



# THE SHUTTLE

**Marchmont St Giles'  
Parish Church  
At the Heart of the Community  
October 2022**



**1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW**

## Meeting Matters

### October

|    |       |                 |
|----|-------|-----------------|
| 9  | 9.30  | Junior Church   |
|    | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 10 | 19.30 | Kirk Session    |
| 16 | 9.30  | Junior Church   |
|    | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 23 | 9.30  | Junior Church   |
|    | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 30 | 9.30  | Junior Church   |
|    | 10.30 | Morning Worship |

### November

|   |       |                                               |
|---|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 6 | 9.30  | Junior Church                                 |
|   | 10.30 | Morning Worship & Sacrament of Holy Communion |

Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle

### Front Page

For the first time in many years farmers and farm contractors in the Lothians and south had finished their harvest by the end of August.

On the first Saturday in October farmers in Angus were still to be seen working late into the night as they had to wait for just the right weather and grain conditions before bringing their harvest in from the fields.

(Picture credit - GettyImages)

## Reflections

*When you come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the Lord your God will choose, to make his name to dwell there.*

*And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, 'I declare today to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our fathers to give us.' Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the Lord your God.*

As we give thanks for the many harvests of our lives, community and country, we stand at an apex between what was, is and will be.

In this Season of Harvest, we have long held traditions which we assume reach back to a time when most of this country was agricultural. However, our traditions go much further back than this. The tradition of giving thanks goes far back into the mists of time, right back to the time of the ancients.

In Deuteronomy 26, which began this piece and which I commend to you to read in its fullness, we hear the story of a nation, who had endured slavery in Egypt and 40 years in the wilderness, fed only by God's goodness and manna, then delivered to a land flowing with milk and honey. This is the story of separation, journey and homecoming, resulting in the response of thanksgiving. They are not only to give of their harvest, but to give the first, the most precious, of what they have made to God. They hand it over to the priest and the priest dedicates it to God for the benefit of the most vulnerable in their community.

It was still the tradition at the time of Christ and this has been handed on through the generations until today, when we continue the tradition of giving of what we have to God for the benefit of others. If we lived in a rural location, we may not have even celebrated harvest yet, as there are many farmers who are still to bring in the harvest and their celebration is still determined by the

weather and crops. In Edinburgh, we are less aware of the determinants of the countryside, but we still have things to give thanks for and to dedicate to God.

The tradition of Harvest is not only linked to what we have and the hope that there is enough to go around. Harvest is also a point in the year where we can stop and look to the future in hope. If the conversations of the last few weeks are anything to go by, hope is a real challenge this year, but also something we are called as Christians to believe in and practice.

The last month has been a roller-coaster of emotions and expectations. As we now live in the Carolian era, we look back with a range of emotions, as we remember and give thanks for the life of the late Queen. It feels like only yesterday we were celebrating the Jubilee, and now we have many thoughts on the events of her death and travelling. Her last Christmas speech struck me as one which affirmed her faith and place in the life of the nation and her family, from what she was handed on by her father, to what she would leave behind. I am not a great watcher of the Christmas Queen's speech, but I watched the last one and was struck by the hope which she exhibited in her very being.

But hope is in short supply amongst many people as they reflect on the state of the country and the political and economic decisions of the last month while looking forward to a winter when staying warm will be a challenge for everyone, and may break the most vulnerable. We need hope and we need resolve to make and leave this world a better place than the one we inherited. So, we must pray, but we also must act as we each see fit. Despair means inaction, and we must never despair. If the farmer did not sow in hope, then there would be no crop. What will we sow in faith, perhaps without seeing the harvest which may allow this world hope?

Karen K Campbell

# Lectionary

## October

11 Psalm 102:1-17  
12 Jeremiah 25:15-32;  
13 Psalm 119:97-104  
14 Psalm 121;  
15 Mark 10: 46-52  
16 Genesis 32:22-31  
17 Psalm 129  
18 Jeremiah 39:1-18  
19 Jeremiah 50:1-7  
20 Psalm 65  
21 Joel 2:1-11  
22 Joel 2:12-22  
23.. Joel 2:23-32

24 Joel 3:1-8  
25 Psalm 87  
26 Joel 3:17-20  
27 Psalm 119:137-144  
28 Habakkuk 1:5-17  
29 Habakkuk 2:5-11  
30: Isaiah 1:10-18  
31 Psalm 142

## November

1 Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18  
2 Habakkuk 3:17-19  
3 Psalm 145:1-5, 17-21  
4 Zechariah 6:9-15:  
5 Luke 20:1-8

# **Butterflies Cafe**

**Open for teas, coffees, cakes  
and light snacks**

**Monday to Friday**

**10am to 4pm**

**All welcome**

## **Butteflies Plus**

**Lunch for the over 60s**

**Tuesday 12.30**

# AROUND THE AISLES

This morning I went to the church for private prayer and walked round the church building praying for different parts of the church community and life as I went.

I also prayed in front of the Tindal Mosaic, and found the small golden cross at its centre a real inspiration for hope for an answer to a prayer of mine that has, until recently, felt to me like a hopeless situation. I'd just read the article about the mosaic in the September issue of The Shuttle. It helped to bring me hope in my prayers.

