



THE SHUTTLE

**Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
September 2024**



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

September

8	10.30	Morning Worship
15	10.30	Morning Worship
22	10.30	Morning Worship
29	10.30	Morning Worship

October 1

6	10.30	Morning Worship : Harvest Festival
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Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle

"Oh All Right Then" –(see page 14) is the title of a book coming from the moment when you accept that God is calling you to ministry. It is Dr Marjory MacLean's second book to be published within the last 12 months, but she describes its predecessor, *"Visions and Authorities"*, as more technical and aimed at those making big decisions about the Church.

In contrast, she hopes that *"Oh All Right Then"* will have an audience beyond those interested in a ministry career for themselves.

"Because it is a very general celebration of ministry, and most people in our congregations are fond of their ministers or at least curious about what they do between Sunday mornings, I am sure it will be of a pretty general interest to people," she said.

"Oh All Right Then" is available now from Amazon UK, priced £12.95 in paperback and £7.99 as an e-book.

There will be three launch events beginning with a Scottish mainland launch event on Sunday 22 September at 7pm in Mayfield Salisbury Church in Edinburgh, followed by a London launch on Sunday 29 September at Crown Court Church of Scotland, and finally a home launch in Orkney at St Margaret's Church, St Margaret's Hope on Tuesday 1 October.

Tickets are free, but should be booked in advance to assist catering planning at <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/marjory-maclean>

Front Page

Kerbside flora establishing an existence.

Reflections

I am currently on holiday, having an interesting time getting the garden in order and dealing with the persistent weeds which seem to creep up in the most interesting places. As the Council seem not to be dealing with the weeds on the pavement, I have found myself trying to deal with them by not using pesticide and it has been quite a task. You see along with the weeds, some interesting flowers have also grown in their midst. In the back garden I have found new plants have flown in on the wind, while other weeds I've tried to eradicate, are persistent in their continued presence.

Jesus talked about the wheat and the weeds and how we were to plant in faith and not worry about whether the seeds went to the barren or rocky places. As we plant these places might not deliver the good crop that we would want, but despite this, we are to plant in faith for the future. Most of us will never get to hear about or appreciate the seeds which we have planted. That is the point of the Gospel. While we may not have that privilege, we are still called to do that which we might not see nor experience. How many people do we know who might be disheartened not to plant in faith, because "what's the point anyway!".

A few months ago I was privileged to hear the story of a group of young women, who had been students at James Gillespie's, and I got to hear that they had valued me coming into the school and teach them the Gospel stories and what it was to be a person of faith. They also let me know, through a third party, that they saw a woman who was doing a job that was not always done by a woman and was doing it her way. It gave them the knowledge that they too could consider roles and jobs which were not normally reserved for women, but they could strive to do. I wonder what seeds they have planted in the hearts and minds of people as they excel at this Paralympics.

What are the seeds that we want to plant or the ones we are planting that we are not even aware of doing so. When someone looks at us, as a member of the church, there are expectations on us, to be an example of honesty and integrity. It grieves me when I hear that sometimes Christians do not behave in the way that

might be expected. While we are not angels, there is an ethical code which requires us, as Micah 6:8 would say:

He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God?

Humility and kindness is so important and while there are times we may not have experiences that, sometimes we have to return rejection by a greater ethical code. As Michelle Obama says: "when they go low, we go high!"

I'm sitting this evening watching the wheelchair basketball and the swimming. I don't much care for basketball, but there is something fascinating about the way the wheelchairs are used in the game that I find myself fascinated. And then there are the athletes who arrive at the poolside in a wheelchair and then launch themselves through the water at a rate, of which I am quite jealous. What these athletes are achieving is an example to us all of not to judge by what we cannot do, but by what we can! Sometimes we can learn far more from those, who only a generation or 2 ago, we given titles that make us twitch today, but whose strength and ability has much to inspire.

As we move forward in the next few months, let's show each other that humility and kindness as well as the people we encounter. Perhaps we might even give a thought to the seeds we may have already planted and those we might still want to plant! And in the same way Micah also calls for justice, let us also pray that justice may be felt, not only here, but throughout the world, so that goodness and also peace might descend.

