



THE SHUTTLE

**Marchmont St Giles'
Parish Church
At the Heart of the Community
December 2025**



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

DECEMBER

- | | | |
|----|-------|---|
| 14 | 10.30 | Nine Lessons and Carols |
| 16 | 12.30 | Butterflies Plus - Christmas Lunch |
| 20 | 14.00 | Longest Night Service |
| 21 | 10.30 | The Nativity |
| 23 | 10.00 | Christingle making - come and join the fun! |
| 24 | 16.00 | Christingle Services - all age families welcome |
| | 23.00 | Community Carol Singing |
| | 23.30 | Watchnight Service |
| 25 | 10.00 | Christmas Day Service |
| 28 | 10.30 | Morning Worship |
| 31 | | Marchmont St Giles' -
A chapter ends |

JANUARY

- | | | |
|----|-------|--|
| 1 | | Blackford and Grange Parish Church
A new chapter begins |
| 4 | 10.30 | Morning Worship - Inaugural Service |
| 11 | 10.30 | Morning Worship |

Merry Christmas to all!

**Wishing you and yours a holiday season
filled with peace, joy, love, and laughter,
and a wonderful New Year ahead,
with many happy memories made and
blessings shared**

Front Page

A new beginning for all

Reflections

As I look forward to what will become 1st January, I can't help but look back and give thanks for the people who I have had the privilege to know, who in their own time and place have made Marchmont St Giles' the Congregation it is.

I have had the pleasure of knowing numismatists and comptometrists, doctors and nurses, former prisoners of war, social workers and glider pilots, Bletchley girls and teachers, the founder of VSO and many more who have contributed to the well being of Marchmont St Giles'

We in our own time, and with our own God given gifts and talents have now been handed the baton, to serve God and God's people in this place. As we look to the next step on the journey, how will we get involved. One person a long time ago told me that sitting in her living room and praying for the Congregation was her only contribution now. As I pointed out to her, that is both a gift and a Ministry which not everyone has the gift to do.

The next few months will be new for us all and we must be willing to see how it goes, as worship will change, and perhaps even where we might sit might change as we incorporate new people, who will add vitality and a new perspective.

I am reminded of the story of the Elder son, when the younger one comes home after spending half of the family man and carousing in a far-off land. His settled life is being disrupted and his father's response for him is disappointing. His father loves him as much as the younger brother, but it feels like he is being taken for granted. Quite the opposite. His father loves him very much. The new Congregation will together make decisions for the future and in some way, our good friends from the Reid Parish will feel loss differently from the way we will and I have no doubt that the new reality may take a bit of swallowing. We must be kind and gracious. We must offer the hand of friendship and not walk on by.

Together, we will work to make a new thing and more than that we will bless the Lord at all times and seek God's guidance, so that we discern how to do this or that or the other, as we work to embody this new thing called the Congregation of Blackford and Grange Parish Church.

Karen K Campbell

Blackford and Grange

Preparations for Christmas tend to dominate this time of year but we are now very close to the date, 1st January, when Marchmont St Giles and Reid Memorial become one: Blackford and Grange Parish Church.

Much work has been going on behind the scenes to prepare.

The two current Kirk Sessions have agreed this Vision/Mission Statement for the new Church:

“Serving the community and welcoming all”

- We are an inclusive Christian church community, reaching out to everyone with love, hope and compassion. We aim to show God’s love and proclaim the Good

News of Jesus Christ.

- We aim to provide a welcoming, supportive and connecting space for the community.
- We aim to inspire people to explore and grow their faith.
- We encourage all to come, worship and share friendship.

As we come together, this statement will remind us of what we are about as a congregation. Importantly, we should also use it to inform everyone in our new combined parish and community of who we are, what we believe and what we try to do.

To help do all this, we are still looking for volunteers to contribute to new teams and committees including:

- Communication – including website, social media, posters etc.
- Social – including organising “get to know each other” events in 2026
- Christian Education
- Finance

- Property
- Pastoral Care
- World Mission – including Christian Aid
- Local/Community Outreach – building relationships with our new parish's community

There are also other ways to contribute, such as joining one of the rotas, including welcoming people to services; gifting, arranging or distributing flowers; and providing after-service coffee. It would be helpful to have someone to organise transport for those who would appreciate assistance getting to and from church.

If you've already indicated that you'd like to remain or become involved in any of these areas, many thanks.

If you'd like to help in these or any other way or simply find out more, please contact the Minister, the Session Clerk or Bruce Anderson (brucand@outlook.com).

Lastly, but certainly not least, we look forward to our first service together as a united congregation on Sunday 4 January 2026 at 10.30, in the church known, but only until 31 December, as Marchmont St Giles.

Bruce Anderson

THE SHUTTLE

The Shuttle has come to the end of its journey from the early days of the union of West St Giles', Warrender Church and the Grange Church which formed Marchmont St Giles'. It is fitting that our new identity as Blackford and Grange Parish Church is reflected in a new look magazine which will be published early in the New Year. Likewise our website and social media will have a refresh under a new team.

It has been a pleasure to edit The Shuttle over the last twenty years or so and to develop new skills along the way and I would like to acknowledge all those who have contributed over the years.

