



THE SHUTTLE

Marchmont St Giles' Parish Church

**At the Heart of the Community
December 2022**



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

December

11	10.30	Morning Worship : Nativity & Gift Service
18	10.30	Morning Worship : Nine Lessons and Carols
20	12.30	Butterflies Christmas Lunch
21	14.00	The Longest Night service - <i>see page 8</i>
23	14.00	Christingle preparation - Church Centre *
24	16.00	Christingle Service *
	23.30	Watchnight Service *
25	10.00	Morning Worship : Christmas Day Service

*Volunteers are required to prepare Christingles or act as stewards at these services Please contact Janet Wake thewakes@blueyonder.co.uk]

January 2023

1	10.30	Morning Service
8	09.30	Family Service
	10.30	Morning Service
15	09.30	Family Service
	10.30	Morning Service
22	09.30	Family Service
	10.30	Morning Service
29	09.30	Family Service
	10.30	Morning Service

February

4	Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle.	
5	09.30	Family Service
	10.30	Morning Service
12	09.30	Family Service
	10.30	Morning Service

Front Page

Edinburgh's latest photo opportunity on the Mound. Hundreds of people daily have their photo taken with this background.

Reflections

Psychologists have a lot to say about dreams. Carl Jung said that *"Your vision will only become clear when you look inside your heart... Who looks outside dreams; who looks inside, awakes."*

Mary Shelley is regarded as the first person to write a science fiction novel.

In 1816, at the age of 18, she visited Lord Byron by Lake Geneva in Switzerland. It had been a long cold year and it was to be an even longer colder winter. Mount Tambora in Indonesia had erupted the year before; it was an even worse eruption than Krakatoa would be, and it created Europe's *"year without a summer"* with very cold temperatures. Stuck indoors and huddled around a log fire, Byron suggested they each write a ghost story.

Later that night after turning in, her imagination took hold and she experienced what she described as a vivid waking dream and the novel 'Frankenstein' came to life.

Equally, Niels Bohr, the father of quantum mechanics, often spoke of the inspirational dream that led to his discovery of the structure of the atom. One night he went to sleep and began dreaming about atoms. He saw the nucleus of the atom, with electrons spinning around it, much as planets spin around their sun. Immediately on awakening, he wrote it down and then went about validating his idea before announcing it to the world. Bohr's vision was one of the greatest breakthroughs of his day.

Throughout the bible and particularly in the Gospels, the Advent of Christ is heralded by various dreams. In St Matthew, Joseph's dream inspires him to protect Mary and her unborn child. All the great wisdom traditions, including the Christian tradition, emerged from mystical experiences. A dream can change everything. The Christian faith is more than an ethical lifestyle; it is a way of experiencing life that shapes everything we do. We are called to be open to the other: the healing touch, the mystical experience, the smile of a friend or stranger, the Call to service. As Christians in the 21st Century we need to find a balance between a robust rationalism and a robust mysticism,

The message of Christmas – God with us - cannot be sustained by pure rationalism alone; at a spiritual level, we still need shepherds and angelic choirs and life-changing dreams, to discover the deepest meaning of Christmas.

Let us go beyond one-dimensional understandings of reality and embrace the world of Christmas – of the birth of a baby, unexpected revelation, ordinary people stepping up and saying “yes” to God and holiness around every corner. This ordinary man called Joseph becomes a spiritual hero, because he – like Mary – says “yes” to God’s call to bring wholeness to earth. So with the song of the angels and angelic visitations on the horizon this season, let us open to “more than we can rationally hope for.” What might God be calling you to in this Season. What dreams might you have?

Karen K Campbell

Cost of Living Crisis and Staying safe online

Our local MP, Ian Murray, has produced a useful guide to help us through the current crisis over energy costs, cost of living and staying safe generally.

Copies are available in the Church Centre and can also be viewed via our church Facebook page.