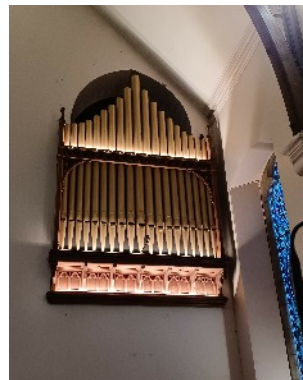
Karen K Campbell

Lectionary

September

- 09 Psalm 73:1-20;
- 10 Proverbs 11:1-31;
- 11 Proverbs 14:1-9;
- 12 Psalm 19;
- 13 James 2:17-26;
- 14 1 Corinthians 1:18-24
- 15 James 3:1-12;
- 16 Psalm 73:21-28;
- 17 Proverbs 25:1-28;
- 18 Proverbs 29:1-27;
- 19 Psalm 1;
- 20 Proverbs 30:18-33;
- 21 Ecclesiastes 1:1-18;
- 22 Mark 9:30-37;

- 23 Psalm 128
 - 24 Ecclesiastes 4:9-16;
 - 25 Ecclesiastes 5:1-20
 - 27 Esther 2:1-23
 - 28 Esther 3:1-15
 - 29 Esther 7:1-6,
 - 30 Psalm 140;
- ## October
- 01 1 John 2:18-25;
 - 02 Matthew 18:6-9;
 - 03 Galatians 3:23-29;
 - 04 Job 4:1-21;
 - 05 Job 7:1-21;
 - 06 Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12;



CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

A date for the diary

Threepenny Theatricals present

Rodger's and Hammerstein's Cinderella

at the Churchill Theatre

13 to 16 November (including Saturday matinee)



After some four years of being Nicci's right hand and producing the meals for Butterflies Plus Jackie has now hung up her apron for the final time and has retired after a long career in the catering industry.

We extend our thanks to Jackie for continuing the success of Butterflies Plus and wish her well

George was recently presented with The Commendation Award in Scouting for successfully completing all Beaver Badges, the first child in South East Scotland to achieve this. 23 Activity Badges, 15 Staged Badges and 6 Challenge Badges.

In recognition of his incredible achievement, George was invited to attend the 900th Anniversary of Edinburgh celebratory event at Edinburgh Castle on 3rd July 2024.

George was honoured to be invited and felt very privileged and proud to represent Scouting. He was absolutely delighted to meet The King and Queen and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience of the prestigious event.



AROUND THE AISLES

The 24/25 session of the Southside Guild begins on Tuesday October 1st at 2 pm.

The venue has changed . Meetings will now be held in the Bill McDonald hall in Mayfield Salisbury Church.

We have a speaker at our first session coming to talk about The Colinton Tunnels.

I look forward to seeing everyone back after the summer.

Everyone is welcome to come and join us, we have a varied programme of talks ahead.

Looking ahead dates for Guild

Nov 5 th	Irene Malcolm	Knitted Gospels
Dec 3 rd	Maureen Kelly	Victorian Christmas
Jan 7 th	R Johnstone	Down memory lane
Feb 4 th	G Murray	Armchair exercises
Mar 4 th	J Knox	Bridgend Farmhouse
April 1 st	A Carter	History of Church in half an hour!

Julia Yarker

The Bothy Boutique -our new Marchmont Charity shop

Opened on 12th August and located next to the bus stop at the top of Marchmont Road, it has a distinctive red and yellow frontage.

The charity was set up in 2020 by a team from Carlowrie Castle with the simple aim of providing a hot drink and breakfast for those who are unable to provide for themselves, served at the yellow police box on Melville drive open Monday to Friday mornings. Going from strength to strength it has since then extended its hours to serve lunch and has set up a token scheme for use in local businesses providing useful services to their customers.

The new venture will provide funds to help their cause.

Donations are welcome at the shop and they will be on the lookout for volunteers to work there.

