



THE SHUTTLE

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



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

September

- 10 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 17 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 24 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- 30 15.00 All age Social Event - St Catherine's Argyle

October

- 1 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship
- Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle
- 2 19.30 Kirk Session
- 3 14.00 Guild - Craigmillar Park Church
- 8 9.30 Junior Church
- 10.30 Morning Worship

Front Page

Marchmont St Giles with our new addition - public access defibrillator.

Reflections

In 1895 the playwright and raconteur, Oscar Wilde was sent to prison after a scandalous trial about his personal life. He was deeply humiliated and he never recovered from the trial and his incarceration. He was one of the best well known people of the day, whose plays were famous and celebrated.

When the prison authorities moved him, they did so in public. He was subjected to jeers and people spitting on him. On one occasion a friend who happened to be in the crowd as he was being moved, did something that made the crowd silent. One simple gesture of friendship changed the mood. All he did was raise his hat as he passed. It was small, but profound. Here was someone who treated him with common decency and acknowledged him.

Afterwards Wilde wrote:

'Men have gone to heaven for smaller things than that. I do not know to the present moment whether my friend is aware that I was even conscious of his action. It is not a thing for which one can render formal thanks in formal words. I store it in the treasure house of my heart. I keep it there as a secret debt that I can never possibly repay. When wisdom has been profitless to me, and philosophy barren, and the proverbs and phrases of those who sought to give consolation as dust and ashes in my mouth, the memory of that lowly silent act of love has unsealed for me all the wells of pity, made the desert blossom like a rose, and brought me out of the bitterness of lonely exile into harmony with the wounded, broken and great heart of the world.'

Whatever we think of Wilde or his life, the act of doffing his hat, restored his humanity, but it did something more. It showed a crowd, that we can be better than the lowest denominator.

When Jesus sat with the woman at the well, he regarded her as the lowest of the low. In the Gospel of St Matthew (chapter 15), she was from Canaan. From the earliest times of Noah (Genesis chapter 9), when Canaan, his grandson and Ham's son, discovered Noah naked and he was sent away from the family, the descendants of Canaan, were derided by the others and treated as slaves.

When this Canaanite woman challenged Jesus, that while he regarded her as a dog, she could get his scraps, even though he had come for the lost sheep of Israel. She challenged Jesus and he

began to include her and her kind in his story. He did not continue with his wall - he just extended the length of his table. Christ has come for everyone: those we feel comfortable with and those who challenge us and sometimes leave us frustrated.

We see challenging things in the Gospels and we are reminded that Jesus mission changed. It may have been a tiny act, but it was life changing. Small acts can save people and the world.

As we move into a new Season of Church, let us remember that words and actions matter. As we continue in our conversations with St Catherine's and Morningside United, let our words be kind, let our hearts be full, let our actions be generous and let our tables be long and welcoming.

We may be asked to embrace new ideas and doing things slightly differently, and we should be open to the possibility that different might be good. It might even be fun. To begin the connection between the Congregations, there is to be a social event for Marchmont, St Catherine's and Morningside United. It's an all-age event for the whole family - this doesn't mean only children - everyone is welcome. There will be a family friendly Ceilidh and a bring and share afternoon tea. Please put 30th September at St Catherine's Argyle in your diary - 3-5pm.

Karen K Campbell

The opportunity to volunteer as **Treasurer** for Marchmont St. Giles comes at perfect timing, as I approach a total of two years working full-time running a Fundraising Team for an Edinburgh based charity, People Know How, where I'm checking financial spreadsheets on a daily basis! I value this opportunity and the trust the Elders have put in me to do this.