Thank you, Charles

I was sitting this afternoon writing 4 services for BBC Radio Scotland, which are being broadcast in January. They need them by the end of the month so that they can be edited and then recorded in December.

The first thing I have to do each Sunday is introduce myself. Who am I? How do I describe myself?

And so this afternoon I found the words I was typing said.

"Good morning. My name is Karen Campbell and I'm the minister of Blackford and Grange Parish Church in the centre of Edinburgh. Blackford and Grange is a Union of the former parishes of Reid Memorial at Blackford Station and Marchmont St Giles' in Marchmont. We are bounded by Blackford Hill to the south: the Meadows to the north, Morningside to the West and Newington to the East."

I was going to add something which one of the ladies from Reid had pointed out a few weeks ago, that we are going to be the Bee Gees after the 1st January. I hadn't thought of that before then. I decided that for the moment that can be our in-joke – night fever, jive talking, how deep is your love or more than a woman?

It is both daunting and exciting what God has planned for us as we join together.

I have met with both Kirk Sessions and shared some of my thoughts about how we need to proceed, in particular to worship. When we come together each of us needs to be seeing and doing things anew. Worship on a Sunday is not going to be the same for either congregation. It is going to be different for everyone. What we do and how we do it, will be well ordered and familiar, but not exactly as each has done.

The other important responsibility we have is to plan how we are going to reach out to our new parish and share God's Good News and combine the good work we already do together. A new partnership is planned with Gillespie's High School (news of this will come in the first edition of the new magazine - a name still to be chosen. Any ideas?) and I will also be talking soon to the Headteachers of Gillespie's Primary and Secondary Schools about how we can work closer together.

One thing each Kirk Session is agreed on, is that this is a Union and not a take over, and so we all will see and do things which are new to us.

Soon there will be a lot of decisions to make about what we do and how we do it. Communion is celebrated differently in each Church. As we come together it will also be a little changed. But one thing I hope we can all agree on is that we all need to muck in to ensure that we make a good way forward. Can you help in some way. Could you be a welcomer at the door, or someone who could read a Lesson or make the coffee or serve on a committee. Don't be shy, please volunteer.

Reid Memorial is rightly concerned about the future use of its building and the Kirk Session come January will be engaging with the Presbytery and the General Trustees, who are in charge of buildings, to find a way forward with a review to see what is possible.

Marchmont St Giles' and Reid Memorial will conclude their stories on 31st December and from then on, we move as one, seeking the good of the Kingdom in our parish. One of the first things I hope we can do together, is to do a Burns Supper and to get to know each other through fellowship and having a bit of fun.

Take care and may Advent and Christmas be a happy and blessed time.

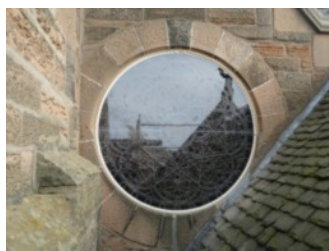
Karen will conduct these services 7am on Radio Scotland each Sunday in January.



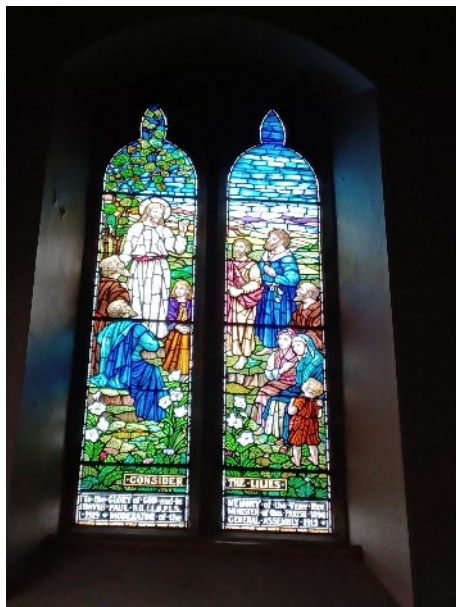
CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of Mrs Heather Allison, a member of the congregation who died on 17th November 2025.









LECTIONARY

December

15 : Psalm 42;
16 : Ezekiel 47:1-12;
17 : Zechariah 8:1-17;
18 : Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19;
19 : 2 Samuel 7:18-22;
20 : 2 Samuel 7:23-29;
21 : Isaiah 7:10-16;
22 : Luke 1:46b-55;
23 : Galatians 3:6-14;
24 : Luke 2:1-14, (15-20);
25 : Titus 3:4-7;
26 : Psalm 148;
27 : Proverbs 8:22-31;
28 : Isaiah 63:7-9
29 : Psalm 20;
30 : Isaiah 26:1-9;
31 : 1 Kings 3:5-14;

January

01 : Ecclesiastes 3:1-13;
02 : Genesis 12:1-7;
03 : Psalm 72;
04 : Psalm 147:12-20;
05 : Joshua 1:1-9;
06 : Isaiah 60:1-6;
07 : 1 Kings 10:1-13;
08 : Psalm 29;
09 : 1 Samuel 3:10-4:1a;
10 : 1 Samuel 7:3-17;