Sadly our current situation presents opportunities for criminal minds to exploit, Police Scotland have also prepared a range of leaflets to raise awareness of the types of criminal activity you could face online at home. More information is available here www.getsafeonline.org . It is hoped to secure a supply of leaflets to be made available in the church centre.

Importantly if you think you have been the victim of a scam, report it to Action Fraud on 0300 123 20 40 or call the Police on 101

Lectionary

Week beginning 12th December

Monday – Psalm 42

Tuesday – Isaiah 29: 17-24

Wednesday – Acts 5: 12-16

Thursday – Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19

Friday – 2 Samuel 7: 18-22

Saturday – John 3:31-36

Sunday – Matthew 1: 18-25

Week beginning 19th December

Monday – Genesis 17: 15-22

Tuesday – 1 Samuel 2: 1-10

Wednesday – Matthew 1: 1-17

Thursday – Luke 1: 4b – 55

Friday – Galatians 3: 6-14

Saturday – Isaiah 9: 2,6,7

Christmas Day – Luke 2: 1-20

Week beginning 26th December

Monday – Psalm 148

Tuesday – Proverbs 8: 22-31

Wednesday – Isaiah 49: 13-23

Thursday – Luke 19: 41-44

Friday – 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

Saturday – Psalm 20

Sunday – Matthew 2: 13-23

Week Beginning 2nd January

Monday – Genesis 12: 1-7

Tuesday – Hebrews 11:13-22

Wednesday – Exodus 3:1-5

Thursday – Joshua 1: 1-9

Friday – Isaiah 60:1-6

Saturday – Ephesians 3:14-21

Sunday – Matthew 3: 13-17

Week beginning January 9th

Monday – Genesis 35: 1-15

Tuesday – Psalm 89: 5-37

Wednesday – Isaiah 51: 1-16

Thursday – Galatians 1: 6-12

Friday – Psalm 40:1-11

Saturday – 1 Kings 19: 19-21

Sunday – John 1: 29-42

Week beginning 16th January

Monday – Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28

Tuesday – Isaiah 53:1-12

Wednesday – Isaiah 48:12-21

Thursday – Psalm 27:1-6;

Friday – 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8

Saturday 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13

Sunday – Isaiah 9:1-4

Week beginning 23rd January

Monday – Judges 6:11-24

Tuesday – Judges 7:12-22

Wednesday – Psalm 27:7-14

Thursday – Psalm 15

Friday Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4

Saturday – Micah 3:1-4

Sunday – Micah 6:1-8

Week beginning 30th January

Monday – Psalm 37:1-17

Tuesday – Ruth 2:1-16

Wednesday – Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22

Thursday – Psalm 112:1-9

Friday – Isaiah 29:1-12

Saturday – Isaiah 29:13-16

Sunday – Isaiah 58:1-9a

Week beginning 6th February

Monday – Psalm 119:105-112

Tuesday – 2 Kings 23:1-8, 21-25

Wednesday – Proverbs 6:6-23

Thursday – Psalm 119:1-8

Friday – Leviticus 26:34-46

Saturday – Deuteronomy 30:1-9a

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We celebrate the birth of

Eoin Thomas, to his proud parents Nadia and Hadyn Thomas.

Congratulations and best wishes.



We give thanks for the life and service of

Mrs Georgie Anderson, an Elder of the Congregation, who died on 29th November. Her funeral is on 16th December at 12:15pm in the Church and will be available to watch online on the Church's Facebook page

AROUND THE AISLES

A most successful Christmas Fair and Afternoon Tea was held in the Church Centre on Saturday 3rd December. Congratulations and thanks to Nicci and her willing band of volunteers who served dozens of delights for Afternoon Tea, to the stall holders who came along and to everyone who attended.

Good news! Scottish Water will be installing one of their bright blue Top Up Taps (TUT) in the Meadows to provide the community with cool, fresh, clear water when out and about.

