



THE SHUTTLE

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



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

November

- 9 10.30 Morning Worship : Service of Remembrance
- 11 12.30 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the over 60s
- 12 12.00 Bible Study
- 14.00 Unfinished Objects Group - Projects and chat
- 13 11.00 Conversations on Dementia
- 15 Christmas Craft Fair - Reid Memorial
- 16 10.30 Morning Worship :
- 18 12.30 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the over 60s
- 19 12.00 Bible Study
- 14.00 Unfinished Objects Group - Projects and chat
- 23 10.30 Morning Worship :
- 25 12.30 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the over 60s
- 26 12.00 Bible Study
- 14.00 Unfinished Objects Group - Projects and chat
- 29 14.00 German Speaking Congregation Advent Fair
- 30 10.30 Morning Worship :

December

- 2 12.30 Butterflies Plus - Lunch for the over 60s
- 12.00 Bible Study
- 14.00 Unfinished Objects Group - Projects and chat
- 6 12.00 Marchmont St Giles' Christmas Fair
- 16.00 The Community Xmas tree lighting ceremony
Scotmid, Marchmont Crescent
- Closing date for material for the final issue of The Shuttle

Front Page

Merchant Navy Memorial, The Shore, Leith

This memorial commemorates the lives and service of the thousands of Merchant Navy personnel who lost their lives at sea in pursuit of keeping the UK supplied with vital food and equipment, enduring the hardships of foul weather and especially during World War 1 and World War 2s the dangers of the Arctic Convoys and submarine packs

See page 12

Reflections

Six weeks of study leave allowed me to collate and write and rewrite services which I have conducted for Legion Scotland over the last few years. What started as a small project has expanded into 200 pages. Each section begins with a description of a battle or specific time of celebration at the end of this war or that. I have written liturgies for Passchendaele, The Somme, VE and VJ Day, as well as ANZAC Day and the Korean War.

One of the big sections is Armistice and during my reading and investigations I was speaking to someone from the Commonwealth War Graves Commission about Armistice 1919 in Edinburgh.

About a month before the anniversary of the end of the Great War, as it was known at the time, the Government and King agreed that Armistice remembering would be for the Veterans alongside the Widows and Orphans. It was long before Poppies were introduced as the British symbol of Remembrance or there were War Memorials, and so it was expected that people would gather for a two minutes silence in Market Squares. It was expected that flowers would be brought and so Gardens of Remembrance were also part of the original expectation.

In Edinburgh, with no market square it was decided to use somewhere in Princes Street Gardens, but for whatever reason, it was decided, and I am sure that it was the Council that only Veterans should be present. The story goes that in protest the Widows and Orphans lined up on South Bridge, dressed all in black and a photo was taken that day.

This all came out two weeks before I was due to return to the parish and despite extensive searches in the Edinburgh Room of Central Library, and the researchers from the CWGC doing their best, we haven't found the photo. The search goes on and hopefully we will find it soon, along with an explanation of why.

We think of Remembrance as a piece of theatre, full of pastoral sensitivities set in stone, and in many ways it is. However, it took a good few years to settle into how we experience it today.

Over 10 years ago now, I spoke at an event, where a man of a certain age was upset because he had lived through the anti-war era of '*Oh, What a Lovely War*' as well as attitudes of Empire which

seemed old fashioned. He associated both the Legion and this Empire attitudes, as if they hadn't changed or moved.

No one likes war. No one goes to war and returns the same as when they left. My first experience of Remembrance as a student minister was a bunch of Legion men staggering along the street full of beer to the War Memorial for 11 o'clock. It was not the best introduction to former service personnel. When I spent time at the Recovery Centre I experienced the vulnerability of people who had experienced war up close and personal.

In the 60s a prominent professor asked when we would stop the Act of Remembrance.

The reality is that as long as we conduct wars, there will be a need by some of those affected by war to have a space to Remember. Others will never wear their medals, will never go to a Remembrance event because, as one RAF man reminded me, that he remembered everyday about his friends who were killed in the North African desert. He didn't need 11th November to do that.

As we gather, let's remember the people who stand tall as they remember, alongside the widows/widowers and orphans and the people who don't want to gather, and let us stand for those who can't.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old.
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning
We will remember them*

Karen K Campbell

Looking ahead!

The Nine Lessons and Carols will be sung on 14th December.

Have you wanted to try singing with the choir, but been a bit shy or scared?

Now is the time. Rehearsals will begin soon, with full instruction given as well as support.

Why don't you speak to the Minister and give it a go.

