

WHO'S WHO @ MARCHMONT ST GILES'

Minister	Rev Dr Karen K Campbell	662 9353
email	kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Ian Moss	662 9293
email	sessionclerk@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Children & Family		447 4359
email	family@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Treasurer	Jessica McCraw	667 4514
email	treasurer@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Organist & Choirmaster	Robert Parsons	557 1257
Flowers	Mhairi Wilson	445 1835
email	mhairi.m.wilson@gmail.com	
	Shirley Farquhar	447 9558
email	sgfarquhar@yahoo.com	
Safeguarding	Catriona Moss	662 9293
email	safeguarding@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
Pastoral Care	June Wilson	447 7572
Rollkeeper	Gillean Hoehnke	
	rollkeeper@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	
The Shuttle Editors	Charles Stewart and Sue Wilson	668 1970
email	theshuttle@marchmontstgiles.org.uk	07966 736323

Church Centre Booking Enquiries

Church Centre Office

Email : office@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

0131 447 4359

Marchmont St Giles' Parish, Church of Scotland
is a registered Scottish Charity SCO09338

THE SHUTTLE



October 2020

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Phone: 0131 447 4359

www.marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Wednesday	Meeting Matters Butterflies Plus not currently available
Thursday 12.30	Bible Study on Zoom
Saturday	Morning Coffee not currently available

October 2020

25	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube

November 2020

1	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube
2	7.00	Kirk Session on Zoom
8	9.30	Junior Church on Zoom
	10.30	Remembrance Sunday Morning Worship in church and on Facebook Live / YouTube (see page 9)

See page 19 for weekly events taking place on-line.

Front cover: A Harvest scene in Perthshire

AROUND THE AISLES

- Tuesday and Thursday on Facebook-Live at 10am there is a Thought for the Day from Karen, Kate and Julia
- Tuesdays at 11am, if you are able to join Zoom, there's a coffee morning. Make a cup of tea or coffee and join in for a chat. Tuesdays at 8pm, The Book Group (see p13)
- Wednesday at 7pm on Zoom there's a Knit and Natter meeting. You can sew or knit or join the meeting just to chat.
- For either of these meetings email Karen to receive the Zoom joining code: kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk
- Thursday at 12.30am you can join the Bible Study led by Julia on Zoom. For the coming weeks we will be looking at The Book of Acts. All welcome to join this informal gathering. Email Julia if you would like to receive the Zoom joining code in an email: jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk
- As we welcome people into the church for our Sunday Services, we will continue to broadcast the services live on Marchmont St Giles' Facebook page and also on MSG YouTube Channel. There is coffee on Zoom after the service at 1130am.
- Ann has home-made jam and marmalade for sale to support the Church Development Fund. You can phone her on 667 8325 to order some, and make payment at a later date.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive a paper copy of the Shuttle, let us know. Charles can print and deliver to anyone who cannot see it online.



Our family in Shadows' from Jayden's family (top) and a wonderful family portrait from Jayden (below)



Reflection

Henri Nouwen, the priest, professor, writer and theologian, said that:

"Jesus says, 'Let go of your complaints, forgive those who loved you poorly, step over your feelings of being rejected, and have the courage to trust that you won't fall into an abyss of nothingness but into the safe embrace of a God whose love will heal all your wounds.'"



It feels, at the moment, that a lot of people feel, a little jaded, even a little broken. It's in the small, almost imperceptible things, which we have all taken for granted that the pain rests. A quick drive to the beach; sitting with a couple of friends and sharing stories; walking down a corridor.

The big things are often even more painful, but it is in the small that where we feel it.

We are not being asked, not to feel, but we are being asked to put our feelings, a little to one side, so that Covid can be contained and our neighbours protected.

You could argue that we are being asked to be the Good Samaritan; and in some way that has helped me, but I am also so aware of the number of people who are struggling and the toll it is taking on people's health. How do we care for the most vulnerable people in a pandemic, when they can't see the people they love as much as they usually would?

If we learn nothing else from this time, let us commit to care for each other. Too many people feel rejected. Too many people are tired and wondering if there is good yet to happen.

This week I heard a news piece about a potato farmer who will not be able to export if there is a no deal Brexit, and that is where most of his business comes from. There are so many other stories and we all worry about where we are going. A no deal Brexit has always been on the cards, so it shouldn't be a surprise, but in the midst of a pandemic, this feels so hard, for so many people.

