



THE SHUTTLE

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



1a Kilgraston Road, Edinburgh, EH9 2DW

Meeting Matters

February

- 9 10.30 Morning Worship
- 11 12.30 Butterflies Plus Lunch
- 16 10.30 Morning Worship - Joint Service at Reid Memorial
- 18 12.30 Butterflies Plus Lunch
- 23 10.30 Morning Worship and Round Table Communion
- 25 12.30 Butterflies Plus Lunch

March

- 2 Closing date for material for the next issue of The Shuttle
- 2 10.30 Morning Worship
- 4 12.30 Butterflies Plus Lunch
- 14.00 Southside Guild - Talk on Bridgend Farmhouse
- 9 10.30 Morning Worship

AROUND THE AISLES

UFO ie UnFinished Objects

Bring along your knitting, crochet, mending or just yourself.

Butterflies cafe 2pm till 4pm starting on Wednesday 5th February and each Wednesday thereafter



Southside Guild meeting in Newington Trinity Parish Church, Mayfield Road, at 2.00pm will welcome the following speakers

Mar 4th J Knox Bridgend Farmhouse

April 1st A Carter History of Church in half an hour!
All welcome

Front Page

Spring has sprung! Snow droops and green shoots sprouting everywhere

Reflections

Epiphany is the season of divine inspiration – in scripture, as well as in the heavens. This last week or so, we have seen all the planets aligning and one evening, with an app of the heavens, we ventured out to identify all the planets that were visible to the naked eye. It was cold, but you could clearly identify all these planets, which are so much clearer at this time of year.

It is not the first time I have stood under a December or January sky and wondered if this is the same sky the Magi looked up to looking for divine inspiration for their journey. The ancients and many scientists and normal people like you or I have done the same thing; both wondering and enquiring what this means for us.

The arrival of the Magi and all the events which happen in the young life of Christ are always about relationships and not to be experienced privately. Although we may have divine experiences deep within our souls; experiences which prepare us and inspire us for our faith journey, we must always remember that we are part of an intricate woven cloth of relationships, which connect us to family and friends, as well as local, national and international contacts.

For the many people who encountered Christ in his baby and childhood, each person says yes. From the innkeeper and shepherds to Anna and Simeon, and then the Magi and those whom he and his family encountered on their journey to and back from Egypt, which kept him safe, the answer was always yes.

Each of our lives thrive when we engage in connection: healthy relationships make us stronger. Remember the phrase “it takes a village to raise a child”, well it takes a church to raise healthy Christians. Every person we encounter bring their own gifts to bear; each has their own fears and failings, but they also have something of their God given personality to effect and affect ours.

The Gospel assures us that each person matters; whether you are wealthy and powerful or are sick and separate from the community. Faith in Christ brings everyone equally into the centre.

God’s promise is that we are called to become partners in the gift of healing: we can feed the poor, visit the prisoner, and heal the afflicted and to be comforted in our sorrow. Followers of Jesus can

be sources of light and hope, bringing forth a different set of values, inspired by love.

Jesus spoke of the issues of the day. When Jesus preached this, he appealed to many of the most vulnerable to which he addressed his message. This message has continually brought inspiration and solace to many of the most vulnerable people on earth down through centuries. Jesus passed on the mantle to his disciples and to all who follow. We, in our time are called to catch a glimpse of the divine inspiration from the heavens, and be a people where good news is proclaimed, shared and lived. How will we you join in and feed your soul and the souls of others?

Karen K Campbell

Lectioary

February

10 : Psalm 115;
11 : 1 Samuel 9:15-10:1b;
12 : Isaiah 8:1-15;
13 : Psalm 1;
14 : Jeremiah 13:20-27;
15 : Jeremiah 17:1-4;
16 : Jeremiah 17:5-10
17 : Psalm 120;
18 : Ezra 1:1-11;
19 : Jeremiah 22:11-17;
20 : Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40;
21 : Genesis 44:1-17;
22 : Genesis 44:18-34;
23 : Genesis 45:3-11, 15
24 : Psalm 38;

25 : 1 Samuel 24:1-22;
26 : Leviticus 5:1-13;
27 : Deuteronomy 9:1-5;
28 : Psalm 99;

March

01 : Deuteronomy 9:15-24;
02 : Exodus 34:29-35
03 : Psalm 35:11-28;
04 : Ezekiel 1:1; 2:1;

Lent

05 : Psalm 51:1-17
06 : Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16;
07 : Exodus 6:1-13;
08 : Ecclesiastes 3:1-8;

Moving Towards Our Union

I know that many of you have been asking many different questions about your union.

There had been an informal meeting in June 2024 between the Reid Memorial Kirk Session and the Transition Group of Marchmont St Giles.

Since being appointed as your Interim Moderator on the 1st of November I have had discussions with the Deployment Committee Presbytery representative who is Robert Armour, and I believe Jane Smart will be joining him as the second representative.

I then had a meeting with Dr Karen Campbell and Robert Armour discussing how we take the union between Marchmont St Giles and Reid Memorial forward.

There is also a possibility of St Catherine's Argyle coming in to make this a three-way union, but we will not know this for sure for a wee while.

Both Dr Karen Campbell and I feel that it is important for Marchmont St Giles and Reid Memorial to commence our journey towards our union and this has been received very positively by the Presbytery.

Our first steps for going forward is to have an official meeting with Marchmont St Giles and Reid Memorial. The Transition Group and some of the Kirk Session from Marchmont St Giles along with our Kirk Session will be meeting on Monday 27th January 2025 at Reid Memorial to start discussion on how we take our union forward.

I will ensure that everyone is kept updated with where we are and what we are doing.