Lectioary

November

10: Psalm 98;
11: Haggai 2:20-23;
12: Zechariah 8:1-17;
13: Isaiah 12;
14: Isaiah 59:1-15a;
15: Isaiah 59:15b-21;
16: Isaiah 65:17-25
17: Psalm 76;
18: Isaiah 66:1-13;
19: Isaiah 66:14-24;
20: Luke 1:68-79;
21: Jeremiah 22:1-17;
22: Jeremiah 22:18-30;
23: Jeremiah 23:1-6
24: Psalm 117;

25: Jeremiah 30:18-24;

26: Jeremiah 31:1-6;

Advent

27: Psalm 122;
28: Genesis 6:1-10;
29: Genesis 6:11-22;
30: Isaiah 2:1-5

December

01: Psalm 124;
02: Genesis 9:1-17;
03: Isaiah 54:1-10;
04: Psalm 72:1-7;
05: Isaiah 30:19-26;
06: Isaiah 40:1-11;

THE SHUTTLE

This is the penultimate of The Shuttle, the magazine of Marchmont St Giles which took its name from the processes in its early years of production when it was shuttled from one person to the next when compiling a new issue, cut and paste involved scissors and a pot of glue, in the days when the internet was still science fiction, home computers unheard of, personal communication devices were seen only on Dr Who or Star Trek.

We will have a magazine in the New Year with a new name, and a new look. It will still be available online on our website, and Facebook pages, in print and as a large print for anyone with sight issues.

Thank you for your contributions over the years and please keep them coming - this will be our Magazine reflecting our new life together as Blackford and Grange Parish Church.

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS

Your chance to help

Would you like to become more involved in the church?

As Marchmont St Giles and Reid Memorial come together as Blackford and Grange, new teams and committees are being formed to lead many areas of the new congregation's life including:

Communication – a vital, wide-ranging area including website, social media, posters etc.

Social – including organising “get to know each other” events in 2026

Christian Education – for young people and adults

Finance

Property

Pastoral Care

World Mission – including Christian Aid

Local/Community Outreach – building relationships with our new parish's community

The start of something new is always a good time to become involved. It's also a good way to get to know others in the new congregation. If you have skills, ideas or simply an interest in any of these areas, you can contribute as part of a new team. You don't need to have any previous experience as there will be people to support you and you can do as much or as little as you like to fit around your life. We need you!

There are also lots of other ways to contribute, such as joining one of the rotas to help spread the load such as welcoming, flowers, coffee etc.

If you are interested, even just in finding out more, please contact the Minister, the Session Clerks or Bruce Anderson (brucand@outlook.com).

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

AROUND THE AISLES

Guild News November - The Ripple Effect

In the Guild strategy 2024-2027 'Let us Build a House' our second theme is 'Living Stones'.

Stones come in all shapes and sizes, some grand like the standing stones at Stonehenge and at Calanais. Over the centuries there have been many prominent examples of 'living stones' such as the Disciples, St Columba, David Livingstone among others.

The Guild has shown the love of Jesus in many parts of the world through the Guild Projects, and we have all benefited from learning of the lives, hopes and aspirations of our partners both at home and abroad.

How many people and events have shaped your faith and belief by their words and actions? The love and care of parents, encouraging teachers, Sunday School and Church leaders. Friends and colleagues who have loved and supported you through difficult times. Who have laughed and rejoiced with you at the funny and happy occasions.

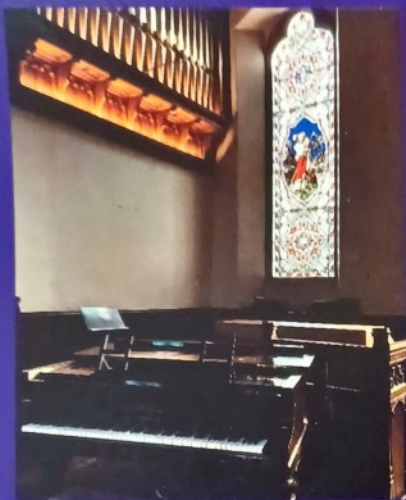
We are God's 'living stones' today. In a world of conflict, climate change and uncertainty, with changes too in our Church it is not always easy to be positive, but as we move forward, we have the assurance that God is always at our side.

There are lots of different types of stones and though not all are grand and noticeable, they too play a part. Remember as children the fun and enjoyment of tossing pebbles into the water.

When a pebble is skimmed across the water it causes a ripple effect. Kindness too has power to create a ripple effect.

As individual living stones, we can show and share God's love by our actions. Being welcoming, cheerful and optimistic. By taking time to listen, to quietly encourage, showing empathy and understanding. By making someone feel loved and valued. Each small gesture matters, as the recipient of our actions may then go on to show God's love and concern to others.