So far, in over seventy locations across Scotland the taps have dispensed the equivalent of over two million single-use plastic bottles so they are looking forward to installing another one in the Capital!

They have identified and carried out site visits to a couple of different spots and will be able to confirm exact location in the next few weeks. They are hoping to have the new TUT installed at the start of next year.

Edinburgh is well served by Top up Taps, which are placed around the city in Rutland Place, Grassmarket, Royal Mile, Horse Wynd, Portobello Promenade and Leith Links.

See more information on TUTs on their website Top Up Taps Popping Up - yourwateryourlife.co.uk or find your nearest tap [here](#)



The Longest Night 2022

Wednesday

21st December

2.00pm



We know that Christmas is not a cheery time
for everyone.

We create a sacred space for people living through
dark times and to acknowledge that despite all the
glitter and busy-ness, that the first Christmas was
one of worry, uncertainty, displacement, loneliness
and challenge.

The service is reflective, accepting and holds out
healing and hope.

Join us at Marchmont St Giles' Parish Church on the
Longest Night of the year, at the solstice to find a
place of peace and healing at this symbolic time.

All Welcome

Marchmont St Giles'

Christmas 2022

Sunday 18th December

Nine Lessons and Carols 10.30am

Wednesday 21st December

Longest Night Service 2.00pm

A reflective service

Saturday 24th December

Christingle Service 4.00pm

Watchnight 11:30pm

Sunday 25th December

Christmas Day Service 10.00am

Sunday 1st January

New Year's Day Service 10.30am

Mary and Joseph - W. H. Auden 1907-1973
(from *For the time being, A Christmas Oratorio*)

Blessed Woman.
Excellent Man,
Redeem for the dull the
Average Way,
That common ungifted
Natures may
Believe that their normal
Vision can
Walk to perfection.

The following is from a review of *For the time being, A Christmas Oratorio* by W H Auden by 'Forward to the Past' December 2016

Since finding a copy at a secondhand book sale three years ago, I've read Auden's *For the Time Being: A Christmas Oratorio* every December. Like the title implies, the work is a long poem (originally meant to be sung, although it rarely is) that relates the events of the classic Christmas story. All of the individuals usually present in Christmas pageants are included: Mary, Joseph, Jesus, Herod, the Magi—even Simeon gets a lengthy soliloquy—but Auden's work brings far more to the table than the average pageant. Although it stays true to the Biblical events and retains a Christmastime feel, the poem portrays the story in a wholly unique way that resonates both in December and throughout the year.

For the Time Being is often overlooked in the literary traditions of Christmas, but it deserves to be recognized for its ingenuity and uniqueness amid the more trite modern depictions. Diving into philosophy while expressing some of humanity's most powerful emotions, Auden's piece confronts what it means to be human and explores how that affects humanity's relationship with God, both personally and societally. With potent poetry throughout, it's the Christmas story for the modern age and for any time of year. It's for the cynic, the weary, and the despondent. It's the Christmas story for all of us.

Find the full review [here](#)



Holy Corner Booksale 2023

Book Donations

- We will be accepting book donations in January & February, from Wednesday, 18 January, 2023
- No home pick-ups, drop-off only, to:
Morningside United Church, Chamberlain Road entrance,
at the following times:
Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon
Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon

We Want

- Scottish books particularly welcome
- Paperback fiction
- Children's books



We Cannot Accept

- Encyclopaedias
- Academic journals
- Reader's Digest
- Books in poor condition, due to mould, water-damage
- CDs, DVDs

(These won't sell, and would incur disposal costs.)

Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ

In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150

Booksale website: <https://holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com>

It's time to party!

To celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's Jubilee, and let's face it as an excuse to throw a party, we held an afternoon tea in June. Lacy tablecloths, bunting, donations of beautiful china ware, and a life size cardboard cutout of the Queen all contributed to a fun day. It was our first big event like this, and despite a few hiccoughs it went brilliantly. People had a blast, enjoyed great food, and even made some new friends.