When we are challenged and we feel there is no way to turn, it is then that it is important to remember that God will always love us and will be there, to ensure that we will not fall into nothingness. There is always something. And God's something is everything and it is good. That is the creative nature of God.

If you are finding it difficult, reach out: to a friend, your Elder, the Minister. If your thoughts are such that you don't feel you can speak to someone close, then, there are phone-lines you can call.

One of the questions I have been asked several times in the last week, is about the Church clock. It has not fallen into a pit either. There has been work in the tower by Galliford Try who are putting a base-station there. At the beginning of the work the clock and the bells were stopped, so that electrical work could be done.

The work is not complete and so until they reconnect the 240v supply and get it sorted out, then the clock, the light and the bell, will be dormant.

The Burgh put clocks up church towers and even in this technical age, it has become very clear how many people still use the clock. We are working hard with them, but until the work is complete in November, then normal service will not resume. We had hoped that this would have completed far quicker, but again Covid has meant that because of key people being affected, things are taking a little longer.

Things will become more normal. Until then let us pull together and work for the good of all.

Karen K Campbell



Although we cannot meet formally at the moment as "The Guild", the committee members are still around, and would be happy to have a blether. Also now that the café is open from 11.00 till 3.00, there are quite often kent faces there having coffee. Just give someone a ring, and fix up a suitably sanitised and socially distanced coffee date to catch up on any gossip!

Hope to see you soon.

Eileen



From Joel: 'Grand Designs' (new favourite programme) inspired eco-house model; combining lots that I am thankful for; creativity, inspiring things to make & watch, talent for design & building, opportunities in my high school to try new subjects.

From Amelia:

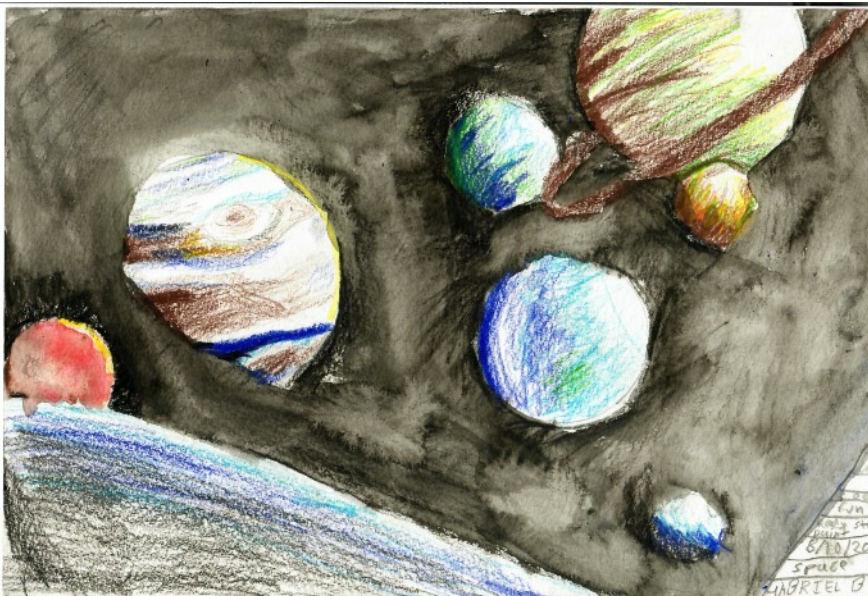
I am thankful for trees to climb, friends to play in them with & being able to make art and be creative.



And my Grandma's ginger biscuit recipe!



Beautiful art work from mum and son, Julie (the bird) and Gabriel (the planets)



Cruse 0333 554 9157

<https://www.cruse.org.uk/>



Edinburgh crisis centre 0808 801 0414

<http://www.edinburghcrisiscentre.org.uk/>



The Samaritans 116 123

<https://www.samaritans.org/>



Health in mind 225 8508

<https://www.health-in-mind.org.uk/>



<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/>

Butterflies Cafe News

Butterflies Cafe has been happily welcoming people back through its doors for a few weeks now.

We are open from 11am - 3pm, Monday to Friday, with tables and chairs spaced out, 2 metres apart, in a large, airy room.

Nicci writes: *I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who has popped in for a bite to eat, or just a coffee over the last few weeks. It's been great to see some old faces, and a few new ones!*

We worked hard to get all the safety precautions in place and we really appreciate everyone wearing their masks, following the one way system, and using the hand sanitiser. It means a lot to us that you are supporting us and these measures.