Many of the congregation know me as Holly and Lucinda's mummy, having brought the children to Sunday school for over 10 years! Others may recognise me trying to reach the high Alto notes in the choir on Sundays. I'll no doubt be in touch again in person or via The Shuttle. All the best, Tanya Anderson



Lectionary

September

10 Exodus 12:1-14

11 Psalm 121

12 Exodus 12:29-42

13 Exodus 13:1-10

14 Psalm 114

15 Exodus 14:1-18

16 Exodus 15:19-21

17 Romans 14:1-12

18 Psalm 77

19 Nehemiah 9:9-15

20 2 Kings 2:1-18

21 Psalm 105:1-6, 37-45

22 Psalm 145:1-8

23 Exodus 16:22-30

24 Philippians 1:21-30

25 Psalm 119:97-104

26 Numbers 11:1-9

27 Numbers 11:18-23,
31-32

28 Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16

29 Numbers 20:1-13

30 Psalm 25:1-9

October

1 Philippians 2:1-13

2 Psalm 42

3 Psalm 28

4 Exodus 19:9b-25

5 Psalm 19

6 Exodus 23:14-19

7 Psalm 80:7-15

Very Rev Prof David Fergusson, the Dean of the Chapel Royal in Scotland, has written a prayer to mark one year since the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth on Thursday 8 September 2022.

Eternal God, we bless you for the gracious memory of Queen Elizabeth, for her reign rich in years and accomplishment, for the many lives she touched, and for the faith that sustained her in life and in death.

And, at this time, we pray your blessing upon Their Majesties King Charles and Queen Camilla, and all the members of the Royal Family, as they follow her in the path of service.

Today we also remember other lives, however long or short, precious to us and now ended.

We praise you for cherished memories of those recalled with affection and gratitude.

May their lives shine bright above us as we travel the way of faith through Jesus Christ.

Amen

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of Miss Kate Jackson, Reader who died on 15th July, Mrs Margaret Mackenzie, a member of the congregation, widow of the late Alisatair, who died on 1st August, aged 85

Mrs June Wilson, a member of the congregation and elder, who died 27th August. A stalwart of Butterflies Plus and the Pastoral Care team her funeral will be held in the Main Chapel at Mortonhall Crematorium at 11am on Friday 15th September.



You may have seen that at the front of the Church there is now a defibrillator for the whole community to use.

It was funded by the Presbytery of Edinburgh and West Lothian as a mission opportunity to serve every parish as part of an initiative with St John Scotland .

If there is a cardiac event somewhere close, the 999 phone call may lead to someone coming to the box. It cannot be opened without a code and the emergency services have this to give out to anyone who might use it.

In other parts of the city, the defibrillators there have been used on numerous occasions and, while we hope no one would ever need it, in that event we hope that this will mean someone's life will be saved.

AROUND THE AISLES

SUCCESS! From 10th September Bus Service No 9
Revised route and timetable.

In response to community feedback, two alterations will be made to the number 9 bus route.

Buses will run Waterfront Avenue, West Harbour Road, Granton Square, and Granton Road instead of Pilton Drive North, Boswall Parkway, and buses will run Potterrow, George IV Bridge, The Mound, Hanover Street, Dundas Street, and Great King Street instead of Bridges, Leith Street, Broughton Street.

Additional journeys will be introduced to and from King's Buildings at peak hours to provide capacity for students and staff returning to campus.

Guild The first meeting of 2023-24 session is on Tuesday 3rd October at 2pm. Venue is Craigmillar Park Church Hall. Our speaker is Rev Sandy Forsyth from Mayfield Salisbury Church who will be talking on this years theme New Wine, New Wineskins

Last, but not least, there is going to be a **social event** for Marchmont, St Catherine's and Morningside United.

It's an all-age event for the whole family – this doesn't mean only children – everyone is welcome. There will be a family friendly ceilidh and a bring and share afternoon tea.

Put **30th September** at St Catherine's Argyle in your diary –
3-5pm.

Hi everyone,



Do you recognise who is in the picture?! It's Murphy, my crazy flat-coated retriever! The picture was taken on the top of a hill in Yorkshire when we were visiting friends for a walking weekend. Usually walking between 3 to 7 miles a day, Murphy and I have had to start increasing our mileage as part of the training for the 15-mile Kiltwalk Big Stroll, which we are taking part in on 17th September, raising funds for a local charity, People Know How.

