

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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0131 447 4359

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



THE SHUTTLE

**Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
November 2023**



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

November

- 12 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship - Service of Remembrance
- 19 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 26 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship

December

- 3 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle
- 10 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship Nine Lessons and Carols
- 17 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship - Nativity

Front Page

Our Post Box topper on Marchmont Road and below with Rev Dr Karen Campbell, our Minister and National Padre of Legion Scotland and Dr Claire Armstrong, CEO Legion Scotland



And finally



Spotted on X - formerly known as Twitter from Very Rev Dr Derek Browning at Morningside Parish Church

The alpacas were visiting our Morningside Hope project which supports people living with dementia and their family and friends. A lovely afternoon enjoyed by everyone.

As one Morningside matron just said when the Alpacas arrived, "I didn't know whether to bring my knitting needles for the yarn or my shovel for the roses."

Butterflies Plus

Christmas Lunch At Marchmont St Giles
Tuesday 19th December at 12:30pm.
£12 for 3 courses.

To book phone 0131 447 4359
or email butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Starter;
Roasted Winter Vegetable Soup
or Prawn Marie Rose Salad

Main;*
Christmas Dinner Pie
or Asian Roast Salmon
Roast Carrots, Parsnip and Potatoes

Dessert;
Christmas Pudding in Brandy Sauce
or
Christmas Trifle
Tea or Coffee and a
Chocolate

**A vegan option is available.
 If you have any food allergies or dietary requirements
 please speak to staff when booking.

Reflections

Silence by Malcolm Guite

November pierces with its bleak remembrance
 Of all the bitterness and waste of war.
 Our silence tries but fails to make a semblance
 Of that lost peace they thought worth fighting for.
 Our silence seeths instead with wraiths and whispers,
 And all the restless rumour of new wars,
 The shells are singing as we sing our vespers,
 No moment is unscarred, there is no pause,
 In every instant bloodied innocence
 Falls to the weary earth, and whilst we stand
 Quiescence ends again in acquiescence,
 And Abel's blood still cries in every land
 One silence only might redeem that blood
 Only the silence of a dying God.

Malcolm Guite is a poet and Anglican priest whose poetry was once described by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, could "offer deep resources for prayer and meditation to the reader". In this poem he points to the counterpoint, of those who serve, yet come home and different wars are continuing while at the core of our faith is the One who hung on the Cross, silent.

The frustration that humanity continually fails to learn from previous wars and conflicts makes us question why we stand, why we keep silence?

There are various moments in our lives when we have lived through Remembrance Season with the counterpoint of war, ringing in our ears. Once again this year, we pause to remember those who have died in times of war, as well as the men and women who have returned from military service whose lives are forever changed.

War is noise and chaos. Voices of politicians, shouts of protestors, artillery, fire, the crashing of buildings and the cries of pain, drown each other out and this cacophony long rings in the ears of those who were there. It is somehow appropriate to stand in silence as a counterpoint, to give space to remember and to bring to present

significance the precious people and their faces and laughter and actions of people we have lost.

This year people committed to peace want to protest this weekend. I get that. I am horrified by the murder that is taking place in Israel and Palestine. The people of Israel and Palestine want justice. There are many other people in this world who want that for them too. We can want justice for Palestine without being anti-semitic and we can want justice for Israel without supporting the actions of Israel in Palestine. The history and feelings about that land, particularly in the shadow on the Holocaust ensure that the situation is multilayered and complex – but people are still dying.

What would be sad, if somehow those who want to Remember in silence are drowned out by other people who want to protest about Israel. The reality is, we all want the same thing and we all want peace. Why can't different expressions of the promotion of peace, coexist peaceably.

The Christian message is one that assures us that God is always with us, no matter what we face. As St Paul says:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

This passage from the letter to the Romans has upheld many people in times of trial, and given confidence that we are always held, particularly when things are tough.

Our television screens are full of Israel and Palestine, and it is overwhelming. The power of the television lens brings us a sense of war, whereas former generations have had more sanitised versions on TV and newspaper, unless the bombing was on their doorsteps.

Martin Luther King said:

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction. The chain reaction of evil - hate



- "Hello everyone, my name is Simon Schofield, and I'm the new Intergenerational Worker.

I live near Easter Road. I'm married to Gemma and we have 4 children - Annie (18), Ben (15), Libby (13) and Jacob (6). I have pastored Baptist churches in the North West of England and recently in the city at Abbeyhill.

It's a privilege to join you! I look forward to getting to know you, and I'm excited about how we are going to grow together in Christ."

Update from David Beattie, Session Clerk

Kirk Session Update

The Kirk Session met with representatives from St Catherine's Argyle on 30 October to discuss the next steps as we work towards union. The meeting was very constructive, with general agreement across a broad range of topics and a genuine desire to work together and progress towards our union.