The menu

A tray-bake update from Nicci: For regulars, who may know the menu like the back of their hands ... we have a new tray-bake, rice crispy cake. Who made those as kids? More went in your mouth than in the pan, right? Plus, the white caramel shortbread is back.

There are always scones, with gluten free scones making a welcome appearance, and cake. There is always cake!

Lunches: Come and join us for lunch at Butterflies with our range of sandwiches, salads and soups, freshly made for you. Please note Butterflies Plus lunch has not yet started back.

Soups: Check out our soup-of-the-day which might be Tomato and Sweet Peppers, Chunky Leek and Potato, Mushroom or Carrot, Orange and Ginger amongst others.

And drinks! We have all our usual coffees, teas and cold drinks and as we head into Winter and the weather becomes colder, you can warm up with our Heavenly Hot Chocolate, with a pile of cream and marshmallows.

Family Focus

Early Service continues on Zoom at 930am on a Sunday, and it has been lovely seeing a few children back at the worship service in church as well.

As we enter the October school holidays, the children and their families reflect on that for which they are grateful, and give thanks for God's goodness in their lives. We thought it would be wonderful to share with one another and the wider community the things that bring us joy and comfort: families, pets, creativity, being outside, love, sharing, the seasons, and on and on. We hope these images bring some joy and comfort to you as well.

*Give thanks to the Lord, for God is good;
God's love endures forever. – Psalm 118:1*

Julia



Desiderata

GO PLACIDLY amid the noise and the haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as possible, without surrender, be on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even to the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons; they are vexatious to the spirit. If you compare yourself with others, you may become vain or bitter, for always there will be greater and lesser persons than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your plans. Keep interested in your own career, however humble; it is a real possession in the changing fortunes of time.

Exercise caution in your business affairs, for the world is full of trickery. But let this not blind you to what virtue there is; many persons strive for high ideals, and everywhere life is full of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially do not feign affection. Neither be cynical about love; for in the face of all aridity and disenchantment, it is as perennial as the grass. Take kindly the counsel of the years, gracefully surrendering the things of youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you in sudden misfortune. But do not distress yourself with dark imaginings. Many fears are born of fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle with yourself. You are a child of the universe no less than the trees and the stars; you have a right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you, no doubt the universe is unfolding as it should. Therefore be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be. And whatever your labours and aspirations, in the noisy confusion of life, keep peace in your soul. With all its sham, drudgery and broken dreams, it is still a beautiful world. Be cheerful. Strive to be happy.

By Max Ehrmann © 1927

Original text
<https://www.desiderata.com>

Our And finally has come forward a few pages this month!

Here are some of Nicci's Fun Food Facts from Butterflies Cafe Facebook page and Twitter:

- Peppers, sweet bell and the spicy kind, have been cultivated for at least 6000 years, and possibly for as long as 9000 years.
- "Companionship". It comes from the Latin "com" meaning with or together, and "panis" which means bread. Companionship means coming together to eat, or breaking bread.
- The first-known recipe for chocolate brownies was published in Machias Cookbook in 1899! The recipe was created by Mary Kelley from Whitewater, Wisconsin.
- In Ancient Greece apples were sacred to Aphrodite. To throw an apple at someone was to declare your love for them.
- Japanese researchers invented a fire alarm for hearing impaired people using wasabi vapour in place of sound, though it has not really caught on ... maybe because a false alarm or test would leave your room smelling of Wasabi for hours.
- The largest mushrooms to ever exist were Prototaxites. They grew 420 million years, and reached 10m tall, with 1m wide trunks. That's a big pan of soup!
- The first known use of peas was in Ancient Egypt, some 6000 years ago.
- In the first week of November 1995 potatoes became the first food to be grown in space! Several little potato plants orbited Earth for a week, in the Space Shuttle Columbia and sprouted mini tubers.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

We give thanks for the life and service of:

Ishbel Andrew, a member of the parish who died, aged 96, on 16th September.

Tom Skinner of Marion House who died, aged 91, on 29th September.

Congratulations!

Georgie Anderson for becoming a Great Granny (although she always was a great granny) a daughter called, Espin for Georgie's grand-daughter Kirsten.

Marchmont St Giles' Website

Please continue to click on The Shuttle: Community Extra on the home page of the MSG' website for updated information about Covid and our church and local community.