Founded in 2013, People Know How works with people and communities to develop innovative services to address social issues in Edinburgh and the Lothians. Donations to support the amazing work People Know How does near you would be much appreciated.

How you can help children, young people, families, and vulnerable adults thrive.

School can be a challenging place for children, particularly for those with additional support needs.

- People Know How's Positive Transitions Service supports children (aged 10 to 13) who are struggling at school as they prepare to transition from primary to secondary school. Referred by the school, the Youth & Family Coordinators offer befriending support to the child at school and a friendly ear for the family.

Are you keeping pace with digital transformation, the internet, Apps, and Artificial Intelligence?! One in ten people in Edinburgh

do not have access to the internet, especially those who are struggling to afford basic day-to-day requirements as the cost of living increases. Digital exclusion is an increasing issue, with a third of households in lower-income families without internet access.

- People Know How's Reconnect Digital Support service offers free drop-ins in local community hubs around Edinburgh providing one-to-one bespoke support to help people understand how to use digital tools and purchase affordable phones and data packages.

And finally, have you ever enjoyed a peaceful walk or journey down the union canal past Polwarth Parish Church? Well, you may have noticed a bright blue and yellow boat parked at the Polwarth moorings.

- That's People Know How's All Aboard Boat, in partnership with Polwarth Parish Church, which provides free journeys to community groups, church congregations, and to the children and young people People Know How support, many of whom have never been on a boat before.

You can find out more about the services, and hear some great stories from some of the children, young people, and families People Know How has supported at <http://www.peopleknowhow.org>



**Marchmont Music,
Edinburgh International Festival Fringe
August 5-26 2023**



As part of the 2023 Edinburgh International Festival Fringe Programme, and for a second year, a series of 10 concerts, each lasting one hour, were held in Marchmont St Giles Church on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays during the 2023 Edinburgh Festival.

Twenty one different artists took part in two solo and eight joint concerts. Audience numbers averaged 45-50 (minimum 35, maximum ~100) at each of the concerts. The concerts were excellent, well received and greatly enjoyed by the audience. Members of the congregation supported the concerts by acting as ushers and attended also throughout the series.

The church café was open 10-4 weekdays (Tuesday to Friday) and 12.30-5.00 Saturdays and provided food and beverage and a meeting place before and after the concerts.



The concerts were free of charge with a retiring collection at the end in aid of church funds and to provide some support for the performers.

The performers expressed great satisfaction at the venue (noting the excellent acoustics) and the friendliness of the audience.

Many of them have indicated they would like to participate in a future concert series.

Even Archie enjoyed the selection of music!





Kate Jackson was a Reader attached at Marchmont St Giles' for over 5 years. She was loved by us all and was a force of nature. She loved her one liners. *It is what it is - There are no problems only solutions - I don't worry - No such thing as luck - Double shot cappuccino please - They're very professional - Let's seek clarification - All will be well*

You heard her before you saw her. Every time she came through the door, her arms would go up and you'd get a "hello". She was always a big presence and personality. She didn't believe in anything getting her down. She had very high standards of professional conduct. She loved children. She was a good friend.

I first met Kate on the night I was Moderator of the Presbytery and I set her apart as a Reader.. Little did I know that 2 years later, she would be placed with us to discern a way forward after not being used as she wanted to be elsewhere. She came, she discerned and she stayed and it was to the benefit of us all. She came for 6 months and she stayed nearly 6 years.

Kate loved children and she engaged with the Toddler Group and Café, Bible Study and Sunday School. She scooped up young people and was a great encourager of them as they thought about their futures and found their place in the world.