Our next such meeting will aim to draft our Basis of Union document. In advance of that, there will be discussions between the two Treasurers, conversations around the two Communion Rolls and the proposed pastoral care model, a group considering the form of worship going forward and exploration of joint prayer meetings.

We are pleased to be hosting a joint Nativity service at Marchmont St Giles' on Sunday 17 December.

When we move forward as a new congregation, we will need a new name. A number of ideas were discussed, but please do pass on any suggestions to the Minister or Session Clerk.

Welcome!



Jamie Sutherland

It is wonderful to be joining the community of Marchmont St. Giles' for my placement as a candidate for full-time ministry in the Church of Scotland. I am currently in my second year of divinity studies at New College, University of Edinburgh and this will be my third and final placement as part of my ministry training journey. This follows an enquiry period at Morningside Parish Church and two placements at St. David's Broomhouse and South Leith Parish Church.

My home congregation is Greyfriars Kirk where I have served as an elder for the past four years. However, by origin, I am from the small rural parish of Croy & Dalcross between Inverness and Nairn. Over the course of the next six months, I am very much looking forward to getting to know you all, and to sharing in the rich life of worship, mission, and service to which the congregation are dedicated.

At the beginning of a new placement, I am always struck by Jesus's words as recorded in Matthew's gospel, "Can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" This is precious wisdom for the church during a time of uncertainty and transition, encouraging us to be joyful in trusting and serving God through periods of change. I am looking forward to sharing that hope and to joining with you in fellowship and worship over the coming months.

begetting hate, wars producing more wars - must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation."

How can the cycle of hate be broken when it is so ingrained and generational? Let us pray for peace; not just peace which begins and ends with the signing of a peace treaty, but a peace which makes former enemies, friends and each can work together for a good future. Let us remember the members of the armed forces who have died and survived their Service and also let us remember the men, women and children who live with the reality of war today.

Karen K Campbell

Lectionary

The Bible Year starts with Advent and daily readings through the year offer the reader an opportunity to read the whole Bible in a year, the readings below give one of the daily choices available.

Year A
November
12, Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
13, Psalm 63
14, Psalm 78
15, Jeremiah 31:31-34
16, Psalm 123
17, Judges 2:16-23
18, Judges 5:1-12
19, Judges 4:1-7
20, Psalm 83:1-4, 9-10
21, Exodus 2:1-10
22, Esther 7:1-10
23, Psalm 100
24, Psalm 95:1-7a
25, Ezekiel 34:25-31
26, Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

27, Psalm 28
28, Zechariah 11:4-17
29, Jeremiah 31:10-14
Year B
30, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
December
1, Zechariah 14:1-9
2, Micah 2:1-13
3, Isaiah 64:1-9
4, Psalm 79;
5, Micah 4:6-13
6, Micah 5:1-5a
7, Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13
8, Jeremiah 1:4-10
9, Ezekiel 36:24-28
10, Isaiah 40:1-11

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of Mrs Edith Stewart, a member of the congregation, who died on 5th October 2023.

Georgina Millar , a member of the congregation who has died.

Powerful.. Joshua Dyer (aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later (without any help) he produced this..

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide

They walk toward the light milord,
they walk towards the sun
they smoke and laugh and smile together
no foes to outrun.

These men live on forever
in the hearts of those they saved
a nation truly grateful
for the path of peace they paved.

They march as friends and comrades
but they do not march for war
step closer to salvation
a tranquil steady corps
the meadows lit with golden beams
a beacon for the brave
the emerald grass untrampled
a reward for what they gave.

They dream of those they left behind
and know they dream of them
forever in those poppy fields
there walks one thousand men.