Marchmont Music, EIFF August 3-24 2024

This was the third year for our series of 10 concerts held in Marchmont St Giles Church on Saturdays, Tuesdays and Thursdays, forming part of the 2024 Edinburgh International Festival Fringe

Programme.

The 10 programmes were wide ranging including

a pianist and soprano performing 'An American Song Book'; an accompanied soprano singing Wagner and Strauss;

two string quartets (playing Schubert, Beethoven, Puccini and Hadyn);

a group who played piano and flute and sang while an artist painted;

a group singing about working the tweed;

violin and piano performers from the Royal Academy of Music;

Vienna Horns of Scotland;

the Cooperation Brass Band (currently Scottish champions)

and, as a finale, five brilliant young performers from St Mary's School of Music.

Audience numbers averaged 60-70 (minimum 50, maximum ~100) at each of the concerts, which were excellent, well received and greatly enjoyed by the audience. Members of the congregation supported the concerts by acting as ushers and also by attending throughout the series.

The church café was open 10-4 weekdays (Tuesday to Friday) and 12.30-4.00 (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 greatly appreciating the new lighting) and also the friendliness of the audience. Many of them have indicated they would like to participate in a future concert series.

Following their appearance at our series of concerts Barbara and Ailsa have another date for you

St Giles' at Six - Sunday 29th September 2024

'My Grandmother's Songbook'

Barbara Jones (Mezzo) and Ailsa Aitkenhead (Piano)

A concert of Lieder and French and English song celebrating music handed down through the generations, including Schubert, Schumann, Vaughan Williams and Elgar.

St Giles' Cathedral, High Street.



"Butterflies Baby & Toddler Group" is now on during term time on Thursdays 10am to 11.30am. Leaders are Lorraine and Liz. Meet other mums/carers with lots of new toys and climbing frame with story-time and song time!



Free Ear Wax Removal Service for those aged 75 and over

Clinical ear care and hearing experts, House of Hearing, offer a free ear wax removal service for the OVER 75s.

EVERY TUESDAY and THURSDAY at their Edinburgh Clinic, 10 Melville Crescent (0131 220 1220).

The wait time for the procedure is approximately two to three weeks. Some NHS clinics offering such a service have a waiting list of 12 weeks!

The service is highly recommended by two people connected with Marchmont St Giles' who, after a diagnosis by their respective GPs, were treated at House of Hearing sensitively and painlessly within two weeks of making the appointment.



In a separate development the Eric Liddell Community at Holy Corner is excited to announce that, in partnership with Merchiston Community Council, they'll be recycling empty medication blister packs downstairs!

Sustainability forms part of their core values. By taking care of our people and our planet, they're committed to making a positive impact. Let's all do our part, take in your empty blister packs and recycle with them.

If the scheme is successful we can try to establish how it might be extended to Marchmont St Giles'.

(Ed: as a producer of up to eight blister packs a week I'm up for that!)

Taking on the Mighty Stride for a Cause Close to Home



On Sunday, 15 September, my loyal companion Murphy—a spirited Flat-Coated Retriever—and I will be embarking on the 21-mile Mighty Stride as part of the Edinburgh Kiltwalk. We are taking on this challenge to raise funds for a local charity that is making a profound difference in our community: **People Know How**.

People Know How supports children, young people, families, and individuals across Edinburgh and beyond, helping them to become independent and thrive. Their work is especially vital in areas like Porto-

bello and Leith, where many children face significant challenges in their lives. Our Youth & Family Coordinators have been working closely with primary and high schools in these areas for ten years, providing crucial support to children aged 9 to 12 who are struggling to engage with school. This support comes at a critical time as these young people prepare to transition to secondary school—a period marked by new challenges, personal development, and significant changes in their environment and routine.

Over a quarter of the children referred to us are on waiting lists for mental health support and/or have been diagnosed with additional support needs. But thanks to the work of **People Know How**, they don't have to wait. We provide immediate, tailored support, meeting with the children at school over a 12-month period. This involves an average of 30 sessions per child, which may include one-to-one meetings, group sessions, or specialized sessions with an Art Therapist.

One of the local school teachers recently shared, "The support **People Know How** provides for our most vulnerable students is invaluable. They treat all our pupils fairly, respectfully, and with genuine care for their well-being."

