26,27	/	Acts	22
11	Numbers	28,29	/	Psalms	31
12	Numbers	30,31	/	Acts	23
13	Numbers	32,33	/	Acts	24
14	Numbers	34,35	/	Acts	25
15	Numbers	36	/	Deuteronomy	1/32
16	Deuteronomy	2,3	/	Acts	26
17	Deuteronomy	4,5	/	Acts	27
18	Deuteronomy	6,7	/	Psalms	33
19	Deuteronomy	8,9	/	Acts	28
20	Deuteronomy	10,11	/	Romans	1
21	Deuteronomy	12,14	/	Romans	2
22	Deuteronomy	15,16	/	Psalms	34
23	Deuteronomy	17,18	/	Romans	3
24	Deuteronomy	19,20	/	Romans	4
25	Deuteronomy	21,22	/	Psalms	35
26	Deuteronomy	23,24	/	Romans	5
27	Deuteronomy	25,26	/	Romans	6
28	Deuteronomy	27,28	/	Romans	7
29	Deuteronomy	29,30	/	Psalms	36
30	Deuteronomy	31,32	/	Romans	8
31	Deuteronomy	33,34	/	Romans	9

April

1	Joshua	1-3	/	Psalms	37
2	Joshua	4,5	/	Romans	10
3	Joshua	6,7	/	Romans	11

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

May

1	Samuel	20-22	/	Mark	15
2	Samuel	23,24	/	Mark	16
3	Samuel	25,26	/	Psalms	49
4	Samuel	27,28	/	Corinthians	1

WHO'S WHO IN NEWINGTON TRINITY

Edinburgh: Newington Trinity Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number SC000785

Please note: These contact details are correct at time of publication but some are likely to change at the next edition of the magazine in May 2025. Please continue to check the weekly news updates in print or on the church website: www.newingtontrinity.org

Minister

Revd Dr Alexander Forsyth AForsyth@churchofscotland.org.uk 0131 667 1286

Session Clerk Team

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Barry Cross (Depute)
Pauline Weibye (Depute)

Parish Deacon

Pauline Robertson DCS pastoralassistantms@gmail.com 0758 704 3191

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William Mearns office@newingtontrinity.org 0780 801 1234

Priestfield - Letting Manager

Kenny Ferguson kenny.ferguson@blueyonder.co.uk 0741 253 4131

Organist

Kate Pearson kate.q.kate@gmail.com 0744 238 2296

Treasurer

Charles Garland treasurer@newingtontrinity.org 07762 908 343

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Aileen Nimmo mayfieldsafeguarding@gmail.com 0131 667 1522

Gift Aid Donations & Roll Keeper

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

Church Address

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Edinburgh, EH9 1TQ - 0131 667 1522

Priestfield Building: 2 Marchhall Place,
Edinburgh EH16 5HW - 0772 004 0081

Office Contact Details

0131 667 1522
office@newingtontrinity.org

Pastoral Care

For home or hospital visits, please contact
the Minister or Pastoral Assistant

Staff Days Off - (Generally)

Minister: Fridays
Children & Young Families Worker: Mondays
Manager: Monday afternoons & Fridays
Pastoral Assistant: Friday

Social Media Accounts

 www.facebook.com/newingtontrinitychurch
 www.youtube.com/@ChurchEdinburgh
 www.flickr.com/photos/98063709@N06
 www.x.com/churchscotland
 www.newingtontrinity.org

Print Run 3: 100. Total so far printed: 300



Copy Date for Next Issue: 6.00pm on Friday 25 April 2025