One of the things which impressed me was her commitment to the most vulnerable of people. Her involvement with Bethany and their night shelter was impressive. She brought a lot of different people together as part of her team - and we all assembled with our ingredients in a church kitchen. And once all was prepared, at a certain time, the homeless guests for the night arrived to be feed, sheltered and cared for.

In many ways she was always a child at heart and it was quite fitting that after qualifying as a nurse - she also became a qualified children and young people's nurse and then midwife. The stories of her nursing always brought a smile to your face. For the majority of her career she worked in the education of nurses at Queen Margaret College, and Napier University, Edinburgh. She believed passionately that nursing should be holistic, taking care of the whole person, caring for them as an individual: and nurses should understand every aspect of the care they were delivering to their patients, to consider the family dynamic and impact of the wider community on an individual's development. Kate was very proud of her role in influencing the nursing profession to become degree based. She was also a key player at the university in identifying and securing practical placements for students to enable them to apply theory to practice in a range of settings.

Kate was elected by Scottish Royal College of Nursing. She was an advocate for the profession, ensuring nurses understood the theory behind the practice they delivered and that there was evidence based nursing. As Vice Chair she had many opportunities to talk to nurse leaders from around the world; as well as politicians and royalty about nursing.

She used her persuasive communication skills to ensure that the people she met were left in no doubt about the importance of nursing to the health of our nation. On one occasion Kate, whilst at an evening reception at the Mansion House, London found herself face to face with the then Secretary of State for Health, the Right Honourable Kenneth Clarke MP. A lively discussion ensued regarding the merits of nurses having a firm educational foundation of knowledge and skills prior to them being exposed to patients. Kate became very animated, arms waving and challenging Mr Clarke throughout the conversation, offering examples as to why patients deserved an educated nursing workforce.

When Kate arrived at Marchmont, little did we know that a little over 2 years later we would all be in Lockdown. We all had to learn new skills. Zoom was utilised for Coffee Meetings and Bible Studies as well as for our daily get together to make plans and see how we were all doing. Kate immersed herself with various groups engaging in Bible Study and Prayer and reaching out to each other when

behind our doors. We began a daily thought for the day – and for two Christmases an online Advent Calendar. Kate enjoyed delivering her Thought for the Day and taking part in filming for Services

Kate liked nothing better than an adventure, she travelled extensively on her own and as a nurse. She spent time establishing a children's centre in Africa, camped under the stars in Australia and explored Peru. It was this world-wide travel that inspired Kate to fill her home with mementos; books; bright coloured clothing and to share stories about her exciting experiences. She loved Barbara Streisand: going to Hyde Park to see her perform, and also the music of Carole King.

She was diagnosed in March last year and referred to her glioblastoma tumour as "the pimple". She did not want people to know about her illness and the terminal diagnosis, which was respected, but over time it became clear that all was not well. She never gave up hope, despite those 16 months being a roller coaster of a cancer journey and the gruelling side effects from the treatment. As an advocate of quality, holistic, evidence-based nursing practice Kate was always pleased to report that the care she received was excellent.

She held tightly to her faith. It kept her going. It was her compass. We give thanks for a larger than life, funny, inspiring, infuriating, joy filled, utterly committed to others - nurse, friend, sister, aunt and great aunt – whose influence will long be part of our lives. Thanks be to God.

And finally



"Today was a Difficult Day," said Pooh.

There was a pause.

"Do you want to talk about it?" asked Piglet.

"No," said Pooh after a bit. "No, I don't think I do."

"That's okay," said Piglet, and he came and sat beside his friend.

"What are you doing?" asked Pooh.

"Nothing, really," said Piglet. "Only, I know what Difficult Days are like. I quite often don't feel like talking about it on my Difficult Days either."

"But goodness," continued Piglet, "Difficult Days are so much easier when you know you've got someone there for you. And I'll always be here for you, Pooh."

And as Pooh sat there, working through in his head his Difficult Day, while the solid, reliable Piglet sat next to him quietly, swinging his little legs...he thought that his best friend had never been more right."

A.A. Milne

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