So, being a complete loon, I said "let's do one at Christmas! With a market too!" As luck would have it, someone asked us to cater their Christmas party the day before as well. Cue some long days and lots of baking.

Much of the baking, along with shopping, sandwich making, decorating, table set-up, and serving was carried out by young volunteers from St Thomas of Aquins, Boroughmuir and James Gillespie's High Schools, the 44th Braid Scouts and The Meadows Explorers... with a little assistance from their leaders. For many of these young people, it was their first time at Marchmont St Giles and first time doing anything of this kind. Others volunteer their time every week at Butterflies Cafe, while some are doing short courses for their Duke of Edinburgh or Saltire Awards. The events could not have happened without these amazing young people, and I cannot thank them enough.

It wasn't just young volunteers helping out, but the minister and many members of the congregation devoted their time on the day or in the run up to it. Thank you to all of them as well.

The Christmas Market was open to local vendors, and the range was quite impressive. Artists, crafters, jewellery makers, authors, bakers, card makers, sellers of eco-friendly bath and kitchen products, and luxury toiletries. Not to mention a stall for the jam and chutney made by Ann McGhee and Cathy Campbell.

If you attended either of these events, or helped out with preparations for them, thank you. If you couldn't make it (I hear there was a lot going on throughout the city that day), we hope you can make it to the next one. Yes, there will be another! Watch this space for more details in the new year.

Nicci, Butterflies Cafe



Christ Church, founded in 1719, is a congregation of the Church of Scotland located in Warwick, Bermuda. Christ Church strives to be not only a church in the community, but a church for the community.

The Outreach Ministry is concerned with the public community islanders live and work in. By taking a firm Christian viewpoint, the Ministry looks for ways in which the Church and its members can assist the community and spread the word of Christ.

Current projects include: Loads of Love laundry service – The Loads of Love building is open on Saturday mornings from 8 am to 11:30 am providing the homeless or those who find themselves in distressed circumstances, with shower and laundry facilities along with breakfast. This program has been in service since March, 2011.

Feeding Programme – This program was created at the onset of Covid when a need arose to feed those who were financially impacted by the pandemic. Hot meals are served Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm or delivered to those housebound.

At the end of a recent service I spoke with the minister, Alistair Bennett, who was previously at Bowden and Melrose in the Scottish Borders before his call to Bermuda and learned that he had undertaken some of his training at Marchmont St Giles' under Rev Donald Stephen

Christ Church is part of the International Presbytery of the Church of Scotland which includes churches from Sri Lanka to Jamaica.

Charles Stewart

An Edinburgh church is celebrating after welcoming a new presbytery appointed full-time minister.



Our former student, Rev Julia Cato was ordained into the Ministry of Word and Sacrament, marking the beginning of her ordained ministry at Greenbank Parish Church at the end of November.

Family, friends and church members were in attendance to witness the joyous occasion. Julia has been introduced into the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian and will serve as Associate Minister for the next 18-months.

She finished her training the end of March 2021 and has worked in the last year and a half as a locum minister first at Bristo Memorial Church and then Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse Parish Church.

The 44-year-old is no stranger to Greenbank Parish Church and worked there as their part-time Families and Children's Worker for almost a year.

She has been leading worship and providing pastoral care for nearly two months and said she is very pleased that she is now able to celebrate the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion.

"I am elated that I can now immerse myself into full-time ordained ministry and feel like I can live out my call the way it is meant to be. Greenbank Parish Church is a good fit for me, it is a vibrant congregation and I already know people there and in the parish so it doesn't feel like I am starting from scratch.

"My ordination service was wonderful as I felt like I was surrounded by friends and family and there was a real warmth because they were celebrating with someone that they knew.

"My call to Greenbank is to be there for people pastorally as the congregation work out what its mission is, going into the future as the presbytery plan takes shape.

And finally

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

He became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoe-box she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoe-box.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoe-box, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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