11 : Isaiah 42:1-9
12 : Psalm 89:5-37;
13 : Jeremiah 1:4-10;
14 : Isaiah 51:1-16;
15 : Psalm 40:1-11;
16 : Genesis 27:30-38;
17 : 1 Kings 19:19-21;
18 : Isaiah 49:1-7;
19 : Exodus 12:1-13, 21-28;
20 : Isaiah 53:1-12;
21 : Isaiah 48:12-21;
22 : Psalm 27:1-6;
23 : 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8;
24 : 1 Samuel 15:34-16:13;
25 : 1 Corinthians 1:10-18;
26 : Psalm 27:7-14;
27 : Judges 7:12-22;
28 : Genesis 49:1-2, 8-13, 21-26;
29 : Psalm 15;
30 : Deuteronomy 24:17-25:4;
31 : Micah 3:1-4;

February

01 : Psalm 15;
02 : Psalm 37:1-17;
03 : Ruth 2:1-16;
04 : Ruth 3:1-13; 4:13-22;
05 : Psalm 112:1-9;
06 : Isaiah 29:1-12;
07 : Isaiah 29:13-16;

Out of the mouths of babes

Grandma - "It's time for me to go home to see Dide, he's busy writing the church magazine"

Grandson - 3yo- " He's writing a magazine? I don't believe it!"



Children's Hospices Across Scotland

This year the collections at our Christmas Services will go to the benefit of Children's Hospices Across Scotland -



Some families can't wait for Christmas.

For seven-year-old Darcy from Glenrothes, it came early.

Darcy was a bright, funny little girl who loved singing, dancing and covering everything in glitter. When she was diagnosed with a one-in-twenty-million rare cancer, her family's world turned upside down.

When Darcy told her mum, "I don't think I'll be here for Christmas," the team at Rachel House, CHAS's children's hospice in Kinross, made sure she didn't miss out.

They brought Christmas forward.

A tree ~~was~~ placed in her bedroom

Paper chairs and decorations filled the walls

Staff brought crafts to her bed so she could create and laugh again.

The family room ~~was~~ filled with food, presents, and love.

That magical day became Darcy's last Christmas — and her family's most precious memory.

"They brought everything to her bed. She was paralysed, but they still found ways to let her be a child," said Mum, Carol.

Some families only get one Christmas. Please, dig deep. You might not realise how much it means.

Message from the treasurer

I would like to thank everyone who gives regularly to the church, it is much appreciated. However despite everyone's generosity our expenditure currently exceeds our income. This year we had a new boiler so the Church and Centre are warm again, but it was expensive! More work has been carried out on our property too. Costs, especially of gas and electricity, increased during 2025 and our monthly expenditure is around £24,000.

There are several ways in which you can give to the church:

Standing order - set up easily if you do online banking, or ask for a standing order mandate which you can take or send to your bank. Ask the treasurer for a form or the bank details. Remember if you pay tax to fill in a form so that gift aid can be claimed on any donations.

Using the 'donate' button on the website. Donations can be one-off or set up on a regular basis.

Using the contactless machine which is in St Giles' on a Sunday morning.

Putting cash into the collection plate on a Sunday.

QR codes that will be printed on flyers (e.g. for the concerts or special services like the Christingle) can be scanned and you will then be directed to a donation site.

You may want to consider leaving a gift in your Will.

In addition please consider using easyfundraising when you are making purchases online. Over 7,000 retailers support this initiative. Go to the easyfundraising website, (easyfundraising.org.uk) sign up, choose the charity you wish to support (the church) and then click onto the store you wish to buy something from.

If you are employed there are various ways your employer can support payroll giving by matching what an employee donates. Currently we are receiving donations from Benevity (benevity.com).

Remember the cafe is part of the church so please support it if you can - every coffee helps!

And finally For the last time in The Shuttle

Look forward in faith,

Look forward in faith,
All time is in God's hand.

Walk humbly with him
and trust his future plan.

God has wisely led
his people by his power.

Look forward in hope,
he gives us each new hour.

Look forward in faith,
the world is in God's care.

His purpose of love
he calls on us to share.

In our neighbour's need
the Lord is present still.

He blesses the meek!
The earth will know God's will.

Look forward in faith,
God gives us life each day.

Go onward with Christ,
his Spirit guides our way.

Now God lets us live
within the sphere of grace.

Trust ever in him,
he rules o'er earth and space!

©Andrew J. Scobie (b.1935-2010)

Andrew Scobie was minister of Cardross Parish Church, near Helensburgh, for 45 years, more usual in earlier centuries when a minister would spend a lifetime in a parish. He was active in both presbytery and central church committees, including being Convener of the Panel on Worship, and at one time the Church of Scotland's representative to the General Synod of the Church of England. He had a special interest in the beauty of a church's interiors and commissioned several artefacts for his own, including a stained glass window, silver millennium communion cups, and tapestries. He was innovative in worship, within the valuing of the Church's traditions; for many years the early service every week was planned between minister and groups of members.

Andrea Steele (b.1945) was a school music teacher and organist and choir leader at Cardross.

MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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