All of this vital support is provided at no cost to the child, their family, or the school, but it wouldn't be possible without the generosity of donors and funders. That's why I'm asking for your support.

Completing 21 miles will be no small feat for Murphy and me—especially Murphy, who, at 4 dog years old, will likely be taking on his first, and last challenge, of this scale! But knowing that we're helping to make a difference in the lives of these children will keep us motivated every step of the way.

I invite you to support us by donating to our JustGiving page. Your contribution will help ensure that **People Know How** can continue their invaluable work, providing life-changing support to the children who need it most. Every donation, big or small, will make a real difference.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and for supporting us in this challenge!

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/challengemurphytodo21miles>

People Know How, Services supporting the community

People Know How runs services supporting parts of the community through a body of projects created with our Social Innovation Model. Each project aims to supporting the community and empower both individuals and organisations to mobilise their assets and realise their true potential.

Assisting consumers as we move to the change to from copper wire phone lines to an internet based phone system in the coming year.

Reconnect offers support to adults and families to help them improve well-being by increasing digital and social inclusion. We do this by providing in-person support in Edinburgh and the Lothians and through our Digital Support helpline, offering digital support across Scotland.

We believe that digital inclusion and social inclusion are linked and together contribute to enhanced well-being. We provide a supportive environment to reduce social isolation through building digital skills and maintaining connections, helping people to stay connected, improve financial health, increase employability, access resources and more.

We also help adults recovering from addiction to become digitally included. Scotland has the highest drug-death rate in Europe. Increasing digital inclusion creates opportunities including finding recovery groups, discovering useful tools and apps, tracking housing applications, applying for Universal Credit, keeping in touch with family or rediscovering hobbies online.

Stories from a varied career in ministry have been collected in a new book that sets out to reflect the realities of life in the Church of Scotland.



"Oh All Right Then" by Orkney minister Rev Dr Marjory MacLean is intended as a celebration of the privilege of ordained ministry in the Kirk, with all its challenges and those unexpected moments that make it so unexpected and memorable.

The South Ronaldsay and Burray minister draws on her own experience in parish ministry on the islands and the mainland, as well as her experiences working in the Church of Scotland's national headquarters at 121 George Street in Edinburgh and as a reservist military chaplain in Afghanistan.

She also hopes the book will raise funds for the new Orkney Islands parish, which will be formed at the beginning of October and will eventually unite the 19-parishes in the islands.

Dr MacLean's diverse experience in ministry has led to others suggesting that she should write about her career. She resisted those suggestions as she has never had any interest in writing a memoir, but when she was asked to supervise a discernment candidate she realised that sharing her experiences could help guide those considering a future in ministry.

Dr MacLean's main impetus in writing the book was realising that the recommended reading list for candidates was lacking in material directly related to the Church of Scotland.

"It was absolutely no-one's fault, but it happens that nobody has written anything specifically about the Church of Scotland that would belong on that reading list," she explained.

"That made me think that perhaps the experience of ministry I have had might be a quarry from which to draw some stories that would illustrate what ministry is like, how varied it is, how satisfying it is and occasionally how crazy and amusing it might be."

Although not intended as an autobiography, it draws on Dr MacLean's own experiences to illustrate "all those different flavours of the experience of being a minister", from first feeling a vocation, through training and on to the working life of a minister of Word and Sacrament.

And finally

A Senior's Version of FACEBOOK

For those of my generation who do not, and cannot, comprehend why Facebook exists: I am trying to make friends outside of Facebook while applying the same principles. Therefore, every day I walk down the street and tell passers-by what I have eaten, how I feel at the moment, what I have done the night before, what I will do later and with whom. I give them pictures of my family, my dog and of me gardening, taking things apart in the garage, watering the lawn, standing in front of landmarks, driving around town, having lunch, and doing what anybody and everybody does every day. I also listen to their conversations, give them "thumbs up" and tell them I "like" them. And it works just like Facebook. I already have 4 people following me: 2 police officers, a private investigator and a psychiatrist.

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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