Kindness is the most tender and powerful way of leaving a memory inside people's hearts. *Margaret K Dundas, National Vice Convener*



Thanksgiving under the Stars

Traditional storytelling and piano music

with

Linda Williamson and David Harley

*Saturday 22nd November
2-3pm in Marchmont St Giles*

Charity event for Marchmont St Giles

Photos: Worship space in Marchmont St Giles church by Linda Williamson;
Messier 45, The Pleiades 'Seven Sisters' courtesy Adam Block

Christmas Fair
at Marchmont St Giles
Saturday 6th 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, bouncy castle,
children's activities, stalls**

Free Entry

Refreshments available at Butterflies Cafe

**Entry to kids games area
£3 per child
0131 447 4359
butterflies@marchmontstgiles.org.uk**

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

Care Conversations

hosted by Southside Faith Care
& Home Instead

3 Free Talks

Join us to listen, ask questions or share experiences.
Light refreshments provided!

**Navigating
the Care Maze**
Wed 4 October
11am-12pm

**Understanding
Dementia**
Wed 13 November
11am-12pm

**Power of
Attorney**
Wed 10 Dec
11am-12pm

SOUTHSIDE
FAITH CARE



Contact us for more info
office@southsidefaithcare.org
07478 543 510



All held at Marchmont St Giles Church, 3 Kilgraston Road, EH9 2DW

Tradition of Royal Brides at the Grave of the Unknown Warrior

During the wedding of Lady Elizabeth Bowes-Lyon and the Duke of York in 1923, Lady Elizabeth paused on her way down the aisle to lay her bouquet on the grave of the Unknown Warrior, in memory of her brother Fergus who was killed in 1915 at the Battle of Loos during the First World War.

Her spontaneous action of remembrance created a beautiful tradition for other Royal Brides to follow, In 1947 Queen Elizabeth II also laid down her bouquet, as did, among others, The Princess Royal, The Countess of Wessex, The Duchess of Cambridge, The Duchess of Sussex and both Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie of York.



In November 2020 HM Queen Elizabeth laid a bouquet on the grave marking its centenary

News Alert: We need more CALs!

Who is CAL?

CAL stands for 'Care And Love' and is a multi-colour knitted octopus with 8 wellbeing arms, who has been travelling around over 150 schools across Scotland since 2021, created by #Knit-Wellbeing volunteers, sharing children's wellbeing toolkits to help teachers talk about wellbeing and children's rights.

In 2021, Bracoden School's volunteers knitted 50 CALs so every pupil had one after lockdown. Their "knitting ladies" are now back in the school every Friday. They said being back together was "heart-warming," and they have already knitted 12 CALs to send to Kakuma (picture below).

CAL is now going to Kenya:

Restore Hope for Street Children needs more CALs!

Earlier this year, we started discussions with Restore Hope for Street Children and can't wait to share CAL's Wellbeing Toolkit with them. We're short of #10 more CALs for children connected with Restore Hope for Street Children in Kakuma.

CAL is a simple pattern, takes approx. 8 hours, and can be made from yarn remnants—any colours, any thickness. Every CAL is unique, just like the child who'll receive it.

Can you knit ONE CAL in November? Or tag a friend who can?

email hello@startatthebeginning.co.uk



The Merchant Navy at War

Archibald Bisset Smith VC (19 December 1878 – 10 March 1917) was a Scottish recipient of the Victoria Cross, the highest and most prestigious award for gallantry in the face of the enemy that can be awarded to British and Commonwealth forces.

Smith is one of only two members of the UK Merchant Navy to have been awarded the VC for his First World War service.

Smith received this award for his action as Master of the New Zealand Shipping Company cargo ship Otaki. On 10 March 1917 in the Atlantic Ocean, Otaki, armed with one 4.7-inch gun, sighted the German merchant raider SMS Möwe, which was armed with four 150 mm, one 105 mm guns and two 500 mm torpedo launchers[2].

The raider ordered Otaki to stop but Captain Smith refused. A duel ensued, during which Otaki secured a number of hits and caused Möwe considerable damage, but Otaki sustained much damage and was on fire. Captain Smith therefore ordered his crew to abandon ship, but he himself stayed aboard and went down with his ship.