Our choir's singing is too good to keep to ourselves, so recordings of hymns and anthems are on MSG' website, and you can listen, and sing along, by clicking on Services then Hymns and Anthems.

Helping to Make MSG' Tick

Here we would usually have a rota of Who is doing What & When to help MSG run smoothly. Instead, this space can be used to express our continued thanks to our Minister, Karen, for the time and energy she gives to keeping our congregation together and supported through this time of Covid and to let her know that all she does is hugely appreciated.

Grateful thanks, too, to the wider team who, along with the Minister, have prepared the church in order to welcome people through its doors again, while continuing to live-stream the services for those who continue to worship at home.

which were more controversial, including one which sought, amongst other things, to recognise the Black Lives Matter movement. On most proposals the overwhelming outcome was of the order of 500 for, and 20 against (not everyone voted), but some were 400 to 200. There were contributions from some who wanted to bring a lighter element to an otherwise formal day-long meeting; the levity was provided by changing the 'virtual background' when they appeared on the screen to be the flight deck of the Star Ship Enterprise, or the Millennium Falcon (which made the Kessel Run in less than 12 parsecs!).

Overall, on the downside of the event I would say that even though I see a lot of papers and update emails from Presbytery, I felt I did not know enough about the consequences of some of these proposals to know which way to vote. But I would conclude it was still a worthwhile experience, and it showed the true Presbyterian nature of the Church in that the Commissioners are free to debate and determine the future path of the Church. However, attending a week-long event might be more beneficial from the fellowship gained on meeting people like yourselves - first time attendees at GA - and you have a better chance to ask people about some of the proposals.

Ian Moss, Session Clerk

MSG Book Group

We met for our first Book Group on 13 October to discuss Samuel Well's book, "Walk Humbly: Encouragements for Living, Working and Being". We will continue to gather on Zoom on a Tuesday evening at 7:45 for a start at 8pm. All are welcome to join!

"Walk Humbly" is written in the spirit of the popular poem 'Desiderata', offering reflections on living a meaningful life in this world. (See next page)

If you would like more information or you would like to join the book group, please contact Julia for the Zoom link.
email: jcato@churchofscotland.org.uk

Julia

A "Virtual" General Assembly

For the first time ever the General Assembly (GA) of the Church of Scotland failed to meet in Edinburgh for its week long ritual of fellowship, worship and business. Like every other organisation they had to find a way to meet so that essential elements of business could be tabled, debated and approved - or otherwise amended - or not approved. They settled on a day and a half of business online using Zoom, on a weekend in October.

Every other year Marchmont St Giles is requested to provide an attendee for the week, so that person can vote on behalf of the church. This attendee is called a "Commissioner" and has the right to speak in the debate and to vote. This year's Commissioner was the Session Clerk. Following a compulsory one hour training programme on how to use the voting system - which proved to be essential - the Friday evening began with the Moderator of the GA, Right Rev Dr Martin Fair, welcoming everyone to this year's event. It was indeed strange - for him as for everyone else - as he was standing at the front of the Assembly Hall at New College in front of 30 people - not the usual 600. The 30 people comprised the Clerk and Deputy Clerk, Conveners of the various Forums, and lots of support staff - mostly technical who had to make sure the 4 screens that the Moderator could see were showing the correct picture at the time, and they kept in touch directly with the Moderator via a headset. The system did have a few technical hiccups, but by and large worked well.

The Friday evening was mostly about business that was, presumably, not deemed to be of a controversial nature. On the Saturday, Commissioners had become used to the voting and speaking systems and there was more interaction. Some of the proposals were amended by changing the phrase "must provide a report" to "should provide an update" - and this made sense as the instruction to take forward a piece of work was effectively delayed by five months. Other amendments changed a "the" to an "a". There were some proposals tabled that required work to be undertaken by the central teams and the Convener spoke to state they do not have the resources to support this - some took the Conveners side and the proposal failed, but most were approved. There were others

Harvest Thanksgiving

Thank you to everyone for your Harvest Thanksgiving gifts and donations of money. Twenty three very full shopping bags of a variety of goods were taken to Fair Share at Richmond Craigmillar Church.