Your Friend in Christ

Karen McKay

Interim Moderator

CHURCH FAMILY & PARISH NEWS



We give thanks for the life and service of Joyce Holt (Lockhart) a member of the congregation, who died on 27th January 2025

Mr David Thomas, a member of the congregation , who died on 3rd February 2025



Holy Corner Booksale 2025

Saturday, May 10; Sunday, May 11; Monday, May 12

WANTED!

Book Donations

- We will be accepting book donations from Wednesday, January 22 until Saturday March 29, 2025
- No home pick-ups, drop-off only, to:
Morningside United Church, Chamberlain Road entrance, at the following times:
Wednesdays 10 am - 12 noon
Saturdays 10 am - 12 noon

We Want

- Non-fiction
- Scottish books
- Paperback fiction
- Children's books



We Cannot Accept

- Encyclopaedias
 - Academic journals
 - Reader's Digest
 - Books in poor condition, due to mould, water-damage
 - CDs, DVDs
- (These won't sell, and would incur disposal costs.)

Morningside United Church, Holy Corner, EH10 4DJ

In aid of Christian Aid: Charity No. SC039150

Booksale website: <https://holycornerbooksale.wordpress.com>

A prayer request from...



Registrations for babies born in 2024 will close at the end of March 2025. Please pray that many people would hear about this opportunity for a baby they know to receive a Toddler Bible on their first birthday, and lots more 2024 babies will be registered.



Bibles for Bairns

<https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org/resources/bibles-for-bairns>

We know that reading to babies and young children helps them learn and grow.

It helps them to feel safe and loved. It builds self-esteem, vocabulary, imagination and even improves sleeping patterns.

What if the stories read to babies and young children at these crucial moments were stories from the Bible: stories that told children they were safe and loved by a God who made them, and who will always be with them as they learn and grow.

Your Local Community Councils Grange and Prestonfield

...--... SOS ...--...

(1) We really need new members to join GPCC when nominations open on 5 February 2025. GPCC is your 'local democracy channel', by legislative right, direct to Ward Councillors at City Chambers and to the Council HQ. You use it or you lose it. If GPCC folds, that channel goes with it.

(2) We specifically need someone to guide us on local planning issues. Are you interested in helping us out? Training and guidance given

Date of next meeting = 19 February 2025

22 January 2025 Meeting: (Cllr. Tim Pogson in attendance)

Cllr. Pogson's Report: The Council will complete its work on the Visitor Levy project this week. Expect implementation by mid-2026.

A major electricity cabling project starting in the summer will mean a rolling roadworks programme routed from Astley Ainsley south to Shawfair over a period of some 15 months.

Expect disruption. Cameron toll will close once again over 3 – 14 March.

Questions raised on fireworks control zones. Council CEO Paul Lawrence to lead a public agency review meeting in mid-March.

On the Marchmont St Giles spire clock, scheduling issues in the tower add to complications arising from the presence of communications masts there.

Newington Cemetery Wall: The long-standing repair work is close to completion.

Prestonfield Road and Priestfield Road Improvements: Resurfacing and landscape programme expected to begin mid-year. Design and regulatory approvals in their final stages. Detail on type of tree and (importantly) on maintenance still to be made public.

Planning: Belated application by Thrums Hotel to acquire HMO status and application to extend overall capacity. Watch for more detail on this.

Transport: Proposals in course for extension of 20mph limits over some 65 city roads, principally major routes; some rural roads would be impacted too. Slower speeds; safer streets; longer delays?

Your Local Community Councils Marchmont and Sciennes

Community Council Elections

Edinburgh Community Council elections will be taking place soon and Marchmont & Sciennes is looking for new members to join. This is a chance to get more involved in your local area and to gain access to the City Council at a time when Edinburgh is changing quickly around you.

Nominations open on 5th February for three weeks. If more than twelve people are nominated an election would take place on the 27 March.

There is an information source available at
<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/community-planing/community-councils>

This is an opportunity to ensure that local residents voices are listened to on issues such as planning, transport, roadways, community care, policing etc

Meetings are held monthly except July, August and December.

Charities come together to support Scottish communities with the digital land-line switch

Ability Net and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland have partnered with BT Group to run events across Scotland, supporting communities with information on the forthcoming switch to digital land-lines.

BT is currently migrating customers to its digital solution and this roll-out will be complete by January 2027. BT Digital Voice roadshows are part of BT's initiative to transition home phone services from traditional analogue systems to digital ones. These roadshows are public awareness drop-in sessions to inform and assist customers with the switch to Digital Voice.

Customers will be able to learn about 'Digital Voice,' why change is necessary, and how it will impact on them. The roadshows aim to ensure that everyone understands the simple steps required to make the switch and to address any questions or concerns they might have.

Chris Grant from AbilityNet commented 'We're really looking forward to working with the team at BT Group and Neighbourhood Watch Scotland to facilitate these vital events in communities to try and remove the worries customers have, the switch is very simple and we're here to support people with that.'

Lesley Clark, Neighbourhood Watch Scotland said 'Delighted to be working in collaboration with AbilityNet Scotland and BT to help reassure and support the digital land-line switchover. NWS is committed to working closely with the public to create Stronger Neighbourhoods and Safer Communities.'

Further information will be sent by the Neighbourhood Alert system to local areas where events are taking place providing further details.

Find out more about the PSTN Switch and information on these

<https://abilitynet.org.uk/news-blogs/everything-you-need-know-about-bts-digital-voice>

And finally

You have \$86400 in your account and someone stole \$10 from you. Would you be upset and throw all of the \$86390 away in hopes of getting back at the person that took your \$10? Or move on and live? Right, move on and live. See, we have 86400 seconds in every day, so do not let someone's negative 10 seconds ruin the rest of the 86390.

Don't sweat the small stuff,
life is bigger than that.



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