His citation reads:

For most conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty when in command of the S.S. "Otaki", on the 10th March 1917. "At about 2.30 p.m. on 10th March 1917, the S.S."Otaki", whose armament consisted of one 4.7 in. gun for defensive purposes sighted the disguised German raider "Möwe", which was armed with four 5.9 in., one 4.1 in. and two 22 pdr. guns, and two torpedo tubes. The "Möwe" kept the "Otaki" under observation for some time and finally called upon her to stop. This Lieutenant Smith refused to do, and a duel ensued at ranges of 1,900–2,000 yards and lasted for about 20 minutes. During this action the "Otaki" scored several hits on the "Möwe", causing considerable damage, and starting a fire which lasted for three days. She sustained several casualties and received much damage herself, and was heavily on fire. Lieutenant Smith, therefore, gave orders for the boats to be lowered to allow the crew to be rescued. He remained on the ship himself and went down with her when she sank with the British colours still flying, after what was described in an enemy account as "a duel as gallant as naval history can relate."

As a Merchant officer, Smith could not receive the VC at that time. In 1919 he was posthumously commissioned as a temporary lieutenant in the Royal Naval Reserve, which entitled him to receive the VC posthumously.

In the Grange Cemetery among others there is the grave of William Richmond, 87 West Savile Terrace, Edinburgh, Captain, Merchant Navy, a former pupil at George Watson's College. He was the son of the late Mr. John Richmond, formerly Chief Sub-Editor of The Scotsman.

Born in 1880, he left Watson's in 1895 to become an apprentice on The Firth of Stronza, a sailing ship owned by the Firth Line of Glasgow. After his apprenticeship he sailed as master in steamships all over the world in the service of Messrs. Currie & Co., Leith, and Messrs. Hogarth & Sons, Glasgow, owners of the Baron Line.

On 2nd July 1940 the s.s. Baron Ruthven was part of a convoy bombed by an enemy plane and Captain Richmond was killed on the bridge with his chief officer.

William Richmond was buried in the Grange Cemetery on Saturday, 6 July, after a service in Reid Memorial Church. His Chief Officer Henry Williamson, also from Edinburgh is buried in the Seafeld Cemetery.



In more modern times. On May 15, 1982 MV Rangitira was chartered to the MoD to be used as an accommodation/barracks ship at Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands during the war. She was made ready to enter the war zone by the addition of anti aircraft armaments and other works at Devonport over a period of four weeks. On June 19, she departed Southampton bound for Port Stanley arriving on July 11. She remained there as an accommodation ship before returning to the UK fourteen months later.

Marchmont St. Giles Parish Church

Celebrate the Joy of Christmas, December 2025

🌟 Christmas Fair

Saturday 6 December, 12pm–4pm:

Browse festive stalls, enjoy delicious home baking, crafts, gifts, and refreshments. A perfect community day out for all ages.

🕊️ Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 14 December, 10.30am–11.30am:

A beautiful service of traditional readings and carols led by our choir. Come and share in the joy and peace of Christmas.

🎄 The Nativity

Sunday 21 December, 10.30am–11.30am:

Join our children and families as they retell the Christmas story — a heartwarming celebration of love, hope, and togetherness.



Christmas Week Services

🕯️ **Christmas Eve – Wednesday 24 December**

4pm Christingle Service: A special candlelit service for children and families celebrating the light of Christ in our community.

11pm Community Carol Singing: Gather inside the church for joyful carols and festive cheer before Watchnight Service begins.

11.30pm Watchnight Service: Welcome Christmas morning with a reflective service of worship, carols, and candlelight as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

🎁 **Christmas Day – Thursday 25 December**

10am Family Service: A short, joyful family service as we come together to celebrate the wonder of Christmas Day.

🕊️ **Last Sunday of 2025 – Sunday 28 December**

10.30am Morning Worship: Join us for our final Sunday service of the year as we give thanks and look forward to the year ahead.

All are welcome. Come and share the warmth, music, and community spirit.

W: marchmontstgiles.org.uk / F: [Facebook.com/MarchmontStGiles](https://www.facebook.com/MarchmontStGiles) / 3 Kilmgraston Road, Edinburgh EH9 2DW

And finally

Still Here in Flanders

Remember me yet though a hundred years gone
Still here in Flanders while the world has moved on
Nobody left who had spoken my name
Still here in Flanders, still just the same

Still just nineteen as I was when I left
Still cursing war and the violence and theft
Theft of the lives of young men such as I
Still here in Flanders and still don't know why

They buried me here for 'twas here that I fell
Amongst all the mud and the bullet and shell
No going home for us heroes of war
Still here in Flanders on this foreign shore

Rows of white crosses remember our lives
No more our mothers or lovers or wives
Strangers now come to see where we lay
Still here in Flanders to this very day

Poppies now grow where the battle once raged
Each one recalling a life never aged
Remember me yet though a hundred years gone
Still here in Flanders while the world has moved on

Chris Ross 2018



MARCHMONT ST GILES' PARISH CHURCH

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0131 447 4359

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