I was praying for two couples I know. For each couple, one spouse has advanced dementia and the other spouse is providing love and care.

I'd just read in The Shuttle that Guilliano suffered from Alzheimers- it felt particularly appropriate that his mosaic had given me such inspiration and hope in my prayers for my friends going through a similar situation.



Informal Prayer meeting  
every Tuesday morning  
9.30 to 10

All Welcome

Contact Ruth @ [dr.ruthnaylor@gmail.com](mailto:dr.ruthnaylor@gmail.com)





The tradition of Thanksgiving dates back hundreds of years  
(Picture: Getty Images)

### **Thanksgiving in North America**

A depiction of Pilgrim early settlers of the Plymouth Colony sharing a harvest Thanksgiving meal with members of the local Wampanoag tribe at the Plymouth Plantation, Plymouth, Massachusetts

In the US, the tradition of Thanksgiving is linked specifically to the Pilgrims and settling in America rather than a successful harvest in genera

### **Canadian Thanksgiving**

Canadian Thanksgiving differs from the more well-known version to the south, but the important thing is to take time to show gratitude for the positive things in your life.

Since 1957, Thanksgiving Day has been a holiday in Canada on the second Monday of October. Canadian Thanksgiving is a chance for people to give thanks for fortunes in the past year, including a good harvest. Below, we will explain what people do on Canadian Thanksgiving, as well as the ways that it differs from U.S. Thanksgiving.

So, let's find out more...

## **History Of Canadian Thanksgiving**

Long before Canada celebrated thanksgiving, the native people of America held festivals and ceremonies to celebrate the completion and bounty of harvest way before European settlers and explorers arrived in what is known as Canada today. Early European thanksgivings took place in order to give thanks for some special fortune. One example of this is the ceremony that Martin Frobisher held in 1578. He held this ceremony after he survived an extensive journey in an aim to find a passage to Asia from Europe.

A lot of thanksgivings in the 18th century occurred after noteworthy events. The custom of a yearly thanksgiving festival was first brought to Canada as a result of refugees fleeing from the civil war in the United States. From 1879, Thanksgiving Day occurred each year, yet there were different themes and it was held on a different day every year. One of the most common themes for a lot of years was "Blessings of an abundant harvest." Nevertheless, in later years King Edward VII's coronation and Queen Victoria's diamond and golden jubilees formed the theme in later years.

From the end of WW1 until 1930, both Thanksgiving Day and Armistice Day were celebrated on the Monday falling the closest to November 11th, which is the date that marked the official end of hostilities in WW1. Armistice Day was renamed Remembrance Day in 1931. Also, Thanksgiving was moved to a Monday in October. Since 1957, it has always occurred on the Second Monday of October.

Symbols Of Canadian Thanksgiving stem from being associated with the European tradition of harvest festivals. At this time of year, a common image that people see is a horn – cornucopia – that is filled with seasonal vegetables and fruit. The cornucopia means 'Horn of Plenty' in Latin. In Ancient Greece, this was a symbol of plenty of bounty. Ears of corn, pumpkins, and turkeys, as well as large displays of food, are also used to symbolize Canadian Thanksgiving.

Of course, no matter how you decide to spend Thanksgiving, the main thing to remember is that this is a day of thanks. Therefore, it is important to spend some time reflecting on what you are thankful for. Make sure you take the opportunity to thank people who have played an important role in your life or done something special for you. A small 'thank you' goes a very long way.

## Harvest Table 2022



## THANK YOU

Our Harvest Gifts were delivered to Richmond Craigmillar who are grateful for the support we can offer. The need is constant and everchanging, Liz Henderson the minister told me and how one regular was having to move to emergency accommodation after becoming homeless but didn't know what if any cooking facilities she would have to care for her family so didn't know what food-stuffs to purchase. With fuel costs rising this week and potentially facing charges in excess of £10 per day many will face the stark choice of heat or eat in the coming months and now there is the potential too of power cuts if gas supplies are further compromised.



With thanks  
for the many  
donations and  
the packers  
it's all ready  
for delivery

## And finally .....

In Ancient Greece, Socrates had a great reputation of wisdom. One day, someone came to find the great philosopher and said to him:

- Do you know what I just heard about your friend?
  - A moment, replied Socrates. Before you tell me, I would like to test you the three sieves.
  - The three sieves?
  - Yes, continued Socrates. Before telling anything about the others, it's good to take the time to filter what you mean. I call it the test of the three sieves. The first sieve is the TRUTH. Have you checked if what you're going to tell me is true?
  - No, I just heard it.
  - Very good! So, you don't know if it's true. We continue with the second sieve, that of KINDNESS. What you want to tell me about my friend, is it good?
  - Oh, no! On the contrary.
  - So, questioned Socrates, you want to tell me bad things about him and you're not even sure they're true? Maybe you can still pass the test of the third sieve, that of UTILITY. Is it useful that I know what you're going to tell me about this friend?
  - No, really.
  - So, concluded Socrates, what you were going to tell me is neither true, nor good, nor useful. Why, then, did you want to tell me this?
- "Gossip is a bad thing. In the beginning it may seem enjoyable and fun, but in the end, it fills our hearts with bitterness and poisons us, too!"
- Pope Francis

# MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

|                                    |                                                                                                                       |          |
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