Lest we forget

FAMILY EVENT

MARCHMONT ST GILES'
CHRISTINGLE MAKING
CAKE DECORATING

Saturday 23rd December

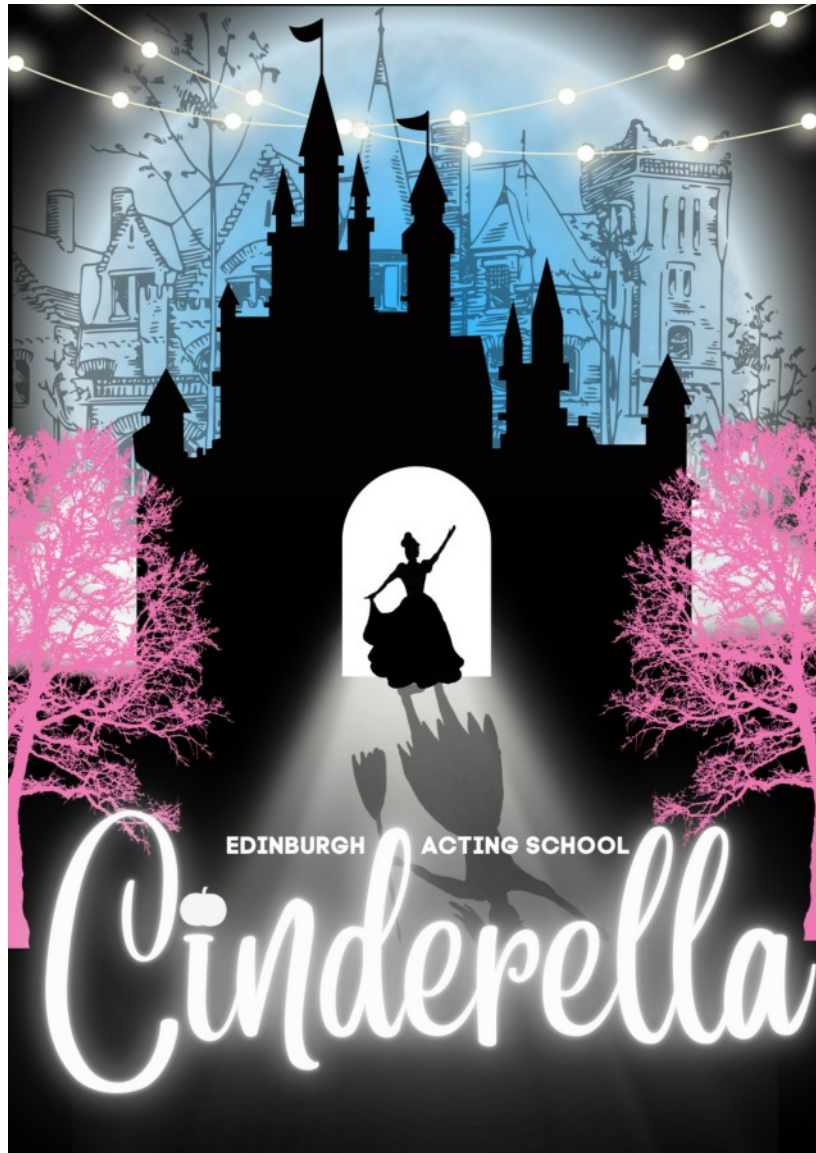
10-midday

£1 PER CHILD - REGISTER -

0131 4474359

OFFICE@MARCHMONTSTGILES.ORG.UK





Marchmont St Giles 15 and 16th December

hello@edinburghactingschool.com

AROUND THE AISLES

"Come to the Fair"

Buy your Xmas presents at the Church Centre Christmas Fair on Saturday 9th December.

Amongst the interesting stalls there will be a honey stall selling honey produced by local bees under the stewardship of EMBA (Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers Assoc)

Hope to see you there.

Lighten up a dark November evening

Come and hear Barbara Jones (mezzo) and Ailsa Aitkenhead (piano) performing "An American songbook" at St Vincent's Chapel, Stockbridge on Friday 24th November at 7.30pm Tickets £12/£10 via Eventbrite or at the door.

Introducing "The Breakfast Bothy":

The bright yellow ex Police box on Melville Drive next to the sports Pavilion.

It is run by a charity to give friendship and support to homeless or people in need. It provides a friendly stop, a cuppa and a bacon roll or soup and is open Monday to Friday from 9am to 1pm

It is now a registered charity and you can read more about it on their website: www.thebreakfastbothy.com

I thought that as Marchmont St Giles has a good team of knitters we could support them by providing some warm items such as hats/ scarves/gloves which they can issue to their customers during the winter months. you feel like knitting one or two of these items I am happy to take any donations and deliver them to the bothy.

Thank you.

Anne Laing

Looking ahead!

**Christmas Market &
Afternoon Tea
at Marchmont St Giles**

Saturday 9th December from 12:00

**Made possible with the help of volunteers
from Meadows Explorer Scouts, 44th
Braid Scout Group, Marchmont St Giles
Congregation & the local community.**

Live music, children's crafts.

**Entry to market; Free
Afternoon tea tickets;**

**Adults; £10 if booked before 31st November
£12 thereafter & on the day.**

Under 12s; £5, Under 3s; Free

Family ticket (2 Adult, 3 Under 12s); £30

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butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk

Vegan and gluten free options available.
If you have any food allergies or dietary requirements
please advise us when booking.

Marchmont St Giles'

Christmas



**10TH DECEMBER
9 LESSONS AND CAROLS
17TH DECEMBER
NATIVITY
CHRISTMAS EVE
4PM
CHRISTINGLE
11:00
CAROLSINGING
11:30
WATCHNIGHT
CHRISTMAS DAY
10AM
HOGMANAY
10:30
EPIPHANY
10:30**

For more info, visit www.marchmontstgiles.org.uk