We ask you to remember the work of Richmond Craigmillar Church in your prayers and in continuing to donate regularly or to ask friends and neighbours to do the same. They continue to provide over 60 bags of essential items every week. Items can be dropped off at the church door or arrangements can be made to collect them from you. A monetary donation, preferably by cheque, will also be very gratefully received as this allows orders for fresh food to be placed with wholesalers e.g. butter, cheese, fruit and veg and to be included in the bags. Contact Charles Stewart on the Shuttle email or on 07831 374007.

New Piano

The church has recently been gifted a Bluthner piano by a kind neighbour and friend of the congregation who is moving South. It originally was gifted to a former Minister of Canongate Church on his retirement in 1933.

After it has acclimatised to its new surroundings it will be tuned and will be used in future for services and concerts.

New photocopier

The copier in the office has met its end due a broken, obsolete part and a replacement machine is being acquired. So printing of The Shuttle and other printing needs will resume in the near future in standard ad large print.

Remembrance Sunday

There might be quite a few people wanting to attend the Service of Remembrance on 8th November so Karen has asked if you would please phone or email her to indicate how many seats you will need as soon as possible. She will let you know the day before if seats are fully booked and if any seats might be available.

Please Book early

kkcampbell@churchofscotland.org.uk or call 662 9353

Flowers



Sadly our weekly flowers which are donated by members of our congregation, arranged by our flower arrangers and then delivered to people in the community to provide comfort in sad times or to commemorate a happy occasion, have not been present since March.

Whilst we can now open the church with strict safety controls in place, we are, for the time being, unable to resume the fresh flower arrangements. There are many pairs of hands who touch the blooms on their journey from purchase through to delivery to the final recipient which of course increases the chances of contamination if anyone along the way is infected with Covid-19. Visiting houses and care homes is also not permitted at the moment and so it would be difficult to donate the flowers to members of our community.

Prior to the church reopening, the silk flowers so kindly donated by Margaret McKenzie some time ago provided a lovely backdrop to an otherwise empty sanctuary, and so we have decided to maintain the idea of silk flowers until it is safe to return to our weekly fresh flower arrangements. A new artificial arrangement is now in place and we hope to update this for Christmas and again in the new year.

If you are one of our kind financial donors and feel that you would still like to give money towards the flower fund - any donations will be used towards the purchase of further silk arrangements and so your contributions will still be very much appreciated.

Hopefully we will be able to fill the church with fresh flowers in the spring of 2021, we very much look forward to this being possible.

Mhairi & Shirley

September Quiz Answer

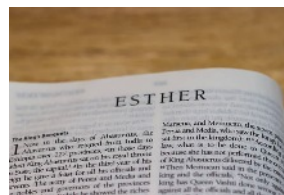
The photos were of Meikleour Beech Hedge, near Blairgowrie. Recognised by the Guinness Book of Records as the highest hedge in the world, it was planted in 1745 and is one third of a mile long (530m) and 100ft high (30 m). It is thought the men who planted it were called to fight in the Jacobite Rebellion and none of them returned alive. In tribute the trees were allowed to grow and the hedge acts as a living landmark to them.
(Info from visitscotland.com)

Edinburgh Presbytery Planning Strategy

Earlier last month Edinburgh Presbytery arranged a workshop "Planning for the Future", inviting Ministers and Elders from all the local congregations. The Presbytery plan was to discuss how we - collectively - can take the Church's focus on 'Mission' forward in a sustainable way across our Parish and beyond. "Mission" is essentially bringing the work of Jesus and the Bible to the people by whatever means we can. Marchmont St Giles has recently engaged in this through online Services and Thoughts for the Day, as well as a weekly community email to over 100 people, keeping them informed on local issues over the lockdown period and beyond. We also serve the community by providing a cafe and opening all our spaces for the various groups that attend on a regular basis (all activities are COVID compliant and must pass rigorous risk assessments).

The Kirk Session met to discuss the way ahead, which will involve having discussions with our nearby churches. Together we will need to identify where the people are, including new residential developments that might not have a church presence, and look at how we can share and use our respective resources more effectively. Our resources are: our people, e.g. Ministers; activities, e.g. Services and Cafes; and buildings, e.g. Churches and Halls, for worship and community use. A local plan for Marchmont St Giles and nearby churches might take some months to come together but we are determined to work constructively with our colleagues to continue to provide appropriate services for our wider congregation and community. We will keep you updated as our discussions develop.

Ian Moss, Session Clerk



October Quiz

The book of Esther is unique because it does not mention which word?